



ATTN: Travel Section

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## Forbes Trail's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Adds a Historic Twist to Popular Fall Travel Destinations

### Autumn 2008--Special Events Join Old Favorites in Pittsburgh and the Laurel Highlands

PITTSBURGH—The dazzling foliage, delightful autumn festivals, rich history and unique attractions that place western Pennsylvania and the Laurel Highlands among the East Coast's most popular fall travel destinations will take on an added brilliance in 2008.

Throughout September, October and November, special anniversary events will be added to old favorites as part of the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pennsylvania's historic Forbes Trail, as well as Bedford, Ligonier, Pittsburgh. Visitors can attend world-class cultural events, experience the drama of a French and Indian War battle re-enactment, dance at a Scottish fair, participate in a bicycling extravaganza stretching from Mt. Vernon to Pittsburgh, witness the region's largest-ever fireworks display, enjoy unique crafts festivals and more—in settings ranging from idyllic small towns and mountain fields to spectacular urban environments. Many are free to the public, details below.

To plan a fall excursion along the Forbes Trail, visitors can visit [www.forbestrail.org](http://www.forbestrail.org) or take advantage of the new travelers' guide released as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ***Pennsylvania's Forbes Trail: Gateways and Getaways along the Legendary Route from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh*** includes hundreds of recommended sites and activities, lodging and dining options and more. Visit [www.forbestrail.org](http://www.forbestrail.org) for details; the 208-page book is available online and in bookstores for \$18.95.

### **What to do....**

The Forbes Trail stretches from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, primarily along US Route 30. At the western end of the trail, as it crosses the Allegheny Mountains to reach Pittsburgh, special events are planned for autumn 2008 and the Forbes Trail's 250<sup>th</sup>. (anniversary events highlighted in yellow)

#### **Bedford's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Foliage Festival Bedford, PA / October 4-5 / October 11-12**

400 craft vendors, special events, antique car parade and entertainment at this Forbes Trail town.

[www.bedfordcounty.net](http://www.bedfordcounty.net) / 1-800-765-3331

#### **Ligonier Highland Games; 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Ligonier, PA / September 5-6—Scotsman Gen.**

Forbes would have enjoyed the bagpipe bands, Highland dancers, brawny athletes and Scottish fair.

[www.ligoniergames.org](http://www.ligoniergames.org) / 412-851-9900

#### **48<sup>th</sup> Annual Fort Ligonier Days**

Ligonier, PA / October 10-12--Celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town, the fort and the 1758 battle: parade, battle re-enactment, artillery demos, juried crafts, food, entertainment.

[www.ligonier250.com](http://www.ligonier250.com) / 724-238-4200

#### ***The Road to Washington: The Making of a Man, the Making of a President*, Mountain Playhouse Jennerstown, PA / September 17-28**

An original play reveals young George Washington's French and Indian War exploits.

[www.mountainplayhouse.com](http://www.mountainplayhouse.com) / 814-629-9201

#### **Old Bedford Village Pumpkinfest '08 Bedford, PA / October 18-19**

Enjoy family fun at this lovely colonial village; features games, music, pumpkin pies and more.

[www.oldbedfordvillage.com](http://www.oldbedfordvillage.com) / 814-623-1156

#### **Stahlstown Flax Scutching Festival Stahlstown, PA / September 13-14**

The art of making linen from the flax plant dates back more than 200 years in the Ligonier Valley.

[www.flaxscutching.com](http://www.flaxscutching.com) / 724-593-2119

**Washington's Encampment 2008**  
**Boyce State Park, Plum Boro, PA / October 4-5**  
Re-enactments, sutlers etc. along a portion of the Forbes Trail built by George Washington's regiment.  
[www.plumhistory.org/WE2008](http://www.plumhistory.org/WE2008) / 724-325-1526

**Fall at Bushy Run Battlefield**  
**Harrison City, PA / September 27 and October 25**  
Take a Fall Nature Walk Sept. 27 or Haunted History Hayride, Oct. 25 at the site of the 1763 battle that helped open the Pennsylvania frontier.  
[www.bushyrunbattlefield.com](http://www.bushyrunbattlefield.com) / 724-527-5584

**PNC Legacy Trail Ride**  
**Pittsburgh, PA / October 4**

Communities from Mount Vernon, VA, to Pittsburgh will host trail rides and festivities--including Pittsburgh's largest-ever fireworks display--celebrating the completion of the Great Allegheny Passage, one of the premier hiking and biking trails in the U.S. The trail retraces much of George Washington's original route to Pittsburgh.

[www.imaginepittsburgh.com](http://www.imaginepittsburgh.com) and [www.atatrail.org](http://www.atatrail.org)

**Pittsburgh Celebrates 250: A Festival of Lights and Music**  
**Pittsburgh, PA / October 4-November 30**

A multi-week festival celebrates the Pittsburgh region's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Works of art will be projected onto buildings across Downtown Pittsburgh and Oakland; a series of world premieres in arts and culture includes the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Festival of Firsts and the renowned Carnegie International exhibition. Special events will mark the anniversary of the capture of Fort Duquesne and naming of Pittsburgh, November 25.

[www.imaginepittsburgh.com](http://www.imaginepittsburgh.com)

## **Where to go.....**

Today's Forbes Trail encompasses one of the best collections of historic sites, outdoor adventures and family attractions in the U.S. Some of the exceptional destinations that can be wrapped into an autumn trip along the western portion of the trail include:

**Bedford**—The Fort Bedford Museum and Old Bedford Village bring visitors face-to-face with colonial America in this lovely mountain town. Visit [www.bedfordcounty.net](http://www.bedfordcounty.net)

**Route 30 Over the Mountains**—A drive from Fort Loudoun to Ligonier provides a sense of the challenge faced by the Forbes Expedition—and the natural beauty of the Laurel Highlands.

**Fort Necessity National Battlefield**—The drama of George Washington's devastating 1753 defeat comes to life in a reconstructed fort; the Visitors Center provides an ideal introduction to the French and Indian War. [www.nps.gov/fone](http://www.nps.gov/fone)

**Idlewild Park**—This family favorite includes classic rides, Soak Zone, Mister Rogers Neighborhood and more; named #2 Best Kids Park by Amusement Magazine. [www.idlewild.com](http://www.idlewild.com)

**Fort Ligonier**—A meticulously detailed full-scale reproduction of the final Fort built by the Forbes Expedition also includes a first-rate museum and gallery. [www.fortligonier.org](http://www.fortligonier.org)

**The Great Allegheny Passage**—Pedal, walk or jog along a breathtaking 150-mile system of hiking and biking trails from Pittsburgh to the C&O Canal Towpath to Washington, DC. [www.atatrail.org](http://www.atatrail.org)

**Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob**—Two architectural masterpieces by Frank Lloyd Wright in the Laurel Highlands can be visited with advance reservations. [www.laurelhighlands.com](http://www.laurelhighlands.com).

**Point State Park and Fort Pitt Museum**--Stunningly located at the confluence of three rivers in downtown Pittsburgh, "the Point" was the site of Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt. The park's magnificent new Cityside Lawn opened this spring. [www.fortpittmuseum.com](http://www.fortpittmuseum.com)

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*Pennsylvania's Forbes Trail is produced by French and Indian War 250, Inc., and made possible by the Colcom Foundation. The Forbes Trail stretches from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, primarily along U.S. Route 30, and is the route taken in 1758 by 6000 British and colonial soldiers on their way to defeat the French at Fort Duquesne. Today, the trail is a gateway to one of the best collections of historic sites, outdoor adventures and family attractions in the nation. \$18.95 at [www.forbestrail.org](http://www.forbestrail.org) and bookstores.*

**Review copies and Interviews** with the book's editor and authors are available by contacting Karen Lightell, 412-519-9059, [karenlightell@aol.com](mailto:karenlightell@aol.com). Visit our Press Room at [www.forbestrail.org](http://www.forbestrail.org).