

TRAIL TRIP

Cuyahoga Valley National Park , Ohio

Located between Cleveland and Akron, Cuyahoga Valley National Park offers a charming pastoral setting along the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail. Ride up to 40 miles round trip within the park or take it easy using the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's Bike Aboard! Service.



Industrial Heartland Trails COALITION



TRAIL INFO:

Allow 1-2 days for your time in the park and surrounding communities.

Biking from **Botzum** north to **Boston** makes for a gentle 9.1 mile ride (18.2 mile round trip) that covers most of the park's attractions. Trail is level, hard-packed surface.

Cut your trip in half by using the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's^① Bike Aboard! service for the return trip (\$3 one way; check www.cvsr.com/bike-aboard for the schedule).



Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad by the 419

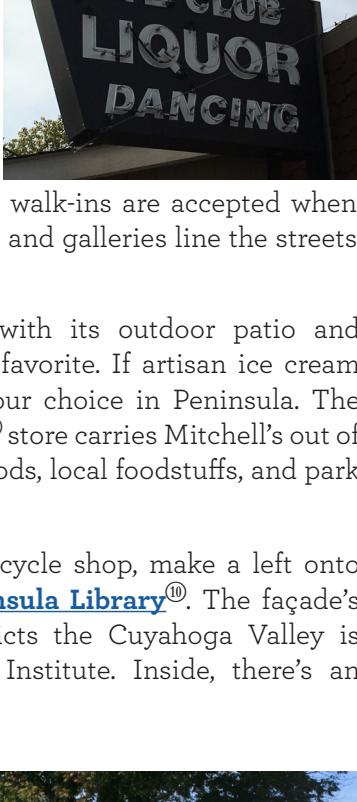
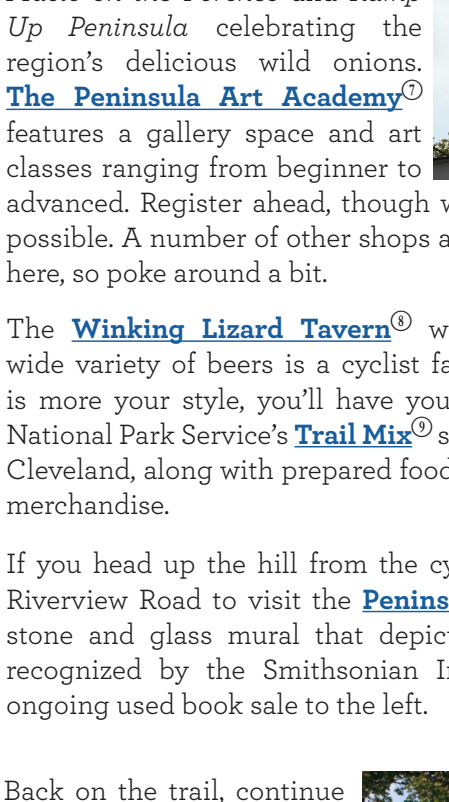
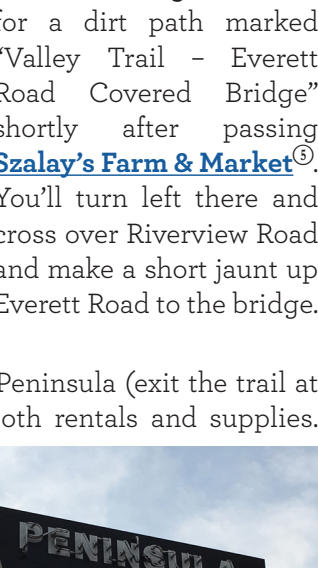
Along the way

Start early at Botzum near the southern end of the park and pedal directly to the **Beaver Marsh**^②. After a 150-year absence, the American Beaver is back and has built up a lovely wildlife viewing area. The Towpath Trail passes right through the marsh, where you'll spot photographers and birders watching for herons and other species. Another birding spot is the nearby **Bath Road Heronry**^③, about a quarter mile east of the trail, where hundreds of Great Blue Herons take up residence each spring.

Continue on to your next stop, the historic **Everett Covered Bridge**^④. Watch for a dirt path marked "Valley Trail - Everett Road Covered Bridge" shortly after passing **Szalay's Farm & Market**^⑤. You'll turn left there and cross over Riverview Road and make a short jaunt up Everett Road to the bridge.

Back on the trail, head north toward Peninsula (exit the trail at Lock 29). **Century Cycles**^⑥ offers both rentals and supplies. We dare you not to fall for this sweet little village of 500. It's known for its shops and galleries and hosts downhome events like *Music on the Porches* and *Ramp Up Peninsula* celebrating the region's delicious wild onions. **The Peninsula Art Academy**^⑦ features a gallery space and art classes ranging from beginner to advanced. Register ahead, though walk-ins are accepted when possible. A number of other shops and galleries line the streets here, so poke around a bit.

The **Winking Lizard Tavern**^⑧ with its outdoor patio and wide variety of beers is a cyclist favorite. If artisan ice cream is more your style, you'll have your choice in Peninsula. The National Park Service's **Trail Mix**^⑨ store carries Mitchell's out of Cleveland, along with prepared foods, local foodstuffs, and park merchandise.



If you head up the hill from the cycle shop, make a left onto Riverview Road to visit the **Peninsula Library**^⑩. The façade's stone and glass mural that depicts the Cuyahoga Valley is recognized by the Smithsonian Institute. Inside, there's an ongoing used book sale to the left.

Back on the trail, continue north to Boston. There's another **Trail Mix**^⑪ here if you need any nourishment, or just take some time to go in the visitor center.



When back to the southern end of the park, you might check out a few of the farms that are part of the Countryside Conservancy Initiative, a National Park Service effort to reintroduce sustainable farming in the river valley. Visit on a Saturday morning May through October and you'll be lucky enough to catch the **Countryside Farmers Market**^⑫, rated one of the top 10 markets in the U.S. It's held at Howe Meadow on Riverview Road. Otherwise, you can "farm hop" around the park.

Excursions

Have a Car? Consider visiting these spots on your second day:

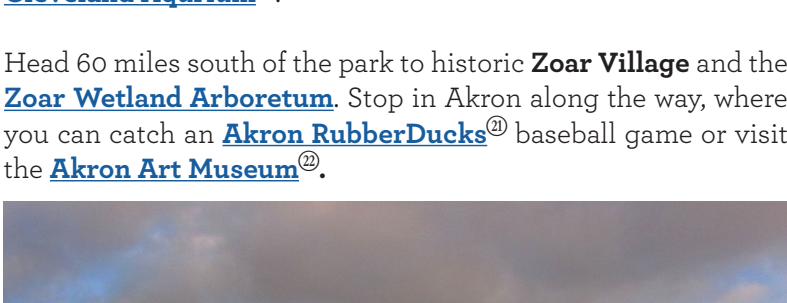
Brandywine Falls^⑬ is a 65-foot cascading waterfall that's just a few hundred feet from your pillow if you are staying at the **Inn at Brandywine Falls**^⑭. A boardwalk on the **Brandywine Gorge Trail**^⑮ takes you to a view of the falls.

Ledges Trail^⑯ on the eastern edge of the park is a stunning 2-mile footpath through hemlock and birch forests with impressive rock formations. Ledges Overlook provides a view across the valley.

Sarah's Vineyard^⑰ is the only winery located in a National Park. A stop here is likely to include wine served by the cafe, wood-fired pizza, and the vineyard as the backdrop to your meal.

Greenfield Berry Farm^⑱ offers pick-your-own experiences in the summer months.

Blue Door Café & Bakery^⑲ is known for its decadent pastries and healthful meals offered all day long.



Ledges Overlook by Jeff Burcher

Add a day

Head to Cleveland for a big city experience just five miles north of the park. The Towpath Trail passes through the **Flats neighborhood**, which includes shops, eateries, and the **Cleveland Aquarium**^⑳.

Head 60 miles south of the park to historic **Zoar Village** and the **Zoar Wetland Arboretum**. Stop in Akron along the way, where you can catch an **Akron RubberDucks**^㉑ baseball game or visit the **Akron Art Museum**^㉒.



Cleveland Flats by Christina Spicuzza

