

## GOING EAST--Exploring the Original National Road

2025 Fall Tour—St. Clairsville, Ohio to Grantsville, Maryland

Sponsored by: The Canal Society of Ohio, Inc.  
and the Pennsylvania Canal Society

**October 17, 18 & 19, 2025**

Tour Hotel: Comfort Inn, 52509 National Road  
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

*Join your fellow explorers on this rare mileage tour of the original segment of the National Road between Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia) and Grantsville, Maryland. This original segment features structures similar to those found along canals, yet larger. Various iron and fiberglass mileposts, Madonna of the Trail statues, a furnished inn, large stone bridges and picturesque toll houses will be viewed along the route.*

Friday Oct. 17th: 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Registration at the Comfort Inn, St. Clairsville, Ohio.

7:00pm. “Tour Preview” show will be held in the hotel breakfast area (a very large area opposite the check-in desk) of the Comfort Inn. The preview will outline what will be seen on Saturday’s bus tour.

Saturday Oct. 18th: 6:00am to 8:00am. The hotel provides a free breakfast to its guests. Final check-in the Comfort Inn lobby for those registered who did not arrive on Friday.

8:00am to 11:30am. A narrated Bus Tour from St. Clairsville, OH to Grantsville MD to Addison, PA. The morning tour will follow the route of the National Road route fairly directly to the turnaround point in Maryland at the Casselman River Bridge in Grantsville. The bus will then begin to work its way back to Ohio. Eastward stops in Pennsylvania are planned at the double arched “S” Bridge east of Claysville PA, and Searight’s Toll House. We will leave at 8am sharp; as it is necessary we complete the whole trip in 9 hours.

11:30am to 12:15pm. A box lunch will be served at the park opposite the Addison Toll House in Addison, PA.

12:15 pm to 5:00pm. Continue westward from Addison to the site of the Great Crossing Bridge, which normally is underwater, but in recent years has been viewable in the fall. From there the tour will stop at the Mt. Washington Inn, a restored National Road roadhouse. If time permits there will be a will be a stop at the Ft. Necessity Battlefield/National Road Visitor Center nearby. On the way back the bus will pass by Gen. Braddock’s grave and make a short stop at the Madonna of the Trail in Beallsville. PA

5:30 to 7pm. Dinner on your own at the Mehlman’s Cafeteria at 51800 National Road in St. Clairsville. You will receive a meal ticket covering one main course, two sides, and a non alcoholic drink. If you choose more, you may do so, but you will need to pay for it. Please be aware that the cafeteria closes at 7:00 pm.

7:30 to 8:30pm. Speaker. Our guest is Brady Crytzer, Professor of History at Robert Morris University. He is the author of numerous historical books on Southwest Pennsylvania and George Washington. He will have books for sale. This program will take place in the breakfast area of the Comfort Inn.

8:45. Pennsylvania Canal Society membership meeting in breakfast area.

Sunday Oct. 19th:

9:00am to 12:15pm. We hope to visit the triple stone arch *Blaine "S" Bridge* just down the road from our hotel. The "S" bridge has been restored in great detail. The second site we hope to visit is the *Wheeling Suspension Bridge*, designed and erected by Charles Ellet in 1849. This was the first bridge crossing of the Ohio River. It was closed to vehicle traffic in 2019 and is open to pedestrians. If time permits we will visit *Elm Grove*, where the prominent Shepherd family prevailed upon Henry Clay to put the road on their property, requiring the construction of a stone axial bridge and a stone "S" Bridge to make it possible. The original axial bridge remains, and was restored in 2024. The Shepherd Mansion still stands adjacent to the bridge. The final site today is the *West Virginia Madonna of the Trail*, located about one mile north of Elm Grove on US 40 in Wheeling Park. Access here is limited, but it should be possible to get a few cars on the drive.

*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If any additional questions contact Mike Morthorst, Tour Chair at 513-791-6481 or at [gongoozler@fuse.net](mailto:gongoozler@fuse.net).*

**Tour Reservations should be mailed to Andy Hite, Tour Treasurer, 317 Fallow Court, Piqua, OH 45356. The reservation deadline for the tour/banquet is September 30, 2025.**

<b>Complete Tour Package (including tour book)</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Saturday Tour only (including tour book)</b>	<b>\$82.00</b>
<b>Saturday Banquet only</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Tour Book only (includes postage)</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>

Hotel Reservations:

Making a hotel reservation is the responsibility of the individual and can be made by calling the hotel. A block of 25 rooms have been secured in the name of the Canal Society of Ohio at the Comfort Inn, St Clairsville. **Call the Comfort Inn on 52509 National Road at (740) 296-5549 by October 12, 2025** to make a reservation. If necessary mention the group account number 5091909. Per night rates are: single queen, double queen, single king and double king, all are \$72.00+tax.

Hotel Location:

The hotel is off I-70 at Exit No. 220, County Road 214, aka Bellaire High Ridge Road. Turn north after leaving the freeway. The hotel is on US40 just west of the intersection.

Dinner Location:

Mehlman's Cafeteria is located at 51800 National Road in St. Clairsville, about 0.7 miles west of the Comfort Inn on the opposite side of the street.

Nearby Hotels:

1. Days Inn, 52601 Holiday Drive, St. Clairsville, OH 43950. (740)579-0234.  
2. Super 8, 68400 Matthews Drive. St Clairsville, OH 43950. (740)579-0495.  
This is at Exit 218. It is between I-70 and US 40 on the exit road.

