

GUIDE TO DRIVE

COASTER CON XXXIII

Getting around the Pittsburgh area and western Pennsylvania isn't always easy! (Okay, it never is for visitors.) Thanks to the hills, streets are not laid out in grids. Roads often change names or make noticeable directional changes. Streets in many areas are not well-marked with signs. So take our advice: While paying attention to street names won't hurt, pay more attention to landmarks provided in directions (i.e. turn right at the Sunoco), distances provided and instructions as to what lane to be in.

To Kennywood from the Doubletree Hotel

Using I-376 and the Rankin Bridge (both under construction): Exit the hotel parking lot using the entrance road facing the K-Mart. Turn right onto Mall Boulevard and then right at the signal in front of Monroeville Mall. Stay in the right lane and take the ramp to the road going under the building and follow the signs toward Pittsburgh (cross the bridge over US Route 22). Follow US Business Route 22 west to I-376 west (left lane ramp) toward Pittsburgh. Exit at Swissvale (Exit # 77) and turn left at the traffic signal at the bottom of the exit ramp. Follow the Kennywood arrows south on Braddock Avenue over the Monongahela River and turn left at the far end of the Rankin Bridge onto Route 837. Kennywood is 1.5 miles ahead with the parking lot entrances on the right. The minimal travel time is 20 minutes and may increase with heavy traffic conditions.

Alternate route to avoid construction and traffic (mostly two-lane back roads): Exit the hotel parking lot using the entrance road facing the K-Mart. Turn left onto Mall Boulevard and immediately get into the right lane. Turn right at the traffic signal next to K-Mart onto Oxford Drive. At the next traffic signal (top of the hill), turn right onto Monroeville Boulevard. Follow Monroeville Boulevard for 0.4 mile to the next traffic signal and continue straight (center lane). At the next stop sign (0.8 mile), turn left onto Wilmerding & Monroeville Road and follow for 1.7 miles (you will pass two cemeteries). At the second traffic signal, turn left onto 5th Avenue at the end of the bridge over Turtle Creek. Continue on this road for 1.2 miles and then bear left at the stop sign. Continue straight for 0.2 mile

and cross the US Route 30 intersection (Rite Aid on the right) onto Route 148 south. Follow on Route 148 south for 2.7 miles through five traffic signals until you see the sign for Duquesne (just past the fifth traffic signal and on the right). Take the Duquesne exit and cross the bridge, which will feed onto Route 837 north toward Kennywood. Travel approximately 4 miles on Route 837 north and turn left at McDonalds (traffic signal) to enter the parking lot. (The park is to the right, but the parking lot is on the left.) The approximate travel time is 25 minutes.

NOTE: Alternate directions using PA Route 48 and US Route 30 from Monroeville are available on Kennywood's Web site.

To the Doubletree Hotel from Kennywood

Using I-376 and the Rankin Bridge (both under construction): Turn left out of Kennywood's parking lot onto Route 837 north (Kennywood Boulevard). Stay in the left lane (portions of the right lane are closed for construction) and turn right onto the Rankin Bridge and follow Braddock Avenue to I-376 east (note that Braddock Avenue makes a jog to the left under the railroad bridge at a traffic signal where there is a CoGo's convenience store on the right). Exit at Business US Route 22/Monroeville (Exit #80) onto US Business Route 22 east. Follow US Business Route 22 through six traffic signals and after passing the entrance to Monroeville Mall, turn right immediately after the Ford dealership (between Day Ford and Dunham's Sports). At the second stop sign, turn right onto Mall Boulevard. The entrance to the Doubletree Hotel will be on the right after the traffic signal.

Alternate Route to avoid construction and traffic (mostly two-lane back

roads): Turn right out of Kennywood's parking lot onto Route 837 south (Kennywood Boulevard). Proceed approximately 4 miles and take the left onto the Duquesne-McKeesport Bridge. Proceed straight off the bridge onto Route 148 north. Follow Route 148 north for 2.7 miles and cross the US Route 30 intersection. Bear right at the next stop sign and continue on this road for 1.2 miles. At the next traffic signal, turn right onto the bridge and get into the left (through) lane. Proceed straight through the traffic signal at the end of the bridge and continue straight for 1.7 miles (you will pass two cemeteries). At the stop sign, turn right onto Monroeville Boulevard. Continue for 1.2 miles to the second traffic signal and turn left onto Oxford Drive. At the traffic signal at the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Mall Boulevard. The Doubletree Hotel will be on the right after the traffic signal.

NOTE: Alternate directions using PA Route 148 and US Route 30 to the Forest Hills exit (Exit #78) of I-376 are available on Kennywood's Web site.

To and from Sandcastle

From Kennywood to Sandcastle: Turn left out of Kennywood's parking lot onto Route 837 north (Kennywood Boulevard) and follow it for approximately 2 miles. Stay in the left lane and proceed past the Rankin Bridge. At the first traffic signal after the bridge, turn right onto Waterfront Drive and follow it to its end (approximate 2.3 miles, past a large shopping complex and past a cinema). Turn right onto Sandcastle Road into Sandcastle's parking lot. The approximate travel time is 15 minutes.

From Sandcastle to Kennywood: Exit Sandcastle's parking lot through the road you entered using the directions

above and turn left onto Waterfront Drive and follow it for 2.3 miles, the latter part of which goes through an industrial area. After the overpass over railroad tracks, turn left onto Route 837 south and follow it for 2 miles.

NOTE: From Sandcastle to the Doubletree Hotel, follow the directions above, but after 0.5 mile on Route 837 south, turn left at the traffic signal across the Rankin Bridge, then follow the directions from Kennywood to the hotel using I-376.

To and from Idlewild

From the Doubletree Hotel to Idlewild:

Take US Business Route 22/William Penn Highway east (turn right off of Mall Boulevard) for just under 2 miles to the Pennsylvania Turnpike via an exit to the right. Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76/toll road) east to the first exit (Irwin/Exit #67). After exiting the toll booths, stay to the right to follow US Route 30 east. Follow US Route 30 east for approximately 24 miles and Idlewild's entrance will be on the right. The approximate travel time is 1 hour.

From Idlewild to the Hotel: Take US Route 30 west (may involve turning right out of the park onto Route 30 east and making a U-turn at the first possible place) for approximately 24 miles to the Pennsylvania Turnpike via an exit to the right. Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76/toll road) west to the first exit (Pittsburgh/Monroeville/Exit 57). Stay to the far left after the toll booths and exit left onto US Business Route 22 Monroeville. Follow US Business Route 22 west through seven traffic signals. At the eighth traffic signal, turn left (overhead signs indicate it as a truck entrance to Monroeville Mall; a Jaguar/BMW dealership is on the left) onto Mall Boulevard. The Doubletree Hotel will be on the right after the traffic signal.

From Idlewild to Kennywood: Take US Route 30 west (may involve turning right out of the park onto Route 30 east and making a U-turn at the first possible place) for approximately 24 miles to the Pennsylvania Turnpike via an exit to the right. Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76/toll road) west to the first exit (Pittsburgh/Monroeville/Exit #57). After exiting the toll booths, stay to the center and follow I-376 west toward Pittsburgh. Exit at Edgewood/Swissvale (Exit # 77) and follow the directions

(shown elsewhere) to Kennywood. The approximate travel time is 1 hour, 15 minutes.

To Conneaut Lake Park from Doubletree Hotel

Take US Business Route 22 east (turn right off of Mall Boulevard) for just under 2 miles to the Pennsylvania Turnpike via an exit to the right. Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76/toll road) west to the toll gate where all vehicles must pay (express EZ Pass is to the far left). Exit at Cranberry (Exit #28) and follow signs to I-79 north. Follow I-79 north and exit at PA Route 285 (Exit #141) toward Geneva/Cochran. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto PA Route 285 west and follow it for 8.7 miles. Turn left onto PA Route 6/US Route 322 and follow for one mile. Make a slight right onto PA Route 618 north and follow it for just over two miles. The park will be on your right with the main parking lot on your left. The approximate travel time is 2 hours.

Conneaut Lake Park to Erie Area Hotels (and Waldameer)

Turn right out of the Conneaut Lake Park parking lot onto PA Route 618 south and follow it for 2.5 miles. Turn left onto US Route 6 east and follow it for 8 miles to I-79 north. Follow I-79 north and follow the directions below to your final destination:

To the Bel Aire Clarion Hotel: Exit at 12th Street/PA Route 5 west (exit #183B). Follow 12th Street/PA Route 5 west for 1.4 miles and turn right onto Peninsula Drive/PA Route 832 north. At the first traffic signal, turn right onto West Lake Road/ALTERNATE PA Route 5 east. The Bel Aire Clarion Hotel will be on the left.

To the Comfort Inn: Exit at 12th Street/PA Route 5 west (exit #183B). Follow 12th Street/PA Route 5 west for 1.6 miles and the Comfort Inn will be on the left.

To the Microtel Inn: Merge onto I-90 east toward Buffalo using exit #178A and follow I-90 east for 2.5 miles. Exit at Peach Street (exit #24). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Peach Street. Microtel Inn will be on the right.

To Waldameer Park: Exit at 12th Street/PA Route 5 west (exit #183B). Follow 12th Street/PA Route 5 west for 1.4 miles and turn right onto Peninsula Drive/PA Route 832 north. At the first traffic signal, turn left onto West Lake Road/ALTERNATE PA Route 5 west. At the first traffic signal, turn right into Waldameer Park.

The approx. travel time between Conneaut Lake Park and Erie is 1 hour.

Erie Area Hotels to Waldameer From the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center:

Turn right out of the hotel and follow West Lake Road/ALTERNATE PA Route 5 west for approximately half a mile. At the second traffic signal, turn right into Waldameer Park.

From the Comfort Inn: Turn right onto West 12th Street/PA Route 5 east. Turn left onto Peninsula Drive/PA Route 832 north. Turn left onto West Lake Road/ALTERNATE PA Route 5 west. At the first traffic signal, turn right into Waldameer Park. The drive is less than one mile.

From the Microtel Inn: Turn left and follow Peach Street/US Route 19 north for 1.5 miles, then turn left onto PA Route 99 south/Interchange Road. After half a mile, merge onto I-79 north. Exit at 12th Street/PA Route 5 west (exit #183B). Follow 12th Street/PA Route 5 west for 1.4 miles and turn right onto Peninsula Drive/PA Route 832 north. At the first traffic signal, turn left onto West Lake Road/ALTERNATE PA Route 5 west. At the first traffic signal, turn right into Waldameer Park. The approximate travel time for the seven mile drive is 15 minutes, but can vary with traffic conditions.

NOTE: Waldameer Park has two parking lots that are accessed from different roads. The park's actual address (and the one that GPS units will associate with the park) is for the main parking lot. Attendees may use either parking lot, but we suggest using the alternate parking lot, which is where the directions above will lead you. The alternate "back" parking lot is closer to Rainbow Gardens, where much of the day's activities will take place. If you wish to use GPS, we suggest using 3100 West Lake Road, Erie, PA 16505 as the address to find the alternate parking lot.

THANKS!

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