Get away from it all! Above the busy world, the Presque Isle pedestrian trail offers picturesque views. From the overlook overlooking the Great Lakes region, the trail offers stunning views of Lake Erie and the surrounding forests.

Two sections of the North Country National Scenic Trail cross Pennsylvania, including the 97-mile section located through the Allegheny National Forest. The trail provides a unique opportunity to experience a backpacking adventure, with over 30 marked campsites along the way. Thirty campsites along the trail will make up for a lack of cell service. Get away from it all!

REFERENCES
(For state parks or forests, visit DCNR.PA.gov)

**Backpacking:**
Kennerdell Tract: https://CalTopo.com/m/1UVH
Gerard Trail: http://FriendsOCSP.org/trails/hiking/GHT.html
North Country Trail: https://NorthCountryTrail.org

**Day Hiking:**
Tuscarora Trail: PATC.net

**Cycling:**
Samuel Justus Trail: AVTA-Trails.org
Erie Pittsburgh Trail: https://EriePittsburghTrail.org

**On the Water:**

**Uniquely Pennsylvania’s Great Lakes:**
Tom Ridge Environmental Center: http://TRECPI.org

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The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation’s Pocket Guide to Recreation in Pennsylvania’s Great Lakes

Featuring places and activities from the October 2018 issue of Explore PA: Pennsylvania’s Outdoors in Your Inbox

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ON THE WATER IN THE GREAT LAKES

As the Commonwealth’s largest lake, Pymatuning definitely qualifies as “great” just like the fun you can have on its waters. At the state park, boat launches abound and three marinas mean your watery dreams are limited only by your imagination (and a 20 hp maximum motor). Wind, arm, or engine-driven, the lake is calling and you should go!

Photo by Pymatuning Lake Rentals

While we are on the subject of Pymatuning, bear in mind that the Upper Shenango River Water Trail begins at the Pymatuning Dam and continues 23 miles to Shenango River Lake. The trail is still being developed by Shenango River Watchers but it is a fabulous resource and there are outfitters waiting to help you begin your adventure.

Photos by Visit Mercer County

Some day, the 10-mile rail trail at Oil Creek State Park will connect to the south with the Samuel Justus Trail and the dream of a Pittsburgh to Erie Trail will become reality. For now, it is a beautiful riverside ride through history and nature. And because it is paved, it is suitable for strollers and wheelchairs.

Photo by Pam Metzger

For many years, the multi-purpose trail at Goddard State Park bore that rather unimaginative name. Then in 2015 it was renamed for the first secretary of DCNR and the John C. Oliver Multi-Purpose Trail had a name worthy of its popularity. With hills to climb and turns to negotiate, this 12-mile loop provides a challenge usually reserved for mountain bikers—just with the benefit of a smooth asphalt surface. The trail is well graded and perfect for a variety of purposes.

Photo by DCNR

UNIQUE IN THE GREAT LAKES

It goes without saying that what is unique about the Great Lakes Region IS the region’s Great Lake. Pennsylvania has a beach! And in any season, the shores of Lake Erie provide delights for all senses and all ages. Winter sunsets, summer sunrises, sandy toes, and a sun-kissed nose are just a few of the reasons to pay Presque Isle State Park a visit.

Careful! If you visit the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, you will learn something, too! A quick 18-mile drive west on PA Route 5 takes you to Erie Bluffs State Park, largely undeveloped and with a different look at the lake entirely.

Photo by Bruce Berchtold

DAY HIKING IN THE GREAT LAKES

A portion of the 1,500-acre Cornplanter State Forest, the Ingraham Tract lies in Crawford County. Along Strawbridge Road off PA Route 408 near the borough of Townville, the Ingraham Tract offers 2.5 miles of easy low-density trails perfect for the hibernating trees. A portion of the 1.5-mile trail follows an old railroad grade offering great views and bird watching all year long. The Ingraham Trailhead is marked by a sign at the Ingraham Tract parking area off Strawbridge Road.

Photo by Mary Thall

With the lake its major focus, you might be surprised to find that Pymatuning State Park also offers some pleasant hiking, including the 2.5-mile Spillway Trail that follows an old railroad grade offering great sunset views and wildlife watching all year long.

Photo by DCNR

Cycling in the Great Lakes

With the lake its major focus, you might be surprised to find that Pymatuning State Park also offers some pleasant hiking, including the 2.5-mile Spillway Trail that follows an old railroad grade offering great sunset views and wildlife watching all year long.

Photo by DCNR