

Delaware Water Gap

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Recreation Area
New Jersey and Pennsylvania



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Delaware Water Gap is one of the best places in America to see the power of water at work. Millions of years ago this area was a level plain. Erosion and gradual uplift of the land formed today's ridges. The process is not unusual, but what distinguishes this gap is the landscape's beauty. The river twists in a tight "S" curve through the ridge at Kittatinny Mountain. The result is so breathtaking that this became a renowned resort area in the 1800s. Large hotels catered to a clientele who enjoyed the quality of the air and coolness of the breezes, while cities simmered in the summer heat.

Some people even arrived by train at Port Jervis, N.Y., and bicycled downhill to the Water Gap.

Most of the large hotels are gone now, and people usually come here for a day or two, not a month or more. But the natural wonders and the views are still spectacular. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, established by Congress in 1965, preserves this unspoiled natural and historic area. The National Park Service will help make your time in the park as enjoyable as possible.

Visiting the Park

Finding Information Park headquarters provides information weekdays year-round; closed federal holidays. • Dingmans Falls Visitor Center is open weekends and selected weekdays from late spring until early fall. The boardwalk trail to the falls is open daily in summer. • Kittatinny Point is open weekends and selected weekdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. • For details visit: www.nps.gov/dewa

Fees There are no entrance fees to the park or its waterfalls. Fees are collected at boat launches and beaches in Pennsylvania and at Watergate Recreation Site in New Jersey.

Sightseeing and Touring Over 200 miles of roads wind through scenic valleys, over ridges, and past historic buildings. Along the way you can view waterfalls, picnic, or walk along a trail or old road. McDade Trail in Pennsylvania and paved roads in New Jersey provide scenic bicycling; bicycling is not permitted on gated roadways or trails. Rhododendron blooms around the first of July. A colorful foliage display accompanies Millbrook Days in early October.

Camping Tent and RV sites are available nearby at private campgrounds. 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, parking, and lifeguarded areas are available at Smithfield and Milford beaches in Pennsylvania.

Boating The 40 miles of the Delaware River within the recreation area attract people who enjoy canoeing, tubing, and rafting. River access points located every eight to 10 miles allow for easy day trips. River maps are available at visitor centers and park headquarters. For those on overnight trips, camping is allowed at designated sites along the river. A dozen canoe liveries are licensed to rent equipment and provide transportation between access points; most also rent kayaks, tubes, and rafts. Do not be misled by the river's calm appearance; use proper safety precautions at all times. Avoid the river in 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.

Hiking The park has nearly 100 miles of hiking trails, ranging from flat boardwalks to challenging 1,000-foot climbs that offer spectacular views of the Water Gap. The Appalachian Trail, which

runs from Maine to Georgia, traverses the park for over 27 miles along Kittatinny Ridge; backpacking is permitted, subject to regulations. Smaller trails lead through hemlock ravines past waterfalls, ponds, lakes, or down abandoned forest roads.

Fishing Many lakes and ponds provide excellent fishing for panfish, bass, and pickerel. Rainbow, brook, or brown trout are in most streams. The river has American shad, smallmouth bass, walleye, eel, catfish, and muskellunge. If you are 16 years or older, a valid license is required from the state in which you are fishing. A fishing license from either New Jersey or Pennsylvania is valid on the river within the park if you are fishing from a boat or either shore.

Hunting Hunting is permitted in some sections of the park in accordance with the game regulations of Pennsylvania or New Jersey. Park hunting regulations apply. Get details at visitor centers, ranger stations, or headquarters.

Wildlife and Birdwatching This landscape has a diversity of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, and river otter. The park is one of the best places in the East to watch for hawks and other raptors during their semi-annual migrations. Bald eagles spend the winter here. Watch for them in mid-morning or late-afternoon during January or February.



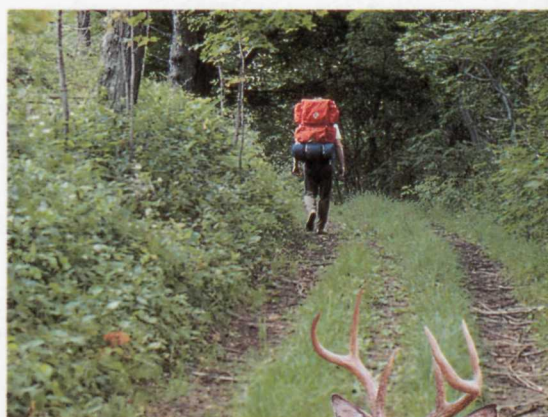
Mushrooms (*Hygrocybe miniata*)

©JOE MCDONALD



Buggy and Blacksmith's Shop

©TOM TILL



Hiker

NPS



Canoeing on Delaware River

©JONATHAN WALLIN



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 river activities but for exploring and learning, too. You can learn about nature in a residential campus, see artisans at work, and visit historic sites. Junior ranger and junior naturalist programs are offered at park visitor centers.

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

Millbrook Village In 1832 Abram Garriss built a mill here that became the nucleus of a village. Millbrook flourished in the mid-1800s but by 1900 it was in decline. Today Millbrook is the

stage for recreating a late-1800s rural community rather than restoring the original. Take the self-guiding village walking tour to learn about the buildings and life here over 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 the park and has access to 20,000 acres of public lands nearby. Contact: PEEC, R.D. 2, Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328-9614.

Mohican Outdoor Center This Appalachian Mountain Club facility offers recreational pro-

grams and educational workshops for members and non-members. Set along the Appalachian Trail on the banks of Catfish Pond in New Jersey, the center is the base of operations for trail work projects in the recreation area. Contact: Mohican Outdoor Center, 50 Camp Road, Blairstown, NJ 07825-9655.

More Information

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
HQ River Rd off Route 209
Bushkill, PA 18324-9999
570-426-2451, www.nps.gov/dewa

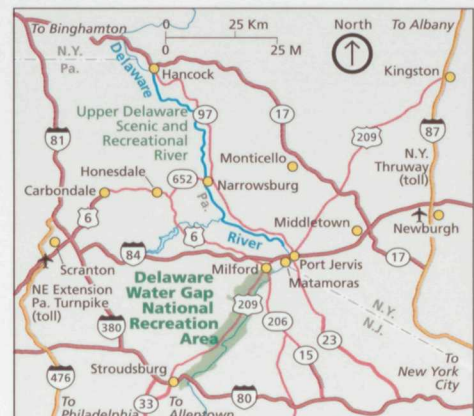
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit www.nps.gov.

Delaware Water Gap

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

Safety and Laws • 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. • Use of metal detectors in the park is prohibited. • Emergencies: call 800-543-HAWK (800-543-4295).



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| 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 | Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail | Canoe launch | Parking and trailhead |
| | | Lifeguarded swim area (summer) | |

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