

Delaware Water Gap

National Recreation Area
New Jersey and Pennsylvania

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Phil Degginger

Have you ever pondered the power of water? Delaware Water Gap is one of the best places to see this force at work. Millions of years ago this area was a level plain; erosion and gradual uplift of the land formed the ridges and valleys we see today. In this respect the process is not unusual. What is distinctive about this gap is the beauty of the landscape. Here the river twists in a tight "S" curve through Kittatinny Ridge. The result is breathtaking, so much so that this area became a resort in the 19th century. Large hotels sprang up and catered to a clientele of business people and their families. People remarked on the quality

of the air and coolness of the breezes, while cities simmered in the summer heat.

Today most of the large hotels are gone, and visitors usually come here for a day or two rather than a month or more. But the air is still invigorating and the views as spectacular as ever. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was established by Congress in 1965 to preserve this relatively unspoiled natural and historic area. The National Park Service is here to help make your time in the park as enjoyable as possible.

Visiting the Park

Begin your visit at one of the park's visitor centers: Kittatinny Point Visitor Center just off I-80 in New Jersey, or at Bushkill Visitor Center on U.S. 209 in Bushkill, Pennsylvania. Park staff is on hand to answer your questions and provide schedules of activities and programs. Both visitor centers are open May through October, while Kittatinny remains open on weekends in winter. User fees are collected at several sites in the park.

Sightseeing More than 200 miles of roads wind through scenic valleys, over ridges, and past historic buildings. Along the way you may see some of the area's wildlife, view waterfalls, stop to picnic, or take a walk along a trail or an old road. Some roads are excellent for bicycling; ask at a park visitor center before starting. The Appalachian Trail, which runs from Maine to Georgia, traverses the park for 25 miles. Around the first of July the rhododendron bloom, making this an especially nice time for a visit. All recreation sites in the park are for day-use only.

Camping Tent and RV sites are available at the concessioner-operated Dingmans Campground. Primitive campsites are available for through-hikers on the Appalachian Trail and canoeists on extended river trips. No campfires are permitted on the Appalachian Trail.

Swimming The Delaware River is one of the cleanest and most scenic rivers in the East.

Bathhouses, picnic areas, and parking are available at Milford Beach and Smithfield Beach.

Boating The 40 miles of the Delaware River attract people who enjoy canoeing, tubing, and rafting. River access points located every eight to 10 miles allow for easy day trips. Boating information, regulations, and detailed river maps produced by the Delaware River Basin Commission are available at the visitor centers. For those on extended overnight trips, camping is allowed at designated sites along the river. More than 20 liveries are licensed to rent equipment and provide transportation between access points; write to the park for a complete list. For boaters the Delaware is an easy river, but do not be misled by its calm appearance; use proper safety precautions at all times. Do not go onto the river during times of high water. Hypothermia, the lowering of body temperature to a dangerous level, can occur whenever water temperature is below 70°F. Always wear a life preserver when boating or canoeing.

Fishing Many small lakes and ponds provide excellent fishing for panfish, bass, and pickerel. Rainbow, brook, or brown trout are found in most streams. The river has American shad, smallmouth bass, walleye, eel, catfish, and muskellunge. A valid license is required from the state in which you are fishing. A license from either Pennsylvania or New Jersey is valid on the river within the park.

Hunting Hunting is permitted in sections of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in accordance with the game regulations of Pennsylvania or New Jersey. Federal hunting regulations also apply. Ask at visitor centers, ranger stations, or headquarters for details.

Winter Do not overlook winter as a time for enjoying a multitude of park activities. From Smithfield Beach, a 3-mile snowmobile trail runs through fields, and a 6-mile loop climbs a forested ridge. Frozen lakes and ponds offer ice fishing and ice skating, weather permitting; neither activity is recommended on the river or on streams. Slateford Farmhouse and Blue Mountain Lakes are favorite locations for cross-country skiing; unplowed roads are ideal for this sport as well. For the experienced, well trained, and well-equipped, ice climbing is another wintertime activity.

Wildlife and Bird Watching This landscape has a rich diversity of animals and birds. White-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, and maybe even a river otter are some of the animals you might see. The park is one of the best places in the East to watch for hawks and other raptors during their semi-annual migrations. This is also one of the few locations in the East where bald eagles spend the winter. Midmorning or late-afternoon during January or February are the best times to spot them.



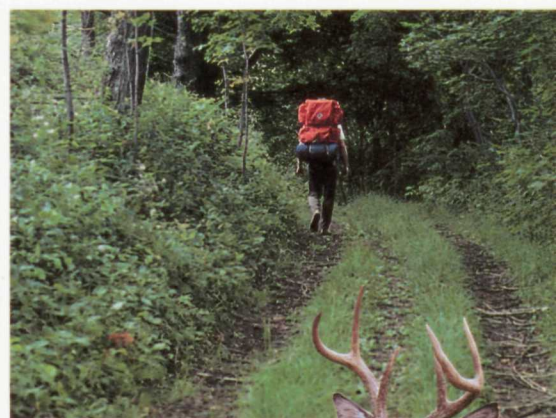
Mushrooms (*Hygrocybe miniata*)

Joe McDonald



Buggy and Blacksmith's shop

Tom Till



Hiker



Canoeing on Delaware River

Jonathan Wallen



Millbrook Church

Tom Till



White-tailed Deer

Joe McDonald



Dingmans Falls

Jeff Gnass



Jewelweed

Mary Ann McDonald



Red-tailed Hawk

Anne Heimann

Things to See and Do

Delaware Water Gap is not just a place for activities—it is also a place for exploring and learning. You can learn about nature in a residential campus, see objects produced by artisans, or visit a recreated 19th-century village. Junior ranger and junior naturalist programs are available at park visitor centers.

Peters Valley Craft Education Center Skilled artists live here working on their specialty. They teach beginning and advanced courses, show techniques, and sell their wares. One-day workshops and short courses are offered in summer. For information write: Peters Valley Craft Education Center, 19 Kuhn Road, Layton, NJ 07851-9702.

Millbrook Village In 1832 Abram Garriss built a mill here, and it became the nucleus of a village. Millbrook flourished during the middle years of the 1800s, but by 1900 the village was

in an irreversible decline. Today Millbrook is the stage for a re-creation of a late-19th century rural community rather than an exact restoration of the original. On the self-guiding walking tour of the village you learn about the buildings and life here more than 100 years ago.

Pocono Environmental Education Center Located in a former Pocono honeymoon resort, the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) offers study programs in a residential environment. PEEC is ideal for youth groups, schools, and churches offering weekend workshops, including family vacation camps. Elder-hostel sessions are held throughout the year. The center has 12 miles of hiking trails through its grounds and has access to 20,000 acres of public lands nearby. For information write: PEEC, R.D. 2, Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328-9614.

Mohican Outdoor Center This facility of the Appalachian Mountain Club offers recreational programs and educational workshops for members and non-members. The camp is located along the Appalachian Trail on the banks of Catfish Pond in New Jersey and serves as a base of operations for trail work projects within the recreation area. For information write: Mohican Outdoor Center, 50 Camp Road, Blairstown, NJ 07825-9655.

More Information Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is a unit of the National Park System, one of more than 370 parks that are important examples of our country's natural and cultural heritage.

Write: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, PA 18324-9999. Call: 570-588-2451. Internet: www.nps.gov/dewa.

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Getting to the Park Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is easily reached from the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas and from the nearby cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Scranton, Pennsylvania. Food, lodging, gasoline, and medical services are available in the towns near the park.

Safety and Laws Please observe these regulations. ● Always wear a life preserver when

boating or canoeing. Pennsylvania law requires children age 12 and under to wear life preservers while in a canoe, kayak, or a boat less than 20-feet long. ● Hunting is permitted in some parts of the park; check the areas and dates of hunting seasons with the park staff. ● Rock and ice climbers should always let a friend know when and where they plan to climb. Never climb alone. ● All use of metal detectors in the park is prohibited.

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| 235 River mileage (Mile zero is at the river's mouth) | Appalachian Trail | Ranger station | Public telephone |
| State Forest | Other hiking trail | Boat launch | Picnic area |
| Unpaved road | Snowmobile route | Canoe launch | Parking and trailhead |
| | | Lifeguarded swim area (summer) | |

