

PASSION IN THE POCONOS

The Pocono Mountains are a section of the Appalachians that run through northeastern Pennsylvania. The region has held a long-standing reputation as a prime destination for lovers old and new.

The tourist industry has played a key role in the Poconos' economy since the first boarding house hotel was established in 1829. By the 20th century, thousands of visitors from Philadelphia and New York were flocking to the Poconos during summer vacations; but it was following World War II that the Poconos came to be seen as a romantic getaway to rival Niagara Falls, as just-returned soldiers honeymooned in rural Pennsylvania with their new brides. In 1971, *Life* Magazine ran a picture of two lovers unclothed in a heart-shaped bathtub at a Poconos resort, further cementing the region's image.

The word "Pocono" itself has no meaning, but is probably derived from the Delaware Indian word *Pocohanne*, meaning "stream between two mountains" (referring to the Delaware River). The Poconos are characterized by picturesque lakes, rivers, and waterfalls, hardwood forests, and vistas from mountaintops reaching over 2,500 feet.

Today, the region draws more families than couples, its natural gems enhanced by water parks, mini-golf courses, family resorts and ski mountains. It has even been pulling in business conferences and corporate events; but you'll still find 37 bed and breakfasts (like the one on stage) that can cast a romantic Pocono Mountains spell.

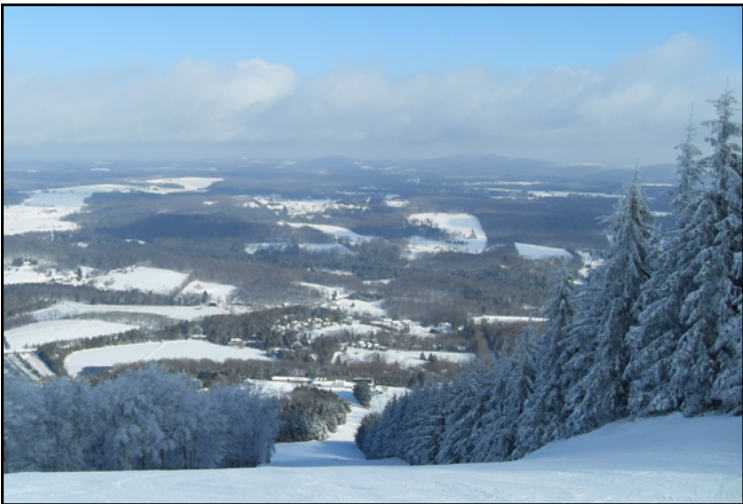
Sources:
www.800poconos.com
www.etymonline.com
"Passion in the Poconos," by Susan Spano. *Smithsonian Magazine*, June 1, 2012. Smithsonianmag.com



A Pocono Mountain lake in October. Photo by William Cassidy.



Photo by Eric Tomenga



Winter from the north knob of Elk Mountain, the highest point in the Pocono Mountains. Photo by Ekem.

