

Route 6 Road Trip through the PA Wilds

Named “one of America’s most scenic drives” by *National Geographic*, this tranquil highway along Pennsylvania’s northern tier is 400 plus miles of history and heritage that stretch across the state. While traveling on Route 6, you’ll come across breathtaking views of unspoiled forests and mountains in the Pennsylvania Wilds, perfect for a fall road trip.

Day 1

Pick up Route 6 in the quaint town of [Wellsboro](#), with gas-lit streets and Victorian mansions that date back to the early 1800s. While in Wellsboro, stay at the Antlers Inn located on Route 6, offering fine cuisine with country elegance.

Continue along Route 6 and visit [Pine Creek Gorge](#), also known as the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, as it offers spectacular views and abundant wildlife. Approximately 12 miles off of Route 6, the drive along the west rim of the gorge provides colorful fall scenery and an impressive density of northern PA birds. Migratory and breeding birds can be seen, including woodpeckers, mourning and black-and-white warblers; wild turkey; and wood and hermit thrushes. The 17-mile Pine Creek Gorge is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts. Adventurers can enjoy the riverbanks by renting a raft, canoe or kayak at [Pine Creek Outfitters](#).

Day 2

While you are in the PA Wilds, take a short detour to the [Pennsylvania Lumber Museum](#) located along Route 6. The rough and rugged life of the lumber business, once Pennsylvania’s largest industry, is portrayed in a recreated lumber camp. More than 3,000 artifacts and objects, from everyday tools to a logging Shay locomotive, a Brookville Switch Engine and a Barnhart Log loader are displayed. Visitors are invited to walk through the weathered wooden buildings of the logging camp, sawmill and Sustainable Forestry Trail, and the renovation of the new visitor’s center is expected to open by summer.

As night approaches, enjoy some of the darkest skies in PA at [Cherry Springs State Park](#), Pennsylvania’s first Official Dark Sky Park, and the best place in the northeastern United States for amateur stargazing. Just 18 miles off of Route 6, Cherry Springs State Park boasts a 300 by 600 foot observation field with a 360-degree view of the sky set atop a mountain. Under ideal conditions, visitors can see more than 6,000 stars blanketing the sky from horizon to horizon, as well as satellites, planets and moons of our solar system.

Day 3

Next, head west and visit the village of [Smethport](#). Nestled in the Pennsylvania Wilds, the historic town offers a glimpse of its opulent past. Visitors can take a self-guided walking tour through the Smethport Mansion District, a village of 30 properties boasting history and architecture and showcasing the luxurious life of Smethport’s past, including Dr. S.D. Freeman, a famed surgeon during the American Civil War. There’s plenty to see among the Victorian houses and quaint shops.

Awaiting you in Smethport is a good night’s sleep and the small town charm of the [Mansion District Inn](#). You’ll be hard pressed to find a better view of the surrounding hillsides vibrant with

color than from the comfort of your room. In the morning, you'll wake up to gourmet coffee and fresh-baked biscotti.

Hit the road and venture 24 miles off of Route 6 to the edge of the [Allegheny National Forest](#); you couldn't ask for a better setting for a road trip. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Kinzua Bridge State Park by walking across the sky on the Kinzua Sky Walk that extends 625 feet into the Kinzua Gorge. The park was designated in 1963 to showcase the Kinzua Viaduct, an amazing engineering structure which when constructed in 1882 was the highest and longest railroad viaduct in the world. Partially destroyed by a tornado in 2003, the towers of the viaduct were re-engineered into a skywalk in 2011 with a partial glass overlook. Visitors can now enjoy scenic vistas, picnicking, geo-caching and hiking trails at the park.

Your next stop is the [National Historic District \(Bradford\)](#), with great antique shopping and handmade chocolates along Bradford's Main Street. Tall trees tower over the area like nature's skyscrapers. Bradford's most famous store is at the [Zippo/Case Museum](#), the only place in the world that carries the complete line of Zippo lighters and Case knives. Enjoy a self-guided tour through the 15,000 square foot attraction that includes the world famous Zippo Repair Clinic.

Finally, head east from Route 6 for a scenic 20-minute detour before reaching the little town of Eldred. Eldred was the site of a large British and American munitions plant that produced countless bombs, shells and fuses 24 hours a day. Today, [the Eldred World War II Museum](#) preserves our country's history by commemorating the 40 million Americans who supported the soldiers during the Second World War.

Day 4

Continue along Route 6 where you'll end up in the historic city of [Warren](#). In the early 1800s, settlers came to this region to drill for oil. Walk downtown to view the great Victorian homes built by early settlers that are still standing today, as part of the National Historic District.

While visiting the town, head over to [Struthers Library Theatre](#). The building was built in 1883 and shows the styles of the late Victorian period.

Autumn brings a spectacular display of foliage and events, including the [Johnny Appleseed Festival](#), to relive the history of the great logging boom era. While driving through the town you'll see country road side stands displaying harvest items.

While in Warren, stay at the [Horton House Bed & Breakfast](#). This bed and breakfast is in one of the historical Victorian homes that was built in 1895. This 22-room Victorian mansion offers wood-burning fireplaces in the rooms, a music room, a ballroom and a sun deck for you to relax and enjoy the beautiful fall foliage.

Your Route 6 road trip doesn't need to stop there! Continue your journey west along the longest transcontinental highway in the United States to reach the Pennsylvania border.

Suggested Places to Stay

Bear Mountain Lodge

8010 U.S. Route 6
P.O. Box 216
Wellsboro, PA 16901

570-724-2428

www.bearmountainbb.com/

On Route 6, close to Wellsboro and the Rails-to-Trails entrance to Pine Creek Gorge (PA Grand Canyon). Location, privacy, and indulgences: this Northwoods-style, smoke-free, lodge combines adventure with convenience, luxury and romance. Comfortable, hand-crafted, queen beds with comforters and quilts, private baths, fireplaces, whirlpools, deck, trail pack breakfast.

Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge

62 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-724-2111

<http://pennwells.com/>

The Hotel, built in 1869, is one of Wellsboro's most historic landmarks. The current building, which was restored in the 1920s, has 73 character-filled guest rooms of varying sizes and types. The newly renovated 89-room Penn Wells Lodge sits just two blocks down Main Street and offers contemporary accommodations, including new suites and complimentary breakfast for guests.

Mansion District Inn

905 W. Main Street
Smethport, PA 16749
814-598-7403

<http://mansiondistrictinn.com/>

Awaiting you in Smethport is a good night's sleep and the small town charm of the Mansion District Inn. You'll be hard pressed to find a better view of the surrounding hillsides vibrant with color than from the comfort of your room. Then, in the morning you'll wake up to gourmet coffee and fresh-baked biscotti.

Horton House Bed & Breakfast

504 Market Street
Warren, PA 16365
814-723-7472

www.hortonhousebb.com/

The Horton House Bed & Breakfast is a stately, historical, 22-room Victorian mansion in the lumber and oil heritage region. This house was built in 1895 and has been a bed and breakfast since 1995. It offers five bedrooms with private baths, wood-burning fireplaces, game rooms, a music room, ballroom, sundeck, and a year-round hot tub. This B&B also specializes in wedding accommodations, corporate clients and regional relocation. Personalized services are available for intimate getaways.

Suggested Places to Eat

Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge

62 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901

800-545-2446

<http://pennwells.com/>

The Penn Wells' main dining space is the Mary Wells Room, named for one of Wellsboro's founding citizens. The restaurant provides a classic fine dining experience in a space that carefully incorporates the history of Wellsboro and America.

Log Cabin Inn Restaurant

3501 U.S. Route 6
Wellsboro, PA 16901
724-452-4155

The Log Cabin Inn provides rustic décor for guests to enjoy during their visit. Their menu options range from great seafood entrees to traditional American cuisine.

Corner Pizza Company

437 West Main Street
Smethport, PA 16749
814-887-7755

Located on Main Street in Smethport, the Corner Pizza Company offers great food while guests enjoy the scenery of the town.

Bob's Trading Post

Rt. 321, North 1072 Bliss Hill Road
Kane, PA 16735
814-945-6223

Bob's Trading Post offers food that would remind you of your Grandma and Mom's recipes. Their menu includes more than a dozen different specialty pizzas made fresh daily using their own sauce and dough recipes that were passed down in the family. This restaurant is located on the edge of the Allegheny Forest.