



POCONO MOUNTAINSSM

VISITORS BUREAU

2023 INFORMATION & FACTS *Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania*

Public Relations

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High Resolution Photography can be found through the [Pocono Mountains Media Gallery](#)
@PoconoTourism or #PoconoMtns on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and Pinterest
PoconoMountains.com

LOCATION

The Pocono Mountains: 2,400 square miles of mountains, lakes, rivers, waterfalls and woodlands in the northeastern corner of Pennsylvania, encompassing Wayne, Pike, Monroe and Carbon counties.

TOWNS

County seats of the respective counties are Honesdale, Milford, Stroudsburg and Jim Thorpe. These, along with many other Pocono towns, offer quaint, historic atmospheres, unique shops and restaurants, authentic historic sites, public parks, art galleries, friendly faces and more.

THE ORIGIN OF "POCONO"

Pocono is a Native American word meaning, "stream between two mountains." The Delaware Water Gap is the true namesake for the area where the Delaware River cut a gap between two mountains and formed what is now known as the "Gateway to the Pocono Mountains."

POCONO PROMISE

In 2020, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau developed the [Pocono Promise](#), a voluntary pledge for businesses and organizations to meet or exceed CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines and protocols to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. The Promise has been adopted by several hundred businesses of all backgrounds in order to make the health of the public, guests and employees a top priority. A new, updated Pocono Promise is under development.



POCONO TELEVISION NETWORK

If it's happening in the Pocono Mountains, it's on Pocono Television Network! PTN is a 24/7 television network featuring segments including Pocono Perspectives, Pocono Mountains Magazine, live webcams, weather forecasts every half hour and so much more! Pocono Television Network has new, fresh content all the time and can be found at PoconoTelevision.com as well as Blue Ridge Cable Ch. 734 and WDPN 2.8 broadcast in Philadelphia in addition to other cable systems, Roku & Fire TV.



STATISTICS

- **Number of visitors per year:** 27.9 million person-trips, combining both overnight and day trips
- **Highest point:** Mt. Ararat, Preston, PA in Wayne County | Elevation: 2,654 feet
- **Lowest point:** Bushkill, PA in Pike County | Elevation: 340 feet
- **Total lakes:** 150
- **Total river miles:** 170 (includes Delaware, Lehigh and Lackawaxen rivers)
- **Natural springs and brooks:** The Pocono Mountains contains the largest number of high-quality and exceptional-value streams and water systems in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- **State Parks:** Nine State Parks covering a total of 35,537 acres. The parks are Beltzville, Big Pocono, Gouldsboro, Hickory Run, Lehigh Gorge, Promised Land, Prompton, Tobyhanna and Varden Conservation Area.
- **Two National Parks:** The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area covers 40 miles of the Delaware River from north of Milford, PA to south of Delaware Water Gap, PA. Total acres are 70,000. The DWGNRA saw 4.3 million visitors in 2021, according to [a study](#) conducted by the National Parks Conservation Association.
The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River stretches 73.4 miles along the Pennsylvania and New York border. It includes riffles and Class I and II rapids between placid pools and eddies.
- **State Forest:** 81,958 acres of state forest land
- **Hiking trails:** More than 126 total trails equaling 261+ miles of trails
- **More than 30 golf courses**, which are home to hundreds of holes, including championship courses built by Donald Ross, Jack Nicklaus, A.W. Tillinghast and Robert Trent Jones.
- **Four Indoor Waterparks:** Camelback Resort & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark, Great Wolf Lodge, Kalahari Resorts and Conventions (Largest Indoor Waterpark Resort in the U.S.) and Split Rock Hotel's H2Oooohh! Indoor Waterpark
- **Shopping:** Abundant antique shops and one-of-a-kind boutiques located in quaint towns as well as The Crossings Premium Outlets (home to more than 100 name-brand factory stores)
- **Festivals:** From family-friendly fairs to chic food and wine events, the region's year-round festivals provide memorable fun for everyone.
- **Ski areas:** Six major ski areas all offering downhill skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing: Big Boulder Ski Area, Blue Mountain Resort, Camelback Mountain Resort, Jack Frost Mountain, Shawnee Mountain Ski Area and Ski Big Bear at Masthope Mountain.
- **Ski trails and terrain parks:** more than 155 trails
- **Snow tubing:** Snow tubing is a great way to spend the day on the slopes, no skill required, just smiles and warm clothes. All six ski areas offer snow tubing. Several resorts also offer snow tubing for their guests.
- **Snow making:** 100% snow making on more than 600 skiable acres
- **Year-round events:** The four counties of the Pocono Mountains offer a wide variety of events. Visit PoconoMountains.com/events to learn more.



SPRING/SUMMER RECREATION

- **Lehigh River:** Known for its whitewater rafting outfitters. Most also offer multiple-day trips, float trips, canoeing/kayaking and additional activities such as mountain biking, paintball, outdoor barbecues, group specials and themes.
- **Delaware River:** A bit calmer; makes for excellent canoeing trips. Most canoeing outfitters also offer lessons, kayaking, whitewater rafting, float trips, tubing, camping, paintball, group specials and themes.
- **Fishing areas:** 122 miles of stocked river; 11,285 acres of stocked lakes, including the third largest man-made lake in Pennsylvania, Lake Wallenpaupack.
- **Festivals/Fairs:** Four county fairs; more than 20 festivals celebrating culture, heritage, music and food
- More than 15 museums showcasing the historical, cultural and artistic importance of the region
- **Pocono Raceway** is home to the NASCAR Cup Series race weekend and The Great Pocono Raceway air show (2023).
- **19 waterfalls:** Most are free and open to the public.
- **Two outdoor waterparks:** Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark and Costa's Family Fun Park
- **Treetop ropes courses:** These exhilarating obstacle courses, found throughout the region, are set in the natural mountain environment, with aerial obstacles suspended between trees. The courses include zip lines, suspended bridges, scramble nets, swinging logs and much more.

FALL RECREATION

- **Fall foliage:** More than 127 varieties of trees, shrubs and plants can be found. Three zones of coloration occur in the Poconos. A Fall Foliage Forecast is available to check conditions of the changing leaves online at PoconoMountains.com/fall.
- **25 ways to view fall foliage:** Hiking, skydiving, mountain biking, zip lining, horseback riding, fall foliage rail excursions, environmental education events, rafting, kayaking, canoeing, sail boating, hayrides, apple or pumpkin picking, golfing, fall foliage air tours, vineyard tours, fishing, drives through the countryside, fall festivals, walking tours, camping, Blue Lightning Tubing and a Mountain Coaster, playing disc golf, treetop adventure courses, and from the porch of a quaint bed and breakfast or country inn.
- **Three old-fashioned train rides:** The Stourbridge Line, Honesdale, PA; Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway, Jim Thorpe, PA; Steamtown National Historic Museum, Scranton, PA
- **Hiking trails:** 126 total trails equaling 261 miles of trails

WINTER RECREATION

- **On the slopes:** There are six ski areas that offer downhill skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing. Lessons, children's programs and group rates are available.
- Several places offer **ice skating** (indoor and/or outdoor).
- **Winter horseback riding** or **horse-drawn sleigh rides** are available throughout the area.
- **Snowmobiling** is popular at various trails throughout the winter season.
- A dozen properties and parks offer **cross-country skiing**, a few properties and parks offer **snowshoeing**, and one property offers **dogsledding**.

Some of these activities require your own equipment.



A CLOSER LOOK AT TOURISM IN THE POCONOS

27.9 million visitors come to the Pocono Mountains each year

- 65%, 18.1 million are day trippers
- 35%, 9.8 million are overnight trips
 - 92% leisure, 8% business
- Visitation has grown by 3.3 million from 2014-2018, an overall **13%** growth in five years

Travel spending in the Pocono Mountains exceeds \$3.3 billion annually

- Lodging 43%
- Food & Beverage 19%
- Recreation 16%
- Retail 14%
- Transportation 8%

Total Tourism and Economic Impact

- 35,201 jobs
- \$981.4 million in labor income
- \$520 million taxes
- \$282 million in state and local taxes alone

Tourism-related Jobs

- Tourism supports a total of 35,201 jobs in the Poconos, **24.5%** of all jobs in the Pocono Mountains
- With new attractions opening over the last decade, businesses have directly created more than 3,200 new jobs in the Poconos
- Nearly 2/3 of the Poconos' labor income is derived from travel and tourism
- The Pocono Mountains region continues to have the highest tourism-related labor income and employment in the state of Pennsylvania
- Employment directly supported by tourism reached 26,783 in 2018, enough to employ every resident of East Stroudsburg, Mount Pocono, Stroudsburg and Tobyhanna