



DAY TRIP TO RAUSCH GAP

From Pine Grove · Lebanon County, Pennsylvania



COAL MINING

OPEN ON FOOT

Ruins on public game lands, reached on foot or by bike on the Stony Valley rail-trail or the Appalachian Trail.

Rausch Gap is a full-day walk from Pine Grove: a short drive to the Gold Mine Road trailhead, then about 3.5 miles each way along the wooded rail bed to the place where the Appalachian Trail crosses.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Drive from Pine Grove on PA 443 and Gold Mine Road, about 25 minutes, and park at the trailhead. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk west on the rail bed, about an hour and a half at an easy pace. |
| ☐ Midday | Find the foundations, the cemetery and the stone arch bridge where the Appalachian Trail crosses. Eat lunch by the shelter. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Walk back the way you came. |

Coming from Philadelphia? Allow about 2 hours 20 minutes each way to Gold Mine Road.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Foundations.** Stone walls in the leaf litter show best in early spring or late fall, before or after the leaves.
- **The cemetery.** Only a few headstones remain. Treat them with care.
- **The rail bed.** A long, straight, tree-lined grade makes a good establishing shot for a video.
- **Drones.** Our sources don't cover drones on game lands. Check the Game Commission's rules first.



USGS topographic map, 1892 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	12 mi, about 23 min each way from Pine Grove. From Philadelphia: 106 mi, about 2 h 22 min.
WHERE THE DRIVE ENDS	The route ends on Gold Mine Road, short of the townsite. Turn left on Old Railroad Bed Road to the trailhead parking; from there it's about 3.5 to 3.8 miles west on foot or by bike.
ACCESS	Public State Game Lands 211. We found no posted hours.
DISTANCE	Visit Lebanon Valley puts Rausch Gap about 3.5 miles west of the eastern trailhead; TrailLink's mileposts give about 3.8 from Gold Mine Road. Plan on 7 to 8 miles round trip.
BIKES	TrailLink says non-hunting cyclists and riders are barred from the last Saturday in September through the third Saturday in January, and before 1 p.m. from the second Saturday in April through the last Saturday in May. Check the Game Commission's current rules.
HUNTING SEASON	TrailLink cites game lands rules requiring non-hunters to wear 250 square inches of fluorescent orange from November 15 to December 15, Sundays excepted.
RESTROOMS	None at the trailhead in our sources. Wikipedia notes an outhouse at the Appalachian Trail shelter by the townsite.
FOOD AND WATER	No trailside amenities. Wikipedia mentions a cold spring at the shelter; treat any water before drinking.
WILDLIFE	A November 2024 TrailLink reviewer warned of rattlesnakes in warm weather.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Stay out of mine shafts, tunnels and unstable buildings.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 40.49944, -76.59778 · 40°29'58"N
76°35'52"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/pennsylvania/rausch-gap/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.