

EASTERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE – ELK WATCHING

Smethport, Emporium, Sizerville, Port Allegany



A loop from Smethport, along **PA Route 6** past Lynn Hall and Serenity Glass Park in Port Allegany, south past Sizerville Park, looping around for elk watching at the Elk County Visitors Center, brew tasting at Straub Brewery and then returning north to the Victorian Village of Smethport.

Start this loop by heading east of Smethport along **PA Route 6**, you will pass through rolling farmlands, with large changes in elevation. Along this section of road is a wonderful example of Allegheny Modernism Architecture- Lynn Hall. If you wish to tour this building call ahead to schedule an appointment at 954-554-8492.



Continuing east on **PA Route 6** you will arrive in Port Allegany, leave time for photos at Serenity Glass Park, a sparkling artistic gem.

Just east of Port Allegany, turn onto **Route 155 South**, this loop passes through some of the most rugged terrain in the Allegheny Highlands and the Pennsylvania Elk Range. You will pass Sizerville State Park about seven miles north of

Emporium. This is an excellent area for viewing the flaming fall foliage during the fall. Majestic white pines in the park were planted during the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps to replace trees cut during the logging boom. There are four hiking trails in the park, one of which climbs a 1,900-foot slope.

The East Branch of Cowley Run, which flows through the park, was the site of the first reintroduction of beavers to Pennsylvania after they had been eliminated by the early settlers. Continue driving on **Route 120 South**, watch for the sign for the Elk County Visitors Center. The elk center offers interpretive displays and an outdoor wildlife observation area where you have the opportunity to view elk in the wild.

Leaving the Elk Center, turn onto **Route 255 North** to Saint Marys, home of Straub Brewery. Stop to tour and taste at their new Visitor Center. Now catch **Route 120 North** which will circle back through forestlands to **Route 46 North**. Close to the McKean/County Cameron County border, in State Game Land No. 30, you crest the Eastern Continental Divide. You can see the land dropping very steeply ahead. Past here, streams flow southward and eventually into the Atlantic Ocean by way of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Continuing on **Route 46 North** will return you to **PA Route 6**, turn left and head west to the Victorian Village of Smethport. This is an excellent place to spend the night as two of the mansions, the Blackberry Inn and the Mansion District Inn now are operating as Bed & Breakfasts. Plan an evening stroll along Hamlin Lake to admire the colorful hillsides.

