



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.

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Marty Straub

WELCOME



Top 10 Activities to do at Lehigh Gorge

1. Take a group of friends for a bicycle ride (or a hike) along the river on the Lehigh Gorge Trail.
2. Challenge yourself with a whitewater rafting trip.
3. Experience the wonder of the Upper Grand Section of the Lehigh Canal by standing inside Lock 22 at Mud Run.
4. Enjoy the view from the top of the Penn Haven Inclined Planes at Penn Haven Junction.
5. Snowmobile the 15-mile trail from Penn Haven to White Haven.
6. Eat a picnic lunch to the beautiful sounds and sights of Buttermilk Falls.
7. Explore the Audubon's Lehigh Autotour.
8. Experience a dogsled ride with a licensed outfitter.
9. Find your own secret fishing hole in the nearly 30 miles of river or its numerous tributaries.
10. Visit a neighbor – Hickory Run State Park!

LEHIGH GORGE STATE PARK

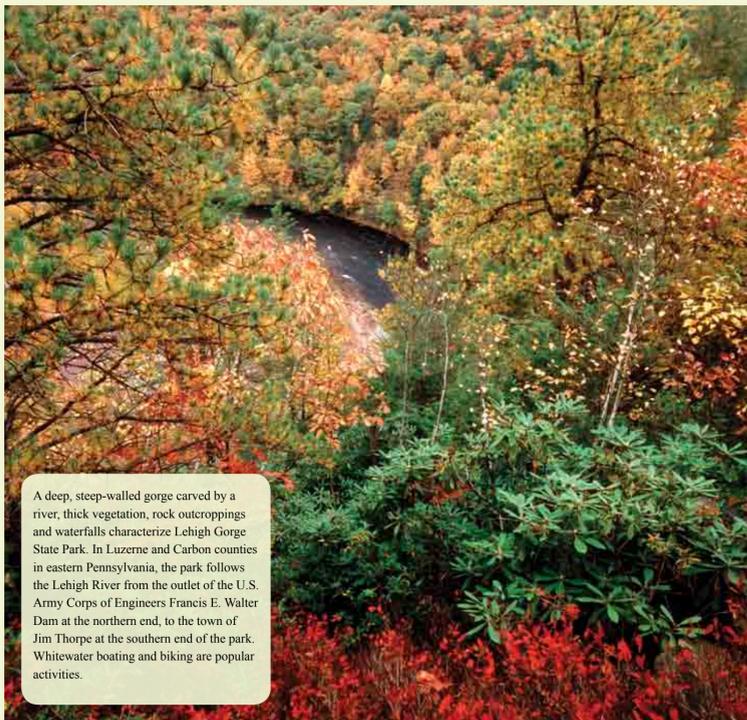


photo by Michael P. Gudimski

A deep, steep-walled gorge carved by a river, thick vegetation, rock outcroppings and waterfalls characterize Lehigh Gorge State Park. In Luzerne and Carbon counties in eastern Pennsylvania, the park follows the Lehigh River from the outlet of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Francis E. Walter Dam at the northern end, to the town of Jim Thorpe at the southern end of the park. Whitewater boating and biking are popular activities.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day

The 6,107 acres of park land follow the Lehigh River from Francis E. Walter Dam in the north to Jim Thorpe in the south. The Lehigh Gorge Trail follows over 20 miles of abandoned railroad grade along the river, providing opportunities for hiking, bicycling, sightseeing and photography. The trail is closed to motor vehicles.

Parking areas are provided in White Haven, Rockport and Glen Onoko. Very limited parking is available at Lehigh Tannery but boat launching is prohibited.

FISHING: Fishing in the river and streams is permitted during seasons established by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The northern section of the Lehigh River is stocked with trout and is most popular with anglers. Approved trout waters stretch from the Francis E. Walter Dam to Sandy Run. Whitewater boating north of White Haven is discouraged to promote this section for fishing activities.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Most of the park is open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, bear and small game. The park also provides access to state game lands 40, 141 and 149, which adjoin the park.

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 car, trailer or leased campsite. The only exception is that law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* may carry said firearm concealed on their person while they are in the park.

HIKING: 33 miles of trails
The 26 miles of the Lehigh Gorge Trail offers easy hiking along the scenic Lehigh River. Highlights are: several waterfalls, historic remnants of the Upper Grand Section of the Lehigh Canal and many opportunities to see wildlife. Potable water is available seasonally at the Rockport Access Area.

The recently added Bald Mountain property is open to hunting and hiking only. The seven miles of hiking trails are not marked or signed, pending the completion of the environmental review and long-term planning. Only experienced hikers should hike this area and should carry a topographic map and a compass or GPS unit, and know how to use them.

The gorge is a natural area that possesses natural hazards like steep and treacherous terrain and fast-moving water. You are responsible for your safety and that of your family. Wear proper hiking shoes and use caution when hiking in the gorge.



BICYCLING: 26 miles of trail
The Lehigh Gorge Trail is open for biking. Wide tires are recommended. Bicycle rentals and shuttle service are available throughout the area.

PROPOSED RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Future recreational development in Lehigh Gorge State Park will improve opportunities for public access to the Gorge and Lehigh River while protecting the natural resources and maintaining a high quality recreational experience.

Trailhead facilities such as parking and comfort stations will be upgraded in the vicinity of White Haven, providing support for the park's recreational activities.

Tell us about your hike at:
[ExplorePAtrails.com](http://www.explorePAtrails.com)
powered by you

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION



A wide variety of environmental education and interpretive programs are offered year-round. Through hands-on activities and guided walks participants gain appreciation, understanding and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

River corridors are natural transportation routes and so the Gorge has a great diversity of plants and animals. Great blue herons, mergansers, kingfishers and beavers are common river residents. In summer, the Lehigh Gorge Trail is a great place to see snakes, fence lizards and warblers, especially black-and-white and magnolia warblers.



Beaver

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau www.800poconos.com and the Luzerne County Visitors Bureau www.tournepa.com

EXPLORING AUDUBON'S LEHIGH AUTOTOUR

Lehigh Gorge State Park and nearby Hickory Run State Park are featured in a unique auto tour entitled *Exploring Audubon's Lehigh*. The tour focuses on famed naturalist John James Audubon's 1829 visit to the Rockport area of the Lehigh River Valley and looks at the

valley's natural and historical landscapes. Brochures and CDs are available at several locations along the 53-mile route. Signs mark the route and identify tour stops.

The tour begins in either Jim Thorpe at the Old Mauch Chunk Landing, or in White Haven at the Lehigh Canal Depot. www.audubonslehigh.org.

DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Lehigh Gorge State Park is in the Audubon's Lehigh Reach of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The Corridor stretches more than 150 miles

from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol, in eastern Pennsylvania, and follows the historic routes of the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad, the Lehigh Navigation, and the Delaware Canal.

The Corridor showcases the extraordinary natural, cultural and recreational resources and works in partnership to conserve the heritage and enhance the quality of life for its many residents. Corridor landings (visitor centers) are available throughout the region to direct visitors to many opportunities that tell the stories that make the region so nationally significant.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are ADA accessible. 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

Contact a park employee or dial 911. Look on bulletin boards for directions to the nearest hospitals.

NEAREST HOSPITALS

Rockport and White Haven Access Areas
Hazleton General Hospital
700 East Broad Street
Hazleton, PA 18201 570-501-4000

Glen Onoko Access Area
Gnaden Huetten Memorial Hospital
211 North 12th Street
Lehigh, PA 18235 610-377-1300

Information and Reservations

For More Information Contact
Lehigh Gorge State Park
c/o Hickory Run State Park
RR #1, Box 81
White Haven, PA 18661-9712
570-443-0400
e-mail: hickoryrunsp@pa.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations
Make online reservations at: www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.



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

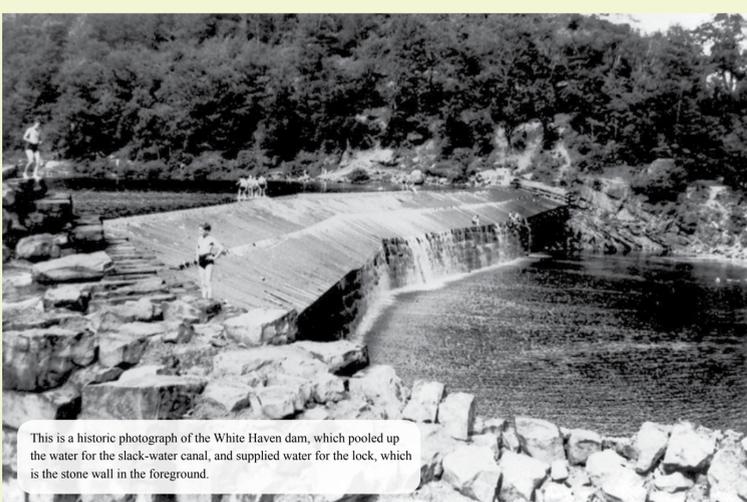
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

- 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.

HISTORY



This is a historic photograph of the White Haven dam, which pooled up the water for the slack-water canal, and supplied water for the lock, which is the stone wall in the foreground.

Settlement was sparse during the 19th century until loggers arrived and began felling trees and building sawmills. Famed naturalist and painter John James Audubon visited the area in 1829 and spent six weeks painting birds. He was distressed at how quickly trees were cut and shipped down river. The industrial revolution was just beginning in the area.

The discovery of anthracite coal at Summit Hill in 1791 caused intensive development and settlement of the upper Lehigh Valley. In the early 1800s, the need to transport increasingly large quantities of coal to markets down river led to the intensive development of canals. Between

1835 and 1838, a series of dams, locks, and canals was constructed by Josiah White and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. White constructed 20 dams and 29 locks over the 26 miles between Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe) and White Haven. Five and one-half miles of canal were also built. It was called the Upper Grand Section of the Lehigh Canal because the locks and dams were larger and far more impressive than the locks of other canals.

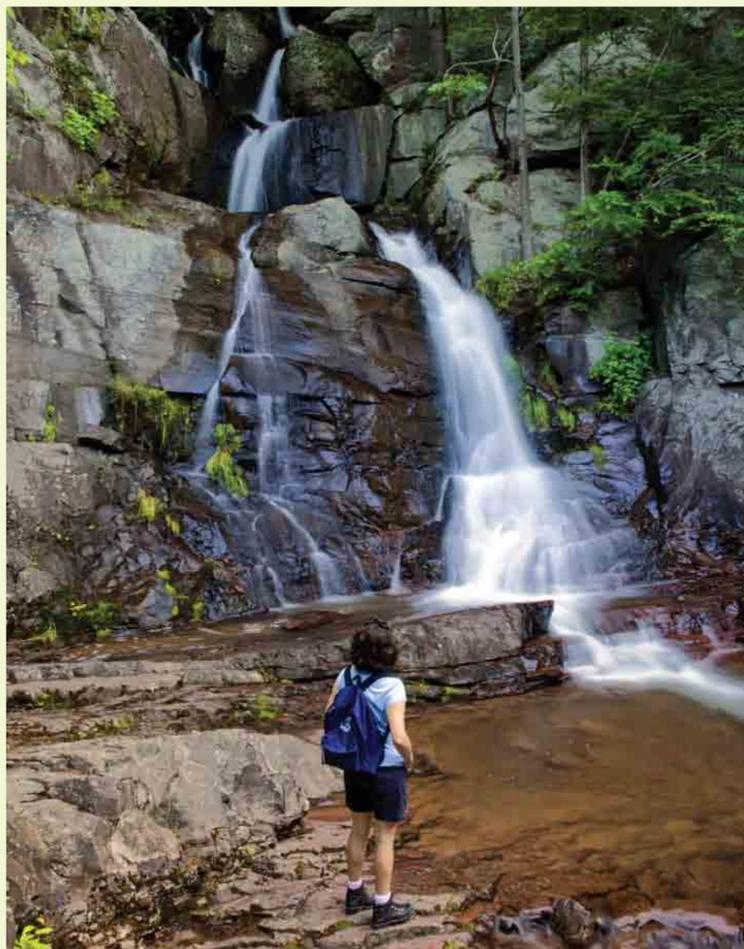
When severe flooding in 1862 destroyed the canal system, it was replaced with the new technology of railroads. Remains of locks, dams and towpath are still evident in the Lehigh River Gorge.



Loggers continued to clearcut the huge white pine and hemlock trees for lumber and for the bark, which was used to tan hides. In the 1860s, the second largest tannery in the United States sat on the banks of the Lehigh River at the small town of Lehigh Tannery. A terrible forest fire swept through the Lehigh Gorge area in 1875, burning the remaining standing timber, many sawmills and stockpiles of lumber. The sawmills closed and the loggers departed.

At the turn of the 20th century, railroads popularized the southern end of the park at a resort called Glen Onoko. Hotel Wahnetah boasted 47 rooms, a dance pavilion, tennis courts, fresh air and hikes to the scenic Glen Onoko Falls. A fire in 1911 closed the hotel and a fire in 1917 ended the resort era.

In the 1970s, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania began purchasing park lands and in 1980 the land was turned over to the Bureau of State Parks.



Buttermilk Falls, just north of Rockport

photo by Michael P. Gudimski

Enjoy the Winter

The Lehigh Gorge Trail from White Haven to Glen Onoko is open to cross-country skiing. The 15-mile section from White Haven to Penn Haven Junction is also open to snowmobiles. Parking for snowmobiling is at the White Haven access area under the I-80 bridge.



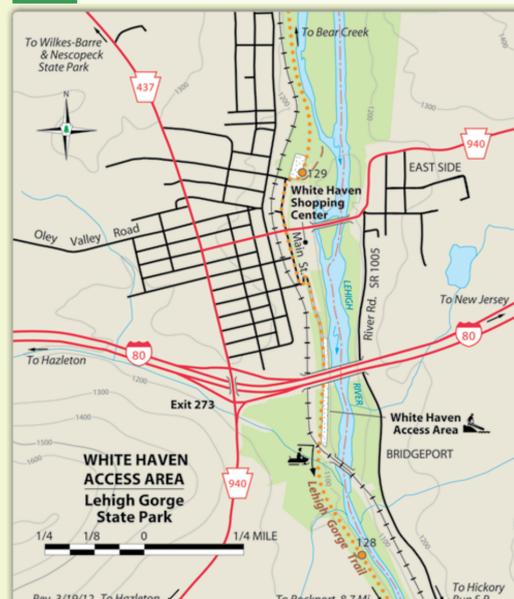
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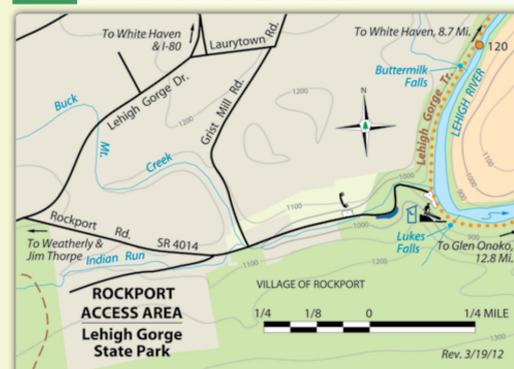


WHITE HAVEN ACCESS AREA



White Haven is the northern access area and can be reached off Exit 273 of I-80. Follow PA 940 east, being sure to take a right turn at the stop sign in White Haven. Just after crossing the railroad tracks turn right on Main Street and after a sharp, descending left curve bear right to the state park access area.

ROCKPORT ACCESS AREA



Rockport is the central access area and can be reached from the south by following US 209 south from Jim Thorpe to PA 93 north. After six miles, turn right onto Brenckman Drive to the town of Weatherly. Continue through Weatherly then turn right onto Lehigh Gorge Drive. Turn right onto Rockport Road. Rockport is accessible from the north from Exit 273 off I-80. Follow PA 940 west for one mile then turn left onto Lehigh Gorge Drive. At the village of Rockport, turn left onto Rockport Road.

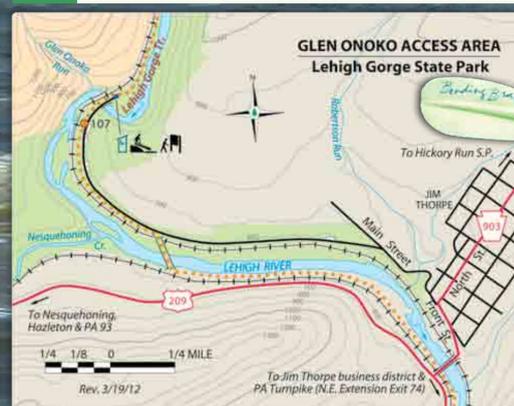
Driving Directions from Rockport to Glen Onoko

Leave access area on Rockport Road
 0.8 mi. At stop sign, turn left onto Lehigh Gorge Drive
 3.6 mi. In Weatherly, cross open grate bridge, then turn left at T-intersection
 2.5 mi. At stop sign, turn left onto PA 93 S
 5.9 mi. At stop sign, turn left onto US 209 N
 3.0 mi. At stop light, turn left onto PA 903 N
 0.4 mi. At stop sign, go straight (leaving PA 903 which bears to the right)
 0.3 mi. Turn left at entrance to Lehigh Gorge State Park
 1.6 mi. Enter parking area for Glen Onoko Access

Driving Directions from Glen Onoko to Rockport

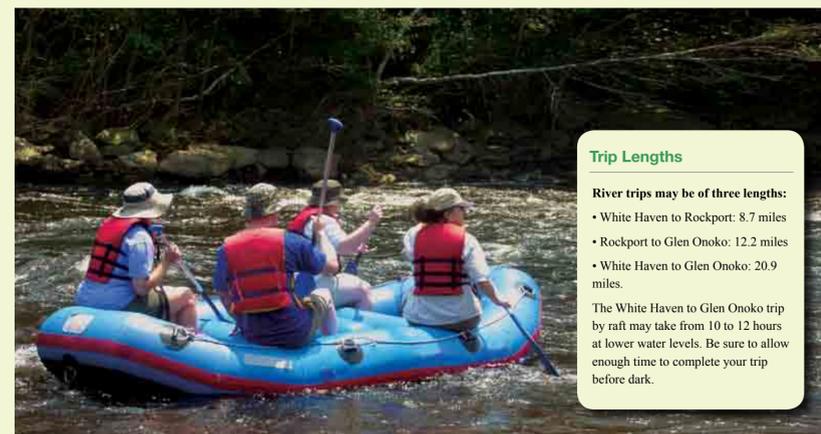
Leave Glen Onoko Access
 1.6 mi. Turn right at stop sign
 0.4 mi. At stop sign, go straight on PA 903 S
 0.4 mi. At stop light, turn right, onto US 209 S
 2.9 mi. Turn right onto PA 93 N
 6 mi. In Hudsonale, turn right onto Brenckman Drive heading towards Weatherly
 2.4 mi. At stop sign, turn right, cross bridge
 0.1 mi. After crossing railroad tracks, turn right.
 0.1 mi. At stop sign, go straight
 0.3 mi. At T-intersection, turn left, then turn right at stop sign
 3.2 mi. Turn right onto Rockport Road
 0.8 mi. Follow Rockport Road to parking area

GLEN ONOKO ACCESS AREA



Glen Onoko is the southern access area and may be reached by taking Exit 74 of the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Follow US 209 south to Jim Thorpe. Then take PA 903 north across the river. At the stop sign, continue straight—leaving PA 903 which bears to the right. Turn left at the entrance to the park.

WHITewater BOATING



Trip Lengths

- River trips may be of three lengths:
- White Haven to Rockport: 8.7 miles
 - Rockport to Glen Onoko: 12.2 miles
 - White Haven to Glen Onoko: 20.9 miles.

The White Haven to Glen Onoko trip by raft may take from 10 to 12 hours at lower water levels. Be sure to allow enough time to complete your trip before dark.

Whitewater Regulations and Safety



To protect the natural resources and the unspoiled natural beauty of the river and its environment, the Bureau of State Parks has developed maximum commercial boating capacities on the Lehigh River and controls the number of boaters. Controls have been placed on the outfitters which provide commercial guided river trips. These controls are designed to cover the safety equipment, type of flotation devices used and skill level of guides. Persons in canoes and kayaks should wear helmets and are required to add sufficient flotation to their watercraft for the displacement of water. Wetsuits or drysuits are recommended in the spring and the fall.

A major attraction of the park is whitewater boating. This section of the Lehigh River is Class III whitewater and is popular for rafting, kayaking and canoeing. All boaters must enter and leave the Lehigh River at designated sites. River flow is controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Francis E. Walter Dam and by streams flowing into the river throughout the park. Flow rates from the dam and scheduled water release dates are available at the U.S. Geologic Survey Web site: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis> or call the Hickory Run State Park office. 570-443-0400

FLOW RATES: At flows below 250 cubic feet per second (cfs), the river is very low and many parts are not deep enough for boating. From 250 to 1,000 cfs, the river becomes better for boating. Above 1,000 cfs, the level of difficulty becomes progressively greater and higher levels of skill and better equipment are necessary. At levels above 5,000 cfs, only expert boaters, in kayaks, closed canoes or very large rafts should attempt the river.

All boaters are required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. Type I, III or V vests designed for whitewater use are required. (See Required Vests below.)

REQUIRED VESTS

Type I



This PFD is designed for extended survival in rough, open water. It usually will turn an unconscious person face up and has over 22 pounds of buoyancy. This is the best PFD to keep you afloat in remote regions where rescue may be slow in coming.

Type III



These life jackets are generally considered the most comfortable, with styles for different boating activities and sports. They are for use in calm water where there is good chance of fast rescue since they will generally not turn an unconscious person face-up. Flotation aids come in many sizes and styles.

Type V



Special use PFDs include work vests, deck suits, and hybrids for restricted use. Hybrid vests contain some internal buoyancy and are inflatable to provide additional flotation.

Licensed Commercial Outfitters

Inexperienced boaters should not attempt the Lehigh River without qualified guides. Outfitted trips are available from concessionaires that provide rafts, guides, all necessary safety equipment, and transportation to and from the river.

The following is a list of licensed, commercial outfitters currently operating on the Lehigh River.

Jim Thorpe River Adventures
 1 Adventure Lane
 Jim Thorpe, PA 18229
 800-424-7238
www.jtraft.com

Pocono Whitewater
 1519 State Route 903
 Jim Thorpe, PA 18229
 800-WHITEWATER
www.whitewaterrafting.com

Whitewater Challengers Inc.
 288 North Stagecoach Road
 Weatherly, PA 18255
 800-443-8554
www.whitewaterchallengers.com

Whitewater Rafting Adventures Inc.
 1 Hunter Street
 Nesquehoning, PA 18240
 800-876-0285
www.adventurerafting.com

