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Top 5 Things To Do Around Lancaster, Pennsylvania



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Travel

I cover adventure, luxury and family travel.

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An Amish farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania at sunrise. GETTY

The coronavirus has a lot of people doing staycations this summer and a popular place to visit is Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. These five places have taken extra precaution when it comes to Covid-19 safety.

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Visit the Amish

Book a private tour with [Aaron and Jessica's Buggy Rides](#) and experience real Amish life with an Amish guide. The buggy ride is the ideal way to ask all the questions you may have (what is life like without cars?) and learn about life on a real working farm. The company has seven different routes to choose from. One of the most popular is the farm tour. Get up close to cows, donkeys, horses, chicken and other animals while learning about what it takes to run a farm. The buggy ride will also go through apple and pear orchards and pass wheat and soybean fields. You can sample homemade cookies and pretzels or try their made-from-scratch lemonade or root beer. This one-hour tour is a really nice way to get a glimpse inside Amish life.



Learn about the Amish through a buggy ride and farm visit. [AARON AND JESSICA'S BUGGY RIDES](#)

Sample Cow-to-Cone Goodness



Blueberry Crumble Ice Cream FOX
MEADOW CREAMERY

[Fox Meadows Creamery](#) is a farm-to-table restaurant with amazing views of the Lancaster County farmland. Come for the juicy burgers, freshly-made salads and tangy pulled pork, but stay for the one-of-a-kind cow-to-cone ice cream. It's a little piece of heaven in a cone. They create hand-crafted ice cream made on-site with milk from the family's small dairy farm just across the field. The Fox family purchased the

farm back in the 1950s and today their dairy farm is a leader in Lancaster County in terms of milk quality and production. Currently, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the restaurant is closed for indoor dining, but offers outdoor seating—which means enjoying your food while taking in views of the farm (it's a win-win). All tables are spaced six feet apart, parties are limited to 10 people per table, and all the servers wear a mask. They will also deliver directly to your car (for a fun 1950s throwback drive-in feel).

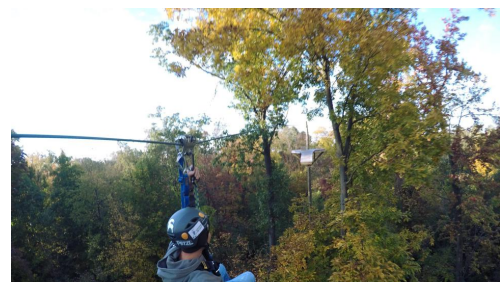
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Ziplining and Wildlife Encounter

[Refreshing Mountain Retreat and Adventure Center](#) is the place to go for some outdoor adventure. In light of Covid-19, all tours are private with



groups ranging from 3-6 people; all staff wear masks. The Aerial Excursion tour is the ultimate zipline experience and includes seven ziplines, three sky bridge crossings and amazing views. The first zipline is 500 feet, after that, the lines range from 300 to 800 feet. The three skybridges transfer you from platform to platform throughout the course. When you reach the last platform you will be lowered 40 feet (think rappelling) to the forest floor.



Ziplining is a great way to experience the outdoors. REFRESHING MOUNTAIN

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Next, head to the Wildlife Center where reptiles and amphibians take center stage. They have over 40 species from around the world, but their primary focus is on animals native to Pennsylvania including snakes, frogs, lizards, and turtles. The newly opened Birds of Prey exhibit has Pennsylvania owls and hawks. The tours are all private and take about 45 minutes. Your private guide will take out the snakes, birds and other animals so visitors can interact up-close and really learn about these creatures. The center also has nearby nature trails to experience the Pennsylvania woodlands.

Kayaking and Biking Along the Susquehanna River



Kayaks on the Susquehanna River.

CHIQUES ROCK OUTFITTERS

[Chiques Rock Outfitters](#) offers kayak and bike rentals along the Susquehanna River. You can do self-guided or guided packages. One of their more popular guided tours is the Pedal to Paddle package. It includes bike rentals and a map that shows the trail along Northwest Lancaster County River Trail. The seven-mile trail is really great for families because it's level, wide and easy-to-follow (and

beautifully maintained). Bike past iron furnace ruins and ride through the small, historic town of Marietta along the way. You can stop for lunch in Marietta or get a snack at the Trailside Trolley. After biking for an hour or two, you'll stop at East Donegal Riverfront Park, where the company will meet you with the kayaks. They will take away your bikes and give you a life jacket and you'll kayak back to where you started. The kayak can be anywhere between 3-5 hours on the river. One of the best guides is Matt Samms. He has extensive knowledge of the river and is really great with kids (and their many questions). The paddle back to Columbia is on class two water—which is easy enough to navigate, while still being a good workout. This trip is especially good for families and novice kayakers. Your guide will stop along the Susquehanna River to explore a series of mud islands called the Conejohela Flats. These islands are a great place to see beavers, hawks, eagles, water snacks, fox, and more.

Check out my [website](#).



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