We have traveled to Delaware, Bucks, and Schuykill counties. This month we are going to explore Berks County. In September 2023, I took us on the Berks County Covered Bridge Tour and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in my March 2023 Eagle Watches, but this month we will explore what other opportunities for a day trip are available in Berks County.

Some historic sites include *Allegheny Aqueduct Historical Park and Beidler House* in Gibraltar. It was built in 1824 by the Schuylkill Navigation Company for the Allegheny Aqueduct. It was needed for the water of the canal. The house was built in 1783. There is also a grist mill built in 1766. The Berks County Heritage Center is a historic park with 2 museums: *Gruber Wagon Works* and *C. Howard Hiester Canal Center.* This site also has other historical structures such as *Melcher's Grist Mill, Deppen Cemetery, Euler's One Room School House, Mildred, the houseboat,* and several memorials. This website shows the location of these historic sites along with several trails for great enjoyment. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/01c8bcae75894dcaa58237ecc47437c1

Another historic site is *Daniel Boone Homestead* in Birdsboro. Daniel was born here in 1734 and the homestead offers a lot about the colonial period in the Oley Valley. The homestead includes 579 acres of land with the Boone birthplace and 6 other 18th century structures, a lake and many opportunities to walk through nature. https://thedanielboonehomestead.org/

Hopewell Furnace was one of the iron works villages that operated from 1771-1883 and led the US to become part of the industrial age. https://www.nps.gov/hofu/index.htm

The *Appalachian Trail* goes through Berks County and near *The Pinnacle*, the highest lookout point on the trail At The Binnacle is *Blue Rocks boulder field*. Similar to our own Hickory Run Boulder Field, this is a spectacular ribbon of Tuscarora quartzite almost a mile long. There are many other recreational and hiking trails in Berks County such as the *Horse-Shoe Trail https://cart.hstrail.org/home/* and if you want to tour by water there is the *Schuylkill River Trail* https://schuylkillriver.org/schuylkill-river-watertrail/ or fish at *Kaercher Creek Park* in Hamburg. https://hamburgpa.org/business/kaercher-creek-park/

If you enjoy train rides, *The Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad* has excursions on a regular basis.This is the same train that you can take to Jim Thorpe from either Pittston or here in White Haven. They have several excursions in Berks County. There also is the *Colebrookdale Railroad* in Boyertown, that takes several excursions through the scenic and historic scenes of Berks County.

If you enjoy jazz, the *Berks Jazz Fest* is a great one. They have top talent and some of the events are even free. It is held in Reading every April.

Finally, one of the best known sites in Berks County is the *Reading Pagoda*. It was built to be a luxury resort but it never achieved that recognition, It has mostly been used as an observatory, Just be aware that if you choose to visit it, at the moment it is under renovations so you cannot enter the pagoda. Check this for updates https://www.readingpagoda.com/visit

Hope that you have a chance to travel to Berks County soon and discover what it has to offer for a great time sight seeing.