The Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania: A Hiker's Guide from PA 944 to the Susquehanna River

Welcome to Pennsylvania's section of the iconic Appalachian Trail, stretching over 229.5 miles from PA 944 near Delaware Water Gap to the Susquehanna River. This guide will take you on a journey through the trail's diverse terrain, stunning vistas, and rich history.



Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania Hiking Guide - PA 944 to Susquehanna River by Joyce Reid

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4 out of 5 Language : English File size : 931 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 7 pages Lending : Enabled



Section Overview

The Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania is divided into three sections:

- Section 1: PA 944 to US 209 (58.8 miles)
- **Section 2:** US 209 to the Delaware River (73.4 miles)
- Section 3: The Delaware River to the Susquehanna River (97.3 miles)

This guide focuses on Section 3, which traverses the rugged Kittatinny Mountains, crosses several major rivers, and offers breathtaking views of the Susquehanna Valley.

Trail Highlights

- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary: A renowned raptor migration site with stunning panoramic views.
- Peters Mountain: The highest point in Pennsylvania along the Appalachian Trail, with an elevation of 2,197 feet.
- Blue Mountain: A scenic ridge line with panoramic views and abundant wildlife.
- Mount Minsi: A rocky summit overlooking the Delaware Water Gap and the Kittatinny Mountains.
- Susquehanna River: The majestic river that marks the southern boundary of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania.

Scenic Overlooks

The Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania boasts numerous scenic overlooks that offer breathtaking views:

- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Overlook: Panoramic views of the Kittatinny Valley and the Pocono Mountains.
- Peters Mountain Overlook: Views of the surrounding mountains and valleys, including the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- Blue Mountain Overlook: Distant views of the Delaware River and the Catskill Mountains in New York.

- Mount Minsi Overlook: Views of the Delaware Water Gap and the Lehigh Valley.
- Susquehanna River Overlook: Views of the Susquehanna River
 Valley and the distant Harrisburg skyline.

Camping and Lodging

There are several campsites and shelters along this section of the Appalachian Trail:

- Hawk Mountain Shelter: Located near Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (mile 170.3).
- **Eckville Shelter:** Located near Eckville (mile 178.4).
- Blue Mountain Shelter: Located on Blue Mountain (mile 186.6).
- Peters Mountain Cabin: A year-round cabin located near the summit of Peters Mountain (mile 207.0).
- Susquehanna River Cabin: Located near the Susquehanna River (mile 227.7).

In addition to these campsites, there are also several motels and hostels located near the trail.

Trip Planning

To plan your journey on the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania, consider the following tips:

 Plan your itinerary: Determine the length of your hike, the desired campsites, and any resupply points.

- Check weather conditions: The trail can experience unpredictable weather, so stay informed about forecasts.
- Pack for all seasons: Pennsylvania's climate can vary greatly, so pack layers of clothing.
- Carry enough water: Water sources can be scarce, so carry at least 2 liters per person.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles: Respect the environment by packing out all trash and avoiding campfires.

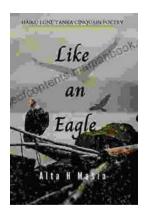
The Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania offers a challenging and rewarding hiking experience, with stunning scenery, diverse terrain, and a rich history. Whether you're planning a day hike or a multi-day adventure, this guide will help you plan your journey along this iconic trail.



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