Day Tripping - October 2022

October is the month to see beautiful colors in NEPA, so I thought I would take you on a nice road trip upon the road that has been called “one of America’s most scenic drives”. This is PA Route 6. Route 6 was important in early US history. It was designated as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway through all 14 state that it crosses. As a result of this the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor has many parks and historic sites. Also the scenic vistas are amazing as it travels through the Poconos, Endless Mountains and the Wilds of PA.

Route 6 extends across the northern part of PA for 400 miles. Along the way you will find country stores, restaurants, scenic views and charming early 1900s downtowns. Also if you want to travel the entire length of Rt. 6 sometime, there are many quaint country inns, bed and breakfasts, or hotels to stay the night.

For this month, I will touch upon some of the highlights that I have been to, however you can find many more on the internet by searching PA Route 6. 2 helpful ones that I found were:

1. Do 6 on 6 which lists 6 top parks and sites, 6 historical/heritage sites, 6 scenic vistas, and 6 outdoor activities. https://paroute6.com/do-6-on-6?gclid=CjwKCAjwvsqZBhAlEiwAqAHElZWIx22T0JG_JtEcTfzQ8GcPSZR6AfD2z48M6Z1uySqkqUL4jPpTkRoClC4QAvD_BwE

2 . PA Route 6 Road Trip Itineraries https://www.paroute6.com/suggested-itineraries

From the New Jersey border, Route 6, Milford is a quaint little town. Grey Towers is located there. It was the ancestral home of the first chief of the US Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot. I plan on writing a separate Day Tripping on that home. When in Milford, be sure to stop in the Milford Diner for lunch or dinner.

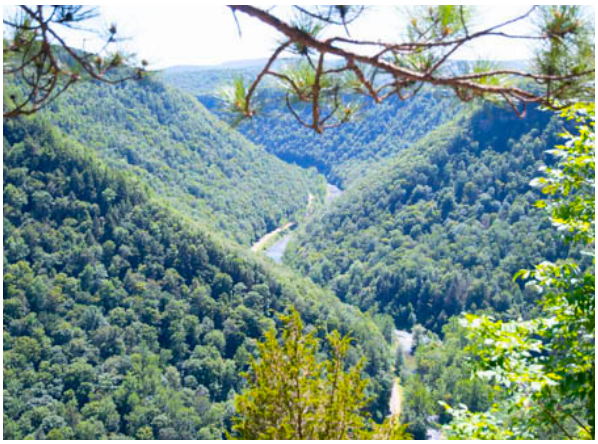
The next town you come to is Hawley, located at the top of Lake Wallenpaupack. Then you will come to Honesdale which has a main street of rich architectural treasures, dating back to the 1800’s. Many other small towns along the way are Carbondale, Jermyn, Olyphant, Clarks Summit, then Tunkhannock. If you have never seen the Tunkhannock Viaduct, be sure to go. It is a 1913 architectural marvel of twelve majestic spans. It was built by the Delaware, Lackawanna, & Western Railroad.

Tunkhannock Viaduct

Other towns along the way are Meshoppen, Laceyville, Wyalusing. For a thrill, pull off Route 6 at the Wyalusing Rocks Lookout. This is located 500 ft above the Susquehanna River and was used by the Iroquois Indians as a signaling point because it is at a horseshoe bend in the river. Shortly after this lookout, you will see a pull off with the marker for the French Azilum. It looks down into the valley to where French noblemen established in 1793, a sanctuary for Marie Antoinette. She never made it here, nor did the colony, but its historic, serene traces remain.

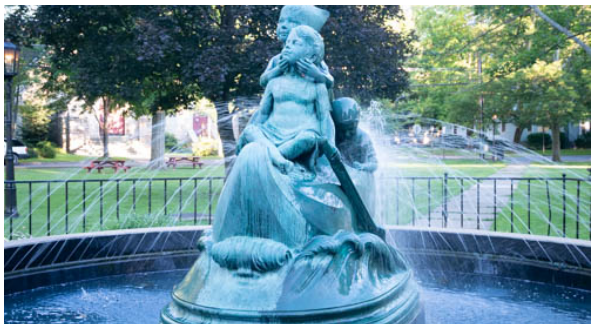
Lookout to French Azilum

Heading west, there are many small towns, but the next larger one is Mansfield. This is home to one of PA state universities. Then you will come to Wellsboro. This is the stopping off point for seeing the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Its real name is the Pine Creek Gorge and is 50 miles long, 1,000 feet deep and takes up a full 300,000 acres of



PA Grand Canyon

forestland. The vistas on the drive through the canyon are gorgeous especially in the fall. The town of Wellsboro has gas-lit streets of the Victorian era. The fountain at the town square has a statue of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod from the popular children's poem.



Fountain in Wellsboro Green

This would be all that you could handle in a day. You may need one over night to accomplish all of the stops to see the sites. There are many other attractions further west, but I will save those for another Day Tripping article. By the way all of the photographs that I use in these articles are taken by Bill.