



# Destination Pennsylvania

its entire length travels through the Gorge starting in Ansonia and ending in Jersey Shore. The trail is a hard-packed gravel surface open to hikers and bikers. Equestrians can enjoy a section designed just for the horses. Bicycle rental and shuttle services are available through Pine Creek Outfitters, operated by Jon Dillon. And, be sure to inquire about guided rafting and canoe trips down Pine Creek. The best time to experience this adventure is in spring when the water rushes through the Canyon. Pine Creek Outfitters is your one stop for biking, hiking, rafting, canoeing, and kayaking within the Gorge.

Tioga Central Railroad is for the adventurous at heart. This diesel-powered train travels along an actual working rail line. You'll traverse wetland areas through terrific birding sites stopping at Hammond Lake before your return trip to Wellsboro. Trains run every weekend May through October, with some special weekday and dinner trains throughout the season.

Along with the Gorge, Tioga County is home to seven lakes. Fish Hammond Lake to catch a rival to the current state record crappie caught there. Hammond is one of the federally operated lakes that also allow motorboating and waterskiing. The other lakes – Hamilton, Nessmuk, Beechwood, and Hills Creek – all offer great opportunities for fishing. Swimming at the recreational beaches of Hills Creek, Hammond, and Cowanesque is a joy for kids of all ages.

The easiest way to tap into all these great activities is to check out the packages available for busy visitors. These packages are different in that you are accompanied by a professional State Park Naturalist as your guide to lend knowledge and experience in the outdoors for a memorable Tioga County vacation. The packages are designed for all levels of experience, but some are designed with specific groups in mind. For instance, the "Boys Keep Out" package is for a group of girlfriends who just want to get away and experience a little pampering, Tioga style.

The "Xtreme Xperience" package is for those seeking a challenging getaway. This multi-day package includes a rafting trip, a hike, and an overnight horseback trip - truly a memorable event that can be shared with friends.

Want to have some fun with the family? Try the "I Spy with the Nature Guy" package. A State Park Naturalist will help the kids (and the adults) spy many of nature's wonders. And a memento of the trip is included to keep the memory alive.

All of the packages offer an experience unique to Tioga County. Purchasing a package is easy and all the guesswork is removed as you plan your trip. For more information about visiting Tioga County and available packages, please call the Tioga County Visitors Bureau at 1-888-TIOGA28 or 570-724-0635 or get all your information from [www.visittiogapa.com](http://www.visittiogapa.com).

## Where the Monongahela Meets the Allegheny

If you have a choice, fly into Pittsburgh. While on final approach into the airport, the view suddenly opens, revealing the famed three rivers and the forest of post-modern office towers that have largely replaced the welter of smokestacks and industry once the hallmark of Pittsburgh.

Or, drive into the city from the southwest, from the airport. The same sweeping vista opens again, offering a panoramic view of Pittsburgh and creating a grand entranceway to an inviting city that combines world-class museums and upscale shopping with ethnic neighborhoods and major sports events.

Positioned where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers join to form the Ohio, Pittsburgh is a natural population and transportation center. The 300,000 plus residents live in 89 distinct neighborhoods, a little bit like Alpine villages. The hilly topography that dictated the city's growth patterns makes owning a stick shift car a challenge and has resulted in 446 bridges, the most of any city in the world.

Pittsburghers have created their own dialect, with flat vowels, no rising inflection when asking questions, and *yins* taking the place of *you-all*. They have also created a stylish, friendly, accommodating destination with excellent food, perfect for a weekend getaway or week-long vacation. Visitors use low-cost air flights or drive 4.5 hours from Washington, D.C., to enjoy the cultural heritage of Carnegie, Mellon, Frick, Heinz, Warhol, and...Mister Rogers?

Mister Roger's real neighborhood was Pittsburgh's Oakland, home of WQED, the nation's first public television station. The Children's Museum Pittsburgh collaborated with Fred Rogers and currently houses one of the traveling exhibits for the *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood* television program. The wonderfully innovative museum uses crawl-through "limb bender" mazes, a water table long enough to float a child-sized navy, a garage workshop, and the perception-twisting Attic to ask children to stretch their minds as they enjoy the fun. Parents can enjoy it as much as their children do.

Two Carnegie Museums are also treasured Pittsburgh icons. The Carnegie Museum of Art was the world's first museum of modern art and currently hosts distinguished collections of glass: architectural, decorative, and cultural artworks presented in inviting galleries. The Carnegie Museum of Natural History is next door, attached, and covered by the same admission. A newly-expanded exhibit, Dinosaur Hall, presents dinosaurs in complete environments and opens the paleontology lab to public view.

As if to highlight its cultural contrasts, Pittsburgh also offers The Andy Warhol Museum. Another of the city's Carnegie museums, the Warhol fills a renovated North Shore building with more than 12,000 pieces of artist's work, hundreds of films and videos, and a massive gathering — 8,000 cubic feet — of Warhol's daily records and personal collections.

Just as Warhol was ahead of the wave in the 1970s, the Mattress Factory is leading the art world into new territories of installation art and participatory art. Housed in an old North Shore industrial building and converted residential row-

houses, the Mattress Factory is all about art that twists you, involves you, draws you in, engulfs you, and even plays with you. Art that makes you a part of it, leaves you wondering where the artwork ends and reality begins.

Museums are just one facet of Pittsburgh's cultural array. The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium is home to 2,000 animals in natural settings. The zoo's new *Waters Edge* Exhibit focuses on Alaska and endangered-species education, with polar bears, sea otters, and walrus. The aquarium has indoor penguin and rainforest exhibits and, along with the zoo, is ranked as one of the nation's top three children's zoos. The National Aviary adds an indoor jungle with more than 600 birds, many endangered, in natural habitats and flight cages.

The Oakland neighborhood is also home to the University of Pittsburgh, and driven by crowds of Pitt students, Oakland has flourished as a dynamic commercial, cultural, and retail-shopping area, watched over by the University's towering "Cathedral of Learning." Visitors find good, economical lodging in the Hampton Inn and other Oakland accommodations.

Pittsburgh is also a foodie's city. Its location, extensive ethnic traditions, and resume have combined to create a true culinary destination. Pittsburgh's Strip District is nearly 50 blocks of produce and fish merchants, butchers, ethnic-food retailers, gift and specialty items, wholesalers, bakeries, delicatessens, independent groceries, and home-grown eateries. Many are family businesses that have been in the Strip for 50 years or more.

In 2008, Pittsburgh will celebrate its 250th anniversary, and plans are underway to make it an elaborate event. But don't wait for next year and, when you go to Pittsburgh, don't forget to ride the Incline and have a sandwich at Primanti Brothers.

*By Reed Hellman*

### CHILDREN'S SUMMER WORKSHOPS AT THE NATIONAL COLONIAL FARM:

Join us for fun, educational, and unforgettable experiences!

#### NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE

June 19-21, 2007. Through storytelling, forest walks, foodways and crafts, children will learn about the Native American people, past and present. A visit with Captain John Smith's Shallop will conclude the workshop.



#### COLONIAL CHILD

July 10-12, 2007. Through hands-on experiences in gardens and with field crops, observing and caring for livestock and performing the daily routines of the 18th century child, participants will experience life as it may have been in the late 1700s. Crafts and nature hikes are included.



Workshops are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$150 per child, per workshop. Children ages 8 to 12. Please call Anmarie Buckley at 301.283.2113 for more information.



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301.283.2113 [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau, 877-LOVE PGH, [www.visitpittsburgh.com](http://www.visitpittsburgh.com)

Children's Museum, 412-322-5058, [www.pittsburghkids.org](http://www.pittsburghkids.org)

Carnegie Museum of Art and Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 412-622-3131, [www.carnegiemuseums.org](http://www.carnegiemuseums.org)

The Andy Warhol Museum, 412-237-8300, [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org)

Mattress Factory, 412-231-3169, [www.mattress.org](http://www.mattress.org)

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, 412-665-3640, 800-474-4966, [www.pittsburghzoo.com](http://www.pittsburghzoo.com)

National Aviary, 412-323-7235, [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org)

Hampton Inn-University Center, 412-681-1000, [www.pittsburghhamptoninn.com](http://www.pittsburghhamptoninn.com)

Neighbors in the Strip, 412-201-4774, [www.neighborsinthestrip.com](http://www.neighborsinthestrip.com)