

# West Virginia

An aerial photograph of a small town in West Virginia, nestled in a valley. The town features a mix of brick and white buildings, a prominent church with a steeple, and a schoolhouse. A river flows through the town, with two bridges crossing it: a steel truss bridge on the left and a concrete bridge on the right. The surrounding hills are covered in dense green forest, and the sky is a mix of blue and orange from the setting sun.

**MOUNTAIN  
CULTURE**

*almost heaven*

**SPECIAL TRAVEL SERIES**

MEET

# mountain culture

It's hard to sum up just what makes  
West Virginia so **special**.

The time-honored Appalachian heritage?

Or a thriving and thoroughly modern arts scene?

Or the experimental flavors perfected  
right here in the region?

Maybe it's all those things ... and more.

The truth is, you'll experience true mountain culture  
anywhere you go in Almost Heaven.

On the byways and down the Main Streets of mountain  
towns, its spirit travels through the hands of  
our artisans and family farmers and musicians to you.

Add a wholly authentic itinerary to your  
travels. Come on over and meet West Virginia.

*Part of a special series of travel guides from*



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VISIT [WVTOURISM.COM/GUIDE](http://WVTOURISM.COM/GUIDE)

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where to catch a show  
in Almost Heaven.

WELCOME TO

# almost heaven

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE GREAT STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA. YOUR ADVENTURE TO ALMOST HEAVEN STARTS HERE.**

The Mountain State is home to uncrowded mountain towns, natural wonders, world-class outdoor adventures and America's newest national park. To make sure we covered all of the must-see stops and hidden gems across the state, we created a collection of four unique travel guides that together tell



West Virginia's story. It's my hope that you not only use these guides as you plan your trip to West Virginia this year, but keep them on hand for future visits to the Mountain State.

We can't wait to welcome you to the beautiful mountains of West Virginia soon!

Sincerely,

**Jim Justice**  
Governor

## WEST VIRGINIA

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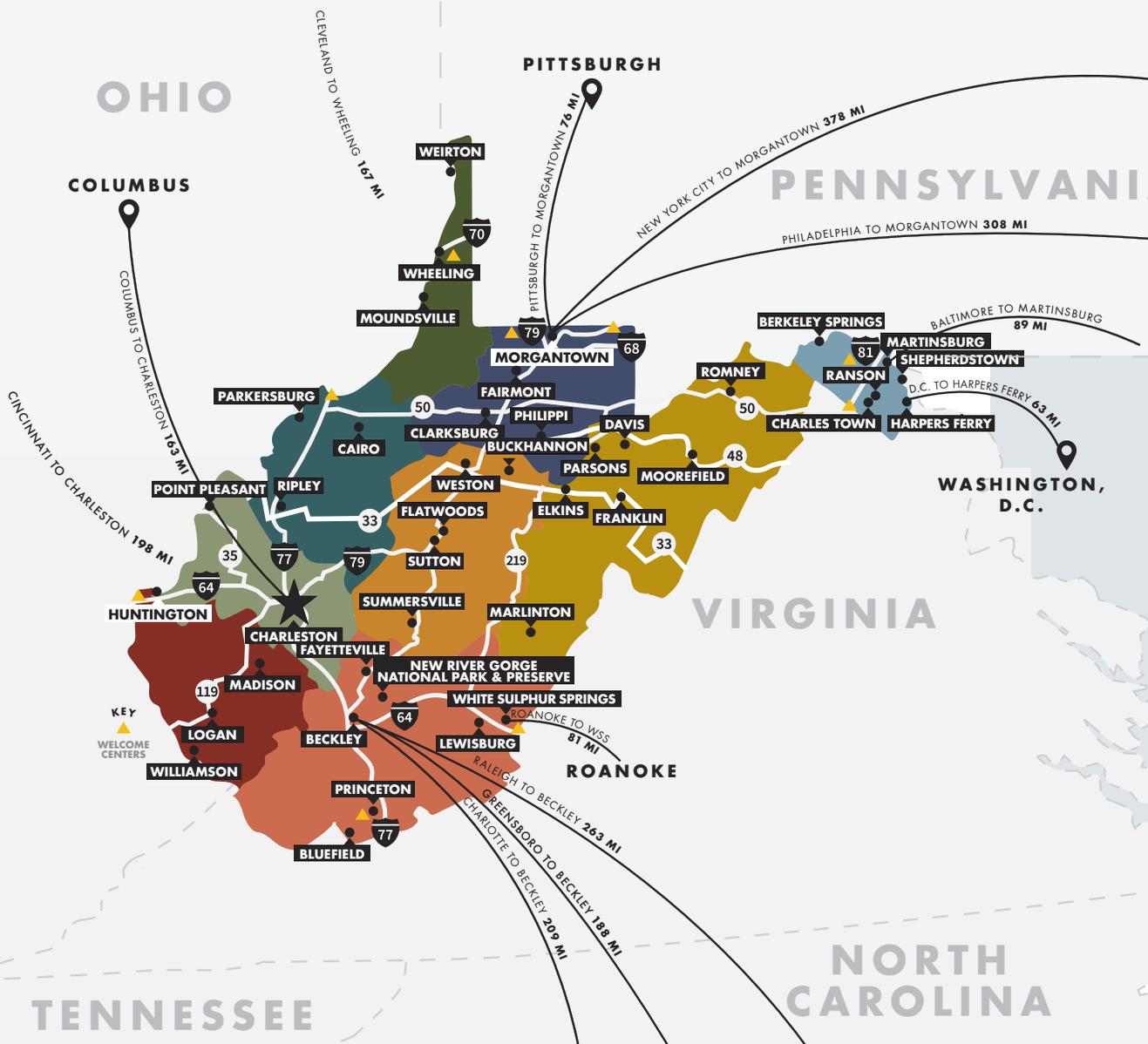
### on the cover

**HARPERS FERRY**  
At the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, this historic town hosts a stretch of the Appalachian Trail.

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Ryan Smith

/WVtourism /WVtourism /WVtourism /WVtourism

# AlmostHeaven



## Ride the Rails

*Amtrak Capitol Limited:* Daily to Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg.

*Amtrak Cardinal:* Weekly to White Sulphur Springs, Alderson, Hinton, Prince, Thurmond, Montgomery, Charleston and Huntington.

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

## Roads to Almost Heaven

The state is easily accessible by six 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:

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

## Health and Safety

Call 1-800-887-4304, or visit [coronavirus.wv.gov](https://coronavirus.wv.gov) or [wvtourism.com/travel-responsibly](https://wvtourism.com/travel-responsibly) for information.

## Travel Advice

For the most current travel information, go to [transportation.wv.gov](https://transportation.wv.gov) or visit a Welcome Center, where you can pick up brochures and paper maps.

MOUNTAIN

# living



Here in Almost Heaven, life flows at the right pace, leaving space to create, dream and explore.



**BERKELEY SPRINGS  
STATE PARK**

**MOUNTAIN  
CULTURE**   
*almost heaven*  
**WEST VIRGINIA**



# History in Action

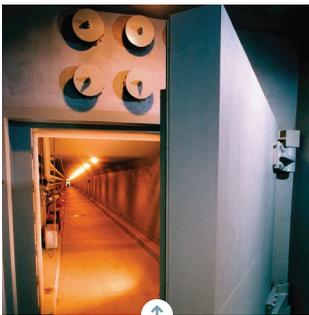
**TIME TRAVEL THROUGH THESE PORTALS TO WEST VIRGINIA'S PAST.**

## Visit West Virginia's birthplace—

Independence Hall in Wheeling. Originally a federal custom house, the 1859 structure hosted key events in the state's creation.

## Fly back into history on a vintage World War II Stearman biplane

at Wild Blue Adventure Company in Fayetteville. Aerobatics optional.



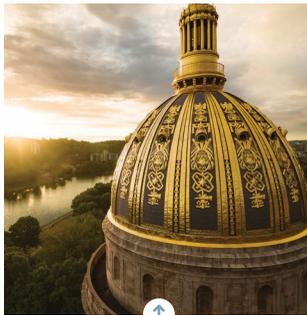
## Descend into the depths of the Cold War era

at The Greenbrier Bunker in White Sulphur Springs, once a top-secret fallout shelter for Congress.



## Rekindle the romance of train travel—including fine dining

on Romney's Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad.



## Look up at the highest state capitol dome in the United States

on a walking tour of the West Virginia State Capitol grounds in Charleston.

## See bullet holes in the building where miners battled coal company agents.

It's now across the street from the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum in Matewan. Then glide down the Tug Fork River via Hatfield and McCoy Airboat Tours.

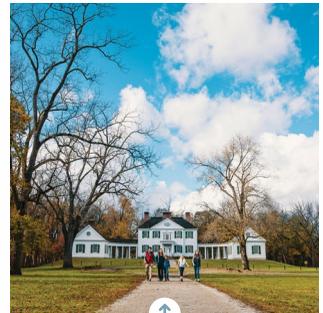
## Experience early pioneer life in Appalachia

by touring a re-created frontier village at Heritage Farm Museum and Village in Huntington.



## Drive the Coal Heritage Trail through 13 counties

in southern West Virginia to appreciate the importance of mining in state history.



## Weigh evidence of Aaron Burr's (alleged) treason

in the rooms where it happened—the mansion at Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park in Parkersburg.

Discover more places to explore the past at [WVTOURISM.COM/HISTORY](http://WVTOURISM.COM/HISTORY)

# Steps with a View

PREFER YOUR SCENIC STROLL WITH A SIDE OF CULTURE? SOAK UP SOME ALMOST HEAVEN ARCHITECTURE, HISTORY AND MORE WHILE WANDERING THROUGH THESE FIVE WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS.

## JULIA-ANN SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT



### ABOVE

Every December, the Victorian Homes Christmas Tour and Tea takes over Julia-Ann Square, showcasing houses decked for the season.

### Julia-Ann Square Historic District

Ornate gables and intricate ironwork are among the architectural details you'll spot strolling the state's largest and oldest residential historic district, in Parkersburg.

### Fairmont

Try your hand at 18th-century living while walking around Prickett's Fort State Park, or tag along for the town's annual celebration of its Italian-American heritage during Feast of the Seven Fishes.

### Harpers Ferry

While touring this historic hillside town overlooking the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, amble through streets where abolitionist John Brown launched his ill-fated raid. Recap the day over lunch and stock up on sweets at True Treats Historic Candy.

### Shepherdstown

You don't have to be a Shepherd University Ram to revel in this buzzy college town's homegrown charm. But hop between the locally owned bakeries, bookstores, gift shops and gourmet grocers that line German Street, Shepherdstown's bustling thoroughfare, and you might just want to enroll.

### Bramwell

Coal has powered the Mountain State's economy for generations, and it helped build the spectacular coal barons' mansions that line this Mercer County town's Millionaire Row. See the sprawling estates on a walking tour along the leafy, brick street.



# Light Up the Night

**AFTER THE SUN SETS BEHIND THOSE LEGENDARY MOUNTAINS, START ANOTHER ADVENTURE WITH LIVE EVENTS, REGIONAL SIPS AND GAMING RESORTS.**

## TAKE IN A SHOW

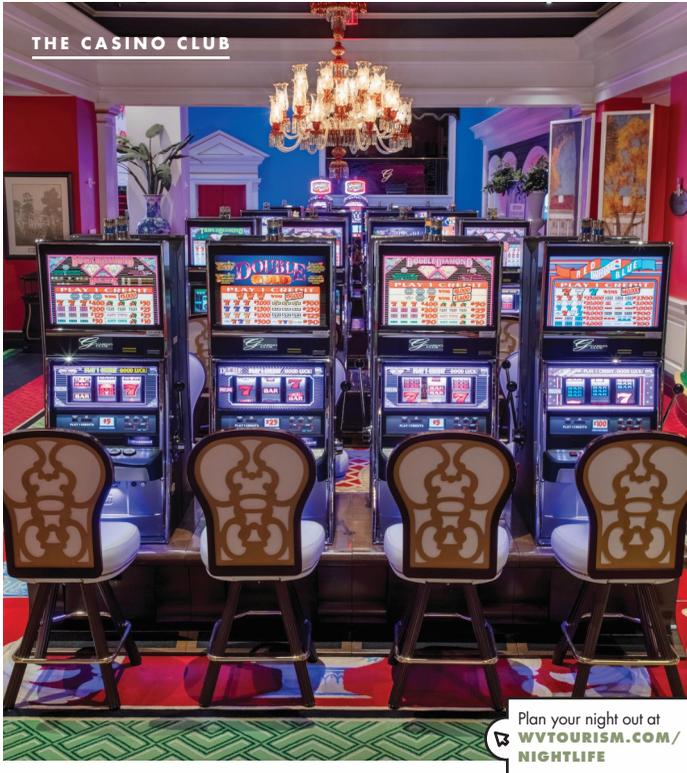
Enjoy an outdoor drama from **Theatre West Virginia** at Grandview's Cliffside Amphitheatre in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. Look up at **Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center** in Huntington—you don't want to miss the night skyscape adorning its ceiling. **Apollo Civic Theatre** has brought entertainment to Martinsburg for more than a century.

## DRINK LOCAL

**Morgantown Brewing Company**, the oldest operating brewery in the state, releases new flavors every few weeks. If you see **Parkersburg Brewing Company's** Cell Block 304 on draft, avail yourself of an award-winning pour. If wine is more your style, **Daniel Vineyards** boasts 15 varieties of cold-weather cultivars, which results in pours like the bestselling Sweet R&B Wine. For something stronger, Gilbert's **Hatfield and McCoy Moonshine** uses the same method and recipe once used by Devil Anse Hatfield himself, while **Smooth Ambler Spirits** in Maxwelton blends old and new.

## ROLL THE DICE

A spin through **The Casino Club** at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, the state's only private casino, conjures up the sophistication of an older time, and gaming is only part of the draw. At **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**, thoroughbred horse races offer an adrenaline-filled precursor to a night with Lady Luck at 74 table games. Live music and fine dining round out the roll of dice at **Mardi Gras Casino and Resort** in Cross Lanes. Make it a weekend at **Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack and Resort** in New Cumberland and book a suite to enjoy more than 1,000 slot machines. Extend your Northern Panhandle getaway into the evening at **Wheeling Island Hotel-Casino-Racetrack**.



Plan your night out at [WVTOURISM.COM/NIGHTLIFE](http://WVTOURISM.COM/NIGHTLIFE)

# Alfresco Eats

**BEFORE YOU DIG INTO THESE MEMORABLE MEALS, FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE WONDROUS VIEW FROM YOUR TABLE.**



## The Forks Inn

### ELKINS

Executive chef Eric Stalnaker crafts every seasonal dish from scratch for elevated cuisine complemented by mountain views. Choose from a curated list of options or go for the six-course tasting menu culminating in desserts such as Apple Pecan Cake, with vanilla ginger Chantilly.



### WEST VIRGINIA FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL,

*Eleanor*

Bring a big appetite to the Eleanor Park and Fairgrounds in spring, when the region's food trucks offer a variety of flavors from around the globe.

## The Wonder Bar Steakhouse

### CLARKSBURG

While the sprawling patio and firepit weren't around when this fine-dining destination opened in 1946, some things have thankfully stayed the same: tender ribeyes, a deep list of fine wines, and the views of Harrison County's hills and valleys.

## Blue Moon Cafe

### SHEPHERDSTOWN

A backyard garden shaded by towering trees and oversize umbrellas lends enchanted forest vibes to this deli-style establishment. Traditional Reubens and French dips join more unique crab cake sandwiches and Cajun-seasoned burgers.

## Poncho and Lefty's

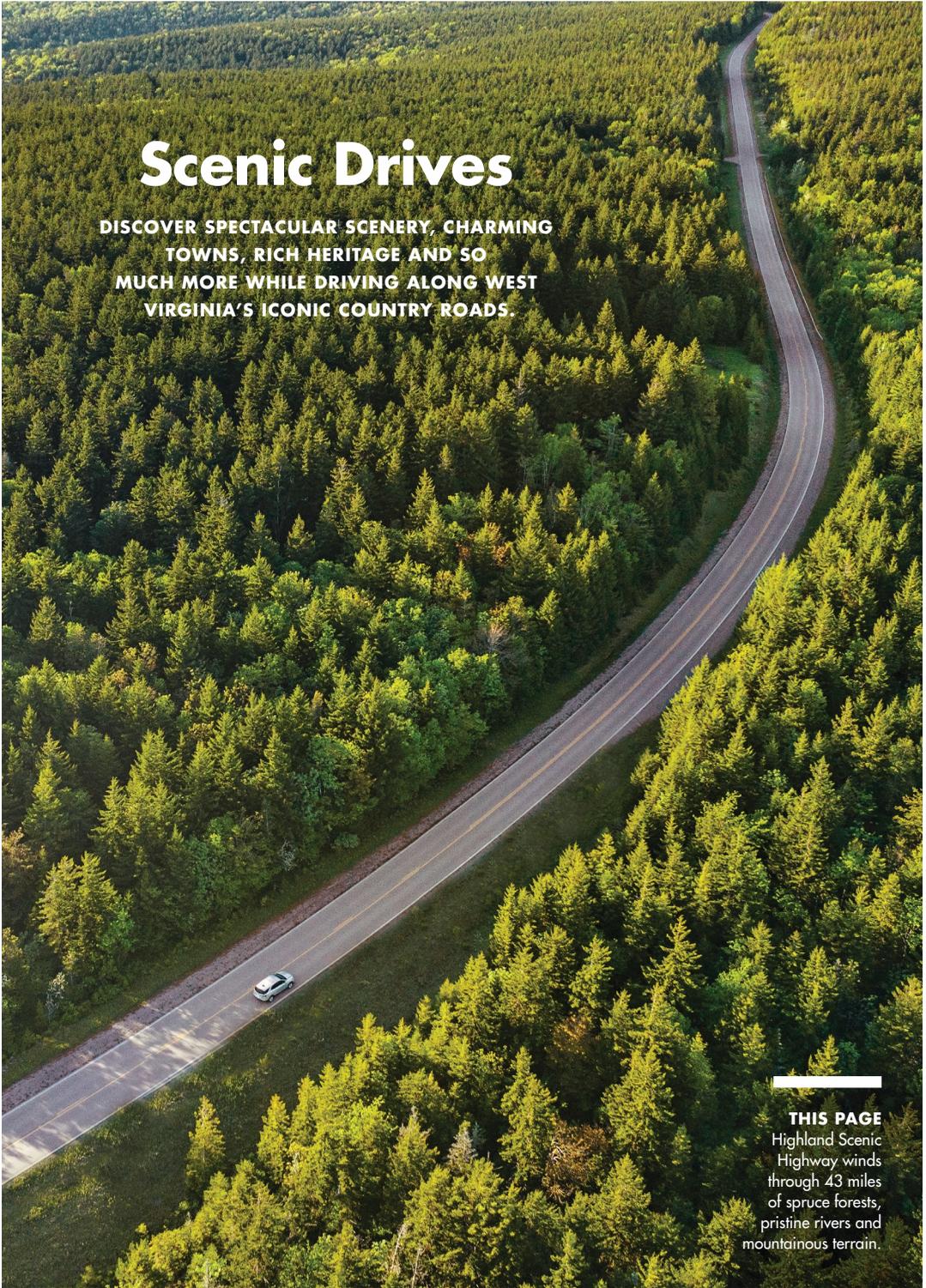
### BECKLEY

Over the years, this taco truck became so popular it required a brick-and-mortar location to keep up with demand. Now you can enjoy The Poncho (fried fish taco), The Lefty (fried chicken taco) and other Baja-style eats from atop a converted service station.



# Scenic Drives

DISCOVER SPECTACULAR SCENERY, CHARMING TOWNS, RICH HERITAGE AND SO MUCH MORE WHILE DRIVING ALONG WEST VIRGINIA'S ICONIC COUNTRY ROADS.



**THIS PAGE**  
Highland Scenic Highway winds through 43 miles of spruce forests, pristine rivers and mountainous terrain.

**CRANBERRY GLADES  
BOTANICAL AREA**



**Highland Scenic Highway POTOMAC HIGHLANDS**

This National Scenic Byway follows state routes WV-39 and WV-150 through the Monongahela National Forest, with Richwood at its western end and US-219, just north of Marlinton, at its eastern end. Nature-lovers and leaf peepers can savor sweeping mountain and valley views from four scenic overlooks and stretch their legs while hiking from several trailheads. Don't miss the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center, where the two state routes intersect. It's an ideal jumping-off point for exploring the Cranberry Glades Botanical Area. **DISTANCE** 43 miles



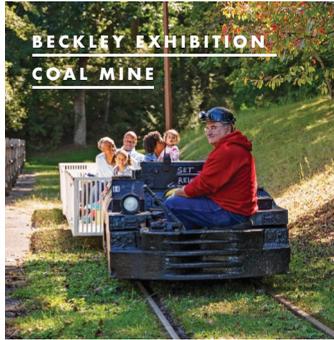
**Washington Heritage Trail National Scenic Byway EASTERN PANHANDLE**

Travelers making their way through Almost Heaven via this looping National Scenic Byway will discover 18th-century towns; 19th-century industrial sites; postcard-worthy views of the Shenandoah, Potomac and Cacapon rivers; and plenty of opportunities to follow in George Washington’s footsteps, to name just a few highlights. You can enter the trail at Harpers Ferry before passing through three counties and five towns. It features 48 official stops, including railroad landmarks and Civil War sites, plus pristine parks and wildlife areas. **DISTANCE** 136 miles

**Midland Trail Scenic Highway METRO VALLEY AND NEW RIVER/ GREENBRIER VALLEY**

Swap the interstate for something more picturesque: the Midland Trail Scenic Highway, bookended by buzzing Huntington and Kenova to the west and bucolic Greenbrier County to the east. This National Scenic Byway follows WV-60 to prime spots for adventure. Take in the arts in Charleston. Go fishing, whitewater rafting and rock climbing in Fayette County. And explore peaceful farms, historic sites, and charming towns such as Lewisburg and White Sulphur Springs.

**DISTANCE** 180 miles



**Coal Heritage Trail NEW RIVER/ GREENBRIER VALLEY**

This scenic road winds its way through five counties in southern West Virginia, beginning along US-52 in Bluefield, continuing northwest to Welch, and following WV-16 north to Ansted. Drivers can soak up the legacy of coal mining in the Mountain State, passing by remnants of the industry's heyday and stopping

at heritage wayside exhibits along the way. In Beckley, situated roughly midway between the trail's northern and southern ends, stop at Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine for a stroll through a re-created camp and an underground tour with a former miner as your guide.

**DISTANCE** 187 miles

**ABOVE** A small train carries visitors underground to tour the Beckley mine. **LEFT** "West Side Wonder Mural" by the late Charly Jupiter Hamilton.



**HOG HEAVEN EASY RIDING**

Strap on you helmet, rev up your engine and tour West Virginia's motorcycle routes.

**Capital Circle**

CHARLESTON TO PINEVILLE

Ride from the state's capital city through its natural treasures, including the newest national park. Pass through Ansted, Fayetteville, Sophia, Pineville, Omar, Hamlin and Hurricane.

**Cranberry Corridor**

SUMMERSVILLE TO GAULEY BRIDGE

The Gauley River National Recreation Area is the star on this roughly 203-mile loop, which passes through Richwood, Mill Point and Lewisburg.

**Birdseye Bend**

MORGANTOWN TO ELKINS

Swooping curves, welcoming restaurants, the hum of a university town: This 175-mile route has it all. It passes through Morgantown, Kingwood, Parsons, Elkins, Clarksburg and Fairmont.

**Seneca Skyway**

LEWISBURG TO THOMAS

This 284-mile, out-and-back run travels between two towns known for the arts, Lewisburg and Thomas. It hits Harman, Onego, Dunmore and White Sulphur Springs on the way.

For road trips tips, visit [WVTOURISM.COM/SCENIC-ROUTES](http://WVTOURISM.COM/SCENIC-ROUTES)

# appalachian heritage

**DEDICATION TO PRESERVATION AND EVOLUTION  
SHAPES A WEST VIRGINIA BURSTING WITH  
NEW EXPERIENCES THAT NEVER FORGETS ITS ROOTS.**

WRITER *Prasana William*

STATE OF THE ARTS

FARM-TO-TABLE FLAVORS

UNEARTHING WEST VIRGINIA

**STONE HOUSE  
LAVENDER**



# UNEARTHING WEST VIRGINIA

WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF FAMILY-OWNED FARMS IN THE NATION AND A HEALTHY GROWING CLIMATE, WEST VIRGINIA'S SOIL HAS LIVED MULTIPLE LIVES. DISCOVER HOW THE LATEST GENERATION IS REDEFINING THESE FARM-FRESH EXPERIENCES.



## STONE HOUSE LAVENDER

From its winding rows of purple buds, you'd never guess this Fairmont farm was once the site of surface mining common to West Virginia. The siblings behind Stone House Lavender have transformed their family land into a serene space with live events, such as yoga in the flower fields. Tour the working farm, pick your own stems or find a lavender-infused treasure from the market.

**OPPOSITE**  
Stone House Lavender opened in 2017, but the land has been in the family for eight generations.

## POWDER KEG FARMS

This heritage farm celebrates 300 years of farming tradition with practices grounded in “the new old way.” Curious what that means? Roll up your sleeves and learn firsthand. The High View farm participates in an organic farming education exchange program that gives you the chance to stay and work the land in an up-close experience.

## HERNSHAW FARMS

The humble mushroom takes on a noble purpose at Hershaw Farms. See how the trendy restaurant staple gets its start on a tour with owner George Patterson, whose mission is to support the people of Appalachia with access to fresh food and to sustain the environment: Spent organic growing material is composted to help reclaim more mining land for farming in Kanawha County.

## FAMILY ROOTS FARM

There's a sweetness in the air of this revived family farm—especially come February when the maple trees are tapped for syrup making. The award-winning pancake topper isn't the only natural treat produced here: Come spring, the Wellsburg farm becomes a popular destination for U-pick strawberries. Keep an eye out for special events and tours on-site.



## J.Q. DICKINSON SALT-WORKS

The ancient ocean under the Appalachian Mountains gets a second life as sought-after artisanal salt, hand-harvested for 200 years by the same family at this Malden farm. Tour the grounds to see the gleaming stretches of salty treasure spring to fall, or have a taste during farm-to-table dining events throughout the year.

## FARM-TO-TABLE FLAVORS

MANY RESTAURANTS TALK ABOUT THEIR LOCALLY GROWN OR PRODUCED FOOD, BUT THESE REAL-DEAL SPOTS PUT THEIR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS. TASTE THE DIFFERENCE.

WRITER *Gary Thompson*



**RIGHT**  
When possible, Stardust Cafe incorporates ingredients from local culinary artisans into its menu.



### STARDUST CAFE

*Lewisburg*

Local, organic and sustainable form the meal mantra at a casual lunch and dinner spot known for its sandwiches and salads.

### TABLE 9

*Morgantown*

Chef and owner Mark Tasker changes the menu almost daily at Mountaineer Country's first gastropub, the better to incorporate fresh ingredients from area farmers.



## FARMER'S DAUGHTER

*Capon Bridge*

Indulge in a beefy burger or meaty sandwich from this Hampshire County butchery and full-service grocer dedicated to respectful and renewable sourcing.

## 21 AT THE FREDERICK

*Huntington*

The Frederick Hotel closed in 1973, but you can still make reservations for dinner at this elegant eatery in the historic building.

## LOT 12 PUBLIC HOUSE

*Berkeley Springs*

Chef Damian Heath prepares seasonal upscale comfort cuisine in a restored 1913 home. Dine on the porch in nice weather.



FARMER'S DAUGHTER

Sample more West Virginia tastes at [WVTOURISM.COM/DINING](http://WVTOURISM.COM/DINING)

## FAVORITE FLAVORS

THE CULINARY EXPERTS WHO CALL THE MOUNTAIN STATE HOME MAKE OUR CUISINE DIVINE. MEET A FEW OF 2022'S WEST VIRGINIA CHEF AMBASSADORS.

### KARIE ELLIS

*Trail 12 BBQ,  
Gilbert*

Award-winning Chef Ellis puts her own spin on pitmaster classics like hickory-smoked pulled pork and smoked burgers at this mountaintop restaurant.

### JARED MASTERS

*The French Goat,  
Lewisburg*

Raised in a Greenbrier County farming family, Chef Masters incorporates his own produce into his dishes at this Euro-centric eatery.

### CODY THRASHER

*Cody's Restaurant,  
Bridgeport*

Starting out with a food truck, Chef Thrasher put his roots down in his hometown with this open-kitchen concept known for inventive dishes and cocktails.

**GET HUNGRY**  
Meet all of  
our Chef  
Ambassadors.

**WVTOURISM.COM/CHEFS**

## STATE OF THE ARTS

MEET FIVE ARTS TOWNS SERVING UP  
APPALACHIAN HOSPITALITY AND  
KEEPING THEIR CREATIVE HEARTS BEATING.



**THIS PAGE**  
Blenko Glass  
Company is  
located in  
nearby Milton.



**BUXTON AND  
LANDSTREET GALLERY  
AND STUDIOS**

### HUNTINGTON

This college town on the Ohio River boasts a thriving arts and culture community. Start with the **Huntington Museum of Art**, home to 10 exhibit spaces, the only tropical and subtropical plant conservatory in the state, and hiking trails on 52 acres of wooded land. Shop a variety of works from local artists,

including ceramics, jewelry and fine arts at **The Red Caboose**, then see how **Blenko Glass Company** brings handblown designs to life in nearby Milton. Keep your ears open for the sound of the **Huntington Symphony Orchestra**—it regularly plays at **Keith-Albee Theatre** and outdoor venues in town.



**THIS PAGE**  
This storefront has been a grocery, a clothing store and an artist workshop before it evolved into Invisible gallery.

**THOMAS** The mountain town of Thomas was once a bustling hub of coal production, but has been reborn as one of Tucker County's prime sources of culture. The epitome of this renaissance can be found in the 1900s-era building that was once a mining company store and now serves as studio space for artists as the **Buxton and Landstreet Gallery and Studios**. Tread on the wilder side at **Invisible**, an artist-run gallery that specializes in the unusual. Browse an eclectic collection of work by Thomas-based artists to find a piece that's sure to be a conversation starter. In nearby Davis, **WVHighlands Artisans Gallery** is the home base of a dedicated group of juried artists who showcase a wide variety of mediums, including painting, pottery, woodworking, welding, jewelry and more.

## LEWISBURG



## LEWISBURG

Festivals, live music and an innovative culinary scene bring this classic small town to life, but start at the beginning with a walking tour hosted by the **North House Museum**. The keeper of Greenbrier Valley history, this museum features exhibit rooms decorated as they would appear in various time periods.

Experience a piece of living history at **Carnegie Hall**, where visitors find four art galleries, classes and live

musical performances. Lewisburg is also home to the **Greenbrier Valley Theatre**, the State Professional Theatre of West Virginia.

Make sure to stop by **Harmony Ridge Gallery**, where a love of the handmade is at the heart of the art displayed. No artsy expedition to this area is complete without a stop at **Tamarack Marketplace** in nearby Beckley. This cultural center and market showcases more than 2,800 artisans from West Virginia.

HARMONY RIDGE  
GALLERY



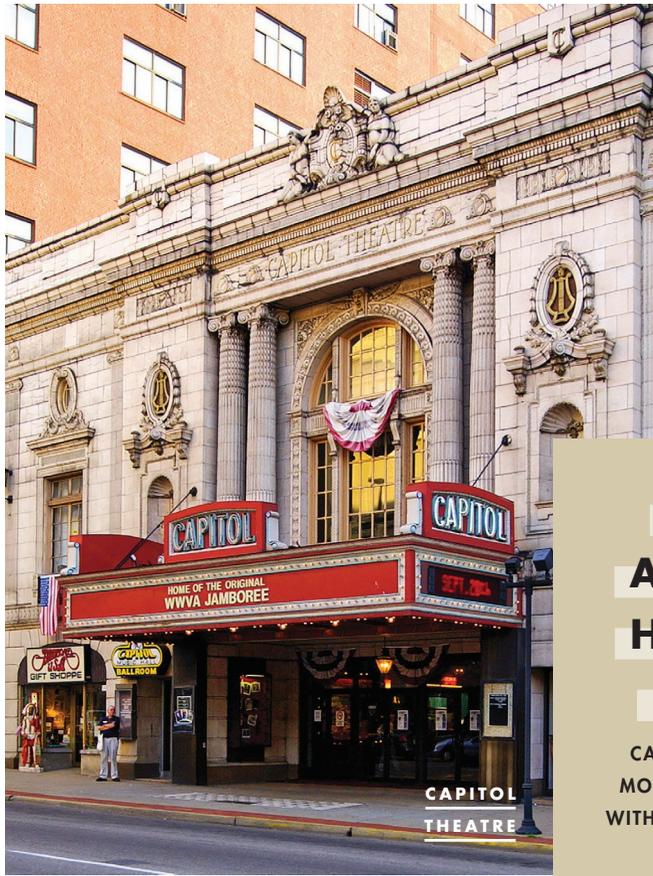
## ELKINS

Explore downtown's 50-plus galleries, restaurants and boutique shops in this city perched on the edge of Monongahela National Forest. Begin with **Artists at Work**—you'll quickly lose yourself among the paintings, woodwork, jewelry, fiber art and more featured in this co-op gallery.

If you leave inspired, head over to **The Arts Center** to try your hand at a variety of classes. Visit open studios as well as rotating exhibits throughout the year.

Learn more about the area at the nearby **Beverly Heritage Center's museum and visitor center**.

Ride your creative energy into the evening with a show at **Gandy Dancer Dinner Theatre**. Musical spectaculars pay tribute to the legendary artists of yesterday and today.



**WHEELING** The 250-year-old city has seen history float by on the Ohio River, resulting in a culture-rich heritage that continues today. Take an elegant red velvet seat in the **Capitol Theatre's** Beaux Arts-inspired auditorium for live theater and music acts performing on the same stage that hosted luminaries like Johnny and June Carter Cash. Display your own talents during hands-on glassmaking workshops at the **Oglebay Institute's Glass Museum**, which houses more than 3,000 examples of vintage glass. The lighthearted side of culture takes center stage at the **Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum**. This museum teaches the story behind our favorite playthings, with toys on display from as far back as the early 1900s. You can play with almost anything, including vintage pinball machines and model train sets.

Discover more local West Virginia gems at [WVTourism.com/Arts](http://WVTourism.com/Arts)

## TAKE ALMOST HEAVEN HOME

CARRY A PIECE OF MOUNTAIN CULTURE WITH YOU FROM THESE CREATORS.

### POTTERY

#### ZENCLAY POTTERY STUDIO

*Morgantown*

Choose from the rotating gallery pieces or make your own with wheel-throwing and hand-building pottery classes.

### WOODWORKING

#### BEAR WOOD COMPANY

*Hurricane, Morgantown and Charleston*

These artisans specialize in telling local stories through reclaimed wood, blending symbols of West Virginia life into every piece of one-of-a-kind rustic art.

# mountain escapes

WRITER *Jess Hoffert*

Recharge your explorer batteries at cool cabins, rustic campsites, luxe resorts and more Almost Heaven overnights.



**THORNY MOUNTAIN**  
**FIRE TOWER**

# get off the grid

Break free and surround  
yourself with wilderness  
and rustic wonder.



COOPERS ROCK  
STATE FOREST



## THORNY MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

*Dunmore*

Score a bird's-eye view of the Seneca State Forest from the 65-foot fire tower available for overnight stays between mid-April and late October. It fills up fast, so book up to a year in advance.

## THE GUEST HOUSE INN ON COURTHOUSE SQUARE

*Hinton*

Walking distance of historic downtown shops and restaurants, the non-hosted bed-and-breakfast with a stocked kitchen and snuggly bathrobes also sits just a few miles from Sandstone Falls at New River Gorge National Park and Preserve.

## CASTAWAY CABOOSE

*Durbin*

Go back to rail travel's heyday with a stay at this remote site. You'll sleep in a train car that has been converted into an efficiency suite with basic amenities. (There's no cell service, so you can fully disconnect.)

## TENTRR CAMPSITES

*multiple locations*

For camping without the hassle of lugging all the gear, reserve one of Tentrr's sites with preset tents and other amenities at Cacapon, Lost River, Blackwater Falls and Hawks Nest state parks and Coopers Rock State Forest.

Find your ideal overnight  
at [WVTOURISM.COM/  
LODGING](http://WVTOURISM.COM/LODGING)

# one-of-a-kind stays

Think beyond the standard hotel room and start dreaming of a place where relaxation comes naturally.

**MOUNTAINAIRE**  
**LUXURY CABIN**



← **MOUNTAINEER  
LUXURY CABIN**

*Capon Bridge*

Bring up to 10 of your friends for the ultimate getaway. Splash under the stars in a seasonal spa, roast s'mores around the firepit, or play darts and billiards in this spacious and stylishly appointed cabin.

**OLDESTSTONE  
FARM**

*Charles Town*

Connect with the history of a 288-year-old working farm while getting acquainted with chickens, pigs, dogs, cats and other friendly residents. Book the entire 1734 farmhouse for up to 20 guests.

**COUNTRY  
ROAD CABINS**

*Hico*

Roomy decks with gas grills and hot tubs make for cozy stays in the New River Gorge. Beyond the cabins, a new safari-themed glamping tent and the only tree house rentals in the state offer character-filled sleepovers.

**CAPON  
SPRINGS  
AND FARMS**

*High View*

Choose your favorite room in one of 14 cottages and fall in love with the amenities: Roman-style baths, golf, fishing and even an escape room. All-inclusive rates cover three meals daily.

**HARMAN'S  
LUXURY LOG  
CABINS**

*Cabins*

Combine the simple outdoor pleasures of trout fishing and hiking with luxury indoor amenities, such as stone fireplaces and hot tubs, in one of 21 spacious log cabins.

**PUESTA DEL  
SOL FARM**

*Yellow Spring*

Romantic sunset views and a rustic-chic barn make the 15-acre property a no-brainer for weddings. Smaller groups can book one of two new cabins with kitchenettes and an included breakfast.

↑ **THE BILLY  
MOTEL**

*Davis*

Mad Men-esque furniture, headboards and lamps lend retro vibes to the 10-room roadside motel off the Appalachian Highway.

**HOTEL  
MORGAN**

*Morgantown*

A recently restored Brant Grand Ballroom and 1920s-era lobby honor the downtown boutique hotel's history while pampering guests with luxe linens, inventive cocktails and impeccable service.

# elevated stays

Level up your  
lodging game at classy  
cottages, renowned  
resorts and  
history-filled hotels.



## BAVARIAN INN

### *Shepherdstown*

Take in the view from an Alpine-style chalet suite overlooking the Potomac River, and clink glasses in the German-style beer hall and beer garden of Bavarian Brothers Brewing.



## THE GREENBRIER

### *White Sulphur Springs*

Tee off at four golf courses, soak in the mineral spa and visit the casino at this stately resort. Winter brings enchanting horse-drawn carriage rides around the property.

## CORDUROY INN AND LODGE

### *Snowshoe*

Allegheny Mountains overlook this boutique hotel with slopeside access to the Snowshoe Bike Park in summer and ski slopes in winter. Pair wood-fired pies with gelato at The Pizza Slice.

## SNOWSHOE MOUNTAIN

### *Snowshoe*

Discover countless ways to play in the snow on this 11,000-acre property. Snowshoe's Basin and Western Territory features a diverse collection of ski and snowboarding trails. Head to the Silver Creek area for nighttime skiing and snow tubing.

## CACAPON RESORT STATE PARK

### *Berkeley Springs*

After a full day of fishing and hiking, retreat to the newly renovated lodge for alfresco dining and spa treatments. Guests also get access to canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and paddleboats.

## THE RESORT AT GLADE SPRINGS

### *Daniels*

Archery, bowling, disc golf, 18-hole championship golf and laser tag are just a few of the crowd-pleasing activities here. For even more rec, the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve awaits nearby.

## STONEWALL RESORT

### *Roanoke*

Lewis County's most luxurious cottages come with multiple bedrooms, sprawling decks and private access to the lake. Cook in fully equipped kitchens and golf the resort's Arnold Palmer Signature Course.

## OGLEBAY RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

### *Wheeling*

Once you've hit the powder on ski and snowboard runs, get pampered at The West Spa in Wilson Lodge and warm up in the sauna and Jacuzzi.

## HILLBROOK INN AND SPA

### *Charles Town*

On land once owned by George Washington, indulge in massages and multicourse dinners before retiring to suites with Colonial-style accents and modern touches.



Explore more luxe lodging at [WVTOURISM.COM/RESORTS](http://WVTOURISM.COM/RESORTS)

# WEST VIRGINIA LIVE!

Sing the praises of West Virginia's musical heritage: legendary stages, beloved festivals and locally rooted performers.

WRITER *Gary Thompson*



## *First-String Fiddler*

### ← **ADAM DEGRAFF**

The classically trained rock violinist, originally from Chicago, now lives on a farm in Lewisburg.

**Q** When did you start playing the violin and why?

**A** I started playing at age 4. I saw a kid play at my nursery school and just had to do it.

**Q** How did you end up in West Virginia?

**A** My wife and I found ourselves driving back to Chicago from Richmond and fell in love with the natural beauty and amazing people in West Virginia.

**Q** What's your favorite place to perform in West Virginia?

**A** I expect my favorite place to perform will be the new venue in Ronceverte that I am opening with my daughter. We are calling it The Veridian and are excited to both teach and perform.

# ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Musical acts with strong West Virginia ties share how the Mountain State has influenced their careers.



## Homespun Harmonies

### ↑ MIRA COSTA OF THE SEA THE SEA

Mira and husband Chuck formed the New York-based indie folk-pop group. The daughter of Mountain Stage Musical Director Ron Sowell, Mira grew up in Charleston.

West Virginia is host to live arts and culture events all year long. Browse the calendar for upcoming events.

[WVTourism.com/events-festivals](http://WVTourism.com/events-festivals)

**Q** How did you and Chuck start performing together?

**A** We met at the Mountain Stage NewSong Contest in Shepherdstown, where I was working as a stage manager and Chuck was a finalist in the emerging songwriter contest.

**Q** Were your signature harmonies there from the start?

**A** The way our voices blend was a big part of what drew us together right away. There was an immediate sound that happened when we started singing together that felt unlike anything either of us had felt singing before.

**Q** Where did the name The Sea The Sea come from?

**A** It's a cry of joy from Xenophon's *Anabasis*. A light at the end of the tunnel, a homecoming moment in the story. Making music together feels like all of those things.

**Q** The group did a version of "Country Roads." What does that song mean to you?

**A** When you grow up a kid in West Virginia, that song is as much a part of you as anything. It's a song that makes me incredibly emotional in moments. There's a real sense of beauty and longing in that song for me—the ache of home and everything that can mean to you.



## Keynote Pianist

### ↑ BOB THOMPSON

Bob grew up in New York City, learned jazz in West Virginia and later joined the Mountain Stage family.

**Q** How did you get started in music?

**A** Singing in choirs, playing the trumpet in school, and playing in drum and bugle corps.

**Q** How has West Virginia influenced you musically?

**A** I was introduced to the jazz scene in the after-hours clubs in Charleston. I learned to play the blues, and I absorbed the feeling of the music. It was truly night school.

**Q** How did it feel to be inducted into the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2015?

I feel extremely honored, especially since I came to West Virginia from another state.

# VENERATED VENUES

A tour of West Virginia's live music scene must include these celebrated stops.

## THE LOUD

*Huntington*

Formerly called the V Club, this top regional music venue still brings its A game—as in The Avett Brothers, one of the big names who played here on their way up.

## 123 PLEASANT STREET

*Morgantown*

Expect all types of artists and fans at this inclusive spot in a series of 1891 row houses converted to retail in the 1920s. Music bounces off exposed foundation walls and the pressed tin ceilings with “hanging” fireplaces.

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY OPERA HOUSE

*Marlinton*

Bluegrass, jazz and folk headline at this elegant 1910 venue on the National Register of Historic Places. It features a large stage and wraparound balcony.



MOUNTAIN  
STAGE



↓ **CARNEGIE HALL**

*Lewisburg*

One of only four Carnegie Halls in the world still used for performances, the 1902 building provides an intimate setting for concerts, whether it's the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra or jazzy Tuba Skinny.

↑ **PURPLE FIDDLE**

*Thomas*

Live Appalachian-based acoustic music every weekend and a family-friendly atmosphere (kids and dancing welcome) create good vibes in the old DePollo General Store building.

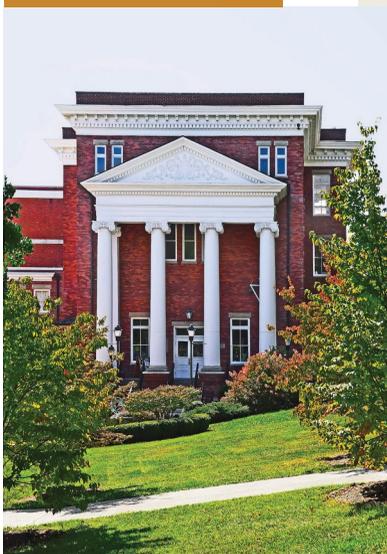


← **CULTURE CENTER THEATER**

*Charleston*

Home to the legendary *Mountain Stage* music radio show, the sounds from this theater reach listeners across the country on NPR. Join the live audience on occasional Sunday nights.

For the latest on West Virginia culture, visit [WVTOURISM.COM/ARTS](http://WVTOURISM.COM/ARTS)



**a medley of festivals**

LOSE YOUR BLUES AT THESE LONG-PLAYING REVELS OF RHYTHM AND HARMONY.

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

**Vandalia Gathering**

CHARLESTON

Appalachian old-time bluegrass and folk play a big part in this annual celebration of traditional West Virginia folk arts, including dance, storytelling, crafts and food.

**LATE JULY**

**Appalachian String Band Festival**

CLIFFTOP

Often called Clifftop, it's a five-day gathering of string-band musicians and enthusiasts near New River Gorge. Come for concerts, contests, workshops, square dancing, camping and hymn singing.

**JUNE**

**West Virginia State Folk Festival**

GLENVILLE

There's a whole lot of pickin' and grinnin' at this four-day celebration of old-time music. Concerts spotlight fiddle, banjo, dulcimer and ballad singing.

**SEPTEMBER**

**Happy Retreat Craft Beer and Music Festival**

CHARLES TOWN

Enjoy bands and brews at this historic Jefferson County home. Explore the charming nearby town of Ranson and come back for horse racing at the West Virginia Breeders Classics.

# See You in West Virginia



**DOLLY SODS WILDERNESS** @roxyjan\_



**FAIRMONT** @robbieskinnerwv



**CAPITOL MARKET** @charlestonwv



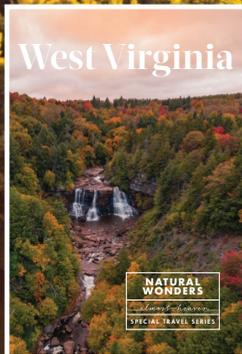
**HUNTINGTON** @sipdowntownbrasserie

Mountain State memories are meant to share. Use #AlmostHeaven on social media to spread the magic.



**COOPERS ROCK**  
**STATE FOREST**

YOUR WEST VIRGINIA ADVENTURE  
STARTS HERE



**THIS SPECIAL SERIES OF FOUR TRAVEL GUIDES EXPLORES THE MANY EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE WEST VIRGINIA A MUST-VISIT DESTINATION. PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE-FILLED ESCAPE WITH *OUTDOOR RECREATION*. DISCOVER THE SIGHTS THAT SET ALMOST HEAVEN'S LANDSCAPE APART IN *NATURAL WONDERS*. CRAFT A TRULY AUTHENTIC GETAWAY TO MOUNTAIN TOWNS FULL OF ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, GOOD FOOD AND APPALACHIAN HERITAGE WITH *MOUNTAIN CULTURE*. AND MEET AMERICA'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK IN *NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE*.**