Road Tripping - June 2022

This month I am going to share some information on the waterfalls in the area. Most of them are free, some are right by the road, some a short walk, others you will need your hiking boots.

One of our favorites and you can sit in your car and view if you want, is Buttermilk Falls (one of many with that name so it can become confusing). This falls is located one mile south of Bear Creek Village (where the Bear Creek Cafe is located). Many of us get there by traveling Rt 940 to Francis Walter Dam Road, cross the dam, turn left then, turn right onto White Haven Road. It will be on the right side across from a house with a wooden fence around the yard. Pull in—the waterfall is right in front of you. The drainage area of this fall is small so many times it has only a trickle but if you visit it right after a really good storm, it is very pretty.

The next close fall is on the Lehigh Gorge Trail at the Tannery Road, just south of White Haven off of Rt 534. Park in the lot and walk south about 1/2 mile. It has several l drops-offs and there's even a park bench in front of it to sit and enjoy.

If you travel a bit south of White Haven on Rt 940, then turn left onto North Lehigh Gorge Rd at the Four Fellas Bar and Grill, you can travel to Rockport to see 3 more waterfalls. Once you turn onto North Lehigh Gorge Rd, you will travel about 6 miles to Rockport Run Road, on your left. This is a beautiful ride along Indian Run, look on your right. At the end of that road, you will be in Lehigh Gorge State Park–Rockport Access. From the parking lot, look back toward the road you came down and you will see Indian Run Falls. At the Lehigh Gorge Trail, if you walk north about .3 miles, you will come to Buttermilk Falls (yes another one). It is a large waterfall, hard to miss. Then if you walk south .3 miles from the parking lot you will come to Luke's Falls. Just an added tidbit: Next to Luke's Falls is an old, round building. Not sure what it is but may have been some sort of storage silo for a mill. As you leave Rockport, you can turn right onto Grist Mill Road and on your left will be a 4th but, private waterfall along Buck Mountain Creek. It is located alongside the road, in a scenic setting. There is no place to park there since it is a private residence that once was where a grist mill stood.

Hawk Falls is located off of PA 534 in Hickory Run State Park. The parking area is on Rt. 534. The best view of the falls is from the water in front of it. So if you want to do that be sure to have waders on and be prepared for a fast flowing Hawk Run. Take care on the walk: hiking boots and walking sticks highly recommended.

Seven Tubs is off of Rt. 115 on the way down the hill from the turnpike interchange. There are seven chutes and pools to observe.

There is an interesting waterfall, not a high one but still nice. It is off of Rt 115 near I80. It is a bit of a walk and if it has been raining it can be a bit mucky walking. It is in the Austin T. Blakeslee Natural Area. There are 2 parking areas for it just .7 mile north of I 80 exit on Rt 115. If heading north they are on your left.

Another of my favorite waterfalls to see is Dingmans Falls. This is a bit more of a drive than the others. Dingmans Falls is in Pike County in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, still in PA. From here travel Rt 80 east to exit 309 onto Rt 209 North toward Marshalls Creek. At the roundabout, take the first exit onto US 209N. Continue onto Milford Rd and turn left onto PA-739. In 1.2 miles turn left onto Dingman's Falls Access Road. The walk to Dingman's Falls uses a 600 yd long handicapped boardwalk trail. You will first pass Silverthread Falls, which is a thin horsetail cascade. Dingman's Falls is at the end of the walk and is the second highest falls in PA. Enjoy.

Bushkill Falls is also in this area and is located on Rt. 209 in the Poconos. It is called the Niagara of Pennsylvania. It is a series of 8 waterfalls, accessible through an excellent network of hiking trails, wooden stairs and bridges. Tickets are needed for admission to these falls that are privately owned. Weekday admission costs for seniors are $15.00, weekends and holidays $18.00. I would recommend going on a weekday, because it is extremely busy on weekends. It is worth the cost, if you really enjoy waterfalls.

There are many other falls in the area to be found, but I cannot end without mentioning Rickett's Glen State Park. This is about an hour's drive from here. There are 21 waterfalls in a 3+ mile loop, however the entire loop trail is a 5-6 mile loop. You probably would not be able to see all of them in 1 day, unless you start at daybreak. The circuit is often steep, over high stone steps and sometimes quite slippery. There is one of the falls that can be seen very close to the road - Adams Falls. It is on Rt 118 and a short walk down a few stone steps to the falls. Wear shoes you know will give you good traction.