

# TRAIL TRIP



## Northwestern Pennsylvania

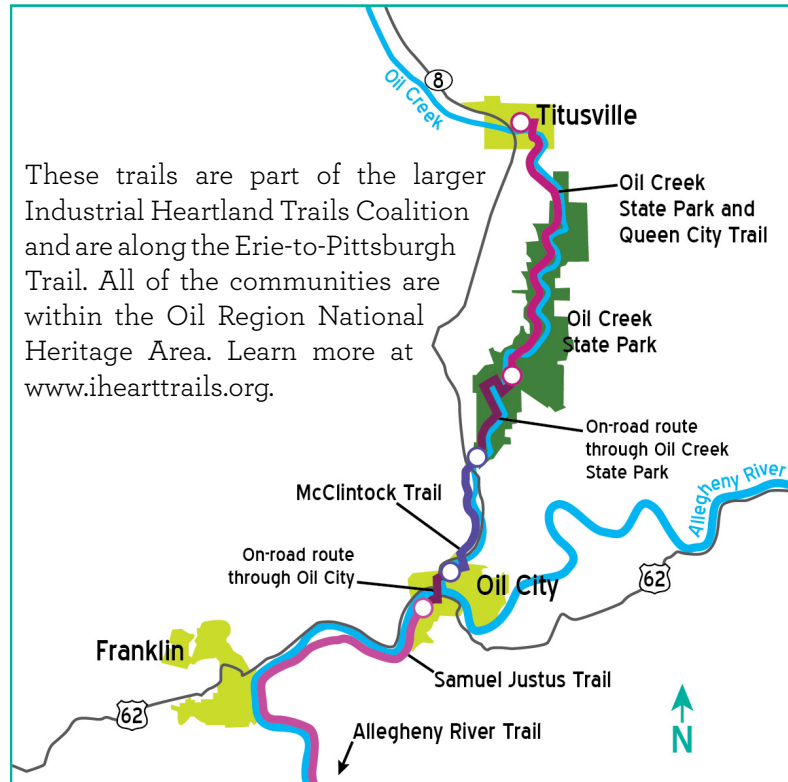


Industrial  
Heartland  
Trails  
COALITION

Oil Region  
Alliance  
BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM



Easily accessible from Erie, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh, these trails blend lush woodlands, remarkable histories, friendly towns, craft breweries, and a regional delight - ham loaf. Plan a day trip or a whole weekend to explore the villages and attractions that define this region.



These trails are part of the larger Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition and are along the Erie-to-Pittsburgh Trail. All of the communities are within the Oil Region National Heritage Area. Learn more at [www.ihearttrails.org](http://www.ihearttrails.org).

## TRAIL INFO:

Allow 1-3 days for this itinerary.

[Samuel Justus Trail](#) (Franklin to Oil City) - 6 miles paved; must ride local roads (W. 1st Street) to get into downtown Oil City. Exercise caution on roadways.

[Oil Creek State Park Trail](#) (Petroleum Center to Titusville) - 9.7 miles paved.

[Queen City Trail](#) - 1.5 miles into Titusville. Leads to a signed on-road route into town.

[Allegheny River Trail](#): 15 miles paved from Franklin to Kennerdell Tunnel



## Day 1

Start your trip in **Franklin** on the Samuel Justus Trail, a 6-mile paved trail that follows the Allegheny River north to **Oil City**. Spend most of the day exploring these two vibrant towns.

Located at the confluence of French Creek and the Allegheny River, Franklin is a charming village that exemplifies Americana with its two commanding town squares where free summer concerts fill the night air. Franklin's thriving downtown area demands a good browse. Start at the [Bossa Nova Café and Roastery](#) for a muffin and a cup of Brazilian coffee before taking in the antique shops, artisan's galleries and the oldest retail business in Venango County, [Feldman Jewelers](#), with its massive, original cabinetry from 1871. A little off the beaten path, check out the [Front Porch Music Shop](#). Ask the owners about their inspiring story to spread the gift of music to young people with their hand-made CanJoes. Finish up at [Sanders Market](#) for a Gahr's Hamloaf ready to be packaged up for the trip home.



After hours check out [TrAils to Ales Brewery](#), a trail-themed and trail-supporting craft brewery.

Few small towns in America can claim the kind of staggering cultural and industrial impact Oil City made on America. The epicenter of the nation’s early petroleum industry, John D. Rockefeller’s company set the price of oil around the world from their offices in the [National Transit Building](#). Once the home of the Standard Oil Company, today the building houses

artists whose work is showcased in its [Transit Fine Arts Gallery](#). Don’t miss the murals that dominate the building’s grand entrance. Stroll **Seneca Street** and its trendy restaurants for lunch or grab a cup of joe at [Karma Coffee](#) before visiting the [Venango Museum of Art, Science and Industry](#) for a demonstration of its extraordinary 1928 Wurlitzer Theater Organ that belts out a rousing tune while a mechanical orchestra chimes in.



historic [Tarbell House](#) (call ahead to check hours). Along the way the sweet smells of [Warner’s Bakery](#) will lure you into the home of the original Smiley Cookie. Long before the Smiley Cookie would become a western Pennsylvania icon, Warner’s Bakery was churning them out along with homemade donuts and 1 ½ inch high dark chocolate brownies.

To cut the trip in half, board the [Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad](#) for the ride back to Petroleum Centre. You can board your bike on the train for an additional \$5. As an added draw, local volunteers meet the train to share their family stories about living in this boom and bust community. Don’t miss the meticulously crafted diorama in the **Petroleum Centre train station** or the nearby boardwalk where historical signage takes you through town in real time.

## Day 2

Start your day at [Petroleum Center](#). At the Petroleum Center trailhead, you can connect to the [Oil Creek State Park Trail](#) and ride past beaver dams and historical signage that describe the region’s oil heritage. The trail ends at the [Drake Well Museum](#), but it connects to the **Queen City Trail** which leads into **Titusville** for a total of 12 miles.

Sample Titusville’s small town charm with dinner and a brew at [Lavery Brewing’s Lager Haus](#). This welcoming brewery serves up cold hand crafted beer Wednesday - Sunday. Wander over to [Missy Arcade Restaurant](#) with its unpretentious neon “restaurant” sign and red vinyl cover chairs that pay homage to everything 1960s. To learn more about muckraking journalist Ida Tarbell and her exposé on Standard Oil, have tea at the



## Add a Day

From Franklin, ride the Allegheny River Trail 15 miles to the popular **Kennerdell Tunnel**.

Drive northwest to the [Erie National Wildlife Refuge](#). The [Deer Run Trail](#) includes meadows, ponds, and forests all in a gentle 3-mile loop. Take your binoculars and keep your eyes peeled. The nearby college town of **Meadville** is home to [Voodoo Brewery](#).

Go northeast to explore [Cook Forest State Park](#) (the Eastern hemlocks are stunning) and [Allegheny National Forest](#). The town of Warren skirts the forest and boasts impressive architecture.



Voodoo Brewery photo by BeerTrotter