I have decided to choose several of the surrounding counties around us and write about what that county offers us to visit. Some of these places I have been, others I have not. It will be exciting for Bill and I to explore some new places along with you. So for this first Local County DayTripping I will start with a county that is about 2 hours south of us.

Delaware County, PA has endless art, entertainment, attractions, shopping and many historical sites. The county is located south of here and is a great destination that should meet every taste and style.

First of all we will look at some of the history found in Delaware County. Going back to the 1700"s to experience first-hand the American ingenuity and perseverance of a rural PA farmer or to the time of the Revolutionary War there are many sites to visit. Patriotism is deeply ingrained in its history. Some of the events to attend are **The Media Veterans Day Parade**, which usually occurs annually at 11:11 on 11/11 and is considered as the largest in the region, if not the state. The "Lest We Forget" theme of the **Delaware County Veterans Memorial** was dedicated in 2013. It is accessible year round to visitors. It is not only a place of solace but also an education in the founding and the military history of the US. **The Pennsylvania Veterans Museum** located in a former armory on Media's State Street, presents lessons on warfare and a living history of soldiers' experiences throughout various wars. Some of the historical sites are **Brandywine Battlefield**, **William Penn's Landing Site**. (By the way, I just learned recently that Pennsylvania was not named after William Penn the founder of the state, but because he did not want to seem vain, he named it after his father - William Penn. Just an interesting tidbit of knowledge about our state!!!) Many more historical sites in the area can be found here: https://visitdelcopa.com/things-to-do/history-museums/

There are some hidden gems in Delaware County. At **Christian C. Sanderson Museum,** you can tour eight rooms filled with over 200 years of American History. Some of the artifacts include a book owned by Ben Franklin to a piece of George Washington's hair. You can also see original sketches and paintings by Andrew Wyeth and other family members. This museum is located at 1755 Creek Rd, Chadds Ford, PA and is open on Saturdays and Sundays 12-4. **GreenHorn Gardens at Arlington Cemetery** is a nursery, garden center and urban farm located in Drexel Hill's Historic Cemetery. They have a 14,000 square foot glass greenhouse that has flowers, herbs, and vegetables. They also host educational workshops. Another gem is the **Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College.** This 425 acre arboretum is just 11 miles from Philadelphia and has rolling hills, flowering tree, and hiking trails . They are open daily to the public form dawn to dusk with a free admission.

There are many live Christmas holiday performances available in Delaware County. Here is a list of them:

- **Arts Guild At Neumann University:**
- **Chester Children's Chorus** (at Swarthmore College's Lang Concert Hall/Music Building): Winter Concerts
- **Colonial Playhouse** : The Homecoming: A Christmas Story
- **Community Arts Center** Presents: Jingle Jazz Brunch
- **Delaware County Symphony:** A Holiday Chamber Celebration
- **Hedgerow Theatre** :
- **International Ballet Classique:** The Nutcracker Ballet
- **Jamey's House of Music:** The Laura Cheadle Band Annual Christmas Show
- **Kelly Center for Music**: Patrick Kerssen – Vince Guaraldi, Music of Charlie Brown Christmas and Cassie and Maggie – Celtic Christmas Special
- **Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra :** Seasonal Selections
- **Media Chamber Chorale:** Seasonal Celebrations
- **Media Theatre** : Winter Wonderland

- **Upper Darby Summer Stage:** Shooting Stars Holiday Spectacular

One of my favorite trips during the holidays is to see model train layouts. There are several Delaware County that you may enjoy seeing.

Brandywine Museum of Art's Railroad featuring trains seeing running on 2,000 feet of track and contains more than 1,000 pieces on the layout. They will open beginning November 16 through January 5, seven days a week from 9:30 -5 (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas day, closing Christmas eve at 1:00.)

The Historic Grange Estate transforms their carriage house into the Cobbs Creek Lines Holiday Railroad, a magical land of Lionel and O gauge trains. Admission is free for the train layout. Mansion tours if you are interested are $5.00. They are open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 - 4:00 starting November 20 to January 5 also Fridays on December 20 and 27 - 5:00 - 7:30. The Historic Grange Estate is located at 143 Myrtle Ave, Havertown, PA

There are several holiday markets in Delaware County. Here is a list of them:

- Penns Woods Winery Holiday Market at the Vineyard (November 30 & December 1)
- Community Arts Center and the Potters Guild Handcrafted Holiday Sale (December 6-15)
- Holiday Market at Grace Winery (December 6)
- Wayne Art Center Holiday Shopping Weekend (December 13, 14, & 15)
- Haverford Holiday Festival (December 7)
- 2SP Brewing Company Winterfest Market (December 7)

If you are into trails there are many here. There are trails trough towns, refuges, parks, and much more. You can find more information about the many trails at https://visitdelcopa.com/trails/.

Hope you are able to get out and enjoy the many sites available within this 2 hour drive from our homes.