Washington Crossing Historic Park

WASHINGTON CROSSING HISTORIC PARK

Washington Crossing Historic Park commemorates the site of George Washington’s dramatic crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas morning, 1776, in the dead of winter. The crossing was a critical turning point in the Revolutionary War and an important victory for the Continental Army.

The Visitor Center and Park Store are open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Park is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, and Independence Day. The Visitor Center and Park Store are closed on New Year’s Eve, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

The Visitor Center features a variety of exhibits, gift shop, restrooms, ticket sales, and environmental education programs. A National Historic Landmark, Washington Crossing Historic Park is a place where history comes alive.

Washington Crossing Historic Park Visitor Center

The Visitor Center provides information about the park, including an orientation film, exhibits, gift shop, restrooms, ticket sales, and park offices.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Year-round staff provides environmental education and historic programming for local schools and interpretive guides, teachers, students, and other groups interested in learning about complex issues within their watersheds. Guided tours of the historic buildings and colonial history-based school programming are available. The Riverlands Learning Center is open every day of the year from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Visitors can explore the park’s 2,500-acre watershed, which includes the Delaware River and its tributaries, the canal, and the towpath. Guided tours of the historic buildings and colonial history-based school programming are available. The Riverlands Learning Center is open every day of the year from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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The Park

Washington Crossing Historic Park was founded in 1936 to commemorate and preserve the site where the Continental Army crossed the Delaware River. The park became a National Historic Landmark in 1964.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day

The Delaware River is a popular destination for fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing. The park offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including:

1. Guided tours of the historic buildings and colonial history-based school programming are available. The Riverlands Learning Center is open every day of the year from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

2. Canoeing and kayaking in the lagoon or canal, the towpath is used by walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and runners. The towpath connects the Upper and Lower sections of the park.

3. Using the Towpath

4. Visit the best scenic view of Bucks County by walking along the canal.

5. Learn to kayak in the Lagoon or sound before graduating to the Delaware River.

Top 10 Activities to do at Washington Crossing

1. Take a guided tour of the park.
2. Bicycle throughout the preserved land of the park and along the Delaware Canal Towpath trail both the Upper and Lower sections of the park.
3. Join thousands of other people to attend the Christmas Day Annual Re-enactment of Washington Crossing the Delaware River.
4. Visit the best scenic view of Bucks County at Hewn’s Hill Tower.
5. Learn to kayak in the Lagoon or sound before graduating to the Delaware River.

WELCOME

Top 10 Activities to do at Washington Crossing

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2. Bicycle throughout the preserved land of the park and along the Delaware Canal Towpath trail both the Upper and Lower sections of the park.
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THE “TEN CRUCIAL DAYS”: A Timeline

Day 1

December 25, 1776

The Continental Army advances along the Delaware River under the cover of darkness. The Hessians are camping at Trenton. Washington and his generals out-maneuver the Continental Army.

Day 2

December 26, 1776

The Continental Army attacks the Hessians. This results in the first and final victory for the Continental Army under General George Washington.

Day 3

December 27, 1776

The Continental Army makes its way to the Upper Delaware River. The Hessians are forced to retreat across the Delaware River to New Jersey. The Continental Army makes its way to the Upper Delaware River.

Day 4

December 28, 1776

The Continental Army battles the Hessians. This results in the second and final victory for the Continental Army under General George Washington.

Day 5

December 29, 1776

The Continental Army battles the Hessians. This results in the third and final victory for the Continental Army under General George Washington.

Day 6

December 30, 1776

The Continental Army crosses the Delaware River at Trenton.

Day 7

January 1, 1777

The Continental Army battles the Hessians. This results in the fourth and final victory for the Continental Army under General George Washington.

Day 8

January 2, 1777

The Continental Army advances along the Delaware Canal Towpath trail both the Upper and Lower sections of the park.

Day 9

January 3, 1777

The Continental Army battles the Hessians. This results in the fifth and final victory for the Continental Army under General George Washington.

Day 10

January 3, 1777

The Continental Army battles the Hessians. This results in the sixth and final victory for the Continental Army under General George Washington.

POSTSCRIPT

On December 26, 1776, the Continental Army crossed the Delaware River at Trenton, New Jersey. The crossing was a critical turning point in the Revolutionary War and an important victory for the Continental Army.

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Protect and Preserve our Parks

1. Thompson-Neely Farmstead
   In December 1776, approximately 2,400 Continental soldiers were camping in the Bucks County. Smith ordered Robert Thompson and his son-in-law William Neely to find homes for his troops and treat them well. The Troops were used for camping, uniform and to help the sick.
   Lieutenant James Monroe, age eighteen, artillery officer and future President of the United States was second to command to Captain William Washington, district command of General Washington. Both stayed at the Thompson Neely House. The house led reconnaissance missions in New Jersey prior to the Christmas night crossing of the Delaware River. On December 25, the army moved out of their camps and gathered at McClellan’s Ferry to cross the river and make their attack on the Hessian barracks in Trenton, New Jersey. Previously, Robert Durham house was built although to assist the crossing.

2. McClellan’s Ferry Inn
   This eighteenth-century inn and house was served by Samuel McClellan. The inn served as a good post during the Continental Army’s campaign in Bucks County in December, 1776. Earthworks and cannons defended the ferry landing. According to tradition, it is the site where Washington and his aides ate their dinner prior to the crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas Day. Additional earthworks were built to the rear in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century by the Taylor family. The building continued to serve as an inn for many decades.

3. Mahlon K. Taylor House
   This house was built circa 1817 by one of the founders of Taylorsville, who later served as Washington’s Commissary. It shows the status and prosperity of the Taylorsville family and the community.

4. Taylorsville General Store
   Beginning around 1828, this store was owned and operated by Mahlon K. Taylor. It first functioned as the post office for Taylorsville with Mahlon Taylor serving as postmaster for nearly 49 years.

5. Stables House
   This restored and furnished nineteenth-century home was owned circa 1820-1830 as part of the Taylorville area. It shows the sturdy type of craft used by Washington and his aides on their crossing. Open houses and demonstrations are held here at various times throughout the year.

6. Frye House
   Built circa 1828-1830 by the Taylor family, this house is believed to have been owned by Samuel McConkey. The inn and furnished house is where Washington and his aides ate their dinner prior to the crossing.

7. Durham Boat Barn
   A 125-foot structure completed in 1991 to commemorate the American Revolution, the tower houses a commanding view of the Delaware River and surrounding countryside. The tower itself can be reached by elevators and 33 stone steps. A gift shop is open seven days per week, March through December, weather permitting.

8. Soldiers’ Graves
   The graves of many unknown soldiers who died during the December 1776 encampment are located on the property. The only known soldier buried here is Captain Lieutenant Moore’s Graves.

9. Bowman’s Hill Tower
   A 215-foot structure completed in 1931 to commemorate the American Revolution, the tower houses a commanding view of the Delaware River and surrounding countryside. The tower itself can be reached by elevators and 33 stone steps. A gift shop is open seven days per week, March through December, weather permitting.

10. Bowman’s Hill Tower
   A 215-foot structure completed in 1931 to commemorate the American Revolution, the tower houses a commanding view of the Delaware River and surrounding countryside. The tower itself can be reached by elevators and 33 stone steps. A gift shop is open seven days per week, March through December, weather permitting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Washington Crossing Historic Park
1112 River Road
Washington Crossing, PA 18977
215-493-4076
www.visitPAparks.com

NEAREST HOSPITAL
St. Mary Medical Center
1201 Longhouse-Norristown Road
Langhorne PA 19047

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
• Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural terrain requires hikers. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.
• Littering and illegal fires are prohibited.
• Information on readily accessible information is available from Visit Bucks County.

Washington Crossing Historic Park is administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in partnership with the Friends of Washington Crossing Park.

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GPS: 40.29781, -74.87205
Bowman’s Hill Tower 215-662-3145
GPS: 40.29781, -74.87205
Thompson-Neely Farmstead
GPS: 40.33333, -74.68311

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