

Millstone Valley Scenic Byway

Located in the narrow Millstone River Valley in north central New Jersey, the Millstone Valley Scenic byway offers you a glimpse into the past where well-preserved pieces of the canal era, the revolutionary war era, and early Dutch and American heritage live on.



Length: 27.5 miles / 44.0 km

Time Allow about 45 minutes just to drive the byway; more if you stop along the way.

Local Information

We do not have contact information for this Byway.

Visitor Services



Accessibility

The towpath and recreational facilities at D&R Canal state park are partially accessible for persons with disabilities. Please contact the park office at (609) 924-5705 for further information regarding disability access needs. Text telephone (TT) users, call the New Jersey Relay Service at (800) 852-7899.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

The canal towpath runs the length of the canal the entire length of the byway. It is a prime place for running, walking, biking, boating, and horseback riding. There are many parking areas along the byway where you can pull off and jump on the trail. The towpath lies between the canal and the Millstone River. Canal Road is often listed and referred to in bicycle rides and route maps. Canal Road is an easy bike ride that rolls along the Canal. Each of the towns along the byway have sidewalks and walking tours to better appreciate the historic sites.



Food

There are food services available in Kingston, NJ.



Information

* D&R Canal State Park Main Office: 145 Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540. Offers complete park information and publications. Park open daily, dawn to dusk. Office open Mon-Sat, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. * NJ Division of Parks & Forestry: Canal Road at Blackwell's Mill, information kiosk with maps at convergence of several trailheads. * Two additional visitor facilities are

planned and funded, one at East Millstone and the other at the Griggstown Causeway.

Special Considerations

Weekday commuting patterns across the bridges (especially Amwell Road and the Griggstown Causeway) should be avoided.

The Griggstown and Blackwell's Mill Causeways are closed periodically due to flooding.

Restrictions

The Blackwell's Mill Causeway is limited to 20 tons, vehicle and load. The Griggstown Causeway is limited to 5 tons, vehicle and load.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Fall is the best time to drive the byway and appreciate the historic sites in their setting along the Canal and through the towns.

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

Driving the Byway

- Beginning at the intersection of Route 206 and River Road in Montgomery, the route runs north along River Road on the west side of the Millstone River, across the causeway linking Millstone and East Millstone, and south on Canal Road through Franklin Township.
- The route proceeds into Kingston by way of Kingston-Rocky Hill Road and turns south for a short distance on Route 27 before heading north again on Kingston-Rocky Hill Road by way of Church Street in Kingston.
- The route then crosses the D&R Canal and the Millstone River on Route 518 and turns north again on Montgomery Road, in Rocky Hill, past the 1860 house, to Route 206 and River Road.

Driving the New Crescent Avenue Section


- After traveling along River Road in Hillsborough and Montgomery Township, continue on River Road along the Millstone River.
- Rather than making a left on Washington Street (Route 518) to finish the original byway route, continue straight at the intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Washington Street by crossing Washington Street to Reeve Street (formally Church Street).
- Drive a short block to Crescent Avenue (formerly South Street) and make a left at the intersection of Crescent Avenue and Reeve Street.
- Continue straight at the intersection of Crescent Avenue and Princeton Avenue. Bear right at the intersection of River Road and Crescent and follow River Road (County Route 605) into Kingston.
- Turn left onto NJ Route 27. This section ends at Kingston Lock, which provides parking, a gateway and a base for the southern end of the byway.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby airports

Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), PA (54 miles / 86.90 km, 1 hour 7 minutes)

Start:  Philadelphia International Airport
[N 39.874° W 75.245° \[?\]](#)

- Directions:**
- Start out going southwest on Essington Ave. toward Bartram Ave.
 - Turn left onto Bartram Ave. (0.4 miles).
 - Merge onto I-95 N (31.6 miles).




- Merge onto US-1 north via exit 46A toward Morrisville (Crossing into New Jersey) (20.9 miles).
- Turn slight right (0.1 miles).
- Turn left onto Ridge Rd. (1.0 miles).
- Ridge Rd becomes Heathcote Rd. (0.3 miles).
- Turn left onto NJ-27/ Lincoln Hwy.
- End at Kingston, NJ.

Junction with byway: * Kingston, NJ
N 40.376° W 74.613° [?]



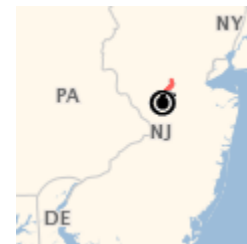
Nearby cities

Princeton, NJ (3.4 miles / 5.47 km, 8 minutes)

Start:  Northbound 36 University Place
N 40.349° W 74.659° [?]

Directions:

- Drive northwest on University Place
- Turn right onto Co Rd 571/ Nassau St/NJ-27 N
- Turn right onto Heathcote Rd, where you enter the byway.



Junction with byway: * Millstone Valley Scenic Byway Kingston, NJ
N 40.375° W 74.613° [?]

Road Trip: A Bicycle Ramble Along the D&R Canal Towpath and Adjacent Villages

Departure: Kingston Mill Historic District, New Jersey

Destination: Millstone Historic District, New Jersey

Time to allow: 1 day

For a singular way to experience the Millstone Valley Scenic Byway corridor, follow this easy 1-day bicycle ramble along the D&R Towpath. Alternatively, directions for driving are also provided.

Begin your byway experience, ideally in autumn, at Kingston, NJ where you'll find adequate parking and food services. Then hit the road, traveling 10.6 miles north toward East Millstone. Along the way, stop explore the Colonial crossroad villages that grew during the period of commerce and prosperity associated with the building of the canal – the inland waterway between New York and Philadelphia. Pause for a look at the locks and canal buildings, read interpretive signs, spend time at the Visitor's Center on the Griggstown Causeway. Take a canoe ride; then wrap up your journey by returning on the picturesque Canal Road and Rt 603 to Kingston.

Day 1

- **Start: Kingston Mill Historic District**

Park in the area adjacent to the bridge tender's house or at the John Flemer Preserve, and head off to explore. Visit Lock 8, the lock tender's house, the toll house, which was also a telegraph station, the turn basin, and the remains of the by-pass channel. See the 1880 Mill and the quadruple stone-arch bridge, which, until 1969, was Route 27, formerly the King's Highway. Also note Lake Carnegie, completed in 1905.



- **Stop 1: Rocky Hill**



From previous stop: 7 minutes / 2.3 mi (3.7 km)

Directions: If you are traveling by bicycle, ride 1.9 miles north along the D&R Canal towpath. By car, simply head south on Lincoln Hwy/ Route 27 for 0.4 miles, and turn right onto River Road. Drive 1.9 miles along River Road to Rocky Hill.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Arrive at your second destination, Rocky Hill, where you'll see the remaining stone foundation of the former bridge tender's house. Continue on through the village, heading north on the towpath. The brick building you'll see across the canal housed the famous Atlantic Terracotta Company, which made ornamental and architectural elements out of local clay to decorate famous structures including the Woolworth Building in New York City.

- **Stop 2: Griggstown Lock**

From previous stop: 9 minutes / 4.2 mi (6.7 km)

Directions: By bicycle, head north along the D&R Canal towpath for 2.3 miles.

By car, head north of Rocky Hill along the byway route on US-206. After 0.9 miles, make a slight right on Bridgepoint Road followed by a right onto Millstone River Road/River Road. Follow River Road 2.5 miles north and turn right onto the Griggstown Causeway. Park in Griggstown and walk 0.8 miles south along the D&R Canal towpath to the lock. For parking closer to the lock, turn right onto Canal Road from Griggstown Causeway and head south for 0.25 miles. A limited parking area will be in the right.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

About 4.2 miles north of Kingston, stop to examine the Griggstown lock and lock tender's house. Read the interpretive signs and chat with local fishermen. Although the canal here is no longer used to transport coal or manufactured and farm goods as it once did, the canal still functions as a water source.

Take a small trail through the flood plain of the Millstone River to traverse a wonderful meadow, which in autumn is full of wetland flowers.

• **Stop 3: Griggstown**



From previous stop: 2 minutes / 0.25 mi (0.4 km)

Directions: By bicycle, head north along the Towpath for 0.8 miles to Griggstown.

By car, you will already be parked at the Griggstown Causeway in order to visit the lock. If you're at the limited parking area off Canal Road, turn left onto Canal Road from the parking area and drive 0.25 miles north back to the Griggstown Causeway.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

Griggstown, just 5 miles from Kingston, is the most complete and unchanged of the byway villages. Learn something of the town's history by watching a history video at the visitor center, which is located in the bridge tender's house. In the past, the bridge tender's station also served as a telegraph station and later as a library. The mule tender's barracks, now an exhibition space, once housed canal workers. In the cemetery you'll see the graves of workers who died digging the canal.

Explore the village and learn about many of Griggstown's early residents fought in the Revolutionary War, including John Honeyman, who was a spy for Washington before the Battle of Trenton.

After exploring the village and learning it's history, take a break from biking or driving, and rent a canoe to enjoy a leisurely float on the canal.

- **Stop 4: Spillway**

From previous stop: 5 minutes / 1 mi (1.6 km)

Directions: By bicycle, head north on the D&R Canal towpath for one mile.
Leave your car parked in Griggstown and walk one mile north along the towpath.

Suggested time at this stop: 10 minutes

This spillway, located 6 miles from Kingston, was once used to regulate the water level of the canal. Excess water was and still is drained from the canal into the wetlands of the Millstone River from here. Take time to admire the handsome stonework on the spillway, but be careful- it is slippery when wet!

- **Stop 5: Blackwell's Mills**



From previous stop: 9 minutes / 3.7 mi (5.9 km)

Directions: By bicycle, head north along the D&R Canal towpath for 2.5 miles. By car, follow Canal Road north from Griggstown for 3.7 miles.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Named for the series of mills that once stood at this location, Blackwell's Mills is your next stop. Visit the bridge tender's house and station and the lovely garden. The house, one of four stone-bridge tenders' houses in the D&R Park, is open for special events on weekends, and the garden is open daily.

- **Stop 6: East Millstone**



From previous stop: 5 minutes / 2.2 mi (3.5 km)

stop:

Directions: By bicycle, head north on the D&R Canal towpath for 2.1 miles.

By car, head north on Canal Road for 1.9 miles. Turn left on Market Street and drive 0.3 miles to Amwell Road.

Suggested 1 hour

time at this

stop:

Upon entering the town of East Millstone, visit the bridge tender's house, station, outhouse, and the Franklin Inn, which housed business travelers while the canal was in operation. The Franklin Inn is now a used bookstore open on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoon.

Notice the many churches in this village-- they were built during the Canal years. The grassy field near the canal was the site of Fleishman's Distillery and later became a rubber recycling factory; several storage sheds remain on Market Street.

- **End: Millstone Historic District**



From 1 minute / 0.3 mi (0.5 km)

previous stop:

Directions: By bicycle or car, cross the D&R Canal by heading west on Amwell Road for 0.3 miles.

Cross the river bridge and explore the small borough of Millstone. Less than one square mile, this village was important during the Revolution and was later developed into a prosperous commercial center during the Canal period. Notice the four grain storages, lumber yard, harness shop, and dry goods center. Also visit the Old Forge on No. River Street, where repairs for canal barges were once made. Peek at the houses on Anne St., which were built during this period.

To finish off your byway exploration, re-cross the river bridge. Go right on Market Street and grab a sandwich and a drink. Bear right to Canal Road. Enjoy this narrow country road, a favorite of cycling clubs, which parallels the canal, passing many farm fields whose produce was transported to market by canal barges. Cross Rt 518, continue on Rt 603, past the quarry which was important during the canal period, to Rt 27 in Kingston. Finally, go right to Kingston, where your adventure first began.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 13.95 miles / 22.3 km

Total Travel Time: 38 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 6 hours 10 minutes