WASHINGTON'S TRAVELS
OCTOBER 11, 1753 - JANUARY 16, 1754

OCTOBER 11
Washington departs from Williamsburg, Virginia

NOVEMBER 11
The expedition enters the forests of southwestern Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 22
Washington writes in his journal: the excessive rains and vast quantity of snow that had fallen, prevented our reaching Mr. Frazier’s, an Indian Trader, at the mouth of Turtle Rock, on Monongahela!

NOVEMBER 28
Washington arrives at the Forks of the Ohio (now the City of Pittsburgh, PA), and surveys the site for a future British fort

NOVEMBER 26
Washington meets in Council at Logstown with leaders from the Six Nations of the Iroquois

DECEMBER 4
The party arrives at Mr. Frazier’s other cabin near what later becomes Fort Machault (now Franklin)

DECEMBER 11
Washington arrives at Fort sur la Rivière aux Bœufs and delivers the British Crown’s message to the French commander

DECEMBER 18
Washington departs from Fort sur la Rivière aux Bœufs on his return journey

DECEMBER 27
Near present-day Harmony, PA an American Indian guide shoots at Washington

DECEMBER 31
Washington nearly drowns crossing the Allegheny River

JANUARY 16
Washington reports to Governor Drum in Williamsburg
WASHINGTON S NORTHERN TREK THROUGH WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

LAUREL HIGHLANDS
- Begin on the National Rd., US 40 West at the Pennsylvania/Maryland border.
- Traveling along US 40, approximately five miles west of the entrance gate to Fort Necessity National Site.
- At the crest of the Summit, turn right onto Kumoniville Rd. Follow approximately 3 miles to Kumoniville Glen Camp. Return to US 40 and continue west to Uniontown to US 119 North.
- Continue about 3 more miles to the foot of the mountains.
- Turn RIGHT onto Old US Route 119 and follow to US 119 North.
- Follow US 119 N to US 30 West.
- Follow US 30 West (Lincoln Highway), turn RIGHT onto PA 48 North and follow 2.5 miles.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY
- Turn LEFT onto PA 130 West, follow 3.8 miles.
- Bear LEFT onto Tri-Boro Ave., which becomes Braddock Ave. and then S. Braddock Ave.
- Drivin past steel mills and through Braddock (note: Braddock Battlefield History Center is located at 609 6th St., Braddock, PA 15104), turn RIGHT (just before bridge) and turn RIGHT again at the stop sign. Continue over or under Rankin Bridge.
- Stay on South Braddock Ave. for several miles.
- Turn LEFT onto Penn Ave. (PA 8) and follow through East Liberty and continue to Downtown Pittsburgh.

THE TRAIL
- Retrace trail directions from Northern Roads.

WASHINGTON S RETURN ROUTE
Return from Erie County on the same route into Cambridge Springs. (note: Washington traveled back from the French fort by canoe via French Creek.)

CRAWFORD COUNTY
- In Cambridge Springs, follow PA 86/S. Main St.
- In Meadville, follow PA 86/N. Main St. to S. Main St. to US 322 East.
- Reverse northern route through Mercer and Venango Counties.

BEAVER COUNTY
- Turn RIGHT onto Conway-Wallrose Rd. (PA 38) to PA 400.
- Turn onto PA 989 North.

BUTLER COUNTY
- Turn RIGHT onto PA 68 East through Zelienople to Harmony on the left.
- Take Main St. in Harmony, turn RIGHT onto Mercer Rd. Follow Mercer Rd. to US 19 North.
- Follow US 19 North to Portersville.
- Take West Park Rd. north to US 422 East.
- Follow US 422 East to PA 528 North.
- Take PA 528 North to PA 8 and PA 173 North.
- Take PA 173 North to Slippery Rock and PA 108 East.
- Follow PA 108 East to PA 8 North.

VENANGO/MERCER COUNTY
- Near Wesley, take Old Route 8 to Franklin.
- From Franklin, follow US 322 West to Meadville.

CRAWFORD COUNTY
- In Meadville, turn LEFT onto Linden St.
- At the second traffic light, turn RIGHT onto US 6/19 French Creek Parkway.
- At end of Parkway (approx. 3 miles) turn RIGHT following US 6/19 North through Saegertown.
- Venango County - turn RIGHT to stay on US 6/19.
- Cambridge Springs - turn LEFT to stay on US 6/19.

ERIE COUNTY
- Follow US 19 North to Fort LeBoeuf Museum in Waterford.

ERIE COUNTY
- Take US 119 South in Greensburg, towards Connellsville husband.
- In Uniontown, take US 40 East/National Rd.
- Follow US 40 across the PA and MD border.
CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

LAUREL HIGHLANDS
INFO: 1-800-333-5661
www.laurelhighbands.org

Explore Pennsylvania’s beautiful Laurel Highlands, where a young George Washington fought to preserve the British Crown’s claim to the frontier.
Along the National Road (US 40) is Fort Necessity
Id eth rne bac ho and Braddock’s Grave, a quiet woodland where the last shot was fired in the French and Indian War. Near Braddock’s Grave is the Laurel Highlands Scenic Byway (PA 381/711), which takes you to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, and Ohiopyle State Park for biking, hiking, and rafting.
Continue on PA 711 north to the historic town of Ligoni and Fort Ligoni, an on-site reconstruction of the British fort where the final push of the 1758 Forbes campaign was launched to defeat the French at the Forks of the Ohio. Visit Ligoni and enjoy its many restaurants and unique shops.

ALLEGHENY
INFO: 1-877-LOVE PGH (568-3744)
www.visitpgh.com

Pittsburgh, called the “Forks of the Ohio” in the 18th century, is built on the place of land over which the French, British, and Native Americans fought for control.
Visit Fort Pitt Museum in Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh, built in a reconstructed fort bastion. Tour the Fort Pitt Block House, built in 1764, and the city’s oldest surviving structure. Walk the outline of Fort Duquesne, a French outpost that preceded Fort Pitt. Take a walk along the river walk to the Senator John Heinz History Center, a Smithsonian affiliate and Pennsylvania’s largest history museum.
Visit Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum, located three miles from downtown Pittsburgh in Oakland, where exhibits span from the Civil War to present day conflicts. See the site of Braddock’s Defeat, where one of the most famous battles of the French and Indian War - the Battle of the Monongahela - took place. Braddock’s Battlefield History Center is located where the famous battle began in Braddock, approximately nine miles from downtown Pittsburgh.

BEAVER
INFO: 1-800-342-8192
www.visitbeavercounty.com

George Washington made his first venture here in late 1753 at the age of 21. From the mouth of the Turtle Creek on the Monongahela River, he traveled by canoe to what is now Pittsburgh where he met the King of the Delawares, Shamuss. Shamuss accompanied Washington to Logstown, an important trading center on the Ohio River, where Washington enlisted chiefs Tanacharison and Monacookooga as guides to the French forts further north. They traveled the Logstown Trail, which followed the Ohio River (Route 65) to Cowan’s Town, at the beginning of Cowan’s Run, then eastward (to Route 889) past Big Knob, then north (Route 68) through Zelienople and on towards Fort LeBoeuf.
While in Beaver County, visit the Old Economy Village in Ambridge, a settlement founded by the Harmonists Society in 1824. The Harmonists embraced new technologies in their communal village and soon gained worldwide recognition for their religious devotion and economic prosperity.

BUTLER
INFO: 1-866-856-8444
www.VisitButlerCounty.com

Follow Washington’s path through Butler County and visit the historic Buhl and Passavant Houses in Zelienople. Make sure to pass through the quaint, old brick village of Harmony. You will discover a multitude of history in this National Historic Landmark District. Take time to visit the Harmony Museum, which includes presentations of Washington’s 1753 mission. You can also stroll through this charming town and visit the shops and restaurants.
Travel along PA 68 between Evans City and Connoquenessing to the spot where George Washington narrowly escaped death at the hands of an American Indian. The drive on PA 528 North meanders through Jennings Environmental Education Center and intersects with PA 8, the site of the Old Stone House. Visitors will find public tours and military reenactments from the 18th and 19th Century. Drive at Slippery Rock’s popular colonial pub, North Country Brewing Company and enjoy the charm of this small town with an unusual name.
On the return trip through Butler County, you’ll travel on the Venango Trail (Franklin Road) that winds through the busy hub of Cranberry Township. Here you can find a multitude of places to eat, sleep or shop.

Laurel Highlands
Beaver County
www.laurelhighbands.org
www.visitbeavercounty.com
VisitPITTSBURGH
Recreation & Tourism Department
VisitButlerCounty.com
In Washington’s time travelers typically used Indian paths. Visit the village of Mercer, the town seat, which boasts the Mercer County Courthouse with marble floors, grand marble staircase and hand painted mural in the dome of the clock tower. Stroll the Courthouse Square and browse the quaint shops, including the Mercer Mercantile and Soda Shoppe.

Experience the outdoors with a visit to Maurice K. Goddard State Park and Lake Wilhelm, for boating, kayaking, fishing and a 12 mile scenic paved hiking and biking trail. More outdoor adventure awaits you at the Shenango River; 23 mile water trail. The river is perfect for kayaking or canoeing the class one rapids with numerous access points. For more excitement launch your high power boat at the Shenango River Lake and enjoy a day of tubing, water skiing and wake boarding.

There is no shortage of outdoor adventure in Mercer County. Even George Washington’s entourage stayed along French Creek at today’s Boy Scout Camp Custaloga town. Bring the entire family and hike, bike, kayak or canoe the same area George Washington traveled in 1753. Visit us on the web for a complete list of attractions, accommodations, dining and more to help you plan your visit.

Visit MercerCountyPA

**VENANGO**

**INFO:** 1-800-483-6264
www.oilregion.org

PA 8 crosses French Creek in Franklin at Washington Crossing. Nearby is Riverfront Park, at the mouth of French Creek as it joins the Allegheny River, and the historic site of where frontier trader John Frazier’s cabin and French Fort Machault once stood - one of George Washington’s stops in 1753.

Visit the historic Venango County Courthouse and the mural of George Washington and his traveling party arriving through snow on horseback that hangs in Courthouse 1. (Note: Weekdays only. Please maintain quiet in courthouse.)

See DeBence Antique Music World Museum in Franklin with its extensive collection of old-time mechanical musical instruments and the Venango Museum of Art, Science & Industry in Oil City where you can see the Black Gold or Black Magic exhibit. Take a walking tour and see the region’s many Victorian era homes. Shop for antiques and artists’ hand made jewelry in Oil City and Franklin. While in the Oil Heritage Region, soak up the scenery on our 65+ miles of paved asphalt hiking and biking trails. Spend the night at the Witherup House Bed & Breakfast or the Quality Inn & Conference Center, both on Liberty Street in Franklin.

**CRAWFORD**

**INFO:** 1-800-332-2338
www.VisitCrawford.org

On your adventure following the trail through Crawford County launch your kayak or canoe into the historic French Creek, named by young George Washington and traveled by him in December 1753. Today French Creek has two DCNR designated water trails, Upper and Lower. By land, Washington’s Trail 1753 follows portions of historic Route 6, PA’s 12th Heritage Park. Meadville, designated a Historic District, features the Meadville Market House, Pennsylvania’s oldest continually operating market. The Market House still has outdoor markets, local products and goods. Downtown has great shops and eateries that are welcoming and unique, including the famous VooDoo Brewery. A must visit is the Baldwin Reynolds House Museum, an 1843 Greek Revival Mansion, and the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, featuring three-dimensional photography capturing the interest of generations starting from Queen Victoria’s time.

Heading out of Meadville we recommend visiting Venango Valley Inn and Golf Course with its great food and a fun golf course. A short stop is Sprague Brew Works with a great atmosphere in a refurbished barn. Before leaving Crawford County, plan a stop at the historic Victorian style Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs, known for their Owen dinner theater, the mature and challenging golf course at the Riverside Golf Club, located just down the road.

**ERIE**

**INFO:** 1-800-524-ERIE (3743)
www.VisitErie.com

Fort LeBoeuf Museum, Waterford, is located on the historic site of the 1753 French Fort sur la Riviere aux Boeufs. It is part of the Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society’s campus. Across the street stands the only statue of George Washington in a British uniform and a Fort sur la Riviere aux Boeufs interpretative panel that chronicles this critical link connecting Lake Erie to the Ohio River. The historic Eagle Hotel is nearby. It’s a good place for lunch. Take a side trip to PA 97 to Union City, founded as a lumber and banking town along the banks of French Creek and visit the Historical Museum on Main Street. Or, from US 19 south of Waterford, head east on historic US 6 to Mill Village, which has one of the oldest established taverns in Pennsylvania.

North of Waterford, on US 19, is Erie Pennsylvania’s only port city on Lake Erie, and a connection to the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, designated an America’s Byway (PA 5A). Find where the French Fort de la Presqu’ile once stood (at the foot of Parade Street) in a strategic location overlooking Presque Isle Bay. Visit Erie Maritime Museum and the US Brig Niagara, both integral to Erie’s rich maritime history. Relax at Presque Isle State Park, with seven miles of beaches and 14 miles of trails.