

Cabins, and Campsites and Yurts, Oh My!

Pennsylvania's state parks and forests offer a variety of overnight opportunities to meet the needs of almost any visitor. Below is a brief overview of opportunities.

State Forest Camping

For the adventure seeker or person looking to get away, state forests offer primitive and motorized camping without any modern facilities, water, dump stations, or utility hook-ups.

State Forest Motorized Camping, or roadside camping, is overnight camping in or near a vehicle where the vehicle is used for storage and transportation. These campsites may be a wide spot near a road, have a short driveway to the campsite, or even require a short hike to the actual site. There are no modern amenities, and the sites receive minimal maintenance. Additionally, there are state forest rustic camping areas where the sites are situated in a campground setting. These often have a vault toilet or pit latrine and receive more routine maintenance but are still more remote and less developed than a state park.

State Forest Primitive, or trailside camping, is overnight camping where all equipment is transported manually (by non-motorized methods, including watercraft, bicycle, horse), and where a motorized vehicle is not located near or part of the camping experience. Backpacking is the most popular form and is often done along one of the 18 State Forest Hiking Trails.



Leave No Trace Principles must be followed and be sure to observe any permit conditions and other regulations. Motorized camping must always be done at designated sites and a permit is required. Primitive camping typically does not require a permit if staying no more than one night in a single location, however obtaining a permit is suggested for safety reasons. Roadside camping and primitive, trailside camping can sometimes be confused. If you are camping close enough to your vehicle to access it to store gear and supplies, you are not primitive camping but are motorized camping.

State Park Trail Camping/Trail Shelters

Currently, there are five state parks that allow backpacking and overnight hikes.

These parks provide backpacking trails with **overnight trailside shelters or sites**. You must pre-register to hike and camp overnight at these state parks.

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River Camping

For boating enthusiasts, state parks offer river camping along the Clarion River at Cook Forest State Park.

State Park Inns and Mansion Stays

The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Forests and the Cameron-Masland Mansion at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center offer modern amenities in unique settings.



Modern Cabin

Modern cabins are beautiful log cabins with the modern conveniences of home. While visitors must provide their own linen and cooking equipment, these cabins are electric, heated, and have the full convenience of a modern kitchen and restroom.

Rustic Cabins

Rustic cabins are quaint stone or log historic cabins built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Rustic cabins have sparse furnishings and a central bathhouse.



Unique Houses

Certain state parks have one-of-a-kind houses where you can stay. Unique houses have modern conveniences in historic or unique structures.

RV and Tent Campsites

A variety of RV and tent campsites exist in the state park system, including:

- **Full-hookup**—nearby restrooms have flush toilets and warm showers, the campsite has sewer, water, electric hookup, picnic table, and fire ring
- **Modern**—nearby restrooms have flush toilets and warm showers, the campsite has a picnic table and fire ring
- **Rustic**—nearby restrooms have non-flush toilets, the campsite has a picnic table and fire ring
- **Modern/Rustic**—nearby restrooms have modern facilities in the warmer months, then have non-flush facilities in the colder months, the campsite has a picnic table and fire ring
- **Multi-site**—allows up to 14 people, available at Keystone and Ohio State parks
- **Walk-to**—are reached by a short walk, the campsite has a picnic table and fire ring
- **Equestrian**—space for horses, available only at Kettle Creek and Promised Land state parks

Deluxe Cottages and Yurts

Yurts are walled, round tents often situated with deluxe cottages, which have wooden walls and floors, and windows with a few modern conveniences. These are often located in the campground and utilize the bathhouse.

Camping Cottages

These sleep five people in a single bunk and a single/double bunk. They may or may not be located within a state park campground.

Group Camping

Forty state parks offer group camping opportunities at designated campsites. Amenities for the campsites vary depending on the state park.

Cabin Camps

Perfect for large, organized groups, the group cabin camps offer roofed overnight lodging at five state parks: Blue Knob, French Creek, Hickory Run, Laurel Hill, and Raccoon Creek. Amenities vary by park. Applications to use one of these camps are available by contacting the park office.