



## New York Library Association

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### **New York Selects Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley* for Route1Reads**

The State Centers for the Book, linked by US Route 1 from Fort Kent, Maine to Key West, Florida, are joining together to promote books that illuminate important aspects of their states' literary heritage for readers travelling this major meandering highway. The formal announcement of the project will be made on September 5 at the National Book Festival in Washington DC. At that time, the [Route1Reads.org](http://Route1Reads.org) website will be made live.

New York's Empire State Center for the Book's Route1Reads selection is John Steinbeck's travelogue *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*. It depicts a 1960 road trip around the United States made by Steinbeck in the company of his standard poodle, Charley. Their travels start in Long Island's Sag Harbor when he leaves on the Shelter Island ferry and roughly follow the outer border of the United States. A portion of the trip took place along Route 1.

For whatever reason, Route 1 does not seem to have captured the American imagination as has Route 66 – you can't get your kicks; you don't imagine yourself a rebel without a cause; there is no TV series named after it. Poor Route 1 is a little stodgy and very ordinary, probably because it is so ubiquitous in the Eastern states. It's just there, and we use it all the time because it's part of the fabric of our lives. There's not a lot of mystique associated with it and hardly anyone makes a special trip to say they've seen Route 1.

But just because we see it all the time doesn't mean that Route 1 doesn't have some memorable highlights along its 2,369 miles. That's the focus of the Route1Reads project. The Centers for the Book along Route 1 are stringing together some of the stories, sights, tastes, and smells of our very own parts and parcels of Route 1.

New York is not only celebrating Route1Reads with Steinbeck's book, but also has a cocktail to go along with the book. Mixologist Gregory Seider created a *Travels with Charlie* cocktail for Sag Harbor's Baron's Cove Resort and we are happy to share the recipe at [our website](#).

Route 1 crosses the Hudson River into New York, and US 9 exits just beyond onto Broadway in Manhattan, but US 1 stays with I-95 onto the Cross Bronx Expressway, exiting in the Bronx onto Webster Avenue. Two turns take US 1 via Fordham Road to Boston Road, which it follows Northeast out of the city to the state line, never straying far from I-95.

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