

Places to Explore in the Pocono Mountain Region of Northeastern Pennsylvania

The Pocono Mountain region in northeastern Pennsylvania is widely known as a four-season recreational resort area. Over 2,400 square miles of wooded peaks and valleys, numerous sparkling lakes and ponds, and clear, rushing rivers are spread across four counties. The Poconos have been designated as one of the 40 “Last Great Places” in the world by the Nature Conservancy because of the range of unusual ecosystems.

The Pocono region contains 9 state parks, 16 game lands, 150 lakes, 13 waterfalls, 170 river miles, and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. This abundance of forests, wetlands, and other natural areas is home to many rare species of plants and animals. There is blossoming mountain laurel in the spring and brilliant foliage in the fall.

Comprehensive free travel guides can be obtained from the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau (call 800-762-6667 or browse <http://www.800poconos.com>). Also visit <http://www.poconovacations.com> and <http://www.thepoconos.com>.

West of hotel

White Haven

- C & B Trains and Museum, over 280 sq. ft. “O” Scale interactive, operating train display (570-443-8940)

Lehigh Gorge State Park (northern trail head near White Haven; southern, near Jim Thorpe)

- 26 mile rail-to-trail through steep-walled canyon along Lehigh River (with Class II-III whitewater in spring)

Eckley Miners’ Village

- 19th century coal mining town preserves buildings and lifestyle of anthracite miner community (570-636-2070)

South of hotel

Hickory Run State Park *

- over 40 miles of trails, 3 state park natural areas, and 25-foot Hawk Falls
- Boulder Field, a 400-by-1800-foot “lake of rocks” National Natural Landmark formed during the Ice Age

“Exploring Audubon’s Lehigh” auto tour * (purchase cassette tape, guide book, and map in White Haven)

- retraces naturalist John James Audubon’s 1829 journey into Lehigh River Valley forests by audio cassette tape

Jim Thorpe *

- quaint Victorian town with antique galleries and eclectic shops along winding streets in rugged mountain setting
- historic Asa Packer Mansion, Mauch Chunk Museum, and architecturally distinctive railroad station museum

East of hotel

Francis E. Walter Dam and National Recreation Area

- day-use facilities at U. S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control project on Lehigh River

North of hotel

Wilkes-Barre

- Sordoni Art Gallery, Nathan Denison House at Forty Fort, Wyoming Historical & Geological Society museum

Scranton

- Anthracite Museum Complex, Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, Everhart Museum
- Steamtown National Historical Site, Lackawanna Trolley Museum, Houdini Tour and Magic Show

* *Highly recommended*