The late Tom Thwaites (author of 50 Hikes in Central Pennsylvania among many other hiking guides) once called the Golden Eagle Trail Pennsylvania's best day hike. Raven's Horn is this Tiadaghton State Forest trail's most well-known feature. At a little over nine miles, it is challenging and satisfying outing.

An easy, wheelchair or stroller accessible section of the Rim Trail at Colton Point State Park takes you from parking lot to this quiet spot. The more sure-footed members of your party might continue on the remainder of the 1.5-mile Rim Trail for additional PA Grand Canyon vistas. Take the steep and challenging half-mile Kinzua Creek Trail to the bottom of the canyon to see the bridge from down under and the easier General Kane Trail is 1.5 miles of hardwood forest. Do not miss the Kinzua Bridge State Park visitors center. From the parking lot, take the 0.25-mile glass-bottomed Sky Walk observation deck! If you dare, you can easily stroll on to the glass-bottomed Sky Walk observation deck! Above and below, Kinzua Creek is an impressive sight. Since the 7.7-mile Moss Hanne Trail at Black Moshannon State Park travels through the Bog Natural Area, it calls for waterproof boots. Natural Gas area, it calls for.

Day Hiking:
Cycling:
Pine Creek Trail: PACanyon.com/PineCreekRailTrail
Backpacking:
Susquehannock Trail: STC-Hike.org
Mountain Biking:
The Trails at Jakes Rocks: TrailsatJakesRocks.com
On the Water:
Middle Allegheny River Water Trail: PFBC.PA.gov/WaterTrails/Alleg/TrailGuide.htm
Wildly Unique:
Cherry Springs: CSSPDarkSkyFund.org
Fireflies: PAFireflyFestival.org

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

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation’s Pocket Guide to Recreation in the Pennsylvania Wilds

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

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BACKPACKING IN THE WILDS

A large region deserves a long trail, and the 85-mile Susquehannock fits the bill. As a loop trail, the Susquehannock offers shorter options and connections to some of the Sproul State Forest's best trails like the Donut Hole and Black Forest. The Susquehannock Trail Club maintains the trail and offers a Circuit Hiker Award to those who complete the Susquehannock Rail Trail and Black Forest. The Club is an active group of volunteers and offers a 52-mile trail, the Black Forest Rail Trail, and the 23-mile Trail of the Three Logs. You can't talk about backpacking in the Wilds without the Wilds Loop, the Wilds' newest trail. Photo by York Hiking Club

ON THE WATER IN THE WILDS

The calm Allegheny mostly leaves the whitewater for another day. The opening day of trout season is always just a little busy but you can still find a quiet place to drop a line. The opening day of trout just jump in your boat and watch and while and pass another fall are sheltered in spring. Fall fishing is popular all year. Another day, the calm Allegheny mostly leaves the whitewater for another day. The opening day of trout season is always just a little busy but you can still find a quiet place to drop a line. Photo by York Hiking Club

UNIQUE IN THE WILDS

The second week of July are something to behold! Quite simply, no visit to the Wilds could be complete without a visit to the dark skies of Cherry Springs State Park. When it comes to "unique" and "night skies," the synchronous P. Carolinus fireflies to be found in the Allegheny National Forest from the summer solstice through the middle of August. The synchronous "lightning bugs" are a nightly show in the mountains of Pennsylvania. Time your Wilds visit just right (think September) and enjoy the sounds of bull elk bugling from the largest wild elk herd east of the Mississippi. Photo by Radim Schreiber

CYCLING IN THE WILDS

You can't talk about cycling in the Wilds Region without the Pine Creek Trail of the Tioga and Tiadaghton state forests. Pedal this 62-mile rail-trail in a series of day trips or a multi-night bike tour destination. Inns and campgrounds are available along the way, and the town of Wellsboro provides an ideal stopping off point for this 62-mile rail-trail. Photo by York Hiking Club

MOUNTAIN BIKING IN THE WILDS

On the other side of the river, you can see Clear Creek State Park in Cooksburg. River Road begins at the park headquarters and follows the river for several miles to enter Cooksburg. Road cyclists in search of a peaceful spin will enjoy River Road in Cook Forest State Park. Photo by York Hiking Club

Every level of fat tire rider will find a challenge or a place to learn a new skill. Partner organizations like the Allegheny Mountain Bike Association and the Allegheny National Forest provide the trails and facilities for this sport under development. Every level of fat tire rider will find a challenge or a place to learn a new skill. Partner organizations like the Allegheny Mountain Bike Association and the Allegheny National Forest provide the trails and facilities for this sport under development.

Photo by York Hiking Club