

Historic National Road - Pennsylvania

The Historic National Road is the Nation's first federally funded highway. Opening westward expansion, it became a transportation corridor for goods and people, creating the great cultural diversity we treasure. Visitors experience a physical timeline -- classic inns, toll houses, diners, and motels that trace 200 years of American history.



Length: 90 miles / 144.0 km

Time to Allow: Two hours to drive or two days to enjoy this byway.

Local Information

National Road Heritage Corridor

724-437-9877

[Send E-mail](#)

Visitor Services

Fees



No fees.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Transportation along the byway is predominantly automobile or tour bus. No pedestrian facilities exist along the road itself; however, numerous areas are friendly to bike and pedestrian travel just off the byway.

Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

Information



There is an authoritative information center along this byway.

Lodging



There is overnight lodging along this byway.

Retail



There are places to shop along this byway.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The colors of Fall make it a great time to travel the National Road.

High Season

Spring, Summer or Fall, the Historic National Road offers beautiful scenery and breathtaking vistas that will awaken your senses and beckon you back again and again.

Map and Directions



Legend:

 Point of Interest	 Campground	 Featured Byway	 Water	 State Border
 Park	 Picnic/Rest Area	 America's Byways	 Wildlife Refuge	 Urban Area
 Mountain	 Interstate	 Other Byway	 Wilderness Area	 Tribal Nation
 City	 U.S. Highway	 Other Road	 Other Federal Lands	 Military Base
 Capital	 State Highway	 Trail	 Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

The byway begins on the border of Maryland and Pennsylvania, on what is now US-40.


- Addison, containing the historic Old Petersburg/Addison Tollhouse, is the first major town the byway (US-40) passes through.
- Continuing west on the highway, the byway will pass Fort Necessity and Braddock's Grave.
- Further along the highway, continuing in its northwesterly direction, the byway passes Forbes State Park, and then the towns of Hopwood and Union Town.
- Another stretch up the highway takes the traveler past the Searights Toll House, the town of Brownsville, and the Flatiron Bridge.
- The byway then crosses the Monongahela River and eventually passes through Centerville, Beallsville, and Scenery Hill, and passes by the *Madonna of the Trail*.
- As the byway nears the city of Washington, it intersects with Interstate 79, and then moves on to Washington, at which point the byway takes a southwesterly direction and intersects Interstate 70.
- Once out of the city, the byway passes the S-Bridge, and continues on through Claysville and then West Alexander and the state border with West Virginia, marking the end of the byway.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

Pittsburgh, PA (30 miles / 48.28 km, 40 minutes)

Start:  I-279 westbound, Pittsburgh, PA
 N 40.440° W 80.010° [?]

Directions:

- Take I-279 west toward Rosslyn Farms.
- Get on I-70 and go south to Washington.
- Get on US-40 to enter the byway.



**Junction with
byway:** * Intersection of US-40 and Elwood Park
Rd, Elwood Park, PA
N 40.162° W 80.280° [?]

Road Trip: Historic National Road - Pennsylvania Tour

Departure: Old Petersburg Toll House, Pennsylvania

Destination: S Bridge, Pennsylvania

Time to allow: 1 day

Travel the Pennsylvania section of the Historic National Road and discover some of the region's compelling history. Your tour will take you through sights that show the development of transportation along the Historic National Road, over historic bridges, and through battlefields from the French and Indian War.

Day 1

- **Start: Old Petersburg Toll House**

Start your tour at the Old Petersburg Toll House in Addison. The Old Petersburg Toll House is one of six original toll houses on Historic National Road and one of the two remaining toll houses you will see on the trip.

- **Stop 1: Fort Necessity National Battlefield**

From previous stop: 19 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

Directions: Head north on Toll House Road. Turn left onto U.S. 40. Turn left into the Fort Necessity National Battlefield.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Visitors can see the site where George Washington led his forces in one of the most famous battles of the French and Indian War. Learn more about the battle as well as the Historic National Road at the Fort Necessity/ National Road Education and Interpretive Center.

- **Stop 2: Braddock's Grave**



From previous stop: 7 minutes / 4.2 mi (6.7 km)

Directions: Take a left on to U.S. 40 and drive approximately one mile. The NPS site will be on your left.

Suggested time at this stop: 15 minutes

View the grave of British Major General Edward Braddock, leader of an ill-fated expedition to the forks of the Ohio River to try to capture French-held Fort Duquesne during the French and Indian War.

- **Stop 3: Coal and Coke Heritage Center**

From previous stop: 23 minutes / 17.8 mi (28.5 km)

Directions: Turn right onto U.S. 40 west from Braddock's Grave and continue on U.S. 40. U.S. 40 bypass becomes U.S. 119 when U.S. 40 exits at Main Street in Uniontown. Follow Route 119 and turn left into the PENN State Eberly Campus.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Coal played an integral role in the development of the Connellsville Coke Region. At the heritage center, learn about the development of coke, a refined type of coal used to smelt iron.

- **Stop 4: Searight Toll House**

From previous stop: 11 minutes / 9.6 mi (15.4 km)

Directions: Head southeast on Penn State Campus and turn right onto U.S. 119. Turn right onto U.S. 40.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Named for tavern owner William Searight, the toll house is one of six toll houses along Historic National Road and the second on our trip. Thousands of travelers paid tolls here while journeying along the road.

- **Stop 5: Brownsville**



From previous stop: 13 minutes / 7.6 mi (12.2 km)

Directions: Turn left onto U.S. 40 and continue west. Turn left on Market St where you enter Brownsville's North Side Historic District.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

In Brownsville, you can discover more of the byway's history. You can visit Nemacolin Castle, the Flatiron Building Heritage Center or several historic churches dating back to 1845. Visit your choice of two bridges built in the 1830s – the Flatiron Bridge or the Dunlap Creek Bridge.

- **Stop 6: Pennsylvania Trolley Museum**

From previous stop: 45 minutes / 27.5 mi (44.0 km)

Directions: Return to W U.S. 40 and continue to the junction of N U.S. 79. Take N U.S. 79 which joins E U.S. 70. Stay on N U.S. 79 and take the Meadowlands exit, Exit 40. Turn left at the end of the ramp. Head north on Pike Street. Turn left onto Country Club Rd. Turn right onto North Main Street and bear left at the next intersection. Travel .5 miles on Museum Road and Turn left where you enter the parking lot.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

Follow the development of the Historic National Road at the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum. At the museum, guests can take a tour on a trolley and see nearly 50 preserved trolleys in addition to photographs and video clips.

- **End: S Bridge**

From previous stop: 19 minutes / 9.3 mi (14.9 km)

Directions: Head northwest on Museum Road. Turn left onto Main St. Continue straight onto Oak Grove Road. Turn left onto Henderson Ave/ PA 18. Turn left onto Jefferson Ave. Turn right onto Chestnut St/ U.S. 40. Turn right onto S. Bridge Rd/ PA 221.

Visit the S Bridge in Buffalo Township and see one of the engineering feats of the National Road. Walk across the bridge, built in the early 19th century, and marvel at its architecture.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 91 miles / 145.6 km

Total Travel Time: 2 hours 17 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 4 hours 15 minutes