



TIADAGHTON STATE FOREST

Golden Eagle Trail

SLATE RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours



If your trail dog spends any time in Pennsylvania he is likely to hear tell of the *Golden Eagle Trail* being the ultimate day hike in the Keystone State. Seaman may find this curious as the hike is in an obscure state forest neither in the Pocono nor Allegheny mountains.

The statistics paint a crystalline portrait of what lies ahead: nine-mile loop, over 4,000 feet in total elevation gained, two ascents of 800 and 1,000 feet, and four vistas. Looping counter-clockwise gets the steepest climb out of the way early and deposits you on the much celebrated Raven's Horn vista with 270-degree views of the Pine Creek Valley early rather than late. Timber rattlesnakes make their home in the rocks so keep Seaman from being too curious here.

The rocky slopes give way to a long draw up Wolf Run with many opportunities to get paws wet. White pines and old growth hemlocks keep things cool amidst the huffing and puffing on the trail. The abundance of flat rocks bears evidence to an old flagstone quarry. Three more vistas emerge, climaxing at the highpoint of the trail, the Beulahland Vista, elevation 2,180 feet. The view is of a long ago futile attempt to coax crops out of these mountains.

The loop finishes with a descent down Bonnell Run with more tail-wagging stream crossings and tiny waterfalls. With the tough going behind you assessments can be made on the Golden Eagle's place in the Pennsylvania canine hiking pantheon.



WHARTON STATE FOREST

Batona Trail

TABERNACLE, NEW JERSEY

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours



The New Jersey Pine Barrens are a tapestry of impenetrable scrub forest, cedar swamps, and bogs. The land is so mysterious it is the home of the legendary winged creature with the head of a horse supported by a four-foot serpentine body known as the "Jersey Devil." There are over one million acres of undeveloped land in America's most densely populated state here, including the bulk of Philadelphia financier Joseph Wharton's former 100,000-acre estate.

The *Batona Trail* slices 50.2 miles through this unworldly wilderness, marked by its distinctive pink blazes. This is easy walking on paw-friendly sand for most of its length. **Despite the overwhelming flatness of the surrounding countryside, there are undulating elevation changes on the trail itself that make this a fun romp for any dog.**

An outstanding sample of the *Batona Trail* for your dog is a four-mile hike to Apple Pie Hill, soaring all of 209 feet above sea level but with a fire tower that delivers views across all of New Jersey from the Delaware River to the Atlantic Ocean. The steps may be too open for most dogs to get those views.

Mostly you'll just see millions of pine trees while gobbling wild blueberries and huckleberries along the trail. The starting point for this canine hike is a memorial to Emilio Carranza Rodriguez, the founder of the Mexican Air Force, who perished in a plane crash in the Pine Barrens in 1928 at the age of 22.