

Upper Delaware

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Scenic and Recreational River
New York/Pennsylvania



Hawks Nest
Overlook
DAVID B. SOETE

As a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River stretches 73.4 miles along the border between New York and Pennsylvania. The longest and one of the cleanest free-flowing (undammed) rivers in the eastern United States, the Upper Delaware has riffles and Class I and II rapids interspersed with pools and eddies.

While most land along the river is privately owned, you'll find ample opportunities to canoe, kayak, raft, tube, fish, and watch bald eagles. Villages, historic buildings, remnants of a once busy canal, the nation's oldest existing wire cable suspension bridge, and author Zane Grey's home are some of the river valley's sights.

National Park Service rangers provide information and enforce applicable regulations on the river. Local communities provide services. Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is a partnership of individuals; private landowners; and local, state, and federal governments working to protect the river, its environment, and the communities in the valley.

On the River

Boating Whether by canoe, kayak, raft, or tube, the best way to see and get to know the Upper Delaware is to be on the river. The boating season usually runs from April to October. Most of the Upper Delaware River is a Class I stream in terms of difficulty, which means "moving water with a few riffles and small waves; few or no obstructions." One of the more difficult spots along the river is Skinners Falls. You should scout these rapids from shore before attempting passage. The most important thing to remember about boating is *always wear a life jacket*.

If you plan to camp overnight, make reservations at an established campground. Many private liveries along the river have campsites. Liveries rent kayaks, canoes, rafts, and tubes; provide safety instruction, gear, and life jackets; and even shuttle you back to your vehicle. Almost all land along the river is privately owned, and trespass laws are enforced by local authorities. A valid registration is required for all motorized vessels.

Swimming/Wading Most drownings on the Delaware River have been swimming-related. The river has swift currents and sudden drop-

offs. The Delaware's bottom can be rocky or muddy, shallow or deep. Rocks may be slippery. Wear a life jacket and appropriate footwear, like sneakers, while boating, swimming, wading, fishing or floating. There are no lifeguards on the river. Never swim alone.

Fishing The Upper Delaware is popular with both casual and serious anglers. Brown and rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, walleye, and American eels are abundant. The American shad spawn here in late spring. A New York or Pennsylvania fishing license is required. Fishing guides are available for hire in the local area.

Eel Weirs Constructed in late summer, V-shaped stone eel weirs with wooden racks are used to trap migrating American eels. Born in the Atlantic Ocean's Sargasso Sea, eels head for rivers that flow into the ocean. Males remain at the mouth of the river, while females swim upstream to mature. After about seven years the females return to the ocean to spawn and die. During this downstream migration in late summer and fall, the weirs trap the eels, where they remain until removed by the weir's owner.

Bald Eagles Clean water, ample food, and stands of tall trees along the river make the Upper Delaware an ideal habitat for the bald eagle. The Delaware River watershed is home to the largest population of wintering bald eagles in the northeast. A growing year-round population of eagles has made the area an ideal location for eagle watching.

Wildlife The river and its banks are feeding grounds for many animals. Muskrat, mink, raccoon, beaver, and snapping turtle are the most common. A special treat is seeing one of the region's black bears. At dawn and dusk, watch carefully for white-tailed deer crossing the roadways. Be wary of skunks and porcupines—an encounter with either can make you wish you had stayed home.

Many species of snakes are found in the river valley—all but the timber rattlesnake and copperhead are nonvenomous. Enjoy them from a safe distance. Check for ticks, which can transmit Lyme disease. Insect repellent is recommended to ward off mosquitoes, which can be carriers of West Nile Virus.



Skinners Falls

DAVID B. SOETE



Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct

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River Safety Patrol

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Planning Your River Trip

River Safety Always wear a properly fitted, US Coast Guard-approved life jacket while boating, swimming, fishing, wading, or tubing on the river.

A life jacket is useless unless you wear it. By law, all children 12 and under must wear a life jacket while on the river in any vessel, including inner tubes. A life jacket is required for each person in a vessel and must be accessible—not tied to the boat. Life jackets must be worn when the river is over six feet.

Never canoe alone. A minimum of two canoes is recommended. When boating with a group, designate one boat as the lead canoe and another as the sweep or drag canoe. Stay in view, but keep a safe distance between canoes. If you capsize, keep upstream from the craft. A current of 3 mph can hold a swamped canoe against a rock with a force of more than a ton—the same effect as squeezing a canoe or paddler in a vise. If conditions worsen and you must leave your canoe, float with your feet pointed downstream and near the surface to cushion yourself against large rocks and

to prevent a foot or leg from getting caught on submerged branches or between rocks.

Wear protective clothing in cold water to guard against hypothermia. In late spring when the air temperature is warm, the water is still frigid. Loss of body heat is 25 times greater in cold water than in air of the same temperature. Wear a wetsuit or clothing made of wool or polypropylene. If you go on the river, you should know how to swim. • Carry a throw line and first aid kit with you. • Do not drink alcoholic beverages before or during boating. Alcohol consumption and drug abuse have contributed to many drownings. • Tie a plastic bag into the boat, and carry out your trash. • Guard against sunburn with sunscreen and appropriate clothing. • In summer, look out for poison ivy, ticks, and mosquitoes. Always check yourself for deer ticks if you have been in or near grassy areas.

River Conditions Before starting your river trip, call the River Conditions Information Line: 845-252-7100. Updated daily (April–October), this recording details temperatures, river height, and safety information.

Visit the park website for river conditions, recommendations, and more website links.

Outfitters and Guides Many privately owned liveries rent canoes, rafts, kayaks, and tubes. Links to licensed Upper Delaware fishing guides and boat liveries are at www.nps.gov/upde/planyourvisit/things2do.htm.

Campgrounds All campgrounds along the Upper Delaware are privately owned, except for a Pennsylvania State Forest primitive camping area near Stairway Rapids. This site is only accessible by river. Get permits for this area from the National Park Service by calling 570-685-4871.

More Information Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River 274 River Rd. Beach Lake, PA 18405-9737 570-729-7134 www.nps.gov/upde

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about the national parks, visit www.nps.gov.

Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct



John A. Roebling
1806–1869

NPS

Built in 1848, the oldest existing wire cable suspension bridge in the US—the Delaware Aqueduct—was one of the major improvements on the Delaware and Hudson Canal (1828–98). The 108-mile canal transported anthracite (hard coal) mined in northeastern Pennsylvania to markets in

New York and New England. A gravity railroad took the coal over Moosic Mountain from Carbondale to Honesdale, PA. From there, boats carried coal through the canal's 108 locks to Kingston, NY, on the Hudson River.

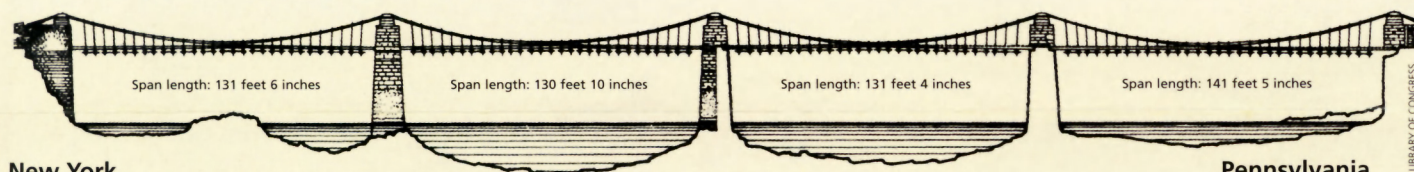
The D&H hired John A. Roebling to build

four suspension aqueducts on the canal. Two of these alleviated a major bottleneck on the Delaware River at Lackawaxen, PA. Transporting boats above the river reduced the time required to cross the Delaware, making the D&H more competitive with its rivals—railroads and other

canals. Competition from railroads closed the D&H in 1898.

The Delaware Aqueduct was used for 70 more years as a private toll bridge. In 1980 it was sold to the National Park Service, which repaired and restored the masonry, reconstructed the roadway

and deck, and replaced the wooden trunk walls and towpaths. The Towpath Trail, on the New York side of the bridge, follows the route of the earlier 1828–48 towpath. Visit this site in Lackawaxen to learn about the canal and John Roebling's aqueduct.



New York

Pennsylvania

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Zane Grey Museum

The one-time home of Zane Grey, novelist of the American West, is located on the banks of the Upper Delaware River in Lackawaxen, PA.

As a young, aspiring writer, Grey left a dental practice in New York City and moved to Lackawaxen in 1905. He married the same year and, encouraged by his wife, devoted all his time to writing. He struggled through lean

years until achieving success and fame with the publication of *Riders of the Purple Sage* in 1912, one of the most widely sold novels about the American West.

In 1914 Grey bought his brother Romer's home in Lackawaxen. Twice in four years he built additions to the house to provide private space away from his family, where he could do his research and writing.

His popularity grew, and his influence expanded into the western movie industry, leading Grey and his family to move to California in 1918. He became the most successful novelist of his time and is considered by some to be the father of the western novel.

Grey enjoyed the outdoors. He was world-renowned for his fishing skills and held several saltwater fishing records.



Born in Zanesville, OH, Grey (1872–1939) began his writing career in Lackawaxen, PA.

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Today, the four-room museum has a collection of Zane Grey memorabilia, like his office where he wrote many novels.

For information about museum hours call 570-685-4871.

Exploring Upper Delaware

Getting to the Park You can reach this unit of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System on highways from the New York City and Philadelphia areas. For specific directions visit the park website.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services and programs accessible to all. For more information, please call 570-685-4871.

Facilities and Accommodations Most towns along the river are small and have limited services. Hancock, Callicoon, Narrowsburg, Barryville, and Port Jervis provide the most services such as gas, food, and lodging. Please visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org/publications for a detailed list of services.



National Park Foundation.
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Last updated 2020

