

West Virginia

ALMOST HEAVEN *is* WAITING

**THE POWER
OF NATURE**

Wander where
mountains soar and
rivers run free

**CRAFTED
CONNECTIONS**

Meet the storytellers,
musicians and
makers who give
West Virginia its soul

**ROOTED IN
FLAVOR**

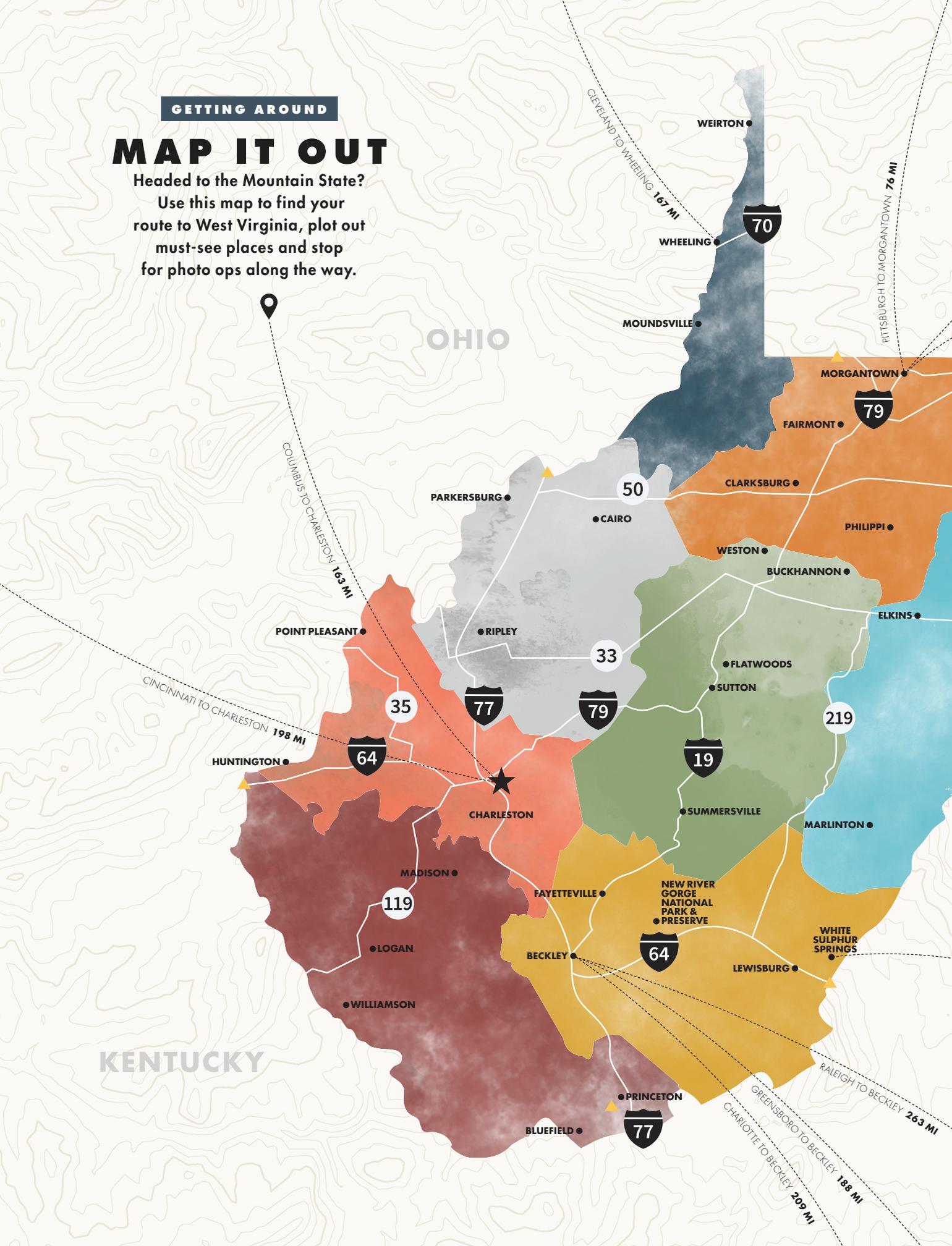
From mountain farms
to modern tables, every
meal is an experience
for the senses

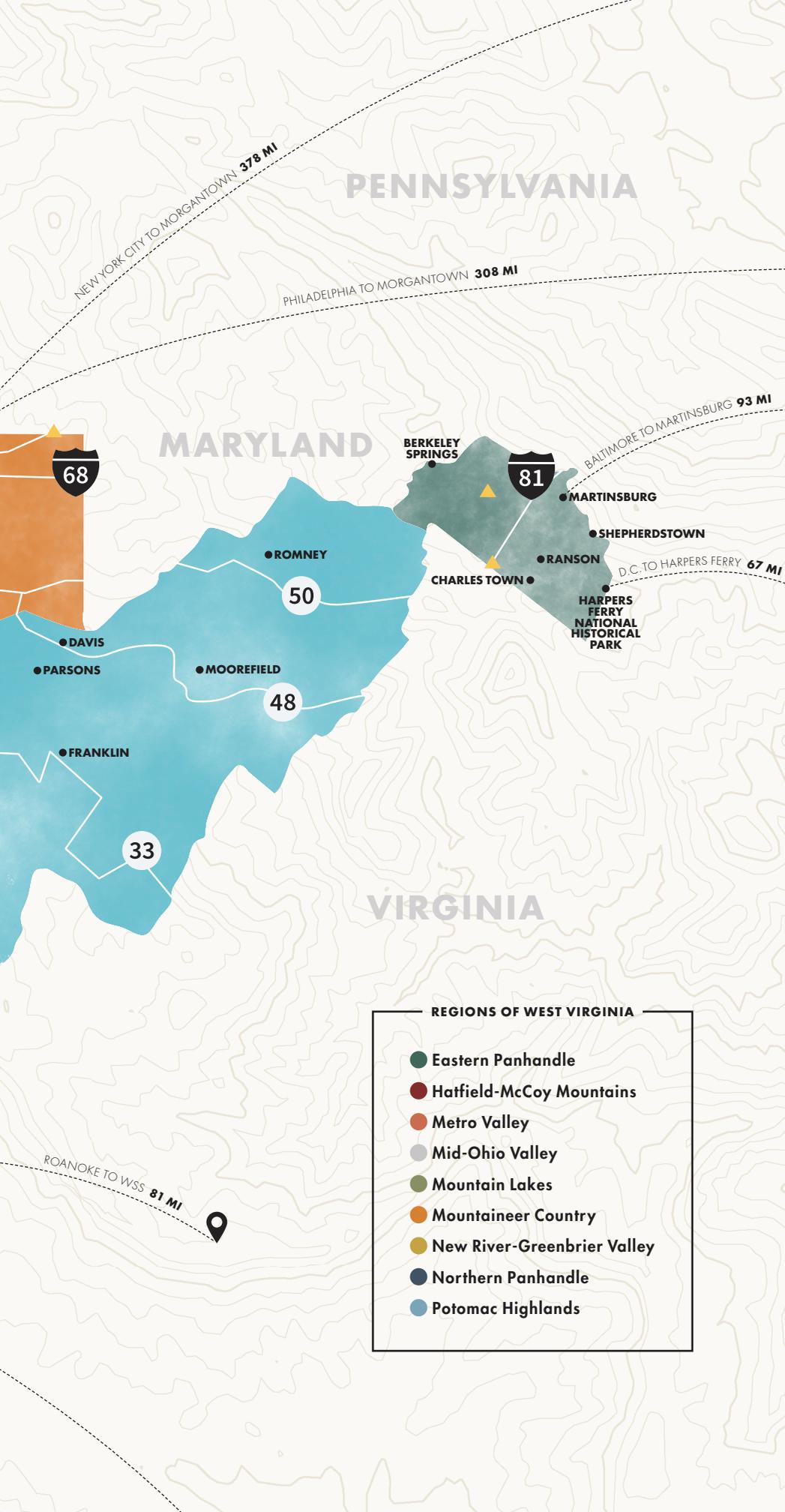


GETTING AROUND

MAP IT OUT

Headed to the Mountain State?
Use this map to find your route to West Virginia, plot out must-see places and stop for photo ops along the way.





Roads to Almost Heaven

The state is easily accessible by six major interstates. The only toll road is the West Virginia Turnpike, Interstate-77 between Princeton and Charleston.

Electric vehicle charging stations are also available around the state, including free stations located within several state parks.

Come Fly with Us

Seven airports offer commercial airline service:

- BKW, Beckley
- CKB, Clarksburg
- CRW, Charleston
- HTS, Huntington
- LWB, Lewisburg
- MGW, Morgantown
- KPKB, Parkersburg

Ride the Rails

Amtrak Capitol Limited: Daily to Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg.

Amtrak Cardinal: Three days a week to White Sulphur Springs, Alderson, Hinton, Prince, Thurmond, Montgomery, Charleston and Huntington.

Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC): Weekdays to Harpers Ferry, Duffields and Martinsburg.

Travel Advice

For the most current travel information, go to transportation.wv.gov or visit a Welcome Center, where you can pick up brochures and state highway maps.

In West Virginia, the *journey* is the
destination. Find yourself on a trip to
the *Mountain State*.

GREETINGS FROM

almost heaven

**WEST VIRGINIA IS A LAND OF UNPARALLELED BEAUTY,
PROUD TRADITIONS AND LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITY.**

As Governor and First Lady of the great state of West Virginia, we are delighted to officially welcome you to the Mountain State. As you travel along our country roads, we encourage you to use this guide to explore as many parts of this beautiful state as your visit will allow. West Virginia



consistently offers something for everyone in our distinct four seasons, from relaxing retreats to heart-pounding adventures. For generations, travelers return time and time again thanks to our unmatched natural wonders and the warmth of our people. May this vacation guide spark your imagination while planning your trip to our shining state in the mountains. We can't wait to show you what makes West Virginia Almost Heaven.

Sincerely,
Patrick & Denise Morrisey
Governor & First Lady



on the covers

BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK + NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

Reach new heights on your own unforgettable getaway in West Virginia.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Tyler Evert and ShaunMara Begley

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/WVtourism | #AlmostHeaven

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snow day a great one.



HAWKS NEST
STATE PARK

DISCOVER
ALMOST
HEAVEN



WANDER

An aerial photograph of a waterfall cascading over large, dark rocks in a dense, vibrant green forest. The water is captured in motion, creating a soft, blurred effect. The surrounding vegetation is thick and lush, with various shades of green. The overall scene is serene and natural.

ERLIST

Welcome to West Virginia. Getting to know our great state is easy with this handy guide—making time for everything the Mountain State has to offer is another story. Explore one of America’s newest national parks. Follow presidential footsteps at Jefferson Rock. Book a stay at a historic hotel. Hike picturesque trails and ski snowy slopes. Then start planning a return trip for all the Almost Heaven action you couldn’t fit in the first time.

LAY OF THE LAND

FIND YOURSELF IN NATURE

Adventure is the theme at these parks and forests.

writer **jason frye**

The untamed beauty of West Virginia's parklands and heritage areas prove *Almost Heaven* is more than a catchphrase—it's a place you can hike, drive and take in with all your senses.

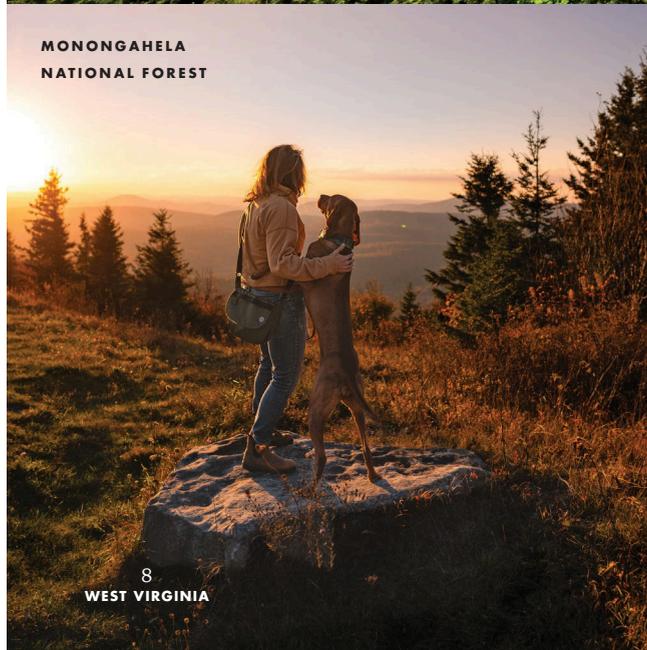
THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Celebrate "America's Best Idea" in national parks and forests, where the splendor and scenery of West Virginia inspire.

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve near Fayetteville "has it all," says the park's Chief of Interpretation Eve West: whitewater rapids, rock climbing, cliffside strolls, stunning Sandstone Falls and awe-worthy photo opportunities on walking tours of the park's iconic bridge. In the Potomac Highlands' **Monongahela National Forest**, you can choose your own adventure. Hike on more than 500 miles of trails, hop aboard a piece of history and ride the Cass Scenic Railroad, play the daredevil on a climb to the top of Spruce Knob, or fly-fish hundreds of miles of stream. In **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**, the cobbled streets of Harpers Ferry whisper tales of Civil War battles; hiking and biking trails lead to the battlefields. Find falcon-filled cliffs along the Shenandoah River or set your sights on the famed Appalachian Trail.



SPRUCE KNOB

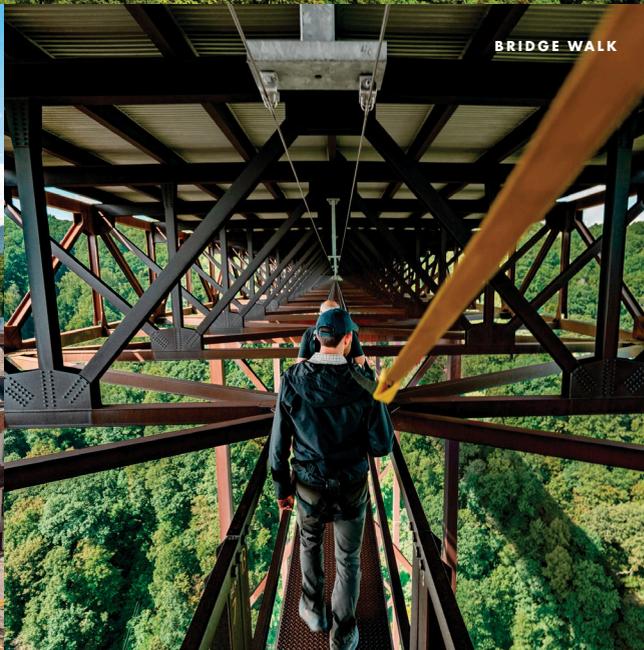


MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST





HARPERS FERRY
NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK



BRIDGE WALK

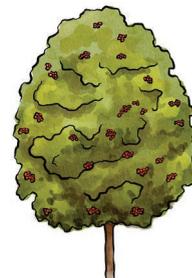
MONONGAHELA
TREES

Monongahela National Forest preserves nearly a million acres of forest, including three native tree species once at risk of regional extinction.



BALSAM FIR

Abies balsamea is an evergreen conifer known for its rich fragrance.



MOUNTAIN ASH

Sorbus aucuparia is a deciduous berry tree in the rose family.



RED SPRUCE

Picea rubens is an evergreen conifer that can live up to 400 years old.

MORE NATIONAL TREASURES

Cozy up to West Virginia's wild side and connect with mountaineer culture at notable areas across the state.

In the untamed woods of Southern West Virginia, the Bluestone River cuts a curving path northward, creating a haven for anglers, hikers and nature-lovers. In the **Bluestone National Scenic River** area in Hinton, follow the Bluestone Turnpike Trail, a 9.5-mile riverside route linking Bluestone State Park with Pipestem Resort State Park, where you can fish, swim or paddle the river's placid waters. Dotted with mines, the **National Coal Heritage Area** honors the cultural legacy of coal. Throughout this 13-county region, learn about the industry's history at Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine and Youth Museum; Blair Mountain, where miners fought for union rights; historic mining towns; and the historic Ashland Company Store. In the Northern Panhandle, Wheeling's architecture and history shine in the **Wheeling National Heritage Area**. Settled in 1769, the city became a major trade and transportation hub, twice served as the state capital, and stood strong with abolitionists and loyal Union patriots. Tour historic churches, grand homes and an art-filled downtown, or catch a show at the historic Capitol Theatre. Set foot on the **Appalachian National Scenic Trail** at Harpers Ferry in the Eastern Panhandle. As the Appalachian Trail's midpoint, Harpers Ferry welcomes hikers with natural beauty, unique shops and historic sites. Join them on a stretch of the trail to test run the epic hike, which spans 14 states and nearly 2,200 miles.



SCAN HERE

Scan the code to see more parks to explore in Almost Heaven.



TOMLINSON RUN
STATE PARK



BECKLEY EXHIBITION COAL MINE
AND YOUTH MUSEUM



BEARTOWN STATE PARK



GAME TIME

Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area

BERKELEY SPRINGS

Hunt big game like white-tailed deer, wild turkey and black bear, or small game like waterfowl and squirrel on over 20,000 acres of preserved land. To review all regulations and secure a hunting license, visit WVdnr.gov

WV MARKS THE SPOT

Almost Heaven's state parks delight visitors with cliff-top vistas, roaring rapids and other marvels of nature.

Beartown State Park

RENICK

A half-mile boardwalk trail here wends through a maze of boulders, stony crevices, and cliffs so honeycombed with holes you might believe it's a black bear hotel. Local lore says bears curl up here for a wintry nap, but since the park is seasonal—open April through October—you'll have to ask a ranger.

Cacapon Resort State Park

BERKELEY SPRINGS

Play your way through this sprawling 6,000-acre park. Plan the day's adventures—horseback riding, golf, mountain biking, fishing and more—from a rustic cabin, The Old Inn (the first West Virginia state park lodge), or the 120-room luxury lodge with an on-site spa.

Hawks Nest State Park

ANSTED

Hawks Nest delivers highs and lows: Windswept pinnacles afford awe-inspiring looks at the New River while jet boats race through rapids and provide a new perspective of the bridge's incredible design. Stay in one of the lodge's 31 rooms, where guests get panoramic views of the New River Gorge.

Tomlinson Run State Park

NEW CUMBERLAND

Spend the night camping in a tent or cozying up in a cabin near the tip of the Northern Panhandle. Glide down the swimming pool's 180-foot waterslide, or discover the park as you geocache your way through woods, along cliffs and across lawns. The disc golf course and 9 miles of trails offer more ways to unwind in nature.

TIME TRAVEL

HISTORIC HUBS

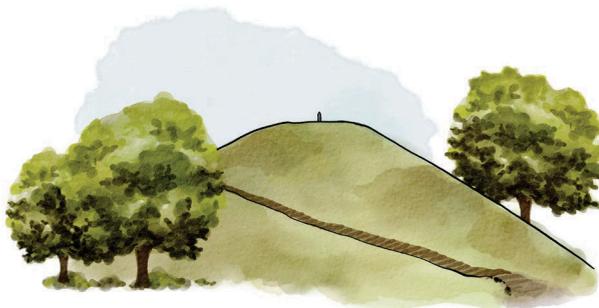
Delve into West Virginia's incredible backstory at these distinguished destinations.

writer **brian kramer**



MORE ABOUT
THE
MOUND

Between 250 and 150 B.C., the Adena people moved an estimated 60,000 tons of soil to form the Grave Creek Mound.



Although West Virginia wasn't officially one of the 13 original Colonies, the region that became the Mountain State has a lot to celebrate during America's 250th birthday. Here are five fantastic starting points.

Parkersburg

A stern-wheeler ride to a lush island on the Ohio River commences a day of discovery. **Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park** is home to a restored Palladian mansion and a fascinating conspiracy involving former Vice President Aaron Burr. Back on land, the **Oil and Gas Museum** details how the confluence of railroads and oil wells ushered in the town's late 19th-century heyday. The museum is housed in the W.H. Smith Hardware store, on the National Register of Historic Places. A self-guided walking tour through **Julia-Ann Square Historic District** takes you past more than 120 Queen Anne-style homes built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Moundsville

Very early residents, as well as more recent ones, have left their distinctive marks on this Northern Panhandle community. Between 250 and 150 B.C., the Adena people created the largest known conical burial mound in present-day United States. Walk the grounds at **Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex** and tour the **Delf Norona Museum** to see the state's archaeological collection. From 1887 to 1986, the Fostoria Glass Company produced some of the most popular dishware in the country. Gaze upon pieces in brilliantly lit displays at the **Fostoria Glass Museum**. The **West Virginia Penitentiary** ceased operations in 1995, but it still opens its Gothic-style gates for daily tours and a range of spooky events, including escape rooms and a haunted house in October.

Shepherdstown

Nestled along a curve of the Potomac River, West Virginia's oldest town has been through a series of names—first Pack Horse Ford, then Mecklenburg and finally Shepherdstown, in honor of founder Thomas Shepherd. Stepping inside **O'Hurley's General Store** is like stepping back to another era. For more than a century, the shop has stocked essentials like candles, cast-iron cookware and dry goods. There's even a working blacksmith shop. At the **Historic Shepherdstown Museum**, learn about the town's role in the Revolutionary War and Civil War. Before you leave, visit the **Rumsey Boathouse Museum** behind the main museum to see the *Rumseian Experiment*, a replica of the jet-propelled steamboat engineer James Rumsey demonstrated locally in 1787.

Lewisburg

Wonder as you wander through this charming downtown packed with exceptional culture, food and history. Originally the home of a prominent lawyer, the **North House Museum** now tells the story of Lewisburg and Greenbrier County through family archives, Civil War artifacts and antique vehicles, such as the area's first postal buggy. The museum's guided walks take you deeper into Black history, Civil War cemeteries and other topics. **Carnegie Hall**, one of only four Carnegie Halls still in continuous use as a performance venue, offers art galleries, educational workshops, and a robust season of live music, theater, magic and more. End your day at the **General Lewis Inn**, portions of which date back to 1834. Craft cocktails, classic Southern entrees, and 23 luxe rooms and suites will help you recharge for another day of time travel.

Matewan

This tiny coal town tucked into the state's southwest corner offers powerful insights into labor-organizing challenges and two famously feuding families. A guided walking tour will shape your understanding of the events that led to the 1920 Battle of Matewan, introducing important sites (like the **Matewan Jail**, where you can spend the night in a cell) and fascinating artifacts at the **West Virginia Mine Wars Museum**. In addition to rail history, the **Matewan Depot Replica Museum** examines the roots and legacy of the Hatfield-McCoy feud. See historic sites and take in thrilling natural vistas riding an ATV along the **Hatfield-McCoy Trails** or aboard a **Hatfield-McCoy Airboat Tour** on the Tug River.

PAST PERSPECTIVES

Walk in someone else's shoes—and through a different era—with a visit to a historic community. Established during the New Deal as an experimental and self-sufficient town, **Arthurdale** was known as Eleanor's Little Village, thanks to the first lady's frequent visits. Today, over 150 original structures remain as part of **Arthurdale Heritage**, including five restored and tourable buildings. At the **West Virginia State Farm Museum** in Point Pleasant, you can explore more than 20 historic structures, notably a one-room schoolhouse, a working blacksmith shop and a log church.



SCAN HERE
to uncover more
Almost Heaven history
and heritage.

EXPLORE MORE

ALL-ACCESS

These trails, parks, ski resorts and more help make West Virginia a place everyone can explore.

writer **hilary braaksma**

SNOW LIMITS

On Snowshoe Mountain, get one-on-one adaptive skiing lessons from the knowledgeable instructors at **The Adaptive Sports Center at Snowshoe**. Guests aged 4 and older can navigate the slopes with a wide range of specialized equipment kept on-site, like sit-skis, monoskis, modified gear for visual and hearing impairment, and more. Adaptive skiers can also head to **Canaan Valley Ski Resort** in Davis for on-site lessons and equipment.





THE SCHOOLHOUSE HOTEL

ALMOST HEAVEN HOSPITALITY

The world's first fully ADA-compliant boutique hotel is in White Sulphur Springs.

The Schoolhouse Hotel (formerly an actual school building) underwent extensive renovations to ensure its 30 guest rooms, lobby, dining space and rooftop bar are accessible. The charming classroom-themed hotel has dozens of thoughtful design elements, like voice-operated TVs and a meditation room.

HAPPY TRAILS

Get some of the best outdoor views in the state on these accessible paths.

Gentle Trail

DAVIS

See the darkened water that tumbles over the ledge at the aptly named Blackwater Falls from an observation deck in Blackwater Falls State Park, which can be reached by this 0.25-mile out-and-back paved trail.

Laurel Fork Trail

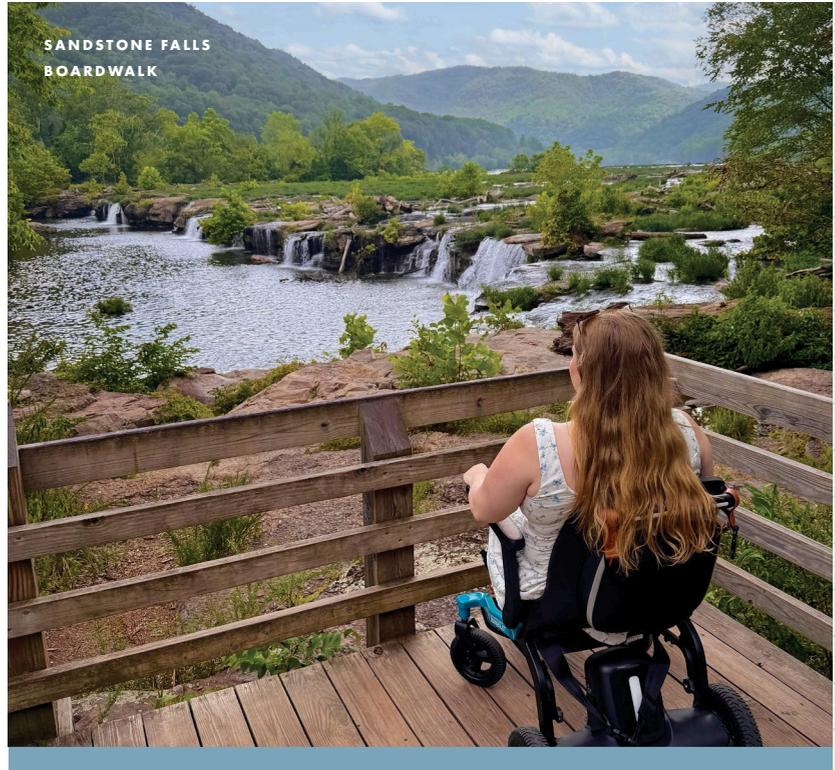
HACKER VALLEY

This asphalt-paved trail in Holly River State Park traces the perimeter of an island in the Holly River. The 0.4-mile path offers views of the park's old-growth oak trees (many more than 200 years old), and has Braille historical markers and multiple places to rest.

Sandstone Falls Boardwalk

SHADY SPRING

See the largest waterfall on the New River from the observation decks on this 0.25-mile trail. The scenic Sandstone Falls Recreation Area boardwalk passes through the Appalachian flatrock community, a rare ecosystem with a thin layer of soil that still manages to host red cedar, Virginia pine and post oak.



SANDSTONE FALLS BOARDWALK

PLAY FAVORITES

In Parkersburg, two fun and functional spaces offer boundless opportunities for play. Check out **City Park**, where a wheelchair-accessible playground and splash pad delight visitors of all ages and abilities. For sensory-friendly play hours, visit **Discovery World on Market** on the first Thursday of each month.

more
Find more helpful
travel tips at
[WVtourism.com/
accessible-travel](https://www.wvtourism.com/accessible-travel)

CRAFT CULTURE

West Virginia's craft beer scene features award-winning ales, playful specialty brews and a distinctive artisanal mindset.

writer **john godfrey**

CHARLESTON'S BREWERS ROW

Three plucky craft breweries have helped transform a downtown block into a lively destination.

On a typical week, Charles Bockway will stop by Charleston's Brewers Row once or twice to chat with friends, sip on a stout or sour, and soak up the scene. "Brewers Row is amazing," Bockway says. "It's one badass block in the center of downtown Charleston. It's active day and night with folks who love local beer."

Bockway, who runs the Brilliant Stream beer blog and the *West Virginia Beer Roads* podcast, knows his subject well. He heaps praise on the three breweries—**Fife Street Brewing**, **Bad Shepherd Beer Company** and **Short Story Brewing**—that comprise this downtown hop hub. Inspired bites, like Fife Street's elevated grilled cheese sandwiches and Detroit-style pizza at Short Story, accentuate the specialty brews, while live entertainment helps entice crowds. One promotion in particular is a hit: the Brewers Row Passport, which challenges visitors to drink three beers from each brewery to win an exclusive pint glass.

The cumulative effect? A decidedly buzzy scene. "Every time I sit at the bar in one of the Brewers Row breweries, I'm likely to meet someone who's either in town on business or is a visitor from out of state who's stopped by while on vacation," he says.



SIP AND STROLL

"If you like to wander downtown sidewalks with a beer in hand, no problem," Charles Bockway notes. Brewers Row establishments participate in the city's Private Outdoor Designated Areas (PODA) program, which allows you to enjoy their alcoholic beverages during certain hours in specific alfresco locations. Ask your bartender for a PODA cup. You can take your PODA cup into other participating bars, restaurants and retailers.

FIFE STREET BREWING

HOPPY ABOUT BEER

Locally grown hop varieties, like crisp Cascade (*below*), earthy Willamette, and piney Chinook, add distinct flavor to microbrews.



MORE CRAFT BREWERS AROUND THE STATE

These eight spots demonstrate the depth and breadth of the Mountain State's craft beer scene.

Abolitionist Ale Works

CHARLES TOWN

A rebellious spirit permeates this inventive brewery inspired by famed abolitionist John Brown. "I go there for their barrel-aged products," Bockway says. "It's a tremendous little brewery in a beautiful city."

Bavarian Brothers Brewing

SHEPHERDSTOWN

Sip on German-inspired beers—like their Mecklenbrau pilsner—at this brew pub and lounge tucked away on the Bavarian Inn resort grounds.

Big Timber Brewing

ELKINS

You'll find plenty of options on tap, but don't miss the Porter, an award winner at both the World Beer Cup and the Great American Beer Festival.



SCAN HERE
for a full list
of local craft
breweries.

Brew Keeper

WHEELING

Scan down to the "Hoppy" section of the menu and order a pint of Deathwind, a house-favorite Appalachian IPA that delivers a bit of brightness along with some serious bite.

Mountain State Brewing Company

**BRIDGEPORT, MORGANTOWN,
STAR CITY, THOMAS**

Sip on seasonal brews made with locally sourced ingredients at this craft brewery. Rotating ales and IPAs use locally grown Cascade and Willamette hops.

Parkersburg Brewing Company

PARKERSBURG

Specialty beers are the focus here, like the seasonal Strawberry Beret dark chocolate strawberry stout. You can also book behind-the-scenes brewery tours.

Stumptown Ales

DAVIS AND FAIRMONT

Hoppy libations dominate the taps at both locations. The Six Legged Frog IPA will intrigue hopheads looking for something with bright citrus notes.

Weathered Ground Brewery

COOL RIDGE

"This is an outstanding, beautiful craft brewery," Bockway says. A rotating draft selection features brews like the blonde ale Paw Paw Sour or the pickle-flavored Wheel'n and Dill'n.





GREAT ESCAPES

ACTIVE ENDEAVORS

On-site amenities mean these resorts, cabins and campsites have everything you need for a thrilling vacation.

writer **alicia underlee nelson**

À LA CARTE

Staying elsewhere but still seeking good times? The destinations featured here offer day passes and tickets for individual activities.

A cheerful red trolley weaves through the landscaped grounds of **Oglebay Park Resort** in Wheeling, rolling past miles of hiking and horse trails, swan boats on Schenk Lake, and dozens of immersive experiences. Recent renovations include a spacious entrance and lobby, an updated coffee shop, and farm-to-table dining options that feature ingredients raised at Grow Lab, an on-site sustainable garden.

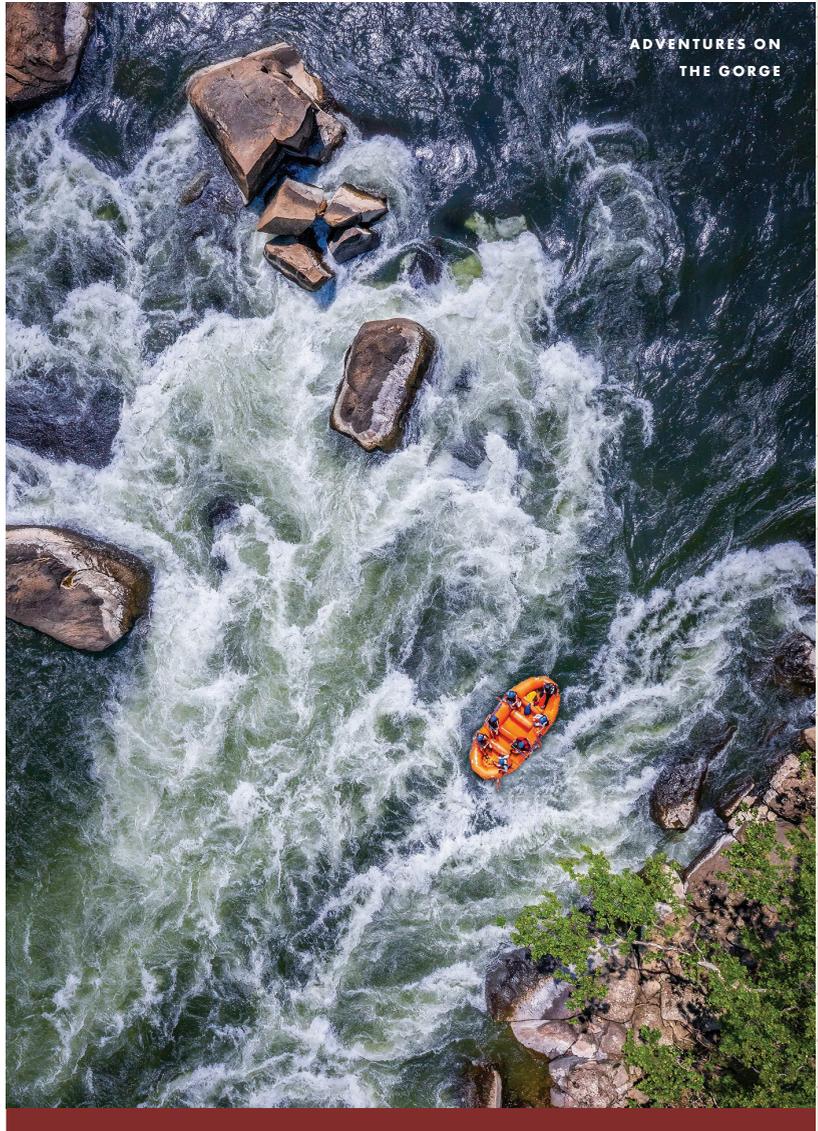
On-site museums highlight historical interiors and intricate glassware that made Wheeling famous. Golf legends Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Arnold Palmer each designed 18 holes of championship golf sculpted from the Speidel Golf Club hillside—additional courses make 72 holes in all.

Stonewall Resort State Park is perched lakeside in Roanoke. Guests ease into a nostalgic summer of boating, paddling and

fishing excursions; waterfront dining; and hiking and biking through the rolling hills. The Palmer Signature Course (crafted by Arnold himself) tempts golfers with 18 challenging holes and glittering water views. After sunset, firepits crackle and fireworks light up the night during holiday weekends. Retire to spacious lake houses, saltbox cottages and lakefront camping spots. Or retreat to a stately lodge room just steps from the pool, sauna and well-appointed spa.

Dive deep into West Virginia's past at **Heritage Farm Museum and Village** in Huntington. Hear the clang of the blacksmith's tools, taste regional foods and feel the heat radiating from the traditional bread oven. Visitors browse the shelves at the general store, take on farm chores, study Appalachian culture at seven museums and bounce along on a wagon ride through a rustic reconstructed village at this Smithsonian Affiliate. Log cabins, a quaint farmhouse and bunks in the remodeled 1800s dairy barn infuse your lodging options with laid-back charm. You'll soon be stretching out on one of the porches to truly unplug.

Guests at **Adventures on the Gorge** in Lansing push their limits in the water, on land and in the air. Tackle the Gauley and New rivers' bubbling whitewater rapids, try fly-fishing or join a jet boat tour—then climb sandstone cliffs, scurry into caves or take a sunset horseback ride. Adrenaline junkies streak through the trees on ziplines and ride along rugged off-road trails on

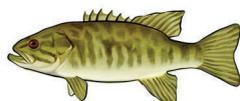


side-by-side excursions. Afterward, indulge in Appalachian-inspired dining, a refreshing swim or a hot tub soak. Cabins, tent and RV camping, and vacation homes include gathering places like firepits, porches and kitchens that are perfect for trading stories after an epic day.

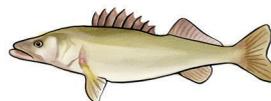
GONE

FISHING

Cast in one of the oldest rivers in the world—the New River—with guided full-day fishing trips led by local outfitters.



SMALLMOUTH BASS
West Virginia's record 9.75-pound smallmouth was caught in the New River.



NEW RIVER WALLEYE
This large walleye strain is found only in the New River system.



MUSKELLUNGE
The New River is known for its abundant muskie population.



SCAN HERE
to find a full list of
RV and tent
campsites around
the state.

Choose from more than 50 cabins — including smaller studios and options that sleep up to 18 — right in the heart of New River Gorge National Park and Preserve at **ACE Adventure Resort** in Oak Hill. (Look for ruggedly beautiful RV and tent camping spots too.) The resort specializes in full- and half-day whitewater rafting trips on the New and Gauley rivers. But it also connects guests with oodles of outdoor adventures — mountain biking, ziplines, hiking, guided fishing trips, paintball, ATV tours, obstacle courses, boating and paddleboarding. The activities are outdoorsy, but the amenities are cozy and convenient. Guests enjoy on-site dining, a spring-fed water park, and private trails and fishing ponds.

With more than 400 action-packed acres, **Mylan Park** in Morgantown is a family sports hub with multiple overnight options. A collection of 14 indoor and outdoor facilities provides opportunities to watch and play soccer, baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball and more. Not in the mood for competition? Hike forested hills or frolic in the pool, waterslides and splash pad. A new KOA campground features more than 130 RV sites with full hookups, tent camping and cabins near the playground and jump pad. The campground also hosts a farmers market on Wednesdays, June through October.



DOUBLE DOWN

Sweeten the pot when you stay near slots, table games and racing action.

The Casino Club at The Greenbrier

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

Opulent and bold, this luxury resort has been wowing guests since 1778. Slots, table games and sports betting beckon. The golfing is world-class, the spa's mineral springs are restorative, and posh accommodations and activities (think carriage rides, croquet and afternoon tea) ooze historic charm.

Hollywood Casino and Inn at Charles Town Races

CHARLES TOWN

Enjoy live thoroughbred horse racing, plus slots, cards and table games in the Blue

Ridge Mountains. Fans flock to national touring acts, while foodies favor elevated dining, including offerings from *Top Chef* contestant Fabio Viviani. Plush rooms and balcony suites level up the indulgence.

Mardi Gras Casino and Resort

CROSS LANES

Blackjack, craps, roulette, 700-plus slot machines, sports betting and poker—including Texas Hold'em and Louisiana stud—keep pulses pounding. Newly renovated rooms, craft cocktails and artful dining make it easy to unwind.

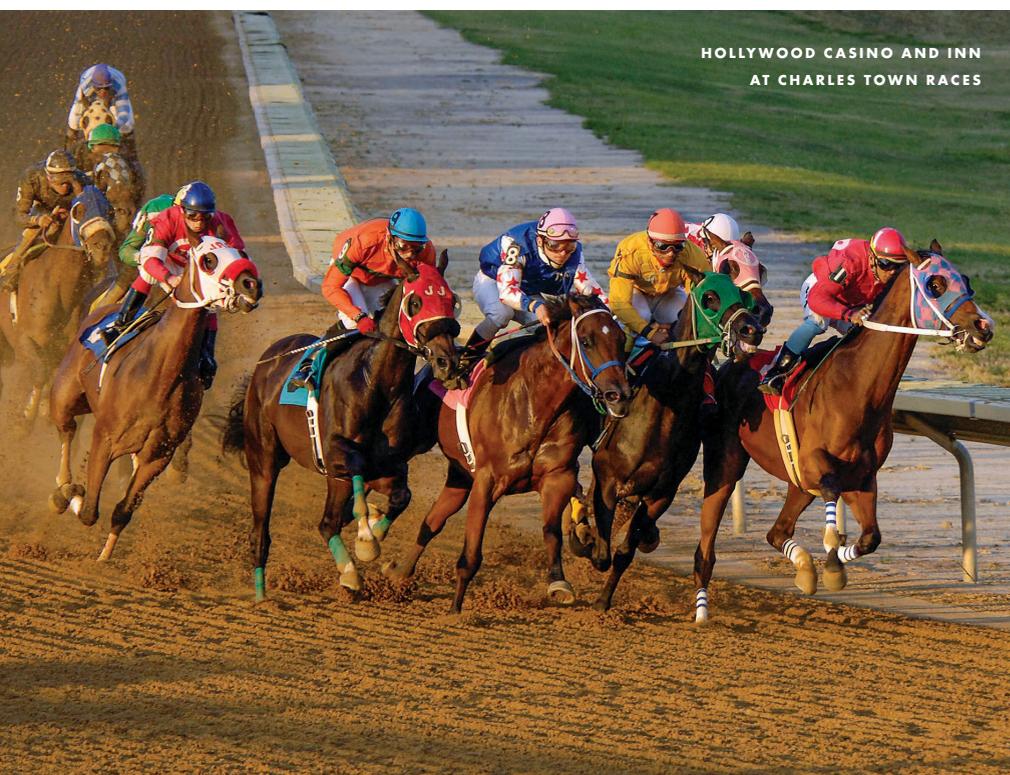
Mountaineer Casino Resort

NEW CUMBERLAND

Experience the rush of live thoroughbred racing April through December—and a

TRY YOUR LUCK

All West Virginia casinos offer slots, black jack, poker, roulette and craps—great gaming options for newcomers and seasoned gamblers.



full-service resort, spa and 78,000-square-foot casino in every season. The 18-hole championship golf course and suites spotlight the Ohio River Valley landscape.

Wheeling Island Hotel, Casino and Racetrack

WHEELING

Fine dining and comfortable rooms and suites provide an oasis of calm. In the casino, exciting table games, more than 1,000 slot machines and a high-limit room raise the stakes.

CELEBRATE
EVERY
SEASON

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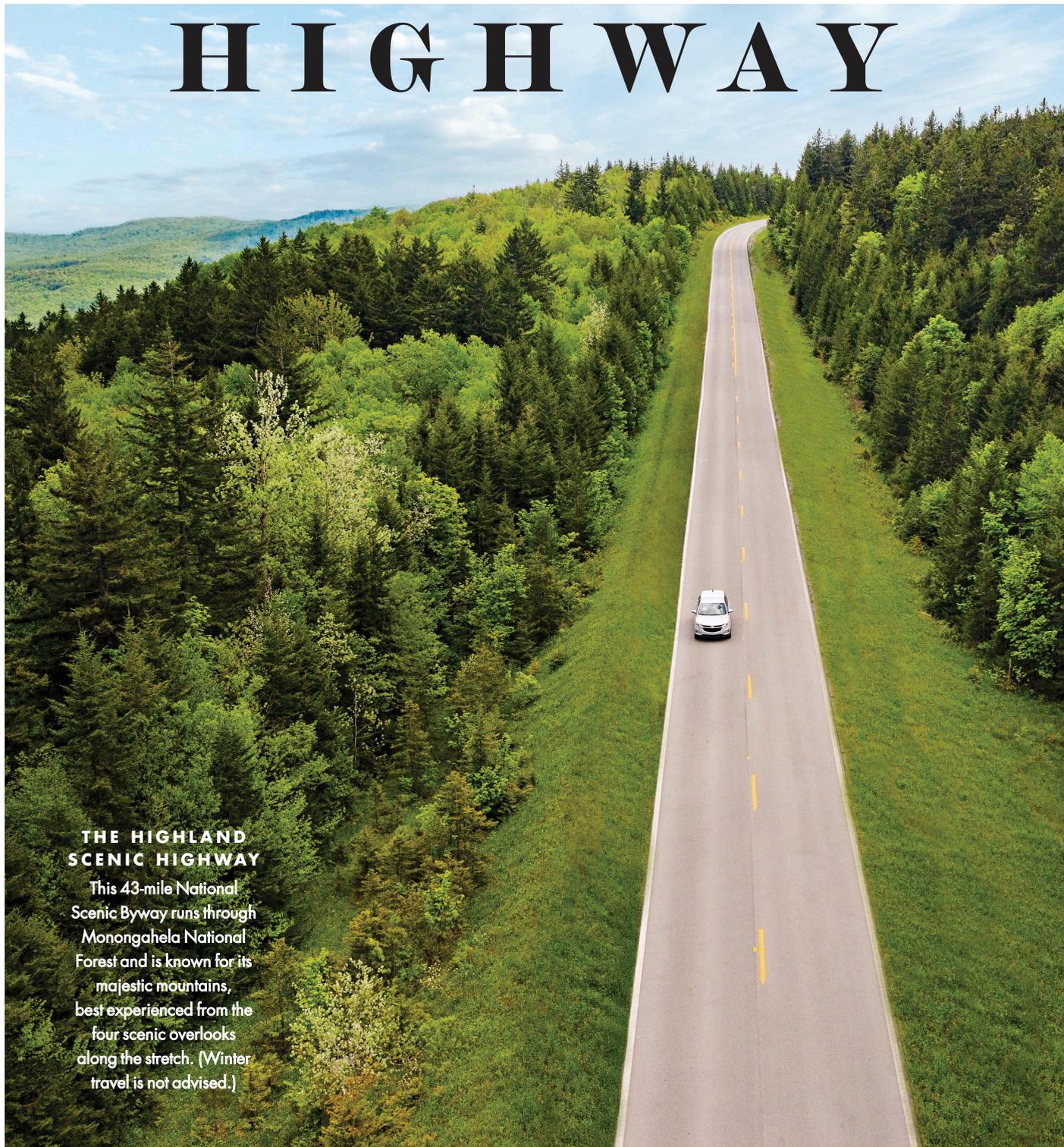
ELAKALA FALLS

LIVE A LIFE IN
bloom



LIFE IS A

HIGHWAY



THE HIGHLAND SCENIC HIGHWAY

This 43-mile National Scenic Byway runs through Monongahela National Forest and is known for its majestic mountains, best experienced from the four scenic overlooks along the stretch. (Winter travel is not advised.)

Our legendary country roads have delighted visitors for decades.
Which scenic drive will you take through Almost Heaven?

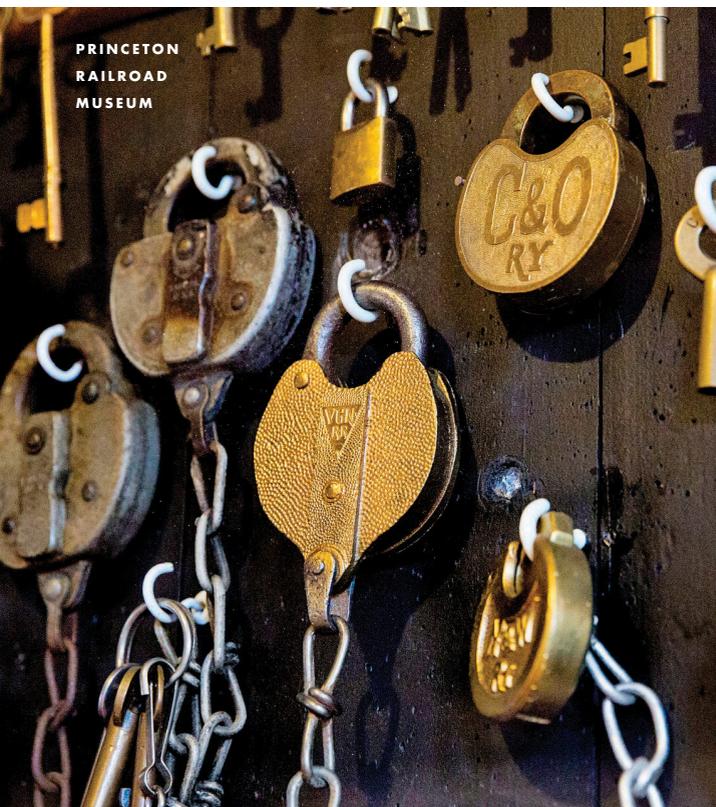
writer **hilary braksma**

HERITAGE HIGHWAY

West Virginia's Mountain Rides program was established in 2022 to provide travelers with smooth, scenic drives across the state. With a little over five hours of total driving time, the newest route—Heritage Highway—is filled with fun from start to finish. Begin the 194-mile journey at Beckley's **Tamarack Marketplace**, a cultural center showcasing and selling local artwork. While you're there, grab breakfast—try sourdough French toast with West Virginia maple syrup.

Your next stop along US-19 is in Princeton, a charming town rich in railroading history. At **Princeton Railroad Museum**, learn about Virginian Railway's past and see exhibits of railway artifacts, artwork, photographs and more. Don't miss stepping inside the restored 1949 Virginian Caboose 308 on display.

It's less than half an hour drive to nearby Bluefield, where spectators can stop to admire the scenery from **East River Mountain Overlook**. The location highlights exhilarating views of Bluefield below. While you're in town, sit down for savory lamb chops or chicken piccata at **The Vault Downtown**. The restaurant is housed in the city's historic business district, inside a former bank lobby built in 1922.

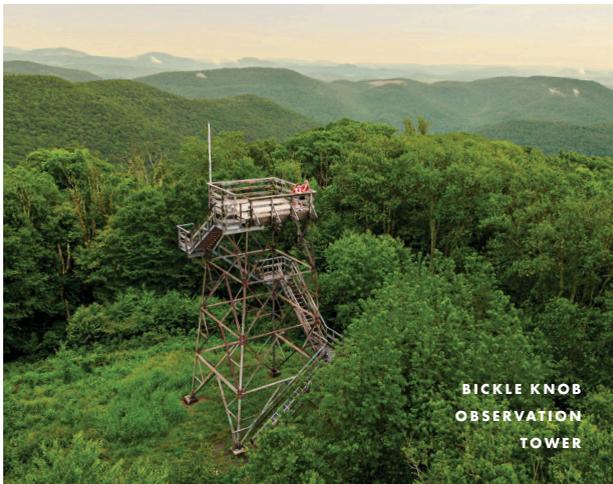


Wrap up the rest of your ride through Almost Heaven with the natural wonders at a trio of state lands. First is Bramwell's **Pinnacle Rock State Park**, named for the sandstone landmark towering above leafy surroundings. The Overlook Trail is a 0.6-mile out-and-back pathway leading to the viewing platform at Pinnacle Rock.

A little over an hour away in Panther, pull off in **Panther State Forest** in McDowell County to explore 26 acres of protected forest inside the larger Panther Wildlife Management Area. To extend your road trip overnight, check out nearby **Ashland Resort** for convenient access to the UTV-friendly Hatfield-McCoy Trail System.

Twin Falls Resort State Park in Mullens is another great overnight option—choose from a lodge, cozy cabins or traditional campsites. The on-site nature center hosts scavenger hunts, guided hikes and educational introductions to ferns, salamanders, wildflowers and other native plants and wildlife. The Falls Trail is a moderate 1.25-mile hike that loops past Marsh Fork Falls and Black Fork Falls, the namesake twin falls.





BICKLE KNOB
OBSERVATION
TOWER

MORE MOUNTAIN RIDES

These classic road trip routes are a tried-and-true way to experience West Virginia.

Birdeye Bend

MORGANTOWN → BRUCETON MILLS → ELKINS → FAIRMONT → MORGANTOWN

Make memories in Mountaineer Country on this 173-mile drive. Fuel up for the four-hour round-trip trek with a coffee and scone from **The Grind** in Morgantown, then hike to see the notable 19th-century Henry Clay Iron Furnace at **Coopers Rock State Forest** in nearby Bruceton Mills. Follow WV-7 toward **Bickle Knob Observation Tower** in Elkins, where you'll enjoy panoramic views of the Potomac Highlands. Stop for a sit-down Southern Italian dinner at **Muriale's Italian Kitchen** in Fairmont, then loop back to Morgantown on US-19. End the night at **Mario's Fishbowl**, where they've been serving drinks in fishbowls since the '60s.

Capitol Circle

CHARLESTON → FAYETTEVILLE → PINEVILLE → HUNTINGTON → CHARLESTON

Traverse a little over 200 miles on this six-hour round-trip circuit, starting in the capital city of Charleston. Take in views of the Kanawha River, grab an iced latte from Mea Cuppa Coffeebar at **Capitol Market**, then stroll the **West Virginia State Capitol Complex** and visit the immersive exhibits inside the **West Virginia State Museum**. Head south to Fayetteville for lunch, where you can choose from an expansive menu of sandwiches and burgers at **Secret Sandwich Society**. Next, pull off in Pineville to see **Castle Rock**, a geological feature named for its regal appearance. Stop for a craft cocktail at **LaFontaine's Rooftop Lounge** in Huntington before heading back to Charleston.

KANAWHA RIVER



Cranberry Corridor

SUMMERSVILLE → HILLSBORO → LEWISBURG → CALDWELL → SUMMERSVILLE

Kick off your five-hour drive through the center of the state at **Summersville Lake**. Climb to the 360-degree viewing platform at the top of **Summersville Lake Lighthouse**, or rent scuba diving gear from **Sarge's Dive Shop** to explore the lake's famed blue waters. In Hillsboro, follow the half-mile boardwalk through **Cranberry Glades Botanical Area**, the largest bog area in West Virginia. Break for fresh, hand-tossed pizza at **The Humble Tomato** in Lewisburg before hitting the hiking trails at **Greenbrier State Forest** near Caldwell. Complete your 211-mile undertaking by looping back to Summersville.





Seneca Skyway

**LEWISBURG → MARLINTON → THOMAS →
SENECA ROCKS → LEWISBURG**

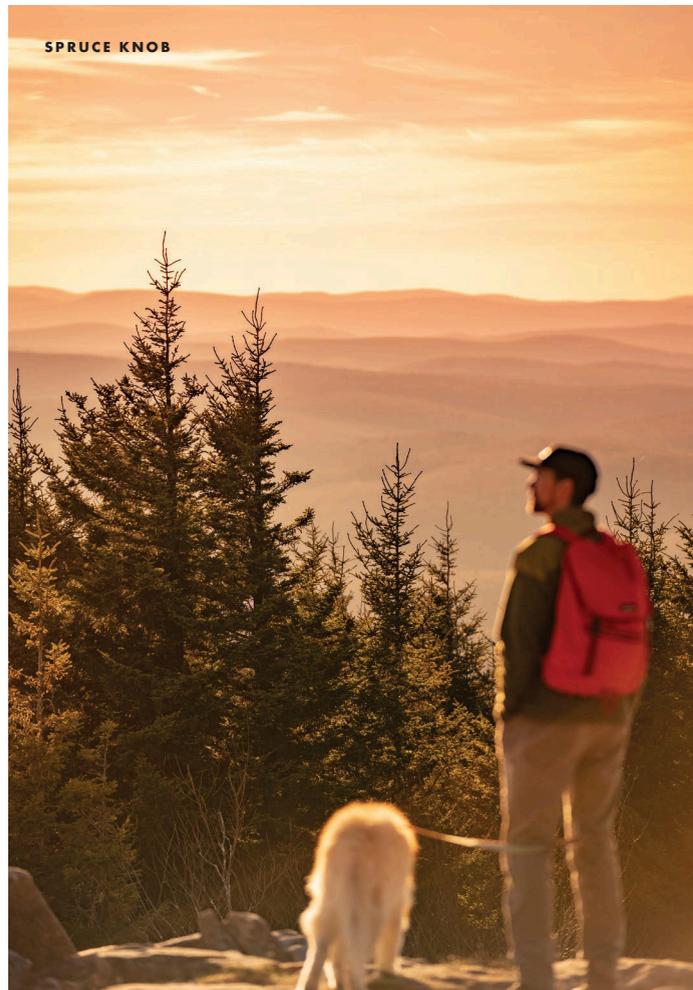
Start your road trip in Lewisburg, a place that's been dubbed America's Coolest Small Town. Before you embark on the 300-mile loop, stop by **The Wild Bean** and **Thunderbird Taco** for coffee and a breakfast burrito. Take a detour on the **Highland Scenic Highway** near Marlinton, then indulge your sweet tooth with chocolate, caramel and candy-coated Granny Smith apples at **Macy Lou's Gourmet Apple Company** in Thomas. Survey the scenic landscape from the observation tower at the state's highest point, **Spruce Knob** in Pendleton County, before going back to Lewisburg on WV-92. Celebrate the end of your six-hour drive with dinner and drinks at **Stardust Cafe**, known for its comforting tomato basil bisque.



**CRANBERRY GLADES
BOTANICAL AREA**



SCAN HERE
for more detailed
Mountain
Ride road trip
itineraries.



SPRUCE KNOB

follow



the falls

Chase more than 40 cascades along the West Virginia Waterfall Trail. Grab your phone and start your quest with these standouts.

writer **jess hoffert**

FALLS
for all

easy access

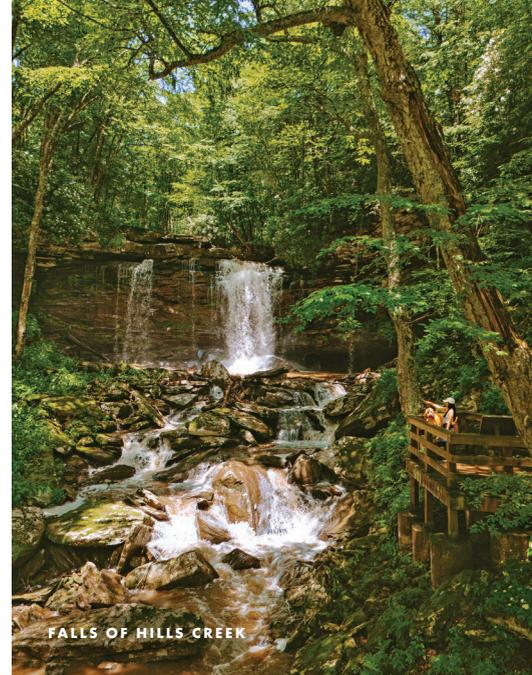
Just beyond the border of New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, 60-foot-tall **Cathedral Falls** is accessible via a three-minute hike on a paved trail near Gauley Bridge. For the most dramatic views of one of the state's tallest cascades, tread carefully along a dirt path to the base, observing the ribbons of water as they flow over a layer cake of sandstone and shale. Overnight at Camp Creek State Park in Camp Creek and soak in the sounds of a sunrise stroll to **Campbell Falls**. Chirping songbirds accompany the crunch of gravel beneath your feet on the 0.3-mile trail—you'll hear the rush of the creek as it plummets 15 feet in a stair-step pattern. Odds are you'll have the wide falls to yourself, especially at an early hour.

tucked away

If it weren't for the historical marker outside of Pipestem along WV-20, you might never know **Pipestem Falls** lies a literal stone's throw from a roadside parking lot. Enjoy a shaded picnic at the adjacent park, then trek up a wooden staircase for a glimpse above the 30-foot-tall cascade. Along the creek, keep an eye out for tufts of shrubs tipped with clusters of fluffy white blossoms. The hollow stems of *Spiraea alba*, commonly known as meadowsweet, were once used to craft the stems of tobacco pipes. Just 11 miles away, **Brush Creek Falls** in Athens hides like a waiting-to-be-discovered treasure in similar fashion. Park at the Brush Creek Preserve shelter and scramble a quarter of a mile over a dirt path and small boulders to reach the panoramic falls flanked by limestone and sandstone cliffs.

double dips

Two West Virginia state parks serve up dynamic duos of liquid stunners. In Davis, the namesake landmark of Blackwater Falls State Park grabs attention with amber waters. The unique tint comes from tannic acid in fallen hemlock and red spruce needles that spills over 57-foot-tall **Blackwater Falls**. Also sporting a reddish hue within the park, the water at **Elakala Falls** pours over four tiers of drops, including one section viewable from a wooden bridge. At aptly named Twin Falls Resort State Park near Mullens, **Marsh Fork Falls** and **Black Fork Falls** are connected by a 1.25-mile loop lined by lush forests. **Falls of Hills Creek** in Hillsboro is actually a triple dip—a 1.4-mile trail takes hikers to three cascading falls, each taller than the last.



SCAN HERE

to sign up for your free West Virginia Waterfall Trail Passport. The prizes begin to roll in after visiting three falls. Go big and hit up all 43 for a limited-edition letterpress print.



crossing

TAKING THE SCENIC ROUTE IN WEST VIRGINIA MEANS MAKING THE MOST OF THE MOUNTAIN STATE'S TRAILS, TRACKS AND WATERWAYS.

writer **jodi helmer**



paths

West Virginia is built for adventure. The state is home to epic landscapes laced with rugged trails and roaring rivers that make each outing an unforgettable journey. Here's a sampling of some favorite options across the state, with a range of difficulty levels.

TAKE A HIKE

Wander into wonder for an hour (or a few days) along these favorite treks.

Allegheny Trail

MULTIPLE COUNTIES

Find your ideal combination of solitude and gorgeous views on this 311-mile path. The north-south trailway traverses West Virginia from Pennsylvania to Virginia, with technical sections winding through remote wilderness and dense forests that will challenge and delight experienced hikers in search of a multiday sojourn.

Alum Cave Trail

AUDRA STATE PARK

A mix of winding unpaved trail and wooden boardwalk takes travelers along the rushing Middle Fork River and underneath Alum Cave's sandstone ledge overhang. The 2.7-mile loop's terrain is relatively flat and easy to navigate, though you can expect to encounter a few rocky and slippery sections along the way.

Lindy Point Trail

BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

One of the state's most photographed spots is at this state park in Tucker County. A 0.3-mile trail leads to the rim of Blackwater Canyon, where a 35-foot-tall rock balances above the gorge. Plan a sunset hike to enjoy the jaw-dropping vista as the sun dips below the horizon.



LINDY POINT TRAIL

Huckleberry Trail

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

Hike through pastures and forested ridges to the rugged alpine peak in the heart of this national forest. Standing at 4,863 feet, Spruce Knob is the highest point in Almost Heaven and the highlight of the challenging 10.9-mile out-and-back trail. An observation tower at the top offers sprawling views.

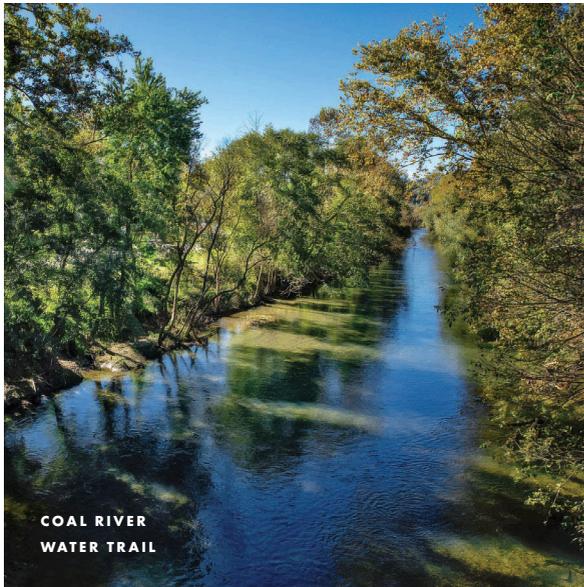
more
Find more trails
to blaze at
[WVtourism.com/
hiking](http://WVtourism.com/hiking)





ON THE WATER

Paddle down 88 miles of river between Madison and St. Albans on the **Coal River Water Trail**. The state's first flatwater trail includes designated boat launches, access points, and takeouts on the Big, Little and Lower Coal rivers. Trips range from 3 miles to 14-plus miles, and offer lots of scenic spots for camping and picnics.



**COAL RIVER
WATER TRAIL**



ALUM CAVE TRAIL



MOUNTAINEER GRAVEL

PEDAL POWER

**Quick and easy—or steep and technical?
Choose your journey on these trails.**

Kanawha State Forest

CHARLESTON

Ride 25 miles of mountain bike trails ranging from rolling loops to steep, challenging routes—like a 17-mile singletrack loop connecting several trails with some of the best climbs and descents in the region.

Mon River Rail-Trail System

MULTIPLE COUNTIES

Gear up for 48 miles of mellow trails winding along the Monongahela River and Deckers Creek. The Caperton trail section of this rail-trail system offers 6 miles of paved path with easy access to restaurants and shops.

Mountain Rim Bike Park

HUNTINGTON

Catch a ride to the top of the mountain and pick one of 15 trails that lead back down. Novice bikers can choose less technical trails, while experienced riders can test their skill on the rugged terrain.

Mountaineer Gravel

MULTIPLE COUNTIES

Cruise through forests, across creeks and along rail-trails on one of 40 bike routes crisscrossing northern wilds. Take it easy on the 5.9-mile Cannon Hill Climb, or go big with the 75.3-mile Mountaineer Training Grounds.

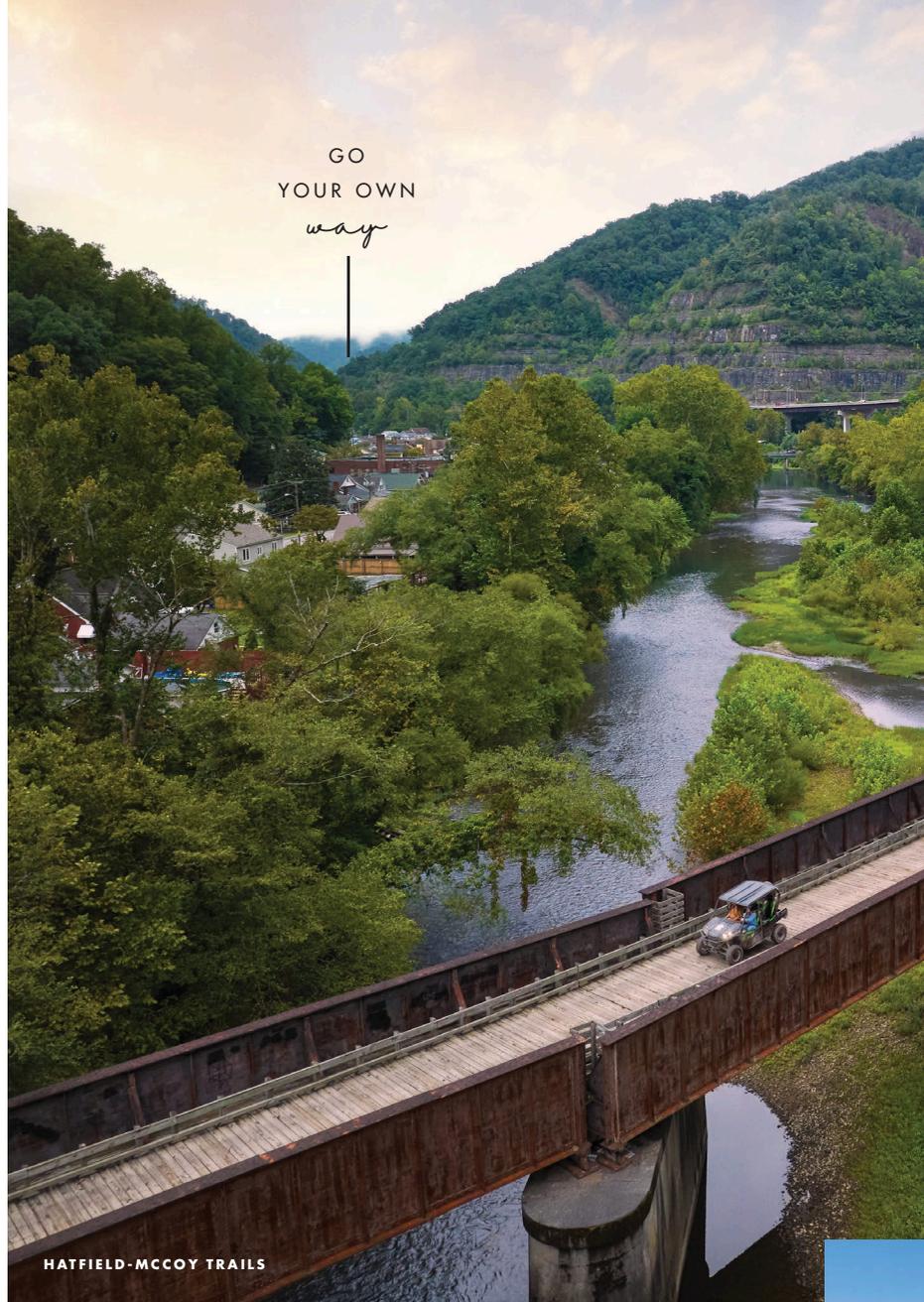
HATFIELD-MCCOY

TRAILS

Rev up an ATV, UTV or a dirt bike and explore the hills and hollers where the Hatfield and McCoy families once feuded. The vast off-road network boasts nearly 1,200 miles of award-winning trails in the heart of Appalachia that attract avid off-roaders from around the country. Each of the 13 (and counting) trail systems that are part of the Hatfield-McCoy Trails offers a distinct experience.

Kick up dirt during an extreme riding experience on the 100 miles of trails that make up the **Rockhouse Trail System**, or strap in to explore historic sites on the **Devil Anse Trail System**. The **Bearwallow Trail System** is one of the original trails, and its difficult singletracks make it one of the most popular; it's also the only path open to ORVs. **Tornado Single Trax** is a recent expansion of the trail system into Kanawha County, designed specifically for dirt bikes and e-bikes.

You will need to purchase a permit to ride the trails, but no worries if you don't have your own ATV or UTV—several local outfitters have vehicles available by the hour or day.



GO
YOUR OWN
way

HATFIELD-MCCOY TRAILS



HATFIELD-MCCOY TRAILS

MORE MOTORSPORTS

FULL-THROTTLE FUN

Experience high-octane thrills.

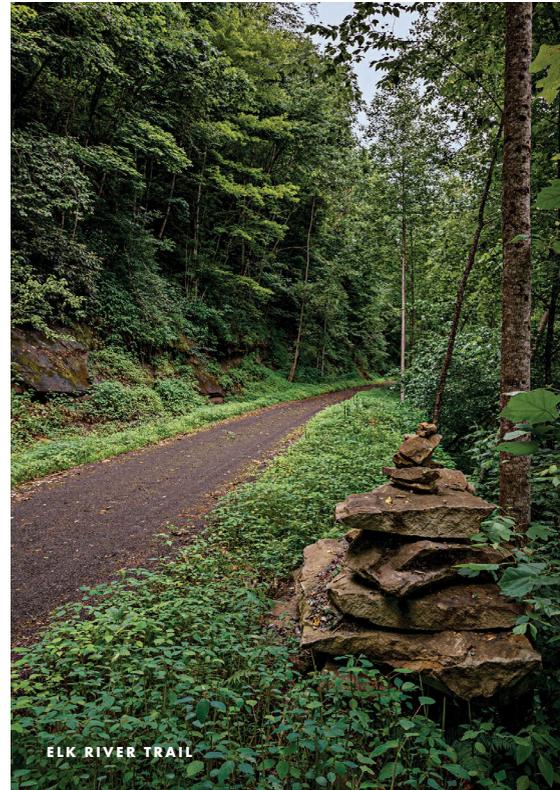
- **Beckley Motor Speedway**, Mount Hope
- **Elkins Raceway**, Kerens
- **Ohio Valley Speedway**, Washington
- **Ona Speedway**, Ona
- **Southside Dragway**, Southside
- **Tyler County Speedway**, Middlebourne
- **West Virginia Motor Speedway**, Mineral Wells

EXCITEMENT ON TWO WHEELS

Witness nonstop action as fearless riders test their skills.

- **Mason Motocross**, Point Pleasant
- **Summit Point Motorsports Park**, Summit Point
- **Tomahawk MX Park**, Hedgesville





Elk River Trail

MULTIPLE TOWNS

Trace the 58-mile trail along the banks of the Elk River from Gassaway to south of Clendenin. The former railroad bed cuts through acres of woodlands that are home to beavers, foxes, eagles and other wildlife. The trail isn't just popular with hikers; riders on horseback are also allowed, and paddlers glide down the adjacent Elk River.

Wheeling Heritage Trail

WHEELING

The former B&O Railroad line connects the Ohio River Trail and Wheeling Creek Trail in the city's downtown area. Signs along the paved path offer glimpses into local history, and riders and walkers can stop to watch barges navigate through the locks on the Ohio River, once the heartbeat of the local manufacturing industry.

RAIL-TRAILS

All aboard for outdoor excursions that follow former railway routes.

Allegheny Highlands Trail

MULTIPLE COUNTIES

The trail begins at the Elkins Depot Welcome Center and follows the original route of the West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railway. Twenty-six miles of scenic asphalt and crushed-stone trail wind through farmland, small towns and along the banks of the Black Fork River, providing panoramic views of the mountains.

SPRINGFLING

Celebrate warming weather, sprouting plants, verdant views and other spoils of spring with these inspiring ideas that span the state.

writer **hilary bracksma**

WEST VIRGINIA BOTANIC GARDEN

COMING UP ROSES

Ritter Park

HUNTINGTON

This award-winning city park is the bucolic base of the Ritter Park Historic District, a neighborhood filled with grand historic Craftsman, Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival homes. Follow Ritter Park Pathway around the park's perimeter to the showpiece rose garden, where more than 3,000 blossoms open each spring—peak bloom is typically late May to early June.

BEST BUDS

West Virginia Botanic Garden

MORGANTOWN

In late spring, hike the Tibbs Crossing Trail to the Botanic Garden's nature preserve, where native Rhododendron (West Virginia's official state flower) blooms in clusters of pretty pink and white petals. Get an up-close look at other Appalachian native wildflowers beginning in early spring in the pollinator-friendly Butterfly Garden.

WILDLIFE-WATCHING

Eidolon Nature Preserve

GREAT CACAPON

Though it was named for ethereal apparitions in Greek mythology, Eidolon's expansive natural beauty is anything but an illusion. Spring is great for bird-watching—look out for blue jays, northern cardinals and the rare cerulean warbler as you trek through fresh forests and across trickling natural springs on the scenic 1-mile Zapoleon Loop trail.



RITTER PARK



WEST VIRGINIA BOTANIC GARDEN



OGLEBAY STABLES

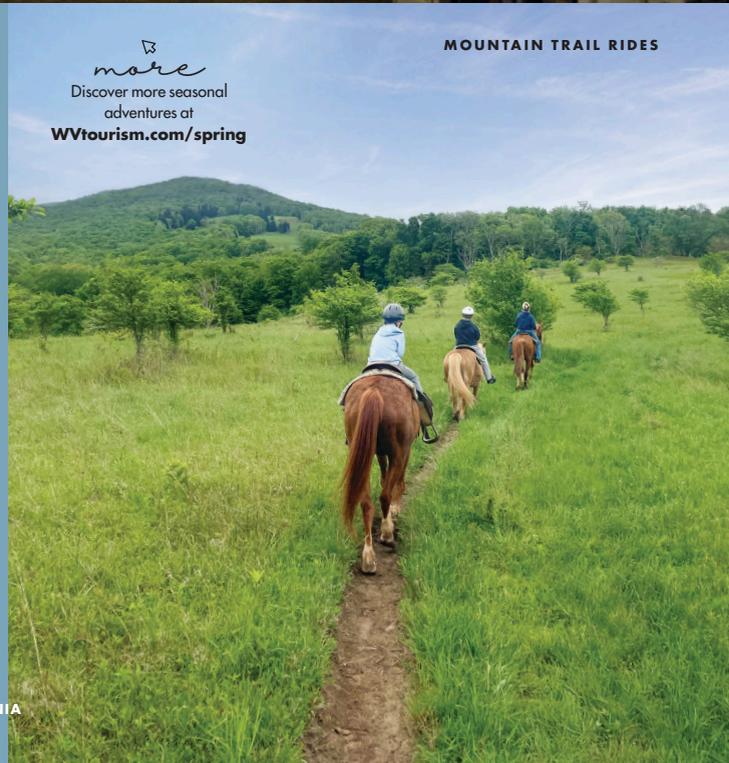
along for the ride

Unwind and refresh your spirit with sweeping views of Almost Heaven on horseback.

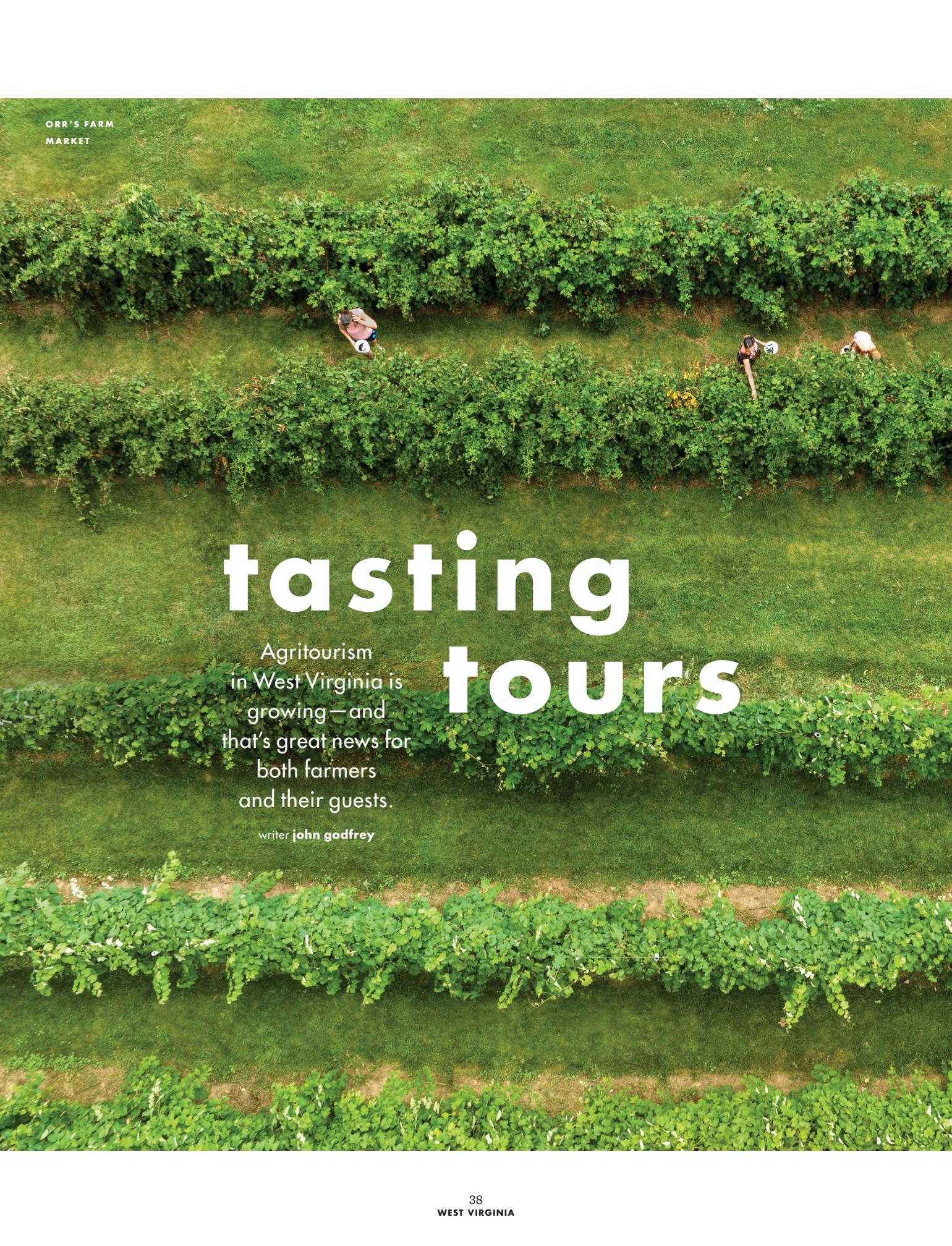
Take a one-hour guided trail ride through spruce forest at Autumn Breeze Stables in Snowshoe, or start simple with a short 30-minute loop through the Kanawha State Forest at Circle B Stables in Charleston. Hidden Trails Stables in Mathias has a two-hour guided tour that takes riders to an overlook at an elevation of 3,000 feet—or saddle up closer to the ground at Davis' Mountain Trail Rides in Canaan Valley. Triple C Outfitters in Berkeley Springs delivers big on bird-watching, and Oglebay Stables in Wheeling offers guided trips on gorgeous resort grounds.

more
Discover more seasonal adventures at
WVtourism.com/spring

MOUNTAIN TRAIL RIDES



ORR'S FARM
MARKET

An aerial photograph of a lush green vineyard. The rows of grapevines are neatly spaced and run across the frame. Several people are visible working in the vines, some bending over as if harvesting. The overall scene is vibrant and active.

tasting tours

Agritourism
in West Virginia is
growing — and
that's great news for
both farmers
and their guests.

writer **john godfrey**



farm-to-table forays

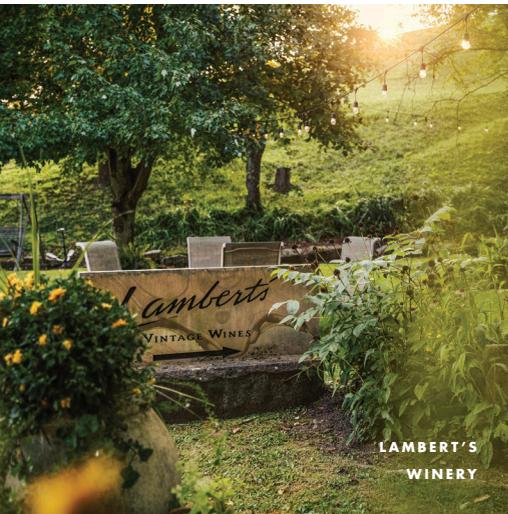
At these West Virginia farms and businesses, visitors are encouraged to take a peek behind the curtain. The state's agritourism experiences offer an opportunity to sample and savor the hard work that goes into the region's locally sourced foods.

At **Riffle Farms** in Terra Alta, bison roam freely across Liz and Jimmie Riffle's pastures. During farm-to-table dinners, they discuss how they humanely field-harvest bison and use their hides to produce rugs and other items. Bison meat cooks on a giant rotisserie for hours before being featured in the evening's multicourse menu.

In Malden, siblings Nancy Bruns and Lewis Payne continue their family's 200-year legacy at **J.Q. Dickinson Salt Works**. Here, they harvest salt by hand from an ancient ocean trapped beneath the Appalachian Mountains. Tours showcase their sustainable process that uses sunlight to create pure, mineral-rich crystals that have earned acclaim from chefs nationwide.

Orr's Farm Market in Martinsburg offers catered farm tours on weekdays, May through November. Enjoy guided orchard walks and demonstrations in their refurbished dairy barn, followed by farm-to-table boxed lunches crafted from freshly harvested ingredients.

In Buffalo, **Gritt's Farm** hosts farm dining experiences throughout the spring and summer. Thoughtfully curated menus serve meal courses featuring ingredients grown on the farm. Events sell out fast, so book your spot early.



wonderful winery tours

West Virginia's wineries blend more than grape varietals. Intimate tastings paired with breathtaking Appalachian landscapes result in optimal opportunities to expand your palate.

Cold winters and high altitude in Crab Orchard inspired **Daniel Vineyards** to experiment with more than 100 different grape varieties over the years. They ultimately settled on 15 cold-climate cultivars, including Cayuga and Marquette, which match perfectly with the terroir. This family-owned business offers self-guided tours through vineyard rows, where visitors can appreciate vintages born from mountain resilience. Between sips, guests will see the sustainable, environmentally friendly farming practices on full display.

In Summersville, **Kirkwood Winery** connects visitors to mountain heritage with free tours and tastings available seven days a week. Nicholas County's first vineyard produces more than 10,000 gallons annually and demonstrates remarkable range. Yes, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon are available, but why not try the best-selling Black Satin Blackberry or a spiced apple creation that can be served warm or cold?



Outdoor exploration complements wine appreciation at **Chestnut Ridge Winery** in Spencer, where you'll find outdoor seating areas with sweeping views. The winery is located near the trailhead of Ben's Run Trails—hiking paths that beckon before or after tastings of Riesling or Forbidden, one of their dry red blends.

WineTree Vineyards brings contemporary wine culture to Vienna with a tasting room featuring oversized windows that frame the production facilities. Their award-winning fermentations complement a menu of wine-friendly foods, while tastings showcase their farm-to-bottle commitment.

Drink up the striking design and architecture at **Lambert's Winery** in Weston, including a Gothic structure built from hand-cut West Virginia stone. Their comfortable tasting room hosts daily tours, and if you can't bear the thought of leaving, an on-site cabin that overlooks the vineyard invites extended stays.





HAWK KNOB
APPALACHIAN
HARD CIDER

hands-on harvests

Something magical transpires when people discover the taste of just-picked fruit, a moment of connection that defines West Virginia's family farms. In Alderson, **Sunset Berry Farm** sprawls across a 30-acre sanctuary atop Flat Mountain, where award-winning strawberries flourish alongside sunflowers and peach trees. Meanwhile, in Wellsburg's gentle hills, Britney Hervey Farris tends **Family Roots Farm's** eighth-generation legacy: Maple syrup production warms winter days with tapping and processing events in February and March.

artisan pours

Glen Price loves transforming casual drinkers into whiskey enthusiasts. As the owner of **Black Draft Farm and Distillery** in Martinsburg revealed on *The Whiskey Lore Podcast*, most of his guests come for cocktails and weekend relaxation. But Price often invites curious patrons to dive deeper into bourbon's complexities through interactive tastings. These educational tours unfold like chapters in a novel—revealing how water, grains, aging techniques and barrel char influence taste.

Similar spirit-crafting experiences flourish throughout West Virginia. **Swilled Dog** in Upper Tract began as a small-batch cider company in 2016 but evolved to focus on robust whiskeys, bourbons and gins.

The Flagship, Headwaters and MTN Made collections at **Hawk Knob Appalachian Hard Cider** present a range of fermented apple-based beverages, from traditional barrel-aged ciders to playful, easy-drinking alternatives. You can swig each at the Greenbrier County cidery and tasting room, located less than ten minutes from downtown Lewisburg.

In Union's gentle valleys, **Old World Libations** peddles a diverse collection of wines, meads and hard ciders that celebrate West Virginia bounty. Dip your toes into lovely Indian Creek while sipping on a complex and sophisticated Weary Traveler mead or the off-dry Revival Hard Cider.



FAMILY ROOTS FARM

in full swing

Dozens of scenic swings dot West Virginia, encouraging you to press pause, kick up your feet and discover new perspectives of the Mountain State.

writer **brian kramer**

more
Find the full list of Almost Heaven swing locations at WVtourism.com/swings



EAST RIVER
MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK

SWING ON BY

With more than four dozen sites across the state (and more coming), you can match your ride to the moment.



CAPITOL DOME GLIMPSES

Near the banks of the Kanawha River at the University of Charleston



BEST BY ATV

At Death Rock Overlook along the Buffalo Mountain Trail System in Williamson



FUN FOR ALL

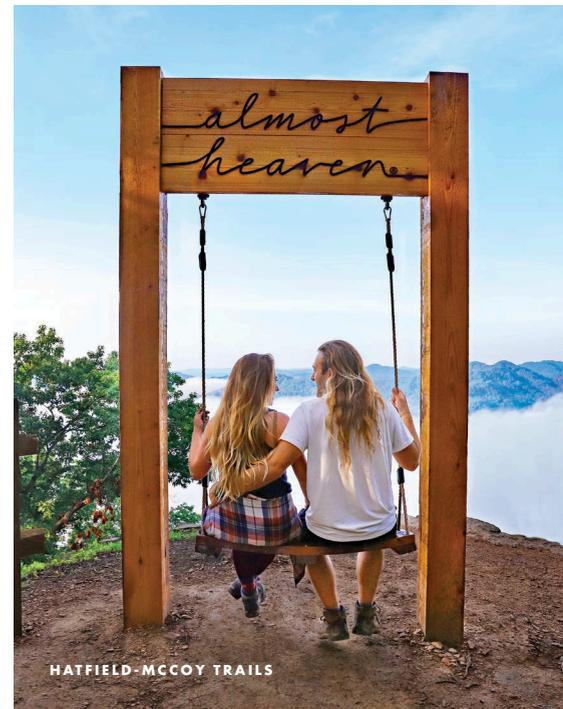
On the ADA-accessible Jody Hulka Trail at Tomlinson Run State Park in New Manchester

The original idea was simple: Install one swing at a scenic site in each of West Virginia's nine regions. Thanks to the hard work of students at Nicholas County Career and Technical Center in Craigsville, the Almost Heaven swing project now has some serious sway with dozens of photogenic spots throughout the state.

You'll enjoy more than a peek of the state's legendary peaks at several destinations. The inviting perch near the lodge at **Chief Logan State Park** in Logan frames up the hills and hollers of the state's southern coalfields. Savor a sunset from the swing at **East River Mountain Overlook**, a spot that combines thrilling landscapes and glimpses of nearby

Bluefield. At **Cacapon Resort State Park** in Berkeley Springs, the vista seems to extend forever from **Cacapon Mountain Overlook**. The swing is open seasonally (closed November through March).

Nestled in lushly wooded areas, several swings invite quiet reflection. A half-mile walk along the Green Trail at **Mason-Dixon Historical Park** in Core leads to a charming swing near a creek. Follow the short path from the parking lot off Farmhouse Lane at **Summersville Lake State Park** in Summersville to a swing on a leafy hilltop, or hop aboard a ferry ride in Parkersburg bound for **Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park**, where a swing is tucked into a leafy glen near the mansion.



HATFIELD - MCCOY TRAILS



SUMMERSVILLE
LAKE STATE PARK

Hungry for only-in-West-Virginia moments? Seek out these swinging sites for views of iconic landmarks. The waterfront park at **Wheeling's Heritage Port** includes a swing for surveying the historic Wheeling Suspension Bridge that spans the Ohio River. The first land battle of the Civil War occurred at **Philippi Covered Bridge** in Barbour County; a swing in the park just off US-119 provides a fresh angle for pondering this spot important to both Union and Confederate forces. Let the gentle churn of water near Glade Creek Grist Mill at **Babcock State Park** in Clifftop provide a history-rich backdrop for an unforgettable selfie.



ENDLESS LAKE VIEWS

From the scenic outlook near 272-acre Lake Stephens in Beckley



WATERFALL WONDER

Next to the gentle, 6-foot cascades of Drawdy Falls in Peytona



ALL ABOARD FOR HISTORY

Outside the historic railway depot in Gassaway



SCAN HERE to see a video about the Almost Heaven swing project.

night shift

With some of the darkest skies in the nation and three International Dark Sky Parks, nighttime is the right time in West Virginia.

writer **gary thompson**

more
Find more to do
after dark in
Almost Heaven at
[WVtourism.com/
nightlife](http://WVtourism.com/nightlife)

Star-Spangled Parks

Wish upon a star at West Virginia's three certified International Dark Sky Parks. Watoga State Park near Marlinton gets its name from the Cherokee word for starry waters. At Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park in Hillsboro, climb Lookout Tower for a heavenly panorama. Calvin Price State Forest in Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties is mostly undeveloped. Little artificial light nearby makes stars appear brighter and sharper here than practically any other spot.

Dazzling Get-Togethers

For more than 35 years, the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society has hosted an Astronomy Weekend at Blackwater Falls State Park in Davis. The free event (September 17–19 this year) includes daytime guest speakers and workshops covering a range of astronomy-related topics, like space exploration and astrophotography. When the sun sets, the star parties commence at the Harold Walters Nature Center inside the park.

Mountain Moonbeams

Legend says a full moon brings out werewolves, but at NROCKS Outdoor Adventures in Circleville, the phenomenon attracts dogged climbers. Take a guided Via Ferrata (Italian for "iron way") nighttime tour. The route is navigated by climbing rungs and cables permanently installed in the rock face. The method originated as a way to cross difficult mountain passes, but is used almost exclusively for recreation today. Previous experience is required.

Film Noir

Park your car, turn off the lights and wait for the movie to begin. After 75 years, the Hilltop Drive-In Theater in Chester still shows first-run films on the big screen at dusk, under the stars. The Pipestem Drive-in theater in Athens premiered more than 50 years ago. Listen to the movie through your vehicle's radio or—for traditionalists—on the outdoor speakers. Another nostalgic touch: It's cash only at the ticket booth and concession stand.

Worth Scoping Out

Scientists from around the globe visit the Green Bank Observatory in Green Bank to use the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope. Starting at the Science Center, get your ticket for a one-hour bus tour of the observatory campus to get a peek at the giant scope, which stands 485 feet tall and weighs 17 million pounds. After the tour, browse the free exhibit hall and grab a pizza or salad from the on-site Starlight Cafe, then stay for one of the town's monthly star parties.

A Little Night Music

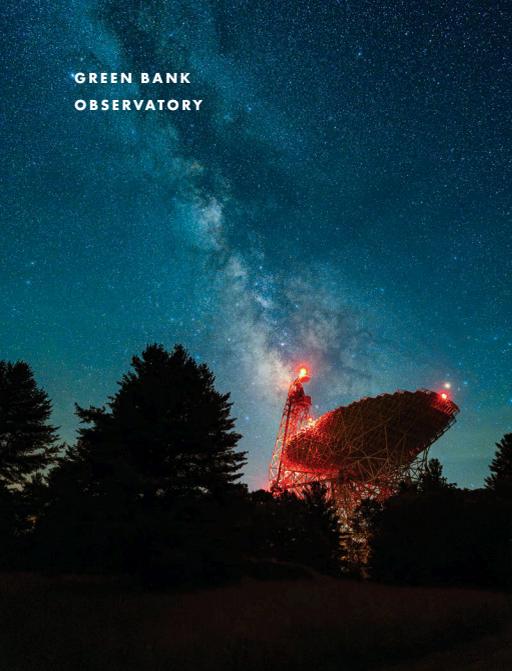
See big artists like Carly Pearce or Busta Rhymes perform live before boarding a sunset boat tour at Charleston Sternwheel Regatta, a free four-day summer celebration. Other free summer concert series include Charleston's Live on the Levee (weekly at Haddad Riverfront Park), or Huntington's 9th Street Live on Friday nights. In Harpers Ferry, see live acts from around the country Wednesday through Saturday nights at The Barn of Harpers Ferry.



CELESTIAL CABINS

A constellation of new cabins at Coopers Rock State Forest in Bruceton Mills features A-frame dwellings with floor-to-ceiling windows, retractable skylights and a telescope in the sleeping loft that caters to stargazers. The cabins, perched on a ridge between Raven Rock and an overlook, are positioned to minimize light pollution.

GREEN BANK
OBSERVATORY



PIPESTEM DRIVE-IN



THE BARN OF
HARPERS FERRY



DROOP MOUNTAIN
BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK



BLACKWATER FALLS
STATE PARK



CHARLESTON STERNWHEEL REGATTA



FIND YOUR
cool



water ways

West Virginia
might be known for
its mountains—
but as it turns out, the
water here is
pretty heavenly too.

writer **lindsay lambert**

Slather on the sunscreen and soak up the fun while fishing on calm waters, spending the night on a houseboat, leaping across giant inflatables and dipping your toes into naturally occurring springs.

LAKE LIFE

Alpine Lake Resort

TERRA ALTA

Lounge lakeside in the peace of a private community beach when you stay at this family-friendly resort. Day visitors can launch a boat on the lake for a \$20 fee, or rent a kayak on-site.

Beech Fork Lake

BARBOURSVILLE

With 31 miles of shoreline, Beech Fork Lake is a haven for anglers hoping to hook popular sport fish. Visitors can also rent kayaks, jon boats, paddleboats and stand-up paddleboards.

Bluestone Lake

HINTON

Outdoor enthusiasts can make their base in campsites and cabins—both ideal jumping-off points for boating, fishing (bass, catfish and crappie) and swimming in this New River reservoir.

Cheat Lake

MORGANTOWN

The lake's main drag is a playground for adrenaline-spiking power boating, tubing and water-skiing, while its chill "backwaters" beckon kayakers, canoers, swimmers and boaters content to leisurely bob along.

Lake Sherwood

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

Visitors who make their way to this quiet corner of Monongahela National Forest will find a tranquil setting for swimming, fishing, kayaking and paddleboarding. A highlight: picnicking on the lake's island, which connects to shore via an arched footbridge.

Sleepy Creek Lake

BERKELEY SPRINGS

This reservoir is only reachable via a gravel road, and is surrounded by a 22,000-acre wildlife management area. One thing you can expect while canoeing, kayaking, fishing or swimming at this aptly named lake is pure serenity.

Summersville Lake

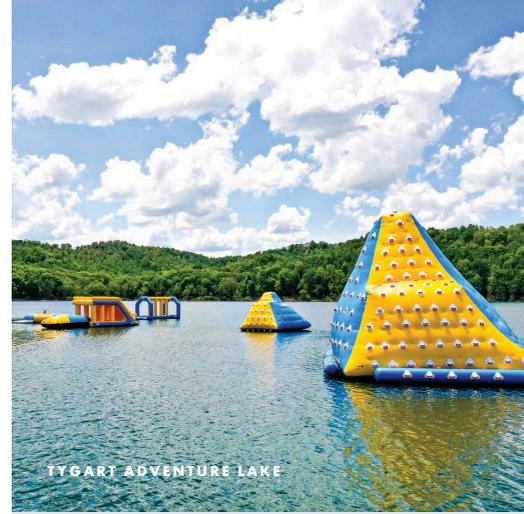
SUMMERSVILLE

Clear water and dramatic rock cliffs draw visitors to Summersville Lake, which sits adjacent to the namesake state park. Fire up some Jet Skis, post up on a pontoon boat or paddle a canoe along the craggy perimeter.

Tygart Adventure Lake

GRAFTON

This family-friendly attraction features 25 giant jungle gym-style inflatables (slide down a floating pyramid and bounce on an over-water trampoline), plus a beach with lounge chairs.

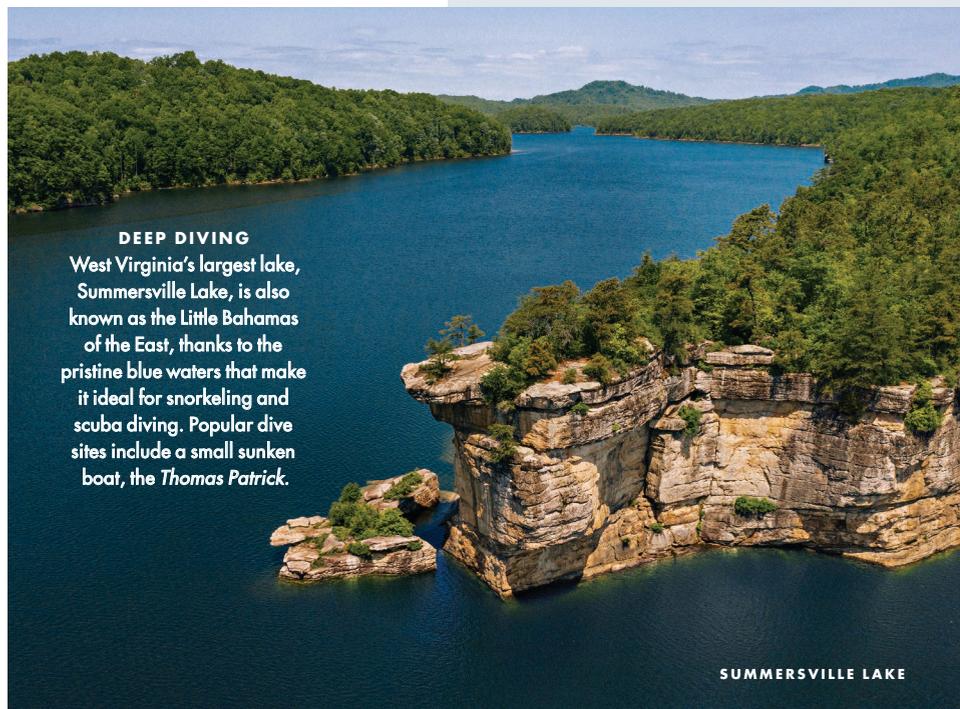


TYGART ADVENTURE LAKE

packing list

DAY AT THE LAKE

- Beach read (like *The Grand Design*)
- Gurkee's sandals
- McClumsy sun hat
- Locally loved snacks, like Mountaineer Popcorn and Golden Delicious apples
- Beer and cider from Big Timber, Hawk Knob and other West Virginia breweries



DEEP DIVING

West Virginia's largest lake, Summersville Lake, is also known as the Little Bahamas of the East, thanks to the pristine blue waters that make it ideal for snorkeling and scuba diving. Popular dive sites include a small sunken boat, the *Thomas Patrick*.

SUMMERSVILLE LAKE



GRAND VUE
PARK POOL

packing list

HOUSEBOAT

- Boater's safety card (free through online course)
- Bluetooth speaker to play "Country Roads"
- Vacation read (like *October Sky*)
- Hot dogs and WV chili for grilling out
- Marble King marbles for competitive play
- Koozie from Loving WV



SUTTON LAKE MARINA



BAVARIAN INN

SWIMMING LESSONS

When hot weather hits, nothing's more refreshing than a swim. **Clarksburg Splash Zone** caters to water-lovers of all ages with a lazy river, lap pool, wading area, and covered and open waterslides. At Moundsville's new **Grand Vue Park Pool**, little swimmers can dash across giant floating lily pads, soak fellow swimmers with water spouts, and shoot down serpentine waterslides, while serious swimmers work on their butterfly or back stroke in the lap pool. For something a little more serene (and lighter on splashing), the infinity pool at the **Bavarian Inn** in Shepherdstown delivers stunning scenery. The pool is positioned on a cliff 101 feet above the Potomac River—take in the views from the water's edge, or saddle up for drinks and light bites at the poolside bar.

FLOAT YOUR BOAT

West Virginia's rivers and lakes are sparkling jewels in a treasure trove of natural wonders, and they're best explored by boat. In Sutton, take it slow—and take up residence—aboard a houseboat rented from **Sutton Lake Marina**. The deluxe vessels feature amenities such as fully equipped kitchens and waterslides. If you're hankering for high speed, make your way to Ansted for a wind-in-your-hair ride along the New River with **New River Jet Boats**, leaving your own whitewater in your wake.





BERKELEY SPRINGS
STATE PARK

RAMBLING RIVERS

River Riders Family Adventure Resort in Harpers Ferry can set you up for a few hours of self-guided floating or guide-led rafting through Class I-III rapids on the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. (Ask about special tours, like the White Water and Whiskey tour, which ends at a distillery.) Or, join **River and Trail Outfitters** in Harpers Ferry for a guided whitewater tour by inflatable kayak along the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. If navigating the New or Gauley rivers is on your bucket list, **ACE Adventure Resort** in Oak Hill and **Adventures on the Gorge** in Lansing both offer whitewater rafting tours to remember.



AU NATUREL

Berkeley Springs State Park is known for its naturally occurring, mineral-rich thermal waters. (George Washington regularly soaked here in the 1700s.) So it's only, well, natural, that the state park's pool is filled with spring water—not a drop of chemicals or chlorine. Suit up and soak in the healing waters, which maintain a constant temperature of 74.3 degrees Fahrenheit.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Float fish for your own trophy catch at **Woodrum Lake Wildlife Management Area** in Kenna, where two record-breaking black crappie were caught back-to-back in 2024. Or, cast for rainbow trout in the stocked waters at **Trout Farm at Rock Springs** in Peterstown. Visit **WVdnr.gov** to purchase a trout stamp, plus a fishing license for any anglers over age 15.

packing list FISHING TRIP

- WV fishing license (purchase at **WVdnr.gov**)
- Pepperoni roll bagged lunch
- Brookstone Soaps bug spray
- Rod, reel and lures from McFly Outdoors
- BeauZooka Baits
- Bandana from Lost Appalachia Trading Co.

more
Visit **WVtourism.com/watersports** to find more ways to enjoy a day on the water.

RIVER RIDERS
FAMILY ADVENTURE
RESORT



TROUT FARM AT
ROCK SPRINGS

THE RESORT AT
GLADE SPRINGS

fairway to heaven

Elevate your game in this golf player's paradise.

writer gary thompson

LET THE KIDS DRIVE

Every day after 3 p.m. at Oglebay Park Resort in Wheeling, one junior golfer (age 17 and under) can play free on the Speidel, Crispin and Bloch Memorial courses when accompanied by a paying adult. At The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, kids 12 and under golf for free with a paying adult.

Fisher Mountain Golf Club

FRANKLIN

The Highlands Golf Course plays against the breathtaking backdrop of the verdant Potomac Highlands. One of the best views comes on the 10th hole, a par 4 that plays downhill to water, requiring a nerve-testing second shot to an island green. Though it's a beautiful course, it's undoubtedly a challenging one too—the greens are fast.

The Greenbrier Golf Club

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

Tee up on The Old White, one of four courses at The Greenbrier, and the resort's first 18-hole golf course. It was designed in 1914 by golf architect Charles Blair Macdonald—and in the century since, has seen famous faces, such as Ben Hogan, Lee Trevino and Tiger Woods, on the fairway.

Lakeview Golf Resort

MORGANTOWN

Be the first ever to reach the green in two on the Lakeview Course's 620-yard (from the blue tees) par-five 18th hole. Not even legends Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer or Sam Snead could do it. All golfers appreciate stunning views of Cheat Lake on the seventh hole, which drops 180 feet from tee to green.

Locust Hill Golf Course

CHARLES TOWN

Given the 35 acres of lakes, ponds and streams spread around the course—water comes into play on 11 of the 18 holes—you'd better pack some extra golf balls in your bag. You might need them on the par-four 15th hole, where the green is virtually surrounded by water: striking but a bit scary.

In 1884, West Virginian Russell Montague built and developed the first American golf course on his property in White Sulphur Springs. (He even ended up converting his home into a clubhouse.) Today, players hit the links at many locations across the state, including these scenic spots.

Canaan Valley Resort State Park

DAVIS

It's a wide-open course with mountain vistas—like the one from the first tee—seemingly never out of sight. But keep an eye out for 62 bunkers that want you to play in the sand, and eight water hazards waiting for you to make a splash. Beginners and low handicappers alike give rave reviews.



SCAN HERE
to plan your
golf getaway.

Raven Golf Club

SNOWSHOE

Golf great-turned-designer Gary Player made every hole memorable, taking full advantage of Cheat Mountain range in the Alleghenies to create a setting that's wild, rugged and often plunging—the fourth hole descends an astounding 200 feet from tee to fairway, providing a top-of-the-world perspective. The back nine rises even higher.

The Resort at Glade Springs

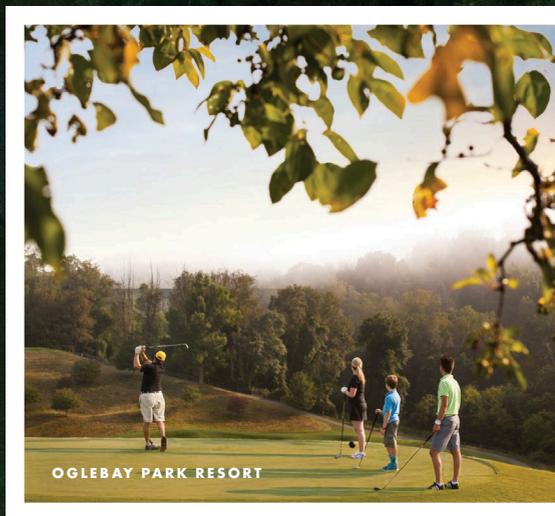
DANIELS

The celebrated Cobb Course has hosted a U.S. Open qualifier, plus state and national tournaments. It throws a lot at golfers: 51 sand bunkers, eight lakes and surprising slopes. But the optics are outstanding, especially on the signature 16th hole, where heavenly blue skies, white clouds and green trees reflect in the calm and glassy water.

Twin Falls Resort State Park

MULLENS

George Cobb (he did the Par 3 Course at Augusta National) and Geoffrey Cornish designed this championship 18-hole track that's short but sometimes forgiving—you can hit a bad shot and still make par or bogey. A mountain stream comes into play on several holes, while distant masses of trees dominate views from tees, especially on the 11th.





APPALACHIAN STRING
BAND MUSIC FESTIVAL



THE PURPLE FIDDLE



mountain music

You can hear live music anywhere,
but only these West Virginia venues
reverberate with history's rhythms and
a rich chorus of cultural connections.

writer **gary thompson**

Music in West Virginia isn't just a hobby. It's a heritage, an emotional expression welling up from deep in the souls of both ordinary folks and those with extraordinary talents. Listen to how artists of different generations—and genres—interpret their musical inheritance on stages across the state.

Every weekend, live Appalachian-based acoustic music fills **The Purple Fiddle**, set in Thomas' historic DePollo General Store building. The place is famous for its family-friendliness (kids and dancing welcome) and for boosting an up-and-coming band called The Avett Brothers 20 years ago. It's also a restaurant and bar with eats and drinks as tasty as the guitar licks. NPR Music airs the radio show **Mountain Stage** nationwide, but you can experience it in person too. For more than 40 years, the series has featured folk, blues, indie rock, pop, jazz and Americana artists. Almost Heaven native Kathy Mattea or a distinguished guest host leads each two-hour episode when West Virginia Public Broadcasting records it before a live audience on select Sunday evenings, usually at the Culture Center Theater in Charleston. Orate Spanish Baroque architecture, a vintage theater organ and a domed ceiling that mimics a nighttime sky (complete with twinkling stars) make the **Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center** in Huntington heavenly for audiences. Built in 1928 to spotlight vaudeville performers, the renovated 2,400-seat theater now welcomes concerts, plays, dance recitals and films. Under its current and old name (V Club), **The Loud** in Huntington has booked national and regional music acts for 20 years. Big names like Tyler Childers and Jason Isbell have played here, as have outlaw country star Creed Fisher and self-described Death Cab for Country performer Stephen Wilson Jr. Expect standing room only shows, killer sound and local brews in the outdoor beer garden (courtesy of Charleston's Bad Shepherd Beer Company).



WITH FEELING, IN WHEELING

Playing its opening bars in 1929, the **Wheeling Symphony Orchestra** performs classical and pop music programs, as well as ensembles and chamber concerts in its Capitol Theatre home and at special events around the state.

MOUNTAIN STATE

MUSIC HISTORY

1700s Celtic and German settlers and enslaved Africans bring their music traditions to Appalachia, paving the way for a new style of folk music.

1800s The Appalachian dulcimer, a three- or four-stringed instrument in the zither family, gains popularity as a parlor instrument.

1933 *The Wheeling Jamboree* debuts. Still airing, it's the nation's second-oldest country music radio broadcast (after the *Grand Ole Opry*).

1938 R&B-soul singer-songwriter Bill Withers is born on a "Lovely Day" in Slab Fork. See a new statue of him in Beckley, where he grew up.

1971 John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" is released. Now West Virginia's official state anthem, it's also sung after WVU home sports victories.

1977 The first Vandalia Gathering takes place in Charleston. The free annual festival continues to celebrate traditional music and other Appalachian folk arts.

1990 The Appalachian String Band Music Festival is held for the first time. The annual five-day bluegrass event in Clifftop attracts visitors from around the world.

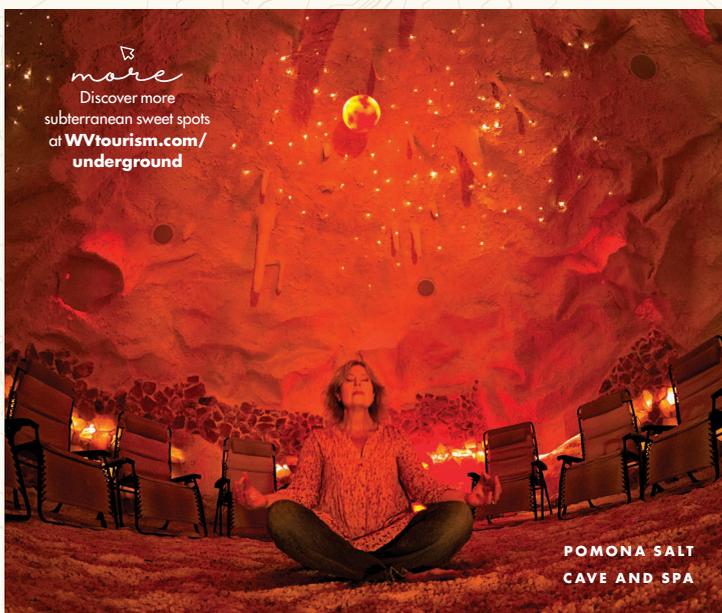
more

Learn more about the
Mountain State's music scene at
WVtourism.com/music

go underground

Stay cool with a journey beneath the surface.

writer **hilary bracksma**



COOL CAVERNS

Smoke Hole Caverns, located about 8 miles west of Petersburg, is named for the clouds of smoke that appeared when Seneca Indians used the caverns to roast wild game. The complex cave system also served as a makeshift moonshine distillery during Prohibition, housing several operating stills at one time. Take a guided tour of the caverns to see an original still, plus the stunning Room of a Million Stalactites—the second-highest cavern ceiling in the eastern United States. **Seneca Caverns** in Riverton, once used as a shelter for the Seneca Indians, opened to the public in 1930. Visitors today can take a guided one-hour tour of the caves, descending 165 feet underground. Pass through a bounty of beautiful stalactite and stalagmite formations on a 45-minute self-guided tour at **Lost World Caverns** in Lewisburg. Adventure seekers can also sign up for the four-hour guided Wild Cave Tour, a muddy trek through undeveloped parts of the cavern. Cave systems stay in the low- to mid-50-degree range, so remember to bring a jacket.

MINE AND YOURS

All aboard for your own Mountain State mantrip. At **Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine**, a guided rail tour provides an up-close view of mining practices throughout history. After the tour, explore the Beckley site's coal-camp re-creation for a look at daily life for coal miners and their families. Bring light layers—the exhibition mine stays at 58 degrees.

WORTH ITS SALT

Caves crafted by humans can be just as fun. The cave at **Pomona Salt Cave and Spa** in White Sulphur Springs is made from more than 18,000 pounds of pure Himalayan salt, which is believed to improve respiration and immunity and to promote peace and relaxation. Sign up for a yoga class in the cave to experience it for yourself.



THE PLACE | BELONG

No worries if your voice cracks on the chorus's climax during a "Country Roads" sing-along. The familiar words that follow—*West Virginia, Mountain Mama, take me home*—resonate beautifully for all.

writer **brian kramer**



When John Denver heard a not-quite-finished traveling tune that songwriters Bill Danoff and Taffy Nivert were working on, he knew he'd found something special. Denver added the bridge and released his recording on *Poems, Prayers and Promises* in 1971.

An aerial photograph of a lush green forest. A dark, winding river flows through the center of the image, curving from the bottom left towards the right. In the bottom left corner, a paved road with a yellow double line is visible. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

“LIFE IS OLD THERE, OLDER
THAN THE TREES. YOUNGER THAN
THE MOUNTAINS, *growin’
like a breeze.*”

— JOHN DENVER, “TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS”

"ALL THINGS ARE *possible*
UNTIL THEY ARE PROVED *impossible*."

— PEARL S. BUCK

Born in Hillsboro,
West Virginia, *The Good Earth*
author Pearl S. Buck was
the first American woman
to win the Nobel Prize for
her body of work.

Foregoing an umbrella as he spoke from the steps of the State Capitol in Charleston, President John F. Kennedy praised the thousands who gathered in a downpour to celebrate the state's centennial on June 20, 1963.

more
Learn more about
the Mountain State at
[WVtourism.com/
arts-culture-history](http://WVtourism.com/arts-culture-history)

"THE SUN DOES NOT ALWAYS
SHINE IN WEST VIRGINIA,
but the people always do."

— JOHN F. KENNEDY



Before the mathematical whiz
featured in the book and movie
Hidden Figures helped
NASA put men on the moon
in 1969, Katherine Johnson
learned the basics in classrooms
in White Sulphur Springs
and later refined her skills at
West Virginia State University.

"I'M ALWAYS
INTERESTED IN
learning
SOMETHING
NEW."

— KATHERINE JOHNSON



MOUNTAINEERS
ARE *always free.*

— WEST VIRGINIA STATE MOTTO

West Virginia's
official motto
(*Montani Semper
Liberi* in Latin) was
adopted by the state
legislature in 1863.



do *not* disturb

In West Virginia, serenity comes in many forms.
Choose off-the-grid authenticity or pampered
comfort to discover your peace of mind.

writer **tree meinch** illustrator **emma isenhardt**

GLAMPING

Your dream of getting away from it all in West Virginia is truly one of a kind. Where you choose to stay can be just as unique... and just as dreamy.

Seneca State Forest near Dunmore beckons guests to drift off to sleep 65 feet above the ground inside its **Thorny Mountain Fire Tower**. This reclaimed lookout structure ranks among the most remarkable and popular overnight stays in the state. Book your tower-dwelling respite up to a year ahead for a 360-degree sunrise view. During a **Mountain Rail West Virginia** Castaway Caboose experience, unplugging for the evening takes the form of an authentic, old-school train car rigged out with heating, plumbing and even a basic kitchen. The secret: The caboose you board in Durbin is still operational. Your trip begins with a ride on the rails, and then your car is “cast away” in your own secluded spot along the Greenbrier River. And yes, they retrieve your caboose at the end of your two- to four-night stay.

The sturdy bones of **Gold Bass Historic Cabin** date back more than 100 years, but a relocation in 1992 and a floor-to-ceiling renovation in 2021 turned it into a dreamy escape near Summersville Lake. Each of the four Scandinavian-style glamping pods at **Four Fillies Lodge** are named after a Robin Hood character. The Monroe County hub merges rustic and modern design into a natural haven with a winding creek near Peterstown. Choose your adventure at **WV Glamping Domes** in Alderson: a dome with twin claw-foot soaking tubs and a stargazing window, the family-size manor with a massive hot tub, or something smaller. Streamside suites place the natural world front and center, less than an hour’s drive from New River Gorge National Park and Preserve.

In Berkeley Springs, even the light fixtures and wooden kitchen shelving emanate mindfulness inside **The Dome**. This meticulously designed Airbnb globe promises houseplants, treetop views through a massive window and a private hot tub to soak in under the stars. Safari-style canvas yurts at **Firefly Ridge** near Berkeley Springs go beyond the basics and include luxe bedding and towels, a gas grill and griddle, cooking utensils, and cookware. The mountain glamping resort is an effortless launching point for hiking, fishing, paddling, mountain biking and other outdoor delights.



field notes

Use these prompts to reflect on your travels or jot down vacation inspiration. Start with a tech-free packing list:





field notes

Imagine a perfect day spent
disconnected from all
of your devices. How would
you spend your time?



**OFF-GRID
CAMPING**

Follow the call of the wild to these lesser-traveled nature nooks.

**Bear Heaven
Campground**

ELKINS

These campsites lure rugged and wild explorers who aren't afraid to get their feet wet. Several primitive sites in Monongahela National Forest facilitate access to a fishing stream and the Otter Creek Wilderness. Trekkers can wander miles of old logging roads, railroad grades and other unmarked trails to their heart's delight.

**Gauley River
National
Recreation Area**

SUMMERSVILLE

Backpackers can enjoy camping near West Virginia's largest lake. Sites are available just below the Summersville Lake Dam for drive-in convenience, and responsible backcountry camping is allowed in many places throughout the federal land. Check with the park before planning your trip to determine availability.

**Hawk Recreation
Area**

CAPON SPRINGS

Perched high up in the Allegheny Mountains, this spot promises peaceful and quiet connection with nature. The no-frills campsites in Wardensville provide the simple pleasures of picnic tables and fire rings, while the trees, birds and other wildlife are the amenities that will reset your nervous system.

**Island
Campground**

BARTOW

Don't let the name deceive you—this campground is surrounded by the undulating green canopy of Monongahela National Forest. But it is also a fisher's paradise. Pack your favorite rod and choose between the Long Run or the East Fork of the Greenbrier River nearby. Or hike all 8 miles of the East Fork Trail.

**Pack In – Pack
Out Camp Site**

CAMP CREEK

Three miles of hiking or biking is the minimum effort to enjoy the magic of off-grid camping in Camp Creek State Park and Forest. Tumbling waterfalls and colorful trout paint this remote landscape. You'll be close to the spot when you see the Almost Heaven Road and Trail.

CAMPING

Seek out Mountain State spots that let you fully unplug from distractions and surround yourself with the soothing wonders of nature.

From the top of Cranny Crow Overlook in **Lost River State Park** in Mathias, you can survey the view of five different counties and camp on your way to the top of Big Ridge Mountain at two primitive sites along White Oak Trail. Or reserve a more accessible spot near the shelter and restrooms in this natural sanctuary. Study up on your constellations before escaping to **Calhoun County Park** in Grantsville for an overnight. A dark-sky stargazing site invites campers to contemplate the cosmos by night. Explore three ponds and a historical village by day. As a bonus, those who wander with curiosity can find multiple geocaches stashed away in nooks.

In Southern West Virginia, Lyburn's **Appalachian Outpost** welcomes guests to 27 cabins nestled among the mountains and overlooking the Guyandotte River. Campers can enjoy two on-site restaurants, a seasonally operated outdoor pool and access to the award-winning Hatfield-McCoy Trails ATV/UTV system nearby. **Holly River State Park**, West Virginia's second biggest, spans a narrow valley in the Mountain Lakes region. Beneath a dense overstory of black cherry trees and chestnut oaks, cast for trout, trot by horseback down the trails and hike with guides through the ecosystem.

Situated around 3,000 feet above sea level, **Kumbrabow State Forest** in Huttonsville marks the state's highest forest. Primitive campsites provide primo access for hiking through rhododendrons and wading into Mill Creek to pursue native brook trout. There's even a rustic cabin (no running water, no electricity) available to rent for a truly private mountain getaway. At **Audra State Park** in Buckhannon, follow the boardwalk to Alum Cave's rocky overhang, one of the most iconic sights in West Virginia state parks. In the valley below, the pristine Middle Fork River churns with some of the clearest water in the state. Reserve a spot in the main campground, just beside the park's lesser-known Rock Cliff Trail, which showcases native plants in a dense cliffside forest.

field notes

What part of your own unplugged West Virginia vacation are you looking forward to the most?







SPAS

Renew your soul with an extra dose of self-care at these water-centric escapes.

The Greenbrier Spa

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

The natural mineral waters feeding this resort spa bear centuries of history. That legacy combines with the latest tech and science in the innovative MedSpa. You can also rebalance via guided meditations, energy sessions and other holistic treatments.

Healing Water Spa

BERKELEY SPRINGS

Indulge in the popular hot-stone massage or pamper yourself with the spa's 80-minute signature facial. The mountain-hemmed destination is tucked within the sprawling Cacapon Resort State Park.

Hillbrook Inn and Spa

CHARLES TOWN

Rejuvenating care here caters to body, mind and emotional well-being, with a dynamic menu of treatments. Consider their

Aromatherapy Massage, which blends a classic Swedish massage and your choice of essential oils.

The Spa at Glade Springs

DANIELS

Savor a body wrap, mani-pedi and other beauty services inside The Resort at Glade Springs. This oasis in the Appalachian Mountains caters to bonding friends, romantic couples or golfers seeking a restorative reset.

West Spa at Oglebay

WHEELING

The signature treatment here uses a chai soy mud mask. Another pampers your skin with Himalayan sea salts. The large spa sanctuary begs you to slip into bliss, surrounded by 2,000 acres of nature and recreational space.

more
Explore more rejuvenating
spa services at
WVtourism.com/spas

ESCAPE
THE
ordinary



CELEBRATE
EVERY
SEASON



MEADOW RIVER

fall winter.

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CHILL OUT

SUPERIOR
SNOW
days



rock stars

Across the state, stony faces give climbers a fresh way to experience West Virginia.

writer **jason frye**

Scaling the sandstone cliffs at **Summersville Lake** has been a climber's rite of passage since West Virginia's largest lake was created in 1966. Fourteen climbing areas packed with more than 350 named routes lure adventurers with routes like Narcissus (A), a tough 55-foot sport climb rated 5.12a; Orange Oswald (A), a 70-foot lakeside 5.10a; and the 60-foot 5.8 warm-up, Jeff's Bunny Hop (I). Beginner climbers can learn the ropes on the 40-foot 5.3 Reticent Slab (B) before graduating to the 75-foot 5.7 Hippie Dreams (I). In colder months, the lake is drained, revealing fresh routes and hidden lake-bottom boulders not usually accessible for climbing.

Standing on the stony fin of **Seneca Rocks**, you'll marvel at the multi-pitch route that brought you here. With the valleys and woodlands of the Monongahela National Forest spread below, it hits you: You just climbed an icon. Seneca Rocks is the only freestanding pinnacle of rock east of Wyoming's Devils Tower. It boasts technical, alpine-like routes and year-round climbing. Beginner-friendly routes (like the 5.2 Old Ladies Route (B) and 5.4 Gunsight to South Peak (B)) deliver new climbers to a notable summit, and the chimneys, overhangs and puzzling cruxes on challenging routes (Mongoose (A), Psycho Killer (A) and Burning Tendons (A), 5.11–12 climbs) give veteran climbers a brag-worthy day on the rock.

At **Coopers Rock State Forest** in Bruceton Mills, the climbing feels endless. There are thousands of documented routes here, and the majority of the climbing is bouldering—low-altitude climbs performed with no ropes along the solid sandstone cliffs—and climbers solve bouldering problems with a successful ascent. But top-rope and lead climbers will also find dozens of routes. Newbies and experienced climbers often start on Spiderwoman Problem (B), a hands-free "climb," before moving on to Moonshine (I), which has you clinging to an overhang roof. Summer Rain (A) is a short, dynamic problem.

Daredevils love the roiling whitewater and towering sandstone cliffs of **New River Gorge National Park and Preserve** in Fayetteville. You can get your adrenaline fix and keep your feet dry climbing at Butcher's Branch. A short hike delivers you to a patch of more than 20 routes that challenge intermediate and advanced sport climbers. Warm up on the 70-foot 5.6 Just Another Glitch (I) before stepping up to the 5.10 challenges of Low Voltage (A) and The Green Piece (A). Once you're limber, big routes like the 90-foot 5.11 All the Right Moves (A) and 60-foot 5.12 Lost Souls (A) offer overhangs, jams and traverses that test your route-reading skills.

DIFFICULTY: (B) **BEGINNER** Grade: 5.0–5.5 (I) **INTERMEDIATE** Grade: 5.6–5.8 (A) **ADVANCED** Grade: 5.9+

more
Find climbing outfitters
and tips for all skill
levels at [WVtourism.com/
rock-climbing](http://WVtourism.com/rock-climbing)

NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL
PARK AND PRESERVE



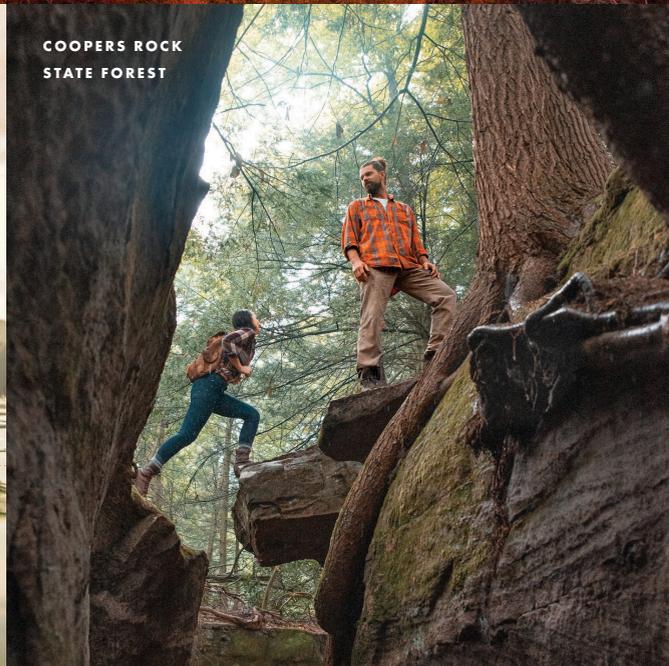
JAGGED PEAKS AND LAKESIDE CLIFFS COMPETE
WITH SANDSTONE WALLS AND TRICKY BOULDERS TO TAKE ROCK
CLIMBERS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS TO THRILLING HEIGHTS.



SENECA ROCKS



SUMMERSVILLE LAKE



COOPERS ROCK
STATE FOREST

West Virginia's Paranormal Trail takes the curious on a spooky statewide journey.

writer **hilary braksma**

local haunts

TRANS-ALLEGHENY
LUNATIC ASYLUM

Encounter ghastrly Appalachian apparitions and famous cryptids at these spine-chilling Paranormal Trail stops.

MONSTER MUSEUMS

Flatwoods Monster Museum

SUTTON

In 1952, Flatwoods locals reported seeing a flying 10-foot-tall humanoid with a red face and glowing yellow eyes. Skeptics say it was an optical illusion created by a meteor and a barn owl. Decide for yourself after looking over memorabilia at the museum.

Mothman Museum

POINT PLEASANT

Arguably the Mountain State's most famous mysterious flying creature, the legend of Mothman began with multiple sightings of a winged, red-eyed monster around Point Pleasant in November 1966. The museum houses artifacts like handwritten eyewitness accounts and newspaper clippings.

West Virginia Bigfoot Museum

SUTTON

Bigfoot stories have captivated the collective imagination since before settlers even set foot in what would become West Virginia. Stop by this museum to see displays of Bigfoot casts and hair, and hear stories of unnerving encounters.



PAR - ANORMAL

Putt your way through a crash course in Appalachian folklore at Cryptid Mountain Miniature Golf in Morgantown, where each of the 13 indoor holes has a West Virginia-specific cryptid theme. The Flatwoods Monster, Mothman and Bigfoot all make appearances.



THE HAUNTED
HAYMOND



GHOST TOURS OF
HARPERS FERRY



WEST VIRGINIA PENITENTIARY



MOTHMAN STATUE

TERRIFYING TOURS

The Old Hospital on College Hill

WILLIAMSON

Williamson Memorial Hospital operated from 1928 to 1988 before being converted to offices and later, storage. Today, tours lead guests through areas of the infirmary with frequently reported ghost sightings, like the “floating nurse” in the X-ray rooms.

Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum

WESTON

A two-hour guided nighttime ghost tour covers four supernatural hot spots in the shuttered facility, which opened for business in 1864 and closed in 1994. This eerie inclusion on the Paranormal Trail is also the largest hand-cut stone masonry building in North America.

West Virginia Penitentiary

MOUNDSVILLE

Prisoners resided here from 1876 to 1995, surviving multiple riots and fires. Visitors can explore the imposing Gothic-style structure as part of their public ghost hunt, which includes a 90-minute guided tour followed by some independent investigation.



ERIE AMBLES

With Ghost Tours of Harpers Ferry, wander 10 blocks of Lower Town in search of otherworldly activity. The tours last around 90 minutes, are family-friendly and allow dogs too. In nearby Shepherdstown, book a Shepherdstown Mystery Walk for a 90-minute guided candlelit lantern stroll through the haunted history of West Virginia’s oldest town.

SPECTRAL STAY

The Haunted Haymond in Sutton is a Queen Anne-style home built by attorney William Haymond in 1894, and today it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It’s also a paranormal hot spot where thrill seekers can take tours or even rent the home overnight.



SCAN HERE
to download your digital Paranormal Trail Passport for the full list of trail locations and your chance to win prizes.

new perspectives

EACH AUTUMN, WEST VIRGINIA'S FORESTED LANDSCAPE COMES ALIVE IN A BLAZE OF COLOR. HERE'S HOW TO EXPERIENCE THE SPLENDOR FROM DIFFERENT VANTAGE POINTS.

writer **hilary bracksma**

FLIGHT FOLIAGE

Get an overhead look at the changing colors of the New River Gorge from the passenger seat of a 1943 Boeing Stearman at Wild Blue Adventure Company in Fayetteville. Flights in the open-cockpit biplane range from 20 minutes to an hour. Reservations are highly recommended.

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

On the third Saturday of every October, thousands of curious spectators gather at the New River Gorge Bridge in Fayetteville to celebrate **Bridge Day**. It's the one day of the year onlookers can watch as hundreds of base jumpers descend 876 feet from the bridge's catwalk into the New River Gorge below.

RAIL RIDES

At Rail Explorers in Clay, hop in a pedal-powered rail bike and settle in for a scenic journey along 12 miles of the former Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad, which operated from 1904 to 1965. You'll ride past the Devil's Sawmill waterfall, steep cliffs and a wrecked train car on the two-hour excursion. Before turning around to head back, there's an intermission at a creekside picnic area—so pack a snack.

TERRIFIC TRAM

West Virginia's iconic aerial tramways first opened in the 1970s—and a recent revamp makes traveling by tram one of the best ways to see the state's fall foliage. At Pipestem Resort State Park in Pipestem, the newly updated tramway takes riders on a 3,410-foot descent into the sepia-tone scenery of the Bluestone Gorge.



LOCOMOTIVE LEAF-PEEPING

Board the train at Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad in Romney to savor Almost Heaven's spectacular autumn moments. A 1952 diesel-powered engine chugs through the Trough, a 6-mile-long wooded gorge formed by the South Branch Potomac River. In fall, the Trough's forest—largely oak, hickory and pawpaw—dazzles visitors with shades of golden and orange.

TREETOP TOURS

Soar through the changing leaves on a zipline excursion.

Pipestem Peaks Zipline

PIPESTEM RESORT STATE PARK

This nine-zipline course takes riders from the edge of Canyon Rim into the beautiful Bluestone Gorge below. The full guided experience lasts around three hours and hits speeds of more than 50 mph.

River Expeditions Canopy Tour

OAK HILL

An exhilarating 90-minute ride through honey-hue treetops awaits at this outdoor recreation outfitter near New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. Navigate four ziplines, climb a cargo net, and cross a thrilling skybridge on The Ridges course.

Grand Vue Adventures

MOUNDSVILLE

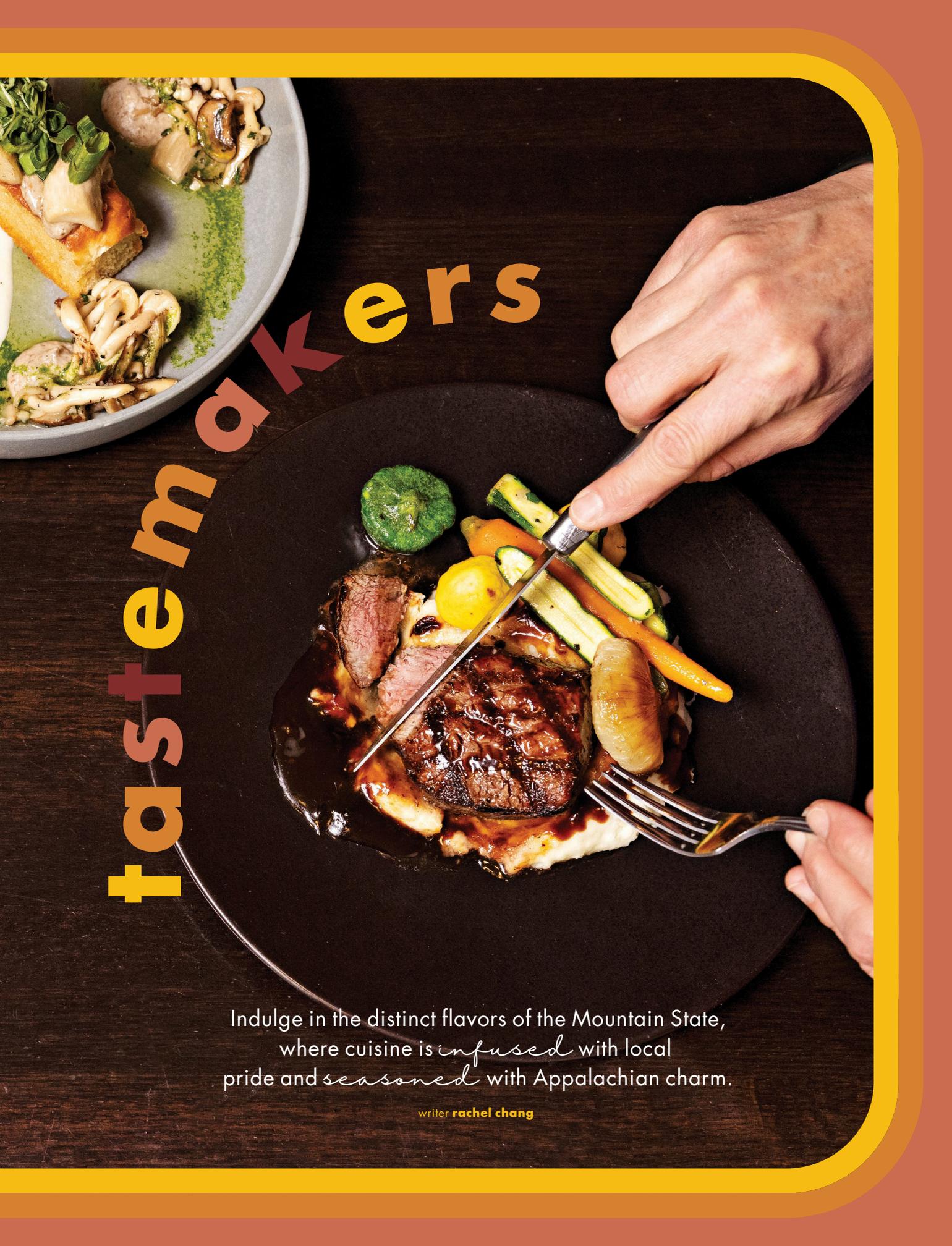
Gaze out over the amber gradient of fall leaves in the Ohio River Valley during a two-hour Wild Zipline Tour at Grand Vue Park. Glide along four ziplines, including a 2,100-foot dual line ideal for racing friends and family.



SCAN HERE
to find more
ways to enjoy
the fall colors.

APPALACHIA KITCHEN

SHARE IN
APPALACHIAN
tradition

A top-down photograph of a person's hands using a knife and fork to cut into a piece of steak on a black plate. The steak is served with a white sauce, a dark sauce, and various vegetables including green beans, carrots, and a yellow squash. In the top left corner, another plate with a fried item and mushrooms is partially visible. The background is a dark wooden table.

taste makers

Indulge in the distinct flavors of the Mountain State,
where cuisine is *infused* with local
pride and *seasoned* with Appalachian charm.

writer **rachel chang**

With memorable dining experiences that include elevated table service at a ski resort, casual eats around a brick oven and fizzy drinks from a retro fountain, a good meal in Almost Heaven is about so much more than just food—it's also about the stories behind each dish and the passion poured into sharing regional favorites.

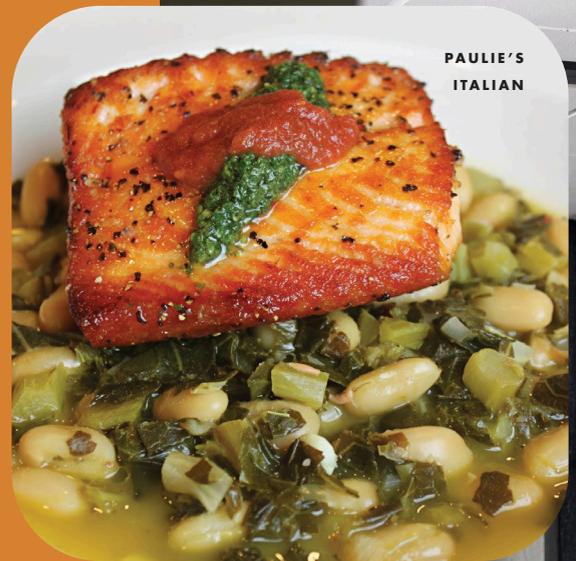
elevated eats

International inspirations and industry recognition have helped Almost Heaven garner a reputation for culinary prowess and profoundly satisfied appetites.

A mainstay of downtown Shepherdstown, **Bistro 112** draws diners of all ages for French-inspired eats both inside the 1830 building that once housed a haberdashery and cigar business, and outside to a backyard-style garden patio. Salads, escargot and beef tartare appetizers lead into steak frites and braised lamb shank entrees, along with a vast selection of vegetarian and gluten-free dishes of tagines and falafel. When Mark Chatfield set out to open Charleston's **Ristorante Abruzzi** in 2019, he wanted to bridge West Virginia with Italy, the places he calls home. Crafted in tandem with Appalachia-raised chef Chase Collier, the menu includes veal Milanese and campanelle pasta with local mushrooms. Not only has it earned raves from diners, Collier also earned a 2025 James Beard Award nomination.

At Snowshoe Mountain Resort's Corduroy Inn, chef Scott MacGregor has transformed the art of ski-resort dining with **Appalachia Kitchen** and has been named a James Beard semifinalist in the process. The scratch kitchen sources its meats—like venison and quail—from local farms. It's best experienced through its six-course tasting menu. A new kid on the block, **Bruno's Spotted Hare** opened last fall in Barboursville, incorporating storytelling with its Appalachian roots. Surrounded by pages pulled from owner Bruno Young's photo albums, its superstar dishes are three interpretations of its namesake rabbit (skewers, roulade and braised), as well as a venison ragu and fried chicken served with chili-infused honey.

One of the state's most buzzed-about dining experiences is the farm-to-table dinners at Wellsburg's **Sarah Miller House**, once a frontier family's home built around 1840 along the Ohio River. While stays are available in the bed-and-breakfast's four rooms run by Barn With Inn, produce-centric pop-up dinners curated by chef Brian Magliochette steal the show on select dates for a maximum of 24 lucky diners per event.





DINE FROM DAY
TO NIGHT

in charleston

Eat your way in a day through the capital city's must-sample spots.

BREAKFAST

Rise and race over to **Charleston Bread** to see what's on the daily chalkboard of rotating baked goods. Locals are loyal to the bakery's flaky croissants, bear claws, and sweet rolls in flavors such as raspberry with lemon icing. Be sure to purchase a tiramisu cookie to nibble on later.

LUNCH

The philosophy at downtown **Coco's** is as simple as it is tasty: Serve fresh and healthy feel-good eats that will power you up. That means scrumptious salads and sandwiches, as well as a selection of filling bowls. Choose from an Asian-inspired Aloha bowl, a Vietnamese noodle bowl and a Middle Eastern-style falafel bowl.

DINNER

Chef Paul Smith, the James Beard Award winner behind popular local spots **1010 Bridge** and **Ellen's Homemade Ice Cream**, has a new restaurant in Charleston: **Paolie's Italian**, which draws inspiration from the Appalachian-Italian flavors of his childhood. Snack on wood-fired oysters and fried olives before moving on to hearty entrees, such as a 20-layer lasagna or a Delmonico ribeye with roasted green beans and tomato confit.

DESSERT

Top off the day with a sweet surrender at **Caffe Romeo**, churning out gelato made with Italian ingredients since 2017. The only hard part: choosing from its list of fascinating flavors.

Go traditional with hazelnut or vanilla bean, fruity with pineapple or kiwi, sophisticated with Napoli truffle or fior di latte, or whimsical with Unicorn—that's vanilla and cotton candy.

casual dining

It's OK to rest your elbows on the table while savoring comforting meals with homestyle recipes and global flavors.

Alma Bea

SHEPHERDSTOWN

Appalachian heritage takes center stage with a rotating small-plates menu dubbed Tapa-lachian dishes, which might feature deviled eggs and cornmeal flatbread. Follow up with the famous RAM Burger with pork belly, pimiento chili and a buttermilk onion ring.

Chams Lebanese Cuisine

PARKERSBURG

Lebanon-born siblings Rizkallah Helou and Chams Ekelman delight in sharing their culture through traditional flavors. Since its 2010 founding, many diners have driven hours for their hummus, kebabs, shawarma and baklava.

Jim's Steak and Spaghetti House

HUNTINGTON

Stepping into Jim's feels like going to grandma's house. With cozy booths and welcoming staff, every aspect honors tradition, including its classic recipes. (The famous spaghetti sauce has been a staple since its 1938 opening.)

Pizzas and Cream

NEBO

When Ed Miller and son Stephen built a backyard wood-fire brick oven, it was meant for family and friends. Word got out about how special their pizza was, so they opened a shop around the oven in 2015, with specials like The Cheesesteak and Meat and Merlot. Save room for artisanal ice cream and gelato.



dinner and drinks

These destinations thoughtfully combine delicious dishes with unforgettable cocktails and wines.

With international dishes influenced by Brazilian, French, Japanese and other cuisines, Davis' **Ish Kitchen** fuses flavors for an unexpected dining experience. All this, and the eatery is tucked into throwback motor lodge The Billy Motel, which describes itself as Hillbilly Fabulous. Mix and match empanadas and curry with naan and papas bravas, alongside a peppercorn margarita or Kentucky mule. At the Tygart Hotel in Elkins, the **Oxley House** cocktail bar and restaurant dials things up with relaxed steakhouse-style fine dining, showcasing local cuisine alongside inventive drinks, such as the Orange Creamsicle Martini and the blueberry cucumber gimlet mocktail. In the Eastern Panhandle, **The Press Room** in Shepherdstown welcomes guests into a former brick-walled newspaper building with soft-shelled crab, scallop and ribeye entrees complemented by a superior selection of global wines. The lavender crème brûlée provides the perfect finale.

sweet endings

Treat yourself at this trio of West Virginia hot spots for sugary goodness.

Dessert is always a good idea—and here in Almost Heaven, every bite is a delight. Women-owned **Bolivar Bread Bakery** in Harpers Ferry touts a rotating selection that's baked daily with options utilizing seasonal ingredients. Known for its sourdough breads, its pastries are just as delectable. Stock up on brown butter chocolate chip cookies, whole-wheat brownies and soft-baked amaretti cookies.

Over in Fairmont, the playful spirit of **Poky Dot** brings back the art of diner desserts with whimsical mermaid- and unicorn-themed milkshakes, plus lemon blueberry and Key lime cheesecakes. And don't miss out on the Humongous Banana Split, an ice cream treat so big it's served with two spoons. Overflowing with retro vibes, the **Bramwell Corner Shop and Soda Fountain** has an original gooseneck soda fountain tower, where diners can dream up flavors (banana daiquiri and chocolate mint, anyone?). There's also ice cream made on-site for multilayered sundaes or one-of-a-kind floats.



SCAN HERE
to learn about
the West Virginia
Culinary Trail.



OXLEY HOUSE

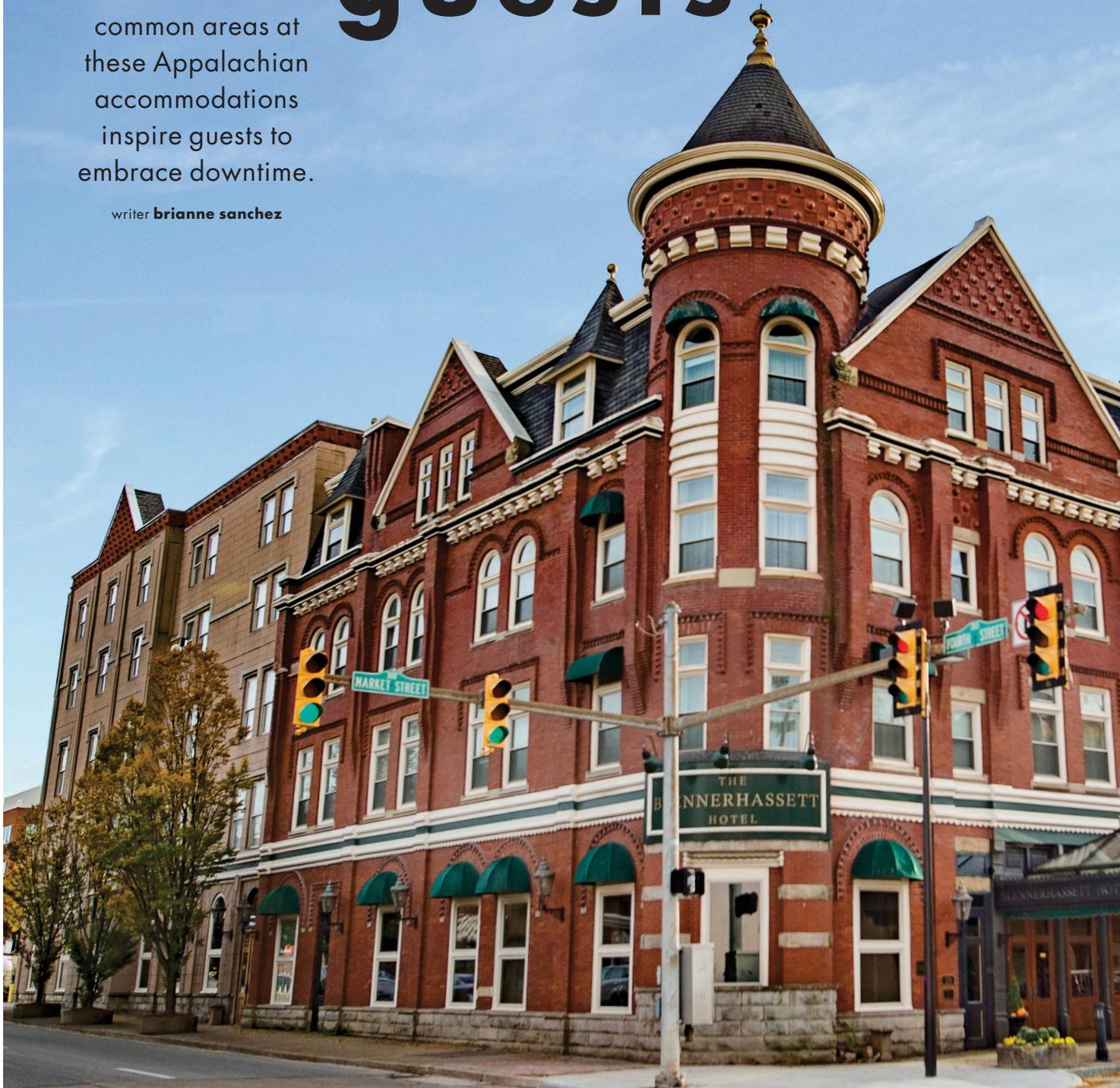


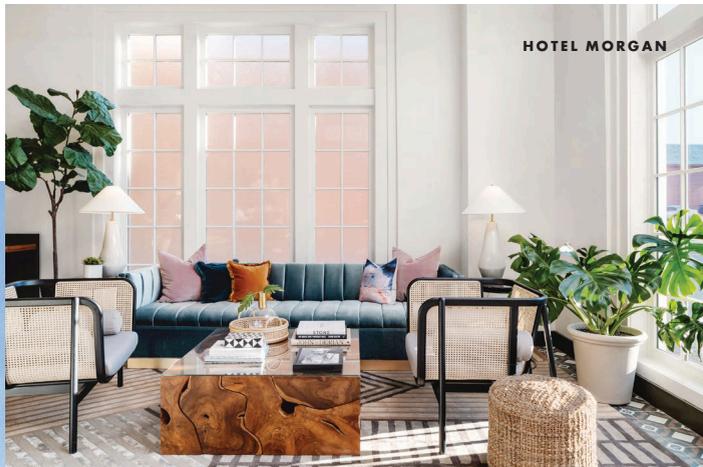
THE PRESS ROOM

distinguished guests

Relaxing amenities
and curated
common areas at
these Appalachian
accommodations
inspire guests to
embrace downtime.

writer **brianne sanchez**





EXQUISITE ESCAPES

Booking a room at **The Blennerhassett Hotel** in Parkersburg gives bibliophiles the license to lounge in the storied landmark's library. Guests may select volumes from the rotating collection to read while basking before the brass fireplace or after retiring to their well-appointed rooms. If historical romance is your genre of choice, reserve the William Morris suite in the Romanesque Revival-style turret. Or add a thrilling chapter to your experience by joining the hotel's paranormal tour.

In White Sulphur Springs, **The Greenbrier** has welcomed guests to its gorgeous grounds since 1778. In 1946, renowned interior design pioneer Dorothy Draper was tasked with decorating the resort, and spun the iconic property into the epitome of Southern charm with opulent fabrics and vibrant wallpapers in eye-catching Modern Baroque style. Today, visitors can choose from traditional guest rooms and expansive resort suites, including the state's largest Presidential Suite—an impressive 5,000-square-foot, seven-bedroom, two-story haven with a library, spiral staircase, private patio and grand piano.

A destination unto itself, **Hotel Morgan** in Morgantown fuses historic grandeur with state-of-the-art amenities. The recently revitalized hotel first opened in 1925, and its elegant gathering spaces still evoke that era of opulence. Sparkling chandeliers, stately hardwood paneling and black-and-white marble floors span Brant Ballroom, a two-story special-event setting. With 80 stylish guest rooms and suites, a fitness center, and an intimate on-site cocktail bar and cafe, this boutique hotel secures its reputation as downtown's most luxurious lodging option.

DISTINCTIVE DWELLINGS

Take up temporary residence at **The Ruffner** in Charleston's East End Historic District. Situated on a corner lot overlooking the Kanawha River, this stately, six-bedroom stone home sleeps 12. Stocking the fully equipped kitchen starts with a walk to Capitol Market, an indoor-outdoor shopping destination featuring fresh meat, produce and beverage purveyors alongside artisanal products. Stroll the leafy neighborhood past the West Virginia Governor's Mansion in the State Capitol Complex, where it's hard to resist museum hopping. Circle back to your lodging where a library, sunroom and other living spaces present the perfect excuse for a lazy afternoon.

Among the most historic homes in Bolivar, the **Light Horse Inn Bed and Breakfast** retains a redbrick Revolutionary-era facade. Beyond its seven private suites, shared spaces at the bed-and-breakfast encourage a sense of community. Piece together a puzzle in the sitting room or invite fellow guests to a friendly game of checkers in the great room. For a livelier scene, head to a sister venue behind the inn: **The Barn of Harpers Ferry** hosts bluegrass, folk, Americana and rollicking R&B acts.

Nostalgic for summer camp? At **Camp Potomac Peak** in Berkeley Springs, you can get all the perks of a sleep-away camp (fun and games, campfire gatherings, cute cabins) with none of the hassle (adult supervision). The modern cabins have trendy interiors, private decks with stunning views, and stocked kitchens and bathrooms—plus a communal space for lounging, a trading post and a library for guests.



SCAN HERE
to see more ways
to overnight
in Almost Heaven.



At Harman's Luxury Log Cabins in Grant County, each of the 21 cabins has its own hot tub—plus other elevated amenities.



FOREST-TOWN FINDS

Davis distinguishes itself as the state's highest altitude hub for skiers, hikers and mountain bikers, and **The Billy Motel** serves as a mid-mod magnet for those seeking a retro spin on hospitality. Guests are given a token in their room that they can exchange for a complimentary drink at the bar. Sip your beverage while perusing the menu of global dishes prepared at Ish Kitchen, the adjoining restaurant. Streamlined rooms offer ample space to secure gear.

In Petersburg, **The Hermitage Inn and Taphouse** draws inspiration from its mountainous Potomac Highlands surroundings. In 2021, a local couple purchased the historic Hermitage, transforming it to contemporary standards while preserving original doors and salvaged wood. Today's road-trippers can find a respite in fresh, bright rooms and extended-stay studios. Consider ordering a floral arrangement or custom cake from the enhancements menu to add a celebratory air to the laid-back atmosphere.

Fine art and vibrant foliage attract visitors to the 56-room **Tygart Hotel** in picturesque Elkins. A gallery-quality lobby exhibits work from area artists. Try for a top floor in the six-story brick property for the best treetop views. Board the *New Tygart Flyer*, a vintage diesel-powered passenger train, at the nearby depot and spend an afternoon cruising past the cascading Shavers Fork of the Cheat River. For a meal that reflects the region's culinary essence, make a dinner reservation at Oxley House, the hotel's on-site restaurant.



THE great indoors

There's a lot to be said for the Mountain State's majestic outdoors—but don't let that stop you from getting the inside story.

writer **angela ufheil**



HUNTINGTON
MUSEUM OF ART



CONVIVIAL COFFEE SHOPS,
SPACIOUS CONSERVATORIES,
GRACIOUS GALLERIES
AND EYE-OPENING MUSEUMS
INVITE GUESTS TO SIP,
LEARN AND CELEBRATE.

cool cafes

Beverages and bites at these cozy spots satisfy visitors year-round.

GAME ON

The rattle of rolling dice blends with the sound of friendly competition at **Across the Board Game Cafe** in White Sulphur Springs, where just \$5 gives you access to 400-plus classics like Uno and Codenames. Fruity mocktails, ice cream nachos and Parcheesi sandwiches keep players fueled.

ARTSY AMBIENCE

Sun filtering through the stained-glass windows in Fayetteville's **Cathedral Cafe** casts colorful slivers of light across the century-old former church. Patrons peruse travel mugs and other merchandise while the staff pours fair-trade coffee and serves up treats like house-made carrot cake.

BOLD BREWS

Elkins is home to the second location of a popular coffee shop in nearby Thomas. **TipTop's** sage green walls and spherical lamps suffuse the space with a soothing warmth, and the cafe's pastries practically beg to be dipped into lattes and nitro coffees.

LOCAL FLAVORS

An exterior the color of the sky before a summer storm beckons visitors into **Snallygaster's Cafe and Wine Bar** in Bolivar, where cooks craft twists on classic Appalachian recipes, like a spicy sausage, greens and bean dish. Stop in at midday for an antipasto board with tangy, locally made goat cheese.

marvelous museums

Artifacts and preserved historical structures reveal West Virginia's past.

Belle Boyd House

MARTINSBURG

The famed Civil War spy spent part of her childhood in this 1853 mansion, roaming rooms that now host exhibits on Black history, the military and more.

Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences

CHARLESTON

Explore three floors of interactivity at the Avampato Discovery Museum or stroll through a rotating art exhibit at the Juliet Art Museum.

Fiesta Tableware Company

NEWELL

Fiesta's famous colorful glazed ceramics were first introduced in 1936. Book a one-hour tour of the factory and company museum.

Henderson Hall

WILLIAMSTOWN

The floorboards of this preserved estate creak as visitors tour the Italianate mansion filled with period furnishings and historic exhibits.

Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum

WHEELING

What started as a family collection now fills a Victorian-era schoolhouse. Don't miss the miniatures room or the molds used to make the original Rubik's Cube.

Patterson House

SUMMERSVILLE

Caught between Union and Confederate armies during an 1861 battle, this restored home details the conflict at Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park.

West Virginia State Museum

CHARLESTON

Set on the West Virginia State Capitol Complex, this immersive history museum uses interactive elements to take visitors on a chronological journey through time.



amazing art galleries

Admire Appalachian craftwork—and in some cases, learn to make your own—at these artistic havens.

Beckley Art Center

BECKLEY

Depending on the time of year you pop in, you might find watercolors, quilts or other works crafted largely by area artists. Let the fruits of their creative labors inspire you during workshops in sewing, charcoal drawing and more.

Blenko Glass Company

MILTON

Heat emanates from glowing orbs on Blenko's factory floor as artisans torch sand and shape the molten mass into delicate glassware. Watch them at work, then pick up an ombre vase the color of flames or some aquamarine dishware in the gift shop. In early May, try glassblowing and mosaic-making with Blenko artisans as instructors at the Festival of Glass.

Huntington Museum of Art

HUNTINGTON

Citrus scents linger in the museum's tropical plant conservatory, while creatures residing there (like an axolotl named Glowstick) highlight nature's artistic prowess. Many of the 16,000 objects in the museum's art collection—paintings, prints and pottery adorned with florals—revel in that wild beauty.



FIESTA TABLEWARE COMPANY

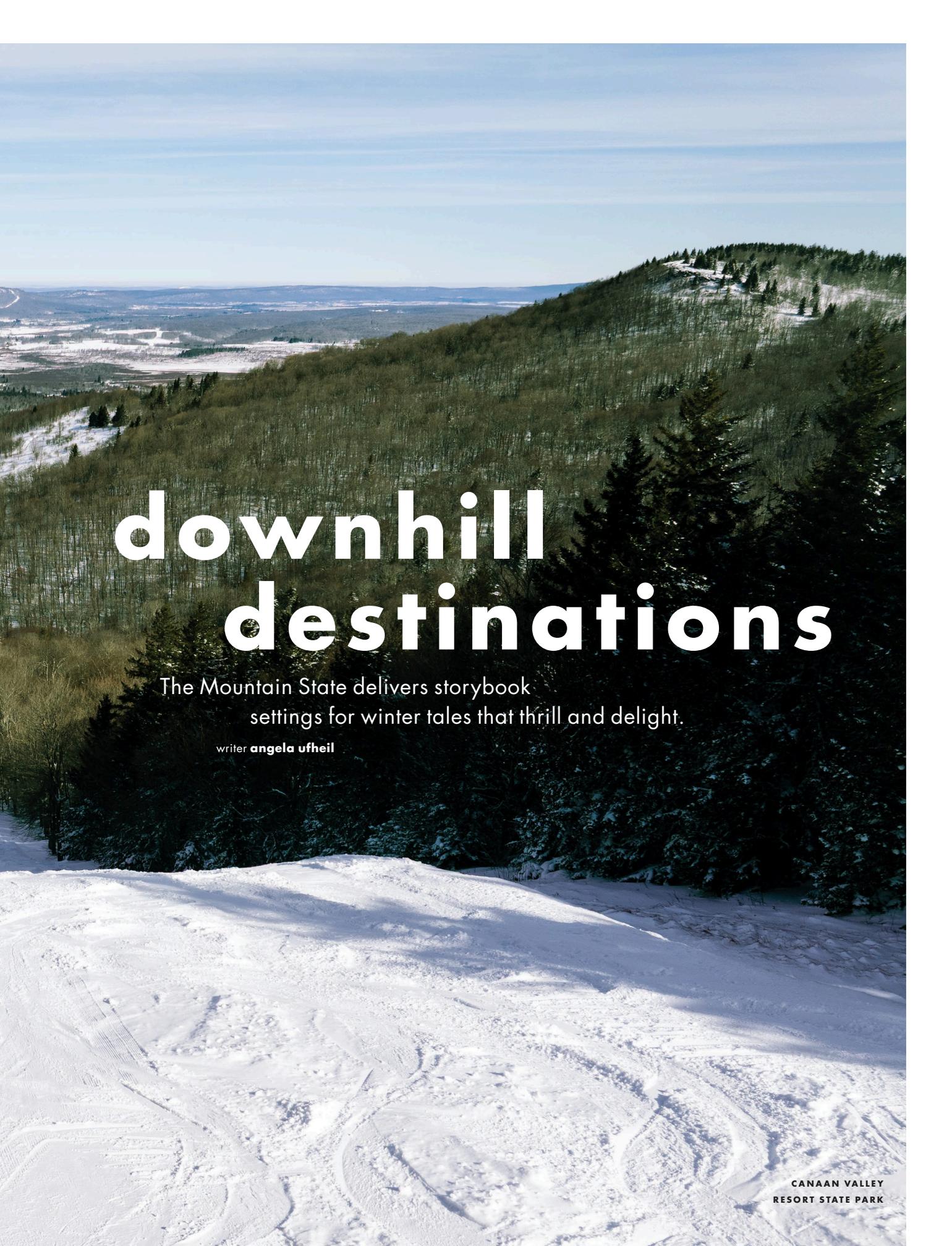
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museums](http://WVtourism.com/museums)

A GALLERY TOUR OF THOMAS

Regional artists show off their wares at an array of galleries in Thomas. Buxton and Landstreet displays paintings and handblown glass, while 50-plus makers churn out prints, stickers and more at Bloom. At Santangelo, find a selection of colorful ceramics and handmade housewares curated by local artists.







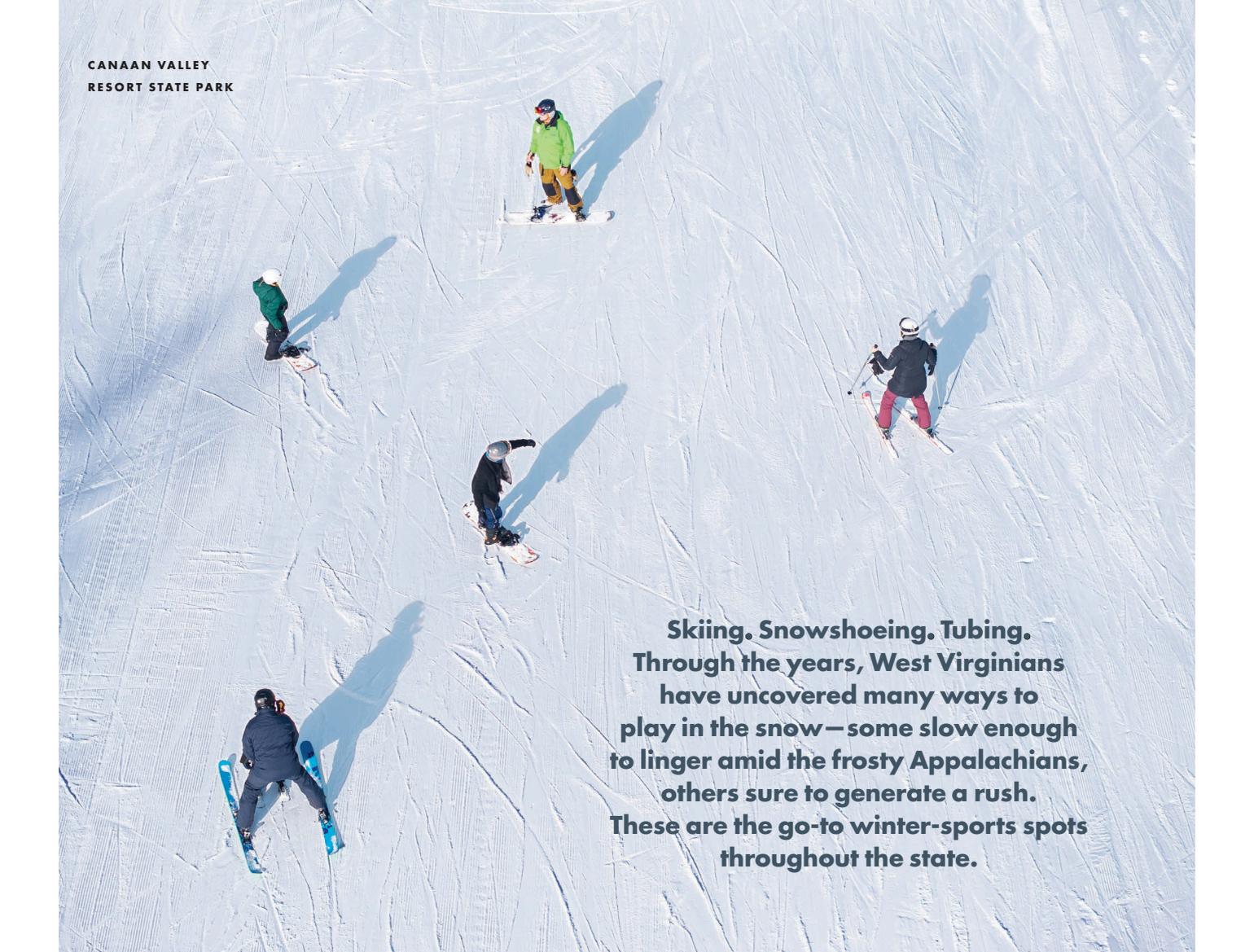
downhill destinations

The Mountain State delivers storybook
settings for winter tales that thrill and delight.

writer **angela ufheil**

CANAAN VALLEY
RESORT STATE PARK

CANAAN VALLEY
RESORT STATE PARK



Skiing. Snowshoeing. Tubing.
Through the years, West Virginians
have uncovered many ways to
play in the snow—some slow enough
to linger amid the frosty Appalachians,
others sure to generate a rush.
These are the go-to winter-sports spots
throughout the state.

OGLEBAY PARK
RESORT

Canaan Valley Resort State Park

DAVIS



Each winter, snow buries the smooth fairway of the state park's golf course, creating a crystalline runway for cross-country skiers and snowshoers. Adrenaline junkies let anticipation build as one of three chairlifts carries them as high as 4,280 feet into the Allegheny Mountains before schussing down steep Western slopes with a vertical drop up to 850 feet. Don't fret about choosing between the various activities, which also include Sno-Go bikes, tubing options and adaptive ski excursions using sit-skis and stand-up outriggers. Cabins, cottages and rooms at the lodge mean multiple days await.

Snow Oasis at Heritage Farm

HUNTINGTON

Overnighting in one of the log cabins at Heritage Farm earns you more than an evening snuggled by your private fireplace. It also comes with a free pass to a re-created 19th-century Appalachian Village, a petting zoo, ziplines and an array of other adventures. As of 2026, visits also include access to a winter park with tubing, ice-skating, snowboarding, skiing, slides and an indoor four-season snow park. High-tech snowmaking equipment churns out the chilly powder even when outdoor temperatures hit 70 degrees, meaning snowball fights can break out long after blizzards cease.

Oglebay Park Resort

WHEELING

Originally just two runs on a hill near a golf course, the Nutting Winter Sports Complex received a triple chairlift and snowmaking equipment in the early aughts thanks to a fundraising effort. Today, newbies practice wide turns at the ski area, spraying snow when they nail a dramatic skid-stop. After hours on the slopes, book a massage at The West Spa, where masseuses use warm pink Himalayan salt stones and heated bamboo sticks to coax knotted muscles into relaxation. Choose from multiple dining options at the resort, where you can indulge in fresh veggies grown in Oglebay's on-site Grow Lab.

Snowshoe Mountain Resort

SNOWSHOE

Three ski areas within Snowshoe's boundaries follow your learning curve as a skier or snowboarder. Start at Snowshoe Basin, home of numerous easier runs and a speedy lift that helps you fit in as many laps as your legs can handle. As your confidence builds, venture to the Silver Creek area to test your agility and control during night skiing. Ready to show off? Conquering black and double-black diamond runs on the West Side, plus glade runs, will cement your master status. Snowmobile rides at sunset give your legs a break and your eyes a show.



Eight lanes of snow-tubing track become something of a canvas when Snowshoe Mountain Resort switches on its neon-hued spotlights in the evening. Blues, greens, oranges and pinks swirl across the six-story-tall hill, a dance interrupted only by bundled-up kids on inflatable tubes squealing as they whoosh to the bottom during the nightly Galactic Tubing at Coca Cola Tube Park in Snowshoe.

Timberline Mountain

DAVIS

Timberline Mountain's two hardest runs, The Drop and Off The Wall, begin directly next to the beginner-friendly Salamander, a run winding lazily down the outer edge of the resort. Pay close attention at the top of the ski area's six-person chairlift to ensure you choose the right one. No matter how you reach the bottom, stop at the Slippery Slope Bar and Grill on the third floor of the main lodge. There, rich hot chocolate made even more decadent with an infusion of Bailey's Irish Cream and spiced rum helps athletes thaw enough to dance to live music on most Fridays and Saturdays.

White Grass Touring Center

DAVIS

Ignore the burn building in your legs as you ascend Bald Knob, one of the highest points at this center dedicated to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Catch your breath at the top while gazing out over the Allegheny Mountains, snow-dusted peaks and valleys that seem to undulate across the landscape. The wind tickles your nose as you whoosh down Powderline Trail to White Grass Cafe for a helping of vegetarian chili and a chai-spiced cookie, both made on-site. Experienced cross-country skiers at the specialty shop hook visitors up with all the rentable gear they need and offer brief lessons for novices.

Winterplace Ski Resort

GHEAT

Time seems to slow when you hit a jump at one of Winterplace's two terrain parks, leaving you momentarily suspended in the air until the muffled thwack of your board reconnects with the snow, jarring you from your X-Games fantasy. More magical experiences await at the snow-tubing park: Sailing down a hill on inflated tube rings transports adults back to childhood. Avoid daydreaming so much that you miss the Yeti scavenger hunt, though. Outlines of the mysterious winter beast lurk around the resort, practically begging you to compete with your friends to spot the most.





WINTERPLACE
SKI RESORT



WHITE GRASS
TOURING CENTER

COOL MEMORABILIA

Dedicated to playing—and competing—in the state’s winter wonderland, the **Snow Sports Museum of West Virginia** in Davis displays historical photos of local resorts and other classic snow-sports destinations. Vintage skis lean against the wall alongside mannequins sporting outerwear straight out of yesteryear.

kindred spirits



Mountain heritage is the foundation of West Virginia's craft distillery renaissance.

writer **john godfrey**

THE BULLOCK DISTILLERY

Distilleries across the Mountain State are thriving as epicenters of heritage, craftsmanship and authentic Appalachian know-how. At the **Hatfield and McCoy Moonshine** distillery in Gilbert, Drink of the Devil moonshine casts a long shadow. Visitors stepping onto this original Hatfield land enter a world where legend comes alive with the 90-proof white corn whiskey crafted from Devil Anse's more than 150-year-old recipe. Owner Chad Bishop, whose wife, Amber, is Devil Anse's great-great-great-granddaughter, shares tales of midnight runs that shaped American folklore.

In Charleston, the **Hatfield Family Distillery** showcases another branch of the storied family's legacy. Mark Hatfield, Devil Anse's great-great-grandson, sells bourbon, wine and moonshine crafted with Hatfield recipes that were once squirreled away in the family bible, which they still own. Charleston is also home to **The Bullock Distillery**, which hangs its hat on the unfiltered limestone water it uses to create potent potables. Bullock's Karst Water Select Straight Bourbon Whiskey won Double Gold honors at the 2023 San Francisco World Spirits Competition, and an artisanal attention to detail

also fuels its moonshine, gin, rye and vodka. In addition to tours, this distillery hosts periodic cocktail-making classes.

At Weston's **MannCave Distilling**, winding country roads lead to a business built on innovation. Award-winning creations include Ambrosia, a 110-proof spirit distilled from maple sap. Though hard to characterize, MannCave says it "showcases a light maple flavor with notes of a breakfast waffle." This groundbreaking creation is produced through a special partnership with syrup producer Spruce Knob Maple.

At **Appalachian Distillery** in Ripley, former coal miner Dwayne Freeman crafts 12 moonshine flavors. After sampling the 90-proof Appalachian Straight, you'll be tempted to try Taylor's Sour Watermelon or Paw Paw, which features the local fruit and offers hints of sweet mango, pear and banana. Stop by **Smooth Ambler Spirits** in Maxwelton for

a complimentary tasting or pay for a guided tour that also includes a tasting cup keepsake. Mingled whiskeys like Contradiction Bourbon emphasize smoothness and diversity of location, while the Founders' Series hails entirely from the Mountain State.

more
Learn more about
local spirits at
[WVtourism.com/
distilleries](http://WVtourism.com/distilleries)

Isaiah Morgan Distillery in

Summersville preserves tradition at one of the smallest licensed stills in the nation, offering bourbon, whiskey, brandy and moonshine. Meanwhile, at **Devil's Due Distillery** in Kearneysville, the Eastern Panhandle's rich agricultural bounty transforms into small-batch spirits reflecting the region's unique terroir, inviting visitors to witness every step, from grain selection to final bottling.



MOONSHINING HISTORY



West Virginia's moonshine legacy flows through generations like the clear mountain water that feeds its stills.

1750s Scottish and Irish immigrants bring their distillation know-how to Appalachia and begin creating high-proof, unaged whiskey.

1785 An ocean away in England, the term *moonshine* makes its way into the English language and joins the American lexicon not long after.

1794 Illicit moonshine operations spark the Whiskey Rebellion, an uprising against liquor taxes in Pennsylvania and parts of present-day West Virginia.

1914 Prohibition takes effect in West Virginia—the rest of the nation joins in 1920, causing a surge in moonshining.

1933 Federal Prohibition laws end, though some Appalachian localities remain dry.

1934 Local Prohibition laws end, reducing the demand for illegal moonshining practices.

TODAY Many distilleries in the state now produce legal whiskey using traditional recipes for moonshine.



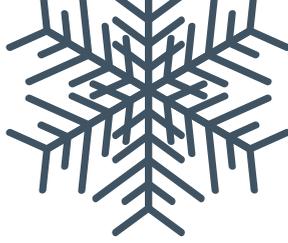
chill out

With so many ways to play, a snow day in the Mountain State always provides reasons to celebrate. Bundle up for these seasonal outdoor activities.

writer **hilary braaksma**

ICE-SKATING

Enjoy the scenic spoils of winter at **Canaan Valley Resort State Park's** covered outdoor ice rink near Davis. Glide hand in hand with a loved one around the rink or perfect your figure eights while you take in panoramas of the powder-covered Canaan Valley and Allegheny Mountains. Skating sessions are two hours long, and skate rentals are available. When you're finished on the ice, warm up beside the crackling outdoor fireplace.



SLEIGH RIDES

Experience the magic of dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh for yourself at **Autumn Breeze Stables** in Snowshoe. Each winter season, Friesian horses pull fully restored vintage sleighs (the most modern model in the fleet is from 1879) across the glistening white landscape. The 45-minute ride is a nostalgic winter journey to remember, complete with antique sled blankets, jingling bells and dazzling views of the snow-covered red spruce forests.



more
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winter

SLEDDING & SNOW TUBING

Cool fact: Almost Heaven is home to both the longest sled run and the longest tubing slope on the East Coast. Whiz through fresh mountain snow on the quarter-mile downhill descent at **Blackwater Falls State Park** in Davis, then fly down the frosty slopes on an inflatable tube at **Snow Riders Tubing Hill** in Harpers Ferry. Or, try nighttime tubing lit by colorful LED lights.

OFF-ROADING

Bundle up for an afternoon spent kicking up snow on an ATV. The **Hatfield-McCoy Trail System** in Southern West Virginia welcomes riders year-round—and powdery winter pathways are a great way to experience the ride. Snow can cover trail hazards, like potholes, so take it slow and enjoy the scenery. If you're renting a UTV, check with local outfitters ahead of time to make sure they're open during the off-season.

SNOWMOBILING

When the ski lifts at **Snowshoe Mountain Resort** stop for the day, snowmobiling starts. Beginning at 5 p.m., one-hour guided tours (they provide the snowmobiles) take guests across Cheat Mountain on invigorating nighttime rides. Regular evening excursions are flexible enough to be kid- and beginner-friendly, and adrenaline-pumping options are available for more advanced snowmobilers. The resort also offers backcountry snowmobiling for experienced riders, depending on natural snowfall.

GO FOR



GOLDENSEAL

a reader

For more than 50 years, *Goldenseal*, the magazine of West Virginia traditional life, has combined oral history fieldwork and documentary photography to share the personal recollections of West Virginians. *Goldenseal* takes its name from a medicinal herb that flowers in West Virginia in April and May, and was chosen because it represents the state's beneficial nature. The following excerpts have been adapted from stories originally published in *Goldenseal*.

Taking the Bait

Appalachian ingenuity and a passion for fishing flow through Dave Villers' profile of bait-makers Bill and Sharon Crane in Goldenseal Winter 2019.

In a remote hollow of Ritchie County near Pullman, Bill and Sharon Crane are enjoying retirement. That's not to say they're idle. They raise a garden, care for their small vineyard and orchard, keep the yards mowed, and maintain the barns and buildings. Bill still hunts and fishes, and they enjoy visits from family and friends. And with the time that remains, they manufacture thousands of muskie baits each year.

Bill's interest in muskie fishing began in the early 1960s. "Muskie fishin' back then was a lot harder than it is today, because there weren't many fish," Bill recalls. "Most people kept them if they caught one. It was a big deal sometimes just to raise a fish. It took about two years of fishing before I caught my first muskie."

Around 1967, the Rebel Company came out with a 5½-inch lure. Bill started tinkering to improve it. "The Rebel lure was hollow and made of plastic," Bill relates. "I started cutting them in half and would fill the halves with scrap Delrin (a high-strength plastic) I got from DuPont and then

install eye screws and make a jointed lure. I would take them to J.C. Dicks in Parkersburg, who would paint them for me for 50 cents apiece. I caught a 45-incher from the Elk River with a modified Rebel, the longest-recorded muskie caught in the state that year.

"I also started tinkering with balsa wood lures," he continues. "Bagley down in Florida made balsa bass lures at that time, so I started replicating the bass lures, except I made them bigger for muskie."

Bill kept experimenting, and in 1976, J.C. Dicks asked Bill if he'd like to buy the business. Bill and Sharon discussed it with Mr. Dicks, borrowed some money, and made the purchase. Bill and Sharon got their business license, and Crane Custom Baits was born. J.C. Dicks had made many different lures for bass and muskie, but Bill decided to focus solely on four muskie lures.

Bill made and Sharon painted the lures, producing more than 5,000 lures annually and more than 7,000 in some years. They work with a distributor exclusively for Wisconsin

and Illinois but will sell directly to any bait shop or individual living outside of those two states. They've had orders from Germany and one from the Netherlands.

In 2004, Muskies, Inc., asked Bill to make 300 commemorative #207 lures painted a special purple color. In 2016, Bill and Sharon made 40 of the same model lure painted blue to commemorate their 40 years of lure making. Each was signed and dated by Bill. They posted photos on their Facebook page and sold out within a few days.

Bill and Sharon haven't stayed in the lure-making business for 40 years just by making pretty baits. Performance is what fishers demand, and their lures have caught some whoppers. Bob LaMay of Wisconsin caught a world-record 6-pound-line class in 1983 using a Crane #206. The fish was 54½ inches long and weighed 50 pounds. Howard Wagner of Fombell, Pennsylvania, landed a 54½-inch, 52-pound muskie on a #206 in 2002. It's this kind of success that drives the demand for Crane baits.



The Spice of Life

The West Virginia Food Heritage Project, sponsored by the Collaborative for the 21st Century Appalachia, and funded, in part, through a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council, led Stan Bumgardner to follow one family's flavorful story in Goldenseal Spring 2015.

For 77 years, a small mom-and-pop general store thrived in Powellton Hollow, located in the heart of western Fayette County's coalfields. Started by a Sicilian immigrant in 1932, Angelo's Market was eventually operated by three generations of the Argento family.

Angelo's Market offered a little bit of everything—including hardware and clothing—but specialized in fresh food products. Angelo quickly saw that one product was more popular than others: Italian sausage made from an old family recipe brought over from Italy. As the sausage became more popular, Angelo had to produce it on a massive scale, receiving the pork by train from meat-processing plants in Charleston. Angelo—and later his son Sonny and other family members—would have to repeat the time-consuming process about every two months.

The homemade Italian sausage was a hit with customers year-round but particularly so around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Angelo's Famous Italian Sausage would be a mainstay of the market throughout its 77 years in business.

Sarah, Angelo's wife and Sonny's mother, had grown up making and eating homemade sausage too. Sarah's dad, Giovanni, raised his own hogs. In the fall, when it came time to butcher the hogs, Giovanni would hand out carving knives to each of his six daughters and two sons. They would chop up the pork

very finely; add salt, sage and other spices; stuff it in casings made from the intestines; coil it up; and place it in a round crock. Next, they would take lard, which had been rendered from the hog, and pour it in on top to seal it. As a result, the sausage didn't need to be refrigerated. Anytime they needed some sausage throughout the year, they would just dig into the crock and pull out what they needed.

The store's closing in 2009 was the end of an era in western Fayette County and for the Argentos. "That store raised three kids for my dad and raised five kids for me and educated them all," Sonny says. Beyond that, the store represented what truly was the American Dream for an immigrant boy who had come to this country at age 6 with nothing but the clothes on his back.

Although the market was closed, the Argentos weren't ready to let go of everything associated with it. Within months, family members and friends started calling. They missed the market and, in particular, that homemade sausage. So Sonny; sons John and Lou; and a mix of uncles, cousins, and friends got together in Mount Carbon—located near the mouth of Powellton Hollow—to make a fresh batch of sausage. Then, right before Thanksgiving the next year, more people called. As a result, the Argentos started an annual holiday tradition of making Angelo's Famous Italian Sausage. Last year, they produced and packaged about

1,000 pounds, which is more than Angelo's Market ever generated at any one time.

They still prepare it based on the old family recipe that Carmela Lopez brought with her from Italy more than 100 years ago. And they make it pretty much like Angelo and Sarah Argento did, except with a few modern conveniences, like an electric casing stuffer. The family recipe has always been part formula—ground pork and Old-World spices—and part instinct. Lou tells how his brother Michael once asked grandmother Sarah how much salt to add. She replied, "Giusta, giusta," meaning "just enough."

Southern West Virginia has changed dramatically since Angelo Argento started his market in 1932. Once the mines began shutting down on a vast scale in the 1950s, coal company towns disappeared nearly overnight—almost as quickly as they had been built in the first place. Places like Angelo's Market once dotted the landscape, but most have vanished along with the communities they served. Unlike today's mega stores, these general stores were much more than shopping centers. Each was the center of its community, a gathering place for friends to talk about the news and sports, swap recipes and gardening tips, and gossip in general about anything and everything. The general store was the glue that bound the community together and helped give it an identity.



FAMILY BUSINESS

Angelo (*right*) and
Angelo "Sonny"
Argento in Fayette
County in the
late 1960s.





**FAIR AND
SQUARE**

Square dancing
at Dunmore
Community Center
in Pocahontas
County.

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Step In Time

Attending a community square dance opened a world of history, connection and self-expression for Becky Hill. She shared her experience in Goldenseal Fall 2015.

On a warm August evening about four years ago, the Dunmore Community Center in Pocahontas County was packed for the annual Dunmore Daze, a summer celebration that felt like a family gathering. When we arrived, the square dance was about to kick off. Older couples nestled up to one another, sipping soda from straws. Children ran in and out of dancers, dodging the swinging couples. Their giggles echoed through the hall. Everyone had half an eye on me, wondering what I was all about. I probably stood out because I didn't have a dance partner, was excited to dance, and was 21 years old. I grew up practicing different types of percussive dance, including flatfooting, and had attended several Augusta Heritage Center workshops at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins. I've always been attracted to social dances with live music, so I felt at ease when I walked into the hall.

Gerry Milnes, who was the Folk Arts Coordinator for Augusta Heritage Center at the time, invited me to Dunmore. Within five minutes, he'd left me on my own and vanished into the string band to be the honorary fiddler of Juanita Fireball

and the Continental Drifters. I sat down and started talking to Miss Dorothy, who told me about the old style of mountain square dancing. I found out it usually takes until the end of the night to get everyone up and dancing, after enough sips from Mason jars in the parking lot.

Many of the older folks were overwhelmed with nostalgia and eager to tell their stories. I listened as they said many variations of, "Oh, dances are different now." I heard how dances used to be held in houses, on outdoor platforms on farms and in beer joints. These stories took me back to a time completely different from today.

Ellen and Eugene Ratcliffe from Monterey, Virginia, were the callers that evening, and a rotating cast of eight couples filled the dance floor. Everyone who got up to dance knew what to do when the Ratcliffes shouted out, "Ladies, do-si-do; gents, you oughta know."

By the end of the evening, I felt like I was part of the community and was grateful to have been welcomed so quickly at the Dunmore square dance. I honestly couldn't think of anywhere else where that kind of interaction was possible.

Some people spend a lifetime searching for a sense of community, and I started wondering if square dances could help fill that void. This community square dance had a unique feel. I wanted to celebrate it and introduce others to this rich tradition.

Ellen Ratcliffe believes square dancing "is part of our tradition. It needs to be passed on to the rest of the world. It's just a little bit of all of our heritage, and it's in our blood. It *should* be in our blood."

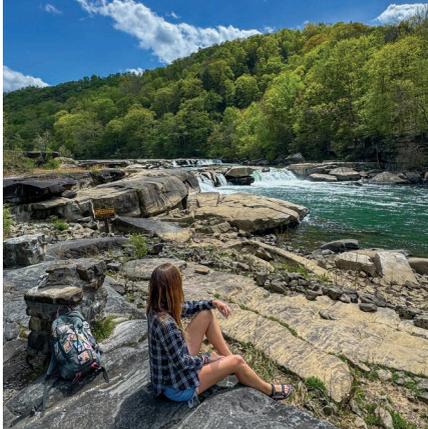
Tradition acts in the present. Things have changed from the way they used to be and will continue to do so. But square dancing isn't going anywhere. The best way to keep the tradition thriving is to attend. Bring your family and your friends. You can find a square dance somewhere in West Virginia almost every weekend, accompanied by local musicians. All dances are beginner- and family-friendly. Participants don't have to come with a dance partner, and listeners are welcome. Caller Mack Samples is always ready to teach a beginner. He says, "Those old dances are simple. You can learn them in no time. Everybody knows them. That's what you do."



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THE LAST WORD

A NATURAL WONDER, NO MATTER THE SEASON



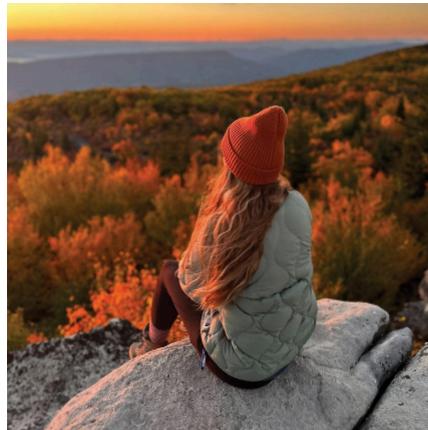
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