



The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix **GRAND TOUR**

30 September thru 4 October 2026

The Grand Tour, a multiyear journey, typically running through France and Italy. It was undertaken by aristocratic or wealthy young men from northern Europe, especially England, to complete their education. The term was coined in 1670 by priest and writer Richard Lassels in his *Voyage of Italy*, but the practice probably began some 100 years earlier. It reached its height during the 18th century and steadily declined in the 19th century. The grand tour had a profound influence on the tourism industry, travel writing, the visual arts, and architecture. (Encycl. Brit.)



The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix **Grand Tour** is a multiday rather than multiyear activity. This year, over a period of five days, it covers parts of the Hocking Hills of southeastern Ohio and just a bit of West Virginia. Rather than relying upon various forms of travel that were available in the 17th thru the 19th centuries, the PVGP

Grand Tour relies upon Tour participants using their own vintage sports and grand touring cars for transportation. This driving tour is designed for those who are passionate about their vintage cars, sharing their enthusiasm with other like-minded owners and enjoying a few days of brisk driving in some of the most beautiful and exciting roads that America has to offer.



The \$2075 entry fee covers full lodging and meal costs for two Tour members per car (or \$1675 for solo entrants). Printouts of detailed driving instructions for each day will be provided as well as a Google Map navigation app for your phone. Vegetarian selections will be available for each meal. Alcoholic drinks are not included in the entry fee.

Our Grand Tour, with up to 22 vintage cars (some at least 75 years old!) commences on **Wednesday, 30 September 2026** as each Tour member makes their way to Burr Oak State Park. Your Grand Tour doesn't begin when you reach Burr Oak, it begins when you leave your home and join in convoy (if you wish) with other members towards Burr Oak on an interesting route that has been carefully planned. As everyone arrives during that afternoon, we will have a private meeting room in which to gather and enjoy a casual evening of pizza, drinks, comradeship and familiarization with the Tour.

Each car and passengers will be privately lodged in a spacious and well-appointed cabin. All will have access to swimming pool, hiking trails, etc. Perhaps a sing-along and ghost stories at the campfire?



Breakfast on **Thursday, 1 October** will be in the Burr Oak Lodge. After breakfast, we will begin our drive to Zanesville in groups of five cars each, each group separated by at least five minutes. Part of the route to Zanesville will be on Ohio state route 555, the infamous "Triple Nickel," often compared to Tennessee's "Tail of the Dragon," but once ranked by Car and Driver magazine as the "Best Driving Road" in America. We will cover 72 miles of thrilling roads over a period of just less than two hours on our drive to Zanesville, where we will stop at the Alan Cotrill Sculpture Museum and Studio.



Alan Cotrill is an American sculptor who has completed hundreds of commissioned works in bronze and operates a working studio in Zanesville that is open to the public. He created the statue of Thomas Edison that is on display in the United States

Capitol in Statuary Hall and more recently has gained public attention by his statue of "Don Colossus," a 15-foot statue of Donald Trump. Mr. Cotrill will be on hand to discuss his art, his sculptures and answer questions we may have.

After enjoying up to two hours at the Alan Cotrill Studio we will depart for the "Muddy Misers" restaurant in Zanesville for what will be an excellent lunch which includes your choice from an extensive menu. Those who wish may feel compelled to visit "Tom's Ice Cream Bowl" for a dessert. Tom's is a legendary establishment in Zanesville, popular since its founding in 1948.



We depart Zanesville in the early afternoon and motor for 66 miles, mostly on Ohio SR93 S, to the Hocking Hills Conference Center & Lodge at Hocking Hills State Park, where we will check in for a two-night stay.

Our stay at the Hocking Hills includes premium guest rooms, exercise facility, indoor and outdoor swimming pools & hot tubs and easy access to hiking trails and caves. When we are not driving or dining, the Lodge provides many welcome amenities, to include the John Glenn Astronomy Park, just a ten-minute walk from the Lodge.



We depart at 6:00 PM for the town of Logan, Ohio on Thursday evening to a wonderful dinner at "58 West" restaurant, a 25-minute drive. 58 West is a restaurant, winery, brewery, and distillery that offers casual, elevated food. All meals and soft drinks are covered as part of your Grand Tour package; only alcoholic beverages and voluntary items (such as Tom's Ice Cream) are to be paid out-of-pocket.

After dinner, we drive in our 5-car groups back to the Hocking Hills Lodge. You may wish to go to sleep, take an evening walk, go for a moonlit swim or enjoy a whiskey and cigar with others. The evening is your own...enjoy it!

Friday, October 2 will start with a plentiful buffet breakfast in a private room at Hocking Hills Lodge. We will begin departing the Lodge just after 9:00 AM and head to Conkles Hollow Nature Preserve only four miles away. We will depart Conkles Hollow before noon for 28 miles of beautiful, winding roads that include State Routes 11, 9, 678, 180, 374, 33 and 22. After about an hour we will arrive in Lancaster, Ohio.

Lunch is served at the "Ale House 1890," a gastropub that bridges the gap between formal and informal. The blog "Ever after in the Woods" says that "the vintage bones of this place give it a character that newer restaurants spend years trying to manufacture." It will be a delightful lunch.



After our meal we walk down the street to the Ohio Glass Museum and Glass Blowing Studio. The Museum offers a visit full of history on the glass industry in Fairfield County, Ohio and especially in Lancaster. Live demonstrations on glass blowing or flameworking will be available to us. A special exhibit of collector's glass, some from the Ohio Glass Museum's collection and some from the many collectors of glass who loan pieces from their private collections may be viewed. Spend as much time in the Museum as you choose (it is actually better than it may sound) or walk the lovely downtown of historic Lancaster. You may be interested in visiting the "Gay Fad Studios" retro glassware shop that creates designs inspired by the post-war period. The original studio closed in 1962 but was resurrected in 2022. Gay Fad Studios is just across the street from the Museum. Be ready to depart Lancaster around 3:00 PM for return to Hocking Hills.

Our drive back to Hocking Hills should take just over one hour, a 47-mile drive over some curving and scenic Ohio byways. We should arrive at the Lodge just after 4:00 PM.

Friday evening cocktails are set for 6:30 PM and dinner at the Lodge Dining Room at 7:30 PM. After dinner activities are, once again, what you wish them to be.

Saturday, 3 October begins again with a buffet breakfast served by the staff at the Hocking Hills Lodge. Everyone should be packed and ready to leave the Lodge by 9:00 AM.

Our first drive will be a short one, just 6 1/2 miles to Ash Cave where we will stop to stretch our legs with an easy walk (wheelchair accessible) through woodland trails to visit the cave, a stunning natural wonder with a pretty, though small, waterfall. Take a walk, sit on a bench and listen to the birds or simply relax as you desire. We will stay at the Ash Cave parking area for up to an hour and a half.



From Ash Cave we depart on SR56 East to SR356 South for about 20 miles, when we turn onto SR681 East, then onto Old Route 33 as we head to the Shade Winery for lunch. This drive will have taken us nearly 60 miles since we left Hocking Hills Lodge.



As you drive through a country lane to reach the Shade Winery, you find that it is nestled into the Hocking Hills countryside in such a way that it is bound to become a

favorite memory of your Grand Tour. A very private location, away from all noise and traffic, we will enjoy a specially prepared lunch *al fresco* with a vineyard view in their generously shaded outdoor dining area or, should the weather so dictate, indoors in their tasting room.

We will leave the Shade Winery after 1:30 PM to travel a variety of interesting and sometimes challenging roads as we wend our way south to our final destination of Parkersburg, West Virginia. After touring about 50 miles since leaving the winery, we will reach the celebrated Queen Anne-style Blennerhassett Hotel in mid-afternoon. We consider The Blennerhassett our Grand Tour's "Jewel in the Crown." One of the oldest of the Ohio River's 19th-century hotels, the Blennerhassett, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was restored and refurbished 40 years ago to a very high standard. You may feel as though you have been transported to America's "Robber Baron" era when the wealthy elite knew how to enjoy luxury lodging. A guided tour of the Blennerhassett Hotel will be available to those interested at 4:00 PM.



The cocktail hour will begin at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM. As the Grand Tour's finale, our dinner will be the most extravagant of the week. The Blennerhassett chefs are known to serve some of the finest food the Tri-State region has to offer. Remembrance of moments and recognition of individuals will be bandied about as we enjoy our last night of comradeship. There will be a bit of sadness after the dinner, knowing that the morrow will bring our departure to our home locations.

Sunday, 4 October truly marks the end of the Tour. Check-out is 12:00 Noon, so plan your morning accordingly. Breakfast is your own responsibility today, but bear

in mind that the Hotel does not serve breakfast on Sunday. There are many available breakfast locations a short drive from the Hotel and the concierge will be able to make recommendations. You will have already made plans with other 'Tourers if you are driving home in convoy, or you may simply choose your own, independent route. Whatever you choose, have a safe and enjoyable drive home!

