A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Prince Gallitzin State Park

# Top 10 Activities

1. Paddle a kayak or canoe through the remote areas of Wyerough and Slate Lick branches, and Killbuck and Mud Lick coves.

2. Catch a glimpse of a bald eagle while birding.

3. Cross-country ski on Hughes Trail.

4. Enjoy a beautiful sunset with a walk along Gibbons Road at dusk.

5. Spend a colorful autumn weekend in one of the modern cabins.

6. Camp with friends or family in the largest single campground in the Pennsylvania State Park system.

7. Horseback ride on Old Glendale Road Trail.

8. Enjoy a family picnic and go swimming at Muskrat Beach.

9. Spend a day boating and fishing on the 1,635-acre Glendale Lake.

10. Take in the scenic view of hills and valleys from the Headache Hill water tower, or stop at the Mud Lick Gazebo for a picturesque view of Mud Lick Cove.

# Prince Gallitzin State Park

At Prince Gallitzin State Park, the forested hills of the Allegheny Plateau cradle sprawling Glendale Lake; a favorite of anglers and boaters. Vistas offer scenic views of the 1,635-acre lake with its 26 miles of shoreline. Campers flock to the large campground and enjoy many outdoor activities throughout the park. The varied habitats of the park make it a home for many types of wildlife, and a rest stop during spring and fall migrations.

## 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.

## Directions to the Park Office

GPS DD: Lat. 40.65124 Long. -78.55522

**From US 219**, Carrolltown Exit, turn onto SR 4015. At Patton, take US 36 east to Glendale Lake Road. A left turn onto Beaver Valley Road leads to the west side of the lake and the campground. A left turn onto Marina Road leads to the south and east sides of the park and the beach.

**From I-99**, Exit 32, follow PA 36 west. At Ashville, turn right onto PA 53 north. A left turn onto State Park Road, which becomes Marina Road, leads to the south and east sides of the park and the beach. A left turn onto Beaver Valley Road leads to the west side of the park and the campground.

**From US 22**, Cresson Exit, follow PA 53 north. A left turn onto State Park Road, which becomes Marina Road, leads to the south and east sides of the park and the beach. A left turn onto Beaver Valley Road leads to the west side of the park and the campground.

# Recreational Opportunities

## Spend the Day

BOATING: **up to 20 hp motors permitted**

The 1,635-acre Glendale Lake has nine public boat launching areas conveniently located throughout the park, along with three shoreline mooring facilities for sailboats, pontoon boats, and runabouts. Marina slips are available at Beaver Valley and at Prince Gallitzin marinas. A watercraft concession and marina provides various services, including: watercraft rentals, gift shop, and the sale of fuel.

Motorboats must display a boat registration from any state. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launch permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks, available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

FISHING: ♿ The 1,635-acre Glendale Lake is a warmwater fishery with bass, pikes, and muskellunge as the most common game fish. There is also a robust population of panfish that includes crappies, bluegills, and perches. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply

SWIMMING: Muskrat Beach 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. Modern shower houses, dressing rooms, disc golf, volleyball courts, and a large picnic area surround the swimming area.

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PICKNICKING: ♿ Picnic tables are available throughout the park. Many picnic tables are adjacent to the swimming area in Muskrat Beach day use areas 1, 2, and 3. Five 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.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: ♿ About 5,900 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkeys, and small game.

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.

HORSEBACK RIDING: **16 miles**

All equestrian trails can be accessed from the Beaver Valley Marina upper parking lot.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: **20.1 miles**

In the northern part of the park, the 20- mile snowmobile trail network is open for mountain biking and hiking. Campers may cycle the 2.2-mile multi-use trail around the perimeter of the campground. Bikers should follow the rules of the road and common courtesies.

## Stay the Night

CAMPING: ♿ **modern facilities, some electric hookups, some full-hookups**

A 398-site tent and trailer campground opens the second Friday in April and closes the last Monday in October. Facilities and services offered in the campground include: camp store with coin-operated laundry, swimming beach, boat mooring area, boat rental, playgrounds, paved sites, showers, flush toilets, and sanitary dump stations.

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COTTAGES: ♿ The three camping cottages and two deluxe cottages in the campground feature a deck and windows that overlook the lake. Each cottage sleeps five people in bunk beds and has lights, outlets, and electric heat. The deluxe cottages also have a small kitchenette with a mini-refrigerator, range, and microwave oven. The cottages are available from the second Friday in April to the last Monday in October. Cottages A and E are ADA accessible.

CABINS: ♿ Ten modern cabins are available for rent year round. Cabins are furnished and have a living area, kitchen/dining area, shower room, and two or three bedrooms. Two-bedroom cabins sleep six people (one double bed and two bunks), while three bedroom cabins sleep eight people (one double bed and three bunks). Cabins 1 and 7 are ADA accessible. Cabins 1, 9, and 10 are pet friendly.

GPS DD: Lat. 40.6559 Long. -78.548

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: ♿ A rustic tenting area may be reserved by organized adult and youth groups from April through September. There are picnic tables, restrooms, and drinking water. A shower house is within easy walking distance.

## Enjoy the Winter

SNOWMOBILING:Registered snowmobiles may use the 20-mile trail network. Snowmobiles may be operated on designated trails and roads from the day following the statewide rifle deer season in December until April 1, weather permitting.

ICE FISHING: The 1,635-acre Glendale Lake is popular for ice fishing. Common species caught through the ice are perches, walleyes, pikes, and crappies.

ICEBOATING:Iceboats must display a state park launch permit.

ICE SAFETY: **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4” thick for a single user and 7” thick for a small group. For iceboating, make sure ice is at least 6” thick. Always carry safety equipment.

SLEDDING: The Headache Hill area and the Prince Gallitzin Marina have popular hills for sledding.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:Seven miles of marked trails are recommended for this winter activity. Most of the trails on the Haddie Buck Peninsula are groomed.

# Hiking: 32.75 miles

### McDermott Trail: 0.8 mile, easiest hiking

This trail leads from a small parking area along Beaver Valley Road to Bosar Point, the peninsula that separates the Killbuck and Mud Lick fingers of Glendale Lake. The point is a great place to view spring waterfowl.

## Haddie Buck Peninsula Trails (central)

### Hughes Trail: 0.9 mile, more difficult hiking

A relatively flat hike through beautiful hardwood forests, this trail begins in the organized group tenting area and joins Troxell Point Trail. Hughes Trail is good for cross-country skiing.

### Lakeshore Trail: 0.75 mile, easiest hiking

Beginning between cabins 7 and 8, this forested walking trail runs along Glendale Lake and has several scenic views. At Muskrat Beach, the trail follows the service road to the group tenting area where it meets Hughes Trail.

### Muskrat Beach Trail: 0.5 mile, easiest hiking

This trail links Troxell Point and Plessinger trails to Muskrat Beach.

### Plessinger Trail: 1.2 miles, more difficult hiking

Beginning at the Prince Gallitzin Marina entrance road, this trail passes through Muskrat Beach Day Use Area 1 and meets Muskrat Beach Trail. Hiking this trail combined with Lakeshore Trail and a paved path by Cabin 1 makes a 3-mile loop.

### Troxell Point Trail: 2.8 miles, more difficult hiking

This long trail begins at the parking lot along Marina Road near the Pennsylvania Game Commission maintenance building. This trail travels the length of Haddie Buck Peninsula to Troxell Point, a plateau above the lake. Many trails intersect Troxell Point Trail, providing the opportunity for side loops and alternate pathways.

### Turkey Ridge Trail: 1.2 miles, more difficult hiking

This trail intersects Troxel Point Trail twice and passes through Muskrat Beach Day Use Area 3. Turkey Ridge Trail passes through a variety of habitats, offering the chance to see a diversity of animal and bird species. Most of the trail is relatively flat, making it a good family hike.

## Point Trailhead/Campground Trails (central west)

### Campground Trail: 2.2 miles, easiest hiking

This trail follows the shoreline and topography around the campground. Five benches along the trail are great for relaxing and viewing wildlife. This trail is popular for mountain biking and geocaching.

### Deer Trail: 0.7 mile, easiest hiking

Follow this trail into State Game Lands 108 to discover food plots for wildlife. Lucky hikers can see deer or other animals feeding. This trail intersects with Forest Trail.

### Footprint Trail: 0.8 mile, more difficult hiking

Follow this loop for a fleeting view of the Wyerough Branch of the lake. Near the midway point, hikers can relax on a bench and scout for herons, osprey, and bald eagles.

### Forest Trail: 0.4 mile, easiest hiking

Watch scampering chipmunks and hear chattering red squirrels while strolling under a canopy of beech, maple, and hemlock trees. This short loop is one of the easiest trails in the park.

### Poems Trail: 0.6 mile, easiest hiking

This is an easy walking trail with many interesting poems about nature. Pick up a trail guide at the trailhead or the campground office to follow this trail, reading the poems that correspond with locations along the route.

### Point Trail: 2.8 miles, more difficult hiking

This relatively rugged trail with lots of exposed roots begins at the Point Trailhead. The top loop of the trail follows Campground Cove. The bottom loop of the trail follows the shoreline or a hillside. The trees are a mix of hemlock and hardwoods providing a shady walk with beautiful lake views.

## Bater Patch Trails (northeast)

### Hagaratty Trail: 1.5 miles, more difficult hiking

The trail starts near the Glendale Dam off Old Glendale Road Trail and follows along Snake Ridge before descending to meet Old Glendale Road Trail at the Bater Patch Trailhead.

### Old Glendale Road Trail: 1.9 miles, easiest hiking

From the Beaverdam Boat Launch parking lot, this trail leads across the dam and follows the shoreline along the Slate Lick arm of Glendale Lake to the Bater Patch Trailhead. Along the way it connects to Hagaratty Trail. This is a beautiful walk through the woods with great opportunities to see birds and wildlife.

## Shomo Fields Trails (north)

### Bollinger Trail: 4.1 miles, more difficult hiking

This long trail passes Beaverdam Valley Marina, the soccer fields at Glendale Dam, and intersects many trails. Mountain bikers, horseback riders, and snowmobilers all use the trail.

### Gates Trail: 2.2 miles, more difficult hiking

Accessed from Swartz Road or from Bollinger Trail near McKees Run Boat Launch, this trail loops around the hill above McKees Run.

### Herman Fields Trail: 0.7 mile, easiest hiking

Starting at an old road gate along Beaver Valley Road, this trail climbs the hill to join Rhody Trail and intersects with Westrick Trail along the way.

### Reed Trail: 0.6 mile, more difficult hiking

This short trail connects Westrick Trail to Rhody Trail.

### Rhody Trail: 1.1 miles, more difficult hiking

This trail takes you through Dixon Hollow starting along Swartz Road and ending at Wyerough Branch. Make a loop by taking Herman Fields or Reed trails along the way.

### Westrick Trail: 0.7 mile, more difficult hiking

This trail begins near Pavilion 1 at Pickerel Pond, crosses Beaver Valley Road, steadily climbs to Shomo Fields, then intersects Herman Fields Trail.

## Slate Lick Trails (southeast)

Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling are permitted on these trails.

### Foster Run Trail: 1.7 miles, more difficult hiking

Running from Bater Patch Trailhead south along a ridge and then down to the lake near Roberts Run, Foster Run Trail traverses a remote area of the park consisting of thick brushy woods over rolling hills.

### Noel Run Connector Trail: 0.6 mile, more difficult hiking

This trail connects Foster Run Trail to Slate Lick Branch. Much of the trail passes through the former Glendale Riding Trails. The area consists of rolling terrain through woods with heavy underbrush.

### Shomo Run Trail: 2 miles, more difficult hiking

This shaded trail starts across the road from the PA Game Commission parking area on Marina Road near Slate Lick Branch. Much of the trail follows the curves of Shomo Run before intersecting Noel Run Connector Trail. Several loops pass through forest toward Slate Lick Branch.

Tell us about your hike at: www.ExplorePAtrails.com

# Wildlife Watching

The diverse habitats of Prince Gallitzin State Park provide great opportunities for viewing wildlife. Please observe from a distance and do not feed wildlife.

The 1,635-acre Glendale Lake, with its 26 miles of shoreline, is home to many species of fishes, birds, and animals. Wyerough Branch and the upper reaches of Slate Lick Branch and Mud Lick Cove are covered in wetland plants and are good places to see ducks, herons, and rails. In the spring and fall, waterfowl stop at the lake to rest on their migrations north and south.

The forests of the park are excellent for seeing many species of birds, especially warblers and vireos. The fields in the park are excellent for habitat for butterflies.

Prince Gallitzin State Park, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, is enhancing the Headache Hill area to improve wildlife habitat and create wildlife viewing areas.

**Feeding wildlife is prohibited.** When animals become dependent on humans for food, this brings animals and humans into close contact which can lead to potentially dangerous situations. Human food is often of little nutritional value to animals and can make animals sick and unhealthy.

# Learn, Experience, Connect

Prince Gallitzin State Park offers a wide variety of programs year round. Recreational programming includes kayak and pontoon boat tours of Glendale Lake. Additional programs offered include nature hikes, bird identification, and nature-based campfire programs at the campground amphitheater.

Curriculum-based environmental education field learning experiences are available for K-12 school groups, youth organizations, and homeschool associations. Call the park office to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are also offered for teachers.

Contact the park office or explore the online calendar of events, https://events.dcnr.pa.gov, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

# Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park

The Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park provides volunteers at the park with additional ways to contribute to the conservation and preservation of the park and its resources.

The mission of the Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park is to preserve and enhance the natural and built resources of Prince Gallitzin State Park, while promoting education and recreation for all visitors now and in the future.

The Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park is a chapter of the PA Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). PPFF is a private, non-profit organization that works to develop resources which compliment the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. PPFF’s mission is to enhance Pennsylvania’s parks and forests, protect Pennsylvania’s natural resources, and support conservation and environmental programs. www.paparksandforests.org

If interested in volunteering or donating, contact the Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park at:

966 Marina Road

Patton, PA 16668

814-674-1000

# History

In the 1930s, much of the area that is now Prince Gallitzin State Park was forested and laced with trout streams and beaver dams. The depressed local economy led to a decline in population.

In 1935, during the Great Depression, the National Park Service proposed to establish several Recreation Demonstration Areas in Pennsylvania. A project was proposed and approved for this area, but was never implemented. The project proposal map is on file in the park office and has an uncanny resemblance to Prince Gallitzin State Park.

In 1955, the Patton Chamber of Commerce and the Patton Sportsmen proposed a 30-acre dam in the Killbuck area. In March of that same year, Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters, met with the Patton Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Goddard approved of the idea and from that beginning, the original concept rapidly expanded.

On April 4, 1957, Governor George M. Leader announced plans for “Pennsylvania’s largest and most complete state park” and land acquisition began. The park was to have a 1,760-acre lake and “provide the people of this State with the finest recreation facilities.”

Money derived from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, recently authorized by the state legislature, was to pay for the proposed two million dollar project. Secretary Goddard said, “No other areas that I have seen in the Commonwealth has this unique combination of characteristics. I predict we will be able to fulfill the desires of the Legislature much beyond their expectations in the development of this outstanding park.”

On May 3, 1958, groundbreaking ceremonies were held with Governor Leader in attendance. Glendale Lake began filling on December 2, 1960, and opened for boating in July of 1961. On May 29, 1965, Governor Scranton dedicated Prince Gallitzin State Park.

The park was one of Pennsylvania’s largest parks at the time. From July 8 to July 15, 1967, the park hosted the National Campers and Hikers Association Convention. 26,500 people camped in the fields around Headache Hill. The convention brought national awareness to the park and Pennsylvania.

In April of 1970, Crooked Run Campground opened, the docks at Beaver Valley Marina opened, and the first seasonal park naturalist conducted programs and walks.

Further improvements like the addition of hiking trails, cabins, and facility upgrades continue to make Prince Gallitzin one of the finest recreational facilities in Pennsylvania.

## Prince Gallitzin

Prince Gallitzin State Park is named for Father Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin. Born in Holland (Netherlands) on December 22, 1770, he was the only son of Prince Dimitri Alexievitch Gallitzin, Russian Ambassador to Holland, and his wife, Amalia Von Schmettau Gallitzin.

In 1792, young Gallitzin arrived in the United States. Intrigued by the terrible social and political state of France compared to the civil and religious liberty that was fundamental to the social structure of the new country, he determined to devote his life to being a Catholic priest and entered the Sulpician Seminary in Baltimore. On March 18, 1795, Gallitzin was ordained, becoming one of the earliest people in the United States to receive the full orders of the priesthood. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States and was first assigned to the Conewago mission near the Susquehanna River, south of present-day Harrisburg.

Father Gallitzin played an important role in the settling of central and northern Cambria County, an area of widely scattered farms. Father Gallitzin established the first Catholic church between the Susquehanna and the Mississippi rivers (St. Michael’s Parish) and founded the town of Loretto. He arranged for the construction of a gristmill, tannery, and sawmill. He was the people’s doctor, lawyer, banker, and school teacher.

Father Gallitzin never returned to his homeland and died in Loretto on May 6, 1840. His contributions are remembered in several place names in Cambria County, including the town of Gallitzin, Gallitzin Springs, as well as Prince Gallitzin State Park. For all his great deeds and hard work helping the people of the region, Father Gallitzin will forever be known as the “Apostle of the Alleghenies.”

# Information and Reservations

**Prince Gallitzin State Park**

966 Marina Road

Patton, PA 16668-6317

814-674-1000 (Main Office)

814-674-1007 (Campground Office)

PrinceGallitzinSP@pa.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

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.

Facebook: @PrinceGallitzinSP

### Electric vehicle charging station

A 2-plug, electric-vehicle charging station is available for public use in the Prince Gallitzin Marina. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.

## 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**

Conemaugh Miners Medical Center

290 Haida Avenue

Hastings, PA 16646

814-247-3100

## 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 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. Use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn It!

• Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

• Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

• Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

• Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.

• Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.

• Soliciting and posting signs are prohibited without approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

## Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from Visit Johnstown.

800-237-8590

www.VisitJohnstownPA.com

# Pennsylvania State Parks Mission

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania state parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Facebook: @visitPAparks

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