

# West Virginia

EXPLORE THE POTOMAC HIGHLANDS

**EXPLORE  
COUNTRY ROADS**  
Get off the beaten path  
+

**SCENIC  
MOUNTAIN VISTAS**  
Views that go  
on forever  
+

**OUTDOOR LOVERS  
PARADISE**  
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# Explore

West Virginia's Potomac Highlands

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### *Explore West Virginia's Potomac*

*Highlands* is sponsored by the Hampshire County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Hardy County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Grant County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tucker County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Elkins-Randolph County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Pendleton County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Pocahontas County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the West Virginia Tourism Office



### **ON THE COVER**

Elakala Falls in Blackwater Falls State Park. Photo courtesy of WV Tourism Office.

# COUNTRY ROADS





# LEAD TO AMAZING WEST VIRGINIA ADVENTURES

The Mountain State is easily accessible by six major interstates: I-64, I-79, I-77, I-70, I-68, and I-81. The state's only toll road is a southern portion of I-77. Welcome Centers are located along these points of entry.

Take Interstate 70 and U.S. Route 2 through the Northern Panhandle region to explore historic **Wheeling** and Ohio River towns. Well known for its steel and glass industry history, the region is now rich in entertainment and the arts.



Oglebay Park Resort

-  State Park with Lodge
-  State Park
-  Town/City
-  State Forest
-  State Natural Area

Interstate 64 takes you from **Huntington** to **Charleston** to **Lewisburg** for urban culture and small-town charm, from the rural Appalachian history of **Heritage Farms** in Huntington to the opulent luxury of **The Greenbrier Resort** in **White Sulphur Springs** and everything in between.



The Greenbrier Resort

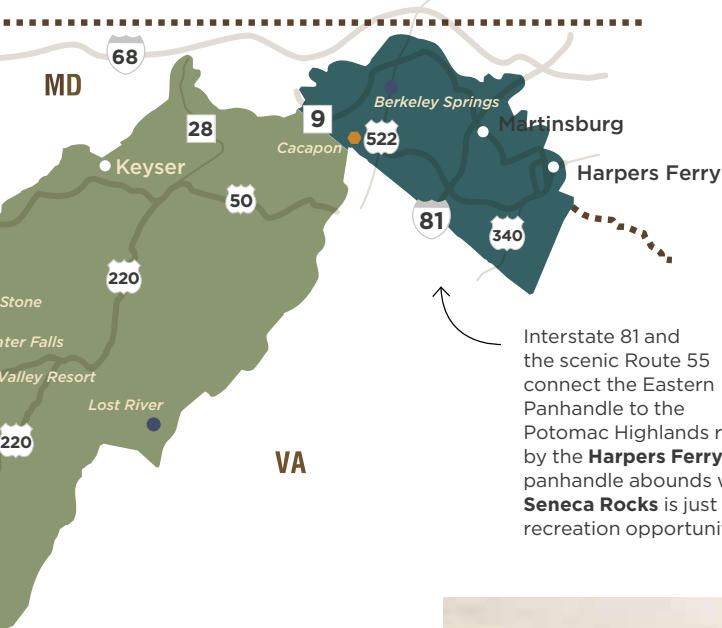


Tamarack



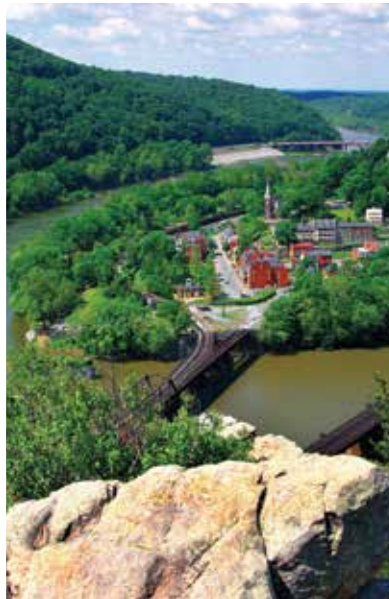
The I-79 corridor snakes through **Morgantown** and the Mountain Lakes region, ending at the state capital of **Charleston**. Known as the High-Tech Corridor, this part of the state is rich in higher education, health care, and more than 300 technology companies. You will also discover endless outdoor recreation opportunities, wonderful dining venues, and comfortable small towns.

West Virginia University



Interstate 81 and the scenic Route 55 connect the Eastern Panhandle to the Potomac Highlands region of the state. Highlighted by the **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**, the panhandle abounds with history and culture. Iconic **Seneca Rocks** is just one of the endless outdoor recreation opportunities in the Potomac Highlands.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Famous for the **New River Gorge** and world-class whitewater rafting, U.S Route 19 in southern West Virginia leads to adventure. Whether you're an outdoor thrills enthusiast or looking for stops at some of West Virginia's scenic **state parks**, it is worthwhile to get off the interstate and experience the treasures of Route 19.



New River Gorge Bridge

From the Ohio River to the Virginia border, Interstate 77 travels through some of West Virginia's greatest cities and attractions. You'll discover some of the state's most vibrant arts and cultural destinations between **Parkersburg** and **Bluefield**, including **Blennerhassett Historical State Park**, **Tamarack**, and more.



## Travel Responsibly

West Virginia's country roads are made for exploration, and our mountains provide a wealth of socially-distant getaways for you and your loved ones as you gear up to hit the road.

Throughout your time in West Virginia, please travel responsibly. Stay up-to-date on state health guidelines. Wear a mask, if required. And maintain proper social distance to keep you and your fellow travelers safe.

The health and safety of our residents and visitors is our top priority. As you plan your trip, explore socially-distant vacation ideas and the latest statewide guidelines at [www.coronavirus.wv.gov](http://www.coronavirus.wv.gov) or call the WV DHHR at 1-800-887-4304.

*Don't forget to post pictures from your responsible road trip with #AlmostHeaven.*

**Safe travels!**  
**We hope to see you soon.**

# MOUNTAINS OF ADVENTURE





## Encompassing the Allegheny Mountains and the Monongahela National Forest in eastern West Virginia, the Potomac Highlands region is nature's playground.

Steep, forested hills and clear mountain streams provide ample opportunity for hiking, biking, and fishing. Winding roads and scenic railways offer enticing trips to view brilliant fall colors, while winter's snows bring out the skis and snow boots. Charming mountain towns house art galleries, coffee shops, breweries, and restaurants, and venues along the **Mountain Music Trail** showcase the music and dance of Appalachia. Whether you're looking for excitement or relaxation, it's the perfect vacation getaway!

There's no better way to explore West Virginia's Potomac Highlands than by driving along the "Mountain Skyway," U.S. Route 48, through Grant, Hampshire, and Hardy counties. Be sure to stop by **Lost River State Park** for beautiful views. Just minutes from this scenic route, you can check into **The Guesthouse at Lost River**. This 18-room resort makes for a peaceful getaway, especially for folks coming from the Washington, D.C., or Baltimore area, just a short two-hour drive away. Once you've settled in, indulge in the on-site fine dining restaurant and lounge in the evening.

Uncover West Virginia's rich Civil War history on your way to **Romney**, where you'll board the **Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad** at Wappocomo Station. As you wind along the South Branch of the Potomac River, you'll enter a visually striking gorge known as the Trough, where you're more than likely to spot an American bald eagle along the way. End your day at a true old-fashioned resort at **Capon Springs & Farms**, where there's beauty for miles.

*Lindy Point Overlook, Blackwater Falls State Park*

If you're taking a trip in the winter months, you'll find plenty of skiing and other snow sports at **Canaan Valley** as well as hiking and biking and other amenities. Just an hour's drive east on U.S. Route 48, **Blackwater Falls State Park** is home to the longest sled run on the East Coast. Visit **Snowshoe Mountain Resort**, and experience all the fun winter can bring. All aboard the Polar Express on the **Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad** in Pocahontas County. Come in your pajamas and enjoy a mug of hot cocoa while winding through the mountains of West Virginia. At **Cass Scenic Railroad State Park**, take a heritage train ride or hike the trails. Regardless of the season, you don't want to miss a visit to the Potomac Highlands area. You'll find more photo opportunities and hiking trails at **Spruce Knob**—at 4,863 feet above sea level, the highest point in the state—and the **Dolly Sods Wilderness**, characterized by its wind-carved boulders and heath barrens that turn a brilliant red in the fall.

Head to Parsons and book a trip on the Cheat River with **Blackwater Outdoor Adventures**. Different sections of the river offer experiences ranging from calm flatwater you can paddle yourself to rollicking whitewater rapids you navigate with your raft guide's help. Wind down the day by ordering a hearty specialty pie at **Sirianni's Pizza Café** in Davis. Then drive on down the road to Thomas to catch a live band at **The Purple Fiddle**.

The Potomac Highlands is the perfect destination to experience all that makes West Virginia such a unique and majestic vacation spot for a short getaway or week-long adventure.







*Opposite Page: Mountain Biking  
Clockwise from top: Blackwater Falls, Seneca Rocks,  
Camping in Tucker County*





Capon Springs and Farms



## A TWO-LANE PARADISE

**T**ravel to Hampshire County's two-lane paradise, where you can enjoy a quiet getaway from it all. As the gateway to the Potomac Highlands, Hampshire County is easy to get to from anywhere in the mid-Atlantic region. Here you will experience a naturally gorgeous area enveloped by mountains, rivers, and springs. As West Virginia's oldest frontier county, Hampshire County has a rich history as well as scenic beauty. Visitors can discover historic sites, enjoy festivals, visit charming farmers markets, try unique restaurants, and more.

Take yourself home down country roads for a stay at **Capon Springs and Farms**, a 19th century all-inclusive resort getaway, where you are taken care of by generations of the same family and local community of co-workers. Take a scenic drive along the Cacapon River to **Capon Bridge** to enjoy award-winning agricultural tourism spots like the **Farmer's Daughter** and **The River House**. Arrange a docent-led tour of the **Nature Conservancy's Ice Mountain Preserve**, where you can hike among rare arctic plants or take a moderate climb to a scenic overlook.

Enjoy downtown **Romney** with a self-guided historical walking and shopping tour, including a

visit to the newly opened **Hampshire County Co-op and Heritage Market Place**. Then take a five-minute drive and board the **Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad**, where you can spot bald eagles on a beautiful train ride along the South Branch of the Potomac River.

Relax on a leisurely float trip down the South Branch, or chill out for the afternoon at one of our distilleries. Finish the day off at **Capon Crossing Farm** and listen to live "Bluegrass in the Barn" for an evening filled with rocking, contemporary bluegrass music.

Hampshire County is rich with farmers markets, antique shops, and unique specialty stores. A favorite Capon Bridge hangout is **The Kettle Stop**. You can't miss it—it's the big red barn with picnic tables and colorful Adirondack chairs outside. The barn is full of antiques and home goods. And don't leave without buying a bag or two of the Stir Crazy Kettle Korn to munch on during your ride home.

How long can you stay? Hampshire County offers the full range of accommodations, from primitive campgrounds to full-service resorts. [cometohampshire.com](http://cometohampshire.com)



## Annual Festivals

### **SOUTH BRANCH BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**

South Branch Valley Bluegrass Festival and Fireworks show is held the last Saturday in JUNE at the Wapocoma Campground in Romney.

### **WV PEACH FESTIVAL**

The WV Peach Festival is an annual community event held every AUGUST in the city of Romney. The festival includes an assortment of entertainment and vendors.

### **CAPON BRIDGE FOUNDERS DAY FESTIVAL**

Each SEPTEMBER enjoy delicious food and live entertainment. Activities include: history presentations, animal park, kids land, hay rides, lumberjack competition; apple butter making; chili cook-off, 5K run; car show and cornhole tournament.

### **HAMPSHIRE HIGHLANDS ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Local artisans and musicians gather in SEPTEMBER for demonstrations; music concerts, and variety of activities.

# Where Eagles Soar

Cars are convenient, buses are practical, and planes will get you where you need to go, fast. But for sheer enjoyment, there's nothing like a train. That's why passengers return again and again to **Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad** excursions in Romney. The train rides provide a short jaunt into the past, incomparable views of the Allegheny Mountains, and a chance to see wildlife you'd never spot trucking down the highway.

The Potomac Eagle runs every Saturday and Sunday from May through September. Most weekends, trains take the three-hour trip through The Trough, a wooded gorge along the South Branch of the Potomac River. In October—when fall colors only intensify the landscape's beauty—the Potomac Eagle offers daily trips through The Trough.

No matter which excursion you choose, Potomac Eagle offers four seating classes. Guests in the climate-

controlled Superior Club car (13+ only) enjoy lounge-style seating and a four-course meal. Guests in the climate-controlled First Class car enjoy table seating and a three-course meal. Guests in the Premium Coach car enjoy table seating, fresh air and a boxed lunch. Guests in the Standard Coach car enjoy fresh air; these 1920s-era railcars offer cushioned, high-back seats that are reversible so passengers can face in either direction.

All passengers have access to the Potomac Eagle's two observation cars. One is open for the duration of the ride, but the "gondola" car, a converted freight car with benches and an open roof, is only open to passengers while the train is passing through The Trough, where eagles are almost always swooping around. *149 Eagle Drive, Romney, 304.424.0736, [potomaceagle.info](http://potomaceagle.info)*





## Capon Springs and Farms: A Healing Retreat

Capon Springs and Farms is hard to describe to modern audiences. It is an old-fashioned seasonal getaway that people return to year after year because it feels like coming home. Established originally as a state owned 19th century healing springs resort, it is now family-owned and operated, treating guests like personal friends visiting them. Resurrected in

1932—today the founders' grandchildren and great-grandchildren are at the helm—and in 2013 was named Family Owned Business of the Year by the West Virginia Small Business Administration. Capon Springs and Farms was voted the best family vacation spot by the readers of *WV Living* magazine in 2018, 2019 & 2020. This all-inclusive resort is located on the

northeast edge of the Potomac Highlands, less than 2 hours from downtown Washington DC.

Because the heritage of Capon is omnipresent (the entire complex is on listed on the National Register of Historic Places), the resort has remained unaffected by many of the trends that define today's vacation retreats. There are 12 guest lodges on the property, each with two to 20 guest rooms, plus two private lodging facilities for couples. At Capon, the general idea is to give people plenty of things to do—but never rush them to do anything. There's a golf course on the property; nine holes are regulation length, and a second nine are par three, pitch and putt style. Fling golf is now a popular addition on both courses. There's an award winning spring-fed swimming pool. You'll find a half-acre fishing pond that is regularly stocked with trout, but also features bluegill, bass, catfish, and carp. All the recreational equipment is available to borrow, including bamboo fishing poles. You can choose from three tennis courts, one of which is also set up for pickle ball. You can hike by yourself or join the weekly nature guide. Evenings are filled with family fun like regular Bingo parties and live local music like bluegrass. There's even an elaborate scavenger hunt that changes every year—it's called the Caponchase Adventure.

One centerpiece of the Capon experience is the spa, a relatively new addition but one that melds organically with the original vision for Capon. People have traveled to this property for its spring water—believed to heal sickness and relieve stress—since the late 1700s. In 2007, Capon built a new facility, the Hygeia Bath House and Spa, in a style reminiscent of the original bathhouse but with modern amenities. *3818 Capon Springs Road, 304.874.3695, caponsprings.net*

## Healing Waters

Capon Springs as a resort was restarted practically by accident. Lou and Virginia Austin, the resort's founders, bought the rundown remnants of a 19th century resort in 1932 only because they wanted access to the groundwater springs on the property. Since the early 1800s, people had traveled to this out of the way place under doctors' orders to drink as well as bathe in the famous spring water. Lou believed the water had medicinal properties, so he felt it was his mission to bottle and distribute

it. Gradually the couple rebuilt the facilities and, as friends who visited told their friends, the resort grew by word of mouth.

You can enjoy the healing waters today as it flows and is used throughout the entire property. At the resort's spa, the spring-fed soaking baths were designed after the original brick-lined baths from the mid-1800s. *3818 Capon Springs Road, 304.874.3695, caponsprings.net*





## A MISSION OF ART

In the heart of Capon Bridge, there's a quaint, 100-year-old house that once held coffins for Griffin Funeral Home, a four-generation family business. A local couple purchased the building in 2015 and, along with other community members, began renovating it into an Arts and Music community center called **The River House**. Townsfolk formed a nonprofit in 2017 to support the center's mission of providing a safe, welcoming space where art and music deepen community connections. There is also a beautiful, relaxing outdoor park space near the riverbank. You can stop by for a fresh cup of coffee, a fresh cafe meal, or a glass of beer or wine. The walls of The River House are a rotating art gallery, with different local artists featured each month. Acclaimed area artist Susan Feller displayed her work there. "The River House seems to be a magnet for networking because of the flexible space," she says. "The feedback from being a featured artist has been rewarding and leads to conversations and new friendships." The center also hosts art classes for all ages as well as regular open mic nights, trivia nights, and concerts that almost always sell out. In 2019, The River House was named WV Art Organization of the Year! 24 Rickie Davy Lane, 304.856.2440, for program calendar and cafe menu visit [theriverhousewv.org](http://theriverhousewv.org)

# Farmer's Daughter Market and Butcher

You've never been to a butcher like this. Not only can you purchase locally sourced meats, dairy, produce, and dry goods at this family-owned-and-operated shop, you feel smarter and healthier just hanging out there. Got the hankering for headcheese? No problem. How about scrapple? One pound or two?

Owner Pete Pacelli is a butcher by trade and comes from a long line of butchers. He and his wife, Kate, moved to Capon Bridge six years ago to be closer to family and help fill a need. Although the town is surrounded by farms, Capon Bridge residents didn't have anywhere to buy fresh food other than farmers markets and roadside stands.

But not anymore. The Pacellis have made their mark on the community, even drawing customers from as far as Washington, D.C. They've won several national culinary awards for their hot and sweet capicola, black garlic ham, polski, paté, and krakowska representing West Virginia all around the country. Stop by Thursday through Saturday

from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and try one of their burgers which was featured in the Washington Post in 2019. The grocery is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m to 6 p.m.

"Capon Bridge is a wonderful community," says Kate. "It is interesting how so many people have come together—transplants and locals—to live sustainably and support local farmers and businesses." 2908 Northwestern Turnpike, 304.856.2550, [farmersdaughterwv.com](http://farmersdaughterwv.com)





## Explore the First West Virginia Town

Nearly every building in **Romney** has been marked by the Civil War. In fact, Romney was second only to Winchester, Virginia, in activity during the conflict. Romney was located along a highly strategic road during the Civil War—the Northwestern Turnpike—near the B&O Railroad, which was a connecting line between the port of Baltimore and the Ohio River. Both Union and Confederate troops fought to keep the town, which was tossed back and forth between occupiers many times—some say as many as 56 times.

Romney is a surprising locus of art, culture, and, of course, history that's been attracting visitors and new residents for more than 250 years. Although it is now considered West Virginia's oldest town, chartered the morning of December 23, 1762—the mayor will happily supply you with a copy of the official legislative citation—much of what Romney has to offer visitors is a product of recent transformations. History, especially Civil War history, burns hot in the blood for Romney residents, but so do civic engagement and the arts. Romney may be the oldest incorporated community in the oldest county in West Virginia, but it continues to reinvent itself through the passion of new residents, entrepreneurs, and artists.

Clusters of historic brick and clapboard buildings line Romney's streets and, through the careful efforts of residents, a few have taken on new life as small businesses or community centers. The historic brick-sided Coca-Cola bottling factory on Main Street is

now a thriving community arts building. Managed by the Loy Foundation, **The Bottling Works** hosts live music, art shows, community groups, and the **Romney Farmers Market**. You will also discover a selection of unique dining and shopping options as you stroll through downtown.

Not only is this little hamlet a hotbed for the arts, but it has a world-class attraction at its doorstep. The natural trough near which Romney sits is a remote, forested canyon dissected by the pristine waters of the Potomac's South Branch, and it's only accessible by train, canoe, or kayak. **The Potomac Eagle** scenic railroad takes visitors through this slice of untouched wilderness, mixing in a little history and wonder en route. Those looking to access the Trough via water can always stop at the **Trough General Store** at the mouth of the canyon, where canoe and kayak rentals, snacks, gear, and even camping spots are available.



## REST YOUR HEAD



### THE KOOLWINK MOTEL

This family-owned motel has been greeting travelers since 1936. The 1950s-style spot with pristine rooms in vintage decor is a destination unto itself. Expect flat screen TVs and wireless internet, but also spacious porches and a dose of hometown hospitality. *24350 Northwestern Pike, Romney, 304.822.3595, koolwink.com*

### SOUTH BRANCH INN

With locations in both Moorefield and Romney, South Branch Inn offers natural beauty and peaceful surroundings. Choose from over 160 rooms including suites with jacuzzi tubs. Conference and meeting space available. *64 Heritage Circle, Romney; 1500 U.S. Highway 220 North, Moorefield; 866.492.3122, wvafun.com*

### BUFFALO GAP RETREAT

Open from April 20 to November 1, Buffalo Gap Retreat has six cabins that sleep up to 12 each. There are also camping options, a communal kitchen, a lake, a beach, a lakefront wood-fired sauna, and hiking trails. *229 Cool Creek Road, Capon Bridge, 202.422.7430, buffalogapretreat.com*

# Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad

The Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad has expanded its services to offer more variety and enjoyment while remaining a favorite tourist destination. Your journey begins at the Wappocomo Station located in Romney, West Virginia.

The Trough Tour takes you on a 3-hour round-trip excursion along the South Branch of the Potomac River. Offered every weekend beginning in May, you'll enter a visually striking gorge known as The Trough, a 6-mile long steep, narrow canyon. The Trough area provides the perfect home to the American Bald Eagle which was adopted as our national symbol in 1782. Featured trips once a month: Sunset Trough Excursion, All-Day Petersburg Trip, and Green Spring Special (advanced reservations strongly recommended).



## Four classes of service are now offered on all excursions:

**Superior Dining** – for passengers 13 and up, this option offers an upgraded 4-course meal served on C&O Railroad china in a luxurious, climate-controlled setting complete with restored love-seats or tables.

**Premium Dining** – offers a 3-course meal service in our upgraded vintage dining cars and is also climate-controlled.

**Standard Dining** – provides passengers with a

boxed lunch in our open air table cars. The windows open to the fresh mountain air in the warm weather, adding to the all-encompassing scenic experience.

**Standard Coach** – is the perfect class for families or groups, offering an affordable, comfortable seating option; cushioned, high-back, bench-style seats with reversible backs allow free movement for



passengers to face either direction.

A concession car is available to purchase snacks and drinks.



Experience the magic of the Christmas season as Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad presents a Country Classic Christmas featuring the North Pole Express!

*Reservations are required for Superior, Premium and Standard Dining with entrée chosen at time of reservation. For more information and to book your trip, you can visit [www.potomaceagle.com](http://www.potomaceagle.com), email [info@potomaceagle.com](mailto:info@potomaceagle.com) or call 304-424-0736.*





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[wardensvillegardenmarket.org](http://wardensvillegardenmarket.org)



**EXPERIENCE THE HARDY EFFECT**

**N**o matter where you are in Hardy County, you'll be close to nature. Whether you're in a car or on a motorcycle, just follow the country roads for exceptional outdoor recreation that ranges from hiking and cycling to floating and fishing.

Historic small towns combine the best of yesteryear with modern conveniences. **Moorefield**, located at the confluence of the South Fork and South Branch Rivers, features structures built in the Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Italianate styles dating to the 18th century. While you're in town, play a round of golf at nearby **Valley View Golf Course**, then visit **West-Whitehill Winery** for a tour and tasting or see a community theater performance at the historic **McCoy's Grand Theatre**.

Bring your kayak or canoe and paddle the South Branch River through an awe-inspiring gorge, aptly called "**The Trough**," where bald eagles fly overhead. Then venture over the Mountain Skyway - U.S. Route 48 - to **Wardensville**, a small town that lives larger than its diminutive size, with charming shops, markets, and restaurants.

Take the back roads to **Lost River Valley** (or get back on the highway). One visit to the picturesque community will make it clear why many people who visit decide to stay. Stop in the Valley for lunch and shop for art, crafts, antiques, wine, and craft beer. And be sure to pick up a Hardy County Barn Quilt Trail map. Then end your day with a candlelight dinner, a glass of wine or a cold beer at one of the Valley's restaurants.

Do you want to spend your day hiking, mountain biking or horseback riding? Head to **Lost River State Park** in Mathias where the 5-county mountain view from the **Cranny Crow Overlook** should not be missed. **George Washington National Forest** also offers great hiking and mountain biking trails. Get up early to watch the morning mist lift off of the 17-acre **Rock Cliff Lake and Trout Pond**, the only natural lake in West Virginia and home to native brook trout. Don't want to fish? Swim in the lake or hike the trails around the water—and don't forget your binoculars, because these areas are great for bird watching.

Enjoy your visit to Hardy County and Experience the Hardy Effect. [visithardywv.com](http://visithardywv.com)

## Farm to Markets

Hardy County is the largest agricultural-producing county in West Virginia, and the garden and meat markets here provide plenty of evidence. The nonprofit **Wardensville Garden Market**, located on Route 259, is growing food and real community goodness. A bakery, market, farm, and soon-to-launch restaurant and production kitchen all provide life experiences for local students and generate income for the nonprofit. [wardensvillegardenmarket.org](http://wardensvillegardenmarket.org)

If you are looking for pastured pork and grass-fed beef, **Watermark Farms** sells it. **The White Barn Farm Market**, located at 1433 U.S. Highway 220 in Moorefield, provides local farm-fresh produce, West Virginia-made products and beef from **South Branch Meat & Cattle Company**. **Buena Vista Farm** offers strawberries and asparagus as well as a range of fresh produce and a great pumpkin patch in October. And the **Lost River Farmers Market**, has everything you need for the weekend, from locally raised produce to delicious baked goods for humans and dogs alike.

## Shopping in Hardy County can be a unique experience.

### South Fork General Store at Peru

First of all, this charming store is in Peru. Before you go, practice saying Peru: “Pea-rew.” Located near the South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, the store offers a healthy dose of nostalgia and some seriously good burgers. “*South Fork General Store*” on Facebook

### Lost River Trading Post

You can’t miss Lost River Trading Post and its Grasshopper Gallery—just look for their signature bright orange cow. This modern mountain general store offers American-made products, local handcrafted items, antiques, food, and craft beverages. @lostrivertradingpost on Facebook



### Lost River General Store

This modern general store in Lost River is filled with an outstanding collection of American and local handcrafts as well as carefully selected wines and artisan beers. It’s so charming that you might want to spend the night. Lucky for you, the owners operate the Inn at Lost River next door. [theinnatlostriver.com](http://theinnatlostriver.com)

### Lost River Artisans Marketplace

If you visit the Lost River Valley anytime between mid-April and early December, you’re likely to find artisans demonstrating their talents. You can purchase from a selection of regionally crafted items in the shop, or see the historic Tusing barn loom in the Lost River Museum. [lostrivercraft.com](http://lostrivercraft.com)

## » Trout Pond Recreation Area

The George Washington National Forest skates along West Virginia’s border with Virginia and slips into the state in a couple of counties—including Hardy County, where you’ll find the Trout Pond Recreation Area. Situated in the hills east of Lost River, approximately 13 miles from Wardensville, this area is home to two beautiful lakes: Rock Cliff Lake and Trout Pond.

No need to head to the ocean to relax on a sandy beach. You can sunbathe on Rock Cliff Lake’s sandy mountain beach. Or fish for stocked trout while kids splash in the

cool waters. This manmade 17-acre lake is perfect for boating. Trout Pond, home to native brook trout, was created from a large sinkhole fed by a stream and is the only natural lake in West Virginia. Hike the Trout Pond Loop Trail, an easy 4-mile excursion, with an optional 2-mile side route, to an overlook of Rock Cliff Lake. For a more challenging hike, a connecting trail provides a steep climb up Long and Devil’s Hole mountains. Campsites are available and come with a campfire ring and picnic table, and some have electric hookups.



# Mountain Biking and Cycling



World class cyclists have discovered that Hardy County is a perfect place to explore farmland valleys, mountaintop meadows, woodland trails, and rolling country roads. Unforgettable rides with **Raw Talent Ranch** connect cyclists with this stunning scenery. Riders are housed at **Lost River Barn**, a renovated barn with modern amenities, that serves as a base for cyclists. Guests

can choose from multiple ride options or customized tours. Raw Talent Ranch also hosts team training camps and family getaways. @RawTalentRanch **Lost River Trails Coalition** is working with Lost River State Park to repair and expand trails in the Park and nearby George Washington National Forest. To get involved, join their Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/723212881886291](https://www.facebook.com/groups/723212881886291)

## Lost River State Park

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937, Lost River State Park is located in the wooded mountains of Hardy County in the state's Potomac Highlands.

The park's quiet 3,900 acres of woods is located near the 1756 French and Indian War Battle of Lost River. Providing a secluded getaway for nature lovers, there are 26 fully furnished and updated cabins for overnight guests. Enjoy soul-imprinting hikes, take a dip in the renovated pool, or recreational amenities like mountain biking, geocaching, and tennis.

Experience scenic overlooks with panoramic views on horseback with experienced guides from **Hidden Trails Stables** (open seasonally [hiddentrailsstables.wv.com](http://hiddentrailsstables.wv.com)). Private riding is available year 'round after registering at the park office.

Lost River is known for its **Cranny Crow Overlook** on top of Big Ridge Mountain, which offers a commanding view of five counties. The park is also home to the restored **Lee Cabin**, the home of Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee, a Revolutionary War general and father of Civil War General Robert E. Lee. The restored cabin is across the creek from **Lee Sulphur Spring**, known for its sulfuric smell and rumored healing properties.

In addition, you can hike to the primitive **Lost River Fire Tower Cabin** now available for an overnight stay. There are also a limited number of rustic campsites for hikers and horseback riders. Looking for something really primitive? Two of the campsites are accessible by hiking 1.5 miles on **White Oak Trail** to the top of Big Ridge Mountain. A public shelter,

campfire ring, picnic table, and latrines are on site. No potable water is available there, but you can still stay connected: As a result of broadband service expansion throughout West Virginia, the state park now has greater Wi-Fi connectivity—the office and the Legacy and Classic cabins have internet service. To learn more and reserve a cabin, visit [wvstateparks.com](http://wvstateparks.com) and search "Lost River."





## The River(s) Run Through It

With rivers that rush through boulder-strewn canyons, lazy tree-lined lakes, and mountain streams filled with native fish, water is a way of life in Hardy County.

One popular area to kayak is **The Trough**, a narrow, 6-mile gorge hemmed in by rock formations on the **South Branch of the Potomac River** north of Moorefield. It is reputed that George Washington coined its name after surveying the area in 1748. The scenery is stunning with bald eagles often seen soaring overhead. The **South Fork** is also a favorite float and fishing spot, as is the **Cacapon River**, which begins as the **Lost River** before it disappears underground at the Lost River Sinks between the towns of Baker and Wardsville.

Looking for fresh fishing spots? The county is traversed by streams like **Waites Run** and small lakes like **Kimsey Run**, **Rockcliff**, and **Trout Pond** in Lost

River. **Parker Hollow**, located near Needmore and **Warden Lake**, just north of Wardsville, are local favorites. Whether you are spinning or fly fishing, Hardy County is a great spot for a variety of fish like brown trout, cutthroat trout, bull trout, and bowfin. For South Branch River canoe and kayak rentals, primitive camping, and fly fishing lessons call 304.703.9975 or go to [breezewoodadventures.com](http://breezewoodadventures.com).

# TOP Festivals

**South Branch Riverfest**  
Memorial Day Weekend

**Lions Club Independence Day Celebration and Parade**  
Early July

**WV Poultry Festival and Parade**  
Mid July

**Tri-County Fair**  
4th week of July &  
1st week of August

**Bulls & Barrels Rodeo**  
End of August

**Heritage Weekend**  
4th weekend in September

**Wardsville Fall Festival**  
1st week October

**WV Turkey Festival**  
Last weekend in October

*Confirm festival dates at [visithardywv.com](http://visithardywv.com)*

## Fossil Finding



Looking for something interesting and educational to do? Channel your inner paleontologist and search for fossils. Four miles outside Wardsville on Old West Virginia Route 55 is a roadside quarry. Fossils here are from a 390 million-year-old tropical reef from an ancient sea that covered most of the state. Drive west on Old Route 55 out of Wardsville, cross a small bridge, go about half a mile, up a steep hill and pull-off. The quarry is on your right. Use common sense and respect the site.



Guesthouse Lost River

## Stay a night or two— you might never want to leave...

### INN AT LOST RIVER

This 1870s restored farmhouse offers three guest rooms and two cottages that were once a springhouse and smokehouse. You can grab a quick bite to eat at the adjacent **Lost River General Store**. 7015 State Road 259, Lost River, 304.897.7000 [theinnatlostriver.com](http://theinnatlostriver.com)



### LOST RIVER B&B AND MOTEL

The Lost River B&B is a renovated 1920's farmhouse with four bedrooms with private en-suite bath, two screened porches, a cozy living room and a continental breakfast. The vintage Lost River Motel features knotty pine-paneled rooms with private bathrooms. Enjoy a great steak and cold beer at the Lost River Grill. 8079 WV-259, Lost City 304.897.6482 [lostrivergrill.com](http://lostrivergrill.com)

### SOUTH BRANCH INN

Located in historic Moorefield, the hotel offers 100 rooms, including suites with Jacuzzis. Conference facilities are perfect for meetings or receptions. All rooms include a free continental breakfast, free Internet and access to an exercise facility. 1500 US-220, Moorefield, 304.538.2033, [wvafun.com](http://wvafun.com)

### GUESTHOUSE LOST RIVER

Get away from it all at this award-winning inn, which includes 18 guest rooms plus a breakfast room, a billiards room, game tables, and Jacuzzi, steam and massage rooms. A fine dining restaurant offers American-inspired dishes and the full-service bar complements the relaxed setting. 288 Settlers Valley Way, Lost River, 304.897.5707 [guesthouselostriver.com](http://guesthouselostriver.com)

### FIREFLY INN

This stylish, contemporary four-room motel is located in the town of Wardensville within walking distance of shops and restaurants. No lengthy check-in process: reserve your room online and you will receive a 4-digit access code that serves as your room key. 30 West Main Street, Wardensville, 304.874.3666, [fireflyinnwv.com](http://fireflyinnwv.com)

### VACATION HOMES

From a prefab Dwell home to rustic cabins to mountaintop chalets, there's an array of lodging options to choose from.

For a complete list of available lodging go to [visithardywv.com](http://visithardywv.com)

### Misty Mountain Event Barn

Looking for a magical place to hold a family reunion, corporate retreat, or wedding? Misty Mountain Farm in Fisher is a working farm with a brand new, multi-purpose event barn. Situated on rolling farmland overlooking the mountains, its 6,000-square-foot heated and air-conditioned red barn features a grand staircase, glass enclosed pavilion, a fully equipped kitchen, tables and chairs, and restrooms and overlooks a perfectly manicured pond. [mistymountaineventbarn.com](http://mistymountaineventbarn.com)

### South Branch Potomac Lanes

This family fun palace offers 16 lanes of bowling plus arcade games and pool tables. **Striker's Grill** offers hot pizza, Angus burgers, and chili cheese fries as well as domestic and import beers. Indulge your sweet tooth at **Sweet Rose Ice Cream**, the in-house ice cream parlor that boasts milkshakes, more than 40 flavors of soft serve, and more than 30 flavors of slushies. If you need a breather after all that high-octane fun, head next door to **South Branch Cinema 6**, a family-owned, independent theater that plays all the top box office hits. [wvafun.com](http://wvafun.com)


### West-Whitehill Winery

Owner Steve West founded this winery in 1981 with just a few acres of grapes and some homemade pressing machines. Now, West-Whitehill Winery produces thousands of cases of sweet, semisweet, and dry wines each year from the French-American hybrid grapes grown in its vineyards. Take a tour of the grounds and get a free tasting of West-Whitehill's award-winning vino. [westwhitehillwinery.com](http://westwhitehillwinery.com)



# ENDLESS OUTDOOR BEAUTY





**G**rant County was created in 1866 and named for General Ulysses S. Grant, who later became the 18th president of the United States. Drawn by its majestic mountain landscape and incredible outdoor recreation opportunities, visitors come to Grant County to escape the hustle and bustle of life and reconnect with nature.

Explore an extensive system of hiking and biking trails for all levels of hikers and riders. The 24-mile long **North Fork Mountain Trail** is ideal for a 2-to-3-day backpacking trip that is full of wildlife and amazing scenery. The unique ecosystem and rock formations and the incredible views at **Dolly Sods** make it one of the most desirable destinations in West Virginia.

If the view from Dolly Sods is not incredible enough, visit the **Eastern Soaring Center** at the Grant County Airport in Petersburg for an aerial glider tour. Grant County is a mecca for glider enthusiasts due to its amazing scenery and steady thermals.

If you prefer your feet on the ground, explore the underground mysteries of **Smoke Hole Caverns**. The bizarre-looking formations of minerals look like a scene from a lost world in an old science fiction movie. Be sure to venture to Romney and board the **Potomac Eagle** for a scenic mountain train excursion along the **South Branch of the Potomac River**. Keep an eye out for American bald eagles that are frequently seen by passengers.

Grant County is also an angler's paradise. The **North Fork of the Potomac River** flows through the county and provides some of the best trout fishing in the state. Engage a local guiding service to plan your day on the water, or venture out on your own for an amazing fishing experience.

After a full day of outdoor fun, Grant County is home to some truly unique and memorable lodging destinations. Located right in the heart of Smoke Hole, **North Fork Mountain Inn** offers fine dining and a unique, rustic bed and breakfast experience. **Harman's Luxury Log Cabins** is known for the trophy trout fishing on its private stream access. Or rent the entire **Petersburg Vacation House** for an old-fashioned family getaway. [visitgrantcounty.com](http://visitgrantcounty.com)

# Outdoor Paradise

Grant County is an outdoor adventure playground: on the water, on the ground, above the ground, and even under the ground.

Test your off-roading abilities on **Twin Mountain Off Road Adventure's** skills course and trails of varying difficulty. On-site camping and training courses are also available.

If it's big trout you're looking to catch or you just want to become a better fisherman, **Three Rivers Guiding** offers full-day and half-day wading and onshore fishing trips on three of the best trout streams in West Virginia.

Take a drive through Grant County on a weekend and look up. The **Grant County Airport** has become a hub for soaring, and many soaring clubs use it as a base. Motorless glider planes or sailplanes are the aircraft used in the sport of gliding. Although these slender, bullet-like aircraft have been popular since the 1920s, they are beginning to see a resurgence.

Just ask Brian Collins, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and owner of **Eastern Soaring Center**, why he landed in Petersburg. He'll say the waves brought him. "This is a really great place for flying—one of the best spots on the East Coast," he says. "We have great thermals during the spring, summer, and fall, and from the fall through the spring we have what is called Mountain Wave. It's when the wind blows strong through the west and creates a literal wave in the sky. You can literally surf up over 20,000 feet high."

And then there's Grant County's unrivaled scenic beauty—another major draw for soaring. If you think

West Virginia is beautiful by land, you should see it from the air.

Prefer to stay on the ground and follow the tracks? The **Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad** excursions, out of Petersburg, are the perfect way to take in the lush colors of the mountains and valleys. This scenic train ride is a six-hour round-trip between Petersburg and Romney and offers guests the chance to experience some of West Virginia's most pristine scenery.





## Harman's Luxury Log Cabins

More than 20 luxury log cabins located on the banks of a private trophy trout stream make Harman's one of the best family vacation spots in the state. Each cabin holds amenities including rock fireplace, private outdoor hot tub, jacuzzi, Wi-Fi, charcoal grill, and satellite TV.

At Harman's, you will find some of the very best fishing in the state. The two-mile stretch of the North Fork that flows through Harman's is privately stocked with thousands of pounds of trout each year—mostly rainbows, but also brown, brook, and golden trout. If you are new to fly fishing, book a lesson with one of

their professional fly fishing guides. Even if you're an experienced angler, using a local guide on unfamiliar waters is a great way to enhance your experience.

The hiking opportunities at Harman's are incredible. Enjoy five on-site trails just a short walk from any cabin, or choose to venture further to popular spots like Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob, and Dolly Sods, all of which are just a short drive away.

A lazy day on an inner tube at the big swimming hole or a short tubing adventure down a few riffles can be enjoyed by kids of all ages. Any hike or day spent by the river should

include a search for skipping stones, fossils, heart-shaped rocks, or a flat rock to paint later at the cabin.

Finish the day with a game of corn hole or horseshoes, then retreat by the fire or relax in your private hot tub.

Harman's Luxury Log Cabins has been voted one of the top places to have a wedding and a top fly fishing destination in the Mid-Atlantic. Family vacation, wedding, romantic escape, or fly fishing getaway—Harman's Luxury Log Cabins has something for everyone. 10042 North Fork Highway, Cabins, 304.257.2220, [wvlogcabins.com](http://wvlogcabins.com)





## NATURAL BEAUTY

The **Monongahela National Forest** is an expansive 921,000 acres including much of Grant County. Established in 1920, the forest provides places to hike, bike, ride horseback, swim, fish, and do just about any other outdoor activity you can think of. More than 800 miles of trails wander through the forest.

The Monongahela is one of the most biologically diverse national forests and is considered by The Nature Conservancy to be in an area of global ecological importance. Much of this diversity can be attributed to the wide variations in elevation and the resulting patterns of precipitation. At least 75 tree species are found

in the forest and more than 225 species of birds.

The Monongahela has a bounty of water activities, as the headwaters of six major river systems are located in the forest—Elk, Gauley, Greenbrier, Monongahela, Potomac, and Tygart. These waterways provide excellent whitewater rafting, and nearly 600 miles of trout stream offer endless fishing opportunities.

Situated on the Allegheny Plateau, the **Dolly Sods Wilderness Area** is the highest plateau of its kind east of the Mississippi. The wilderness area ranges from 2,600 feet above sea level to 4,000 feet, where the elevation and cool weather produce unique ecosystems—like bogs and

boulder-filled meadows more common in southern Canada than West Virginia. In higher elevations, the area is home to animals rarely seen in the state, like the snowshoe hare, whose habitat typically ranges from Canada to Alaska. Other northern animals, like the New England cottontail also make their home in the area's higher elevations. Rare birds, including the smallest owl in the east, the saw-whet owl, also call Dolly Sods home.

Dolly Sods is great for a day hike or a multi-night backpacking trip, with 47 miles of hiking trails to explore. There's camping at **Red Creek Campground**, but you can also camp for free at any number of sites within the wilderness area. The views of the beautiful forests and mountains are amazing any time of year.

# Smoke Hole Caverns Resort

Smoke Hole Caverns Resort is a family-owned and operated adventure destination offering lodging, conference space, shopping, dining, and fishing guides. It is a great location to make your home base as you explore all of the outdoor opportunities in the area.

Smoke Hole got its name from the Seneca Indians, who used the front section of the caverns to smoke wild game. The slow-burning wood fires sent clouds of smoke swirling out into the valley, and the early settlers soon called the place Smoke Hole.

The many rooms and secluded nature of the caverns also made it an ideal place for early settlers and immigrants to make corn whiskey after the Civil War. The clean cold stream that flows through the

caverns was perfect for moonshine, and the caverns housed as many as 20 operating stills at one time.

Smoke Hole Caverns' magnificent formations are the result of millions of years of intricate processes and trillions of drops of mineral-laden water. It is known for its unique stalactites and stalagmites, mineral formations that hang from the ceiling or form on the floor of the caverns. *5413 North Fork Highway, Cabins, 304.257.4442, smokehole.com*



## Fairs & Festivals

### — SUMMER —

#### Tri-County Fair: last week of July

The Tri-County Fair is a weeklong celebration in the heart of summer. What started in 1920 as a 4-H class exhibit at the old courthouse in Petersburg has evolved into an annual exhibit of agriculture, horticultural, floriculture, livestock, home economics, and art.

### — FALL —

One of the premier pumpkin patches in West Virginia is located at **Cherry Brook Farms** in Mount Storm. Roam through the patch to find that perfect pumpkin, and choose from a huge selection of mums and gourds. Be sure to pick up a bag of kettle corn before you leave.



### — WINTER —

Choose and cut your own Christmas tree at **May Christmas Tree Farm** in Petersburg.



Christmas cookies and hot cocoa, Santa and all his helpers from the North Pole, and a train ride to see the **Festival of Lights** are all part of the Snowflake

Express at the **South Side Depot** in Petersburg. The train ride is about 45 minutes—the perfect amount of time for the little ones!

### — SPRING —

#### Spring Mountain Festival: April

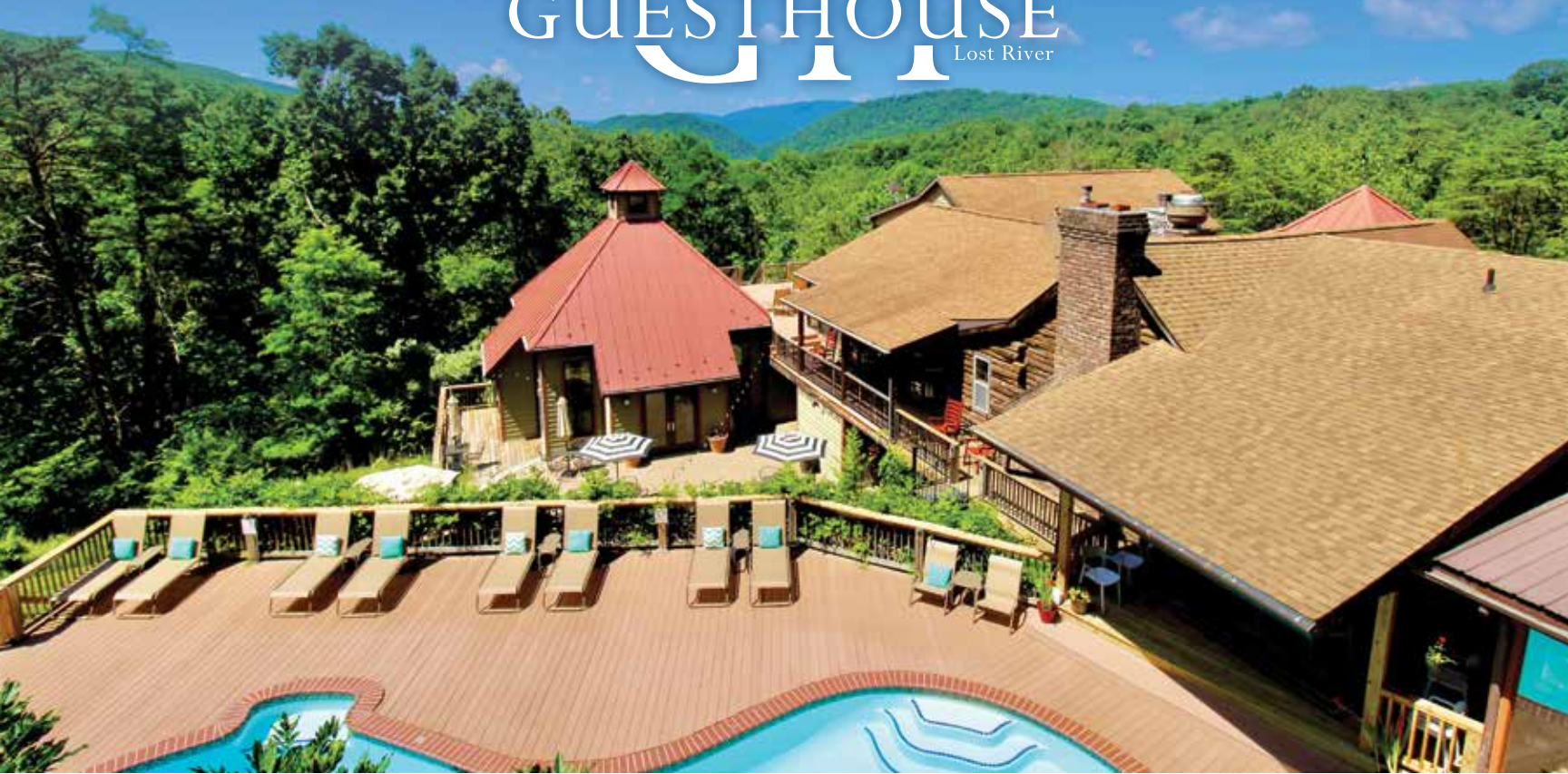
Since 1982, the Spring Mountain Festival has been an annual tradition in Petersburg. The festival includes train rides, a fishing derby, jousting, and muzzleloaders. Lots of food and entertainment for the family.

**Mountain State Maple Days** is a two-day celebration in March highlighting maple syrup-related activities and businesses in West Virginia. Sugar houses across the state will offer special activities, tastings, and tours. *Grant County CVB, 126 South Main Street, Petersburg, 304.257.9266, visitgrantcounty.com*



# GUESTHOUSE

Lost River



## BOOK A DREAM WEEKEND AT THE GUESTHOUSE LOST RIVER

2 hours from the hustle and bustle of Washington, D.C., situated on 30 acres of lush mountain beauty in Lost River, West Virginia, the award-winning Guesthouse Lost River is your mountain escape from the ordinary. Gorgeous mountain views, wide open spaces, fresh mountain air and picturesque sunsets characterize our almost heaven experience. Our scenery also affords our guests great opportunities for recreation as we border 60,000-acres of the George Washington National Forest. With 18 beautiful guest rooms as well as boasting terrific indoor and outdoor amenities including a full gym, a beautiful outdoor pool, and so much more, the Guesthouse provides the perfect place for relaxation. The Guesthouse Kitchen and Bar, named by *Food & Wine Magazine* as West Virginia's Coziest Restaurant, offers scratch-made Americana cuisine in a modern farmhouse setting and gives guests the opportunity to grab a beer, sip a glass of wine, or enjoy a handcrafted cocktail.



NO MATTER HOW YOU PLAY



# BEST *of* CANAAN

REAL ESTATE SALES AND VACATION RENTALS

WE HAVE THE PLACE TO STAY





# GET TUCKER'D

If you are looking for a place to visit that feels like it is worlds away but is convenient and easy to get to, then West Virginia's Canaan Valley is the place for you. Canaan Valley is the highest valley east of the Mississippi, encompassing some of the most majestic scenery in the highlands. That, coupled with quirky towns like **Thomas** and **Davis**, makes it an all-around great place to visit. Here, travel destinations outnumber traffic lights four to one.

Experience jaw-dropping sunrises and sunsets at some of the region's most revered scenic overlooks, like **Blackwater Falls**, **Lindy Point**, or **Bear Rocks**. Pull on a pair of waders and grab your fishing pole—our rivers provide some of the best angling experiences around. Speaking of rivers, rent a kayak or canoe from **Blackwater Outdoor Adventures**. Or sign up for one of their whitewater rafting or “duckie” trips for a memorable adventure down a 5-mile stretch of the Cheat River.

If you prefer to tour by two wheels, enjoy the **Allegheny Highlands** rail-trail. After descending on the trail into Parsons, grab a bite to eat at one of the local restaurants. Pop up a tent or park your camper at one of the area's many great campsites. For a scenic camping spot right on the Shavers Fork River, check out **Five River Campground** in Parsons.

In the winter, the area is transformed into a Nordic wonderland. Tucker County is blessed

with two premier amenity-filled state parks: **Blackwater Falls State Park** and **Canaan Valley State Park**. Destinations in their own right, they provide a plethora of relaxation and recreational activities no matter the season.

Both state parks offer winter activities from skiing and tubing to sledding and ice skating. Or consider other popular destinations, like **Timberline Mountain** and **White Grass Ski Touring Center**. Often considered one of the best ski areas in the region, Timberline has new owners, and its much-anticipated reopening with updated equipment and facilities happened in 2020 as Timberline Mountain. Looking to explore the backcountry? White Grass offers well-maintained cross country skiing and snowshoeing trails.

While the climate is great year 'round for every outdoor activity imaginable, it's also perfect for breweries. Fill a growler or two at **Stumptown Ales** or **Mountain State Brewery**, then head to the infamous Purple Fiddle for an evening of foot stomping music.

When you are just plain tuckered out, there are plenty of lodging options. In addition to Canaan Valley Resort and Blackwater Falls State Park, there's everything from camping and RV sites to Airbnbs and bed and breakfasts to vacation home rentals and cabins. [canaanvalley.org](http://canaanvalley.org)



## Annual Events

Regional events draw legions of fans. The **July 4th Fireworks Celebration** is unrivaled, one of the best displays you'll ever see. Take a blanket or a chair and watch from downtown Thomas. Each August, thousands of bluegrass fans around the country attend **Pickin' in Parsons**. The spring **Wildflower Pilgrimage** is a must-attend for flower lovers, and the annual **Canaan Mountain Bike Festival** in late June draws mountain biking enthusiasts to the area. If you are looking for a fall getaway, celebrate the colorful foliage during the **Leaf Peepers Festival**, held the last full weekend of September in Davis.

# Timberline gets a MAKEOVER

➔ In December 2019, Perfect North Slopes purchased Timberline, renaming it Timberline Mountain, and immediately began making substantial upgrades. Many ski aficionados argue that Timberline, which features a 1,000 feet of vertical drop and a variety of terrains, offers some of the best skiing and snowboarding in the Mid-Atlantic. And in 2021, Timberline Mountain is even better. Perfect North Slopes has added a brand new 6-passenger high speed chairlift as well as a 4-passenger mid-mountain chairlift that services beginner and intermediate terrain along with easy access to a race course, terrain park, and most trail-side lodging. Other improvements include a re-graded learning area with a conveyor carpet lift, extensive upgrades to the snowmaking system, a fully remodeled rental shop, consolidated food service facilities, and an updated outdoor area for a fresh sense of arrival. They are also planning a summer schedule of outdoor activities. *254 Four Seasons Drive, Davis, 304.403.2074, timberlinemountain.com*



## Blackwater Falls State Park

Less than 5 miles from Davis, Blackwater Falls State Park is best known for its energetic waters that twist through an eight-mile gorge before plummeting 63 feet into the canyon below. The park also offers 20 miles of hiking trails, scenic overlooks, nature and recreation programs, and endless Instagrammable moments.

Relax and refuel at Blackwater Lodge, which is perched on the southern canyon rim and features 54 rooms and a restaurant. For a more rustic experience, rent one of the 39 furnished cabins, or stake a tent on a camping site. Although you may feel world's away, there is Wi-Fi for those who can't bear to unplug.

The Mountain State's iconic Blackwater Falls is one of the most photographed sites in the state. Walk down to the lowest observation deck—214 steps—to view the roaring water as it rushes over boulders. There are also countless other natural wonders nearby. Follow the Elakala Trail from the lodge to view Elakala Falls, where Shay Run rushes to the edge of Blackwater Canyon and tumbles down

in a beautiful display. And if you are undaunted by heights, take a short trail to Lindy Point for one of the most famous views in the state—a breath-stealing drop-off into Blackwater Canyon, where 45 acres of wild country stretch out in all directions. Don't miss Pendleton Point Overlook that showcases the canyon's deepest and widest point.

In the winter, Blackwater Falls State Park transforms into a family-centric wonderland. Everyone enjoys the thrill of sledding at the Blackwater Falls Sled Run. Ride the conveyor belt lift to the top of the longest sled run on the East Coast. Cross country skis and snowshoes are also available for rent at the winter lodge. *1584 Blackwater Lodge Road, Davis, 304.259.5216, wvstateparks.com*

# Canaan Valley State Park

Canaan Valley State Park pulls double duty as a luxurious resort and a pristine, four-season, 6,000-acre state park. The light-filled lodge has been modernized with fresh interiors, decor, and floor-to-ceiling windows that draw you into the epic mountain views. With 160 rooms and 23 cabins and cottages with pet-friendly options to choose from, the resort boasts several dining options. After a day of outdoor adventure, guests can enjoy massages on-site, and kids can unwind in the lodge's arcade. The golf course is one of the top 10 in the state, and, off-season, it becomes a cross country skiing course. The resort offers other recreational options, too, such as a shooting range,

a swimming pool, miniature golf, 18 miles of hiking trails and a 5.5 mile purpose built mountain bike trail for beginners and novices. In the fall, take a chairlift and experience breathtaking views of the valley.

At a summit elevation of 4,280 feet, Canaan Valley Resort is also a prime winter destination with 40 trails for every level of skier or snowboarder. A covered outdoor ice-skating rink overlooking the valley is the picture-perfect place to master salchows, spins, and figure eights, and a tubing park draws families from near and far. *230 Main Lodge Road, Davis, 304.866.4121, [canaanresort.com](http://canaanresort.com)*



## WHITEGRASS

Less than five miles from Canaan Valley Resort, this locally owned and operated cross country ski touring center offers acres of trails, ski rentals, classes, and a backcountry ski specialty shop. The iconic red hut is also home to the White Grass Cafe, which serves all natural lunches and dinners throughout the winter. *643 Weiss Knob Ski Road, Davis, 304.866.4114, [whitegrass.com](http://whitegrass.com)*



## ART SPRINGS HERE

While tourists continue to pour into the Canaan Valley for hiking and biking in spring, summer, and fall and for skiing and snowboarding in winter, the county is quickly becoming a destination for artists from across the country. The area's annual arts bonanza—ArtSpring—takes visitors to four locales across the county for a real look at what art in West Virginia's highlands is all about. “There are an increasing number of artists who live in the Tucker County area who consider the county a center for what they do,” says Bruce Wilson, area artist and one of the ArtSpring organizers. “They want to live here because they like the lifestyle here, how beautiful it is, how small the population is. We wanted to let tourists know that we are an arts destination.”

ArtSpring kicks off Memorial Day weekend in Canaan Valley, Davis, Thomas, and Parsons with attractions and events for locals and visitors alike. Artist demonstrations, film screenings, culinary showcases, street music, markets, auctions, kids' crafts, beer and food tastings, and food vendors make for a fun-filled weekend. “When you come to ArtSpring, you're not only getting a healthy dose of some exceptional art, you're also getting to know the Tucker County community,” says local artist and gallery owner Seth Pitts. “And you're surrounded by the mountains—not city blocks and neon signs.”

# NATURAL WONDERS

## Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

The Canaan Valley was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1974, and a portion was later preserved as a national wildlife refuge. The Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge encompasses nearly 17,000 acres. Visitors are welcome to explore the refuge from one hour before dawn to one hour after sunset. More than 30 miles of roads and trails are open to walking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. Biking and riding horseback are also welcomed in designated areas. Hunting and fishing are allowed with appropriate licenses and refuge permits.

## Dolly Sods Wilderness and Scenic Area

As part of the expansive Monongahela National Forest, this 17,000-acre wilderness area, with its bogs, heaths, and boulder-strewn plains, feels more like Canadian tundra. Wind sweeps through the stunted shrubs and exposed boulders, creating a landscape unlike most of the leaf-covered national forest.

Dolly Sods is a peaceful, primitive paradise for hikers and horseback riders. In fact, riding horseback is permitted in most parts of the Mon Forest except for developed recreation areas like campgrounds. Be mindful, though, to leave no trace of your four-legged friend.

The Bear Rocks Trail traverses sunny meadows before reaching marshy bogs and



crossing Red Creek. If you're not a fan of wet feet, pack an extra set of socks and shoes. Make your hike a longer trek by linking up with other paths, including Dobbin Grade Trail and Raven Ridge Trail. The Rohrbaugh Plains Trail also leads to stunning views of the valley.

The view from Bear Rocks, a boulder-strewn playground, is stunning. On a clear day, visitors can see seven mountain ridges across a 30-mile stretch to the east. Not sure which way is east? Check out the red spruces along the rim of the ridge. Winds often blow from the west at high speeds, and tree limbs point with the wind to the east. Once you're tuckered out, rest your head at Red Creek Campground. Just make sure to leave the wilderness as picturesque as you found it.

## Canaan Mountain Backcountry

Tucked between Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley State Park is the Canaan Mountain Backcountry. Trails crisscross this little slice of heaven, making it divine for hikers and mountain bikers alike. The Canaan Loop Road offers an 18-mile stretch for adventurers to explore on foot or hoof.

The area features two notable knobs, each with elevations at more than 4,000 feet: Pointy Knob and Chimney Rock. Table Rock Trail leads to a breathtaking private overlook. A section of the Allegheny Trail also runs through the backcountry from Blackwater Falls State Park to Canaan Valley State Park, meaning guests can experience a taste of the 330-mile path that reaches to the Mason-Dixon Line.

## Otter Creek Wilderness Areas

Otter Creek Wilderness comprises nearly 21,000 acres and lies at the base of Shavers and McGowan mountains. With 45 miles of unblazed trails, many of which follow old railroad grades, logging roads, or farm roads, it is a great place to experience nature. Trails traverse streams and creeks, so take an extra pair of socks.

## Outdoor Recreation

Canaan Valley is a haven for four seasons of outdoor recreation, from mountain biking to hiking to fishing to skiing. After just one visit, the popular hashtag for the county—#gettuckered—makes a lot of sense.



# The Hip Mountain Towns of THOMAS AND DAVIS

The histories of Thomas and Davis are written in timber and coal. But today Thomas and Davis are hubs of mountain culture—both of them authentic expressions of outdoor enthusiasts, artists, and entrepreneurs, and each one unique. Resort-goers, year-round seasonal visitors, and new residents find diverse dining, distinctive shops, eclectic galleries, and miles of scenic wilderness to explore.

## THOMAS

Thomas overlooks the **Blackwater River** and has one of the most vibrant arts communities in the state. Unique galleries, regular live music, and charming shops come together to create a vibrant downtown.

**DO** Park along Front Street and walk the length. You'll find charming antique stores, art galleries, and cafes. And don't leave without visiting one of West Virginia's most beloved natural wonders, **Blackwater Falls**.

**STAY** **Blackwater Falls State Park**—five minutes away in Davis—has rooms at the lodge as well as cabins and camping options.

**PLAY** Equal parts acoustic music venue, deli-style cafe, and laid-back bar, **The Purple Fiddle** strikes all the right chords. During the day, families fill their empty stomachs with hearty sandwiches and homemade ice cream. Come sunset, couples twirl across the floor to bluegrass. Musicians range from Appalachian-born-and-bred to international names. [purplefiddle.com](http://purplefiddle.com)

**EAT** For top-notch coffee, head to **TipTop**. Drink it black with a simple pour over, or go for an expertly crafted latte. Need something a little stronger? Try one of their small-batch spirits, brews, and cocktails. [@tiptopthomas on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tiptopthomas)

**DRINK** Visit the home base of **Mountain State Brewing Company**, the largest full-scale microbrewery and distributor in the state. [mountainstatebrewing.com](http://mountainstatebrewing.com)

## DAVIS

Davis is the gateway to Canaan Valley and the place visitors go to unwind at the end of an action-packed day. Homemade sandwiches at **Big Belly Deli** are legendary, and **Sirianni's Pizza Cafe** is an area staple with legions of adoring fans. You can hit the hay at the **Bright Morning Inn**, or just enjoy a delicious meal in its dining room. Bright Morning's huge breakfast menu bursts with omelets, sandwiches, and french toast.

**DO** Check out **Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center**, where there are activities for every season. [canaanresort.com](http://canaanresort.com)

**STAY** The **Billy Motel** is a newly renovated 10-room mid-century modern motel where the check-in happens at the bar. This time capsule treasure has become known among locals and tourists alike for its large offering of specialty cocktails.

**PLAY** Hike the **Dolly Sods Wilderness** and **Bear Rocks Preserve** or mountain bike at **Moon Rocks**. Looking to rent or repair a bike? Head to [blackwaterbikes.com](http://blackwaterbikes.com).

**SHOP** **WVHighlands Artisans Gallery** sells a variety of locally made products.

**EAT** **Wicked Wilderness Pub and Parlor** is a new spot drawing big crowds. Take a culinary tour of the south at **Farm Up Table**. Treat yourself to a frozen treat at **The Ice Cream Shop**.

**DRINK** Quickly becoming an epicenter of West Virginia's craft beer scene, **Stumptown Ales** is always a popular destination.





# OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PARADISE

**R**andolph County is the largest county in West Virginia, with an area of 1,400 square miles—nearly the size of Rhode Island.

During the Civil War, an early Union victory in Randolph County set the stage for West Virginia's statehood. The July 1861 battle for control of the Staunton–Parkersburg Turnpike took place five miles west of Beverly. The **Rich Mountain Battlefield** site has more than 400 protected acres, including the battle site at the top of Rich Mountain, the Confederate Camp Garnett, and a section of the Staunton–Parkersburg Turnpike.

The **Monongahela National Forest** is an expansive 921,000 acres in the east-central part of West Virginia. First established in 1920, the forest provides places to hike, bike, ride horseback, swim, fish, and do just about any other outdoor activity you can think of. The national forest has more than 800 miles of trails, with nearly 20 designated hiking trails at Spruce Knob alone.

The **Allegheny Highlands Trail** is a rail-trail project that runs between Elkins and Hendricks, with 26 miles of trails perfect for biking enthusiasts.

In the early 20th century, luxury passenger steam trains pulled into Elkins on a daily basis. Today, the **Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad** offers mountain rail adventures for people of all ages. While in Elkins, tour the historic campus of **Davis & Elkins College**. Take in the college's **Graceland Inn** or, better yet, spend the night. For entertainment, **Gandy Dancer Theatre** provides Branson-style variety shows. For lunch or dinner, you can't go wrong at **The Vintage Restaurant and Wine Bar**, **El Gran Sabor**, or **Smoke on the Water**. For a scenic place to unwind at the end of the day, the **Forks Inn** offers fantastic food and stunning panoramic views.

History buffs will appreciate the **Beverly Heritage Center**, where one can learn about the history of Randolph County through its interactive display. Venture to the tiny village of **Helvetia** for a historic journey to an old-world Swiss experience.

Randolph County is an outdoor adventure paradise highlighted by charming communities rich in history, the arts, and an amazing dining scene, all surrounded by a backdrop of breathtaking natural beauty. [elkinsrandolphwv.com](http://elkinsrandolphwv.com)

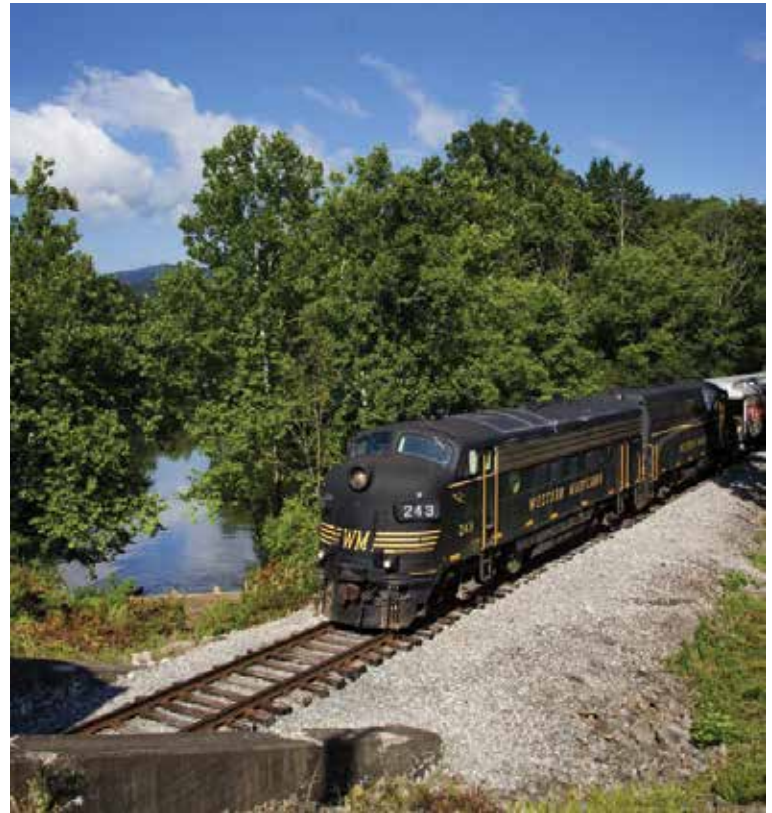
# ELKINS: Born by the Rails

On July 17, 1889, a reporter from the *Cumberland Daily Times* called what soon came to be known as Elkins “the wild heart” of West Virginia. But by then the community that had sprung up in the wake of the coal and railroad industries that were carving a swath through Appalachia already knew they had found a hidden gem along this bend in the Tygart River—they didn’t need a reporter to tell them it was home.

Honor, preserve, and progress—that seems to be the theme of today’s

Elkins, now the county seat of Randolph County. It’s a place where pristine historic sites and eclectic art hubs are friendly neighbors. The railcars might not be bursting with coal and timber these days, but they’re still crisscrossing the landscape as part of the **Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad**, headquartered in the historic depot. The railroad offers visitors a unique look back in time with trip options varying from two hour excursions to overnight castaway caboose getaways in untamed mountain country.

The rich traditions of this region are still honored. You can feel it in the hushed reverence of visitors walking down the grand staircase at **Graceland Inn** or standing in the shade of **Halliehurst Mansion**—both of which are located on the campus



of Davis & Elkins College.

Built in 1892, the exquisitely furnished Graceland Inn is an elegant retreat that offers 11 bedrooms with private baths. The mansion was once the summer home of Henry Gassaway Davis, a U.S. senator and vice presidential candidate. Next door, Halliehurst is also a National Historic Landmark. Constructed of native hardwoods and stone, the 16,000-square-foot Victorian mansion was patterned after a castle in the Rhineland.

Elkins is currently home to more than 370 structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but the air here is hardly eau de musty antique shop. Unlike cities that have clear demarcations between past and present, traditional and modern, Elkins proudly mixes it up.

Elkins is as comfortable as any corner of small-town America but as open-minded as metropolitan centers many times its size. It’s a respite from a fast-paced world, yet

there’s always something new to explore—whether it be a bluegrass concert offered by the **Augusta Heritage Center** or a performance at the **Gandy Dancer Theatre**.

But what that Maryland reporter didn’t know when he penned “wild heart” was that the area wouldn’t always be just a dot of civilization in the wilderness—it would soon become known as the gateway to the **Monongahela National Forest** and, subsequently, every kind of outdoor recreation imaginable. With elevations averaging 2,000 feet above sea level, Elkins offers a break from extreme summer heat, and, in autumn, vibrant fall colors.

From exquisitely preserved National Historic Landmarks to cultural hubs like the **Randolph County Community Arts Center**, there’s more than enough to inspire great minds within city limits. And with seemingly limitless recreational potential attracting visitors in every season, this is a city where anyone can find their niche.



# Local Eats

There's a level of culinary sophistication here you would expect to find in larger metropolitan areas. From Venezuelan delicacies to Appalachian favorites to what may actually be the country's best cinnamon rolls, Elkins has it.



**El Gran Sabor**, an authentic Venezuelan restaurant, offers an incredible menu of tostones, cachapas, arepas, and fajitas. Live bands play weekly, making the restaurant a favorite among locals. **Beander's Restaurant and Tavern** and **C.J. Maggie's** Elkins location are local hot spots known for good food and even better spirits.

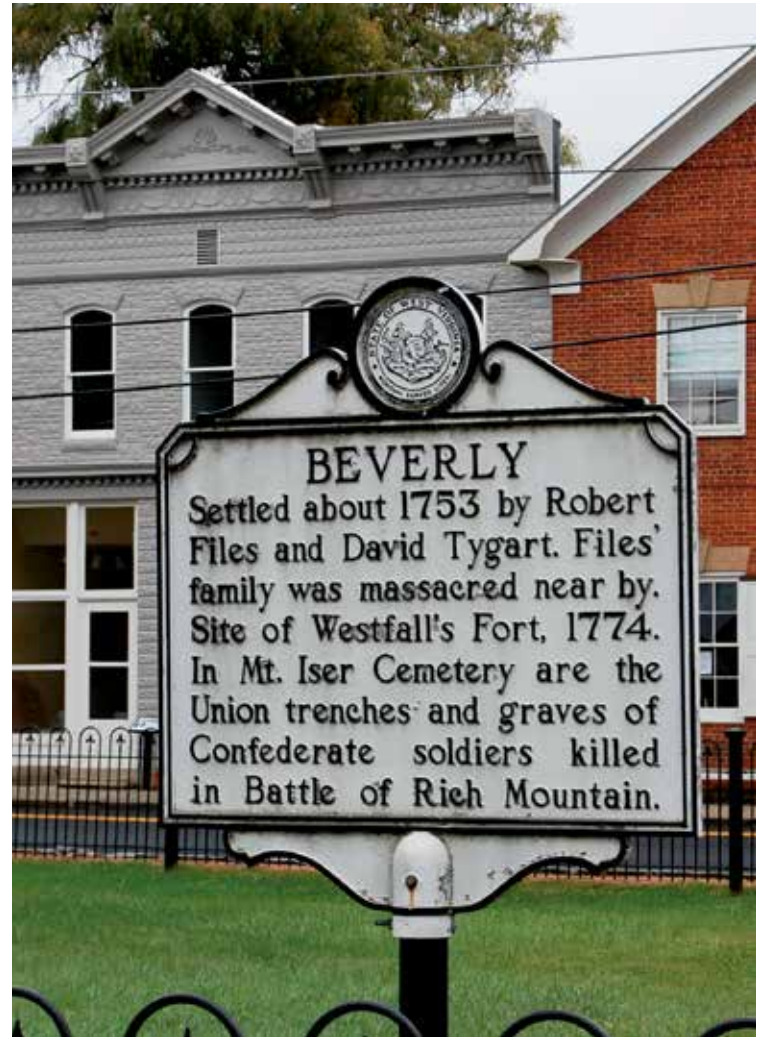
A dining destination in its own right, **The Forks Restaurant & Inn** offers upscale food in a relaxed atmosphere. The restaurant and inn are located on the outskirts of town, meaning you can take full advantage of the scenery. Enjoy seasonal menu items outside on the deck before spending the night in one of the luxury cabins or lodge rooms.

**1863 Appalachian Bistro** has been serving up mouthwatering cinnamon rolls, savory steaks, barbeque, and other family favorites for more than 50 years. After seeing the sights around Elkins, head to the **Vintage Restaurant and Wine Bar** for happy hour food specials and drinks. You might like it so much you come back on Sunday for the restaurant's renowned brunch. For a taste of home cooking, the **RailYard Restaurant** is the only eatery in Elkins that offers a balcony overlooking the railroad depot. Enjoy a satisfying meal while watching the trains depart.



If your tastes run to barbecue, head to **Smoke on the Water**. It was established in 2011 by native Jon Magee, a longtime resident of the river and avid trout angler, to provide unique and delicious food prepared in the laid-back, river living style. Italian lovers will want to try **Mama Mia's Pie & Pasta** in downtown Elkins, where all marinara, pizza, Alfredo, pasta sauces and bread doughs are prepared from scratch daily. Enjoy al fresco dining in the old world tradition at this family-owned favorite.

These and more unique dining options are available throughout Elkins and Randolph County.



## HISTORIC BEVERLY

Nestled between Elkins and Mill Creek, the extraordinary town of **Beverly** is rich in history.

The Beverly Heritage Center—occupying the Beverly Bank, the Randolph County Courthouse, the Hill Building, and the Bushrod Crawford buildings, all more than 100 years old—serves as a visitor center and museum. Tours are guided by Beverly's own residents, who tell the story of the town's traditions and culture.

History buffs will appreciate the **Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site**, where one of the earliest

battles of the Civil War took place. The **Goff House** steps right out of the late 18th and 19th centuries, with its white clapboard siding and romantic wraparound porch. Today the fully restored building is home to **Historic Beverly Antiques**, where you can view Civil War-era graffiti or peruse consignment antiques and collectibles, including rooms full of vintage clothing, old-fashioned Christmas decor, and new and used books.

The hub of history, though, may be the **Randolph County Museum**. Loaded with artifacts, the attraction is in the Blackman-Bosworth Store building, circa 1828. And for unique shopping in town, buy, sell, or trade books at **Historic Beverly Antiques** at the **David Goff House** on Main Street.

# Drink Up

**Byrd's House of Donuts** is a great place to start the morning with fresh homemade donuts.

**TipTop Coffee** started in Thomas and has opened a second location in downtown Elkins. TipTop boasts a variety of handcrafted coffee drinks as well as nitro coffee, a cold brew infused with nitrogen. Tucked away inside of **The Delmonte Market** in Elkins, you will find the **Crossings Coffee Bar**, a favorite morning gathering place for coffee and conversation. It is also a darling gift shop offering locally made products and gifts ranging from toys to puzzles to jewelry.

If you are a fan of local brews, then you know **Big Timber Brewing Company** has taken the state by storm. Big Timber's blonde ale, porter, and pale ale can also be found in local restaurants including **Beander's**, **Vintage Restaurant and Wine Bar**, **El Gran Sabor**, and **The Forks Restaurant & Inn**. Big Timber also offers several seasonal beers like Frost Notch and Forestfest



Octoberfest. Its taproom in Elkins is open several days a week, and the company plans to offer brewery tours in the near future.

What do you get when you cross a brewery and a hostel? **Brewstel**, a unique concept in the heart of Elkins. The tavern's draft system boasts 21 taps running directly from the walk-in cooler, with a rotating selection of craft beers. **Brewstel Brew Shop** is the craft beer and brewing supply store located on the first floor, and the Brewstel Hostel encompasses the entire second floor of the historic building. It features all the amenities of a

hotel but with the affordable price tag of a hostel. Check out the open mic nights and the many live music concerts and, during the summer, enjoy an exclusive rooftop overlooking downtown Elkins, the mountains, and a perfect sunset.

Just 30 minutes from Elkins in Harman, you will find **Still Hollow Spirits**. This family-owned and operated distillery specializes in traditional mountain-style whiskey and unique botanical infusions. Stop by for a tour of the distillery and for a tasting of their popular corn and rye whiskeys and ginseng, cranberry, and mint moonshines.

## HELVETIA: A Swiss Mountain Community

For a taste of Switzerland, visit the charming community of **Helvetia**. Hidden in the Randolph County hills, Helvetia is tiny—a place with fewer than 60 people, according to the U.S. Census, but enough heart and creativity to fill any big city. Well off the beaten path, this mountain settlement dates to the 1860s, when Swiss immigrants arrived in the area.

Although Helvetia's population

has dwindled, the community's roots are strong: Residents have kept their traditions alive for many generations, and the Helvetia Village Historic District includes dozens of structures that contribute to their village's authentic feel.

Helvetia is known for square dances and yodeling. It is perhaps most famous for its Fasnacht

celebration in February, which takes place the Saturday before Ash Wednesday. The whole town—not to mention people from all over the U.S. and the world—gather in Helvetia for a lively party that ends around a bonfire where patrons burn "Old Man Winter."

Helvetia is located off of County Route 46, about an hour southwest of Elkins.





## An Arts-Based Culture and Community

The **Gandy Dancer** features outstanding cuisine and the finest in live entertainment in a beautiful 11,000-square-foot dinner theatre. Patrons receive a full dinner and dessert and enjoy a high-energy, state-of-the-art live music show. Shows at the Gandy Dancer are family-friendly, featuring a variety of music and comedy from the '50s to the '90s from country, Motown, gospel, patriotic, and legendary performers.

The **Old Brick Playhouse** in downtown Elkins serves as headquarters for a professional touring theater company. During the summer, the Old Brick Playhouse offers a series of performance camps and plays serving students from age 5 to age 20. The Old Brick Playhouse also presents vaudeville-style entertainment similar to that found during the age of the Silo Circuit, popular during the railroad era in many small, rural towns like Elkins.

The **Myles Center for the Arts**, located on the campus of Davis & Elkins College, serves the community and the region as the largest performance venue in the area and has recently undergone a significant transformation. During the summer, the auditorium comes alive with the exciting sounds of the Concert Series hosted by the Augusta Heritage Center, the college's internationally recognized center for traditional arts and music.

The **Augusta Heritage Center of Davis & Elkins College** is known nationally and internationally for its activities relating to traditional music, folklife, and folk arts of many regions and cultures. These world-renowned workshops and festivals have brought together master artists, musicians, dancers, craftspeople, and enthusiasts from all over the world. Thousands more attend the center's public concerts, dances, and festivals.

The **Mountain Arts District** is a network, a resource for artists, and, online, it is a directory for all people and events in the mountain counties. Its purpose is to promote the unique arts and culture of north central West Virginia.

The works of more than 20 local artists are featured at **Artists At Work** in Elkins. The shop features pottery, artisan jewelry, woodworking, fiber art, paintings, photography, and more, all hand-crafted by local artists who staff the cooperative gallery.



## EVENTS



### NOT TO BE MISSED

People gather from all over the world for Helvetia's **Fasnacht** celebration, which takes place on the Saturday before Ash Wednesday. This Swiss enclave comes alive for a unique party complete with a mask-wearing square dance and a parade that ends around a bonfire, where patrons burn Old Man Winter.

The **Augusta Festival** is an annual celebration of traditional music, dance, and craft, the grand finale for the August Heritage Center's world-renowned traditional arts preservation summer program held at Davis & Elkins College. This July event includes a juried craft fair featuring the best regional artisans, live music, workshops, craft demonstrations, jam sessions, and the West Virginia Open Fiddle & Banjo Contest as well as children's activities.

If you like extravagant, rare automobiles, you'll be right at home at the annual **Mountain State Street Machines Auto Extravaganza** held every July 4th weekend. Cars old and new start to roll in on Friday, traveling through downtown Elkins for the main event. Nearly 600 participants parade slowly past eager onlookers to showcase their special cars.

The town of Beverly relives its heyday the last weekend in July with the celebration of **Beverly Heritage Days**. The historic town will come to life with costumed interpreters, period demonstrations, music, food, crafts, and other activities worthy of its colorful past.

Summer may be winding down in August, but the fun in Beverly isn't over yet. Say farewell to summer with local craft brews, West Virginia wines, and great local music at the **Beverly Heritage Center Summer Wine and Brew Fest**.

The **Mountain State Forest Festival** paints Elkins in festive fall colors. Randolph County and the City of Elkins open their streets to accommodate 125,000 visitors each year around the first week of October. With more than 100 events, the annual nine-day gathering packs the town and then some. The highlight of the festival is the crowning of Queen Silvia—the deity of the forest—and the pageantry is something to behold.

In late winter in our mountains surrounding Pickens, when nights are freezing and days begin to warm, it's maple sugaring time. Every year during the third full weekend in March, the Pickens Historical and Improvement Society puts on the **Maple Syrup Festival**.

The annual **Ramps and Rail Festival** takes place in late April. This Elkins festival celebrates the region's pungent wild vegetable. Participants try ramp-themed dishes, take the first train rides of the season, and enjoy live music and craft vendors.



# WET A LINE

**H**ome to Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia, and some of the most rugged mountain terrain to be found on the East Coast, Pendleton County is a picturesque getaway that exemplifies the slogan “Almost Heaven.” Blessed with beautiful rivers, amazing trails, and awe-inspiring views, Pendleton County features a host of world-class recreational activities.

In addition to Spruce Knob, Pendleton County is home to the Monongahela and the George Washington National Forests and the most recognizable landmark in the state, Seneca Rocks. These natural settings form a stunning backdrop for incredible hiking and biking, rock climbing, golf, horseback riding, and paddling rivers and streams.

What Pendleton County is really known for is fishing. **Brushy Fork Lake** and **Brandywine Dam** are excellent areas to put your boat in and enjoy a relaxing day of fishing. Brandywine Lake is stocked once in February and every two weeks in March, April, and May, and then during the week of Columbus Day, in October, and again a week later. Brushy Fork Lake is stocked once in February and once every two weeks in March, April, and May.

*You might already know Spruce Knob is the highest point in West Virginia, towering above the rest of the state's terrain at nearly 5,000 feet above sea level. But it's also the tallest peak in the Allegheny range. Travel to the top by car on Forest Road 112. Once there, a quick walk on the Whispering Spruce Trail offers many panoramic views over its half-mile course.*



No boat? No problem. Fishing along and in the rivers and streams in Pendleton County is a real treat. The South Branch of the Potomac River begins in Highland County, Virginia, upstream from Franklin, West Virginia, and continues northeast for 80 miles. Along the way it offers trophy trout fishing as well as trophy largemouth bass and smallmouth bass fishing. The South Branch has been called the best-kept secret of fishing in West Virginia.

South Branch trout action begins at the town of Franklin, where rainbow, golden rainbow, brown, and brook trout abound. Each year, more trophy trout are caught in the South Branch than in any other stream in West Virginia.

Every spring, Pendleton County hosts the **Annual West Virginia Trout Fest**. Located in Franklin since 2005, the festival sees fishermen from all over the state fishing for trophy trout in the South Branch of the Potomac. Certain fish will earn an angler cash prizes, and participants enjoy a host of other events all weekend long. [pendletoncountywv.com](http://pendletoncountywv.com)

*almost heaven*



# Amazing VIEWS

**Seneca Rocks**, located in the Monongahela National Forest, is one of the most photographed landmarks in West Virginia. The magnificent formation, which rises nearly 900 feet above the North Fork River, is popular with rock climbers and a longtime scenic attraction in the state. With more than 375 climbing routes, hiking trails, and a Discovery Center, it's no wonder that Seneca Rocks is one of West Virginia's best-known destinations.

Only trained and experienced rock climbers should attempt to scale the rocks. Two climbing schools are located in the valley beneath the rocks and to the south at Riverton.

If you prefer hiking to climbing, you can still ascend the rocks. A 1.3-mile interpretive trail begins behind the **Seneca Rocks Discovery Center** and winds up the formation to the top. There are stairs and steep switchbacks, of course, but you'll also find benches to rest on. At the top, you'll be rewarded with a stunning view of the valley below.

Just east of Seneca Rocks, **Germany Valley** is one of the most picturesque locations in the state. This 10-mile-long valley is known for its extensive cave system: With dozens of caves documented, it was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1973 by the National Park Service. The valley is named for the German families who first settled here. The valley is bounded by the Allegheny Mountains with Spruce Knob, Dolly Sods, and Seneca Rocks close by.

If you want to experience Almost Heaven, spend the weekend at **Germany Valley Overlook Cabins**. It is hard to describe the panoramic view without enlisting clichés like “breathtaking,” “jaw-dropping,” and “heart-stopping.”

When you go, choose from one of



## Yokum's Vacationland

The only lodging located right in the heart of Seneca Rocks, Yokum's Vacationland has a wide array of accommodations: from tent camping to kitchenettes to fully equipped log cabins with hot tubs. There is an on-site restaurant, general store, and riverside parking with hookups for campers and motorhomes.

The beginnings of Yokum's Vacationland date back to 1923, when Shirley Yokum's parents opened Bland's Store near Seneca Rocks. In fact, Shirley's family heritage in Seneca Rocks goes back to her great-grandfather, Jacob Sites, who settled here in 1839. The Sites family actually owned Seneca Rocks until 1968, when the government made it federal property.

Yokum's now features four styles of cabins—family, fishing, snowbird,

and couples retreat; two campsites that offer bunkhouses; teepees; RV sites; tent sites; and a motel. From Yokum's, it's just a short drive to Spruce Knob, Seneca Caverns, Smoke Hole Caverns, Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls, and the Monongahela National Forest.

24570 Mountaineer Drive, Seneca Rocks, 800.772.8342, [yokum.com](http://yokum.com)



the four cabins that sleep six to nine people and are surrounded by 170 acres of pastureland grazed by cattle. The newest lodging option, Lookout Cabin, was built to resemble a fire tower. The others are more traditional. All of the cabins have fully equipped kitchens, baths with showers, central air and heat,

towels and linens, fire pits with wood, and picnic tables and Adirondack chairs—this is important because you won't be able to tear yourself away from the view. 8540 Mountaineer Drive, Riverton, 800.481.5680, [germanvalleycabins.com](http://germanvalleycabins.com)

# NRocks Outdoor Adventure Center

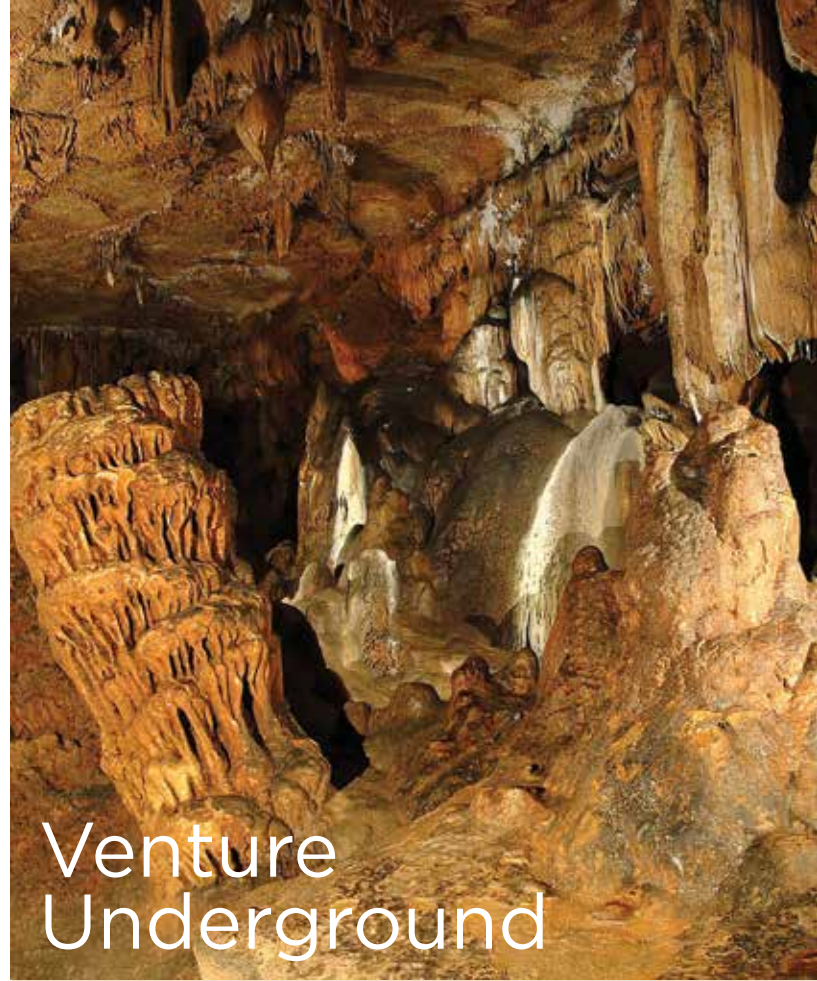
Picture it. You're standing on a suspension bridge strung 150 feet off the ground between two razorback edges of a rock formation high in the mountains of Pendleton County. You see treetops swaying beneath you with each shaky step.

Each year, thousands of outdoor enthusiasts flock to **NROCKS Outdoor Adventures** in Circleville, West Virginia, for their chance to cross that bridge and the rest of the three- to five-hour Via Ferrata, or "iron road," course. Visitors hike breathtaking trails and climb rock faces using steel rungs—all while safely hooked to a cable that runs the length of the course and is anchored to the rock. It's a way for even the most amateur adventurer to experience the thrills of rock climbing, no experience necessary.

Via ferrata as we know it today dates back to World War I, when both Austro-Hungarian and Italian armies built protected climbing routes to transport troops and supplies through otherwise impassable mountain ranges. The climbing style came to West Virginia in the early 2000s when Stu Hammett, an attorney living in

Maryland, purchased 142 acres of the Nelson Rocks Preserve with the goal of making it a traditional climbing park. After the park did not catch on as anticipated, Hammett heard about the via ferrata at Torrent Falls in Kentucky's Red River Gorge, the first in the United States. He climbed the course in January 2002 and, by June of the same year, opened the via ferrata at Nelson Rocks.

Virginia-based Endless Horizon bought the property in 2009 and expanded the operation, rebranding the park as NROCKS Outdoor Adventures and adding a welcome center, expanded lodging, and zipline canopy tours. Via ferrata remains NROCKS' main attraction, though, with 10,000 to 15,000 people completing the course each year. *141 Nelson Gap Road, Circleville, 877.496.8996, rocks.com*



## Venture Underground

**Seneca Caverns** is home to the oldest recorded cave in the state. The caverns include two caves available for tours, where visitors can travel 165 feet below the entrance on cement steps or don helmets and go wild caving with guides.

The first verifiable history of human contact with the cave was in the early 1400s, when the Seneca Indians used the cave. The caverns are located on a great Indian trading route through the Appalachian Mountains. Many tribes used this trading route, but it was the Seneca Indians who lived here and used the cave for shelter, storage, and special ceremonies.

The Seneca Cavern tour is approximately 45 minutes and one mile of trail. It has been open to visitors since 1928. The caverns feature wondrous geological formations. Guides lead visitors through the tours, pointing

out areas of special interest, providing information, and answering questions.

Seneca Caverns' gemstone mining gives visitors a chance to discover their own take-home treasures. Bags of mining rough can be purchased in the gift shop and taken to the water sluice outside. The sluice channels a continuous stream of water through a trough that winds through the shade around a large, ancient double-trunk oak tree. There, amateur gemstone miners dip sifters into the water to sort the gems and minerals from the mining rough.

After a tour and some gemstone mining, you can enjoy a delicious lunch at Asbury's Restaurant located on-site at the caverns. *3328 Germany Valley Road, Riverton, 304.567.2691, senecacaverns.com*





## SINKS OF GANDY

You may have heard of the Sinks of Gandy, but even the name is misleading. “Sinks” refers to a cave system through which the waters of Gandy Creek pass, and, if you have not passed through it as well, you should definitely plan on it.

The Sinks first came to widespread public notice by way of a tongue-in-cheek account of a pleasure expedition to the region published by David Hunter Strother in Harper’s New Monthly Magazine in 1872, based on his experience with the cave in 1854. Since then, the non-commercial cave has been a summertime destination for cavers, when the water is warm.

Near Spruce Knob in the Monongahela National Forest, Gandy Creek disappears into a cave, eventually re-emerging from the other side. The cave itself is a 1.5-mile limestone structure passing beneath a large meadow. The sinks are located on private property within the Potomac Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest.

Both entrances to the Sinks of Gandy are located on private land. The upstream entrance is owned by the Teter family; the downstream by the Tingler family. Its location is not identified on any signage in the area, but access is permitted by the property owners.



## Annual Events

Schedule your visit to include one of these Pendleton County local events:

**Pendleton County Outdoorsman Sports Show:**  
Early Spring

**WV Trout Fest:** Early May

**Pendleton County Farmers Market:**  
Open Saturdays in Summer–Fall

**Warner’s Drive-In Theater:** Friday & Saturday Showings  
Memorial Day weekend–Labor Day

**Treasure Mountain Festival:** September

**Main Street Magic:** Early December

## Swilled Dog Cidery: A Taste of Apple-achia

Swilled Dog, West Virginia’s second commercial hard cidery, has something for everyone. Located in Franklin, Swilled Dog produces flagship varieties year ’round: the dry, tart Walk the Dog; the fruit explosion of Wild Berry; the inspired-by-nana’s-kitchen Apple Pie; the tart and sweet Pumpkin Patch; and the spring and summer seasonal cider, Pineapple.

Making hard cider is a common household tradition in Pendleton County. “There’s cider everywhere,” says Brad Glover. “I’ve been making small batches as a hobby for nine or 10 years. So, a few years ago, I approached everybody to see if they wanted to start a business.”

“Everybody” means his wife, Brooke, his two sisters and their

husbands, and his parents—eight family members in total. “Everybody brings something different to the table.”

The family business has a strong commitment to West Virginia, sourcing as many of its apples in the state as possible and planting cider-specific trees every year. It also sets aside 3 percent of its profits for West Virginia causes.

In 2019, Swilled Dog opened a brand new facility in Upper Tract. The 20,000-square-foot building is the region’s premier craft beverage destination, highlighted by an incredible tasting room experience. Enjoy live music and tasting room specials throughout the year. 28 Pendleton County Industrial Park Road, Upper Tract, 304.358.0604, [swilledog.com](http://swilledog.com)





# NATURE'S MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND

Whether you're searching for epic outdoor adventure and family fun, inspiring views and sunsets, or mountain music and unique festivals, Pocahontas County's got the goods.

**T**he southernmost part of the Potomac Highlands is home to popular outdoor attractions like **Cranberry Glades Botanical Area**, **Beartown State Park**, **Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park**, and **Watoga State Park**. And with elevations reaching more than 4,000 feet, majestic sloping terrain, and an abundance of snow, **Snowshoe Mountain Resort** turns everyone into a mountaineer when the flakes start to fall. Even if you don't relish the thought of hurling yourself downhill, you can still enjoy a memorable winter getaway, with tubing,

snowshoeing, a relaxing spa, and indoor and outdoor swimming areas where you can unwind outside as the snow falls and steam swirls around you. Or check out Snowshoe's first brewery—**Old Spruce Brewing**. The best part is that it is just a snowball's throw away from cities like Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh.

**Marlinton** bills itself as a nature lover's paradise, and for good reason. Hikers, bikers, skiers, backpackers, and everyone in between hit the 78-mile-long **Greenbrier River Trail**, accessible from downtown Marlinton, to take in the beauty of the Allegheny Mountains. The trail follows the river as it winds along the edge of the **Monongahela National Forest** and multiple state parks. Ranked by *Backpacker Magazine* as one of the top 10 hiking trails in the U.S. and recently added to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame, the trail is one of

the best-known and-loved rail-trails in the country, offering ample opportunities for world-class fishing as well as swimming, kayaking, canoeing, and horseback riding.

Just off of U.S. Route 219 south of Marlinton, **Hillsboro** offers a surprising combination of history, culture, and recreation amid the lush green farmland of the Allegheny Mountains. Located in



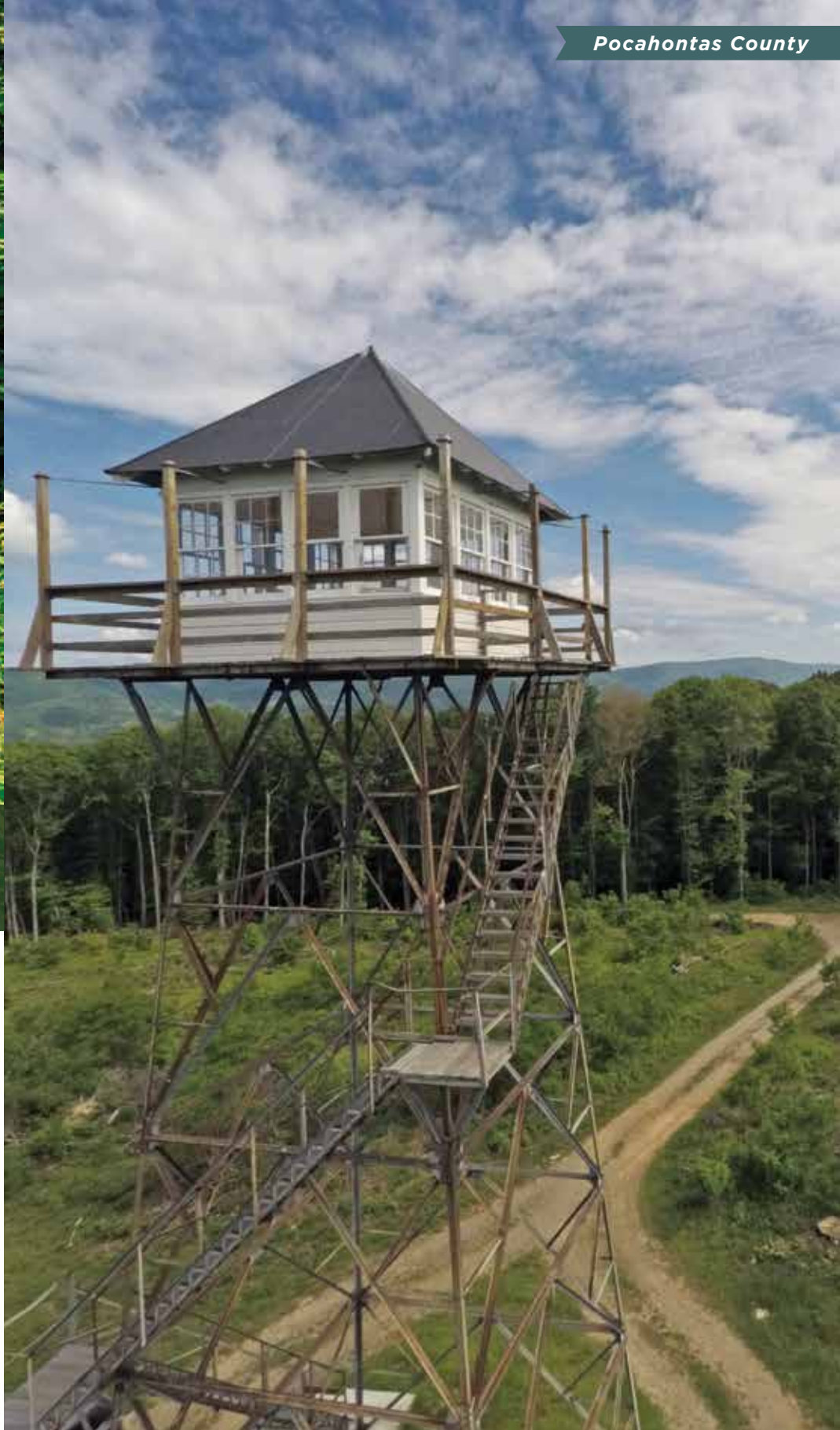


an area called Little Levels, Hillsboro is home to one of the state's proudest historic sites: the **Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Museum**.

**Seneca State Forest** is West Virginia's oldest and largest forest. Surrounded by nature in rugged Pocahontas County, Seneca offers peace and solitude for guests searching for a quiet getaway. Campers can enjoy hiking, biking, and boating in Seneca Lake or the Greenbrier River. Also, you can't miss the 65-foot-tall fire tower, which provides breathtaking panoramic views of the vast forest.

Pocahontas County encompasses more than one-third of the 900,000-acre Monongahela National Forest, a vast paradise of forestland and natural wilderness areas. It is home to literally hundreds of miles of trails and backroads for nature lovers to explore and enjoy. [pocahontascountywv.com](http://pocahontascountywv.com)

*Above: Cranberry Glades Botanical Area  
Right: Droop Mountain Fire Tower*





# Green Bank

If you're more of a stargazer than a time traveler, check out Green Bank, located between Durbin and Cass on State Route 28. You'd never guess it, but just over the mountain from Snowshoe, this tiny hamlet is home to a very big, very cool secret. The Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory is the largest, most capable, fully steerable single dish radio telescope in the world, and it is humbly nestled in the quiet, verdant hills in Pocahontas County.

The dish's area is more than two acres, and it can pick up the faintest radio waves from across the universe. Things like pulsars, dense neutron stars, and other

extreme states of matter are just a few of the center's favorite research subjects. Scientists at the center are adding to our knowledge about the structure and formation of the universe every day, and as many as 50,000 visitors flock to this technological wonder every year.

When you visit the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, you'll find more than 4,000 square feet of interactive exhibit space, with programs and activities on space science and technology. Visitors can join tours of the telescope and enjoy the Starlight Café and The Galaxy Gift Shop. Field trips and group tours are welcome. 304.456.2150, [gb.nrao.edu](http://gb.nrao.edu)



# All Aboard

West Virginia is known for its breathtaking fall scenery, woods packed with wildlife, and miles upon miles of rolling hills, but many people don't know about the historic railroads deep in the heart of beautiful Appalachia. These historical treasures, including the **Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad** and **Cass Scenic Railroad**, are a wonderful and relaxing way to enjoy the natural wonders of the state without leaving your seat.

The Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad offers mountain rail adventures that depart from the depots of Elkins, Durbin, Cheat Bridge, and Cass April through December. These remote wilderness excursions on historic steam-driven locomotives and vintage diesel-powered passenger trains explore the more remote areas of the Mountain State, places even autos cannot access. Choose from two- to eight-hour excursions, dinner trips, or an overnight experience in the Castaway Caboose. If Elkins Depot is one of your stops, check out the Railyard Restaurant right next door for a variety of family dining options and a menu to fit any budget.

Just 30 minutes from Durbin, Cass is a historic town steeped in the logging and lumber industries of the early 20th century.



In its heyday, the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Mill in Cass—a little over an hour's drive south of Elkins—was a powerful symbol. Nearly every man in Cass worked for the mill—more than 2,500 at its peak—and the trains kept the timber flowing down from the hills.

Although the mill closed in 1960, Cass was brought into the West Virginia State Parks system as **Cass Scenic Railroad State Park** with the railroad's first tourist trip on June 15, 1963, and has since become one of the state's biggest attractions. A company store, museum, and train depot have all been preserved in their 1940s grandeur, and the company houses and even cabooses can be rented for overnight or

extended stays.

On the original 1901 rail line, passengers travel through graceful mountain valleys as the train reaches heights of more than 4,000 feet. A trip to Whittaker Station allows visitors to walk through a re-created logging campsite from the 1940s, while a stop at Spruce Run reveals the beautiful Shaver's Fork of the Cheat River. Bald Knob, the second-highest natural point in West Virginia, is the last stop on the line and affords an awe-inspiring view of two states from its summit. 304.636.9477, [mountainrailwv.com](http://mountainrailwv.com); 304.456.4300, [cassrailroad.com](http://cassrailroad.com)

## Fly Fishing Paradise

Fly fishing is rapidly becoming the fishing style of choice for many anglers, and as the "Birthplace of Rivers," Pocahontas County offers some of the best fly fishing on the east coast. Old Field Fork, one of the headwaters of the Elk River, is located just outside the doors of the Elk River Inn. Take a guided fishing trip or enroll in their weekend fly fishing school.

Relax at night in one of the 13 guest rooms in the luxurious inn or in one of their 3 beautifully appointed cabins. Wake up to a big, tasty breakfast to start your day of adventure. 304.572.3771, [elkriverwv.com](http://elkriverwv.com)

Located in Marlinton, Knapp's Creek Trout Lodge offers superior customer service and comfort along the banks of Knapp's Creek. They offer professional guided fly fishing trips and facilitated paddling, hiking, and biking explorations. 304.799.6445, [knappscreektroutlodge.com](http://knappscreektroutlodge.com)



## Other Fishing Hot Spots

**Shavers Fork** stretches nearly 90 miles. This branch of the Cheat River lies east of Elkins and is a favorite among outdoor enthusiasts. The cold, clear waters separating Elkins from the sweeping wilderness of the **Monongahela National Forest** are perfect for the fisherman who likes to get off the beaten path. You can fish the stream all the way from **Snowshoe Resort** downstream to Elkins and beyond. Looking for a trophy trout? Shavers Fork has excellent catch-and-release fishing areas. Looking for dinner? The same river also has "put and take" systems that let you keep your catch.

The Lower Shavers Fork and Cheat River areas are great for bass fishing and the occasional trout. They are also perfect locations for relaxing on the water in canoe or kayak.

The first few miles of the Elk River headwaters, known as **Slaty Fork**, are a catch-and-release-regulated wild trout fishery. It's a great place for naturally reproducing brown, rainbow, and brook trout.



## An Event Like No Other

The Autumn Harvest Festival takes place in Marlinton in late September every year. The festivities include a variety of events throughout its two-day schedule. Join in the fun at this legendary fall celebration in the mountains, including live music by local bands, unique food vendors, crafters from all over the region, and two signature food competitions.

The West Virginia Roadkill Cook-off has become the most unusual part of the festival, with enough renown to catch the attention of the Food Network, the Travel Channel, and the Discovery Channel. If you've ever wanted to taste exotic dishes like squirrel gravy over biscuits, teriyaki-marinated bear, or deer sausage, this is the place to be. To be clear, it's not required that the ingredients are actual roadkill, but they must be the sort of animals that commonly find themselves the victims of traffic accidents. Think opossum, groundhog, deer, rabbit, crow, turkey, or squirrel. A \$5 ticket gets you into the tasting area, where you can sample all of the roadkill delicacies. The first-place winner takes home bragging rights and \$1,200.

Bakers from around the state are invited to show off their favorite biscuit recipes at the Autumn Harvest Festival's Hudson Cream Flour West Virginia Biscuit Bake Off. The bake off features three baker categories: Youth Baker, Master Baker, and Premier Baker. [pocahontascountywv.com](http://pocahontascountywv.com)



## Hit the Trails

If you're a mountain biker, then you probably already know Pocahontas County is a major player in the mountain biking world. With nearly 350,000 acres of state and federal land holding hundreds of miles of trails, it has a little something for riders of every skill level.

Pocahontas County has some unique beginner trails that circle the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope, at Green Bank Observatory. Other beginner trails take you on a scenic cruise through Greenbrier River Trail State Park. The longest rail-trail in West Virginia at 78 miles, the Greenbrier River Trail is one of 50 Millennium Legacy Trails in the United States and was rated one of the top 10 hiking trails in the country by *Backpacker Magazine*.

Some of the area's more

adrenaline-pumping trails can be found at Snowshoe Mountain Bike Park or the Snowshoe Mountain Gravity Park. One trail that you don't want to miss is the Gauley Mountain Trail, an IMBA-designated EPIC Trail in the heart of the Monongahela National Forest.

The pinnacle of mountain biking communities are recognized as IMBA Ride Centers. These are large-scale facilities with something for every rider, from a variety of riding experiences to a multitude of ways to have fun off the bike. Snowshoe Highlands IMBA Ride Center was one of just five ride centers in the Mid-Atlantic Region when it received the designation in August 2019—and one of only 40 in the world.

Snowshoe Mountain is the central point of the IMBA Ride Center with a radius of about forty minutes' drive time making up the Ride Center area. A significant portion of the trails included in the IMBA Ride

Center is on Snowshoe property, both in Snowshoe's lift-accessed bike park and its 11,000-acre backcountry.

Snowshoe has a storied history with mountain biking, culminating with its selection as the host site for 2019 UCI MTB World Cup Finals, the first UCI World Cup stop on U.S. soil since 2015. The UCI MTB World Cup Finals return to Snowshoe Mountain September 18-19, 2021. Over 10,000 visitors are expected to attend the event.

Home to the National Radio Quiet Zone and the Monongahela National Forest, Pocahontas County offers mountain biking on rugged, off-the-beaten-path terrain. But don't worry—from helpful outfitters to mountain biking-friendly lodging to mouthwatering food and drink options, there is everything you need to feel right at home here in the mountains of West Virginia.

# Snowshoe Mountain

If you're looking for an epic outdoor experience, look no further than the 251 acres of skiable terrain and 11,000 acres of pristine backcountry at Snowshoe Mountain Resort.

Just off of U.S. Route 219 in Pocahontas County, Snowshoe is a resort community like no other. From warm season ziplining, biking and water sports to winter recreation of every kind, this resort never fails to surprise visitors with its sheer variety of attractions and amenities.

One of the most popular summertime adventures at Snowshoe is the Polaris RZR side-by-side ATVs. Once you're at the wheel and strapped in, you will follow a tour guide through challenging terrain with mud pits, creek crossings, and steep climbs. The 14-mile wild adventure will leave you breathless, so work in a trip to the Sunrise Backcountry Hut for a relaxing dinner and incredible vistas. This charming and rustic cabin located two miles out on the Cheat Mountain Ridge Trail can be reached by passenger van. Enjoy a glass of wine on the porch, relax in a hammock, and relish a gourmet dinner.

Don't let the name fool you—Snowshoe is also a major two-wheel destination with nearly 40 trails and 1,500 vertical feet of downhill mountain biking. The Snowshoe Bike Park boasts one of the largest trail systems in the East and has been touted as one of the best in the U.S. Novice riders will appreciate the machine-groomed trails, while pros will relish the berms, jump lines, and man-made challenges. Two high-speed quad lifts carry you safely to the top and save your strength for the downhill.

Looking for a little slower pace adventure? Take on The Raven, one of the most unique golf courses in West Virginia. Nestled within the picturesque Allegheny Mountains, this signature Gary Player–designed course is as scenic as it is challenging. How can it get any better than that? Go ahead, book a tee time and let your anticipation grow.

If you'd rather get out of the woods for a day, head to Snowshoe's Sporting Clays Center and try your aim at flying clay discs. A range master will outfit you with a vest, a gun, and shells and teach you the art of golf with a shotgun.

But don't forget about West Virginia's highest-elevation beach. Shavers Lake is a perfect backdrop for either relaxation or adrenaline with paddleboats, canoes, kayaks, water bikes, volleyball, nature trails, a climbing wall, geocaching, and a shuffleboard court. *10 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe, 877.441.4386, snowshoemtn.com*





# WINTER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION



Looking for a winter retreat this season? The Potomac Highlands has a host of places to suit your tastes.

With more than 60 trails, **Snowshoe Mountain Resort** is a West Virginia staple for winter festivities. Arrange your party and book a welcoming stay. Snowshoe will keep you busy this winter with snowboarding or skiing all day, followed by night skiing—an uncommon activity that Snowshoe is proud to offer. The resort is considered one of the premier downhill ski destinations in the state, and you'll have no shortage of things to do here. Spend a day on the slopes, rent a snowmobile for the day, enjoy a sleigh ride through the wintry wonderland, or venture to the backcountry for the one-of-a-kind

The Woods Escape Room. The Village at Snowshoe resembles a European ski town, with a cobblestone pedestrian center stretching the length of three football fields and lined with restaurants and shops. Rising above the storefronts are condos with balconies overlooking the plaza.

**Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center** is a West Virginia state park outside Davis that offers plenty of winter activities for visitors. The resort boasts 47 ski and snowboarding trails, a terrain park, a tubing park, lots of lifts to keep you moving up the mountain, and a rental shop for all of your outfitting needs. And after a long day of skiing, you don't have to leave—check into one of the resort's cabins or the main lodge, where you can stay toasty and warm until the next day's snowy adventures.





**White Grass Ski Touring Center** is another can't-miss winter destination in Canaan Valley. Here you'll find 48 trails perfectly groomed for cross country skiing and snowshoes. The center also offers visitors a chance to warm up alongside the trails in one of 12 warming shelters, many of which have wood stoves. Be sure to stop in at the White Grass Cafe for a delicious meal to fuel your winter fun.

For sledding aficionados, consider a trip to **Blackwater Falls State Park**, also near Davis. There you'll find the longest sled run on the entire East Coast, measuring over 1/4 mile. After a few runs on your sled, strap on your cross country skis or snowshoes to explore the 10 miles of trails in the park. Warm up after a long day in the park with a visit to fan-favorite **Hellbender Burritos**, or catch a live music show at the beloved Purple Fiddle in the neighboring town of Thomas.

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