



# Step into the PA Wilds

## Day Trips & Activities

### Introduction

When the President of The Greater DuBois Chamber of Commerce approached me with the idea of writing a tourism book as part of my internship project for Penn State University, I was, at first, appalled. Like a lot of people that come from a small town, my initial thought was, "Great, what on earth is there to do around here?" Talk about a daunting task; I couldn't imagine how I was going to find enough material to fill a pamphlet, let alone a small book.

However, once I began my research I was amazed to discover how wrong I was. Coming from an area with those "Backwoods, Backroads, Backwaters" I soon discovered there were so many short day-trips to list, I would have needed about 300 pages just to start! Now my task became daunting for another reason...which activities to include.

I decided to include some activities that I have personally experienced. Others have been recommendations from friends, family and acquaintances. Once I mentioned to people what I was working on, they were full of suggestions and ideas.

While there are numerous businesses and organizations listed in this book, this is not meant to be an advertising venue for them. These are simply places people have visited and enjoyed. There would be too many to list if I were to attempt to highlight all of the great businesses and organizations located throughout the area that are worthy of mention.

I decided to make this book a source of reference for you. I hope you will use it to visit the places I have highlighted, but also as a means of finding even more things to do while traveling here in the Pennsylvania Wilds. The book is full of great web sites for you to use in beginning your journey. Please use it as a tool to discover all of the great fun and exciting things to experience, whether you are a long-time resident or a first time visitor.

**Backwoods, Backroads, Backwaters....  
let this be a guide to get you started!**

Jodi L. Foster

### *Before You Begin...*

You are on vacation, so take your time and enjoy all that surrounds you. Traveling through the hills of Pennsylvania can be a glorious experience. To help you to find your way, there are many resources throughout this book. In addition to the phone numbers, websites, and addresses for the attractions, at the end of the book is a list of tourism agencies and chambers of commerce. Stop in any of those offices for assistance, to receive directions and further information.

In today's society, most of us travel with a laptop, cell phone, or blackberry, and some have GPS units. In most of the towns, you will have cell phone and internet access. However, as you step into the Pennsylvania Wilds, remember that there are remote areas of the region with no cell phone reception, gas stations or convenience stores. As a precaution, keep your gas tank full and keep a road map in your vehicle.

GPS information website: [GPSVisualizer.com/geocoding.html](http://GPSVisualizer.com/geocoding.html)

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## Explore the Grandeur of Bilger's Rocks

This massive sandstone formation is sure to impress. At 300 million years old, it is easy to imagine an ancient world. Visitors come from all over to see the special plant and animal life.

Search the area to find The Devil's Kitchen and the Devil's Dining Room or spend the day hiking the trails. Located in Grampian, turn on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and follow the signs.

**The Bilger's Rocks Association**  
**www.bilgersrocks.com**  
**814.236.0338**

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## Go 'Underground' for a day

Take a day and visit 3 separate caves all located within 50 miles of each other. **Penns Cave, Indian Caverns** and **Lincoln Caverns** each have their own unique formations of stalagmites and stalactites. Let the tour guides show you the mysterious wonders hidden beneath your feet. Begin at Penns Cave in Centre Hall. Then head to Spruce Creek to see the Indian Caverns. Finally, move on to Huntingdon and the Lincoln Caverns. The tours take approximately 1 ½ hours each, so start early.

**www.pennscave.com 814.364.8778**  
**www.indiancaverns.com 814.632.7578**  
**www.lincolncaverns.com 814.643.0268**

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## Have we got a yard sale for you!!

**The Annual 100-Mile Yard Sale** is a dream come true for bargain hunters and antiquers. Held in the third week of July, this event will take you through Cameron, Centre, Clearfield and Elk County in search of that elusive treasure.

Sponsored by the Quehanna Industrial Development Corporation, the sale starts in Shawville (Take exit 123 off I-80, and Route 970 North to Route 879 East) travel through Frenchville and Karthaus following the Quehanna Highway through Piper to Route 872 into Sinnemahoning and Driftwood. Then take Route 555 to Benazette and Weedville circling back down to Route 153 South and back to Interstate 80. Don't forget to enjoy the spectacular scenery along the way!

**814.263.4418 or 814.263.7200**

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## Taste the Wine

Designate a driver & plan to spend a day touring our favorite wineries:

Starr Hill Winery, *Curwensville*      Flickerwood Wine Cellars, *Kane*  
Winery at Wilcox, *Wilcox*      Laurel Mountain Winery, *Falls Creek*  
Foxburg Cellars, *Foxburg*      Evergreen Valley Vineyards, *Luthersburg*  
Allegheny Cellars Winery, *Sheffield*      Oak Spring Winery, *Altoona*

**www.groundhogwinetrail.com**

Stop at the Greater DuBois Chamber of Commerce Tourism office and pick up a Groundhog Trail Wineries Brochure. Visit all six wineries on the Groundhog Trail and have the brochure signed by an owner or manager. When you have collected all six signatures, drop off or mail your brochure to:

**Laurel Mountain Winery**  
**1754 Old Grade Road**  
**Falls Creek, Pa. 15840**

*You could win a romantic dinner and night out! Drawings held quarterly!*

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## All-Aboard! The Horseshoe Curve

Railroad enthusiasts need to see this historic landmark. Located in the beautiful Allegheny Mountains, you will be awestruck when you see the rough terrain Pennsylvania rail workers had to overcome to complete this passage.

Be sure to stop by the **Railroaders Memorial Museum** to learn more about the history of the railroad and the important contributions it made to the American Industrial Revolution. While you are there, take a ride on the "Funicular", an incline plane that will take you right to the railroad tracks. Take I-99 to Altoona, then turn at 40th street.

**814.946.0834**

**[www.railroadcity.com](http://www.railroadcity.com)**

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## An Evening for Dinner and Theater

First, start your evening with dinner at **Luigi's Ristorante** on South Brady Street in DuBois. You can not find a more authentic Italian meal anywhere in the area. Owner Eddie Tate's spirit infuses the place with originality, while his attention to detail is unmatched in providing you with a flawless meal. The beautiful outdoor veranda is like stepping into an Italian villa complete with the sounds of nature and a bubbling fountain. Or, stay inside and enjoy the tastefully decorated atmosphere. Either way, you won't be disappointed.

When dinner is finished, move on to the **Paul G. Reitz Theater** located a short distance away on Scribner Avenue. Its distinctive architecture and rich history make it a perfect venue to highlight the talents of the Reitz Theater Players. This 133 year old building once housed a Baptist church until 1992, when Cultural Resources Incorporated purchased the structure. It is now alive with small-town "Broadway" theater productions.

**Luigi's Ristorante 814.375.9113**  
**Reitz Theater 814.375.4CRI (4274)**  
**[www.reitztheater.com](http://www.reitztheater.com)**

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## Fairs are our Business in Pennsylvania!

April through October is fair season in Pennsylvania but the majority are held in August and September. Pennsylvanians are so fond of fairs, we even have a brochure.

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs is a good place to start your search if you are looking for a fun-filled day at a fair. With over 100 county and community fairs, you are sure to find one close by.

**866.814.6985**

**[www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org)**

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## You Simply Must see a Meteor Shower

Pennsylvania is a wonderland of spectacular outdoor scenery. But most of its beauty can only be enjoyed during daylight hours. Why not spend the night time hours looking up, gazing at the stars? It is a pleasure most city dwellers do not get to enjoy, because the unnatural glare of street lights and the tall buildings block the night sky. Here in Pennsylvania, we have some of the darkest skies in the United States.

**Cherry Springs State Park** is particularly suited for star gazing and is officially known as a dark sky park. The park is located 15 miles southeast of Coudersport, on PA. Rt. 44, deep in the midst of the Susquehannock State Forest.

The conditions there are optimal for star gazing.

Just grab a blanket, let the kids stay up late, and enjoy the show. There are several known meteor showers throughout the year. For a schedule, go online and see when the next one is due.

**Cherry Springs State Park**

**[www.upstateastro.org/stars/cssp/html](http://www.upstateastro.org/stars/cssp/html)**

**StarDate Online**

**[www.stardate.org](http://www.stardate.org)**

## Grab Your Favorite Navigator and Go Exploring

Pennsylvania is full of small towns with “quirky” names. Wouldn’t it be fun to find some of them? Use your Magellan navigator, your Tom-Tom or go the old fashioned way and get a map. Some locations to look for:

Burning Well	Blue Ball	Daguscahonda
Drab	Frugality	Hooker
Needful	Panic	Roses
Tally Ho	Venus	Waddle

These towns are all located within 100 miles of DuBois; most within 50 miles. Don’t forget to take your camera and have your picture taken by the signs. The photos will be a great conversation piece and a record of your vacation.

Who knows? You may just find your new *favorite* place.

## Pretty Leaves & a Festival Spell F-U-N

If you need a little bit more excitement on your fall foliage excursion, why not check out one of our numerous fall foliage festivals? Pennsylvania residents love the fall season and we celebrate like we mean it. A few to check out are:

**The Autumn Leaf Festival located in Clarion** - Nine full days of fun. Featuring the “Tournament of Leaves” Parade, a flea market, carnival rides and more. **814.226.9161** [www.clarionpa.com](http://www.clarionpa.com)

**The Pennsylvania Flaming Foliage Festival in Renovo** - This annual event boasts a 25,000 plus crowd. The “Parade of Queens” is one of the largest in Central Pennsylvania. There are also open air craft shows and a large variety of food. Follow I-80 East to Renovo. **570.923.2411**

**The Fabulous 1890’s Weekend in Mansfield** - This fall festival takes a step back in time. Based on the first nighttime football game at Mansfield University, the event features a “motor-less” parade in which all of the floats are horse-pulled, people-pulled and even goat-pulled. Carnival rides, fireworks and hot-air balloons keep the atmosphere festive. The climax of the weekend is a night time football game that uses the actual football rules of 1892. **570.662.3442**.

All events are held at the end of September or first week in October. Call for current dates.

## Fall is our time to shine!!

The New England states are often touted as a must see for magnificent fall foliage viewing, but do not let the hype fool you. Pennsylvania is every bit as magnificent. Our oak, maple, ash, birch and cherry trees, to name a few, display wondrous color beginning in early October.

Head in any direction to view the foliage or go to one of our scenic overlooks. The **Elk Viewing Area** on Winslow Hill in Benezette is a good place to start and you may even see an Elk while you are there. View even more Fall splendor in the **Pennsylvania Grand Canyon**, a National Natural Landmark located in Tioga County near Wellsboro. You are sure to enjoy the view on the way.

For information on where to visit log on to:  
[www.fallinpa.com](http://www.fallinpa.com).  
This web site will tell you what regions are at their peak for best viewing.

## A Wistful Yearning for Something Past

**The Annual Nittany Antique Machinery Show** is sure to bring those feelings of nostalgia rushing forth. The event is held every September and you do not want to miss it! There are over 800 flea market and craft vendors! Antique machinery operations are sure to fascinate everyone!

Let the sights and sounds take you back to a time most of us have forgotten. You can witness apple cider pressing, enjoy the lovely aroma of roasting peanuts or taste the silky goodness of home-made ice cream. This event has something for everyone.

Located 5 miles east of Centre Hall on Rte. 192.  
814.364.9340

[www.nittanyantique.org](http://www.nittanyantique.org)

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## Batter Up!!!

If you love baseball but hate the high price to see a major league team, then you must go to an **Altoona Curve** game. This class "AA" affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates will bring you all of the excitement of a major league event, without leaving your pocketbook drained.

Located in Altoona, the **Blair County Ballpark** is every bit as impressive as most major league fields, but with a much warmer, intimate atmosphere. You'll feel like you have a front row seat no matter where you sit. Who knows, maybe you can finally catch that elusive fly ball you've always dreamed of and have it autographed by a future big-league player. Single Game pricing is available as well as group discount rates for 25 or more.

From I-99 take the Frankstown Road exit.  
877.99-CURVE  
[www.altoonacurve.com](http://www.altoonacurve.com)

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## Visit St. Marys - See the Town Designed Around the Shape of a Wagon Wheel

Locals there call the downtown area "The Diamond" but make no mistake, it is actually a wagon wheel. The hub of the wheel is a small, grassy park complete with benches and a drinking fountain. The spokes that surround the park are streets that branch off in a circular pattern.

It is easy to navigate for first time visitors - there are plenty of signs to point you in the right direction. To get the full effect, park on the Boulevard off of Rt. 255 and take a walk around town. There are plenty of shops to visit as you walk around the circle or just sit on "The Diamond" and enjoy the view.

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## Sometimes Smaller is Better

**DelGrosso's Amusement Park** is a perfect example of an ideal outing for families with small children and "tweenagers". DelGrosso's has that large amusement park feel, but with age appropriate rides and a relaxed atmosphere.

After your family has enjoyed over 20 amusement park rides, take the pedestrian crosswalk to the other side and enjoy the Tipton Waterworks and the Tipton Rapids. Kids love standing under the huge bucket that continually fills and spills in the splash pool of the Waterworks. The Twin Twisters water slide is sure to give a heart-stopping thrill to all. There is also a Championship mini golf course, Speedway Go Karts, and a miniature train ride. You will not know what to do first!

You will also want to check out the **Summer Concert Series** held all throughout the season. Nationally renowned recording artists playing classic music, rock and country bands have all taken the stage there—and it's FREE.

All this is available at very family-friendly prices but if you need more discounts, stop in any local grocery store and pick up a jar of DelGrosso's spaghetti sauce. There are coupons under the label to make it even more reasonable. **Located off of I-99 at the Tipton Exit. 814.684.3538**  
[www.delgrossos.com](http://www.delgrossos.com)

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## Pick Your Own!

Grab a bucket, jump in the car,  
and find a "pick your own" sign.

There is nothing better than the sweet goodness of fresh-picked strawberries, blueberries, blackberries or cherries. Each berry has its own season and you can find something to pick all summer long.

A word to the wise - store-bought goods will never taste the same.

**To locate a farm log on to:  
[www.PickYourOwn.org](http://www.PickYourOwn.org) and  
click on the Western PA link**

## Are We There Yet??

This is the most often asked question by the kids as you travel. Take a break from the driving and take the kids to visit playgrounds in every town in the area.

There are so many fun and exciting “themed” parks, the kids will have a tough time deciding which was their favorite.

## Witness the Devastating Effects of Nature’s Fury

Many local Pennsylvanians had the fortune of standing on the **Kinzua** (pronounced Kin-Zoo) **Bridge** before it was hit by an F1 tornado on Monday, July 21, 2003. Awestruck by the sheer height of the bridge, it was hard to imagine riding in a train across this massive structure. But many did, thousands of times beginning in 1882, when the Kinzua Viaduct was constructed. At the time, it was the highest railroad bridge in the world at 301 feet and weighed a massive 6,715,000 pounds. However, on that fateful day most of it was gone in a matter of minutes. The tornado whipped through the area toppling eleven towers from the center of the bridge.

Once a National Engineering Landmark, the bridge had been weakened by time and corrosion and was being repaired when the tornado hit. Now, it is the site of the **Kinzua Bridge State Park**. Located four miles north of US 6 at Mt. Jewett on SR 3011, visitors can see for themselves the devastating effects reaped by the storm. Visitors can photograph the bridge from an observation deck and see the damage close-up by using the two spotting scopes.

**Kinzua Bridge State Park 814.965.2646**  
**www.state.pa.us PA Keyword: state parks**

## Home-grown goodness, fresh from the field

Pennsylvania’s countryside is dotted with farm markets. These rustic road-side stands are truly a hidden treasure & often overlooked. The colorful sights and delicious smells of the in-season fruits and vegetables are enough to bring out the hidden cook in everyone. But don’t stop there. Be sure to pick up some of the home-made jams and jellies, maple syrup or baked goods most markets offer.

Here are a few to check out: **Alettas Farm Market** ( 1 mile west of Curwensville on Rte. 879), **Hertiage Farm** ( 13 miles west of Ridgway on Rte 949 in Lake City), **Paradise Gardens and Farm** (between Big Run and Sykesville, Rte 119 to Kramer Rd.)

For more listings log on to: **www.agriculture.state.pa.us** and search farm markets. There is a great brochure in PDF format, the “Consumer Guide to Pennsylvania Farm Markets”.

This brochure lists dozens of farm markets in the area as well as directions and market schedules.

## Yes Dear, There Really is... A Groundhog?

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over. It is the dead of winter and the cold weather blahs have you in its grip. A longing for spring is the only thing you can think about. **Well then, have we got a party for you!!**

Visit **Gobbler’s Knob** in Punxsutawney for the biggest ‘welcome to spring’ party in the state. This is the land of the world- famous “Punxsutawney Phil,” the weather predicting groundhog. The **Groundhog Day Celebration** actually begins on February 1st. From 9 a.m. to midnight there are events scheduled to keep you entertained. Witness the beautiful ice sculptures, join in the scavenger hunt, enjoy live entertainment and more! The real excitement begins at 3 a.m. on February 2nd when the gates to Gobbler’s Knob are opened and people begin their anxious wait for Phil’s spring prediction. Will he see his shadow and predict six more weeks of winter? Or is spring just around the corner? Be one of approximately 30,000 visitors to witness this event. The celebration continues throughout the day and ends with the annual Rails to Trails Dance.

For more info contact:

**Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce 800.752-PHIL**  
**or log on to: www.groundhog.org**

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## A Beer Lover's Paradise

Beer connoisseurs take heart. Pennsylvania has a treasure trove of microbreweries, micro-pubs and regional breweries. Collectors of these unique brews take pride in their ability to detect the different flavors each has to offer. So designate a driver and try a few.

**Straub Brewery** located in St. Marys is famous for its "Eternal Tap". While touring this regional brewery, visitors have the opportunity of tasting the special blends of beer pouring from a tap in the wall. 814.834.2875 or [www.straubbeer.com](http://www.straubbeer.com)

**D.G. Yuengling & Son Inc.** is in Pottsville, Schuylkill County. Tour America's Oldest Brewery and visit the gift shop to pick up souvenirs while you are there. Tours run daily Mon.-Sat. and all ages are welcome. 570.622.4141 or [www.yuengling.com](http://www.yuengling.com)

There are nearly 100 locations listed on the web site [www.brewpubzone.com](http://www.brewpubzone.com) in Pennsylvania, so log on and plan your own tour.

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## Pack a Picnic and Visit a Hidden Gem

**Bendigo State Park** is a well-kept secret in Pennsylvania. Most of the locals know the wonders of this small park, but it is often overlooked by vacationers. Bendigo is a perfect place for families with small children. There is an in-ground pool with depths of 3 to 5 feet, making it perfect for beginning swimmers. There is also an infant pool to allow the babies to join in the fun. When the swimmers get tired, grab a pole and head to the damn area for some fishing. Youngsters can walk to the water's edge and cast their line. Bendigo is stocked seasonally with trout and is also home to the native brook trout. With a little patience and the right bait, kids may experience the thrill of catching a fish. When fishing is done, walk to the river's edge below the spillway and wade in the sun-warmed water. During the hot summer months, the water's depth is ankle-deep in most areas. Turn over some rocks underneath the water and see how many crawfish you can catch. BE CAREFULL THOUGH, they can give you a little pinch if agitated. Catch them by the tail if you can. They are quick, so it takes a little practice.

*Just remember, all children should be supervised by an adult around any of the water areas. Even though the water levels are low in the river during the summer months, there may be deeper hidden pockets - so don't venture out too far!*

Bendigo State Park is located in Jones Township in Elk County. The Park is 4 miles north of Johnsonburg on SR 1004. For more info call 814.965.2646.

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## Hike to Your Heart's Content

**The Quehanna Wild Area** has some of the most remote hiking available in Pennsylvania's State Forests. This area has been set aside to preserve the undeveloped character of a natural woodland. You will see a pristine forest at its finest, with crystal clear mountain streams and wildlife in their natural settings.

**The Quehanna Trail** is a 75 mile loop that encompasses an area located in the Moshannon and Elk State Forests. The Trail begins at the western end of Parker Dam State Park and heads east into the Quehanna Wild Area. The entire trail is more than a one-day excursion, although there are many smaller sections to explore.

**Parker Dam State Park** is in northern Clearfield County. The Park is located off Rte 153. Turn onto Mud Run Road, and drive 2.5 miles to the park.

For a map of the Quehanna Trail and the Moshannon State Forest call: 814.765.0821  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

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## The Courses are Lined with Silver & Gold

Not really, but you won't find a more beautiful setting for a golf course than the two located at Treasure Lake in DuBois.

**The Gold Golf Course** has been featured by *Golfer's Digest* as one of the best and most affordable courses to play in Pennsylvania. This challenging course with its gently sloping, tree-lined fairways, is a paradise for golfers.

**The Silver Course** offers a more traditional setting. The manicured greens, sand traps and water hazards make it the perfect golf outing for beginners and veteran golfers alike.

**Duffer's Tavern**, located at the Gold Course will start your day off right with a hearty breakfast. **The 19th Hole** at the Silver Course offers a snack lunch and a cold drink mid-way through your day. End with dinner at the **Lakeview Lodge**. Its rustic setting and magnificent view of Treasure Lake is a guaranteed perfect ending to your day.

**From I-80 take Rt. 255. 814.371.0711 or log on to: [www.treasurelakepa.com](http://www.treasurelakepa.com)**

## Spend a Summer Evening Enjoying a Concert in the Park

The Edward V. Cherry Amphitheatre located at the DuBois Memorial Park hosts free concerts on Thursday evenings throughout the summer months.

Grab your lawn chair or spread a blanket on the ground. Prepare a basket of cheese and crackers and your favorite “non-alcoholic” drink, then settle in for an evening of live entertainment.

**Follow Route 219 into and through the City of DuBois. The Park is located on the five-lane road, Liberty Boulevard.**

## Timber!!!

Tour the **Pennsylvania Lumber Museum** located in Galeton to learn about the history of the lumber industry in Pennsylvania.

This Lumber Museum will be a hit with history buffs or anyone interested in “the good old days.” The museum features a re-created logging camp to show visitors what life was like for a lumberjack.

The saw mill exhibits include a demonstration of a steam-powered circular saw. The Engine House is home to a 70-ton Shay locomotive that was actually used in logging operations; and a restored Brookville Locomotive, 15-ton switch engine, that had been in a salvage yard for almost 40 years.

**The museum is open seven days a week from June 1 through August 31 from 9a.m. to 5p.m. Located on Route 6 in Galeton. 814.435.2652**

## Go to a Drive-in Movie

There are absolutely no substitutes to match the grandeur of a movie playing on a drive-in theater screen. Your youngsters will gaze in amazement when the movie begins at these open-air theaters. In our high-tech world it is a lost tradition, one you will want your kids to experience. Thankfully, there are still a few drive-ins in operation. Wait until dusk, pack some snacks and head out to enjoy the latest block-buster hits.

Here are a few drive-ins we recommend:

**Moonlight Drive-In located in Brookville on Rte. 322.** Open seven nights a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day with a double feature each night. 814.849.5588.

**Super 322 Drive-In located off the Woodland exit of I-80 on Rte. 322 east.** Double features from May through October. 814.857.7821.

**Family Drive-In located in Kane on Rte. 6 East.** 814.837.9760

**For more locations log on to:  
[www.driveinmovie.com/PA.htm](http://www.driveinmovie.com/PA.htm)**

## Get in on the New High-Tech Craze Go Geo-Caching!!!

Geo-caching is a high-tech treasure hunt that uses a GPS (global positioning system) to find caches that have been hidden in various locations throughout the United States. The hunt begins when someone sets up the cache and then shares its location on the internet. Users then enter the location coordinates into their GPS unit to find the cache.

The rules of geo-caching are simple. After you have located the cache you:

1. Take something from the cache
2. Leave something of your own behind (inexpensive trinket)
3. Then sign the log book

That's it!!! The fun is not just in locating the cache, but in seeing how many others have found it and where they are from!

Basic GPS units are all that are required. They cost anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000, depending on what capabilities you would like your unit to have. The basic units can get you to within 20 feet of a cache.

**The internet site [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) lists hundreds of caches in Pennsylvania so no matter where you are or where you are going, there is sure to be a cache hidden near you!!**

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## Experience the Excitement of a Flea Market

There is a sense of urgency that hangs in the air at these open-air markets that you will not feel in any other atmosphere. If you are a collector looking for that last piece to complete your set, or on the hunt for a rare antique, then this is the place to be. But watch out!! These one of a kind items can be snatched up in an instant by the savvy shopper standing next to you. And when it's gone...it's gone.

Flea markets are a great big swap meet and one of the last places where you are **expected** to bargain for a better price on the item you want - that's half the fun! With such an array of merchandise to choose from, plan to spend the whole day. Here is one you should definitely check out:

**Hazen Flea Market** - Held the first weekend, May through October, in Hazen on Route 28, 6 miles north of Brookville. Hundreds of vendors and 10-12,000 visitors each weekend. 814.328.2536

For a list of other flea market locations in Pennsylvania, log on to: [www.collectiblewebs.com](http://www.collectiblewebs.com)

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## Are You Up for a Challenge?

**Denny's Beer Barrel Pub**, located in Clearfield, is a one-of-a-kind restaurant that has been featured on the nationally syndicated TV show "Food Network." What is their claim to fame? Denny's is the "Home of the Largest Burger Challenges!" By largest, they mean big, big hamburgers.

The challenge is to see if you can eat one of these "monster" burgers in one sitting. If you do, it is free. The trick is to finish it. The challenge burgers begin at a hearty size of 2 lbs. That doesn't sound like much, until you picture what two pounds of hamburger looks like; then add a bun and your favorite condiments. Suddenly, what seems like no big deal, turns into a "gut-wrenching" task. Apparently, it can be done. Several people have won! This has led to bigger burger challenges. Sizes now include 3, 6, 15 and 50 lb. burgers!!

So, if you think you have a big enough appetite, take the challenge. You may be one of the elite few that have managed to do it. If not, you will at least have a great story to tell all of your friends.

**Denny's Beer Barrel Pub**  
1452 Woodland Rd., Clearfield 814.765.7190  
[www.dennysbeerbarrelpub.com](http://www.dennysbeerbarrelpub.com)

*\*\*Please note: Challengers must call 24 hours in advance*

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## Come fly with me!

Aviation enthusiasts and kids of all ages will just love visiting the **Piper Aviation Museum** in Lock Haven. The Piper Aircraft Corporation has been in operation since 1938 and is the manufacturer of small-engine aircraft, the Piper Cub. Exhibits include a flight simulator, as well as, famous and one of a kind aircraft.

The museum also hosts the **Annual Sentimental Journey Fly-In** held during the month of June. This event attracts pilots from all over the United States and is a great opportunity to see a unique assortment of aircraft.

**The Piper Aviation Museum is located at 1 Piper Way in Lock Haven. 570.748.8283. For rates and hours of operation, log on to: [www.pipermuseum.com](http://www.pipermuseum.com)**

For dates and information on the Sentimental Journey Fly-in: 570.893.4200 or [www.sentimentaljourneyfly-in.com](http://www.sentimentaljourneyfly-in.com)

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## Walk the Shady Ridge Nature Trail at East Branch Lake

This quaint little trail is a perfect place to get closer to nature and enjoy the wonders of the outdoors. The trail is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile loop that takes you back to where you started. Pick up a nature trail booklet as you begin and stop at the 11 designated sites along the way. It is a great way to slow down and enjoy your surroundings while being educated about the environment.

Situated about eight miles east of Wilcox on SR 1006, Elk State Park is where the **East Branch Dam** is located. The dam is not only an important link in the flood control system, but a great place for outdoor recreational activities. The splendor of the scenery is the perfect backdrop for boating, fishing, camping and hiking.

After your visit to the dam, stop at the **East Branch River Restaurant**. Enjoy a rustic setting for fine dining, situated along the east branch of the Clarion River. The glass enclosed dining room offers a picturesque view. Located on Glen Hazel Road in Wilcox. 814.965.2158.

**[www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us) Keyword: state parks**

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## There is Nothing Better than an Original

Work of art....that is. Step out of the cookie cutter world of prints and mass-marketed art and find a true one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Plan a day to visit all the local art galleries you can find. It is the only way to discover the extraordinary talent of each communities' artisans.

A great place to start is the **Winkler Gallery of Fine Arts** at 36 N. Brady Street in DuBois. 814.375.5834.

You can look for art shows being hosted by the many communities and universities in our area. Indiana University of PA has a great art department and they host a yearly event to highlight the talent of their students - [www.iup.edu](http://www.iup.edu). Explore the **PA Wilds Artisan Trail** for galleries and studios throughout the region. Go to [www.pawilds.com](http://www.pawilds.com) and click on Artisans.

For other locations log on to: [www.westpennart.com](http://www.westpennart.com) for galleries and shows throughout Western Pennsylvania

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## A Motorcycle Rider's Dream Come True

Open roads, light traffic and some of the prettiest countryside awaits motorcycle enthusiasts who visit Pennsylvania. The landscape just screams "Road Trip!" to anyone that loves that feeling of freedom of the open road. It is one of the best ways to experience what Pennsylvania has to offer.

**Scenic Route 6**, across northern Pennsylvania, is "one of America's most Scenic Drives", according to National Geographic. It is a favorite among motorcycle riders. It stretches across 400 miles and through 11 counties. Riders can enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon in Wellsboro or view the engineering marvel of the Kinzua Dam just east of Warren.

**DuBois Harley-Davidson** is a good place to start if you are planning a road trip. This is a biker's dream come true. "Come inside and take a walk down our main street!" where there are old gas pumps, parking meters and Harleys lined up just waiting to be ridden. You don't have to be a biker to appreciate this unique atmosphere, located on Route 219 in DuBois. 814.3710.5750.

[www.paroute6.com](http://www.paroute6.com)   [www.duboisharley.com](http://www.duboisharley.com)

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## A Huge Festival & Unique Art as Well!

If you love a good festival and are searching for that special piece of art, then you must go to the **Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts** in State College. Artists from all over the country are featured at this unconventional event. You will find juried craftsmen specializing in jewelry making, wood working, painting, sculpting, ceramics, mixed-media and more!

This four day event held in July features many fun and exciting things to do! There is a 5K and 10K race that attracts hundreds of runners every year. Dance and theatrical performances in a variety of venues, live music from morning until night and sand sculpture are a few of the attractions. There are also two juried gallery exhibitions which offer a more formal setting for art lovers.

But the real fun is just wandering through the streets of downtown State College and enjoying the atmosphere. This annual event attracts more than 125,000 visitors, so don't miss out on the fun!

[www.artsfestival.com](http://www.artsfestival.com)   **814.237.3682**

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## Get a Jump on Next Year's Science Project

Most kids have a least one science project due during the school year. Moth collecting, leaf collecting and even rocks are popular assignments handed out by some teachers. Why not take advantage of your time in the wilds and start your collection early.

Pennsylvania is home to a diverse array of trees. Visit any state park and you can find countless varieties of leaves, mosses, and ferns to satisfy the teacher's most stringent requirements. There are also a great variety of moths. Find a light anywhere outside after dark and you are sure to find a large number of these little wonders. It is great fun to try and catch them but you can also find plenty that have reached the end of their "life cycle," if you know what I mean.

**Toy Heaven** located at 17 North Brady Street in DuBois has an assortment of kits and supplies for the beginning collector.  
814.371.2244   [www.mytoyheaven.com](http://www.mytoyheaven.com)

**WaldenBooks** located in the DuBois Mall on Shaffer Road is a good place to find a book to help guide you on your hunt.  
814.375.2606.

It may be summer vacation, but your kids will thank you later for taking the time to help them with their project. And won't it be *neat* that they have the most "varied" collection in the class?

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## The Sheer Size of these Animals will Shock You

So just imagine what it is like. You are driving down a lonely, back-country road, taking in the scenery of the deep woods. There is very little traffic and you don't see many people around either. A bit further down that road you happen to glance to your left. There standing in an open field, grazing, is the most magnificent animal you have ever seen! Congratulations! You have just seen your first Rocky Mountain Elk in Pennsylvania. **Welcome to Benezette.**

Benezette is the heart of Pennsylvania elk country. It is located along State Route 555 in Elk County. Pennsylvania's wild elk herd is the largest in the northeastern United States. You can see elk here at any time of the year. **Winslow Hill** is a good place to start your search and is one of the most visited elk viewing sites. Here you will find an amphitheater and educational center where programs are presented. Literature and an elk display complete the learning experience.

To pick up an Elk Viewing Guide visit the Greater DuBois Chamber of Commerce Tourism office at 3 South Brady Street or log on to: [www.pagreatoutdoors.com](http://www.pagreatoutdoors.com) to request a brochure.

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## Where Should We Go?

Ask a local where their favorite "spot" is to just sit and enjoy the outdoors.

You are sure to be led to a location that is something special.

If you need some suggestions, call the local Chamber of Commerce. Their numbers are listed in the back of this book.

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## FOOT BY FOOT

Visit Giancarlo's Pizza & Italian Restaurant on West Long Avenue in DuBois for the biggest of the best: slices of pizza, 12 inches by 12 inches.

The New York Style, hand-tossed pizza is some of the best in the area!

A full menu is also available in this non-smoking restaurant.

Beer and wine also available

814.372.2040

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## Spend a Night in an Historic Mansion

**The Towers Victorian Inn** is one of the most beautiful Bed and Breakfast locations in northwestern Pennsylvania. This Civil War era mansion is located in Ridgway's "**Lilly of the Valley**" National Historic Registry District. Built in 1865, the architectural features of this building are visually stunning, both inside and out. The home is filled with beautiful oak and cherry woodwork, fireplaces and original lighting. Fine antiques complete the ambience and grandeur of the home. It is located on 330 South Street. For current rates and availability, call 814.772.7657 or visit [www.towersinn.com](http://www.towersinn.com)

During your stay take the walking tour of historic homes. The homes on this tour were built between 1855 and 1917. Visit the **Ridgway Chamber of Commerce** on Main Street to pick up a brochure or log on to [www.ridgwayheritagecouncil.org](http://www.ridgwayheritagecouncil.org)

The Chamber also has a Bed and Breakfast Directory. Each Bed and Breakfast offers its own special experience. You'll want to try them all.

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## Witness a Work of Art in Progress

The **Annual Chainsaw Carvers Rendezvous** held in Ridgway has quickly become a must-attend winter event in northwest Pennsylvania! Master chainsaw carvers from across the country and around the world meet to share their knowledge and demonstrate the technique of chainsaw carving. It is the largest non-competitive event of its kind in the world!

The activities begin on Friday with ice carving on the Courthouse lawn and a craft show at the Central Fire Hall on North Broad Street. Saturday begins with opening ceremonies and then the wood carvers get to work at the Fireman's grounds. The event ends with an auction on Saturday afternoon. Each carver donates one sculpture to be purchased by the highest bidder. The funds are then donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Ridgway YMCA.

Don't miss the opportunity to witness this "extreme" art, created before your eyes, by some of the best carvers in the world. Everyone has an opportunity to own one of these carvings. The Rendezvous is held on the last weekend in February or the first week in March.

For more information call: 814.772.0400 or log on to:  
[www.chainsawrendezvous.org](http://www.chainsawrendezvous.org)

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## Visit the Grice Community Museum

Classic car enthusiasts will love the **Grice Community Museum** in Clearfield. This large museum houses some of the most interesting cars ever manufactured. The Crosley Collection located in the museum is possibly the largest collection of these types of vehicles anywhere. The vehicles were manufactured from 1939 to 1952. You can also see a 1963 'Vette Split Window, a 1994 Dodge Viper and many others!

Remember to check out all of the trophy game mounts! Everyone will appreciate seeing the animals on display.

**Located at 119 North 4th Street in Clearfield,  
a trip to this museum will definitely  
be a highlight of your trip. 814.768.7332**

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## Biking, Hiking and Skiing!!

**The Clarion-Little Toby Rail-Trail**, 18 miles from Ridgway to Brockway on what was once a branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The tracks were removed in 1972 and it is now a wonderful location for outdoor recreation. This well-maintained trail is located along the Clarion River, recently designated by Congress, as a "Wild and Scenic" river.

You can safely enjoy the wonders of the outdoors while walking or riding your bike along the trail (motor vehicles not permitted). It is a perfect place for bird-watching, fishing, and hiking. Canoers, kayakers and families tubing can be spotted enjoying the leisurely trip down the river. The evening sun casts a luminous glow along the length of the trail creating the perfect backdrop for budding photographers.

Winter time on the trail brings out the cross-country skiers in droves. The flat trail is an excellent place for beginners to try their hand at the sport, yet scenic and challenging for veterans to enjoy.

**You can start your trek from either the Ridgway or Brockway location. For more information log on to:  
[www.pavisnet.com/tcrtt](http://www.pavisnet.com/tcrtt)**

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## What is it about a campfire?

Sitting around a campfire has a calming effect on a person. Young and old alike are fascinated and hypnotized by the flickering of the flames and the crackling of the logs. Is it the warm glow that generates those feelings? Or the intense brightness that lights up a dark, summer night? Whatever the reason, it is one of the simple pleasures in life that has no rival. So pack up the family, your loved one, or even a big group of friends and **go camping!** There is no better time than now.

**Cook Forest & Clear Creek State Parks** are two of the best places to go camping in northwest Pennsylvania. The atmosphere is charged with people simply enjoying the outdoors. These two parks are surrounded by numerous attractions and interesting things to do. Canoeing, horseback riding, hiking, mini-golf, water slides...the list goes on and on.

But remember, take the time to relax and sit around the campfire. Roast some marshmallows, tell ghost stories or just quietly watch the fire burn. It will be the highlight of your experience!

Located off Interstate 80, north of Clarion.  
Visit [www.cookforest.org](http://www.cookforest.org) for more information

## Go on a “Downtown” Shopping Spree!

Pennsylvania is loaded with great places to shop, including the “downtown” business districts. Every town has a business district that has quaint, personally owned shops. You will find everything you are looking for and maybe a few hidden surprises you didn’t expect.

Visit **Maggie Mae Mercantile** at 7 North Brady Street in DuBois for a great selection of country gifts and novelties.

**Hockman Candy** at 2 West Long Ave. is a chocolate lover’s paradise. Their hand-dipped chocolates can’t be beat!

**The Scrapbook Nook** at 3 West Long Ave. has everything a scrapbook lover could want.

These are just a few of the great businesses located in Downtown DuBois. For more information on downtown DuBois businesses, log on to: [www.downtowndubois.com](http://www.downtowndubois.com). Search the business directory for the name of the business or a business category.

**You won’t be sorry you did!!**

## Know the History - Know the Town

You don’t have to be a history buff to enjoy exploring the rich history of the town you are visiting. Almost every small town in Pennsylvania has an historical society where you will find information. Staff can give you ideas of things to do, places to visit and points of interest you should see.

For instance, The DuBois Area Historical Society, located at 28-34 West Long Avenue is open selected hours during the week. Step inside to learn about the Great DuBois Fire, the DuBois Family history or even the legend of Tom Mix. One of the first places you will be directed to is “monument hill” overlooking the Penn State DuBois Campus. This 121 year old gravesite is the final resting place of one of the city’s founders, John DuBois. DuBois Area Historical Society 814.371.9006, or <http://home.wrkcs.net/history>

You’ll never know what wonders you have been missing unless you take the time to stop and explore your surroundings. For a list of other historical societies located in Pennsylvania, visit the Directory of Pennsylvania Genealogical, Historical & Preservation Societies website at [www.home-histories.com/histsoc.html](http://www.home-histories.com/histsoc.html)

## Sun Rise, Sun Set

The mountains of Western Pennsylvania provide a gorgeous back drop for the sun to shine down upon. Whether you are a morning person or a night owl, you will appreciate witnessing the majesty of the sun.

Grab your morning coffee and head outside when you first hear the birds chirping. Sit quietly and watch the sun as it slowly peeks above the mountain tops. The beautiful pinks and blues are impossible to describe.

When evening falls, sit back and watch again. At dusk the orange, gold, and red sky will slowly fade beyond the mountain’s peak as it settles in for the night.

No matter where you go, it is an image you will never forget!

## Change is good!!!

Ask any native Pennsylvanian what they like best about living in this region of the country and one of the first answers you will get is, “The changing seasons.” That’s right! We like watching the countryside change from spring to summer, to fall and winter. Not only does the landscape change dramatically, but the things we do for entertainment change as well.

It is truly a winter wonderland in Pennsylvania. All it takes is a new blanket of crisp, clean snow covering the countryside to get an outdoor enthusiast’s blood pumping. The skiers wax their skis, snowmobilers tune up their machines and ice skaters sharpen their blades in anticipation of the first snowflakes. Why? Because there is nothing as invigorating as the cool, brisk air of a winter day to make you feel alive.

Any state park in Pennsylvania can offer endless opportunities to get out and enjoy the winter season. There are countless cross-country ski trails, excellent hills for sled riding, and hundreds of miles designated for snowmobiling. It is also a great time to get outdoors and see the wildlife. You can trail their location by following their tracks in the snow *and* they are much easier to see against the winter white background. Don’t hibernate - celebrate the arrival of winter!

**Visit [www.greatoutdoorspa.state.pa.us](http://www.greatoutdoorspa.state.pa.us) to explore all of the great winter outdoor activities awaiting you in our state parks!**

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## The Biggest Names in the Entertainment Industry

**The Clearfield County Fair** has, by far, the best line-up of entertainment of any fair in Western Pennsylvania. Year after year, some of the hottest country performers take the stage here, as well as, rock and classic rock bands. Get up close and personal with the artists with festival seating on the track or sit back and relax in the Grandstand. No matter where you sit, you are guaranteed to have one of the best concert experiences of your life.

But don't just go for the entertainment. This is a classic fair at its finest! The livestock exhibited at the fair is a popular attraction. The animal barns house sheep, swine, horses, rabbits, poultry and cows. The kids love seeing these animals up close and are thrilled by the sounds the animals make. A wide variety of food vendors have something to please everyone's tastes. And what would a fair be without amusement rides, cotton candy and candy apples? These activities and treats bring out the kid in all of us and are a 'must have' for everyone!

The week-long Clearfield Country Fair is held at the end of July into August. For more information and a schedule of events log on to:

[www.clearfieldcountyfair.com](http://www.clearfieldcountyfair.com)

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## Football Fans Go Wild!

Pennsylvania is home to many world-class athletic teams but none get us more fired up than the Penn State Nittany Lions. Two of our favorite fall colors in The Pennsylvania Wilds are blue and white. Why? Because fall signals the start of another college football season.

With a Penn State Campus located in DuBois, it is easy to catch football fever. Penn State students and alumni are proud to be a part of such a great institution. Having a great football team is just the icing on the cake!

Penn State Ticket Info: 800.833.5533  
814.863.1000  
[GOLIONS@psu.edu](mailto:GOLIONS@psu.edu)

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## Hike to a Theatre in the Woods

The picnic is over, swimming is done and the sun is setting. Now it is time to relax and enjoy a comedy, mystery or major Broadway musical with the sounds of nature surrounding you.

**The Cook Forest Sawmill Center for the Arts**, located in the heart of Cook Forest, is home to The Verna Leith Sawmill Theatre. You will enjoy the rustic setting of the hexagon-shaped theatre as much as you will enjoy the fine performances by the Northwestern Pennsylvania Theatre groups and Clarion University.

Performances are scheduled annually from mid-May through September. For a schedule of performances and ticket information, log on to [www.sawmill.org](http://www.sawmill.org) or call 814.927.6655.

Oh, and by the way, you don't really have to hike there. The theatre is located in Cooksburg and you can drive there if you choose. Shows start at 8 p.m.

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## Cast your Line in the Water and See What Happens

It's a warm spring day and you are standing along the banks of the stream enjoying the sounds of nature all around you, lost in your own thoughts, when WHAM!! It happens!. You feel that telltale *hit* at the end of your line that signifies a fish has just taken a bite at your lure. Suddenly, your heart begins to race and your pulse quickens as you spring into action! Were you quick enough to set the hook and land that native trout? Or do you now have a great "the one that got away" story?

Fishermen and women in the Pennsylvania Wilds have hundreds of "fish stories" to tell because the opportunities for fishing are endless. Whether it is mountain stream fishing that you enjoy, or sitting in the middle of a lake letting your line bob in the water, there are many great places to fish in the Wilds.

No fishing license? Don't let that stop you. Pennsylvania has two scheduled 'Fish For Free' days a year, May 26th and June 3rd. If you plan your visit then, you can test the waters for free.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has a terrific web site that has all the information you need to get started. Log on to: [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com) and click on the Fishing link.

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## Witness the Antics of this Comical Little Bird

The Nuthatch is one of the most fascinating birds to watch in the Pennsylvania Wilds. If you have never seen the antics of this wondrous little bird, then you are in for a real treat! They literally defy the force of gravity by climbing head-first down a tree. They do this in order to spy tiny little insects or insect eggs from an upside down position! They can also make a complete spiral around a tree limb without missing a beat. They are amazing to watch!

These topsy-turvy gymnasts are just one of a wide range of bird species you'll see in our forests. We have a wonderful collection of colorful jewels in our bird population. The Indigo Bunting is often mistaken for a tiny bluebird because of its spectacular blue color. Hummingbirds, Cardinals, Blue Jays, and Goldfinches are also relatively easy to spot because of their colorful plumage and their abundant numbers.

Visit any state park in Pennsylvania, one of the numerous rail-trails in the area, or just take a walk down one of our many tree-lined streets. And be sure to take your camera along! Snap as many pictures as you can of these little creatures. Your photos will make great pieces of art on the wall of your home or office.

For information on the best places to go birding, log on to:  
[www.birding.com](http://www.birding.com) and click on Pennsylvania hotspots

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## Roarrrrr..... into the Pennsylvania Wilds!

A cooler full of drinks (non-alcoholic, of course), a basket of food and a free-wheeling spirit are all you need to go ATV riding in the Pennsylvania Wilds!

ATV riders love getting outdoors and experiencing the joy of riding in the heart of the wilderness! The Pennsylvania Wilds offers miles and miles of ATV trails for novice riders and experienced riders alike. Ride deep into the forest and witness the beauty of a summer afternoon untouched by civilization or skirt the edges of our state parks (there are no trails there so be careful you don't stray) for the security of knowing there is someone close by. Whichever way you choose, you will be sure to have a great day riding!

**The Allegheny National Forest** is a great place to look for ATV trails. Marienville, Timberline, Rocky Gap, and Willow Creek all have mapped ATV trails and you can get a map when you visit: [www.paatvng.com](http://www.paatvng.com). Go to [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us) for information on trails or other recreational activities in the ANF.

Check out the trails at Rock Run ATV Recreation Park in Clearfield and Cambria Counties. [www.rockrunrecreation.com](http://www.rockrunrecreation.com)

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## Create a Keepsake for Future Generations

The death of a loved one is a moment in life most of us eventually have to face. We mark these passings in deeply personal ways in order to ensure the memories we have stay with us forever. Cemeteries are a testament to our devotion. Unfortunately though, as time moves on and generations come and go, the locations of our families' final resting places are often lost to history.

Why not preserve that history by making a tombstone rubbing and keep your loved one's memory with you and your family forever? They are simple to do and only require a few materials. Interfacing fabric (think of the paper inside a shirt collar) is recommended because it is inexpensive and will hold up longer. You can find it at any fabric department. Ask for medium or heavyweight paper that is non-fusible. A jumbo crayon, scissors and masking tape are the only other supplies you will need.

A genealogy search will help get you started. Whether you are a resident of Pennsylvania or have ancestors located here, you can begin your search using the internet [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) is a good place to start.

Take the time to locate your ancestors while you are visiting Pennsylvania and take a piece of your history home with you. Remember to mark the location of the tombstone on your rubbing so that future generations can visit also.

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## You've Always Wanted to...What? Go Skydiving??

We all have a list of things we dream of doing one day, but just never seem to get around to. Well, why not start fulfilling those dreams, one at a time, on your next visit to Pennsylvania? Whatever you wish, you can find it here.

Learning to skydive used to take hours of instruction and a big commitment of both time and money. Not anymore! Almost anyone can skydive these days and do it in a single afternoon. Tandem skydiving allows a first time jumper to complete a dive safely, with very little training. After approximately one hour of instruction, you can be free-falling through the air with a professional skydiver. Talk about the thrill of a lifetime!!!

There are many locations around Pennsylvania that offer tandem skydiving. **Skydive Pennsylvania**, located in Mercer at the Grove City Airport, has a team of skilled professionals just waiting to help you start working on that list.

Call 800.909-JUMP for details. You can also log on to:  
[www.wheretajump.com/pa](http://www.wheretajump.com/pa) for other locations.

By all means....pay a little extra and have your jump videotaped.  
Re-live the thrill of your first jump over and over again.  
It will be well worth it!

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## Whip up a Batch of Freezer Jam

Berry picking is a summer tradition for a lot of folks in Pennsylvania. Pick-Your-Own farms are a great place to get fresh berries and you can pick until your heart's content. Preserve the *fruits* of your labor to enjoy all through out the year by making some freezer jam. Strawberry is a popular variety but you can use blueberries, blackberries and even raspberries, if you wish. Here is a simple recipe you can try.

### Strawberry Freezer Jam

4 cups of strawberries (2 cups mashed)  
 4 cups granulated sugar  
 1 box Sure-Jell powdered pectin  
 ¾ cup water

Wash and clean berries, then crush completely (do not puree). In large bowl mix berries and sugar together. Let stand until room temperature. Combine pectin and water in medium sauce pan. Bring to a boil. Boil one minute while stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir into strawberry/sugar mixture. Continue stirring until well blended. Sugar does not have to be completely dissolved. Carefully pour jam into freezer safe containers. Place lid on immediately and let set 24 hours. Jam can be stored in refrigerator for several weeks or freeze for up to one year.

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## A Real Open-Air Theater

Small, regional airports are real open-air theaters where you can witness a different type of dramatic performance.

The vast, open expanse of a runway is the stage where pilots perform daily. The beautiful Pennsylvania countryside, where most small airports are located, provides you with the perfect seat to enjoy the invigorating performance of these skilled "actors" at their finest.

General Aviation Airports have a long, rich history that is often overlooked and underappreciated. These little wonders began sprouting up during the time of Charles Lindberg's history making flights and continue operating today. They are a hidden source of support for many local communities and the surrounding areas and are a great place to stop and investigate.

**The DuBois Regional Airport**, founded in the early 1950's, is located at 5290 Airport Road in Reynoldsville. Schedule a scenic flight and witness the beauty of the Pennsylvania Wilds from the air or just spend some time there watching as the drama of flight unfolds.

Call 814.328.5311 to schedule a tour  
 or log on to [www.dujair.com](http://www.dujair.com) for more information.

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## Ever heard of the Polar Bear Club?

Bernard MacFadden (1868-1955) founded the Coney Island Polar Bear Club in 1903. He believed a dip in the ocean during the winter could be a boon to one's stamina, vitality and immunity. Most people at the time thought he was a kook. Maybe they were right. Running headlong into a freezing cold body of water does not sound that appealing to everyone. But there are those hearty few that have kept Bernard's traditional dip alive by forming their own Polar Bear Clubs across the country or by hosting an annual polar bear swim.

**The Winter Family Fun Festival**, held at Parker Dam State Park, has a polar bear swim and lots of other outdoor winter activities you don't want to miss! Blizzard volleyball, ice sculpting and a kids' snowbox derby are just a few. This fun-filled event, sponsored by the Clearfield YMCA, is held at the end of January every year. You can bundle up (or strip down) and enjoy all the wonders of the winter season in Pennsylvania during this two-day festival. And if you know someone crazy enough to take the plunge; be sure to have your camera ready to record it and a nice cozy blanket to wrap them in afterwards.....brrrrrr!

For more details on the festival including a schedule of events call 1-814-765-0630 or log on to: [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us).

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## Don't Let the Rain Stop You

**The DuBois Lanes**, located at 255 Beeline Highway in DuBois is a great place to spend time with family and friends. Call 814.371.0344 to check for availability and times.

For a different twist on the game, go Glo-Bowling at **Brookville Lanes**, 814.849.5050.

**The Clarion Bowl Arena**, located on Rt. 322 East in Clarion has 18 lanes available as well as pool tables and an arcade. Their daily specials make it a family friendly place for a great rainy-day outing. Call 814.764.3471 or log on to [www.clarionbowl.com](http://www.clarionbowl.com) for more information.

You can also log on to:  
[www.butlerwebs.com/allareas/bowling.html](http://www.butlerwebs.com/allareas/bowling.html)  
 for a listing of other bowling alleys in Western Pennsylvania.

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## Racing Fans Can Go Wild Here!

### Central PA Speedway

This oval track race course features late model and street stock cars in races every bit as competitive as the big leagues. Located on Mt. Zion road in Clearfield PA. Call: 814.274.2475 or visit [www.centralpaspeedway.com](http://www.centralpaspeedway.com) for more information.

### Muddy Run Raceway

Monster trucks and rip-roaring 4x4 fun can be found at this course. Witness side-by-side obstacle course racing or the heart-stopping hill climb as drivers compete to be the best. It's loud and it's fun! Located between Curwensville and Tyrone in Smoke Run. 814.378.5723 or visit: [www.muddyrunraceway.com](http://www.muddyrunraceway.com) for season schedule.

### Hummingbird Speedway

For exciting night dirt track racing with limited late models, street stocks, pure stocks and more in Reynoldsville, PA. [www.hummingbirdspeedway.com](http://www.hummingbirdspeedway.com)

### Thrills on the Water at Curwensville Lake

Hydroplane Boat Races are the main feature at this annual event. Held at the end of June call 800.326.9051 for actual dates. Or log on to: [www.curwensvillelake.com](http://www.curwensvillelake.com) and check out all the fun and recreational opportunities waiting for you there!

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## The Smallest Church in the U. S., right here in Pennsylvania

Built around 1856, this tiny church is easy to drive right by if you are not paying close attention. **Decker's Chapel**, located on the Million Dollar Highway in St. Marys, is a gem often overlooked by travelers.

Dating back to a time when settlers first moved to the area, this little church was a house of worship to the few that lived here at the time and has stood for over 150 years. St. Marys, a deeply religious community, has lovingly preserved this tiny church so that others can visit and experience its spirituality.

This tiny building echoes with the memories of life gone by. Stand quietly inside and revel in its simplicity while picturing what life must have been like back then.

For more information and directions call the St. Marys Chamber of Commerce, 814.781.3804

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## Start a Family Tradition

The holiday season in Pennsylvania is a season of lights and fabulous decorations. Make plans to tour all of the wonderful small towns in the area and search for the most spectacular displays you can find anywhere.

Start your adventure in Downtown DuBois. Take a walk down Main street and enjoy the unique window displays and festive lighting. Then hop in your car and start driving. Our neighborhoods light up with brilliant holiday displays! When ready, move on in any direction. There are many quaint small towns in the area and all have something wonderful to see.

When you are finished, visit a local restaurant, order a cup of hot chocolate, then sit and reminisce about all you've just seen. There is no better way to enjoy the holiday season and the winter wonderland of Pennsylvania! You will have so much fun you will want to do it year after year.

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## What the heck is a "Yurt"?

Try something different the next time you go camping!  
Spend some time in a yurt.

A yurt is a circular domed structure styled after a tent and Clear Creek State Park has two available to rent from April through December. They have electric heat and sleep up to four people, which makes them perfect for a group of friends or a family.

**Clear Creek State Park** is located in Jefferson County and has everything the outdoor lover needs to enjoy the Pennsylvania Wilds. Canoeing, camping, hunting, swimming, picnicking and fishing are just some of the activities you will enjoy on your visit there. There is also a slope of almost two acres for sledding and tobogganing and cross country ski trails making it the perfect winter getaway!

Cabins and yurts can be reserved up to 11 months in advance so plan a "creative" outdoor experience and try something new!

To make a reservation call: **888.PA-PARKS.**  
Mon.-Sat. 7a.m.-5p.m.

## Leave a Little Something Behind

The next time you go on vacation, take time to visit a local charitable organization and make a donation.

Many small towns have very worthwhile community programs. These “unsung heroes” often struggle for funds and appreciate every donation they receive, big or small.

So, the next time you are visiting, stop by the local animal shelter, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA or food bank, and leave a little something behind. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated and you’ll leave feeling like a million bucks!

## A-maze-ing Fun for the Whole Family!

Fall fanatics can’t wait for harvest season to visit one of these challenging landscape puzzles.

A corn maze is a puzzle maze created by knocking down the stalks in a corn field. The fun begins when you try to get from one end to the other. Just when you think you have it figured out, a dead-end stops you in your tracks.

One of the best in the area is located at **Cooper’s Farm Market** on Cemetery Road in Falls Creek. Visit during their annual **Pumpkin Fest** and take a surrey or hay wagon ride as well. For more information call: 814.375.7050.

For a list of other corn maze locations  
log on to: [www.cornmazedir.com](http://www.cornmazedir.com)

## Something old is new again

Antique shopping is a favorite past-time of many vacationers and The Pennsylvania Wilds region is loaded with antique shops!

Stop in the next shop you see and pick up a piece of the past. Many of the treasures located within are inexpensive and will make a great addition to your collection. Decorate indoors or out using something from the past.

For a list of antique shops located throughout Pennsylvania log on to:  
[www.antique-central.com/pennsylvania.html](http://www.antique-central.com/pennsylvania.html)  
There are some great links on this web site to help you find a location where you will be visiting.

## Tour Our Covered Bridges

People that love the rich history and amazing architecture of covered bridges will not be disappointed when visiting the Pennsylvania Wilds region. We have many, many of these hidden treasures located throughout the area.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Hollywood and the movie industry for sparking a renewed interest in covered bridges. The movie, “The Bridges of Madison County” is a love story whose premise is based around a National Geographic photographer that goes to Madison County to photograph the covered bridges located there. This blockbuster hit reminded everyone what a jewel these bridges are and helped initiate restoration projects. Now, these bridges have become a must-see for people visiting near them and hopefully, will be available for future generations also.

For a comprehensive listing of covered bridges in PA log on to: [www.daletravis.com/cblast/cbpa.html](http://www.daletravis.com/cblast/cbpa.html). Some bridges can be hard to find and this site gives GPS locations as well as addresses to make it much easier. You can start your search in Jefferson County. **There are five bridges listed in the area—so grab your camera and get started!**

## Little League Players Shine Here!

Williamsport, Pennsylvania is the home of the **Little League World Series**. Known world-wide, this region draws thousands of visitors from around the globe.

For over sixty years, the best little league baseball players in the country have arrived here to showcase their talents. 11, 12, and 13 year old players take the field in the highly competitive tournament which is also broadcast on ESPN. Best of all, admission is free!

Take your own little league player to experience the thrill of competition and witness teams from other countries playing a game that is fun and familiar to every generation. The tournament receives approximately 45,000 visitors so plan your trip in advance.

The tournament is held annually at the end of August. For more information log on to:  
**[www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org)**

## Step out of the Pennsylvania Wilds

An absolute must for anyone visiting the state of Pennsylvania is a trip to the **Gettysburg National Military Park** in Gettysburg. The battlefields and monuments that stand in testament to this decisive time in the history of the United States is a memory that will last forever.

Visit [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) for more information.

**Presque Isle State Park** in Erie is a beautiful, scenic location that offers a wealth of outdoor activities for you to enjoy. Located on the shores of Lake Erie, this is a trip you will not be sorry you made.

Log on to: [www.presqueisle.org](http://www.presqueisle.org) or [www.visiteriepa.com](http://www.visiteriepa.com) for a comprehensive list of things for you do.

## Make a gift basket

Think of the holidays while you are on vacation! What a great time to start collecting items to create a unique gift basket to give!

Start by collecting small items like homemade jams or jellies picked up at a local farm market. Know a friend that loves antiques? Flea Markets, craft fairs or antique shops are a great place to find something they will love. Or pick a theme. Apple butter from a fall festival can be paired with other items to create a breakfast basket. Salt water taffy from a county fair would be a great addition to a candy lover's basket.

Use a little imagination and create a gift like no other.  
You will not only have fun doing it,  
you will get a big jump on your holiday shopping as well!

## Take a Hike

If you love hiking but want the security of knowing someone with experience is along with you, then check out the Keystone Trails Association.

This group coordinates walking and hiking groups throughout the area. Go to their web site: [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) and click on the **Hikes All Around Pennsylvania** link. Then click on the Pennsylvania Wilds section of the map. You can find a scheduled hike almost any day of the week as well as information about who to contact to participate.

It is a great way to get out and see the Pennsylvania Wilds, but with an experienced guide at your side.

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## Experience Life on a Ranch

**The Flying W Ranch** in Kellettsville Pennsylvania is a 600 acre ranch located along the Allegheny National Forest.

Vacationers can spend as little as a day or as long as a week. The **Cowboy Weekend** package offers a two night stay and 6 hours of horseback riding. Pack trips offer the chance to spend one night at the ranch and one night on the trail. Set up camp, cook outdoors and live like the cowboys do!

The Flying W Ranch is also host to **Championship Rodeos** and **Chute-Out Bull and Barrel riding**. Experience the thrills of a real live rodeo!

Call 814.463.7663 to make reservations or log on to:  
[www.theflyingwranch.com](http://www.theflyingwranch.com)

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## Let the Full Moon Light Your Way

There is nothing more breathtaking than an outdoor excursion under the light of a full moon. Whether it is a late-night walk with your sweetheart, a cross-country ski trip in a state park or a harvest hayride, you will love the feeling of being outdoors under the soft glow of the moon.

The countryside takes on a whole new dimension when cast under this luminous light. Nighttime shadows outline every object creating a black and white wonderland of movement. The sky looks bigger somehow and you will not be able to stop yourself from gazing upwards in awe.

Plan your visit to the Pennsylvania Wilds when a full moon is looming. Then be sure to get outdoors and experience the feeling for yourself.

To find out when the next full moon is due, log on to  
[www.lunarrepublic.com](http://www.lunarrepublic.com).  
There is a monthly schedule posted years in advance to help you plan the perfect moonlight adventure!

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## Attend a workshop at Quiet Creek Herb Farm

**Quiet Creek Herb Farm and School of Country Living** is a wonderful place to visit to de-stress and unwind. The beautiful country background and peaceful atmosphere are sure to calm and inspire everyone who visits there.

Explore the many gardens there, then visit the gift shop that features signature herbal teas, vinegars, wreaths, soaps, salves, bird houses and books. There are also numerous workshops and classes scheduled throughout the year. If you prefer a more in-depth experience, attend a retreat. Learn about the many benefits of an all natural life style.

The farm is located in Brookville on Route 36.  
Call: 814.841.9662 or log on to:  
[www.quietcreekherbfarm.com](http://www.quietcreekherbfarm.com)

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## Drop into the Chute or Ride the Rail

Snowboarders take heart! The Pennsylvania Ski Areas Association lists twenty-three great places to ski and snowboard in Pennsylvania!

Whether you are a “newbie” just learning the sport or a “ski bum” that lives to ski, you can find a great location to spend some time on the slopes.

For a list of locations, log on to  
[www.snowmonsters.com](http://www.snowmonsters.com)

There is a link provided for each location so you can decide where to go first!

## Take a ride on the Polar Express

Here is a memory you can give your kids that will last a lifetime! The Lycoming Valley Railroad hosts an annual **Polar Express Excursion** every December. Take the whole family on this exciting train ride to meet Santa.

The train is decorated with holiday lights outside. Inside, listen to the story of the Polar Express and traditional holiday music as your young ones anxiously await a visit from Santa!

For more information log on to:  
[www.vacationpa.com/polarexpress.aspx](http://www.vacationpa.com/polarexpress.aspx)  
 or call 800.358.9900.

It is one of many exciting and fun things you will find to entertain your family during the holidays in Lycoming County and The Pennsylvania Wilds!

## Visit the Birthplace of an American Icon

Bradford, Pennsylvania is the home of the **Zippo Manufacturing Company**, birthplace of the world renown Zippo Lighter. In production for 75 years, these little gems hold a special place in the heart of many Americans, especially World War II veterans, who came to rely on them while serving our country.

**The Zippo/Case Visitors Center** has quickly become one of the most visited museums in the area. This unique building with its 40 ft. Zippo lighter on top is just one of the fascinating features you will see there. The 15,000 ft. facility has a large collection of rare Zippo lighters and Case knives, a 7ft x 11 ft American flag made entirely of Zippo lighters and much, much more! There is also a gift shop so you can take a piece of Americana home with you.

The Zippo/Case Visitor Center is located at 1932 Zippo Drive, just off of Route 219 in Bradford.

For more information log on to:  
[www.zippo.com](http://www.zippo.com)

## Create Your Own Dried Flower Arrangement

Take a part of The Pennsylvania Wilds home with you! If you love dried flowers or would like to preserve a variety of leaves for your next craft project, here is a quick, easy way!

**Dried Flowers** – Pick flowers when they are dry, not dew covered or wet from rain. Separate into individual blooms. Check for & remove any insects hiding in petals. Dry flowers singly or in pairs (more than this and they can burn). Place 4 to 5 cups of dustless kitty litter in a deep sided bowl. Scoop out a hollow and place flower gently in space. Spoon litter over top, completely covering flower. Microwave on high 2 minutes. Some ovens may require more time, experiment first. Litter should be hot to the touch when finished. Let litter cool completely before removing. Carefully blow or brush any dust off. Spray blossoms with unscented hairspray to preserve.

**Pressed Leaves** - Start with a microwave-safe plate. Cover with a doubled paper towel. Lay your leaves or ferns flat on towel. Place another doubled paper towel on top and cover with another microwave-safe plate. Put this stack in microwave and heat on high approximately 40 seconds. Check to see if leaves feel dry, but not crisp. If not, repeat for another 10 seconds. Let rest for a few hours before handling. Keep in mind: the more delicate the leaves, the less time it will take so don't be afraid to experiment.!

## Come Celebrate the Fourth of July

Don't let the size of the many small towns in the Pennsylvania Wilds deter you from planning your Fourth of July Celebration here. There are many spectacular firework shows around the area that rival the large cities.

**Brockway's Old Fashioned Fourth of July** is a community-wide celebration replete with sports tournaments, live music, arts and crafts, horse drawn carriage rides and more. Their fireworks display is touted as one of the most impressive in the area.

The St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce holds their **Annual Fourth of July Fireworks Display** at the St. Marys Country Club. The Grand Finale at this show can be heard for miles around. Every year the Chamber vows to make next year's even better and they haven't let anyone down yet!

To locate date and times for these shows or any others being held in the area Google the town you will be visiting and do a search for the local Chamber of Commerce. You can find all you will need to know on their web sites. [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).

## We Bloom in June

Visit the Pennsylvania Wilds in mid-June and watch the scenery blossom when our state flower opens wide!

The Mountain Laurel displays its beautiful pink flowers on bushes that reach up to 8 ft. tall. They are similar to Rhododendrons and Azaleas and grow wild throughout the area. You can search for these beauties in our forests and mountains or visit the Western Pennsylvania Laurel Festival in Brookville to spot them at the laurel fields.

**The Laurel Festival** is a weeklong event that just celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007. There is a huge parade, amusement rides, historical exhibits and art shows to keep you entertained. Also, be sure to check out the **Native American Lifeways** exhibit at the Jefferson County History Center while you are in the area. This archaeological-based exhibit features artifacts from prehistoric and early cultures from 10,000 BC to 1750 AD.

**For festival information: [www.jeffersoncountypa.com](http://www.jeffersoncountypa.com)  
For museum hours call 814.849.0077.**

## Plan Your Next Reunion in The Wilds!

Whether it's a family reunion, class reunion or just a group of friends getting together, there is no place better to meet than The Pennsylvania Wilds!

Many of our state parks have all you need to host a great big outdoor party. Pavilions, barbeque grills, and fireplaces provide the basics. Then add swimming, softball, volleyball, horseshoes, fishing and boating to provide your guests with a memorable day! Get creative and add some competition to spice things up! Sack races, pie-eating contests (Cool Whip and some pudding are all you need), or even a friendly game of dodge ball are tons of fun and the winners have bragging rights.....until next year!

**Twin Lakes Recreation Area** just southeast of Kane is a beautiful area to host an event. The sandy beach is a great place to relax in the sun and there are even group camp sites that allow up to 50 people so you can make it an overnight event.

Log on to: [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/) for information on Twin Lakes or other state parks in the area.

## If You like Your View from Above.....

Then you must go to Warren County and visit two scenic overlooks that will take your breath away!

**Jakes Rocks**, with its large rock formations, sits atop a steep high cliff that overlooks the beautiful Allegheny Reservoir.

Wooden steps and staircases lead you to **Rimrock Overlook** and a view of the Kinzua Dam. The adventurous type can take the stairwell constructed through the rock face to travel below for further exploration.

Both locations are also a great place to view Pennsylvania's fall foliage. For more information log on to Warren County's Visitor Bureau web site at: [www.wcvb.net](http://www.wcvb.net).

## The Best Wings in town....

If you love Buffalo Wings then you are in for a real treat! The St. Marys Chamber of Commerce is host to the **Annual Wing Fling** in downtown St. Marys. This has quickly become a must-attend event for everyone that loves chicken wings.

Every year local restaurants compete for the title of "Best Wings In Town". Participants can purchase a ticket, and then taste a sample from each of the entrants.

Or, join in the wing-eating contest and take home a prize of your own! Colorful t-shirts, the best wings in town and a party atmosphere await so don't miss out on next year's fun.

For more information log on to:  
[www.stmaryschamber.org](http://www.stmaryschamber.org)

## Fire, Flood, Explosions, Death! Explore the Rich History of Oil in PA

Oil City and the Drake Well Museum in Titusville are considered the birthplace of oil exploration in Pennsylvania. The year 1859 sparked an oil rush similar to the California Gold Rush and lasted for decades.

A renewed interest in oil extraction and the process have revived this historic site which was recently featured on CNN. Visitors can spend a full day there visiting the Drake Well Museum; home to a replica of the first oil well, as well as hundreds of photos depicting its storied past.

Or visit Oil Creek State Park to explore the scattered ruins of old refineries, wells and homesteads.

The museum is open May through October.  
Oil Creek State Park is available to visitors year round.

For more information call the Museum at 814.827.2797  
or visit the web site: [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us).  
PA Keyword: state parks.

## One of the Questions Most Visitors ask is Easily Answered!

"Where can we eat?" can be a difficult question to answer if you are not familiar with the area you are visiting. Don't wait until you are tired and hungry to ask! A little early planning can help you find a great location and save a lot of time.

Log on to: [www.restaurantlistings.com](http://www.restaurantlistings.com) to search for a list of restaurants by either city, state or zip code.

A quick search of the DuBois area turned up 52 establishments; directions and menus included!

You can also log on to:  
[www.sunny1065.fm](http://www.sunny1065.fm)  
And click on their Dining Guide.

## Elusive by Nature, the Whitetail Deer Stands Here Waiting for You!

Spend some time in the great outdoors of Pennsylvania and you will soon realize how difficult it is to catch a glimpse of our state animal, the whitetail deer. Shy by nature and easily spooked, most people only witness the flickering white tail as it runs away.

Travel just 3 miles south of Cook Forest State Park however, and you can see one up close and personal. The Double Diamond Deer Ranch and Rusty Snyder, a.k.a. "The Deer Lady", welcome thousands of visitors a year. Visitors come from all over to pet and feed the animals, as they have been raised to be people-friendly. A few lucky youngsters may even get to help bottle feed a baby fawn.

During your visit make sure to stop by the Natural History Museum which houses over 100 mounted animals that are native to the Pennsylvania Wilds!

Summer hours are 10 a.m. to dusk.  
For more information call: 814.752.6334 or log on to  
[www.doublediamondranch.com](http://www.doublediamondranch.com).

## BWP BATS

Harder and More Durable-BWP EXCLUSIVE Red Oak

Made in America—something we don't see too often anymore. Look no further-BWP Bats are made right here off Interstate 80, Exit 86. This is a truly unique wooden bat manufacturer. Their location, state of the art manufacturing processes, and strict attention to detail enables them to provide the highest quality of bats available to the marketplace.

BWP Bats, LLC is located in the heartland of Pennsylvania, which is known as the hardwood capital of the world. Only the finest hardwood trees are processed into bats. Billets that do not meet these criteria are manufactured into other commercial products, such as furniture, flooring and other interior products. As you will see, only the highest quality wood ends up in the customers' hands at the plate. No third grade wood is sold to their customers.

**Free factory tours 6:00am through 4:00pm. Factory Outlet  
Exit 86 on I-80 Pennsylvania [www.bwpbats.com](http://www.bwpbats.com)**

## The Carriage House & all its Creations

Before returning to your home, take a few minutes and drive to a small community in Jefferson County for some "Specialties of the House."

At Carriage House Creations, they pride themselves in providing you with a line of award-winning gourmet jams, jellies, sauces and salsas, wines from Laurel Mountain Vineyard, and gift baskets that are ideal for gift-giving or treating oneself.

When driving through Reynoldsville, Carriage House Creations is located on Main Street (Route 322) beside St. Mary's Church parking lot—look for the white picket fence. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. From Thanksgiving to Christmas, it is open 7 days per week, 10:00am to 5:00pm. The website is always open!

www.carriagehousecreations.com  
814.653.8707  
Carriage House Creations  
545 E. Main Street  
Reynoldsville, PA 15851

## Tour Pennsylvania's farms, factories and more....!

If you and your family love learning, then you must visit some of the locations listed on this web site! Marketplace for the Mind is an excellent web site that lists many locations where you can experience hands-on learning. There are links provided that will take you to farm and factory tours, gardens and arboretums, labs, museum tours, seasonal activities and much more.

Log on to: [www.marketplaceforthemind.state.pa.us](http://www.marketplaceforthemind.state.pa.us).  
Click on the "learn more about this site" link at the end of the first paragraph. This will take you to another page.  
At the top of this page you will see an "Education" link.  
Click and go to hands-on learning on the left.

Choose from factories, candy makers, breweries and even traveling exhibits. What fun you will have learning, "So *that's* how they do that!"

## It's Christmas, No Matter What Month

A lot of areas have small shops dedicated to the holiday season. Brockway, PA has the 'best of the best!'

Fay's Christmas Village is not just for Christmas anymore. There are many all-occasion gifts, silks, candles, throws, Christopher Radko, baskets, wind chimes, cards and more.

You can find numerous varieties of decorations and gift items for all seasons of the year. For all of us who are our own designers and coordinators, see what is new and just perfect for your home or special events.

**Faye's Christmas Village**  
DuBois-Brockway Road (Route 219)  
6 miles North of I-80, Exit 97  
814.265.0211  
We accept Visa Master/Card/Discover

## Hit the Geo-Trail... The Allegheny Geo-Trail that is!

Geo-cachers and coin collectors alike will love this challenge. Ten counties throughout Northwestern and Northcentral Pennsylvania have placed between 10 and 20 caches in their area. Find 6 or more caches in each county and you will receive a special Geo-Coin! Find the required number in all 10 counties and earn a special Geo-Coin that represents the entire trail.

To begin, participants need to obtain a special "passport." Each cache located will hold a unique rubber stamp inside. Use this stamp to mark your passport and then move on to the next location. Collect the required stamps to receive your Geo-Coin. That's it! The Geo-Coins are of outstanding quality with beautiful artwork designed to represent the county from which it was obtained.

To begin your hunt log on to: [www.alleghenygeotrail.com](http://www.alleghenygeotrail.com)  
All the information you will need to get started can be found there. Participating counties include: Cameron, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Potter, Venango, and Warren.

## PA WILDS Tourist Promotion Agencies

**Cameron, Clarion, Elk, Forest & Jefferson Counties**  
Northwest Pennsylvania's Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau  
800.348.9393  
[www.pagreatoutdoors.com](http://www.pagreatoutdoors.com)

**Clearfield County**  
Clearfield County Recreation and Tourism Authority  
866.469.4537  
[www.visitclearfieldcounty.org](http://www.visitclearfieldcounty.org)

**Clinton County**  
Clinton County Economic Partnership  
888.388.6991  
[www.clintoncountyinfo.com](http://www.clintoncountyinfo.com)

**Lycoming County**  
Lycoming County Visitors Bureau  
800.358.9900  
[www.vacationpa.com](http://www.vacationpa.com)

## PA WILDS Tourist Promotion Agencies

**McKean County**  
Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau  
800.473.9370  
[www.visitANF.com](http://www.visitANF.com)

**Potter County**  
Potter County Visitors Association  
888.768.8372  
[www.visitpottercounty.com](http://www.visitpottercounty.com)

**Tioga County**  
Tioga County Visitors Bureau  
888.846.4228  
[www.visittiogapa.com](http://www.visittiogapa.com)

**Warren County**  
Warren County Visitors Bureau  
800.624.7802  
[www.wcvb.net](http://www.wcvb.net)

## PA WILDS - Chambers of Commerce

**Cameron County**  
**Cameron County Chamber**  
814.486.4314  
[www.cameroncountychamber.com](http://www.cameroncountychamber.com)

**Clarion County**  
**Clarion Area Chamber**  
814.226.9161  
[www.clarionpa.com](http://www.clarionpa.com)

**Clearfield County**  
**Clearfield Area Chamber**  
814.765.7567  
[www.clearfieldchamber.com](http://www.clearfieldchamber.com)

**Clearfield County**  
**Greater DuBois Area Chamber**  
814.371.5010  
[www.duboispatchamber.com](http://www.duboispatchamber.com)

**Clinton County**  
**Clinton County Econ. Part.**  
570.748.5782  
[www.clintoncountyinfo.com](http://www.clintoncountyinfo.com)

**Elk County**  
**Ridgway Area Chamber**  
814.772.9150  
[www.ridgwaychamber.com](http://www.ridgwaychamber.com)

**Elk County**  
**St. Marys Area Chamber**  
814.781.3804  
[www.stmaryschamber.org](http://www.stmaryschamber.org)

**Forest County**  
**Marienville Chamber**  
[info@visitmarienville.com](mailto:info@visitmarienville.com)  
[www.visitmarienville.com](http://www.visitmarienville.com)

**Jefferson County**  
**Brookville Area Chamber**  
814.849.8448  
[www.brookvillechamber.com](http://www.brookvillechamber.com)

**Jefferson County**  
**Punxsutawney Chamber**  
814.938.7700  
[www.punxsutawney.com](http://www.punxsutawney.com)

## PA WILDS - Chambers of Commerce

**Lycoming County**  
**Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber**  
570.326.1971  
[www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org)

**McKean County**  
**Bradford Area Chamber**  
814.368.7115  
[www.bradfordchamber.com](http://www.bradfordchamber.com)

**McKean County**  
**Kane Chamber**  
814.837.6565  
[www.kanepa.com](http://www.kanepa.com)

**McKean County**  
**Smethport Chamber**  
814.887.4134  
[www.smethportchamber.com](http://www.smethportchamber.com)

**Potter County**  
**Coudersport Area Chamber**  
814.274.8165  
[www.coudersport.org](http://www.coudersport.org)

**Potter County**  
**Galeton Area Chamber**  
814.435.8737  
[www.galetonmonitor.com](http://www.galetonmonitor.com)

**Tioga County**  
**Mansfield Chamber**  
570.662.3442  
[www.mansfield.org](http://www.mansfield.org)

**Tioga County**  
**Wellsboro Chamber**  
570.724.1926  
[www.wellsboropa.com](http://www.wellsboropa.com)

**Tioga County**  
**Westfield Area Chamber**  
814.367.2617  
[www.westfieldpa.org](http://www.westfieldpa.org)

**Warren County**  
**Warren County Chamber**  
814.723.3050  
[www.wccbi.org](http://www.wccbi.org)

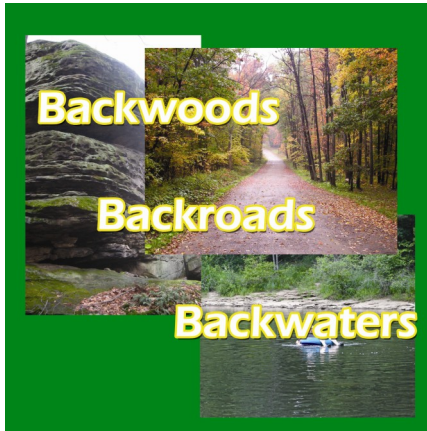
## **Lost or Stolen Wallet!!! Now what do you do?**

It happens to almost everyone at some point in their life. You go to reach for your wallet or purse and suddenly realize you don't know where it is. The inevitable sinking feeling hits your stomach; then a moment of panic while you frantically search. Finally, that awful realization that it's gone. If you happen to be on vacation at the time, it is even worse. But don't panic, we're here to help!

A bit of advanced planning and these tips can help you stay calm if it happens to you:

1. Back track to all the places you've been to attempt to locate it. If you don't have any luck, it never hurts to post signs where you've visited and offer a reward.
2. File a police report. Whether lost or intentionally stolen; the police are often the first place it will be turned in
3. Call your credit card company. It is a good idea to keep a list of names and emergency contact numbers with your luggage for easy access.
4. Dial the credit reporting agencies. These are the places that keep track of your credit score. But they also share lost/stole information with each other. (Equifax is an example)
5. Contact your bank. Especially if you carry a debit card. These cards can be used at a host of locations without prior authorization. Your bank account can be wiped clean very quickly!
6. Notify the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.
7. Never carry your social security card in your wallet. But if you do; make sure you report it stolen. Identity theft is a major crime that is very difficult to stop once it has started and your social security number is like a key to that very private lock.

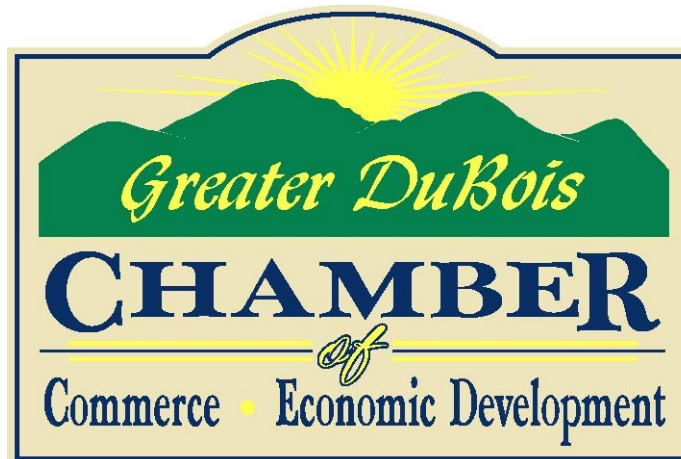
## **NOTES**



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