

# Lincoln Highway is historic drive through Ohio

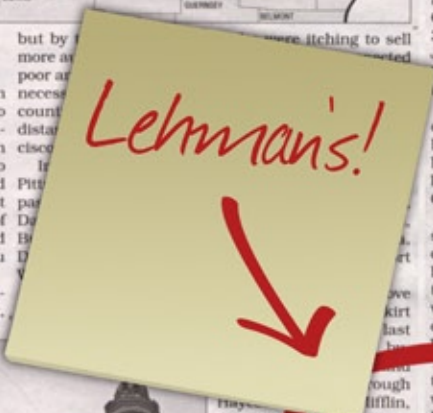


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When the leaves turn color and the air cools down at night, it seems that we invoke that primal urge to migrate to warmer climes, except that in modern culture, it is probably relieved by a Sunday afternoon jaunt in the countryside. Nevertheless, we DO need to fulfill that urge, so here's a suggestion that should work. So if you were told to travel America's first coast-to-coast road, you may conjure up ideas of Route 66 or even the National Road, but you would be in error. Actually it is the Lincoln Highway, and you are very close to it here in Ohio.

The Lincoln Highway was created almost one-hundred years ago in 1913... and not by our government,

but by the private citizens who were itching to sell more automobiles.



VanVert Courthouse



Wayne County Courthouse

So whether you are this fall, part of the original Lincoln Highway road to play along. Since the Lincoln is mostly bypassed two roads now, you can easily spot the history and culture that is disappearing fast...look for old buildings that once were a vital service stop for our fragile and ill-equipped early vehicles. Or identify old



New Stark, once a small and bustling western Ohio community, hosted a one-stop for Lincoln Highway travelers in these buildings. Now the owner has chosen to honor its history with a display of old petrolonia signs.

ghost signs still taunting tires, gas, hotels and such. And don't forget that there are bucolic vistas from Hardin County's Hog Creek Marsh to Ashland County's gorgeous rolling hills where County Route 30A wanders through Millin, Hayesville and Jeromesville. This stretch will let you see pretty much how your grandparents would have seen it in 1920 traveling the road.

County seat communities Van Wert, Upper Sandusky, Bucyrus and Wooster have spectacular courthouses, and second-oldest in Ohio town of Lisbon holds Federalist and Greek Revival style buildings and beautiful tree-lined streets. Other small towns like Gomer and Forest are charming to visit also.

If you get hungry, or are hankering for antique shopping, there are great places to stop as well. Most of these smaller towns host mom 'n' pop retailers that have a long history, even with possible direct connections to the "Lincoln," although weekdays rather than weekends will prove more successful in finding them open. One such place is Babyeat's Coffee Shop in Van Wert, where you can enjoy homemade pies and dinners since 1924. The town of Millin is a trip back to Rev. Robert Lee's 1829 general store and a visit with its owners and Lincoln Highway landmarks and Nancy will be fun. But there are also new and unique places to stop... and shop. J.M. Smucker's retail outlet near Dalton also hosts a museum about their heritage, and the P. Graham Dunn Gallery in Dalton is a huge factory outlet for devotional gifts. Lehman Hardware, just a short jaunt off the Lincoln in Kidron is the largest non-electric hardware in the eastern U.S.

If you are a football fan, Canton hosts the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and also has the fun-for-all-ages Canton Classic Car Museum, as well as the McKinley Museum and First Ladies National Museum and Library. Even the Hot Dog Shoppe in East Liverpool is a place to eat without having to frequent the typical fast-food places. Here you can doctor your own hot dog with many hot sauces there.

The Lincoln is the paradise of America's way of travel in the early 20th century, and you can still visit it. Looking and spotting this history can be fun!

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# OHIO DAY TRIPS

 A promotional graphic for "OHIO DAY TRIPS" featuring a map of Ohio with various routes, a photograph of a train, and a photograph of a person riding a horse.