

# Bedford & Blair Day Trip

This is a nice ride south and east of Ebensburg through Bedford and Blair counties. The very rural route takes you through three State parks, State game lands and Raystown Lake. It covers 140 miles and is four hours long, without stops. It's a very scenic ride with several attractions to stop at for breaks.

This ride starts by heading east on Admiral Peary Highway (Old Route #22) to Munster, down Munster Road through Portage and through the country to Beaverdale. Route #869 will take us down the mountain into Bedford County and Pavia.

Route #869 is known as Burnt House Road in Bedford County. About eight miles from Beaverdale, you pass Burnt House Picnic Area on your right. It gets its name because of a house built here by a foreman for the South Fork Railroad Company that was burned to the ground during an argument.

About one mile later is your first stop at Cox Monument, a tribute to the Lost Children of the Alleghenies. The Cox children, George age 7, and Joseph age 5, wandered from home in 1856. Hundreds of people searched for them for two weeks without success. Jacob Dibert, a local farmer, had the same dream three times about where the boys could be found. He set out to follow the signs in his dreams; a dead deer, a little show, a log across a stream and then a birch tree with a broken top. He found the boys' bodies nestled in the roots of the birch. This monument marks the spot where the boys were found.



Entrance to Cox Monument



Cox Monument

Cox Monument is about an hour into your trip and gives you a chance to stretch your legs. Turn left at the sign, follow the dirt road into the woods about two miles to a clearly marked parking area, then walk about 200 yards across a stream to the monument.

Next it's back to the highway and to Pavia. It's only a 10 minute ride (8 miles) on Route #869 to Osterburg. If you like instead, take a ride through Blue Knob State Park up to the Blue Knob Fire Tower. It will add another 16 miles to your trip (45 minutes), but take you through some beautiful rural areas.

For this side trip, turn left in Pavia and follow the park road for about four miles. Make a sharp right onto State Forest Road, and turn left after ½ mile to the old fire tower. After visiting the fire tower, return to State Forest Road and continue on it. Turn right onto Ski Gap Road and follow it down the mountain to Claysburg. Turn right on Old Route #220 to Osterburg.



Rolling Road Through Blue Knob



Blue Knob Mountain

Blue Knob Mountain is the second highest peak in Pennsylvania at 3,146 ft. If you stay on Route #869 through Pavia, you go around the mountain. If you take the side trip to the fire tower (highly recommended) you go over the mountain.

Either way, you end up in Osterburg to continue your day trip. Follow Old Route #220 into Bedford. If you're ready to eat, Ed's Steakhouse across from the turnpike entrance is a good place to eat.

Once in downtown Bedford, turn left on Old Route #30 toward Everett. Everett has a small downtown that has been depressed since the bypass was constructed. We urge you to support Everett's restaurants and downtown businesses.



Downtown Everett



Rt. 913 from Saxton meets Rt. 26

In downtown Everett turn left onto Route #26. This will take us out past Raystown Lake and Saxton through Warriors Path State Park, where we will turn left onto Route #164 up over the mountain toward Martinsburg.

Route #164 is a steep ride up Cove Mountain into Martinsburg. The view is terrific, with many turns.



View from Cove Mountain Road (Rt. 164)



Williamsburg, Pa.

In Martinsburg turn right onto Route #866 to Williamsburg, the birthplace of Charles Schwab. In Williamsburg, you can stay on Route #866 toward the west and follow the Juniata River out to Route #22. Or, stay straight on High Street to the north and follow a rural road out to Route #22. The latter choice takes you out far enough on Route #22 that, on your return toward Hollidaysburg, you climb the sharp turns over Canoe Mountain.

Once on Route #22, head west toward Hollidaysburg. 1½ miles west of Route #866 turn right for a ride around Canoe Creek State Park on Beaver Dam Road and Scotch Valley Road.



Abandoned Lime Kilns at Canoe Creek

The area surrounding Canoe Creek State Park is rich in limestone. The limestone was quarried and used for many purposes like providing materials for the iron and steel industries of Pennsylvania. There are two abandoned lime kilns within the park boundaries from the 1900s, operated by the Blair Limestone Company. Limestone was burned to produce "quicklime" in these kilns.



Canoe Creek State Park Entrance



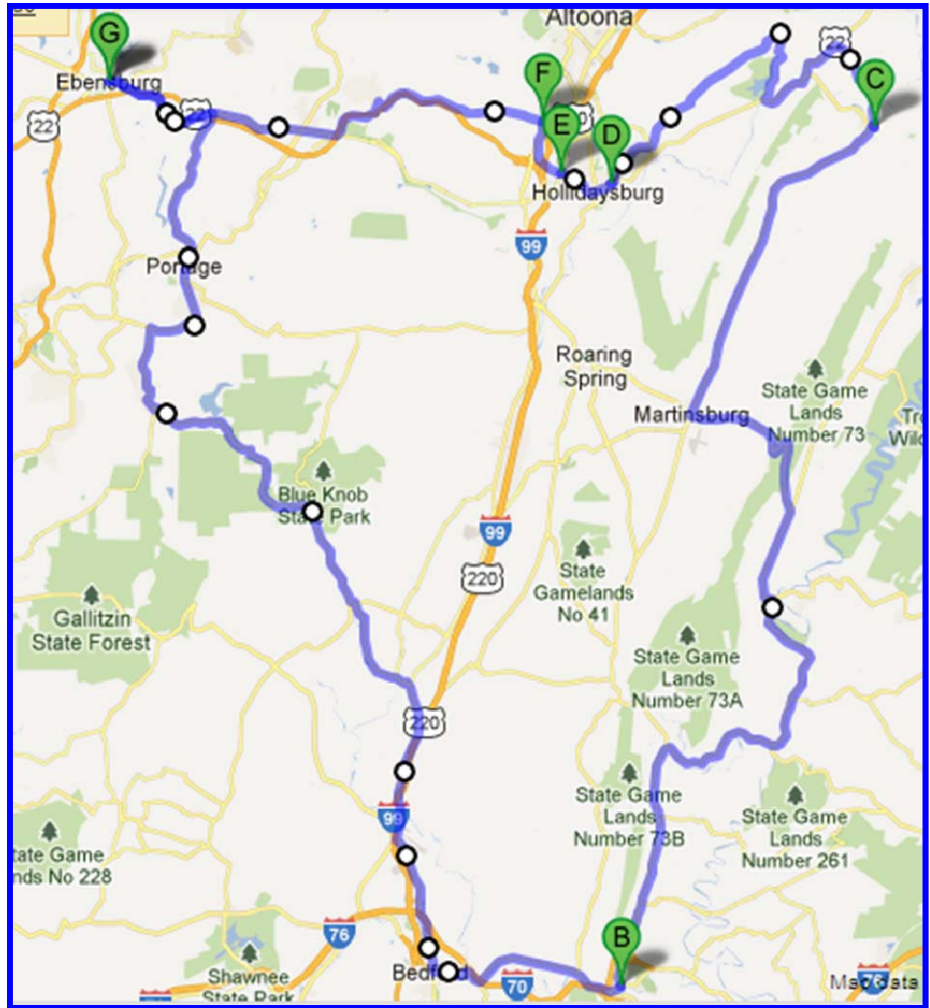


Apple Harley Davidson Store

From Canoe Creek State Park follow Scotch Valley Road to Hollidaysburg, head out North Juniata Street and make a stop at Apple Harley Davidson. They have a complete store for motorcycle parts and accessories.

Head out to Route #764 and turn left onto Sugar Run Road. This is the old road up over Cresson Mountain, paralleling Route #22. At the top turn left through Tunnelhill out to old Route #22. Take old Route #22 through Cresson all the way home to Ebensburg.

Total ride time on this day trip to Bedford and Blair counties is 4:15, and we will have traveled 140 miles.



Bedford & Blair Counties Day Trip Route

A = Ebensburg		
B = Bedford	1:25	46 mi.
Martinsburg	1:00	41 mi.
C = Williamsburg	:15	13 mi.
Canoe Creek State Park	:15	8 mi.
D = Hollidaysburg		
E = Apple Harley Davidson	:35	14 mi.
F = Sugar Run Road		
G = Ebensburg	:45	20 mi.

# Directions

## Bedford & Blair Counties Day Trip

- ◆ From center of Ebensburg head east on East High Street and stay straight on Admiral Peary Highway (old Route #22). (4.5 miles)
- ◆ Turn right on Munster Road (Route #164) (5.5 miles). Turn right on Route #53 at Portage.
- ◆ Make immediate left on Main Street. Follow Main Street up through Portage continuing straight up Spring Hill (Route #164). Turn right on Frankstown Road. (1.5 miles).
- ◆ Turn left on Frankstown Road. Follow into Beaverdale. Turn left on Cameron Avenue. (Route #869) Go ½ mile and turn left on Oak Street and immediate right onto Shawnee Road, staying on Route #869. Stay on Route #869 a distance of 19 miles until you reach Busi. Route #22.
- ◆ Turn right onto Route #220 and follow to downtown Bedford (9.5 miles)
- ◆ Turn left on East Pitt Street (old Route #30) to Everett. (7.5 miles)
- ◆ Turn left on North Spring Street (Route #26) (24.3 miles)
- ◆ Turn left on Route #164. (7 miles)
- ◆ Turn right on North Market Street (Route #866). (13.2 miles)
- ◆ Stay straight on High Street (SR2015) for 2.6 miles. Bear left onto T458 for 1.1 miles to Route #22.

OR

- ◆ Continue on Route #866 to Route #22. (3.7 miles)
- ◆ Turn left on Route #22. In 1.6 miles from Route #866 turn right on Flowing Springs Road. Make immediate right on Beaver Dam Road. (2.7 miles)
- ◆ Turn left on Scotch Valley Road. Make several turns to stay on Scotch Valley Road. (8.8 miles)
- ◆ Turn right on Old Route #22 for 1.1 miles. Make sharp right onto Allegheny Street, and immediate left onto North Juniata Street. In 1 mile cross Old Route #220 to Apple Harley.
- ◆ Continue west on Municipal Drive 1 mile. Turn right on Old 6th Avenue. Continue to Route #764, and follow Route #764 for 0.7 miles.
- ◆ Turn left on Sugar Run Road. In 0.7 miles make left on Broad Street, then right on Sugar Run Road. (6.6 miles)
- ◆ In Tunnelhill, turn left for 1.6 miles to Admiral Peary Highway (Old Route #22).
- ◆ Turn right and follow Admiral Peary Highway 10 miles back to Ebensburg.