



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Ohio & Erie
Canal
Towpath Trail**
Ohio



Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

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The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is an amazing trail journey that takes trail users for just over 90 miles between the heart of this country's industrial might in cities like Cleveland and Akron, to some of the most beautiful places in Ohio, like Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

About the Route

As closely as possible, the Towpath Trail follows the historic canal towpath where mules once pulled boats from 1827 to 1913.

The trail's northern endpoint is located in the industrial valley, looking up at downtown Cleveland. Heading southeast from the northern endpoint

at Canal Basin Park, the trail follows the Cuyahoga River through the lively city. The route includes scenic views of the river, the Cleveland skyline, and the Scranton Flats.

A well-maintained asphalt surface heads south out of the city. Wonderful trailside exhibits tell the story of the adjacent canal's past and present. Remnants of the old canal itself are an almost constant companion, and wildlife sightings are frequent even in the urban environment.

Two world-class trail bridges take users over busy intersections as the trail meanders south to Rockside Road. At this point, the path transitions into a crushed limestone surface as it enters Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Both the trail and the park don't disappoint. The stone surface is firm, even under road tires, and the beautiful scenery of one of the most-visited national parks in the country is hard to just roll by. Constant stops are a must and there are ample opportunities. Quaint historical towns, historical sites, and pure beauty make this section of trail exquisite.

A bustling stop along the route is the community of Peninsula, once a hub of canal activity and now a station on the popular [Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad](#), which offers tourist excursions within the park. Many visitors like to bike the Towpath Trail one way and take the train back (only available April–October). In the charming village, trail users can find restaurants, art and antiques shops, an old-fashioned candy shop, and historical homes.

South of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the trail enters the city of Akron. The trail becomes paved again here and while there are some short shared on-road sections, the route is not hard to follow. Akron offers great historical stops, as well as dining and convenience options as well.

Leaving Akron, the path becomes a boardwalk as it floats across scenic Summit Lake on a floating buoyed bridge over the surface of the lake. The trail transitions back to crushed



Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

Ohio

States: Ohio

Counties: Cuyahoga, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas

Length: 90.6 miles

Trail end points: 1468 Columbus Rd
(Cleveland) to Dover Dam (Zoarville)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Ballast, Boardwalk,
Crushed Stone, Dirt, Grass

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Horseback

Riding, Mountain Biking, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross

Parking & Trail Access

The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail runs between 1468 Columbus Rd (Cleveland) and the Dover Dam (Zoarville), with parking available at the northern end of the route.

Additional parking can be found at:

- Cuyahoga Valley National Park, 1550 Boston Mills Rd (Penninsula)
- 4503 Erie Ave NW (Canal Fulton)
- Craig Pittman Memorial Park, 8042-8062 Hudson Dr SW (Navarre)

There are numerous parking options along this route. See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.

