

PA ROADTRIPS

AN OCCASIONAL GUIDE TO THE HIDDEN GEMS ALONG THE ROAD

Goosebumps and glory above the Delaware Water Gap

We pull into Milford after keeping our eyes out for eagles over the Delaware Water Gap on beautiful Route 209. Here's a classic river town from the gilded age, home to pioneering artists and architecture, science fiction writers and Horace Greeley's free-love movement. Surrounded by the original Hollywood hills, silent greats like *The Perils of Pauline* were filmed here. Reverence for the outdoors is in the air; Milford is where the U.S. Forest Service was founded.

We're here for the history and the scenery, always on the lookout for oddities worth a story and food worth a U-turn. In Milford, we find it all, and then some.

Right away, a wraparound porch on a 150-year old steakhouse catches our eye. As does the Pike County Courthouse with a big rainbow trout riding high above on a weather vane. And we check into the Hotel Fauchère, beautifully restored to a contemporary version of the original glory that attracted such guests as Franz Liszt and the scandalous Evelyn Nesbit.

But the real prize in Milford is one that raises goosebumps. Up on a hill, housing the original stagecoach that once jtneyed the cream of New York society from the train station, is a grand mansion called "The Columns." The Pike County

Historical Society has a collection of marvels here, but the one we come for is known as "the bloody Lincoln flag."

It seems members of a prominent theatrical family, the Gourlays, were performing at Ford's Theater the night Abraham Lincoln was shot. Thomas Gourlay was one of the first to tend to the president, and he cushioned Lincoln's head on one of the American flags decorating the presidential box. Gourlay kept the flag, now stained with Lincoln's blood, and passed it on to his daughter, Jennie. She retired here in Milford, a community popular with the arts and theater crowd.

Today the flag is displayed in a glass case, next to a bust of Lincoln and surrounded by Civil War memorabilia. The blood of America's greatest president saturates the flag and this poignant reminder of the humanity of history sends chills up the back of our necks.

The noon bell from a nearby church changes the subject, and we follow a local's counsel and find our way to a remarkable tavern that

keeps us firmly planted in the mid 19th century. Rohman's Tavern, in the village of Shohola, is virtually unchanged from its 1850s opening. Legend has it that even during prohibition, Babe Ruth and his cronies would get off the New York train here and enjoy Rohman's signature fresh-squeezed screwdrivers. What the heck, we say; it's 5:00 somewhere. So we enjoy a happy dose of fresh vitamin C and gaze at hundreds of ancient police and firemen's patches from as far away as Hawaii that vie for historic wall space.

Tonight, perhaps a flick at the classic Milford Theater followed by gilded dreams beneath our downy duvet at the Hotel Fauchère. Tomorrow, it's back to the hunt for the hidden gems and historic goosebumps along the bends and back roads. Maybe we'll see you there.

The Shunpiker's Guide is a presentation of the Pennsylvania Tourism Office who wants to know where ya been, what've ya seen, where ya eating? Start the conversation at shunpiker@visitPA.com.



Pat's Bar, Hawley

Bernie Barry cooks her legendary cheeseburgers behind the bar on a 50-year old broiler, and quite simply, they're the best tavern burgers we've ever had. And try a "boneless chicken dinner" - one of her homemade pickled eggs. 219 Main Ave. In Hawley. Call 570.226.9653 and ask for Bernie.



Rohman's Tavern, Shohola

The bar here is virtually unchanged since the Civil War. An antique juicer is perfect for fresh-squeezed screwdrivers. The bar stools unfold from the bar itself, and upstairs is a two-lane bowling alley where you have to set the pins yourself. 100 Rohman Road, Shohola. 570.559.7479.



Hotel Fauchère

The newly restored rooms have side-by-side "showers-for-two" and the walls hold a great collection of paintings from the Hudson River school. Sip your martini beneath a huge photo of Andy Warhol kissing John Lennon on the cheek. 401 Broad Street, 570.409.1212. Online at hotelfauchere.com



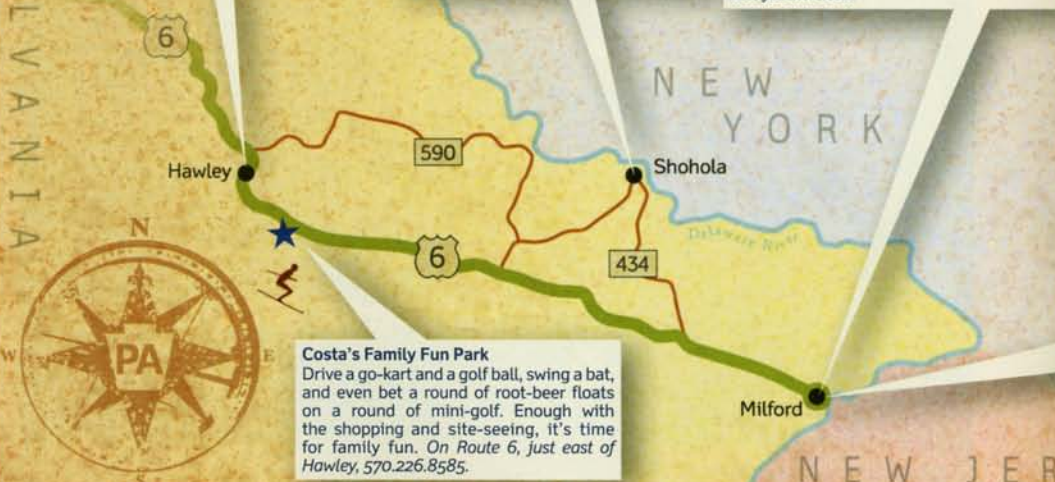
Cliff Park Inn

Set against the cliffs where *The Perils of Pauline* was filmed is the first woman-owned golf course in the U.S. Inside the romantic country inn the chateaubriand is a no-brainer. We suggest booking a room so you can have your way with the wine list. 155 Cliff Park Road, 800.225.6535. Online at www.cliffparkinn.com.



Grey Towers

Incredibly beautiful 100-year old mansion, once home to Gifford Pinchot, a two-term governor of PA and founder of the US Forest Service. Tour info: 570.296.9630 and at www.fs.fed.us/gt



Costa's Family Fun Park

Drive a go-kart and a golf ball, swing a bat, and even bet a round of root-beer floats on a round of mini-golf. Enough with the shopping and site-seeing, it's time for family fun. On Route 6, just east of Hawley, 570.226.8585.



The Columns/Bloody Lincoln Flag

The Columns mansion is home to the Pike County Historical Society. Among a collection of historical marvels is the jaw-dropping "bloody Lincoln flag." Ask for Vaughn; she gives a great tour in period dress. 608 Broad Street, 570.296.8126. Online: www.pikehistory.org



Fretta's Salumeria

The Fretta family's 100-year old Italian deli is a must. Try the best sausage-and-peppers sandwich ever, homemade sweet cappacola, scaramozza they smoke in the backyard and a cannoli filled only when you order it. Mangiala 223 Broad Street, 570.296.7863.



Walk the streets of Milford and you're surrounded by antiques, collectibles, beautiful hand-made clothing, knickknacks and bric-a-brac, trinkets and baubles, geegaws and gadgets and tchotchkes galore. Guaranteed you'll drive home with a full trunk.

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA MOUNTAINS