



Cambria County Borders Day Trip

This is a scenic ride that takes you to all four corners of Cambria County, around the entire perimeter of the county. It covers 148 miles and is 4¾ hours long, without stops. It's a very scenic ride with several attractions to stop at for breaks.

This ride starts by heading out Manor Drive from the east end of town through Loretto and out to Chest Springs. Route #36 will take you to Ashville, where you turn north on Route #53. Route #53 takes you into the Prince Gallitzin State Park. A right turn onto Executive Drive (Route #253) and a right on Ridge Road brings you to a very small town in the northeast corner of Cambria County, Mountaindale. A left on Skyline Drive (Route #865) takes you through Glasgow. Utahville Road takes you down the mountain to Coalport.



Intersection of Routes 53 & 253



Main Intersection in Glasgow

Coalport is a very old town of less than 500 people, just across the line in Clearfield County. It's downtown area is relatively depressed and is on the National Register of Historic Places. There is only one restaurant, but there is what appears to be an interesting hardware store, McNulty's, built in 1875. It is just two blocks to the left as we cross Main Street.



McNulty Hardware, Coalport

You leave Coalport on St. Lawrence Road and head south into Cambria County and then north to Westover again in Clearfield County on Westover Road. Shortly you are back in Cambria County, and after several rural routes, you enter Northern Cambria Borough on Double Dam Road.



Westover Borough

From Northern Cambria, you head up Nicktown Hill Road (Route #271) to Nicktown.



Northern Cambria Borough



Nicktown is a small village at the top of the mountain where Route #271 and Route #553 intersect. You will stay on Route #271 through Nicktown, turning left on Blue Goose Road (still Route #271). Route #271 bears to the right and becomes Duman Road. Shortly you come to Duman Lake Park, a county-owned recreational facility. This a great place for a break. There are clean restrooms, and a miniature train to ride.

Looking West from Nicktown toward Alverda



Nicktown Area Farm



Amish Milk Wagon



Horses Along Route



Duman Park Railroad

Before bringing you to Route #422, Route #271 will take you through some of the most beautiful farmland in Pennsylvania. This is Amish country, so be careful at every turn and watch out for horse-drawn vehicles.

Turn right on Route #422 and follow only four miles to the small village of Strongstown, just across the border in Indiana County. In Strongstown, turn left on Route #403. You will follow Route #403 through Dilltown, across Route #22 and all the way to Johnstown with some small towns in between.

You come to the very small village of Dilltown about one mile before Route #22. Dilltown serves as a trail head for the Ghost Town Trail. Stop at the Dillweed B&B and visit the Trailside Gift Shop. They also have a small café there where you can grab a sandwich, coffee, herb teas, desserts or pastries... and ice cream!



Dillweed B&B, Gift Shop & Cafe

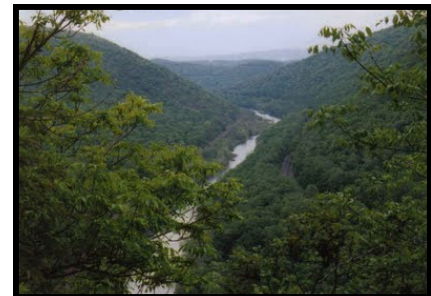


Dillweed's Gift Shop



Dillweed's Cafe

Route #403 is a very scenic ride along the east rim of the Conemaugh Gap. Follow it into Johnstown, and head up St. Clair Road to touch the southwest corner of Cambria County.



The Conemaugh Gap

After climbing St. Clair Road to Westmont you travel Menoher Boulevard, Fender Lane and then Coon Ridge Road back down the mountain to Somerset Pike. Then it's through Ferndale and up Eisenhower Boulevard, heading into the small mining town of Mine 37.



Mine 37 in early 1900s

The rich Eureka coal field near Windber helped to make the Berwind-White Coal Company one of the nation's leading coal producers. In the 1890s and early 1900s, Berwind developed 13 Eureka mines and established a regional headquarters in Windber.

The Eureka No.37 Mine operated from 1899 to 1962. The only coal-related structure still standing is the machine shop constructed in 1924. The coal company also erected 88 wood frame duplex houses to house the miners. The houses rented for \$7/mo. in 1911. The new town also contained two brick school buildings, a company store and a hotel. Forty of the houses remain and have been substantially altered.

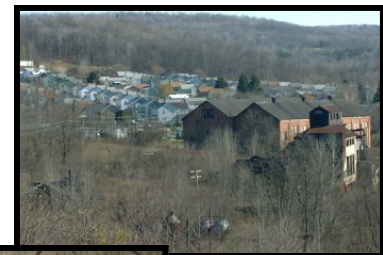


Mine 37 street and elevated sidewalks



Mine 40 Overlook in Scalp Level

Next you cross Route #56 through Scalp Level to Mine 40. As you turn off Main Street toward Mine 40, visit the Mine 40 Overlook. Eureka Mine 40 was one of Berwind's largest and best-equipped Eureka mines, producing 22 million tons of coal between 1905 and 1955. The town is now a National Historic District. Notable buildings include over 100 2-story miner duplexes, the power house, drift openings, cleaning plant, motor barn, fan house, sand tank, railroad repair car shop and wash house.



Mine 40 remnants



Abandoned underground cars



Mine 40 today



Inside the wash house

From Mine 40 you continue on Berwick Road to Route #160. Follow Route #160 into Elton, and turn right following Centennial Drive to Mine 42.

The Mine 42 portal was operated from 1907 until 1951 by Berwind-White Coal Mining Company. The social club today was once the mine's car barn.



Sealed Mine 42 Portal



Mine 42 Company Houses

The houses were all company houses constructed in 1910. The company store, stable and slaughter house still stand. Across the street one can still see the old first aid station.



Mine 42 First Aid Station



Company Store, Stable & Slaughter House



Windmills on ridge above Beaverdale

Continue out Mine 42 Road through the villages of Krayn and Llanfair on your way to Dunlo. As you pass through Dunlo toward Beaverdale, you will be close to the base of the large windmill farm. The windmills line the ridge all the way into Beaverdale.

If you're traveling on a weekend, check to see if the Beaverdale Hillclimb is operating. It is off to your right side will on Cedar Street. The hillclimb is 220 feet long with a 70° incline.



Beaverdale Hillclimb



The road ahead from Beaverdale to Ebensburg

The photo to the left shows the road ahead that you will follow to Ebensburg. You will climb in elevation the whole way, beginning with your first turn leaving Beaverdale on Washington Avenue.

Take Washington Avenue and Frankstown Road to the top of Springhill and down into Portage. When Main Street brings you to the railroad underpass, turn right on Dulancey Drive. In the village of Benscreek, drop down to Route #53 and head to Cassandra.

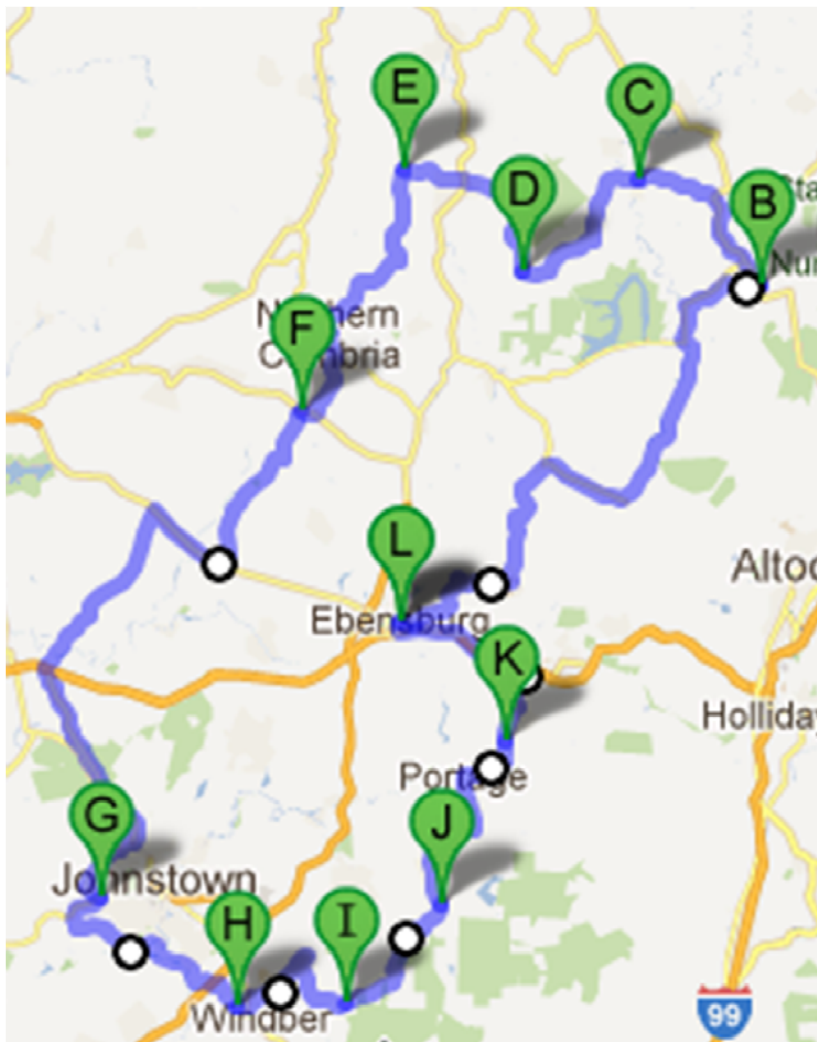
Cassandra is one of Cambria County's smallest towns. They are proud of their railroad overlook, so you should stop by and visit; you can't miss it. The iron bridge is an abandoned single-lane road bridge now used exclusively as an overlook as freight trains rumble underneath it.



Cassandra Overlook

From here it's out the Farmer's Turnpike and Cooney Road to Admiral Peary Highway (Old Route #22) and back to Ebensburg.

Total ride time on this day trip to the four corners of Cambria County is 4:45, and we will have traveled 148 miles.



A = Ebensburg		
B = Mountandale	:50	29 mi.
C = Coalport	:15	9 mi.
D = St. Lawrence	:15	8 mi.
E = Westover	:12	6 mi.
F = Nicktown	:30	15 mi.
G = St. Clair Road	:50	33 mi.
H = Mine 37	:25	12 mi.
I = Mine 42	:20	8 mi.
J = Beaverdale	:18	7 mi.
K = Cassandra	:25	11 mi.
L = Ebensburg	:21	10 mi.

Directions

Cambria County Borders Day Trip

- ◆ From center of Ebensburg head east on East High Street and bear left onto Manor Drive at the traffic signal at Lake Rowena heading to Loretto. (6 miles)
- ◆ In Loretto, bear left at monument on Brick Road (½ mi.) and then right on Columbia toward Chest Springs. (5.5 miles).
- ◆ Turn right on Route #36 (3.5 mi.) In Ashville turn left on Route #53. (9.5 mi.)
- ◆ Turn right on Route #253 (Executive Drive) for 2 miles. Turn right on Ridge Road to Route #865 (Skyline Drive) in Mountindale.
- ◆ Turn left on Route #865 4.6 miles. Stay straight onto Utahville Road for 3.4 miles.
- ◆ In Coalport, continue straight onto Main Street, left on Union Street and right on Market Street. Turn left onto St. Lawrence Road for 6.5 miles. Turn right on Barrens Road (SR4017) for 3.5 miles. Bear left on Westover Road (SR3006). It's 5 miles to Westover, making left to stay on Westover Road, which becomes Bridge Street.
- ◆ Follow Bridge Street across Route #36 for 3 miles. Turn left on Ridge Road for 4 miles. Turn right on Carpinello Road for 2 miles. Turn left on Double Dam Road for 2.5 miles to Northern Cambria.
- ◆ Turn left on Route #219 and follow for 2 miles through town. Make right on Nicktown Hill Road (Route #271) for 3.5 miles up hill to Nicktown. Turn right on Ridge Road and left on Blue Goose Road, always following signs for Route #271S.
- ◆ 5.5 miles down Blue Goose Road turn right on Duman Road for 6 miles to Route #422. Turn right on Route #422 for 3.5 miles and left on Route #403 in Strongstown. Stay on Route #403 for 18 miles, crossing Route #22, following the Conemaugh Gap and into Johnstown.
- ◆ Cross bridge and continue on Laurel Ave. for 7 blocks, turning left on Strayer Street for 7 blocks. Turn right on Fairfield Avenue (Route #56), which becomes St. Clair Road, for 2.5 miles. Turn right on Menoher Blvd. (Route #271) for 1.5 miles, then left on Fender Lane. In ½ mile turn left on Coon Ridge Road for 3 miles to Somerset Pike.
- ◆ Left on Somerset Pike for ½ mile and bear right at flashing light onto Ferndale Avenue. Straight through light ½ mile and turn right across bridge on Eisenhower Blvd. for 4 miles. Turn right on Mine #37 Road for 2 miles through Mine #37, across Route #56 to Scalp Level. Turn left on Main Street and right on Richland Avenue (site of Mine 42 Lookout).
- ◆ Bear left on Wissinger Road, then right on Berwick Road for 1 mile. Turn left on Forest Hills Drive (Route #160) toward Elton for 2 miles. Turn right on Bedford Pike and an immediate right on Centennial Drive for 3.5 miles. Turn left on Mine #42 Road for 3 miles. Turn left on Krayn Road for a short distance and then right on Llanfair Road for 1.5 miles to Dunlo.

- ◆ Continue straight on Pipeline Road and Dunlo Dip Road 2 miles to Beaverdale. Continue straight on Cameron Avenue (Route #869) and turn right on Cedar Street, following Route #869 sign. Continue straight on Cedar Street, bearing left on Washington Avenue out of town and up over hill for 2.5 miles.
- ◆ Turn right on Fieldstone Avenue for 1.5 miles and turn left on Springhill Road toward Portage. Continue on Main Street a total distance of 2.5 miles. Just before railroad underpass turn right on Dulancey Drive for 2 miles. Turn left on Benscreek Road to Route #53. Turn right on Route #53N and then left on Cassandra Road.
- ◆ Continue through Cassandra on 1st Street which becomes Farmers Turnpike a total distance of 2.5 miles. Turn left on Colonial Drive and continue on Cooney Road to Admiral Peary Highway (Old Route #22) for 2 miles.
- ◆ Turn left on Admiral Peary Highway for 6 miles back to Ebensburg.