



WASHINGTON'S TRAIL - 1753

This trail is a driving route through western Pennsylvania. Traversing modern highways, the route commemorates young George Washington's first military and diplomatic venture in the Fall and Winter 1753 - 1754. Today, the route primarily follows major roads. However, in some areas there are alternate historic or scenic routes suggested which may more closely align with Washington's travel in the fall of 1753, and these are likely to be back roads. Visit washingtonstrail.org for more information.

WASHINGTON'S MISSION

In 1753, the imperial nations of France and Great Britain and the American Indian Nations all claimed control of the Ohio Country, the area encompassing present-day western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Acting on orders from Virginia Governor Robert Dinwiddie, 21-year old Major George Washington embarked upon a dangerous expedition north from Williamsburg to deliver a diplomatic message to the French ordering them to evacuate the region. The French erected three forts to reinforce their claim to the area: Fort Presque Isle (Erie, PA), Fort sur la Rivière aux Boeufs (Waterford, PA) and Fort Machault (Franklin, PA).

During his journey to the French forts in the winter of 1753-1754, young Washington encountered many hazards. There were "excessive rains and vast quantity of snow". He was nearly shot by an American Indian guide near Harmony, PA, and he nearly drowned in the icy waters of the Allegheny River near present-day Pittsburgh, PA. When Washington returned to Williamsburg in January of 1754, he reported to the governor that the French intended to remain entrenched in the Ohio Country. This marked the beginning of the military struggle known as the French and Indian War.

Blue/white round trailblazer signs are located along Washington's route through the scenic western Pennsylvania countryside. Pick up the trail at the Maryland/PA border and follow it north. Relive Washington's first military expedition—retrace the steps of our first president, take advantage of the historic and natural attractions along the way.

WASHINGTON'S TRAVELS

OCTOBER 31, 1753 - JANUARY 16, 1754

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|--------------------|--|
| OCTOBER 31 | Washington departs from Williamsburg, Virginia |
| NOVEMBER 15 | The expedition enters the forests of southwestern Pennsylvania |
| NOVEMBER 22 | Washington writes in his journal - 'the excessive rains and vast quantity of snow that had fallen, prevented our reaching Mr. Frazier's, an Indian Trader, at the Mouth of Turtle Rock, on Monongahela.' |
| NOVEMBER 23 | Washington arrives at the Forks of the Ohio (now the City of Pittsburgh, PA), and surveys the site for a future British fort |
| NOVEMBER 26 | Washington meets in Council at Logstown with leaders from the Six Nations of the Iroquois |
| DECEMBER 4 | The party arrives at Mr. Frazier's other cabin near what later becomes Fort Machault (now Franklin) |
| DECEMBER 11 | Washington arrives at Fort sur la Rivière aux Boeufs and delivers the British Crown's message to the French commander |
| DECEMBER 16 | Washington departs from Fort sur la Rivière aux Boeufs on his return journey |
| DECEMBER 27 | Near present-day Harmony, PA an American Indian guide shoots at Washington |
| DECEMBER 29 | Washington nearly drowns crossing the Allegheny River |
| JANUARY 16 | Washington reports to Governor Dinwiddie in Williamsburg |



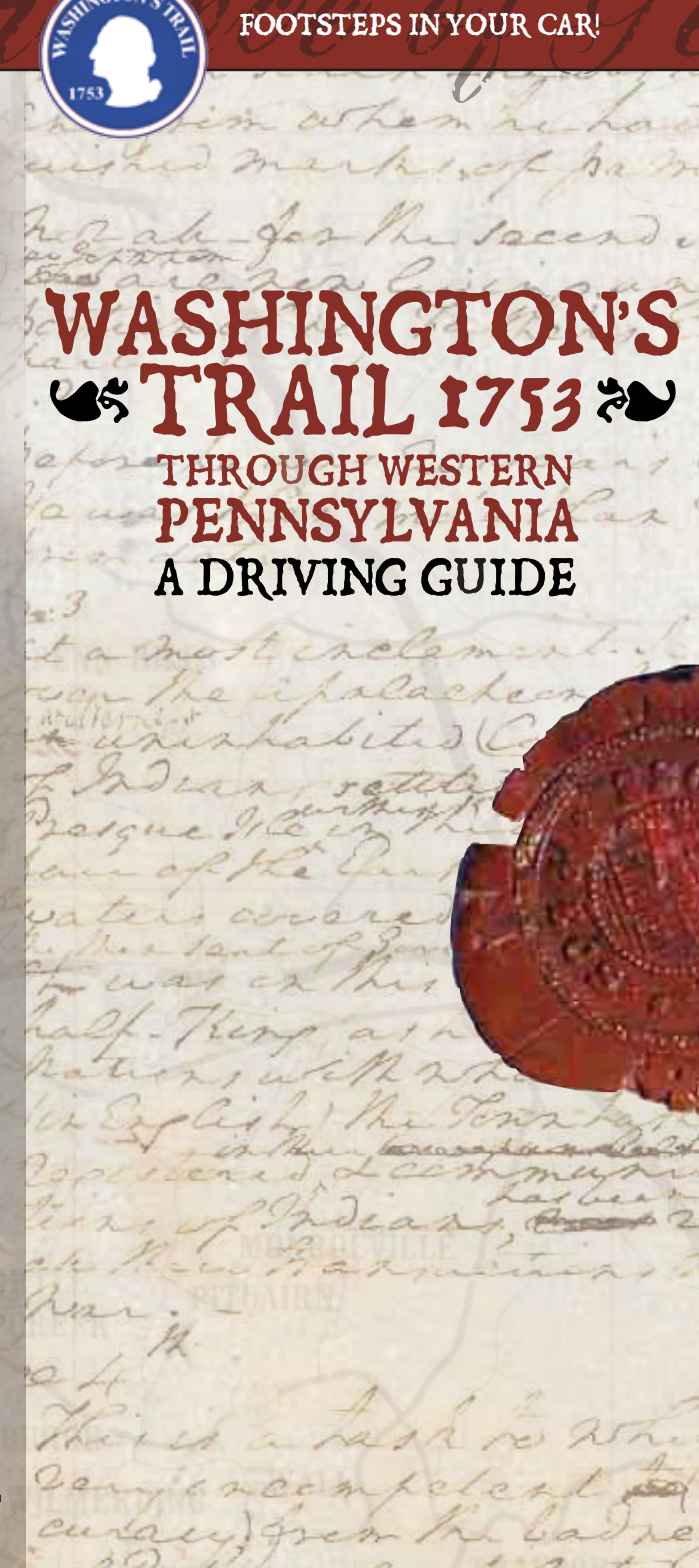
Washington's Trail 1753
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Zelienople, PA 15063
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www.washingtonstrail.org

This brochure was initially produced by French and Indian War 250, Inc. in collaboration with the Graphic Design students at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Map by Emir Bukva. Graphic Design by Greg Benninger. Updated in 2017 by Washington's Trail 1753.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

WASHINGTON'S TRAIL 1753 THROUGH WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA A DRIVING GUIDE





CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

LAUREL HIGHLANDS

INFO: 1-800-333-5661
www.laurelhighlands.org

Explore Pennsylvania's beautiful Laurel Highlands, where a young George Washington fought to preserve the British Crown's claim to the frontier.

Along the National Road (US 40) is Fort Necessity Battlefield¹ and Braddock's Grave,² the final resting place of General Braddock who was mortally wounded in the Battle of the Monongahela. A short drive off US 40 is Dunbar's Camp⁴ and Jumonville Glen,³ a quiet woodland where the first shot was fired in the French and Indian War. Near Braddock's Grave is the Laurel Highlands Scenic Byway (PA 381/711), which takes you to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, and Ohiopyle State Park for biking, hiking, and rafting.

Continue on PA 711 north to the historic town of Ligonier and Fort Ligonier, an on-site reconstruction of the British fort where the final push of the 1758 Forbes campaign was launched to defeat the French at the Forks of the Ohio. At Fort Ligonier, see Washington's rare autobiographical manuscript written in his own hand. Stroll through Ligonier and enjoy its many restaurants and unique shops.



ALLEGHENY

INFO: 1-877-LOVE PGH (568-3744)
www.visitpittsburgh.com

Pittsburgh, called the 'Forks of the Ohio' in the 18th century, is built on the piece of land over which the French, British and Native Americans fought for control.

Visit Fort Pitt Museum⁶ in Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh, built in a reconstructed fort bastion. Tour the Fort Pitt Block House, built in 1764, and the city's oldest surviving structure. Walk the outline of Fort Duquesne, a French outpost that preceded Fort Pitt. Take a walk along the river walk to the Senator John Heinz History Center,⁷ a Smithsonian affiliate and Pennsylvania's largest history museum.

Visit Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum, located three miles from downtown Pittsburgh in Oakland, where exhibits span from the Civil War to present day conflicts. See the site of Braddock's Defeat, where one of the most famous battles of the French and Indian War - the Battle of the Monongahela - took place. Braddock's Battlefield History Center,⁵ is located where the famous battle began in Braddock, approximately nine miles from downtown Pittsburgh.



BEAVER

INFO: 1-800-342-8192
www.visitbeavercounty.com

George Washington made his first venture here in late 1753 at the age of 21. From the mouth of the Turtle Creek on the Monongahela River, he traveled by canoe to what is now Pittsburgh where he met the King of the Delawares, Shingiss. Shingiss accompanied Washington to Logstown,⁸ an important trading center on the Ohio River, where Washington enlisted chiefs

Tanacharison and Monacatotha as guides to the French forts further north. They traveled the Logstown Trail, which followed the Ohio River (Route 65) to Crow's Town, at the beginning of Crow's Run, then eastward (to Route 989) past Big Knob, then north (Route 68) through Zelienople and on towards Fort LeBoeuf.

While in Beaver County, visit the Old Economy Village in Ambridge, a settlement founded by the Harmonist Society in 1824. The Harmonists embraced new technologies in their communal village and soon gained worldwide recognition for their religious devotion and economic prosperity.



BUTLER

INFO: 1-866-856-8444
www.VisitButlerCounty.com

Follow Washington's path through Butler County and visit the historic Buhl and Passavant Houses in Zelienople. Make sure to pass through the quaint, old brick village of Harmony.⁹ You will discover a multitude of history in this National Historic Landmark District. Take time to visit the Harmony Museum, which includes presentations of Washington's 1753 mission. You can also stroll through this charming town and visit the shops and restaurants.

Travel along PA 68 between Evans City and Connoquenessing to the spot where George Washington narrowly escaped death at the hands of an American Indian. The drive on PA 528 North meanders through Jennings Environmental Education Center and intersects with PA 8, the site of the Old Stone House. Visitors will find public tours and military reenactments from the 18th and 19th Century. Dine at Slippery Rock's popular colonial pub, North Country Brewing Company and enjoy the charm of this small town with an unusual name.

On the return trip through Butler County, you'll travel on the Venango Trail (Franklin Road) that winds through the busy hub of Cranberry Township. Here you can find a multitude of places to eat, sleep or shop.



MERCER

INFO: 1-800-637-2370
www.VisitMercerCountyPA.com

In Washington's time travelers typically used Indian paths. Visit the village of Mercer, the town seat, which boasts the Mercer County Courthouse with marble floors, grand marble staircase and hand painted mural in the dome of the clock tower. Stroll the Courthouse Square and browse the quaint shops, including the Mercer Mercantile and Soda Shoppe.

Experience the outdoors with a visit to Maurice K. Goddard State Park and Lake Wilhelm, for boating, kayaking, fishing and a 12 mile scenic paved hiking and biking trail. More outdoor adventure awaits you on the Shenango River's 23 mile water trail. The river is perfect for kayaking or canoeing the class one rapids with numerous access points. For more excitement launch your high power boat at the Shenango River Lake and enjoy a day of tubing, water skiing and wake boarding.

There is no shortage of outdoor adventure in Mercer County. Even George Washington's entourage stayed along French Creek at today's Boy Scout Camp Custalogastown. Bring the entire family and hike, bike, kayak or canoe the same area George Washington traveled in 1753. Visit us on the web for a complete list of attractions, accommodations, dining and more to help you plan your visit.



Visit
MercerCountyPA

VENANGO

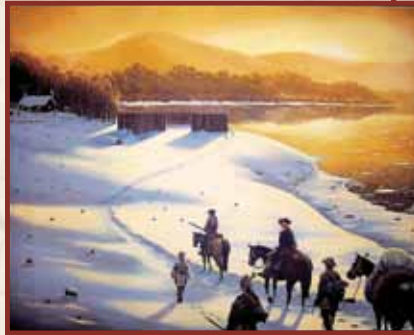
INFO: 1-800-483-6264
www.oilregion.org

PA 8 crosses French Creek in Franklin at Washington Crossing. Nearby is Riverfront Park, at the mouth of French Creek as it joins the Allegheny River, and the historic site¹⁰ where frontier trader John Frazier's cabin and French Fort Machault once stood - one of George Washington's stops in 1753.

Visit the historic Venango County Courthouse and the mural of George Washington and his traveling party arriving through snow on horseback that hangs in Courtroom 1.

(note: Weekdays only. Please maintain quiet in courthouse.)

See DeBence Antique Music World Museum in Franklin with its extensive collection of old-time mechanical musical instruments and the Venango Museum of Art, Science & Industry in Oil City where you can see the "Black Gold or Black Magic?" exhibit. Take a walking tour and see the region's many Victorian era homes. Shop for antiques and artists' hand-made jewelry in Oil City and Franklin. While in the Oil Heritage Region, soak up the scenery on our 65+ miles of paved asphalt hiking and biking trails. Spend the night at the Witherup House Bed & Breakfast or the Quality Inn & Conference Center, both on Liberty Street in Franklin.



CRAWFORD

INFO: 1-800-332-2338
www.VisitCrawford.org

On your adventure following the trail through Crawford County launch your kayak or canoe into the historic French Creek, named by young George Washington and traveled by him in December 1753. Today French Creek has two DCNR designated water trails – Upper and Lower. By land, Washington's Trail 1753 follows portions of historic Route 6, PA's 12th Heritage Park. Meadville, designated a Historic District, features the Meadville Market House, Pennsylvania's oldest continually operating market. The Market House still has outdoor markets, local products and goods. Downtown has great "Shop Small" shops and eateries that are welcoming and unique, including the famous VooDoo Brewery. A must visit is the Baldwin Reynolds House Museum, an 1843 Greek Revival Mansion, and the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, featuring three-dimensional photography capturing the interest of generations starting from Queen Victoria's time.

Heading out of Meadville we recommend visiting Venango Valley Inn and Golf Course with its great food and a fun golf course. Next stop is Sprague Brew Works with a great atmosphere in a refurbished barn. Before leaving Crawford County, plan a stop at the historic Victorian style Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs, known for their active dinner theater, and the mature and challenging golf course at the Riverside Golf Club, located just down the road.



ERIE

INFO: 1-800- 524-ERIE (3743)
www.VisitErie.com

Fort LeBoeuf Museum,¹¹ Waterford, is located on the historical site of the 1753 French Fort sur la Rivière aux Boeufs. It is part of the Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society's campus. Across the street stands the only statue of George Washington in a British uniform and a Fort sur la Rivière aux Boeufs interpretive panel that chronicles this critical link connecting Lake Erie to the Ohio River. The historic Eagle Hotel is nearby—a good place for lunch. Take a side trip on PA 97 to Union City, founded as a lumber and banking town along the banks of French Creek and visit the Historical Museum on Main Street. Or, from US 19 south of Waterford, head east on historic US 6 to Mill Village, which has one of the oldest established taverns in Pennsylvania.

North of Waterford, on US 19, is Erie



Pennsylvania's only port city on Lake Erie, and a connection to the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, designated an America's BywayTM (PA 5A). Find where the French Fort de la Presqu'isle¹² once stood (at the foot of Parade Street) in a strategic location overlooking Presque Isle Bay. Visit Erie Maritime Museum and the US Brig Niagara, both integral to Erie's rich maritime history. Relax at Presque Isle State Park, with seven miles of beaches and 14 miles of trails.





WASHINGTON'S NORTHERN TREK THROUGH WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

LAUREL HIGHLANDS

- Begin on the **National Rd., US 40 West** at the Pennsylvania/Maryland border.
- Traveling along **US 40**, approximately five miles west of the entrance gate to **Fort Necessity National Battlefield**, at the crest of the Summit, turn right onto Jumonville Rd. Follow approximately 3 miles to Jumonville Glen and Dunbar's Camp. Return to **US 40** and continue west to Uniontown to **US 119 North**. (**alternate route: Passing Dunbar's Camp, continue about 3 more miles to the foot of the mountain. Turn **RIGHT** onto **Old US Route 119** and follow to **US 119 North**.)
- Follow **US 119 N** to **US 30 West**.
- Follow **US 30 West** (*Lincoln Highway*.) Turn **RIGHT** onto **PA 48 North** and follow 2.5 miles.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

- Turn **LEFT** onto **PA 130 West**, follow 3.8 miles.
- Bear **LEFT** onto **Tri-Boro Ave.**, which becomes **Braddock Ave.** and then **S. Braddock Ave.** Driving past steel mills and through Braddock (*note: Braddock's Battlefield History Center is located at 609 6th St., Braddock, PA 15104*), turn **RIGHT** (just before bridge) and turn **RIGHT** again at the stop sign. (*note: do not cross over or under Rankin Bridge. Follow signs for Pittsburgh and Swissvale.*)
- Stay on **South Braddock Ave.** for several miles.
- Turn **LEFT** onto **Penn Ave. (PA 8)** and follow through East Liberty and continue to **Downtown Pittsburgh**. At Point State Park in Downtown Pittsburgh, turn

THE TRAIL - - - - -

Return trail deviates from Northern Route

** Numbers on map correspond to points of interest found throughout the brochure.

** There may be areas of the route without signage.

- **LEFT** onto **Commonwealth Place**. (*note: Fort Pitt Museum is located in Point State Park.*)
- Follow signs for **Fort Duquesne Bridge** and after crossing bridge exit onto **PA 65 North**.
- Follow **PA 65 North** (*Ohio River Boulevard*) about 15 miles.

BEAVER COUNTY

- Turn **RIGHT** onto **Conway-Wallrose Rd.** (*13th Street/PA 2008.*)
- Turn onto **PA 989 North**.

BUTLER COUNTY

- Turn **RIGHT** onto **PA 68 East** through Zelienople to Harmony on the left.
- Take **Main St.** in Harmony, turn **RIGHT** onto **Mercer Rd.** Follow **Mercer Rd.** to **US 19 North**.
- Follow **US 19 North** to Portersville.
- Take **West Park Rd.** north to **US 422 East**.
- Follow **US 422 East** to **PA 528 North**.
- Take **PA 528 North** to **PA 8** and **PA 173 North**.
- Take **PA 173 North** to Slippery Rock and **PA 108 East**.
- Follow **PA 108 East** to **PA 8 North**.

VENANGO/MERCER COUNTIES

- Near Wesley, take **Old Route 8** to Franklin.
- From Franklin, follow **US 322 West** to Meadville.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

- In Meadville, turn **LEFT** onto **Linden St.**
- At the second traffic light, turn **RIGHT** onto **US 6/19 French Creek Parkway**.
- At end of **Parkway** (approx. 3 miles) turn **LEFT** following **US 6/19 North** through Saegertown.
- Venango – turn **RIGHT** to stay on **US 6/19**.
- Cambridge Springs – turn **LEFT** to stay on **US 6/19**.

ERIE COUNTY

- Follow **US 19 North** to **Fort LeBoeuf Museum** in Waterford.

WASHINGTON'S RETURN ROUTE

Return from Erie County on the same route into Cambridge Springs. (*note: Washington traveled back from the French fort by canoe via French Creek.*)

CRAWFORD COUNTY

- In Cambridge Springs, follow **PA 86/S. Main St.**
- In Meadville, follow **PA 86/N. Main St.** to **S. Main St.** to **US 322 East**.
- Reverse northern route through Mercer and Venango Counties.

BUTLER COUNTY

- Continue south on **PA 8** to the Old Stone House.
- Turn **RIGHT** onto **PA 528**. Follow to Prospect and Evans City. (*note: To see George Washington monument, take PA 68 East, then return to Evans City.*)
- Turn **RIGHT PA 68 WEST**, immediately after railroad tracks, take **Franklin Rd.**, which splits off to the left.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

- Follow **Franklin Rd.** to **Bakerstown/Warrendale Rd. (Red Belt)** and turn **RIGHT**.
- Follow **Red Belt** about one mile and turn **LEFT** onto **US 19 South**. Follow 1.8 miles, turn **LEFT** onto **N. Chapel Road**. Turn **LEFT** onto **PA 910 (Orange Belt)**, follow 6.5 miles.
- Turn **RIGHT** onto **PA 8 South**, follow 10 miles.
- Merge onto **PA 28 South**.
- Follow **PA 28** to the **40th Street Bridge** at Washington Crossing.
- Turn **LEFT** and cross the bridge and continue straight at end of bridge.
- Turn **LEFT** onto **Penn Ave.** (*note: Penn Ave. becomes PA 8 and US 30.*)
- Follow **US 30 East/Lincoln Hwy.** through Irwin to Greensburg.

LAUREL HIGHLANDS

- Take **US 119 South** in Greensburg, towards Connellsville and Uniontown.
- In Uniontown, take **US 40 East/National Rd.**
- Follow **US 40** across the **PA** and **MD** border.

