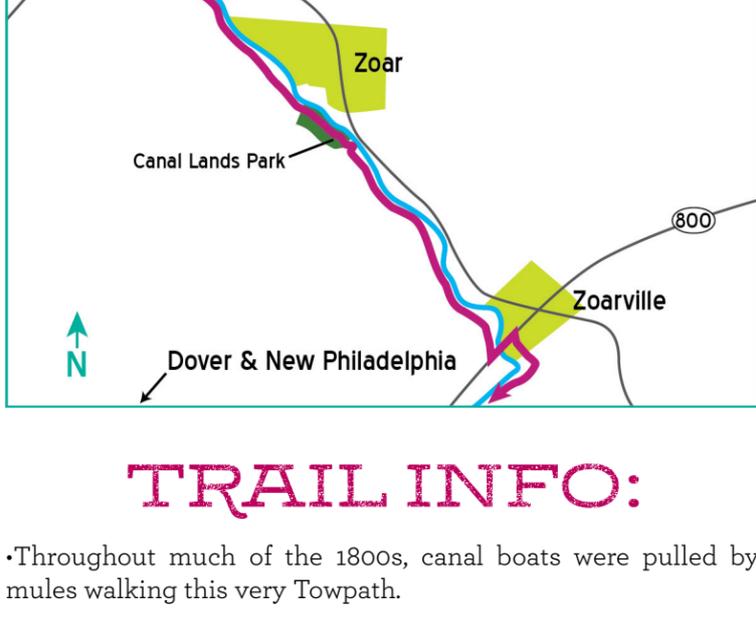
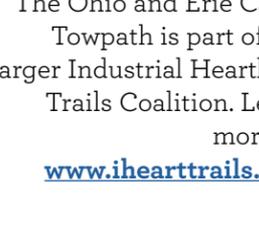


TRAIL TRIP



A Crafty, Bike-y, Garden-filled Towpath Getaway

The [Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail](#) offers 87 miles of level and scenic cycling. This 13-mile out-and-back itinerary focuses on the southernmost section around Zoar Village and nearby communities. Everything from a crafting retreat to craft beer is here at your fingertips. Dover and New Philadelphia are not yet connected to the trail, but it's certainly worth a car ride over to these quaint towns.



The Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath is part of the larger Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition. Learn more at: www.ihearttrails.org.

- Throughout much of the 1800s, canal boats were pulled by mules walking this very Towpath.
- This itinerary includes 13 miles (out and back) between Bolivar and Zoarville, with parking part way between the two endpoints.
- This trip lends itself to a Friday/Saturday getaway, as some of the shops and eateries in the area are closed on Sundays.
- You'll park at the Canal Lands Park trailhead at 8645 Dover Zoar Road and then go a little in each direction. From the parking area, take a short path down to the Towpath.
- Learn more about the Towpath Trail and the heritage of the Ohio & Erie Canalway at www.ohioanderiecanalway.com.

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Photo courtesy of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

Along the way

Begin your trip at [Canal Lands Park](#), where there's trail parking along Dover Zoar Road. Before heading north to Zoar and Bolivar, you'll turn right onto the Towpath and bike 2.75 miles south to [Zoarville Station Bridge](#). Prior to reaching the bridge, you'll turn left onto Route 800 and share the road for a short distance. Back on the trail (a right turn, marked), you'll soon encounter the bridge. It's the only remaining bridge of its kind in the U.S. and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Return to Canal Lands Park and then continue on to [Zoar Village](#). The total mileage from Zoarville Station Bridge to Zoar Village is 3.25 miles. A bit of road riding is required from the Towpath into Zoar Village. Just after you pass the Canal Lands

Park trailhead use the pedestrian bridge over the Tuscarawas River to get to town. Carry your bike up the steps to the bridge and continue on toward Zoar, a half mile from here. You'll reach a gravel road with an incline and then Dover Zoar Road. Turn left and share the road for a few hundred yards. Make a left at the next intersection and you'll be in Zoar. On the way back to the trail, you can go back down to the bike-ped bridge, or simply stay on Dover Zoar Road, which leads directly to the trailhead parking.

Zoar, founded by German separatists in 1817, was home to "America's most successful Communitist Settlement" from 1819-1898. What was life like over those 79 years? Find out by visiting the [Zoar Store & Visitor Center](#) March-December (check hours) and by walking around the village.

The village today includes a mix of residences, historic properties, and small businesses. We chuckled at a "Support your local candlemaker" sign while there and stopped in to talk with the shopkeeper. So, yes, it's the kind of place that you can meet the candlestick maker. The lush community garden is not to be missed. It's maintained as it was in the 1800s with a design that symbolizes the community's spiritual roots.

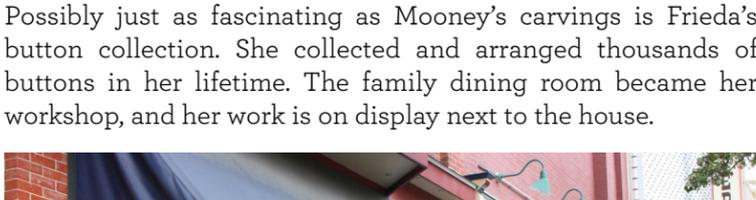
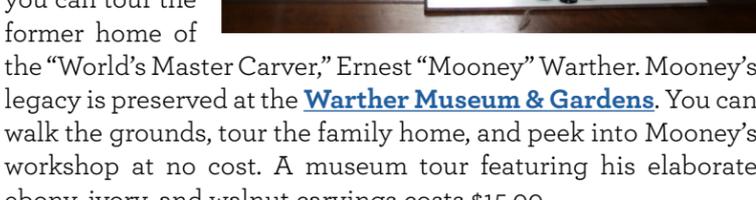


Photo courtesy of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

Enjoy a meal at [Canal Street Diner](#), or hold off until you reach Bolivar three miles north.

Continue north on the Towpath. In a short three-mile stretch, you will encounter four lift locks and the remnants of an old fish hatchery. Also keep your eyes peeled for turtles, great blue herons, and other wildlife.

The trail passes through [Fort Laurens](#), a Revolutionary War site that was partly demolished during canal construction. Just after Fort Laurens, you'll reach the charming village of [Bolivar](#). Park your bike and enjoy some barbeque and a craft beer at [Sublime Smoke BBQ](#) and then walk it off along Canal Street. Just outside of town, [Lockport Brewery](#), is beloved by local residents. And why wouldn't it be? It's the county's first craft brewery in 65 years!



In Your Car

Until the trail is connected into Dover and New Philadelphia (they're working on it), you might also take the time to visit by car. In [Dover](#), you can tour the former home of the "World's Master Carver," Ernest "Mooney" Warther. Mooney's legacy is preserved at the [Warther Museum & Gardens](#). You can walk the grounds, tour the family home, and peek into Mooney's workshop at no cost. A museum tour featuring his elaborate ebony, ivory, and walnut carvings costs \$15.00.

Possibly just as fascinating as Mooney's carvings is Frieda's button collection. She collected and arranged thousands of buttons in her lifetime. The family dining room became her workshop, and her work is on display next to the house.



In town, browse the local shops and pop your head into [Eiler Candy Shop](#), open since 1936. There's a great photo op (Jimmy the Rooster) next door at [Mindy's Diner](#).

In the evening, scout out some local wineries. We visited [School House Winery](#) and [YOLO Winery](#) (You Only Live Once).

Nearby [New Philadelphia](#) is a lovely and bustling county seat. Step into the courthouse if there on a weekday. Otherwise, fuel up with local favorite, [The Daily Grind Café](#), and enjoy a stroll around town.

