



Discover Pennsylvania

Revolutionary History Meets Nature at Fort Roberdeau

A rural wooded valley in Blair County, Pennsylvania, is home to a destination that revels in history and nature. Fort Roberdeau Historic Site and Natural Area is a unique attraction that gives you the chance to experience frontier life as it was in the 1700s.

The original fort was constructed in 1778, at a time during the American Revolution when all seemed lost. The British occupied Philadelphia and supplies for the Continental Army were in short supply. Continental soldiers did not have basic food, clothing, and lead for bullets and musket balls. General Daniel Roberdeau directed the fort's construction at his own expense to protect workers trying to open a lead mine and operate a smelter.

Roberdeau, a member of the Continental Congress, became aware of lead mines in central Pennsylvania. He volunteered to organize an expedition to the mines to see if it was possible to obtain a supply of lead. The lead produced at the fort was made into ammunition for the Continental Army.



Allegheny Mountains Tourism

Revolutionary War history comes to life at Fort Roberdeau in Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains.

was built as a Bicentennial project, and is a National Historic Landmark. The adjoining museum, in a historic barn, tells the tale of life on the Pennsylvania frontier. Costumed guides show visitors through the reconstructed fort with its six log cabins from May 1 through Oct. 31. You'll see the officers' quarters, a miners' hut, the smelter, the powder magazine, and other buildings.

The 230 acres where the fort is located is made up mostly of woods. It is located in Sinking Valley, an area known for its natural sinkholes. While on the grounds, you can hike one of several trails taking you through the forest, past a small sinkhole and an open field. The trails are perfect for young children.

Two major geologic sites are less than two miles north of the fort. Arch Spring is one of Pennsylvania's largest springs, and it appears on the earliest maps of Sinking Valley. A collapsed cave caused this unusual natural bridge over a sinkhole. While the formation is on private property, you can see and photograph it from the road. Tytoona Cave is located just on the other side of the arch, and is Pennsylvania's largest wild cave system. You can walk down the short nature trail to the cave's enormous mouth and enjoy its beauty.

The fort played a major role in American history. It helped to stabilize the frontier, offering farmers a secure haven when British Rangers, local Tories, and Indian allies threatened the countryside. Fort Roberdeau also provided a base for local American militia units and rangers.

The lead mine fort that stands today

By Jennifer Fleck

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Allegheny Mountains Tourism: 800-842-5866, www.alleghenymountains.com
Fort Roberdeau: 814-946-0048, www.fortroberdeau.org



Allegrippis
trails raystown lake



Raystown
A MOMENT AWAY
HUNTINGDON COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

MTNBIKE.RAYSTOWN.ORG
1-888-RAYSTOWN



Alleghenies
This Place Speaks To You.