



THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information PENNSYLVANIA



The Pennsylvania Anthracite Museum Complex

The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces are two of three sites that make up the Anthracite Museum Complex, which also includes Eckley Miner's Village.

The Anthracite Heritage Museum

22 Bald Mountain Rd, Scranton, PA
570 963 4804 anthracitemuseum.org

The Anthracite Heritage Museum, located in McDade Park in Scranton, Pennsylvania, serves the educational needs of the public regarding the story of hard coal mining, its related industries, and the immigrant culture of northeastern Pennsylvania. The Museum tells the story of the people who came from Europe to work in the anthracite mining and textiles industries. On a tour of the facility visitors will experience the lives of proud people who endured harsh working conditions yet carved out communities filled with tradition. The diverse collection highlights life in the mines, mills and factories. Visitors are welcomed into the family's homes and neighborhoods with a moment of reflection in the kitchen, a visit to the pub, or a seat in a local Church.

The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum's diverse regional collections represent all facets of work, life and values of the region's ethnic communities. The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.





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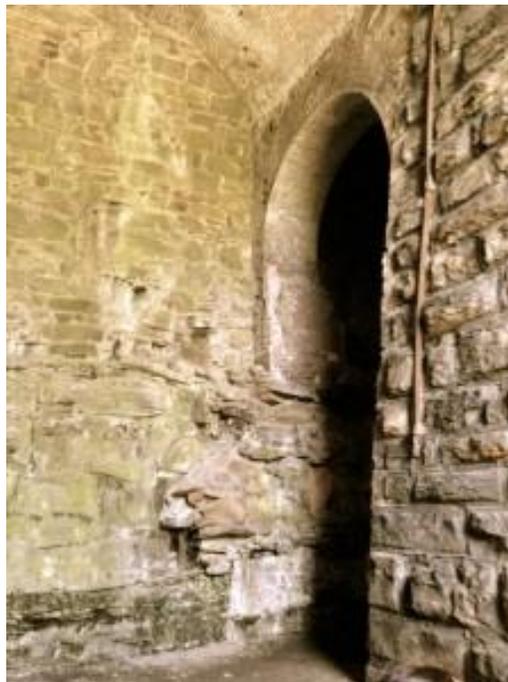
Anthracite Museum Complex (Continued)

Iron Furnaces

159 Cedar Ave, Scranton, PA
570 963 4804 anthracitemuseum.org

Located near the Steamtown National Historic Site, the Scranton Iron Furnaces represent the early iron industry in the United States. The four massive stone blast furnaces are the remnants of a once extensive plant operated by the Lackawanna Iron & Steel Company. Started in 1840 as Scranton, Grant & Company, the firm had the largest iron production capacity in the United States by 1865. By 1880 it poured 125,000 tons of pig iron, which was converted in its rolling mill and foundry into T-rails and other end products. In 1902, the company dismantled the plant and moved it to Lackawanna, New York to be closer to the high-grade iron ores coming out of the Mesabi Range.

The Scranton Iron Furnaces educates the public about the site of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company and its impact upon the nation's industrial revolution demonstrating the relevance of industrial history in our lives. The Scranton Iron Furnaces are administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.





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Anthracite Museum Complex (Continued)

Eckley Miners' Village

2 Eckley Main St. Weatherly, PA
570 636 2070 eckleyminersvillage.com

Eckley Miners' Village educates the public about the story of anthracite coal mining along with patch towns and their residents through the preservation and exploration of the site and its collection. Eckley Miners' Village is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

A village frozen in time.

Founded in 1854, Eckley is an example of a planned nineteenth century coal mining town. It is a community, or coal "patch town," which provided mining families with the basic necessities such as housing and medical care, as well as basic amenities like a store, a school and churches. Companies often designed and constructed industrial communities to house their employees in close proximity to the collieries, or mining operations, for which they worked. Such mining towns were built to attract other mining families to live and work among the coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania. While the company greatly influenced the lives of its village residents, and each family member faced challenges and difficulties every day. The way in which they faced these challenges is the history of the region that is studied, preserved and interpreted.



Eckley coal miners, 1942

Coal is why they came.

Many immigrants who came to America hoped to work in the mines just long enough to save money, buy land and return to the farming lifestyle they had known in Europe. However, once they became part of the company-owned system, very few were able to escape the years of poverty and hardship that faced them. Despite these challenges, many immigrants were able to achieve marginal improvements, not only to their lives, but to the lives of descendants.



The story of the Eckley village and the people who lived and worked in it is one of dynamic economic and social change. Beginning more than 160 years ago, it exemplified the clamor and conflict of the anthracite coal industry, which almost singlehandedly fueled the early stages of America's industrial revolution.



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Anthracite Museum Complex (Continued)

Remembering the time when coal was king.

Today, Eckley is a museum representing the lives of the immigrant anthracite coal miners and their families. Come for a visit and experience life in northeastern Pennsylvania coal patch towns during the time when coal was an essential industrial fuel. Visit the Visitors' Center exhibitions, take a guided tour, plan a trip around a living history event, and learn more about housing and daily lives within the village.





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Cornwall Iron Furnace

Rexmont at Boyd St, Cornwall, PA
717 272 9711 cornwallironfurnace.org

A Site of “Transcendent Significance,” in these words, Robert Vogel of the Smithsonian Institution described Cornwall Furnace. “With the exception of a mere handful of similar preservations in Sweden and Germany — and possibly a few in eastern Europe — I doubt that elsewhere in the world is there a 19th century iron furnace complex with the degree of historical integrity to be found at Cornwall...”



Cornwall Furnace is indeed a unique survivor of the early American iron industry. Originally built by Peter Grubb in 1742, the furnace underwent extensive renovations in 1856-57 under its subsequent owners, the Coleman family, and closed in 1883. It is this mid-19th century ironmaking complex which survives today. At Cornwall, furnace, blast equipment, and related buildings still stand as they did over a century ago. Here visitors can explore the rambling Gothic Revival buildings where cannons, stoves, and pig iron were cast, and where men labored day and night to satisfy the furnace’s appetite for charcoal, limestone, and iron ore.

Gallery Tours

Guided and self-guided gallery tours are offered at Cornwall Iron Furnace for all groups. Tours examine an orientation exhibit that provides a clear understanding of the once active iron plantation. Housed in the third bay of the old charcoal barn, the exhibit tells the story of two families and their iron plantation workers.



Guided Furnace Tour

The guided furnace tour lasts approximately 45 minutes and highlights ironmaking in the 18th and 19th centuries. The 1742 furnace was remodeled in the 19th century and the equipment installed is what visitors will see on the tour.

There is no heat or air conditioning in the furnace building. Be sure to have your group dress appropriately for the activities. Comfortable foot wear is suggested for the guided walking tour.





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No. 9 Coal Mine & Museum

9 Doc St, Lansford, PA
570 645 7074 no9mine.tipod.com

Opened in 1855, No. 9 Coal Mine, located in Lansford, Pennsylvania is the world's oldest continuously operated anthracite coal mine! Closed in 1972, the mine was re-opened as a heritage tourism attraction in 2002. Today visitors ride safely by train 1600 feet into the mountainside, to see and experience first hand what it was like for our fathers and grandfathers to work underground over the past 200 years



Once inside the mine, experienced tour guides will lead you on a walking tour filled with amazing sights and fascinating stories! See the underground mule-way; miner's hospital, and the 900 – foot deep original elevator shaft, which once hauled loaded coal cars to the surface! A visit inside No. 9 Mine is an experience that you will never forget!

The Mining Museum is located in the original miner's "Wash Shanty" building.

Clothes in wire baskets hang on the chains from the ceiling of the old "wash shanty" just as they did when up to 450 miners worked inside the No. 9 Mine. The tools they used are there too ... drills, picks, shovels, axes, saws, blasting equipment and even their lunch cans, caps, and lamps!

Exhibits include a life sized replica of a mule tender boy and his mine mule, a large photographic collection, handmade models, beautifully handcrafted items carved of coal, original paintings, railroad artifacts, fossils and gems, a model of a coal colliery (made for the New York Worlds Fair), maps, signs, and a mucking machine, coal fired furnace, a replica of an 1800's miner's kitchen, and much more!





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Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine & Steam Train

2001 Walnut Street, Ashland, PA
570 875 3850 pioneertunnel.com/minetour.html

The Anthracite Region of Pennsylvania offers the visitor a wealth of enlightening and entertaining history. Start your journey at Pioneer Tunnel with an intimate introduction to the natural resource that fired the Industrial Revolution. Necho Allen's campfire, which ignited a hard coal outcropping not far from Ashland, blazed a whole new way of life for central Pennsylvania. By 1828 bustling coal towns filled with opportunists, adventures and fortune hunters were rising overnight. Prospectors scarred the mountains with pits and trial shafts. When these filled with water at 30 to 40 feet, they'd dig others. Soon, operators discovered that they could dig much farther by tunneling straight into the mountain from a ravine or the



foot of a hill: horizontal mining. The original Pioneer Colliery was operated in Mahanoy Mountain at Ashland in the late 19th century and gave its name to the Pioneer Tunnel, which was owned and operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company from 1911 to 1931. It echoed the grunts of gritty-faced miners, the crunch of pick against coal, the screech of overloaded iron wheels. Water dripped from the dank, heavy timbering overhead to mix with the sweat of straining mules. Oil torches, and later, carbide lamps flickered in the darkness, pointing bright fingers at the glistening rock. And when the day was over, scores of tired, dirty eyes came out and squinted in the fading light.

Electricity sparked the Anthracite industry to its peak and greatly improved the miner's lot in life. Electric mine motors pulled the ore cars and huge motors pumped away the water. Brilliant lights brought day to the dark. A trip through Pioneer Tunnel today brings back some of the early miner's lore - his way of life. You'll ride 1800 feet into Mahanoy Mountain darkness on a mine motor to see glistening seams of coal as he did; feel the drops of water falling on your brow. A miner guide will tell you how early miners worked, how they erected heavy timbering, how they got out the coal. Later, you'll emerge from the darkness, having seeing history unfold in front of your eyes.

And there is more . . . All Aboard!...Chug chug...whheeee! With the rattle of brightly painted cars, a blast of steam and belching black smoke, the Henry Clay heads around the mountain just as its predecessor did 50 years ago. At that time digging was just beginning on one of the engineering wonders of its day: the Mammoth Stripping. Behind Mahanoy Mountain an unusually thick seam of coal call Mammoth Vein bent up to the surface of the earth. Monstrous steam shovels of the Panama Canal type were moved in to mine it. They rumble over the coal bed on giant railroad wheel assemblies, their iron teeth ripping huge mouthfuls of black rock to send crashing into strings of empty cars. Where the shovels went, they left a 250 foot high wall of solid rock extending as far westward as the eye can see. Millions of tons of coal were pulled



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Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine & Steam Train (Continued)

out by the narrow gauge predecessors of the Henry Clay...a lot of it on the same trackbed. These powerful little 0-4-0 type steam lokies were only 23 feet long, 8 feet wide, 12 feet at the top of the stack and equipped with 33 inch drivers, well-sized for their duties in the strip mines. Today the Henry Clay is one of the last of this breed in existence. As you are hauled up the mountain in an unsprung, rebuilt coal car, history unfolds on all sides. The pits and mounds are everywhere, in some places looking like landscape from another world. There are tow stops where you can look down into the gaping trenches man has left and almost hear the rumbling shovels, clanking chains and crashing coal of yesteryear. And you'll get a bird's-eye-view of a typical coal town, Ashland, with its wooden row houses, tall-spired churches, and more.

MINE TOUR

Our trip into Pioneer Tunnel gives a sense of the way of life and the amazing challenges in the early days of Anthracite coal mining.

Pioneer Tunnel is a horizontal drift mine. Its level tunnel runs 1800 feet straight into the side of the Mahanoy Mountain. You make the trip in comfort, riding in open mine cars pulled by a battery-operated mine motor. The temperature inside the mine averages 52 degrees, so a sweater or jacket is recommended. Deep inside the mine, you will alight from your car and follow your miner-guide as you are given an explanation of how coal is mined. There are storyboards inside the mine depicting the mining operation. Your guide will point out the numerous coal seams and describe various configurations of passageways, some cut from solid rock in order to reach the coal.

TRAIN RIDE

Our narrow gauge steam locomotive, the Henry Clay, is a 0-4-0 type lokie that was built by the Vulcan Works in 1927, typically used to haul coals from strip mines. Travel back through time on an old-time narrow gauge steam locomotive, the Henry Clay. Built in the 1920's, The Henry Clay takes you on a scenic 3/4 mile ride around the side of Mahanoy Mountain to show you another kind of mining called strip mining. You'll visit the Mammoth Stripping, an area where an unusually thick seam of anthracite known as the Mammoth Vein outcrops to the surface of the earth. Here, in days gone by, monstrous steam shovels ripped out millions of tons of coal from the exposed vein and left a wall of solid rock 150 feet high extending westward as far as the eye can see. Much of the coal was pulled out by the narrow gauge predecessors of our own Henry Clay, a lot of it on the same trackbed. You'll learn about the Centralia mine fire as you gaze across the valley to find smoke rising out of the ground. This perpetual underground fire has resisted all attempts to extinguish it, and has necessitated the relocation of many residents. Nearby is a relic "bootleg" coal hole. This and others in the area were dug by men who were willing to defy trespass laws and brave cave-ins to obtain a few bags of coal to sell or heat their homes.

