



Laurel Highlands History Then and Now

2-DAY Fayette County

NOTE: You may add this to the Westmoreland 2-day tour for a 4-day tour (additional hotel).

SOUTHERN FAYETTE COUNTY - DAY 1 (6-hr day)

We travel to sites along our country's original National Road (also known as the Cumberland Road). The very first major improved highway in the U.S. built by the Federal government between 1811 and 1837. It connected the Potomac and Ohio Rivers and was a main transport path West for thousands of settlers.

Nemacolin Castle: The 3rd oldest castle in the United States, this location has a charming history dating back to the Native American days. There are steps in this visit.



Abel Colley Tavern & Museum & Searight's



Tollhouse:

We split into a few groups to visit these two sites just a short distance from each other. In the early 19th century, funding for the Road's construction and ongoing maintenance was a significant challenge for governments. To overcome this, the concept of toll roads was introduced. Constructed in 1835, it is a two-

story brick structure with a distinctive octagonal tower.

Lunch & Uniontown PA: Shopping/antiques, lunch on own in unique eateries in historical places.

Underground Railroad: The national road was a well-traveled route for escaping slaves from Virginia and Maryland. We take a walking tour or driving tour and hear an expert discuss the location and history of safe havens in the area.

Dinner: Historic Stone House Restaurant and Country Inn.

OPTIONAL ADD ON's AS TIME PERMITS (or for 4-day tours):

Mt. Washington Tavern & Ft. Necessity

Ohiopyle: Natural water features, fashionable water adventures with rapids

Kentuck Knob/Fallingwater – Frank Lloyd Wright (add fees)

Shopping

Casino

Winery

OVERNIGHT STAY: Hampton Inn in Uniontown and spend the night, with breakfast next day.

NORTHERN FAYETTE COUNTY - DAY 2 (8-hr day)



Patches, Coal, and coke: We visit a “patch” (small mining town) identified as a National Historic District, with coke ovens, processing equipment and tills that still exist, but which haven’t been touched since 1972. Now, carbon is being produced on sight by the current owner, so the earth is still producing bounty for the area.

Coal and Coke Museum: Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus has been the home of the Coal and Coke Heritage Center since 1977. The project centers on the bituminous coal and coke industries of southwestern Pennsylvania. This region was world famous for its abundant, high quality bituminous coal and beehive coke which fueled the blast furnaces of the steel industry in nearby Pittsburgh.

Bee Hive Coke Oven and Modern-day Glass Art: Visit Dunbar (the “little Pittsburgh”) and walk inside the bee hive coke oven. Learn about rare Pascal glass sculptures and other art exhibits (modern day) and why this little town has this exhibit. This deceased artist’s family donated art and several lithographs for sale, normally \$300, for just \$50 each!!!! Bring your cash or credit cards to get these before they are all gone!



Lunch in Connellsville at Valley Dairy: Chose either chef salad, turkey breast, or pot roast open face sandwich, potatoes, and mini-banana split.

Connellsville Canteen: Hand hewn train model, Native American display, WWII displays. Step back in time to the 1940's and learn about the history of South Western Pennsylvania during WWII. Not only did the men go off to war, but the women also contributed to the war effort by opening a "Canteen" and feeding over 600,000 troops that passed through Connellsville

The Loucks Homestead in Scottdale: Tour this beautifully restored 5-story federal style farm house with spring house, summer kitchen, and ice house in back.

West Overton: Explore mansions and factories and learn about the whiskey rebellion and how this location is connected to the coke industry too.



Return home.