DayTripping July 2025 Lehigh and Northampton Counties

This month we are returning to some of the surrounding counties near us. These 2 counties make up what is referred to as the Lehigh Valley region of eastern PA. We will look at some interesting places in Lehigh County which is located just to our south including the towns of Allentown and Bethlehem and Northampton County which is located to the southeast and includes Easton, Nazareth and also a part of Bethlehem.

First lets look at Lehigh County and what is interesting to visit. If you are into amusement parks, Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom is fun. It is your typical amusement park with over 40 rides and of course places to eat, see shows, etc. The area has many Music venues offering free music of various styles. For a listing of all of these see https://www.discoverlehighvalley.com/blog/post/lehigh-valley-free-summer-music-series/ The SteelStacks is an interesting place to visit. This place is the largest revitalized brownfield in the country and is situated on 10 acres amidst the ruins of the former Bethlehem Steel Plant. They have turned this area into an arts and culture center with an Art Center, outdoor area for concerts, the Christkindlmarkt in December, and much more. If you are into minor league sports, you can attend an IronPigs game (affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies) or the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (affiliate of the Philadelphia Flyers). Also you can watch the best cyclists at Valley Preferred Cycling Center, also know as T-Town. By the way you can also cycle on this track at certain times. https://thevelodrome.com/ The Lehigh Valley Zoo is one of my favorites. I did an entire DayTripping in September 2023 on the Trexler Preserve and Lehigh Zoo. that you can refer to.

Northampton County is the other part of the Lehigh Valley region. In Easton, you can take a ride on the Josiah White II canal boat. - For those who do not know, White Haven was named for Josiah White who was co-owner of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. He was a prominent man in the early days of canal building. The canal actually opened in White Haven in 1835 and was the northern terminus for a new, 26-mile addition that began in Munch Chunk (Jim Thorpe) and followed the narrow gorge cut by the Lehigh River through the Pocono Mountains. - Canal Boat Rides are offered from June 4 through September 28 and a few weekends in October See https://canals.org/visit/canal-boat/

In Nazareth, you can visit the Martin Guitar Factory and Museum. The company started in 1833 with their guitars being strummed by Civil War soldiers around campfires. Martin Guitar's have been played by many including Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, John Lennon, Neil Young, and more. You can tour the factory with advanced ticket sales. See https://www.martinguitar.com/martin-factory-tours.html

You will also find several wineries and great restaurants in the Lehigh Valley. Just do a search for them. One of my favorites is Marblehead Chowder House in Easton. I know not to look for good seafood in the Poconos, but Marblehead does a good job. https://www.marbleheadchowderhousepa.com/ A list of some of the wineries are here https://www.discoverlehighvalley.com/things-to-do/bars-nightlife/wineries

If you want more places to see go back to my August 2023 day tripping article. Enjoy discovering what you can find within a few hours from GOV.