

Pennsylvania



If New York is a grand, proud Rolls Royce, and New Jersey is a fun but garish apple-red Camaro, then Pennsylvania is a Honda Civic: modest but high-quality, an uncontroversial option with all of the standard features. You won't hear anyone talking about how rude and pushy Pennsylvanians are; you'd also be hard-pressed to find someone professing his undying passion for Harrisburg or proclaiming that life outside the Keystone State isn't really life at all.

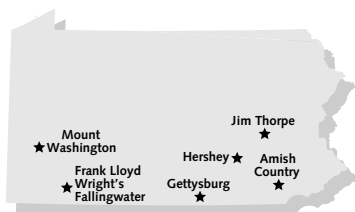
Travelers passing through Pennsylvania don't have sky-high expectations of big-city excitement or jaw-dropping scenic vistas, which is exactly why they're caught by surprise when they fall in love with its lush green hills and lively urban centers. Pennsylvania is the home of two major cities, historic Philadelphia and ecofriendly Pittsburgh.

This is the state where the Battle of Gettysburg was fought, where Milton S Hershey established a candy company, where Frank Lloyd Wright built a house over a waterfall, where oil tycoons struck it rich, where Andy Warhol learned to paint and Abraham Lincoln delivered his most famous speech. It's a place where tourists line up to stare at a cracked bell, honeymooners relax in heart-shaped bathtubs at mountain retreats, and Amish boys work the fields.

Made up of equal parts green grass and polished steel, Pennsylvania is eminently likable. Admit it: you'd feel glamorous in the Rolls Royce, and you'd have a few laughs cruising around town in the Camaro, but at the end of the day, you'll be driving home in the Honda Civic.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Taking a **horse and buggy ride** (p329) or **vintage steam-train journey** (p331) through Amish country
- Getting a fright on a candlelit ghost tour in historic **Gettysburg** (p332)
- Touring Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterwork, **Fallingwater** (p371)
- Staring for miles from Mt Washington at the top of the **Duquesne Incline** (p360)
- Pampering yourself with the chocolate facial at the **Hotel Hershey** (p352)
- Savoring the romance at a B&B in the mountain village of **Jim Thorpe** (p400)



■ POPULATION: 12,604,800

■ AREA: 44,816 sq miles

HISTORY

The lakes, rivers and wide open green spaces now called Pennsylvania were once home to several Native American tribes: the Susquehannock, Iroquois, Eries, Shawnee and Lenape. Of course, they didn't stand a chance of survival when faced with the arrival of Dutch explorers, who sailed up the Delaware River and settled the region in 1630. The Dutch planted crops like tobacco and grain, and were followed by Swedish settlers who arrived the following year. After some political scuffles between the two nations and England, the British took control of much of the land: the Duke of York 'owned' the area where New Jersey now stands, and Charles II possessed nearby stretches of land. Since he owed a long-standing debt to the father of William Penn, he decided to grant a tract of land (today's Pennsylvania) to the younger Penn in 1681. Penn immediately established a Quaker colony there, declaring his land a place of religious freedom – and as all Pennsylvania schoolchildren know, he named his land after the region's beautiful forests (*sylvania* is Latin for 'woods'). Thanks to Penn's devotion to religious freedom, his new colony drew outsiders like a magnet, and the Welsh, German, Scottish and Irish immigrants that settled here had a profound effect on the state's future.

But it wasn't all smooth sailing for the peace-loving Quaker people. The lands of Pennsylvania were fought over during the French and Indian War, and its citizens were further challenged during the American Revolution, as Philadelphia's moderates and radicals battled it out over the state's connection with Britain. After pivotal elections took place in 1776, Benjamin Franklin became the chairman of a newly established committee whose purpose was to write a state constitution. But nation-building was about to take precedence, as Pennsylvania delegates took an active role in promoting (among other mid-Atlantic provinces) the establishment of an independent nation. Pennsylvania's game-changing role during this period is the reason we now call it 'the Keystone State.'

Of course, the summer of 1776 changed the nation forever. After June's Provincial Conference, the Continental Congress declared independence on July 2 in Philadelphia. As the newspaper headlines read that night, 'this day the Continental Congress declared

the United Colonies Free and Independent States.' Pennsylvania developed rapidly in the years that followed, but a century later the state became the bloody battleground for several events in the Civil War. The Confederate States Army ravaged Chambersburg before the historic Battle of Gettysburg took place, capped by the hopeful and eloquent Gettysburg Address delivered by President Abraham Lincoln.

The state's later history is marked by industrial events, the Great Depression and the wars that followed. In the later 19th century, the Pennsylvania oil rush brought ambitious men from all over the country to the state's northwest, while steel and coal remained major industries in the southwest. European immigrants arrived to claim some of the plentiful jobs in factories and mines, and conflict broke out between workers and the state over conditions and payment, especially when the eventual decline of the manufacturing industry left many blue-collar workers jobless. In recent years, those grubby industrial cities have revitalized as fields like healthcare, education and tourism have taken precedence – as you'll read later, today's Pittsburgh is downright green, not to mention economically thriving.

LAND & CLIMATE

In comparison to other US states, Pennsylvania is the 33rd largest, spanning 44,820 sq miles, with more than 1000 sq miles covered by water. Major bodies of water include the Allegheny, Susquehanna, Delaware and Ohio rivers; the state's northwest also borders Lake Erie. The state is bisected diagonally from the southwest to the northeast by the Appalachian Mountains, with coastal plains in the southeast and the Allegheny plateau in the north giving way to the lowlands around Erie. The highest elevation is Mt Davis, measuring 3213ft, while the lowest point is at sea level, on the banks of the Delaware River.

Most of Pennsylvania is considered to fall within the humid continental climate zone, with lowlands (including Philadelphia) seeing cold, wet winters and hot and humid summers. The climate varies somewhat in the highlands, where snowy winters and more moderate summers are the norm. Overall, however, the state experiences four distinct seasons, with a monthly average temperature ranging from a high of 86°F to a low of 18°F.