

## MEET AMERICA'S 63RD NATIONAL PARK— THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

Home to more than 70,000 acres of public lands, the New River Gorge has been a hallowed spot for locals for centuries. The recent designation as the nation's newest national park invites travelers, like you, to visit, explore and discover your own slice of heaven.

Easily accessible by Route 19 and I-64, the New River Gorge is one of West Virginia's most photographed areas. The iconic steel arch bridge was once the longest in the world and welcomes travelers to this cherished region. Widely known as the second oldest river in the world, the New River cuts through extensive geological formations that make way for diverse flora and fauna. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons call this park home, and you'll often spot a few along your travels. Hiking trails here will lead you to spectacular overlooks and through remnants of historic coal mining towns. With acres of preserved land, the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve also makes an excellent destination for seasonal hunting adventures.

### NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE HIGHLIGHTS



#### CANYON RIM

When first immersing yourself in the magic of the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve, begin at the Canyon Rim Visitor Center. This scenic wonder is a must-see stop for any first-timer, offering both important park information and sweeping breathtaking views of the New River Gorge Bridge.



#### SANDSTONE FALLS

Stop for a quick visit to enjoy the stunning views and inspiring landscapes surrounding the largest waterfall on the New River: Sandstone Falls. Serving as a starting point for the iconic rushing waters that make the New River a rafter's paradise, Sandstone Falls is a true beauty, spanning a total of 1500 feet wide.



#### GRANDVIEW

Yet another fan-favorite overlook, Grandview provides the perfect balance of the peaceful trail adventures and awe-inspiring views that set the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve apart. Enjoy an added layer of beauty at this stop by visiting in spring, as the official state flower, the Rhododendron, begins to bloom.



#### BLUESTONE

Find a peaceful retreat along the banks of a 10.5-mile section of the rushing Bluestone River as it carves its way through a rugged mountain-cape. Take some time to experience this area, rich with a diverse collection of flora and fauna. Soak up the quiet landscape of this riverside escape to find your own slice of Almost Heaven.

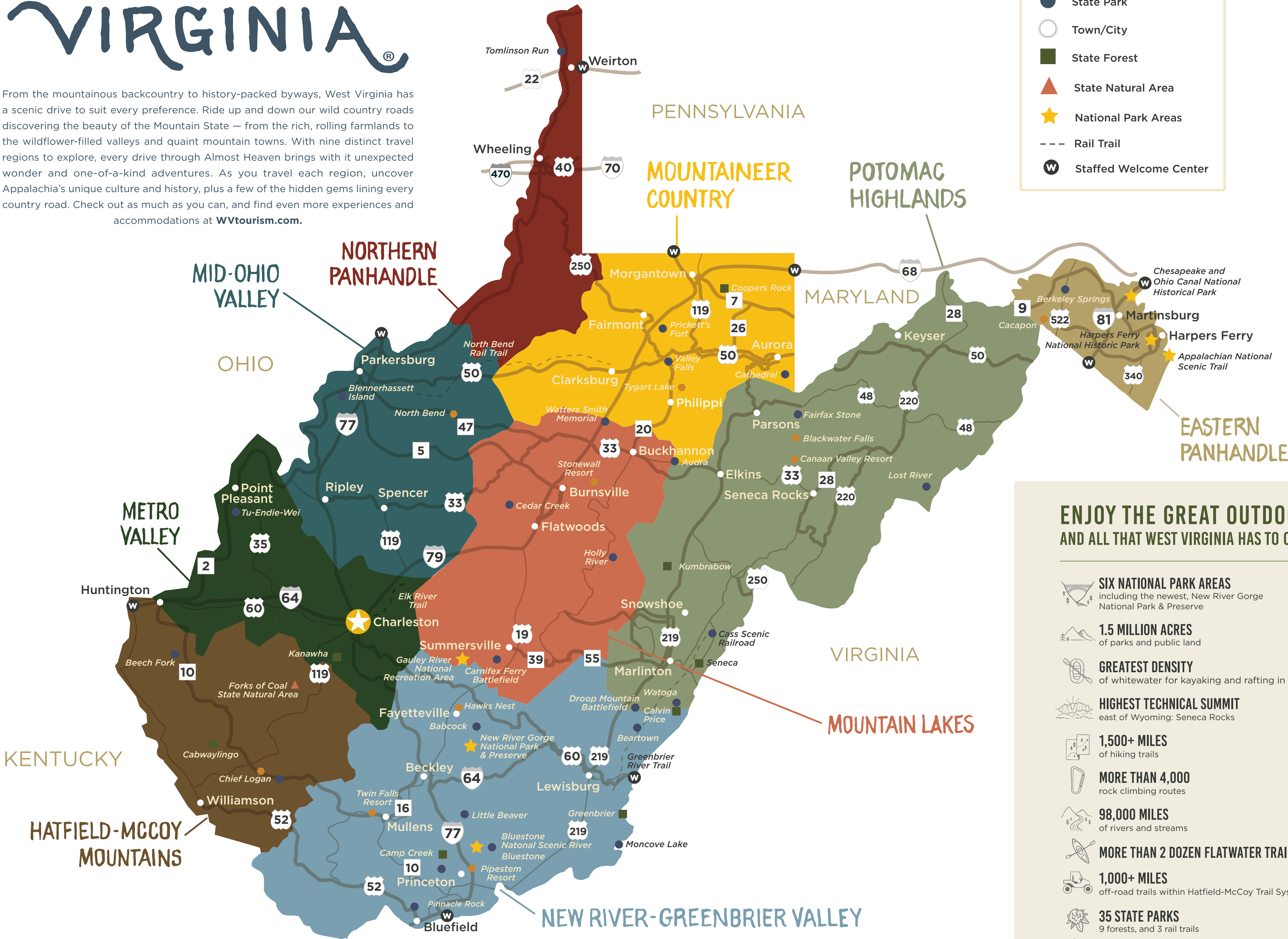


#### FAYETTE STATION

Along the winding turns of the historic mountain route to Fayette Station, a special bridge view is sure to stop you in your tracks. Though this beautiful destination might have you counting down the miles, don't forget to take in the beauty of the journey as you head downhill towards the iconic bridge photo-op.

# WELCOME TO WEST VIRGINIA

From the mountainous backcountry to history-packed byways, West Virginia has a scenic drive to suit every preference. Ride up and down our wild country roads discovering the beauty of the Mountain State — from the rich, rolling farmlands to the wildflower-filled valleys and quaint mountain towns. With nine distinct travel regions to explore, every drive through Almost Heaven brings with it unexpected wonder and one-of-a-kind adventures. As you travel each region, uncover Appalachia's unique culture and history, plus a few of the hidden gems lining every country road. Check out as much as you can, and find even more experiences and accommodations at [WVtourism.com](http://WVtourism.com).



## ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS AND ALL THAT WEST VIRGINIA HAS TO OFFER

- SIX NATIONAL PARK AREAS**  
Including the newest, New River Gorge National Park & Preserve
- 1.5 MILLION ACRES**  
of parks and public land
- GREATEST DENSITY**  
of whitewater for kayaking and rafting in the U.S.
- HIGHEST TECHNICAL SUMMIT**  
east of Wyoming: Seneca Rocks
- 1,500+ MILES**  
of hiking trails
- MORE THAN 4,000**  
rock climbing routes
- 98,000 MILES**  
of rivers and streams
- MORE THAN 2 DOZEN FLATWATER TRAILS**
- 1,000+ MILES**  
off-road trails within Hatfield-McCoy Trail System
- 35 STATE PARKS**  
9 forests, and 3 rail trails
- 130+ GOLF COURSES**
- 5 WINTER SKI RESORTS**  
with state-of-the-art snowmaking equipment
- THE EAST COAST'S BEST**  
freshwater scuba diving

## WELCOME

As governor and first lady of the great State of West Virginia, we would like to personally welcome you to our home—Almost Heaven, West Virginia.

We've told folks for years that West Virginia is the best kept secret along the East Coast. And now, we're finally telling our story. We hope you'll find the closest country road, and come along for the ride.

We're a state that has four beautiful seasons, unmatched outdoor recreation, and to be quite honest, the friendliest folks you'll ever meet. While traveling through our rolling hills, you'll get to experience true West Virginia hospitality, local flavors and cuisine favorites, boutique shopping that features handcrafted works from local artisans, and history that has been passed down for generations.

John Denver surely got it right when he first coined the term "Almost Heaven" for our beautiful state. We invite you to make yourself at home, explore, and find your version of heaven right here in West Virginia.

For help planning your trip, pick up a free West Virginia vacation guide at one of our many welcome centers or visit [WVtourism.com](http://WVtourism.com) to view and download online.

Wishing you safe travels to your destination. We hope you enjoy your time in West Virginia and come again soon!

Sincerely,

*Jim Justice* *Cathy Justice*

Jim Justice Governor Cathy Justice First Lady

## WEST VIRGINIA SCENIC DRIVES

West Virginia is home to unparalleled views with miles of winding country roads. Known as the Mountain State, we have plenty of mountain routes for sightseeing enthusiasts to explore. With landmarks and plenty of scenic views for adventurers, Almost Heaven is the perfect place to get off the beaten path and dive into a world of outdoor splendor. Here are just a few of our favorite scenic drives for you to travel.



#### CRANBERRY CORRIDOR

Cruise down the Highland Scenic Highway in Summersville and explore the wetlands of the Cranberry Glades Botanical Area.



#### SENECA SKYWAY

Start your journey in Lewisburg and explore the outdoor splendor of the New River-Greenbrier Valley.



#### CAPITOL CIRCLE

Visit the Capitol City of Charleston before making your way down to the coalfields of southern West Virginia.



#### Birdseye Bend

Kick off your drive in Morgantown as you pass through Mountaineer Country.

Visit [WVtourism.com/MountainRides](http://WVtourism.com/MountainRides) to learn more about these four featured routes and other scenic drives through the Mountain State.



HOME OF THE 63RD NATIONAL PARK:  
NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL  
PARK AND PRESERVE

almost heaven

### NORTHERN PANHANDLE



WHEELING - RIVERFRONT

### MID-OHIO VALLEY



DOWNTOWN PARKERSBURG

### METRO VALLEY



STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX

### HATFIELD-MCCOY MOUNTAINS



HATFIELD-MCCOY REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY

### NEW RIVER-GREENBRIER VALLEY



NEW RIVER

### MOUNTAIN LAKES



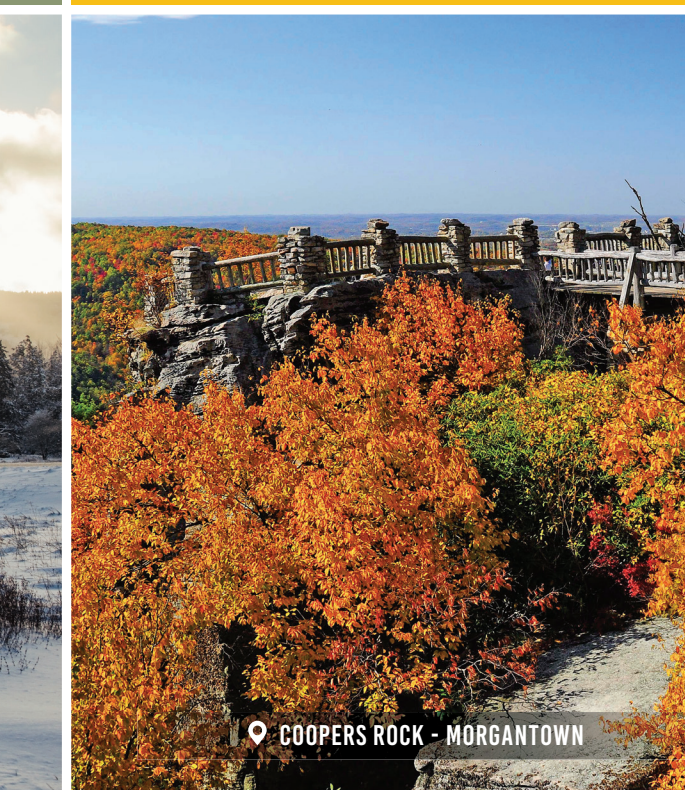
SUMMERSVILLE LAKE

### POTOMAC HIGHLANDS



CANAAN VALLEY

### MOUNTAINEER COUNTRY



COOPERS ROCK - MORGANTOWN

### EASTERN PANHANDLE



CACAPON RESORT STATE PARK