



## [Great Allegheny Passage \(GAP\) Ride](#)

### **Day 5: Williamsport, MD to White's Ferry, MD (65 miles)**

This morning, we had an early breakfast at [Elmwood Farm B&B](#), around 7:20 a.m., before packing up and heading out on the trail. It looks like some rain today, but we're ready for the weather. We were on the trail by 8:40 a.m.

We biked past [McMahon's Mill](#) which was originally built as a grist mill and was later renovated to generate electricity. We got into [Shepherdstown, WV](#) around noon and entered the town via the ramp. After a quick lunch, we were back on the [C&O Canal towpath](#) by 1:00 p.m. It's the second of three states that we'll be biking through today. Shepherdstown is the oldest town in West Virginia and it has 20 buildings that date before the Revolution. There were no traffic lights and no chains there – instead, the town is lined with restaurants, small shops and unique hotels.

We biked past the [Antietam Creek Aqueduct](#). [Antietam](#) is the site of the bloodiest single-day battle in American history. On September 17, 1862, over 23,000 troops – both Union and Confederate – were killed, wounded or unaccounted for after the battle. It was following the Union victory there that [President Lincoln](#) issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

We reached Harper's Ferry around 2:35 p.m. and stopped for coffee at [Beans in the Belfry](#) in Brunswick, MD – there was live music there when we stopped in, with a Bluegrass strings group playing. Harper's Ferry sits where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet, but also where Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia meet. As you may remember from your history books, Harper's Ferry is where [John Brown's raid on the Federal Armory](#) occurred, which is considered to be the incident that sparked the Civil War. Today, the [Harper's Ferry National Historical Park](#) provides opportunity to tour battlefields and learn more about the history of the area.

Shortly after getting back on the trail, we passed the [Catoclin Creek Aqueduct](#). We got off our bikes for a bit to take in the scenery and that's where we ran into Karen McDonough, the wife of the Allegheny County Police Superintendent. She and two friends had just started their trip in the opposite direction, having left Washington, DC that morning. They're doing about 50 miles a day on their trip back to Pittsburgh.

The [Monocacy Aqueduct](#) was on our path about 10 miles later. According to the [TrailGuide](#), it's the longest of the 11 stone aqueducts on the trail. Next came the [Dickerson Conservation Area](#) with its 304 undeveloped acres. It's very popular for fishing if the amount of people we saw with fishing rods was any indication.

By 6:30 p.m., we were on the ferry to [Leesburg, VA](#) – our third state of the day. [White's Ferry](#) is a cable ferry that takes travelers across the Potomac between Maryland and Virginia. In Leesburg, we checked in to our lodging and headed out again for dinner at the [Blue Ridge Grill](#).

We've finished 300 miles of the trip and we all feel good. We're looking forward to tomorrow's final leg and to entering D.C. in Georgetown by bike.

Goodnight from Leesburg, VA