Lehigh Valley Region

Welcome to the 165-mile D&L Trail!

Use this guide to explore the 36-mile central region of the D&L Trail as it travels through the Lehigh Valley between Lehigh Gap and Easton. The D&L Trail is a multi-use path that follows the routes of three historic transportation systems: the Lehigh Canal, the Delaware Canal, and the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Stretching 165 miles from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol, the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is a nationally significant landscape centered on the historic pathway that carried coal and iron from mine to market.

The Lehigh Valley’s principal cities are Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton. The Valley was a world leader in iron, steel, cement, and slate production, due largely to the rich mineral resources and infrastructure provided by the Lehigh Canal and, later, the Lehigh Valley and New Jersey Central Railroads. Today, visitors can enjoy arts, culture, history, sports, and even casino gambling.

For additional information: www.delawareandlehigh.org or 610-923-3548.

Lehigh Gap marks the northernmost point in the Lehigh Valley region. The trailhead is adjacent to Lehigh Gap Nature Center, a member-run education center and wildlife preserve built on a former Superfund site along the Kittatinny Ridge. The Lehigh Gap Trailhead also offers access to the Appalachian Trail and Lehigh River Water Trail providing diverse recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, boating, and wildlife photography.

To the south is the historic rail town of Slatington, where you will find restaurants, shops, and a landmark hardware store. The trailhead includes bathrooms and a bike repair station. Across the Lehigh River is Walnutport, a historic canal town that is home to a restored locktender’s house and museum (open by appointment only), the annual Walnutport Canal Festival, Lehigh River Water Trail access, and the D&L Trail Walnutport Canal spur.

You wouldn’t think you are in the heart of the Lehigh Valley most populated cities when biking or walking along the D&L Trail. The trail takes you through the historic path that carried coal and iron from mine to market.

Heading east, you arrive in Bethlehem, former home of Bethlehem Steel, an American industrial icon. In Bethlehem, the D&L Trail follows the topside through Sand Island Park, where you can access Main Street or the South Side via the Nine Street Bridge, with ample shops and restaurants on both sides of the river. Both Allentown Lehigh Canal Park and Bethlehem Sand Island are Lehigh River Water Trail access points.

Continue east on the D&L Trail to visit the canal town of Freemansburg and the City of Easton.

Hugh Moore Park to Downtown Easton

After crossing the Lehigh River on the one-lane bridge, the D&L Trail travels through Easton’s Hugh Moore Park. The main trail turns northeast and a D&L Trail spur takes visitors uptown to the National Canal Museum and Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor headquarters. Here you can ride on the Josiah White II canal boat, explore the National Canal Museum, tour the Locktender’s House, or spend time with Hank and George (the mules) that pull the canal boat.

For additional information: www.canals.org or 610-923-3548.

Downtown Easton is just two miles east from the National Canal Museum, where the Lehigh River meets the Delaware River. This marks the southern end of the Lehigh Valley region of the D&L Trail and the start of the Delaware Canal region in Delaware Canal State Park. Cross the 3rd Street Bridge where the rivers meet to get to downtown Easton, home to museums, theatres, shops, restaurants, and the oldest farmer’s market in the U.S.

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