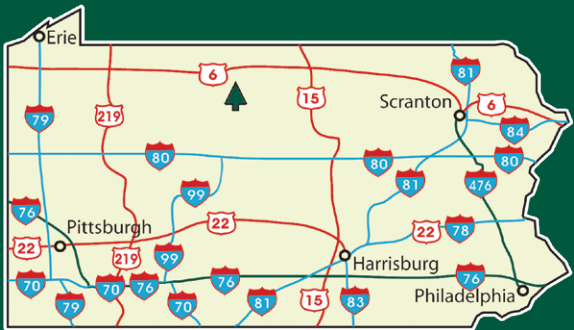


A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for
Ole Bull State Park



For More Information Contact:

Ole Bull State Park
31 Valhalla Lane
Cross Fork, PA 17729-9701
814-435-5000
email: olebullsp@pa.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to
5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

www.visitPAparks.com



visitPAparks

Ole Bull State Park

Ole Bull State Park consists of 132 acres along the Kettle Creek Valley in Potter County. This area is called the Black Forest because of its once dense tree cover, mountainous terrain, and wilderness habitat.

Directions

The park is along PA 144, 18 miles south of Galeton and 26 miles north of Renovo.

Reservations

Make online reservations at www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

Recreational Opportunities



CAMPING: **flush toilets and hot showers**
Camping is permitted year round. Two campgrounds provide 79 sites, each with a picnic table, fire ring, and parking pad. Campground 1 is the non-pet area and has 32 electric and 15 non-electric sites. Campground 2 is the pet-friendly loop and has 24 electric and 8 non-electric sites. Both areas have modern shower houses and water hydrants. A sanitary dump station with potable water is located at the entrance to Camping Area 2.

OLE BULL CABIN: This one and one-half story log cabin can be rented year round. Rental information can be obtained at the park office. The cabin has a modern kitchen, two baths, and sleeps 12 people in three bedrooms. Pets are prohibited. The cabin has an ADA accessible bathroom, kitchen, and an access ramp.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 25 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, grouse, bear, and squirrel. Hunting is permitted in the surrounding Susquehannock State Forest.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased

and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner’s vehicle or enclosed trailer. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

FISHING: The excellent water quality along Kettle Creek provides good fishing. Both Kettle Creek and Ole Bull Run offer fishing for brook, brown, and rainbow trout. A special regulation area for children and people with disabilities is located below the dam breast to the ford way. Fishing is prohibited between the wires at the dam basin and swimming area. Fishing licenses are required and are available nearby at several issuing agents. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

SWIMMING: The beach is in Camping Area 1 across from the picnic area. The 150-foot sandy beach along Kettle Creek is open from late-May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming. Parking for the beach area is provided at the picnic area parking lot. Pets are prohibited in the beach area. All children ten years of age or younger must be accompanied by a person at least 14 years of age.

PICNICKING: The picnic area lies along Kettle Creek and has picnic tables, fireplaces, drinking water, restrooms, playground equipment, and four picnic pavilions. Picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. The Stone Pavilion has electricity available when reserved.

WILDLIFE WATCHING: A variety of habitat types make the park a great birding location, especially during the spring migrations. Bear and deer are frequently seen. An active beaver dam provides a home for beaver, mink, and muskrat. Fisher, otter, and bobcat have all been observed in or around the park.

HIKING: 4 miles of trails
Beaver Haven Nature Trail: 0.75 mile, easiest hiking
This flat trail starts at the concrete fordway and provides an introduction to the habitats along Kettle Creek.

Castle Vista Trail: 0.25 mile, most difficult hiking
This steep trail leads to the historic foundation remains of Ole Bull’s “home site” and a panoramic view of the park.

Daugherty Loop Trail: 2 miles, easiest hiking
This trail combines old logging and railroad grades to form a one hour walk through the Black Forest of Pennsylvania.

Hemlock Swamp Trail: 1 mile, easiest hiking
This loop trail extends to the eastern border of the park and circles a swamp with very thick cover where wildlife and birds are common.

The 85-mile **Susquehannock Trail System** passes through Ole Bull State Park. A picnic area parking lot serves as a trailhead for overnight hikers. A trail register is located at the park office for hikers who leave their vehicles overnight. Please read posted regulations.

WINTER SPORTS: The park provides parking, restrooms, and picnic and camping facilities throughout the winter. In addition to a groomed cross-country skiing trail, cross-country skiers and snowshoers are allowed throughout the park.

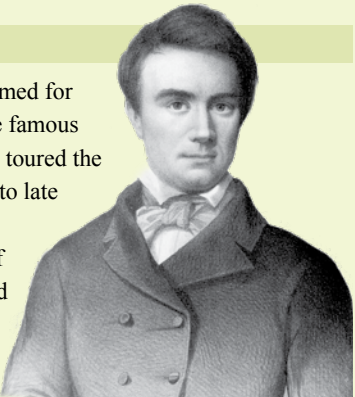
A snowmobile trailhead provides access to many of state forest trails. Snowmobiles are permitted on marked trails only. ATVs are prohibited. Contact the park office or district forest office for trail maps.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

During the summer months, the park provides programs on the history and natural resources of the area. The programs include guided walks, children’s programs, and evening campfire programs. Please contact the park office for special request educational programs.

History

Ole Bull State Park is named for Ole Bornemann Bull, the famous Norwegian violinist who toured the United States in the mid to late 1800s. In 1852, Ole Bull purchased a large tract of land in Potter County and attempted to develop a series of Norwegian settlements.



He began construction of a “home” at what now is called Ole Bull Vista. He never finished this large, wooden cabin. After a year of severe hardships, the majority of the colony disbanded and moved west into Michigan and Wisconsin. A complete history of Ole Bull is available at the park office. The lumbering industry followed Ole Bull into the area. By the turn of the 20th century, two railroads, one on each side of Kettle Creek, were hauling logs to sawmills in the Cross Fork area. By 1920, the commonwealth purchased vast tracts of land no longer useful to the lumber companies. In 1925, Ole Bull State Park was opened as a picnic area on a one-half acre tract of cleared land.

Formed in the 1930s to alleviate the severity of the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built the original dam for the swimming area and constructed facilities like latrines, pavilions, and camping areas. In 2002, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Ole Bull’s colony, a monument was erected to honor Ole Bull. The monument was a gift from the citizens of Norway in recognition of Ole Bull’s talent, foresight, and patriotism.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from: Potter Tioga Visitors Bureau, 888-846-4228. www.VisitPotterTioga.com

The 262,415-acre **Susquehannock State Forest** surrounds Ole Bull State Park and offers hiking, including the Susquehannock and Black Forest trail systems, and snowmobile trails. 814-274-3600

Along PA 44, 15 miles northwest, is the dark sky park **Cherry Springs State Park**. 814-435-1037
20 miles southwest, **Kettle Creek State Park** offers a 160-acre lake, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, and hiking. 570-923-6004
25 miles northeast, **Lyman Run State Park** offers fishing, camping facilities, and ATV and hiking trailheads. 814-435-5010
Off US 6 at Ansonia, 20 miles east of Galeton, is the **Pennsylvania Grand Canyon** and Leonard Harrison and Colton Point state parks. 570-435-2652
Along US 6, the **Pennsylvania Lumber Museum** is ten miles west of Galeton. 814-435-2652

Nearby Services

The nearest gas station, store, and gift shop is in Cross Fork, eight miles south of the park along PA 144 at Oleana. Service garages, shopping areas, laundry facilities, and restaurants are along PA 144 north or south in Germana, Galeton, Tamarack, and Renovo.

Protect and Preserve Our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Please camp only in designated areas and try to minimize your impact on the campsite.

- Firewood Advisory: Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that threaten park resources and the health of our forests. Campers should use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn It!

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital
1001 East Second Street
Coudersport, PA 16915-9762
814-274-9300

