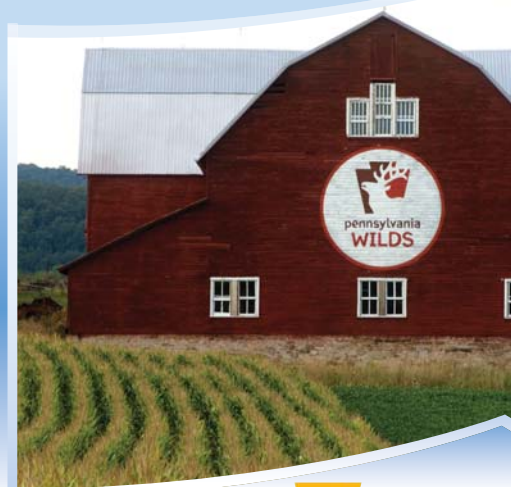
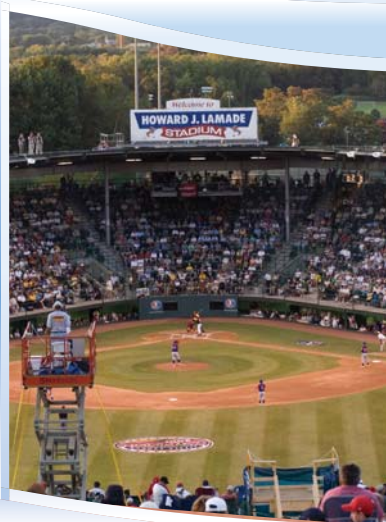


WILLIAMSPORT LYCOMING COUNTY

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Welcome to WILLIAMSPORT & LYCOMING COUNTY, PA

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Businesses with the above logo in this guide have voluntarily taken a hospitality training program. Look for it when going to www.vacationpa.com for a more up-to-date listing of businesses that have received their PA Pride certification. You will also see a window decal showing that a business has completed the program.

Planning a vacation to Williamsport for the Little League® World Series

The Little League® World Series is held every August at the Little League® International Complex in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The series welcomes 16 teams from around the world.

Free Admission

As always, admission to all Little League® World Series games are free of charge. Tickets are required for seating in Lamade Stadium for the World Series Championship game. Tickets can be obtained through a lottery system. Please send a letter requesting a maximum of up to four (4) tickets to:

2009 World Series Tickets
Little League International
539 US Route 15 Hwy
P.O. Box 3485
Williamsport, PA 17701

*Requests must be mailed by February 28, 2009.

More Information

For information on lodging, local attractions, restaurants and other events during the Little League World Series, please visit: www.vacationpa.com or call the Lycoming County Visitors Center at 800-358-9900.



Grand Slam Parade

Be sure to plan on watching the Annual Grand Slam Parade through downtown Williamsport. The parade is scheduled for Thursday night prior to opening day at the series.



If you do not receive tickets for Lamade Stadium, there is plenty of seating (up to 30,000 people) along the terraced hills surrounding the outfield!

Items prohibited at the Little League® Complex:

Alcohol, Large Tarps, Large Coolers, large bags or containers, Glass containers, Plastic containers, Cans or other items containing liquids, Pets, Solicitation, Fireworks, Laser Pointers, Knives or weapons of any kind.



Welcome!

Did you ever wake-up and say to yourself “I need to get away for a couple of days”, and then wonder where you might go. You slug off to work, thinking about that need to get away to somewhere that offers peaceful solitude but yet isn't in some remote place that will take you three days just to travel there. You get to work and talk with co-workers that tell you take a couple of days. At home it's the same conversation with your spouse who feels the same way. But where do you go? Everyone has a little different perspective on what they like. Your spouse likes the outdoors, you like historic architecture, and the kids like sports.

Look through the pages of this guide to Williamsport and Lycoming County, Pennsylvania to learn about the variety of activities that you can do when you want to get away from it all and just relax. Lycoming County is located in the Pennsylvania Wilds Region of the Commonwealth (yes, 1 of only 4 in the country) and is easily accessible by major highways. It is that perfect destination when you want to get away with the family, whether it be for the extended weekend or for the week.

Williamsport's historic “Millionaires' Row” was referred to by Victorian Homes Magazine as “Pennsylvania's mother lode for Victorian architecture.” Take the self-guided tour and walk along the estates of millionaires from days gone by when lumber was king in our area. In the Spring, Summer and Fall, you can sit back and relax if you desire and ride one of the Williamsport Trolleys to experience a guided tour of Millionaires' Row. Either way, you shouldn't miss this opportunity to experience some of the best Victorian architecture in our country.

If baseball is your game, then make sure you pack your glove and catch a foul during a game of the Williamsport Crosscutters at Historic Bowman Field or during one of the exciting games of the Little League World Series.

Lycoming County is filled with many natural wonders of the great outdoors. Enjoy a hike or bike ride along the Pine Creek Rail Trail. It was ranked as one of the best trails by USA Today. If having a rod in your hand is more your style, then you'll enjoy fishing at one of the popular streams, such as Slate Run, Loyalsock or Black Hole.

Look to the 2009 Williamsport/Lycoming County Visitors Guide as your reference tool for things to do, places to visit and the history of the area. You should also look to it for ideas of places to stay and where to eat while visiting Williamsport and Lycoming County. However, for the most current tool, the travel staff here at the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau encourages you to visit our website at www.vacationpa.com for a more comprehensive list of activities and scheduled events.

So, take action on that urge to get away. Get your bags packed and make your way to Williamsport and Lycoming County for a relaxing and invigorating getaway.

WILLIAMSPORT

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Things To Do - Arts, Culture and History

Dietrick Lamade founded the Grit newspaper in Williamsport in 1885. It grew to be a familiar newspaper in small towns across the United States for over a century and became a national institution.

As we said earlier, Williamsport and Lycoming County are rich in history and outstanding natural beauty. Here's a little bit more about that history. The city of Williamsport is a river community, situated along the Susquehanna River. It was founded in 1795 by Michael Ross. As it grew and the population base expanded, fortunes were made in the lumber industry and associated industries such as tanneries and furniture manufacturing, spurred by the use of the river as a log boom. (Just a quick note; if you want to see the remnants of the log boom, check it out by going on a Hiawatha Riverboat cruise.) Its natural resources and strategic location as a transportation hub made Williamsport the most important regional center of northcentral Pennsylvania.

Known as the "Lumber Capital of the World" during the second half of the 19th century, Williamsport and Lycoming County's extensive lumber supply and the large timber industry produced many local millionaires and men of wealth referred to as "lumber barons". Many of their grand and opulent Victorian-style mansions still exist today; some of them are available for public tours.

The area's history is celebrated by locals as a major tourist draw for visitors through various tours of "Millionaires' Row" mansions and the rich architectural splendor and beauty of some of the churches located in the "Millionaires' Row" area of West Fourth Street. This area recently underwent a renaissance. Entrepreneurs who were interested in preserving these historic properties made, and continue to make, great effort to acquire and restore these former barons' homes to their former glory so that others may continue to enjoy them.

The lumber barons of the late 19th century also helped to bring Williamsport to the forefront in the latest innovations in public transportation. Streetcars were common on the streets of Williamsport as early as 1865 and by 1891, were powered by electricity, a full year before Philadelphia accomplished the same achievement. This and other historic transportation achievements of our area are celebrated in the Peter Herdic Transportation Museum. This museum is named for Peter Herdic, a Williamsport entrepreneur who invented a horse-drawn carriage that was a forerunner to the taxicab. (For the trivia buff, it was called a "Herdic," named after its inventor and even has its own entry in the dictionary.)

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The Williamsport-Lycoming County area has much to offer for a relatively small community (118,000 county population, 30,000 Williamsport's population). To those that know Williamsport, they weren't surprised when Williamsport was selected in 2008 to host the Governor's Award for the Arts. Among the venues to find high quality entertainment is the Community Arts Center (CAC), a tastefully renovated 1920s era Art Deco performing arts theatre. This stunning 2,200 seat entertainment venue jewel has showcased during its 16 years of operation talent as varied as Jerry Seinfeld, Faith Hill, Ray Charles, Alice Cooper and Barry Manilow. Other notable artists showcased at the CAC in recent years have included, B.B. King, Amy Grant, Clay Aiken, Bill Cosby, Vanessa Williams and Olivia Newton John.

The Community Arts Center has also hosted Broadway shows such as Hairspray and Peter Pan to name a few. It serves as an excellent venue for hosting local performing arts organizations such as the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, the Williamsport Civic Ballet and the Civic Chorus. The CAC is operated by the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Not far from the Community Arts Center is the Community Theatre League, located in the Joseph McDade Trade and Transit Centre. It is a modern theatre-in-the round that features the best local dramatic, musical and comedy performances. Each year the Community Theatre League produces approximately six features, as well as special concerts, reader's theatre and children's theatre.

There are several special events held in the area throughout the year such as the Mardi Gras celebration in downtown Williamsport, the Lycoming County Fair, the Billtown Blues Festival, Victorian Christmas, the Way's Garden Art Show and the "Grand Slam Parade" in downtown Williamsport that helps to kick off the annual Little League World Series.

The Community Theatre League has been presenting musicals, comedies and dramas to the Williamsport area for over 30 years and produces over 10 plays a year.

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Things To Do - Attractions

Sones Farm and Home Museum is full of artifacts celebrating Lycoming County's history and heritage and makes history come alive with a rich display of remarkable farm equipment and household furnishings.

When we said that there are a variety of things to do here in Lycoming County, we weren't just overselling. There's a wide variety of attractions available to those who visit Williamsport and Lycoming County. You can do things like backpacking in the nearby mountains and trails, biking on the Pine Creek Rail Trail, riding a replica historic trolley through Williamsport's Historic District and cruising the Susquehanna on the Hiawatha Paddlewheel Riverboat. We do have just about everything to meet your varied interest.

The "Hiawatha," is an authentic replica of the type of riverboat that plied the waters of the Susquehanna during the late 19th and early 20th century. It offers public cruises, scenic dinner and concert cruises, family night and karaoke cruises as well as private charter cruises.

Learn more about the history of this area by going to the Thomas T. Taber Museum of the Lycoming County Historical Society. (This is just a stone's throw away from the Peter Herdic Transportation Museum we told you about earlier.) This museum features artifacts and exhibits on the area's Native Americans and Prehistory and the lumbering era in Williamsport. You'll see a Victorian parlor, a woodworking shop, an old general store, a gristmill and more. The museum contains one of the country's largest model train collections, the LaRue Shempp collection, containing more than 300 toy trains, including one owned by President Ronald Reagan.

You can ride one of the historic trolley buses and tour the city's picturesque and quaint Millionaires' Row. While riding, you'll have a recorded tour that will inform you about the many interesting historic facts and tidbits about the Historic District and Williamsport. Millionaires' Row does represent some of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in its original form still left in the United States. These homes feature beautiful and exquisite examples of Tiffany windows, fine woodworking and the fine craftsmanship of the late 19th century.

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The James V. Brown Library, located in downtown Williamsport, is the crown jewel of libraries in the northcentral region of Pennsylvania. It is a treasure in itself. It opened in 1907 and was the gift of prominent lumberman, James V. Brown, at the bequest of his wife, Carile. It is one of Williamsport's most magnificent public buildings with large marble columns, stained glass and a glass rotunda that greets patrons. It houses more than 200,000 volumes and features the latest in digital technology, including computers for patrons to use to gain access to the internet for gathering their latest email and for doing research on various websites. The library is the 10th most used library in the state of Pennsylvania. Coming online in 2009 will be a new Children's Wing. This center will provide more educational opportunities for the children of our region.

Williamsport is also a major educational center, as home to two first class institutions of higher learning, Lycoming College and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Lycoming College dates back to 1812 and is one of the oldest colleges in the state. Penn College enjoys an excellent reputation as one of the finest technical schools in the state and is an affiliate of the Pennsylvania State University. Both offer a variety of programs and have picturesque campuses amidst the natural splendor of central Pennsylvania.

One of the most exotic attractions in the vicinity of Williamsport is Clyde Peeling's Reptiland, an accredited zoo specializing in reptiles and amphibians. Clyde Peeling and some of his "friends" have been seen nationally on shows such as the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and the Conan O'Brien Show. Since its

opening in 1964, Reptiland has provided the public with a link to some of the least loved members of the animal kingdom. It has hosted and continues to host school groups, families and individuals with an interest in the exotic world of these reptiles and amphibians. Reptiland offers a perfect blend of environmental education and entertainment.

Small wineries are becoming popular all across the nation and this area is no exception. Our area currently offers the Bastress Mountain Winery, Eagle Rock Winery and the Oregon Hill Winery. The Bastress Mountain Winery features a newly built chalet style winery. Vintner Shawn Zimmerman always has a wide variety of vintages from which to choose. The winery also has a wide variety of seasonal events throughout the year. Bastress Mountain also features a banquet room for occasions such as weddings and private parties. Eagle Rock Winery is located at the Pajama Factory in Williamsport. It is the newest winery to Lycoming County. Owner Anna Falet has incorporated a number of different area artists into her space at the Pajama Factory to engage your visual senses as you engage your palate. The Oregon Hill Winery at Morris, Pennsylvania, has won almost 50 national and international medals for its refreshing and tasty wines and champagnes. Vintner Eric Swendrowski's "Mountain White," a medium sweet wine, has won nearly every competition it has entered.