

Delaware Water Gap

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Recreation Area
New Jersey / Pennsylvania

About two hours from both New York City and Philadelphia is a 40-mile river valley. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area encompasses nearly 70,000 acres along the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. At the southern end of this park the river cuts an S-shaped pass through the mountains, forming the Delaware Water Gap.

Millions of years of uplift, erosion, and glacial activity gave us the Water Gap, lakes, streams that flow through hemlock- and rhododendron-faced ravines, and waterfalls that pour off the Pocono Plateau. The crisp, cool air around the waterfalls is refreshing, especially in summer.

In the 1800s resorts flourished throughout the region where city dwellers arrived by carriage or rail, often spending the entire summer away from the urban heat. The Water Gap became a scenic wonder for fashionable travelers and working-class families alike.

Today the river and its valley remain a major vacation haven. Although transportation and the lengths of stay may have changed, many who remember family trips, summer camp, or their honeymoon return to reminisce at a favorite site within the park. In 1965 Congress established Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to preserve this natural and historic area. Enjoy this rural vacationland.

Delaware River and Arrow Island from Mt. Tammany (left). Red-tailed hawk (above). Spangled fritillary butterfly (right).

LEFT, ABOVE, RIGHT—©DAN MOHR

EXPLORE AND LEARN

Are you curious about nature? Would you like to see artisans at work or visit historic sites? This park is a great place to explore and learn new things. Ask at visitor centers about ranger-led activities and junior ranger programs.

Best Views of the Gap For a strenuous trip with great views, hike to the top of Mt. Minsi in Pennsylvania or Mt. Tammany in New Jersey. If you like easier walks, find short

trails and overlooks at Kittatinny Point, New Jersey, and along PA 611 in Pennsylvania.

Waterfalls The park has hundreds of waterfalls, from ripples that splash over rocks to cascades that thunder over cliffs. It is an easy boardwalk stroll from the visitor center to Dingmans Falls. At Raymondskill Falls a trail goes to a striking three-tiered waterfall.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Visitor Centers At Dingmans Falls and Kittatinny Point you'll find information, maps, exhibits, and bookstores. Visitor centers are open daily in summer; closed in winter. Hours vary in spring and fall. Park headquarters has information weekdays year-round except federal holidays. www.nps.gov/dewa

Sightseeing and Touring Over 200 miles of roads traverse forested valleys and rocky ridges. If you like bicycling, try McDade Recreational Trail in Pennsylvania or Old Mine Road in New Jersey. Flower and

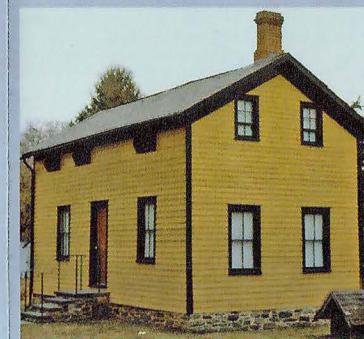
foliage displays are dramatic: wild-flowers in spring, rhododendron in July, and colorful leaves in autumn.

Walking and Hiking The park has over 100 miles of trails, from level boardwalks to challenging 1,000-foot climbs that offer breathtaking views. In Pennsylvania McDade Recreational Trail extends over 30 miles. In New Jersey, the Appalachian Trail follows Kittatinny Mountain for 25 miles. On shorter trails you can walk through hemlock ravines, circle around ponds and lakes, or stroll along old forest roads.



Hiker on Mt. Minsi

©MICHAEL GADOMSKI

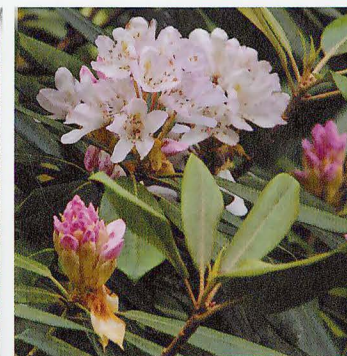


Dingmans Falls

©MARK MUSE

Camping The park has seasonal tent, RV, and group sites. Campsites, first-come, first-served, are available for Appalachian Trail thru-hikers and those on longer river trips. Private and state park campgrounds are nearby.

Swimming The Delaware River is one of the cleanest rivers in the East. Bathhouses, picnic tables, and lifeguarded areas are available for a fee at Smithfield and Milford beaches in Pennsylvania and Turtle Beach in New Jersey.



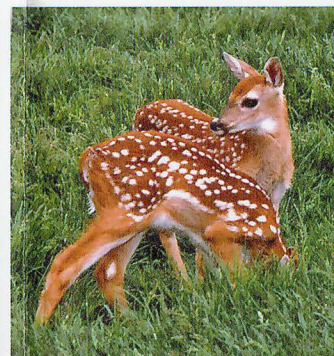
Rhododendron

NPS/DAN MOHR

On the River River maps and details about day and overnight trips are available at visitor centers and park headquarters. Local liveries rent canoes, tubes, and other equipment and provide shuttle services.

Watching Wildlife You may spot or hear one of the animals that live in the park, including bears, deer, turkeys, dragonflies, or owls. Hawks and other raptors fly through on their semiannual migrations. Bald eagles are a common sight in winter.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. Ask a ranger or check the park website.



White-tailed fawns

NPS/CLAY SPENCER

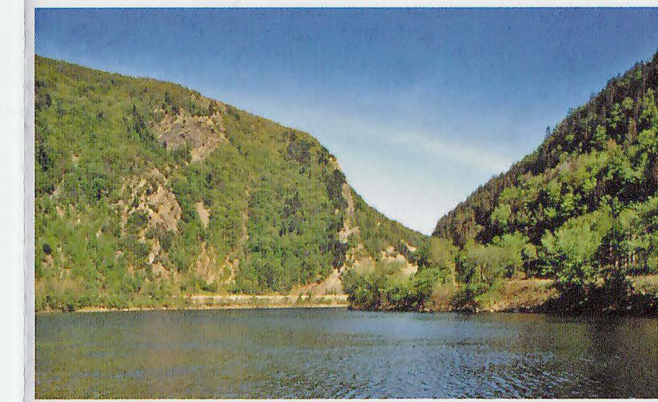


Black bear

NPS/DAN MOHR

Water Works

Over millennia water seeping into crevasses atop the mountain pushed down rocks, sand, and ice, gradually widening the cracks into today's gap.



View of the Gap from the river.

NPS

The Water Gap is famous for its width—about one-half mile across from the summits of Mt. Minsi and Mt. Tammany—and its depth, about 1,200 feet from the summits to the river's surface.

Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) PEEC's campus offers study programs in a residential setting. Public trails lead to waterfalls and through forests. PEEC is ideal for school, scout, and church groups. Weekend workshops welcome families and singles. www.peec.org

Left: Garriss House at Millbrook Village; cleaning rugs the old-fashioned way.

Mohican Outdoor Center The Appalachian Mountain Club offers outdoor skills training and has overnight lodging. www.outdoors.org

Old Mine Road Traveled since the 1700s, this road traverses a rural landscape with historic barns, farmhouses, and villages.

Millbrook Village A mill and town stood here from the 1830s

until the 1900s. Today, on summer weekends, the village has activities and craft demonstrations. www.nps.gov/dewa

Van Campen Inn Visit this home to see fine colonial architecture. Open Sundays in summer, hours vary. Hike the Military Trail, a supply route during the 1754–63 French and Indian War and later the American Revolution. www.nps.gov/dewa

Peters Valley School of Craft Set in a historic village, the craft school offers summer workshops and a year-round public gallery. www.petersvalley.org

Foster-Armstrong House (1790s) and Nelden-Roberts Stonehouse (early 1800s) These houses are open select Sundays in summer. www.montaguehistory.org

SAFETY AND REGULATIONS

Use proper safety precautions at all times.

Remember, your safety is your responsibility.

- Stay on trails and avoid rocks. Wet rocks are slippery; a fall could be fatal. Swimming is prohibited near all waterfalls.
- Rock and ice climbers always need to let a friend know when and where they plan to climb. Never climb alone.
- Bears are dangerous; never try to feed or approach them or other wildlife.
- Be aware of ticks, poisonous snakes, and poisonous plants.
- Pets must be leashed and attended. Pets are not allowed in some areas; know the restrictions.
- Fishing and hunting are allowed; park restrictions and state and federal regulations apply.
- Know firearms and other regulations. Details: www.nps.gov/dewa.
- Do not remove or damage natural or cultural features; all plants, animals, and rocks are protected by federal law.

SAFETY ON THE WATER

Never try to swim across the river. Don't be fooled by the river's calm appearance; people do drown.

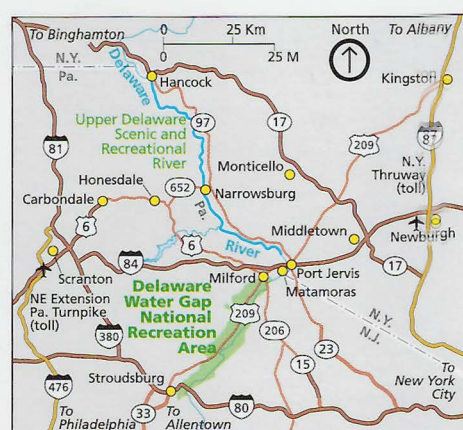
- Always wear a life preserver when on the river.

Children under 13 are required to wear life preservers while in a canoe, kayak, or boat less than 20 feet long. From November 1 to April 30 all boaters must wear life preservers when in canoes, kayaks, and boats less than 16 feet long.

- Don't swim alone. Never mix drinking alcohol with any river activity.
- Avoid the river and creeks during high water.
- Hypothermia, the lowering of body temperature to a dangerous level, can occur whenever water temperature is below 70°F.

Emergencies call 1-800-543-4295 or 911

Delaware Water Gap
National Recreation Area
1978 River Rd.
Bushkill, PA 18324
570-426-2452; www.nps.gov/dewa



Getting Here The national recreation area is easily reached from the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas. For GPS coordinates check the park website. Find food, lodging, and services in nearby towns.

