

ROAD TRIP! Destination: Central Pennsylvania

BY JOANNE KLIMOVICH HARROP

Fall in Central Pennsylvania is both picturesque and full of fun things to experience.

From beautiful landscapes to the cheers of football fans at Beaver Stadium, Centre County offers everything from a college-campus experience to cave explorations to wine tastings to an historic railroad to snakes and alligators.

"The outdoors and its close proximity to campus, attractions or an evening out on the town are some of State College's best features," says Christie Black, Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau director of marketing. "Fall offers many leaf-peeping opportunities, too."

"Visit the area during a game weekend or during one of our fall-foliage festival weekends for a spectacular view. Come back when the snow flies and book one of our winter packages, see a show, hit the slopes or trails."

Details: 814-231-1401 or www.visitpennstate.org

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PHOTOS: CENTRAL PA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Penn State experience

There are five home games remaining for the Penn State football team at Beaver Stadium (right) under the direction of first-year head coach Bill O'Brien, including Homecoming on Oct. 6 when the Nittany Lions host Northwestern. Other home opponents include Temple, Ohio State, Indiana and Wisconsin.

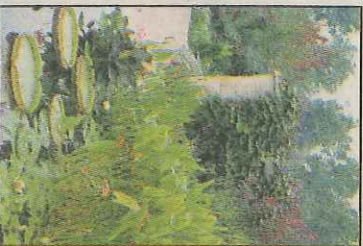


While on campus, don't forget the ice cream. Make time to stop at the Berkeley Creamery (below), the largest university creamery in the nation. The Creamery features seating for 80 people inside, 50 outside under the canopy and 72 under the umbrella tables. Each year, about 4.5 million pounds of milk pass through the



Creamery's stainless-steel holding tanks. There are more than 100 flavors of ice cream, sherbet and frozen yogurt.

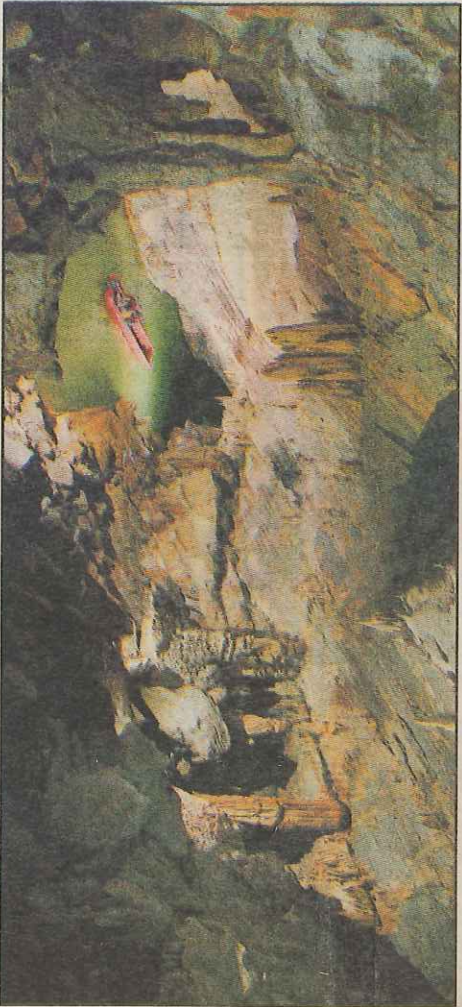
After you've gotten your sweet treat, stroll through the new gardens at the nearby Arboretum (right). Staff there is at work adding a children's garden.



Go underground

Penn's Cave is a wildlife park and cave about 20 miles east of State College. Activities include guided boat rides through the cave, wildlife tours to see the numerous wild animals on the premises and a gift shop to pick up some souvenirs. Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks sponsors a

haunted cave tour through the month of October. Ghosts and Goblins 2012 will begin Oct. 5 and run Fridays through Oct. 27. See Penn's Cave by boat, it is the only all-water commercial cavern in the United States. The cave also offers a wildlife tour by safari bus. Details: 814-364-1664 or www.pennscave.com 814-643-0268 or www.lincolncaverns.com



Off to nature

The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle is perfect for the traveler who wants a taste of the outdoors, but wants the comfort of a bed-and-breakfast. Located lakeside, it is the first

Inn of its kind in a Pennsylvania state park. Hiking, biking and birding trails lead off from the front door. Details: 814-625-2879 or www.natureinnatbald eagle.com



- 1. Penn State University:** 201 Old Main University Park, Pa.
- 2. The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle:** 201 Warbler Way, Howard, Pa.
- 3. Bellefonte Historic Railroad:** 320 W. High St. Bellefonte, Pa.
- 4. Brookmere Winery:** 5369 Pennsylvania S. R. 655, Belleville, Pa.
- 5. Seven Mountains Wire Cellars:** 107 Mountain Springs Lane, Spring Mills, Pa.
- 6. Penn's Cave and Wildlife Park:** 222 Penn's Cave Road, Centre Hall, Pa.
- 7. Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks:** 7703 William Penn Highway, U.S. Route 22, Huntingdon, Pa.
- 8. Clyde Peeling's Reptiland:** 18628 US Route 15, Allenwood, Pa.

Central Pennsylvania is 136 miles from Pittsburgh, 2 hours and 40 minutes

Taste test

Heading toward Brookmere Winery & Vineyard Inn is another beautiful fall-foliage drive along Route 322 past Poe Paddy State Park. The inn is in a 19th-century stone-and-wood bank barn. You'll also want to stop off at Seven Mountains Wire Cellars. Tucked in the woods, Seven Mountains is an award-winning wine cellar that just expanded its patio to host Friday-night campfires. Brookmere Winery offers tours of the winery by appointment and tastings daily. Details: 717-935-5380 or www.brookmerewine.com or 814-364-1000 or www.sevenmountainswirecellars.com

On the rails

Bellefonte Historic Railroad will sponsor its annual Fall Foliage excursions Oct. 20 and 21. This year, there will be four trips. All rides are round trip departing from the Bellefonte Station. Details: 814-355-1053 or www.bellefontetrain.org

Festivals

Centre County has many upcoming fall festivals. Here are some: **Happy Valley Oktoberfest:** Boalsburg, Sept. 29-30 **Dutch Fall Festival:** Aaronsburg, Sept. 29-30 **Boalsburg Columbus Ball and Heritage Festival:** Oct. 6-8, Boalsburg **No Roads Necessary Jeep Off-Road Event:** Centre Hall, Oct. 19-20 **Punkin Churnin' Fall Festival:** Howard, Oct. 20-21 **Shaver's Creek Fall Harvest Festival:** Petersburg Oct. 20-21 **Tussey Mountainback 50 Mile Ultra Marathon and Relay:** Boalsburg (USA Track and Field qualifying event), Oct. 21 **Phillipsburg Harvest Fest:** Phillipsburg Oct. 27



Meet the animals

Clyde Peeling's Reptiland is a specialized zoo, home to a wide variety of reptiles, including alligators, tortoises, and, of course, snakes. You might also see rare birds, mammals, tortoises, lizards and frogs throughout the zoo. Reptiland is open year-round. Zoo visitors can get an up-close look at snakes and alligators in a re-created, natural environment that is safe and educational. Exhibits are self-guided. Details: 570-538-1869 or www.reptiland.com

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- OCT. 18 BEDFORD SPRINGS RESORT... \$75 Lunch at Bedford Springs Resort Hotel & Tour Bedford
- OCT. 15-18 USO TRIBUTE... \$629 pp/hk Oceanfront VA Beach, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Glenn Miller Band at Oceanfront Ballroom
- OCT. 19 JONAH • LANGASTER... \$139 Dinner & show
- OCT. 23 DIAL 'N' FOR NOTHER... \$70 Show, lunch & shopping in Ligonier
- NOV. 10 HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS... \$89 An old-fashioned Christmas show, dinner & tour of Canton, OH.
- NOV. 30-DEC. 3 CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS... \$489 pp/hk Williamsburg, VA
- NOV. 25-27 SUGAR PLUM MEMORIES... \$379 pp/hk Oceanfront Cape May, 2 breakfasts, Victorian Christmas Feast, Dinner Theatre with show, Ghosts of Christmas Past trolley tour, Physick Estate at Christmas tour and much more.

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