



It's time to hit the road again

Website is a complete guide to scenic Route 6 in Pennsylvania

Did you know that you can travel from the Grand Canyon to the Milky Way in less than an hour? And you don't have to leave the state to do it. Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon and the Dark Sky Preserve at Cherry Springs State Park are only 23 miles apart along Route 6 in the north-central part of the state.

Now that the weather is getting warmer and pandemic restrictions are easing, it's time to start thinking about traveling again. One of my favorite vacations is a road trip, and Route 6 across Pennsylvania is a great one. National Geographic named it one of America's most scenic drives. Our Grand Canyon and Cherry Springs are only two of the many attractions along the road that connects Lake Erie on



KEVIN O'NEILL
InSites

the western edge of the state with the Delaware River in the east. You can spend a day, a weekend or a week exploring this in-state gem without running out of things to see or do.

PAroute6.com is a great online guide for planning a trip along the historic roadway. The site is run by a consortium of businesses, chambers of commerce and other groups from across the 11 counties that span the top of the state. Its goal is to combine efforts to more effectively promote tourism, econom-

ic development, conservation and education along the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor.

The homepage features an interactive map of the road. Arrows on the left and right allow you to go west or east. As you click in the direction you want to travel, a mile marker moves along the road, and the background changes to highlight attractions.

Scroll down the page and there's a four-panel grid with links to the site's main features. The first panel lets you get visitor's guides and maps. You can download them or have them mailed to you. The next panel is a section on outdoor attractions. Each listing has a photo, address, phone number, link to a website and a link to a page with more details about the attraction. The left rail in this section lets you fil-

ter your search by geography, interests and other features.

The third panel takes you to a section called PA Route 6 Artisan Trail. This section connects you with makers of all types who practice their crafts along the trail. There are artists, crafters, photographers, wineries, distilleries, breweries, treat makers and more. You can plan visits to their work spaces on the site. This section also has a search function that lets you narrow your search based on interests and location. Many of the artisans sell their wares online through PA Route 6 as well.

The fourth panel on the homepage takes you to the site's online shop. Here you can buy merchandise branded with the site's "Do 6" logo. Further down the homepage is a calendar of upcoming events along the corridor.

Other sections on the site cover all the basics needed to plan a trip. There's information on lodging, camping, recreation and dining establishments. There are a number of pre-planned routes of varying lengths, some tailored to motorcyclists and others to bicyclists. If you have a business along the corridor, the site has information on how you can join the consortium.

This is a very useful site for anyone planning on exploring Route 6. Its design evokes the quaintness of a good, old-fashioned road trip. The only thing left to do after visiting this site is to hop in the car and hit the road.

KEVIN O'NEILL is a staff artist for The Times-Tribune. Share your favorite websites with him at koneill@timeshamrock.com.