

Great Weekend Winter Getaways in Pennsylvania

(StatePoint) No matter if you are looking for a luxurious romantic escape for two or are loading the whole family into the car, Pennsylvania offers many great winter destinations a short ride away from home. From adventurous ice hiking and skiing to historical sightseeing to magical gourmet moments, choices abound for local winter getaways.

Here are some great seasonal options in the Keystone State:

Carve Up PA's Highest Vertical at Blue Mountain Resort



No matter if you're a skier, snowboarder or snow tuber, mountains, snow and thrills combine to offer winter fun for the whole family at Blue Mountain Resort in Palmerton. It's home to Pennsylvania's highest vertical, one of the largest snowmaking systems on the east coast and the longest and fastest snow tubing lanes in the state! With 40 slopes ranging from beginner to expert, there's a trail for every level of skier rider. So whether you're looking to carve up the slopes, shred some terrain parks or snow tube with the gang, Blue Mountain always packs a ton of winter fun! On-mountain dining includes the Slopeside Pub & Grill with majestic views and warm fires. To plan your Blue Mountain outing, visit www.skibluemt.com.

Magical Moments of Luxury at Nemacolin Resort



Experience luxury at the lavish 2,000-acre resort where ABC's "The Bachelor" filmed its 25th season. Nemacolin Woodlands Resort in the Laurel Highlands has been creating magical moments since 1987. There are different wonderful accommodation options, including The Chateau, an impressive, beautiful castle, and Falling Rock, a lovely hotel influenced by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, boasting art deco interiors, extravagant amenities and personalized butler service. Seasonal activities include dog sledding, ice skating and snow tubing, and you can indulge in spa services and gourmet meals. Don't miss Lautrec, where the chef creates a meal for you when you select 10 ingredients. Lautrec has received the Forbes Five-Star and AAA Five-Diamond awards, one of only 32 restaurants worldwide to receive both. Learn more at Nemacolin.com.

Ice Hiking at Spectacular Winter Waterfalls in the Poconos



Hit the ice means something completely different when you take a trek, hiking frozen trails and exploring winter waterfalls. The experts at Valley to Summit, a guided wilderness adventure company, lead adventurous ice hiking outings in impressive Ricketts Glen State Park in the Pocono Mountains. There you will discover dozens of icy waterfalls and take in amazing ice formations. A genuinely awe-inspiring escape awaits in the beautiful ravines of the park and its majestic rocky cliffs. Valley to Summit expertly guides adventurers through the park's trail system and its many wild waterfalls, setting handlines at different sections of the trail. Snowshoeing excursions also are offered by these wilderness experts. More information is available at www.valleytosummit.com.

History, Hospitality & Fun in Gettysburg in Winter



Gettysburg isn't just a warm weather destination. When the weather cools, it's easy to discover the charms of its recreational offerings. You can still explore the famous Civil War battlefield via guided tours or a self-guided auto tour. And without lush greenery, it's easier to see the monuments and how the troops moved through the fields. And minutes away is Liberty Mountain Resort, where Civil War enthusiasts are replaced by skiers and snowboarders of all ages, along with a warm lodge, restaurant and hotel. Historic inns, charming hotels and cozy fireplace meals await throughout the area, along with Downtown Gettysburg's cool shops, boutiques and year-round attractions. Gettysburg is a beautiful, peaceful and fun way to break out of winter's cabin fever. Learn more at DestinationGettysburg.com.

Family-Friendly Pennsylvania Vacation Ideas

(StatePoint) Looking for some family vacation ideas that will appeal to your loved ones this season? Vacationing close to home in Pennsylvania can offer a wide array of destinations -- from picturesque waterside getaways to storybook villages to adventures for all ages.

Here are some nearby vacation options in the Keystone State:

Explore York County in 3 Days!



Many families have been yearning to get back to family travel. York County offers a safe and fun spot for exploring with loved ones. Capture family photos in front of beautiful river views. Step into history at fascinating museums. Stretch your legs on hiking trails for all ages. Enjoy a delicious meal outside, shop small at unique local boutiques, and rest up for even more explorations at comfortable accommodations. Check out this family-friendly weekend itinerary for inspiration, detailing a getaway at Roundtop Mountain Resort: www.yorkpa.org/blog. At Roundtop, you can test your adventurous side on a zip-line ride or inside the famous OGO Balls. From tacos to hiking, shopping to go-kart rides, York County offers fun made here in Pennsylvania! More information is available at (888) 858-9675.

Family Fun in Lebanon Valley



Discover old-fashioned family fun in the Lebanon Valley, located between Hershey and Lancaster. The Swatara Creek provides 60 miles of outdoor recreation for biking, kayaking or simply hiking the natural splendor. Batz Farm offers baby goat snuggles and pasture picnics. Patches Family Creamery is a family farm that makes homemade ice cream, a true cow-to-cone experience. The Mt. Gretna Roller Rink and the Jigger Shop Ice Cream Parlor have been a local tradition for over 100 years in the wooded small-town charm of Mt. Gretna. Explore rich history with Cornwall Iron Furnace tours of America's only surviving 19th century charcoal-fueled Blast Furnace. Union Canal Tunnel Park is 110 acres with boat tours of the oldest existing transportation tunnel in the U.S. Learn more at www.VisitLebanonValley.com/family-fun/.

68th Annual Allegheny Toyota Autumn Leaf Festival



Nestled between Pittsburgh and Erie in Western Pennsylvania, located just 2 miles off I-80 is a town called Clarion. Each fall for the past 68 years they hold a 9-day festival in early October, which coincides with Clarion University's Homecoming celebration. Activities include food concessions, Pennsylvania Old Time Fiddler's Championships, Corn Hole Tournament, Autorama Cruise-In, Motorcycle Show, Junior Olympics, Cultural Week Entertainment, Kiddies Parade, Farmers & Crafters Day (with 300 vendors selling Homemade/Handcrafted Items), Alumni Events (on and off campus), Tournament of Leaves Parade, Wild World of Animals Show, Oldies Concert, Homecoming Football Game, Antique Tractor Show and Live Entertainment featuring Oldies and Classic Rock to today's top 40. Information about visiting Clarion this fall is available at www.clarionpa.com or (814) 226-9161.



Pennsylvania Round-Up Story Calendar

ROUND-UP STORY TOPICS	DISTRIBUTION DATE
Fall Road-Tripping Ideas Close to Home	9/27/2022
In Good Spirits: Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries to Check Out	10/11/2022
Romantic Weekend Ideas Close to Home	11/8/2022
Fun Holiday Experiences to Put on Your List	11/22/2022
Winter Family Fun Activities for Pennsylvanians	12/13/2022
Explore Great Winter Getaways	12/27/2022
Fun Winter Experiences for Pennsylvanians	1/10/2023
Discover Nearby Memory-Making Destinations	2/14/2023
Spring Road-Tripping Ideas Close to Home	3/21/2023
Fun Spring Experiences for Pennsylvanians	4/25/2023
Long Weekend Getaways for Pennsylvanians	5/23/2023
Enjoy Summer Road-Tripping Close to Home	6/20/2023
Fun Nearby Summer Activities	7/18/2023
Great Outdoor Experiences a Drive Away	8/22/2023
Fall Road-Tripping Ideas Close to Home	9/19/2023
Great Fall Activities for Pennsylvanians	10/17/2023
Fun Holiday Experiences to Put on Your List	11/14/2023
Explore Great Winter Getaways	12/12/2023