

# Forest Hills 1/2 Day Trip

This 1/2-day trip, south of Ebensburg, passes through all of the small communities in the Forest Hills region of Cambria County. You need the directions to follow this trip. This is a slow ride through one small town after another. You will see great scenery and meet terrific local people.

The trip takes you south of Ebensburg on New Germany Road (Route #160). You will drive through small towns and villages such as Wilmore, Sidman, Salix, Mine #42, Elton, Summerhill, Mineral Point, Nanty Glo and back to Ebensburg. Along the way you can stop at several scenic points, reservoirs, historical parks, and great little restaurants.

A map and directions can be found on and printed from a later page. Make sure you have your map, and be sure to fill up the tank before leaving. You will never be far from a gas station, but there are none right along the route. The same for food. You can take this 1/2 day trip at any time during the day, but do not leave Ebensburg on an empty stomach. There is a list here of restaurants in Ebensburg and along the route that we can recommend.

The 10-mile ride to Wilmore is full of sweeping turns. The first recommended stop is about 1 mile before Wilmore. Make a stop at Wilmore Dam. Owned by the Cambria Somerset Authority, the reservoir is open to the public and is a great place to fish. The long, narrow lake with its winding shoreline, is a hidden gem. Steep wooded hillsides surround the lake creating a gorge-like setting. Make a left turn off of Route #160 onto Willow Beach Road. After 1/2 mile, turn right onto Law Street. It's not a paved street, but is easily navigated by motorcycle. The reservoir is approximately 2.5 miles long and covers 195 acres. After that brief visit, continue on Route #160 through Wilmore, always following signs to Windber.



Wilmore Reservoir



Train approaching Wilmore from Summerhill

Wilmore is situated along the Norfolk Southern Railroad. In fact, during today's ride you will see this railroad again along with several branches and secondaries. Wilmore is known for the "track pans" constructed there for the steam railroad. While the train continued at fast speed, large scoops dropped down into pans along the tracks and filled the train's tender with water for its steam.



Painting of Wilmore Track Pans by Fred Connacher

Wilmore has a population of 225 extremely friendly people. McGough's Market is situated at the intersection of Route #160 and Route #53. Stop in for snacks, fruit, drinks or sandwich.

Route #160 will take you out of Wilmore through farmland. There are several turns, and you want to follow the Route #160 signs, which will eventually bring you to the village of Sidman. Turn left onto Seesetown Road and follow that to the village of Dunlo. Staying straight in Dunlo puts you on Peaceful Valley Road, which will eventually bring you back onto Route #160 near the village of Salix.

Turn left onto Route #160 and after only a few miles turn left onto Krayn Road. At the end of the road, turn right onto Mine 42 Road. Follow this into the Village of 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.



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.



Sealed Mine 42 Portal

Centennial Drive takes you through Mine 42 and out to Elton, where you once again join Route #160 (Forest Hills Drive).



Mine 42 First Aid Station



Company Store, Stable & Slaughter House

From Elton we follow Helsel Road and Palestine Road into Salix and then WPA Road down the mountain to the village of St. Michael. Turn right on Route #869 and make an immediate left onto Lake Road. On Lake Road you will want to stop at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. See the ruins of the South Fork Dam, take a short walk around the park, or watch the short film "Black Friday". This is definitely worth the stop.



Johnstown Flood National Memorial

After your park visit, continue out to the end of Lake Road, make a right onto Frankstown Road, then a left onto Nelson Road. This is a twisty road that brings you down onto Route #53 in Summerhill. There are two good places to eat in Summerhill, and both serve good lunches and dinners. Rita's Restaurant is along Route #53 as soon as you enter Summerhill. Vince's Place is on Main Street in Summerhill, and also serves alcoholic beverages.



Mainline of Railroad Through Center of Summerhill

We head northwest out of Summerhill on Swigle Mountain Road and turn left onto Mineral Point Road. This twisty road will follow farmland, and then wind down over the mountain into Mineral Point. There are two sites you might want to visit while in the small town of Mineral Point.



Saltlick Reservoir above town of Mineral Point

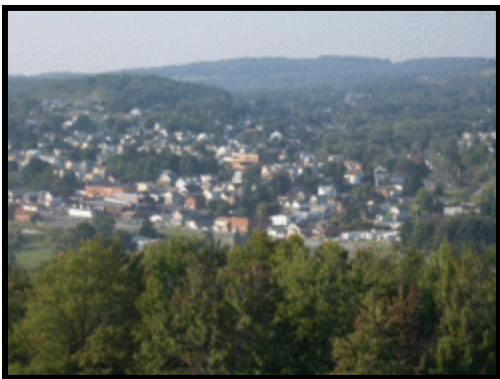
As you enter Mineral Point, the Saltlick Reservoir is situated above the town on your right.

The Staple Bend Tunnel is just outside of Mineral Point. The tunnel was the first railroad tunnel in America. Constructed in 1883, it is 900 feet long.



Staple Bend Tunnel

The tunnel remains open for pedestrian-only traffic. From Mineral Point, cross the bridge and turn onto Beech Hill Road. After passing through the railroad tunnel, the parking lot for Staple Bend is on the right. The tunnel is a walk of two miles down the Path of the Flood Trail.



Borough of Nanty Glo

When done visiting in Mineral Point, we continue on Mineral Point Road out to Route #271. A right on Route #271 will take you through Vinco to Nanty Glo, a very old coal mining town.

Beulah Road will take us up to Route #22 and back to Ebsenburg. Beulah was one of the first settlements in Cambria County (1797). In 1804 the community was thriving, and was considered as a candidate for designation as the county seat. The only thing left in Beulah today is the Beulah Cemetery and plenty of ghost stories.

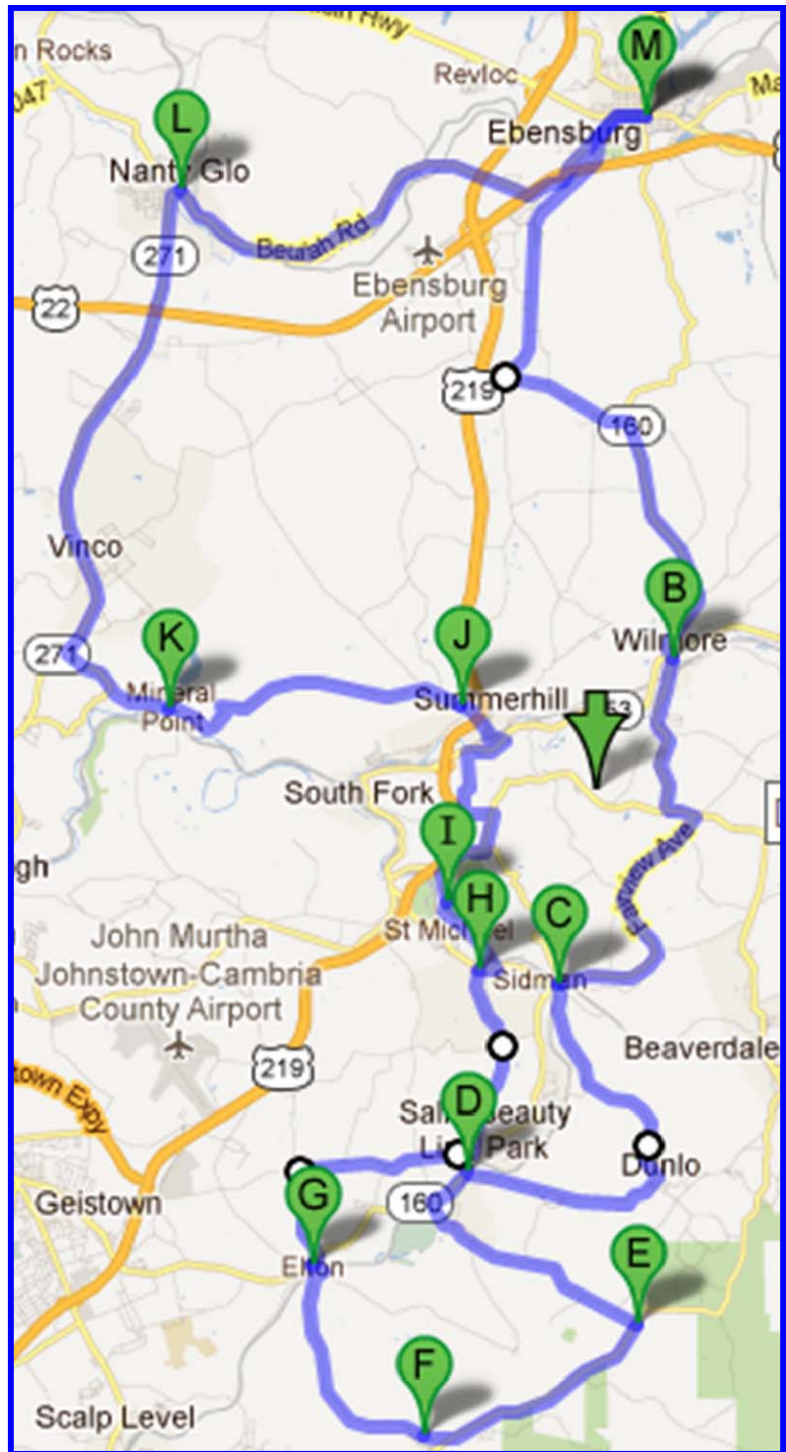
There is a Get-Go and Sheetz on Route #22 where everyone should gas up for the next ride.



Beulah Cemetery

Total ride time on this ½-day trip is 2:30, and we will have traveled 61 miles.

A = Ebensburg	:20	9 mi.
B = Wilmore	:10	6 mi.
C = Seesetown Road	:15	6 mi.
D = Salix	:10	3 mi.
E = Krayn	:10	3 mi.
F = Mine 42	:10	3 mi.
G = Elton	:10	3 mi.
H = St. Michael	:17	6 mi.
I = Flood Memorial	:05	1 mi.
J = Summerhill	:15	4 mi.
K = Mineral Point	:10	4 mi.
L = Nanty Glo	:15	8 mi.
M = Ebensburg	:15	7 mi.



Forest Hills Day Trip Route

# Directions

## Forest Hills 1/2 Day Trip

- ◆ From center of Ebensburg head west on West High Street. (0.7 miles)
- ◆ At Sheetz Store, bear left onto New Germany Road (Rt. 160) (3.4 miles)
- ◆ Follow signs for Rt. 160 by turning left onto Fairlane Road. (1.7 miles)
- ◆ At stop sign, follow Rt. 160 by turning right onto Evergreen Road. (3.3 miles)  
(If visiting Wilmore Reservoir, remember to turn left onto Willow Beech Road one mile before Wilmore, then right onto Law Street. After visit return to Evergreen Road and follow into Wilmore.)
- ◆ In Wilmore cross Rt. 53 and continue to follow Rt. 160 out of town. (2.1 miles)
- ◆ Turn left onto Fieldstone Avenue (0.3 miles) and then right on Fairview Avenue, all the while staying on Rt. 160. (3.6 miles)
- ◆ Before crossing railroad tracks in Sidman, turn left onto Seesetown Road toward Dunlo. Follow this road straight through Dunlo. The road name changes to Pitcairn and then to Peaceful Valley Road; just stay on the road. (5.9 miles)
- ◆ At stop sign, turn right onto Rt. 160 (0.8 miles)
- ◆ Just before the Windber Country Club, turn left onto Krayn Road. (3.1 miles)
- ◆ At stop sign, turn right onto Mine 42 Road. (2.7 miles)
- ◆ In village of Mine 42, bear right onto Centennial Drive. (3.4 miles)
- ◆ At end, turn left on Old Bedford Pike. Turn right in Elton on Rt. 160, and make an immediate left onto Helsel Road. (1.5 miles)
- ◆ Turn right on Oakridge Drive. (2.2 miles)
- ◆ At end, turn left on Rt. 160 (Forest Hills Drive) (0.2 miles)
- ◆ Stay straight onto WPA Road.(2.3 miles) to St. Michael.
- ◆ Turn right onto Rt. 869 (0.2 miles)
- ◆ Turn left onto Lake Road.(2 miles)  
(Take time to visit the Flood Memorial along Lake Road)
- ◆ At end, turn right onto Frankstown Road. Soon bear left staying on Frankstown Road. (0.5 miles)
- ◆ Turn left onto Nelson Hill. Follow down hill to Rt. 53. (1.1 miles)
- ◆ Turn right on Rt. 53 (1 mile). Turn left onto Main Street in Summerhill. Follow Main Street across the railroad bridge and turn left onto Jackson Street. (1 mile)
- ◆ Bear left onto Mineral Point Road. (3.7 miles)  
(At this point, the Saltlick Reservoir is above on your right. To visit Staple Bend Tunnel, cross the bridge on Beech Hill Road and the parking lot is on your right.)
- ◆ When done visiting, continue out Mineral Point Road to Rt. 271. (1.6 miles)
- ◆ Turn right on Rt. 271 and follow into center of Nanty Glo (6.5 miles)
- ◆ Turn right onto Second Street, which becomes Beulah Road (5.2 miles)
- ◆ Turn left on Rt. 22 back to Ebensburg (1.9 miles)