

Exploring History and Nature in Pennsylvania:  
Finding Historical Sites & Museums near Pennsylvania State Parks & Forests

Pennsylvania is one of five states that allow free access to all its parks and forests. Its immense natural resources and recreational opportunities combine with its rich history and culture. Join us to celebrate International Museums Day (May 18) any time your visit might combine state parks and forests with a nearby museum to create unforgettable experience for those passionate about enjoying PA's diverse parks and forests.

This list links PA state forests and parks with notable Historic Sites and Museums, most within a 30-40-minute drive or less. Follow the QR code to the PA Parks & Forests Foundation website where you'll find online links to the museums.



**State Forest:** William Penn

**State Parks:** Benjamin Rush, Evansburg, French Creek, Neshaminy, Nolde Forest, Marsh Creek, Ridley Creek, Tyler

Rainy Day: [The Daniel Boone Homestead](#)

Rainy/Sunny Day: [Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site](#) | [Valley Forge National Historical Park](#)

**State Parks:** Jacobsburg, Nockamixon

Rainy/Sunny Day: [National Canal Museum](#)

Rainy Day: [Sigal Museum](#) | [Esther M. Lee African American Heritage Center](#)

**State Forest:** William Penn

**State Parks:** Fort Washington, Neshaminy, Norristown Farm Park, Tyler

Rainy Day: [Clifton House](#) (in Fort Washington State Park) | [Historic Hope Lodge](#) | [Eastern State Penitentiary](#) | [African American Museum in Philadelphia](#) | [Johnson House Historic Site](#)

Rainy/Sunny Day: [Washington Crossing Historic Park](#) | [Pensbury Manor](#)

**State Forests:** Delaware, Pinchot

**State Parks:** Archbald Pothole, Gouldsboro, Lackawanna, Promised Land, Prompton, Tobyhanna, Varden

Rainy Day: [Masker Museum \(Promised Land State Park\)](#)

Rainy/Sunny Day: [Steamtown National Historic Site](#) | [Pennsylvania Anthracite and Heritage Museum: Scranton Iron Furnaces](#)

**State Forest:** Pinchot

**State Parks:** Hickory Run, Lehigh Gorge, Nescopeck  
[Eckley Miners Village](#)

**State Forests:** Weiser, Michaux

**State Parks:** Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area, Gifford Pinchot Joseph Ibberson Conservation Area, Little Buffalo State Park, Memorial Lake

Rainy Day: [The State Museum of Pennsylvania](#) | [National Civil War Museum](#) | [Pennsylvania National Fire Museum](#) | [Fort Hunter](#)

**State Forest:** Michaux

**State Parks:** Caledonia, Codorus, Gifford Pinchot, Kings Gap, Mont Alto, Pine Grove Furnace

Sunny Day: [Camp Michaux \(walking tour\)](#)  
Rainy/Sunny Day: [Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Discovery Center at Caledonia](#) | [Gettysburg National Military Park](#) | [Adams County Historical Society](#) | [Fashion Archives and Museum of Shippensburg University](#) | [US Army Heritage and Education Center](#) | [Appalachian Trail Museum](#) | [Franklin County Historical Society: Old Jail and John Brown House](#)

**State Forest:** Bald Eagle

**State Parks:** Milton, Sand Bridge, Shikellamy

Rainy Day: [Joseph Priestley House](#)

**State Forest:** Weiser

**State Parks:** Swatara, Memorial Lake, Nolde Forest

Rainy/Sunny Day: [Cornwall Iron Furnace](#) | [Conrad Weiser Homestead](#)

**State Forests:** Michaux, William Penn

**State Parks:** Samuel S Lewis, Susquehanna Riverlands

Rainy/Sunny Day: [Landis Valley Museum](#)

Susquehanna National Heritage Area: [Zimmerman Center for Heritage](#)

Rainy Day: [Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania](#)

**State Forest:** William Penn  
**State Parks:** French Creek, Nolde Forest  
Rainy/Sunny Day: [Ephrata Cloister](#)

**State Forest:** Forbes, Gallitzin  
**State Parks:** Kooser, Laurel Hill, Laurel Ridge, Laurel Summit, Shawnee  
Rainy Day: [Somerset Historical Center](#)  
Sunny Day: [Flight 93 National Memorial](#) | [Laurel Hill Recreational Demonstration Area Historical District](#)

**State Forests:** Elk, Moshannon  
**State Park:** Parker Dam, Simon B. Elliott  
Rainy Day: [Civilian Conservation Corps Museum](#) at Parker Dam

**State Forest:** Susquehannock  
**State Parks:** Cherry Springs, Colton Point, Denton Hill, Lyman Run, Patterson, Prouty Place, Sizerville  
Rainy/Sunny Day: [Pennsylvania Lumber Museum](#)

**State Forests:** Bald Eagle, Rothrock  
**State Parks:** Bald Eagle, Black Moshannon, Greenwood Furnace, Penn Roosevelt, Poe Paddy, Poe Valley, Reeds Gap, Whipple Dam  
Rainy/Sunny Day: [Pennsylvania Military Museum](#)

**State Forests:** Elk, Sproul, Susquehannock  
**State Parks:** Cherry Springs, Kettle Creek, Ole Bull, Sinnemahoning, Sizerville  
Rainy/Sunny Day: [Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park](#)

**State Park:** Kinzua Bridge  
Rainy Day: [Zippo/Case Museum & Flagship Store](#)

**State Forest:** Forbes  
**State Park:** Ohiopyle  
Rainy/Sunny: [Fort Necessity National Battlefield](#)  
Rainy Day: [Fallingwater](#)  
**State Forests:** Forbes, Gallitzin  
**State Parks:** Blue Knob, Kooser, Laurel Hill, Laurel Mountain, Laurel Ridge, Laurel Summit, Shawnee, Prince Gallitzin, Yellow Creek  
[Johnstown Flood National Memorial](#)  
Rainy: [Johnstown Area Heritage Area](#): Discovery Center Johnstown Children's Museum | Johnstown Flood Museum | Wagner-Ritter House & Garden | Center for Metal Arts

**State Forest:** Gallitzin  
**State Park:** Keystone, Laurel Mountain, Linn Run, Yellow Creek  
Rainy Day: [Blairsville Area Underground Railroad](#)

**State Forest:** Cornplanter  
**State Park:** Oil Creek  
Rainy/Sunny Day: [Drake Well Museum and Park](#)

**State Forest:** Clear Creek  
**State Parks:** Hillman, Raccoon Creek  
Rainy/Sunny Day: [Old Economy Village](#)

**State Parks:** Allegheny Islands, Hillman, Point  
Rainy Day: [Our Museums - Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh](#) | [The Andy Warhol Museum](#) | [Carnegie Museum of Art](#) | [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#) | [Carnegie Science Center](#) | [August Wilson African American Cultural Center](#)  
Rainy/Sunny Day: [Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area](#)

**State Parks:** Erie Bluffs, Presque Isle  
Rainy/Sunny: [Presque Isle Lighthouse](#)  
Rainy Day: [Erie Maritime Museum & U.S. Brig Niagara](#) | [Experience Childrens Museum](#)

#### Other Resources:

Listing of PA Historic Sites and Museums: [Pennsylvania Trails of History](#)  
[Experience Museums in Pennsylvania](#) | [PAGetaways](#)  
[Find a Park by Region](#)  
[Find a Forest](#)

List created by Martha Moon, PPF Intern, Spring 2024.

**HAVE A MUSEUM TO ADD?** Email [office@paparksandforests.org](mailto:office@paparksandforests.org) to let us know!

With thanks to PA Museums ([pamuseums.org](http://pamuseums.org)), Pennsylvania's statewide trade association serving museum professionals and institutions.

