TeamStrange Grand Tours are all about having another excuse to go out and ride your motorcycle to new and unusual places. Usually your goal on a Grand Tour is to get yourself to the right places. But in the States of Confusion Grand Tour, your goal is to get yourself to the wrong places.

There are three confusing categories of locations you can visit in the States of Confusion:

1. **States of the Nation**: these are cities, towns, villages, boroughs or census designated places (CDPs) in the U.S. or Canada that contain the name of a U.S. state or Canadian province or territory. Examples are Wyoming, PA; Kansas OK; Georgiana, AL (because it contains “Georgia”); Ontario, CA; Yukon, OK. According to the US Census there are about 200 of these.

2. **States of Mind**: these are universities that have NCAA Division I men’s basketball teams that are named “State” that aren’t named after a state. What??? Well, Illinois State and Kansas State wouldn’t count because they’re in the states of “Illinois” and “Kansas”. But Coppin State and Weber State would, because they’re not in the states of “Coppin” or “Weber”. See? To help out, we’ll give you a list of the 34 State-not-state universities we’ll accept, and the (real) state they’re in.

3. **States of Disarray**: these are some specially curated cities, towns, villages, boroughs or CDPs that have the same name as a large city, but aren’t that large city. (Have you reached a State of Confusion yet?) So Atlanta, GA isn’t on our list, but Atlanta, IL, IN, KS, and others are.

Your entry includes a Grand Tour flag and sticker. Entry fee is $40 for one or two up. GT flags and stickers will be mailed around February 15, and thereafter, upon sign up.
Finishing will earn you bragging rights, an Official States of Confusion Grand Tour finisher pin, and entries in the prize pool. Finishers will receive one entry into the prize pool for each point they score.

The top finisher (based on point totals) will be declared the “States of Confusion Grand Tour Grand Champion” and will receive a commemorative plaque to document this amazing feat.

To be a finisher you must accumulate at least 200 points by visiting bonus locations between March 1, 2019, and November 1, 2019, and documenting your visits. Point values are

1. States of the Nation: 25 points each
2. States of Mind: 30 points each
3. States of Disarray: 40 points each

**States of Confusion Documentation Rules**

1. You must physically go on your motorcycle to each location you claim.
2. You must document your visit to each location with a photo.
3. The photo must include (legibly) your Grand Tour flag, your motorcycle, and physical evidence that you are at the location.
   a. For *States of the Nation*, the physical evidence must be a fixed sign on a post office, city limits sign, city or town hall sign, police department sign, fire department sign, municipal building (not a school) sign, or a water tower, showing the name of the location.
   b. For *States of Mind*, the physical evidence must be a sign or some sort of display that shows the name of the university. For example, Chicago State University has a huge sign along I-94 with “Chicago State University” on a sign and “CSU” spelled out in shrubbery. It should not be hard to find some big sign with the school name on it at these universities.
   c. For *States of Disarray*, the physical evidence must be a fixed sign on a post office, city limits sign, city or town hall sign, police department sign, fire department sign, municipal building (not a school) sign, or a water tower, showing the name of the location.
4. If you use a city limits sign, it must be convincing (to us) that it’s a city limits sign, and not a “Welcome to [state]” sign at a state border. It’s convincing if it says something like “Welcome to Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois”, or if it says “city limit”, “unincorporated” or the like, or has a population listed, or has some other indication of being local like “no jake brakes”, “4A State Champions”, etc.
5. If you use a post office sign, it must include the city and state.
6. If you use a police department or fire department sign, it must include the city name and be clear that it is a city department, not the state police.

7. If you cannot get your flag, motorcycle and required subject, in a single photo, you may add no more than three additional photos for clarity and validation. Oftentimes this means including close up photos of a sign or subject and distance photos of your motorcycle and flag.

8. Some of the Grand Tour locations may not be readily accessible on your motorcycle and may be located indoors, down alleyways, or deep inside a park, etcetera and so forth. In these cases, where documenting your motorcycle is not possible, you must appear in the photo along with your Grand Tour flag and the city sign. If you are riding two up, both riders must be in the photo.

9. Be safe and smart. If conditions or circumstances make capturing a photograph unsafe, a crime, or will result in a ticket or safety violation, do not take the risk. Find a safe alternative to capture your photo or skip the opportunity.

10. Our judges are simple folk. If your photo(s) is/are not clear or you do not document your photo(s) in a way that our scorers can understand, you will not score points.

11. If for any reason your make an error in your photo documentation, you may claim up to three Alibis for the entire Grand Tour. What is an Alibi? An Alibi is a claim for full points when one element of your photo or other documentation is incomplete because your flag or motorcycle is not visible or legible. For example, you decide to document the Chicago State University sign in Chicago, IL. You take a photo of the sign and hedges with your GT flag but the photo does not include your motorcycle. Or the wind blew and folded your flag and the number isn’t visible. Or for some reason (think up any reason you want) you are not in the photo as the rules require when your motorcycle is absent. Assuming every other element of the documentation is correct, you may use an Alibi in this case. You may claim no more than three Alibis for the entire GT. You also need to tell us that you are using an Alibi and for which location. And we won’t accept an Alibi if the name of the location is missing or not properly documented (but read on).

12. You may obtain one and only one Wild Card for the entire Grand Tour. What is a Wild Card? A Wild Card is a location for which there is not any of the acceptable evidence, or which is not on our list, but you make a compelling case for why we should give you points. For example, you visit the CDP of New York, TX, and find out there is no city limits sign, no city hall, no police or fire department, no water tower, indeed, nothing to document your visit other than the Reynolds New York Store which looks like a charming East Texas farm store. If you document your visit and make a compelling case, we might give you points. What’s a compelling case? It all depends on your creativity; this is your chance to break free from the constraints of the rules and live free. Points will be awarded entirely at the discretion of TeamStrange. You can submit as many Wild Cards as you want, but we’ll only give you credit for one.

13. You may submit your photos electronically/digitally or via the mail. Our first preference is that you send us a link to an online digital photo album such as SmugMug or Google Photos where all
the photos are nicely captioned. Our second preference would be that you email us digital photos. Our least preference would be that you send us physical photos via the mail. All digital photos (or links to digital photo albums) must be submitted to confusion@davidebsmith.com. If you would prefer to mail your photos, please contact David E.B. Smith at confusion@davidebsmith.com for the appropriate mailing address. Photos, disks, pen drive and anything else you mail will not be returned.

14. Submissions must be submitted or postmarked on or before November 2, 2019.

Q&A

1. **Must the name of the state or city be an exact match?** This is an answer in 3 parts:

   a. For the *States of the Nation*, the spelling of the state name must match, and the state name can be anywhere in consecutive contiguous order within the name of the location. So Kansas, OK works for “Kansas”; Kansas City, MO works for “Kansas”; East New York, NY works for “New York”; Kiowa, KS works for “Iowa”; Hawaiian Ocean View, HI works for “Hawaii”; Ohiowa, NE works for both “Ohio” and “Iowa” (and Google indicates there’s a city limits sign there, hint-hint).

   But Jersey City, NJ doesn’t work for “New Jersey” (it’s missing the “New”); Dakota, MN doesn’t work for North Dakota or South Dakota; Wyomissing, PA doesn’t work for “Wyoming” (because of the extra “iss” in the middle).

   Spacing and punctuation are ignored and extra letters at the start and end don’t matter; if there was a town named Sowyo-Mingville, that would work for “Wyoming”. But you can’t move letters around; Mingwyo doesn’t work for “Wyoming”.

   b. For the *States of Mind*, the university must be one of those in the list we’ve provided, no exceptions. Northwestern University (in Evanston, IL) is not a match for Northwestern State (in Louisiana) so it doesn’t count. But it can be any campus of that state university, not just the main campus. For example, Kent State’s main campus is in Kent, OH, which would work, but Kent State also has several regional campuses, and any of those, such as the one in East Liverpool, OH, work, as long as you can document it with a sign that says “Kent State University”.

   c. For the *States of Disarray*, the location must be one of those in the list we’ve provided, an exact match to city and state, no exceptions. So Boston, GA; Boston, IN; Boston, KY; Boston, ON; and Boston, PA are all on the list so they all work. Boston, MA is a Boston but it’s not in the list we provided so it doesn’t work. Boston Mills, ON is a Boston but it’s not on the list we provided so it doesn’t work. South Boston, KY is not Boston, KY so it’s not on the list we provided so it doesn’t work.
2. **There are some states for which there are no towns with the state’s name?** Yup. Google tells us there’s a New Hampshire, OH (and that it has city limits signs and the ones on Market St are better) but we’re pretty sure there’s no town named New Jersey. And as we said, Jersey City doesn’t count.

3. **You have a list of Bostons but what about Boston, MA and Boston, VA and South Boston, VA, can I claim those as States of Disarray?** No. You can only claim the ones in the States of Disarray list, because we want you to ride nice back roads to obscure small towns, not interstate highways to crowded big cities.

4. **I got to [little town somewhere] and there’s no city limit signs and there’s no post office and there’s no police or fire departments and no city hall?** Oh how sad for you. Some of these little towns and especially the Census Designated Places may be nothing more than a wide spot in the road. We haven’t been to any of them and we will be surprised as you to find out what’s there. That’s part of the fun. Two things you can do: take a look on Google Maps before you go to make sure there’s a town there, or, if you can find something there with the name, claim a Wild Card and come up with a compelling explanation for why what you found should count and hope for the best. We will look favorably upon creative problem solving.

5. **I got to [little town somewhere] and there’s no city limit signs and there’s no post office and there’s no police or fire departments and no city hall but there’s a gas station and I got a receipt from the gas station and it has the name of the town printed on it, can I submit a photo of the receipt and a photo of the gas station showing the name of the gas station and my flag and my motorcycle?** Well, that’s the creative problem solving we were talking about. Might as well submit it, we might give you that one Wild Card.

6. **Is it possible to get every bonus location?** Probably not. We’re pretty sure there’s no match for States of the Nation New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, and North and South Dakota. But if you find one, we’ll be happy to count it. We’re pretty sure you can get all the States of Mind because there pretty much has to be some sign somewhere advertising the university. The States of Disarray, some of them are pretty tiny and you might not be able to find anything there; that’s part of the challenge.

7. **Do townships count as cities?** Yes; we’ll take cities, towns, villages, townships, hamlets, boroughs, Census Designated Places, but not counties or states. So we would accept Texas City Hall, Texas Village Hall, Texas Township Office, Texas Borough Office, but not Texas County Office or Texas State Line.

8. **Do U.S. territories count as states?** No. Because. Anyway, the only one you could possibly find is Guam and we’re pretty sure there’s not a city named Guam.

9. **Why not?** Canadian territories count the same as provinces. Yes they do.
10. **What about the District of Columbia?** Hmm, good question. OK, we’ll take “District of Columbia” as a State of the Nation but not “Columbia”.

11. **What if it’s one of those places with a unitary city and county?** Then we would consider it as a city but not a county. You would still have to document it but if the sign says “entering city and county of Texasville” we’ll count it.

12. **What about Fire Protection Districts, Park Districts, etc.?** We have a soft spot for obscure political subdivisions so we’ll accept Fire Protection Districts, Water Districts, Park Districts, and the like. But *not* schools or school districts.

13. **Why will you take the Texasville Water Management District but not the Texasville High School?** Because.

14. **Can I submit a photo of a police car or snowplow with the city name on it? How about one of those flashing signs on wheels?** You can submit it but we won’t give you credit and we’ll probably mock you on the TeamStrange Discussion Board.

15. **What about churches?** Nope, unless you have a really good story for a Wild Card.

16. **Can I use a highway sign that points to the town or shows the distance to the town?** You mean, like “Kansasville ->”? No.

17. **Where did you get your lists from?** The States of the Nation and the States of Disarray are from the U.S. Census Gazetteer files, specifically the Places file, which can be downloaded from here: [https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/gazetteer2018.html](https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/gazetteer2018.html). You may find the data files helpful because they contain the latitude and longitude of all the places in the file. The States of Mind list was suggested by this map we found on the Internet: [https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/a7i11l/the_united_states_of_america_all_major/](https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/a7i11l/the_united_states_of_america_all_major/)

18. **Can I use more than one motorcycle during this Grand Tour?** Yes.

19. **Can I use a car and an Alibi?** No.

20. **Can I take my motorcycle on a trailer to a location and roll it off and submit the photo?** You would be better off leaving it on the trailer and having a really entertaining story for a Wild Card.

21. **Is there a limit on the number of times I can claim each of the States of the Nation?** No. According to our list, there are 48 locations with the name Washington in them, and if you want to go to them all, be our guest. In fact, doing the entire Grand Tour in Washingtons would probably get you some “special” recognition, if TeamStrange’s “special” recognition is something you crave.

22. **Is there a limit on the number of times I can claim each of the States of Mind?** Yes. You may claim each of these only once. So you can’t go around to all the campuses of Kent State University and get points for each one.
23. **Is there a limit on the number of times I can claim each of the States of Disarray?** You can claim each physical city only once, but you can claim multiple physical cities with the same name. For example, we list “Denver, IA, IN, MO”. You can claim and get points for 3 Denvers – Denver, IA; Denver IN; Denver, MO. But still no credit for Denver, CO.

24. **Can I claim both Arkansas City, AR and Arkansas City, KS as both “Kansas” and “Arkansas”?**
   Sure, as long as you submit the documentation twice or tell us you’re claiming it twice. Same for Ohiowa, NE, which also works for two states.

25. **Can I claim the same physical city multiple times with different proofs?** You mean, like, a city limits sign for Washington, MO, and a city hall sign for Washington, MO, and a water tower for Washington, MO? Get outta here, no. You can submit multiple proofs but you’ll only get credit once.

26. **So tell me more about Alibis. What can they be used for?** An Alibi is used to fix a missing mandatory element of a Grand Tour stop - that is, your flag, your motorcycle, or you, if the bonus location is not accessible by motorcycle. In using an Alibi, we still need to be able to determine where you were. If we see the city name and your motorcycle but you forgot your flag, you can claim an Alibi. If you have the correct subject and your flag but forget to include your motorcycle, you can use an Alibi. It is a little "get out of fail free card" for forgetfulness and we are pretty easy about allowing them.

**States of the Nation**

Any U.S. or Canada city, town, village, borough, township, or census designated place that contains the name of a U.S. state or the District of Columbia or a Canadian province or a Canadian territory. There are 50 U.S. states and D.C. and 10 Canadian provinces and 3 Canadian territories and we’re not going to list them.

**States of Mind**

Alcorn State, MS  
Appalachian State, NC  
Austin Peay State, TN  
Ball State, IN  
Boise State, ID  
Bowling Green State, OH  
Chicago State, IL  
Cleveland State, OH  
Coppin State, MD  
Fresno State, CA  
Grambling State, LA
Jackson State, MS  
Jacksonville State, AL  
Kennesaw State, GA  
Kent State, OH  
Long Beach State, CA  
McNeese State, LA  
Morehead State, KY  
Morgan State, MD  
Murray State, KY  
Nicholls State, LA  
Norfolk State, VA  
Northwestern State, LA  
Portland State, OR  
Sacramento State, CA  
Sam Houston State, TX  
San Diego State, CA  
San Jose State, CA  
Savannah State, GA  
Stephen F. Austin State, TX  
Weber State, UT  
Wichita State, KS  
Wright State, OH  
Youngstown State, OH

**States of Disarray**

Atlanta, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MO, NE  
Boston, GA, IN, KY, ON, PA  
Buffalo, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, ND, OH, OK, SC, SD, WV, WY  
Cincinnati, IA  
Cleveland, AL, IL, MO, NC, ND, NY, UT, VA  
Dallas, SD, WI  
Denver, IA, IN, MO  
Detroit, AL, IL, KS, OR, TX  
Houston, AK, AR, DE, MN, MO, MS, PA  
Los Angeles, TX  
Miami, AZ, TX  
Minneapolis, KS, NC  
Omaha, AR, IL, TX