

Genetti Family Reunion: Sites & Dining Guide

Local Sites and Attractions

Mid-October is a spectacular time to host a gathering in Northeastern Pennsylvania, as the vibrant fall foliage is usually at its peak and the crisp weather is ideal for exploring. For cousins visiting the region, a mix of local industrial history and scenic autumn landscapes makes for a memorable itinerary.

Regional Heritage and Industrial History

Steamtown National Historic Site

Located in Scranton (**roughly a 30-minute drive from the hotel**), this expansive former railroad yard preserves the history of steam railroading, which was central to the region's industrial boom. It's a fantastic spot for groups to explore the enormous engines and learn about the transportation networks that brought so many families to the area.

- Explore historic steam locomotives and the active rail yard.
- Short train rides and excursions are often available on weekends. **Tip:** Purchase excursion tickets well in advance, as mid-October is a peak tourist season and large family groups might otherwise struggle to find seating together.
- <https://www.nps.gov/stea/index.htm>

Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour

Also in Scranton, this site offers an authentic glimpse into the grueling conditions of the anthracite coal industry. Visitors board a mine car and descend 300 feet into the Clark Vein of an actual 19th-century mine.

- **Accessibility Note:** The mine maintains a temperature of about 53°F year-round and requires some underground walking. A light jacket and comfortable, supportive shoes are highly recommended, which is especially helpful to note for elderly relatives.
- Guided tours through the historic tunnels.
- A profound way to connect with the local immigrant and mining experience.
- https://www.lackawannacounty.org/government/departments/parks_and_recreation/coal_mine_tour.php

Eckley Miners' Village

Situated near Hazleton (**about a 45-minute drive from the hotel**), this meticulously preserved "patch town" freezes the 19th-century coal mining lifestyle in time. Walking these streets provides a powerful connection to how regional mining families lived and worked.

- Explore original miners' homes and the on-site museum.
- Highly evocative atmosphere for those exploring family heritage.
- <https://eckleyminersvillage.com/>

The Electric City Trolley Museum

Sharing the same complex as Steamtown, this museum details the electric interurban railway networks that connected Northeastern Pennsylvania. You can also visit the Electric City Trolley Museum Passenger Platform to board for a ride.

- Features interactive exhibits and beautifully restored vintage trolleys.
- Scenic trolley excursions operate on select days, offering great views of the autumn landscape. (As with Steamtown, book your tickets early!)
- <https://ectma.org/>

Fall Scenery

Nay Aug Park

Since the reunion falls during prime time for autumn colors, this park offers a highly accessible way to enjoy the seasonal beauty right in the city.

- Features walking trails and a beautiful natural gorge.
- Home to a scenic treehouse that provides excellent, elevated vantage points of the changing leaves.
- <https://nayaugpark.org/>

Genealogy

NEPGS

If you have a family history in Northeastern Pennsylvania, you might like to check out the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (NEPGS) located in downtown Wilkes-Barre. They maintain extensive local history, church, and court records for the region.

- **Address:** 57 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre
- **Email:** nepgsmail@gmail.com
- **<https://nepgs.com/visit-nepgs/>**

Local Cemeteries where you will find Pennsylvania Genetti Ancestors:

- **Calvary Cemetery:** Drums, Luzerne County
(<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/directory/offices/diocesan-cemeteries/calvary-cemetery/>)
- **Sacred Heart Cemetery:** Western, Luzerne County
(<https://sites.google.com/view/stjohnboscochurchconyngham/sacred-heart-cemetery>)
- **Saint Gabriel Roman Catholic Cemetery:** Hazleton, Luzerne County
(<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/209524/saint-gabriel-roman-catholic-cemetery>)

Local Dining Options

On-Site Dining at the Best Western Plus Genetti

The hotel does not feature a single restaurant that operates all day for every meal, but it does provide a full breakfast buffet for overnight guests.

- **Breakfast:** The hotel offers a complimentary hot and cold breakfast buffet for guests, served daily from 6:30 AM to 10:00 AM.

Other Local Restaurants

For guests staying at the Best Western Plus Genetti Wilkes-Barre before or past the reunion weekend, downtown has an excellent variety of dining spots. Whether visiting cousins are looking for classic pub fare, vibrant salad plates, or fresh, bread-free options, there are plenty of great restaurants within walking distance or a short drive from the hotel.

Café Toscana

Cafe Toscana offers a "fine dining experience" with "excellent food" and "fantastic service." Patrons rave about its "wonderful ambiance" and diverse menu, including gluten-free options. Signature dishes like chicken parm and short rib ravioli are "stellar." It's a "great place" for celebrations and pre-show dinners.

- **Address:** 1 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre
- **Phone:** 570-208-1252
- **Hours:** Mon-Fri 11:30 AM - 9:45 PM | Sat 1:00 PM - 9:45 PM | Sun 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **<https://cafetoscana.menu11.com/>**

Bank + Vine

Bank+Vine is serving up a fresh and seasonal menu from a passionate culinary team, focusing on a farm-to-table concept and showcasing produce at the peak of its season. Located in one of downtown Wilkes-Barre's historic buildings, Bank+Vine provides both an indoor and outdoor casual dining experience with plates meant to be shared around the table. Take a trip back to 1912 and visit the old South Side Bank while dining in 'The Lobby' with its 30-foot vaulted ceilings and a private dining room overlooking the entire restaurant, perfect for gatherings of 10 people with a private restroom.

- **Address:** 268 S Main St, Wilkes-Barre, PA
- **Hours:** Wed & Thu 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Fri 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Sat 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Sun (Brunch) 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Closed Mon & Tue
- **<https://bank-vine.com/>**

Kevin's

Owner Rob Friedman invites you to join us at Kevin's for a casual, fun, and creative dining experience. The culinary team at Kevin's, **led** by Chef Matt Gilbert, offers a wide range of dishes including fresh seafood, handmade pasta, hand-cut steaks, and so much more. Specialty cocktails are featured daily and are sure to be enjoyed! Most of our staff have been with us

from when the restaurant opened, led by General Manager John Lahr, with many years of experience in the industry and who also creates our famous tableside Caesar Salad and Bananas Foster. Our family strives to make your dining experience the most memorable one, and we invite you to celebrate any occasion with us!

- **Address:** 247 Wyoming Ave., Kingston
- **Phone:** 570-285-3071
- **<https://kevinsrestaurant.us/>**

The Burnt Norton

Situated just a short walk away on Northampton Street (**only a 3-to-5-minute walk from the Best Western Genetti**), this cozy cafe boasts an eclectic, art deco environment with an open kitchen. Reviewers frequently note how fresh, vibrant, and health-conscious the food feels. Offers an incredibly robust selection of plant-based, vegetarian, and whole-food options, alongside seasonal greens. Features mindful alternatives like gluten-free pizza crusts and a wide variety of non-dairy milks for their artisan coffee beverages. Perfect for a relaxing brunch or lunch with dynamic, flavorful ingredients that avoid heavy processing.

- **Address:** 45 E. Northampton St., Wilkes-Barre
- **Phone:** 570-285-1141
- **<https://theburntnorton.com/>**

Istanbul Grill

At Istanbul Grill, we've crafted a cozy, welcoming ambiance where you can savor the rich and varied flavors of the Mediterranean. Whether you're looking to indulge in flavorful Turkish appetizers or enjoy a hearty Mediterranean feast, we're here to deliver the best. With influences from across the Mediterranean, our menu extends beyond traditional Turkish cuisine, offering an eclectic mix of dishes that capture the essence of the region. From sizzling kebabs and tender grills to fresh seafood and vibrant salads, we've carefully designed a menu to cater to every taste. Our diverse offerings feature the finest ingredients, sourced to bring you a true Mediterranean experience. Whether you're in the mood for a savory wrap, a classic sandwich, or an exotic entrée, Istanbul Grill offers something for everyone. Our commitment to excellence means you'll always find something to love.

- **Address:** 40 S Main St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
- **Phone:** (570) 822-0222
- **<https://istanbulgrillpa.com/>**

Shinjiru Ramen and Bar

This authentic ramen spot located nearby on South Main Street brings a wonderful taste of the city to downtown Wilkes-Barre with a welcoming and casual vibe. Features an easily customizable menu with specific, highly-rated vegan and vegetarian bowls available. Fresh broths and spice levels allow for warming, flavorful meals that can be adjusted to individual dietary needs. A fantastic option for out-of-town guests seeking a unique and comforting dinner.

- **Address:** 41 S Main St Suite A400, Wilkes-Barre
- **Phone:** +1 570-285-4276
- **Hours:** Mon-Thu 11 AM-9 PM | Fri-Sat 11 AM-10 PM | Sun 12 PM-8 PM
- **<https://shinjiruramen.com/>**

Casa Blanca Restaurant & Grill

Located slightly further south on Hazle Street, this lively grill is a solid local choice for guests looking for a relaxed meal. Offers diverse grilled dishes and classic, comforting restaurant fare. Open consistently throughout the week, making it a reliable option for extended stays. Great for casual lunches or dinners with groups of relatives.

- **Address:** 198 Hazle St., Wilkes-Barre
- **Phone:** 570-822-2828
- **<https://www.facebook.com/casablancawb?mibextid=lqqj4d>**

River Grille

Sitting along South River Street, this spot offers scenic views of the Susquehanna River and is known for its beautiful outdoor riverside deck. Features casual pub fare, weekend brunch, and vibrant outdoor seating. Frequently hosts live music, creating an entertaining and lively atmosphere for guests staying longer. A wonderful choice for a celebratory drink or meal by the water to cap off the trip.

- **Address:** 670 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre
- **Phone:** 570-208-1282
- **<https://rivergrillenepa.com/>**

Tip: For further suggestions, check TripAdvisor for Restaurants located near Best Western Plus Genetti Wilkes-Barre.