Headline: Unforgettable road trips in Pennsylvania

Deckhead: Hop in your vehicle and explore the Keystone State

Airplanes, cruise ships and worldly destinations often are associated with choosing your next vacation. But sometimes, nothing beats a road trip.

Road trips can be simple, less expensive and more relaxing. Hop in your vehicle, motorhome or pull your camper to places few people consider, but those who do are thankful they did.

Options abound. Nationwide, national parks, lakes and mountain regions quickly come to mind. States like Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado rank high in popularity, but it might be more fitting to stay close to home.

Pennsylvania frequently is overlooked by travelers in search of a road trip. Its diversity and uniqueness make it an ideal place plan your next trip.

Locations to visit are in abundance. Here are places to consider:

***Presque Isle State Park –*** The peninsula juts out into the coastline of Lake Erie. It offers swimming, boating, fishing, cycling and hiking. It also has 13 beaches and 11 miles of trails. Visitors can conclude fun-filled days by watching the sun set from any location at the park.

***Pine Creek Gorge –*** The “Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania” is no ordinary place. Fantastic scenery and landscapes highlight this canyon. Take advantage of hiking trails, camping sites, kayaking, fishing and more. It spans 50 miles and drops 1,000 feet.

***Bushkill Falls –*** Coined the “Niagara of Pennsylvania,” it’s home to eight waterfalls, dozens of trails and diverse wildlife. It’s an ideal location for birdwatching, hiking, fishing and exploration. The site is located deep within the Pocono Mountains.

***Downtown Philadelphia –*** Cobblestone streets and narrow paths welcome thousands of guests annually to one of the U.S.’s most historic cities. See Independence Hall and Congress Hall, the Liberty Bell, the Declaration House, the Betsy Ross House and Carpenters’ Hall. Visit Dilworth Park and Longwood Gardens. And don’t forget to grab a cheesesteak.

***Hersheypark –*** Entertainment and chocolate – does it get much better? The chocolate-themed amusement park has roller coasters, a waterpark, live performances, a boardwalk, cocoa-scented mulch and much more. Visit Chocolate World – the home of DIY candy bars, chocolate tours and an interactive chocolate mystery.

***Amish Country –*** Pennsylvania has the highest Amish population in the U.S. Visit Lancaster County to enjoy a slower, peaceful life rooted in simplicity. It’s the oldest Amish settlement in the U.S. The location is comprised of windmills, cottage industries and agriculture.

***Gettysburg –*** A distinctive blend of history, recreation and … ghosts draw visitors to this historic town. Visit Gettysburg National Military Park, the site of the Civil War battle in 1863. Tour the battlefield and other landmarks like the Rupp House and the Gettysburg Museum of History. Gettysburg also is known as the most haunted town in Pennsylvania and offers nightly ghost tours.

***Falling Water –*** Frank Lloyd Wright’s creation is one of the most celebrated architectural wonders. Located in the Laurel Highlands, the home exemplifies Wright’s artistic philosophy: the union of art and nature. It sits atop a 30-foot waterfall and is nestled between the rivers, mountains and woods of Bear Run Nature Reserve.

Cutline: GORGEOUS –Pine Creek Gorge is labeled the “Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania.” Image: Zack Frank. Adobe Stock.