

# Along the Ohio & Erie Canalway

The Ohio & Erie Canal laid the groundwork for Ohio's industrialization, bringing wealth to the cities along its route. In Akron, it allowed the rubber industry to thrive. And so, Stan Hywet, "the house that rubber built," is not only a canal legacy to be enjoyed, but one that provides great insight into this important era in our history.

## About the Canalway

Built in the 1820s and 1830s, the Ohio & Erie Canal provided an invaluable link in the country's transportation system by linking Lake Erie to the Ohio River, completing a water route between the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. The canal helped westward expansion and transformed Ohio into a booming and populous state.

After a decade of planning, the Ohio & Erie Canalway has been designated a National Heritage Area because of its significance to the nation. Along its route, visitors are invited to enjoy the parks and trails, museums and attractions, trains and scenic byways, canal towns and ethnic neighborhoods, as well as industrial landscapes and green spaces.

## Enjoy the Sights by Car, Bicycle, Train, or Foot

Stretching from downtown Cleveland to the Tuscarawas River Valley, the Ohio & Erie Canalway extends through Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark, and Tuscarawas counties along three major paths:

- *The Ohio & Erie Canalway Bypass* offers 110 miles of scenic roads that are among a select group of roadways in America recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation for historic and scenic merit.
- *The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad* is an excursion railway that takes visitors through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. It offers special shuttle buses to Stan Hywet.
- *The Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail* provides 70 miles of trail for foot and bicycle traffic with scenic forest, flowing waters, and historic sites along the way. Museums, visitor centers, and parks serve as welcoming stops along the trail.

## Six Sections from North to South

The Canalway is divided into six community segments, each providing a window into its diversity and richness:

- *The Industrial City*, Cleveland, is the northern most section of the Canalway, with ethnic neighborhoods and renowned cultural institutions created by the wealth resulting from the industries that built this port city.
- *The Cuyahoga Valley* includes the 33,000-acre Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the third most visited national park in the country. Visitors can also enjoy the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and numerous heritage sites and towns.
- *Portage Path and Summit*, the geological highpoint of the Ohio & Erie Canal, is anchored by Akron where Stan Hywet is joined by many other attractions. The Portage Path is the route that American Indians used to portage canoes between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas rivers.
- The *Canal Villages* are the small towns that spouted up along the canal and still exist today. From the village of Clinton to Lock 4 Park, where you can see a replica of a lock tender's cabin, these stops offer charm and hospitality.
- The *Lincoln Highway*, the first transcontinental highway built to accommodate America's dependence on the automobile, runs from east to west across the canalway. Canton and Massillon offer numerous attractions including the First Ladies National Historic Site, William McKinley Presidential Museum, and Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- From the historic village of Zoar to the industrial town of Dover with its Warther Carving Museum and J.E. Reeves Victorian Home & Carriage Museum, the *Tuscarawas Valley* is the southern end of the trail, ending in New Philadelphia's recreated Schoenbrunn Village.

Cleveland



Downtown Cleveland



Towpath Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad



Akron



Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens



Canal and towpath in canal village



J.E. Reeves Victorian Home & Carriage House Museum

Dover