

Itinerary #5 – Southern Ohio

Starting in Portsmouth, this 61-mile trip will take you along the southern Ohio border to Ripley, which is just west of the state's southernmost point. Begin your trip by taking in beautiful murals depicting the Ohio River. Then travel down US Route 52 until you reach Ripley and close your trip at the Tobacco Museum. Also, be sure to enjoy the many natural attractions and unique historical sites along the way – it's a rare combination of attractions your whole family will enjoy!

Sites to see & things to do (listed from east to west)

Attraction	Description
Ohio River Murals Portsmouth, Ohio	Located on the floodwall along Front Street, the 50 paintings in this outdoor art gallery depict scenes from the city's past. Subjects include Portsmouth's history, the town's settlement, and the growth of industry and famous personages like Branch Rickey. Contact: (740) 353-1116. www.portsmouthmuralproducts.com or www.loc.gov/bicentennial/propage/OH/oh-6_h_strickland8.html
Mitchellace Factory Portsmouth, Ohio	Tour the world's largest shoelace maker – 4 million pairs per week. Contact: (740) 353-1116 or (740) 354-2813. Toll free: (800) 848-8696. www.mitchellace.com
Shawnee State Park Scioto County, Ohio	Opened in 1973, this is one of seven Ohio State Park Resorts. In addition to the extensive forest and access to the Ohio River, facilities include a rustic lodge, cabins, a golf course and a marina. www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/shawnee.htm
Lewis Mountain Herbs and Everlastings Adams County, Ohio	Visitors can stroll through the aromatic herb gardens, admire geraniums and visit the gift shop with candy, potpourri and fresh herb plants. There is an annual herb festival the second weekend in October.
Counterfeit House Adams County, Ohio	The house was built in 1850 by Oliver E. Thompkins and was designed especially for counterfeiting purposes. It has trick locks, secret rooms, secret compartments and trap doors.
Serpent Mound Adams County, Ohio	You'll find the longest serpent effigy in the United States only a short distance from Portsmouth. Serpent Mound is one of many sites in the area that allows you to reflect on the ancient Indian presence in the region. Other nearby sites include Mound Park, the site of horseshoe-shaped burial grounds and the Tremper Mound. Contact: (937) 587-2796. www.ohiohistory.org/places/serpent
Manchester Islands Manchester, Ohio	Now a National Wildlife Refuge on the two remaining islands. Legend says Native Americans who lived on the three original islands would disguise themselves as white men and ambush settlers traveling the river. Contact: (937) 544-4545.
Rankin House National Historic Marker Ripley, Ohio	This National Historic Landmark was John Rankin's home and refuge to thousands of slaves making their way to freedom. It was here that Harriet Beecher Stowe heard the escaping slave's story that became the basis for part of her famous work, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> . Contact: 937-392-1627. www.ohiohistory.org/places/rankin
John F. Parker House – National Historic Landmark Ripley, Ohio	The Parker House was home to abolitionist, John Parker, a freed slave who purchased his freedom and settled on the land in 1845. He made forays across the Ohio River to aid escaping slaves. Contact: 937.392.4188. www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/underground/oh2.htm
Signal House Ripley, Ohio	A part of the Underground Railroad, this house was signaled to by John Rankin, famous Underground Railroad conductor. Built in the 1830s in Greek Italinat style, the home is now a bed and breakfast. Contact: 937.392.1640. www.thesignalhouse.com
Ohio Tobacco Museum Ripley, Ohio	The Ohio Tobacco Museum was established as a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of tobacco farming history.

	<p>Historic facts and photographs are abundant in the museum. Everything from information about Native American tobacco usage to Civil War photographs of soldiers rolling their own cigarettes. Contact: 937-392-9410.</p>
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