

Amusement Parks



What's new: Kennywood is debuting new Potato Patch-themed bumper cars in 2024.

At this Pennsylvania park, you'll find exciting roller coasters, family attractions and rides that range from mild to intense. Relaxed options for kids, like paddle boats and a merry-go-round, allow even the most tepid travelers to get a burst of adrenaline. Meanwhile, adventure-seekers can check out thrilling rides like the popular Phantom's Revenge steel roller coaster. [Kennywood](#) also hosts numerous events, from firework parties to parades and food festivals. The amusement park is typically open daily June through August and on select dates April through January. It's located in West Mifflin, only about 10 miles down the Monongahela River from downtown [Pittsburgh](#).

Where to stay: For a convenient stay near Kennywood, book a room at the Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh West Homestead/Waterfront hotel, which is less than 5 miles away.



What's new: For the 2024 season, the park plans to debut a new version of the PowerSurge thrill ride as well as the refurbished Sky Slide.

Pennsylvania's Knoebels Amusement Resort is billed as "America's Largest Free Admission Amusement Park," since you pay for rides rather than an entry fee. The park offers three kinds of rides to maximize the fun: kiddie rides, family rides and thrill rides. The rides for older and more adventurous guests include the Black Diamond mine car ride, the Giant Flume water ride and the Impulse coaster, which has four upside-down turns and a 90-degree free fall. Note that the park's hours and offerings vary significantly depending on the season.

Where to stay: Several lodging options are offered on-site at Knoebels, including two campgrounds, a bed-and-breakfast, and cozy cottages that can sleep up to 16. The park is located in the [Poconos](#), a mountainous region of Pennsylvania with numerous additional attractions nearby.



What's new: The newest offerings include shows like a "Finding Nemo" spectacular and "Fantasmic!" musical, as well as rides like Remy's Ratatouille Adventure and TRON Lightcycle / Run.

Arguably the most famous amusement park in the world, [Walt Disney World Resort](#) inspires awe in children and adults alike. Four distinct theme parks make up the larger Walt Disney World Resort. Magic Kingdom is the resort's most iconic area, with the striking Cinderella Castle and whimsical "it's a small world" boat ride. EPCOT delights visitors with unique dishes, rides and festivals celebrating cultures around the globe. Disney's Hollywood Studios boasts the Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge attraction, which transports guests to a galaxy far, far away. Finally, Disney's Animal Kingdom houses rare animals and numerous rides, plus the unforgettable Tree of Life.

Where to stay: Each area offers its own on-site lodging options, often with exclusive activities and areas to explore. You can also check out [Orlando's best hotels](#) for more options. The park is massive, so be sure to plan ahead before your visit.

