A magnificent mountainous region, the Laurel Highlands spans 3,000 square miles in southwestern Pennsylvania. Located a short drive east of Pittsburgh, the beautiful year-round destination offers some of the Mid-Atlantic’s most spectacular natural scenery, outstanding outdoor recreation venues, historic sites and attractions, classic family activities, and world-class resorts. Notable destinations within the region include four architectural masterpieces designed by Frank Lloyd Wright – Fallingwater, Kentuck Knob, Mäntylä, and Duncan House – Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Flight 93 National Memorial, Idlewild and SoakZone, and whitewater rafting on the Youghiogheny River in Ohiopyle State Park.

Located within 200 miles of the major metropolitan areas of Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Washington D.C., the Laurel Highlands can be easily accessed from exits 67, 75, 91, and 110 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

FALLINGWATER HONORED WITH UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION

It’s official! The World Heritage Committee has inscribed Frank Lloyd Wright’s masterpiece, Fallingwater, and seven other works by Wright, to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List. Inaugurated in 1973, UNESCO’s site list includes famed locations such as Yellowstone National Park, India’s Taj Mahal, the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, Victoria Falls in southern Africa, Machu Picchu in Peru, and the Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route in Bethlehem, West Bank.

Perhaps Wright’s most widely-acclaimed creation, Fallingwater was designed in 1935 for the Kaufmanns, a prominent Pittsburgh family. Dramatically cantilevered over a waterfall, the house exemplifies Wright’s concept of organic architecture: the harmonious union of art and nature. A National Historic Landmark, Fallingwater is the only major Wright-designed house to open to the public with its furnishings, artwork, and setting intact.

A TOAST TO PENNSYLVANIA’S LAUREL HIGHLANDS

From moonshine, rye whiskey, and IPAs to cider, mead, and fruit wines, get a taste for southwestern Pennsylvania on the new Laurel Highlands Pour Tour! Explore the region’s rolling farmland and towering mountaintops while sampling flavors as the region’s diverse landscape. Every drop and flavor tells the story of the Laurel Highlands – its history, heritage, agricultural diversity, and entrepreneurial spirit.
NEW WHISKEY REBELLION TRAIL WEAVES THROUGH LAUREL HIGHLANDS

In 1794, farmers and distillers from western Pennsylvania rose up to protest the federal government’s whiskey tax in a revolt that is now known as the Whiskey Rebellion. Visit the heart of Whiskey Rebellion territory and raise a glass to those who led the charge.

A must see stop along the trail in the Laurel Highlands is West Overton Village. It was here in 1829 that Abraham Overholt expanded his family distillery, as Old Farm Pure Rye became one of the most successful rye whiskey brands of all time. After a 100-year hiatus, the distilling has returned to this historic site. Get up close and personal with the new “Seed to Sip” experience, where groups can see, taste, touch, and experiment with the mash and distilling processes.

CHECK OUT THESE COOL AND KITSCHY FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Pennsylvania Maple Festival, late March to early April
March is the sweetest month in the Laurel Highlands! Our region takes great pride in the tradition of tapping maple trees and producing maple syrup and other goodies.

Kecksburg UFO Festival, late July
On Dec. 9, 1965, Kecksburg residents reported that a fireball streaked through the sky and then an object showed up in the nearby woods. Was it aliens, a meteor, or something else entirely?

Great American Banana Split Festival, late August
Explore the hometown of Mister Fred Rogers and golf legend Arnold Palmer and the birthplace of the banana split – Latrobe!

Ligonier Highland Games, mid-September
Follow the skirl of bagpipes to beautiful Ligonier for the annual gathering of the Scottish Clans!

Mother Earth News Fair, mid to late September
This fun-filled, family-oriented sustainable lifestyle event features dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops.