Weekend Itinerary by Carlen McClure, newspaper columnist and former owner of Spruce Hill Lunch



Hello, I'm Carlen McClure, a resident of Port Royal and a lifelong resident of Juniata County. I have been to all these places in one form or another over the years. I owned and operated Spruce Hill Lunch from 1976-2006. Currently, my dog, Freckles, and I write a weekly column for The Times.

For a perfect Juniata River Valley weekend, here is a list of suggestions, all within a 10 -mile radius, which are just a small sampling of what Juniata County has to offer.

LODGING

FRIDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

Lilv Manor

19161 Route 35 South, Mifflin — (717) 994-5648

Built in 1811 by the Wilson family, Lily Manor is most notably known as a wedding venue, but also offers several rooms in the historic home. Guests are offered a gourmet breakfast each morning. Visit www.lilymanor.com for more information.

FRIDAY DINNER

Spruce Hill Lunch

Head to Spruce Hill Lunch for Friday night dinner from 5-8 p.m. Menu includes, from-scratch crab bisque, prime rib, filet mignon, a third special that changes weekly, plus the regular menu and homemade desserts. This quaint little restaurant dates to 1946. Suggested time to go is early between 5 and 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING ACTIVITES

After a sumptuous breakfast at Lily Manor, head out to explore rural Juniata County. Its natural treasures include the beautiful Juniata River, along with the Tuscarora Mountain and Creek, named for the long ago Tuscarora, a Native American tribe who camped along the creeks, mountains and river. There are plenty of places to hike, fish or kavak. Visit www.dcnr.pa.gov for locations.

Two Sisters

26 CJEMS Lane, Mifflintown — (717) 436-8009

After you are settled in, be sure to visit Two Sisters gift shop. This shopping experience will please any palate. It offers jewelry, handbags, clothing, accessories and a huge eclectic mix of home décor. New postings can be found weekly on Facebook and Instagram or visit www.shoptwosisters.com. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays.

FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITY



Juniata Valley Winery and Wilson House Bed and Breakfast 21769 Route 75 South, Port Royal — (717) 527-4146 1917 Route 35 South, Mifflin — (717) 436-5400

By going early to dinner, this allows you to get to the Juniata Valley Winery's Friday Night Music events. Conveniently located next door to Lily Manor, the open air concerts run from spring until fall from 7-10 p.m. Wine is available for purchase. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Visit www.juniatavalleywinery.com for more information.

SATURDAY LUNCH

Guante Family Restaurant

111 Bridge St., Mifflintown — (717) 436-0060

After working up an appetite from exploring, check out to Guante Family Restaurant, a full service Hispanic restaurant, where all the food is from scratch. For tables over five, reservations are required. BYOB. After lunch, take a stroll across the walking bridge, which connects Mifflintown to Mifflin, for a full view of the Juniata River.



SATURDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Serendipityx2 Day Spa 27270 Route 75 North, Mifflintown — (717) 436-6696

For the ultimate pampering experience, check out Serendipityx2 Day Spa. They offer massages, pedicures, manicures, facials, body scrubs and more. You can create your own four hour package by calling Tiffanie or Deborah in advance to arrange your appointment. Visit www.serendipityx2dayspa.abmp.com for more information.

Lost Creek Golf Course 28983 Route 35 North, Oakland Mills — (717) 463-2450

For more activity, go to Lost Creek Golf Course for a great afternoon of golfing. The par-71 golf course offers a variety of holes with beautiful views. Visit www.lostcreekgolfpa.com for more information.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Springhouse Restaurant and Pub

28983 Route 35 North, Oakland Mills — (717) 463-2450

Juniata County offers many churches of your choice for Sabbath worship. After church, enjoy brunch while overlooking Lost Creek Golf Course. The menu features breakfast classics along with some interesting new recipes!

SATURDAY EVENING DINNER & ACTIVITY

Port Royal Speedway 308 W. 8th St., Port Royal - (717) 527-2302

Save Saturday night for Port Royal Speedway where you'll find the fastest half-mile dirt track racing in the East. Satisfy your hunger while you are there and visit one of the many concession stands. The racing season runs from March through October with most shows beginning at 7 p.m. Visit www.portroyalspeedway.com for more information.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Pomerov/Academia Covered Bridge and Tuscarora Academy Museum Mill Road, Port Royal and 472 Academia Road, Mifflin — (717) 436-5152

After brunch, head to the village of Academia where much of the county's history lies. The Pomeroy/Academia Covered Bridge, built in 1902, is the longest remaining covered bridge in Pennsylvania at 270 feet long. The bridge was beautifully restored in 2010 by the Juniata County Historical Society and citizens. In June, July and August, visit nearby Tuscarora Academy Museum, where you'll find a treasure trove of artifacts. The museum is open from 1:30-4 p.m., Sundays, Visit www.juniatacountyhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

