

# TRAIL TRIP

## Northwestern Pennsylvania

Easily accessible from Erie, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh, these trails blend lush woodlands, remarkable histories, craft breweries, and a chance to grab a local legacy - the original Smiley Cookie. Plan a day trip or a whole weekend to explore the attractions that define this region.



**Industrial Heartland Trails**  
COALITION



## TRAIL INFO:

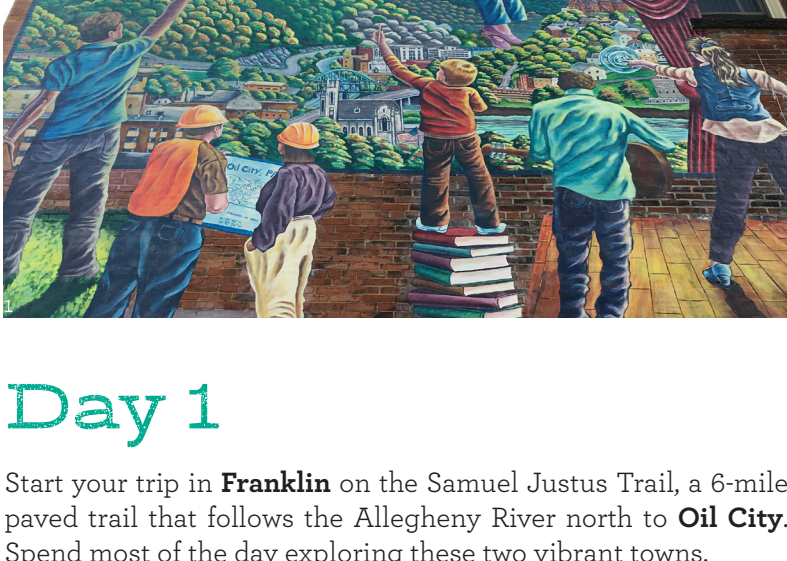
Allow 1-3 days for this itinerary. Always refer to trail group websites for the most up-to-date trail closures.

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

[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.

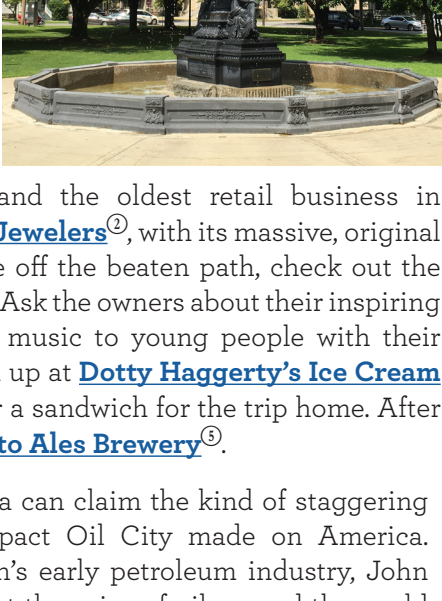
[Allegheny River Trail](#) - 15 miles paved from Franklin to Kennerdell Tunnel



## 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 [Iron Furnace Coffee](#)<sup>①</sup> for a seasonal latte and toast before taking in the antique shops, artisan's galleries and the oldest retail business in Venango County, [Feldman Jewelers](#)<sup>②</sup>, with its massive, original cabinetry from 1871. A little off the beaten path, check out the [Front Porch Music Shop](#)<sup>③</sup>. Ask the owners about their inspiring story to spread the gift of music to young people with their hand-made CanJoes. Finish up at [Dotty Haggerty's Ice Cream and More](#)<sup>④</sup> for ice cream or a sandwich for the trip home. After hours check out the [TrAils to Ales Brewery](#)<sup>⑤</sup>.



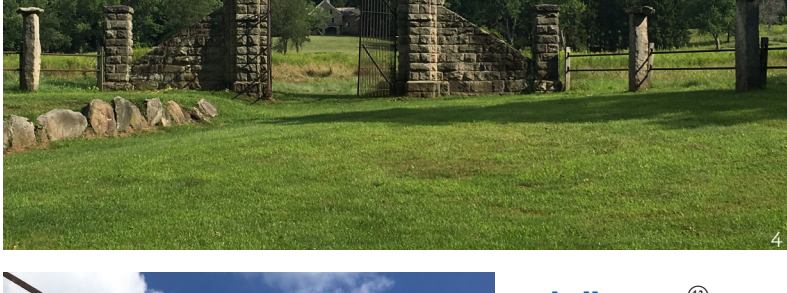
Few small towns in America can claim the kind of staggering cultural and industrial impact Oil City made on America. The epicenter of the nation's early petroleum industry, John D. Rockefeller's company set the price of oil around the world from their offices in the [National Transit Building](#)<sup>⑥</sup>. Once the home of the Standard Oil Company, today the building houses artists whose work is showcased in its [Transit Fine Arts Gallery](#)<sup>⑦</sup>. 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 just across the river at [Woods & River Coffee](#)<sup>⑧</sup> before visiting the [Venango Museum of Art, Science and Industry](#)<sup>⑨</sup> for a demonstration of its extraordinary 1928 Wurlitzer Theater Organ that belts out a rousing tune while a mechanical orchestra chimes in.



## Day 2

Start your day at [Petroleum Center](#)<sup>⑩</sup>. 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](#)<sup>⑪</sup>, 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 [Orr's Brewing Company](#)<sup>⑫</sup>. This welcoming brewery serves up cold hand crafted beer Thursday - Sunday. Wander over to [Missy Arcade Restaurant](#)<sup>⑬</sup> 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 historic



[Tarbell House](#)<sup>⑭</sup> (call ahead to check hours). Along the way the sweet smells of [Warner's Bakery](#)<sup>⑮</sup> will lure you into the home of the original Smiley Cookie. Long before the Smiley Cookie would become 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](#)<sup>⑯</sup> for the ride back to Petroleum Center. 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.

## Add a Day

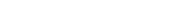
From Franklin, ride the Allegheny River Trail 15 miles to the popular **Kennerdell Tunnel**.

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.



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**Erie to Pittsburgh Trail**