

# TRAIL TRIP



## Ghost Town and Hoodlebug Trails

This tour is designed for cyclists who are up for a long out-and-back ride, covering 84 miles of the [Hoodlebug](#) and [Ghost Town](#) trails. Tackle it all in one day, or spend the night part way. The two trails create an L shape to connect the towns of Indiana and Ebensburg, both county seats. Views of the Allegheny Mountains make the final climb into Ebensburg well worth it!



The Hoodlebug and Ghost Town Trails are part of the larger Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition. Learn more at: [www.ihearttrails.org](http://www.ihearttrails.org).

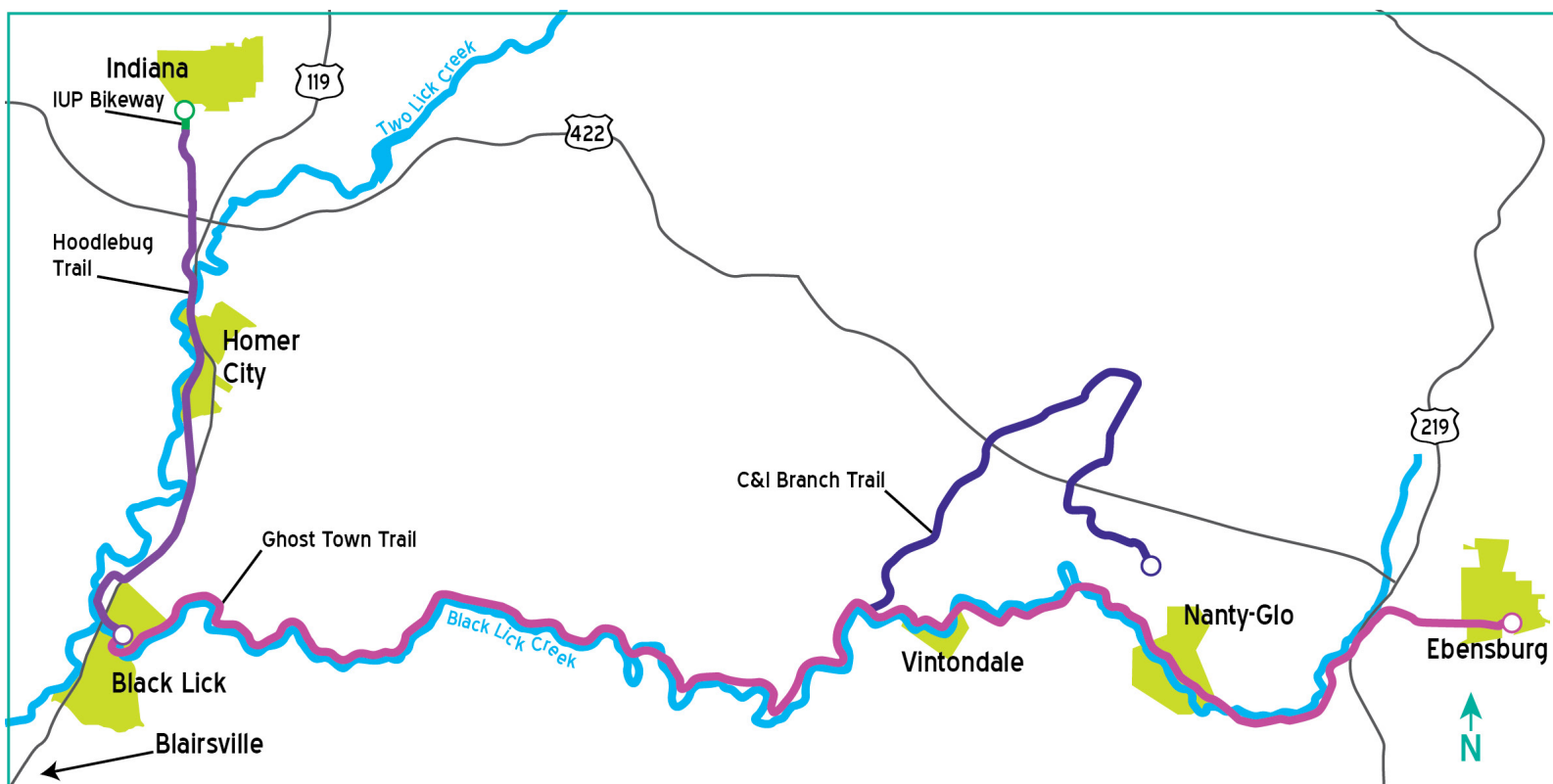
## TRAIL INFO:

- Visit [www.transalleghenytrails.com](http://www.transalleghenytrails.com) for more info on the trails. The Indiana County Parks & Trails and Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority sites also have helpful info.
- Add to your trail trip! The Ghost Town Trail has a new 8-mile branch, the C&I Extension, which can be accessed in Vintondale.
- Indiana has two bike shops that may be able to help you with parts and service: **Trailz End Bike Shop** and **Indiana Schwinn Cycling and Fitness Center**, both in the downtown area.
- Overnight trail parking is not yet available in Indiana. Please plan accordingly.



Are these not two of the best trail names you've heard? Learn the origins of both and find other helpful trail info at:

[www.transalleghenytrails.com](http://www.transalleghenytrails.com).





# Pre-Trip

Stay the night in Indiana so that you can hit the trail early the day of your ride. [Levity Brewing](#), along the Hoodlebug Trail, carries over a dozen of its own brews as well as a mix of regionally-crafted wines, meads, and ciders. Try their Hoodlebug Brown to get pumped for your ride. [Noble Stein Brewery](#), open Thursday-Saturday, is another local favorite.



First Snowfall by George Rothacker

In town, you'll hear a familiar voice along Philadelphia Street, the main drag. The crossing signals are all voiced by hometown actor, [Jimmy Stewart](#). A museum in his name is open weekends and runs matinees in its small theater.

Down the street, [Caff  Amadeus](#) is a coffeehouse that roasts its beans in-house and bakes fresh European-style pastries. You'll be riding 84 miles soon, so go ahead and enjoy

those delectable pastries.

Looking for an Indiana University of Pennsylvania student favorite? Head to the [9th Street Deli](#) ("home of the two-foot sub"), a local institution open since 1982. Their cheese steaks are said to rival those in Philadelphia. They also carry salads, soups, and provisions you can pack for your ride. Speaking of IUP, the [Oak Grove](#) on campus offers a relaxing, shaded spot for you and your bike.



# Along the Way

The 10.5-mile [Hoodlebug Trail](#) begins south of the downtown core, adjacent to the IUP campus (the IUP Bikeway connects the school to the trail). Along the Hoodlebug, you'll pass Levity Brewing and then parallel US Route 119 to **Homer City**.

If the timing is right, stop by [Disobedient Spirits](#). The Main Street distillery features hand-crafted cocktails and bottles for purchase. The 1794 Rye Whiskey is an homage to the 1790s Whiskey



Rebellion. Enjoy over billiards, darts, or giant Jenga (yes, you read that right).



From here, ride six miles to Saylor Park, in **Blacklick**, where signs will direct you to the [Ghost Town Trail](#). Pedal directly to the trail or detour a few miles to **Blairsville** for a stop at [Scoops Old Fashioned Ice Cream](#) (open seasonally), which serves Penn State Creamery Ice Cream at its vintage counter. The first 5.5 miles of the Ghost Town Trail include a moderate grade. Your reward is the commanding [Buena Vista Furnace](#) at mile 7.5

Bike a few miles more to **Dilltown**. There's a great covered shelter and restrooms, and the **Trailside Shop** at the [Dillweed B&B](#) is likely to have some snacks. Next up is yet another behemoth relic, the [Eliza Furnace](#) in **Vintondale**. It's one of the best-preserved iron furnaces in Pennsylvania. From here, ride on to Nanty Glo, a quiet town in which the onion dome of [St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church](#) signifies the valley's heritage. Nineteenth Century immigrants took on grueling work in order to build lives here in the Allegheny Mountains.

Now, you have just a 7.5-mile steady climb to **Ebensburg**! When you get to the trail's end, there's a steeper climb into the downtown area. In town, start at the [Cambria County Courthouse](#) on Center Street. The 1881 Second Empire structure is on the National Register of Historic Places and offers an impressive mountain view. Next, stop by [Clark Powell's Restaurant](#). It's a local institution with a pressed tin ceiling, a beautiful back bar, and a thin crust 4-cut "bar pie." Up the street is [Pour on Center](#) (food, craft beer, cocktails, and a great patio space). [Everyday Gourmet](#) on High Street offers yet another vibe, is open seven days a week, and has a menu that meets the promise of the name.



If you can't stop thinking about a sweet treat, make your way to [The Meadows Original Frozen Custard](#) on New Germany Road. It's a share-the-road situation, so ride carefully.

If you're stretching the ride over two days, note that the historic [Noon-Collins Inn](#) offers indoor bike storage.

