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➤ Sandstone Falls

Discover Southern West Virginia —

a great place to ride! From steep hills to deep valleys, rolling farmland to small towns, breathtaking views to serious adventures, Southern West Virginia has it all. What’s more, we’re within a day’s drive of 50 percent of the U.S. population. Take a ride through our nine counties and find something new around every turn. Our area is full of history, culture, arts and entertainment. Whether you’re into wild whitewater, relaxing spas, high-flying ziplines, delicious dining or unique shopping, you’ll find it here.

And when you want to rest up for the next part of your journey, there’s no shortage of places to stay. Lodging options in our area are plentiful and provide great service along with a comfortable stay for road warriors. From luxury resorts to mountain cabins, Southern West Virginia has a wide range of accommodations to fit your needs.

It’s time to break from your routine and go off the beaten path. We’ve developed a few suggested rides to help you explore all that Southern West Virginia has to offer. Take a look. There’s plenty to see and do along the way!

Named loop rides courtesy of Freeman Maps.

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QR CODE INSTRUCTIONS:

Bring this issue to life! Hover your phone’s camera over QR codes to open route directions.



MARMET TO Grandview

via Routes 94 & 3 • 84.5 miles

Follow this route for a glimpse into Southern West Virginia's coal history. See new and old mines as well as walking bridges and small creeks while passing through quaint communities in Kanawha and Raleigh counties.

Area Highlights

UPPER BIG BRANCH MINERS MEMORIAL

The Upper Big Branch Miners Memorial in Whitesville is dedicated to the 29 miners who lost their lives in the Upper Big Branch Mine Disaster of 2010.

BECKLEY EXHIBITION COAL MINE

At Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, you can take a tour of an underground mine with veteran miners on a mantrip car and explore a recreated coal camp.

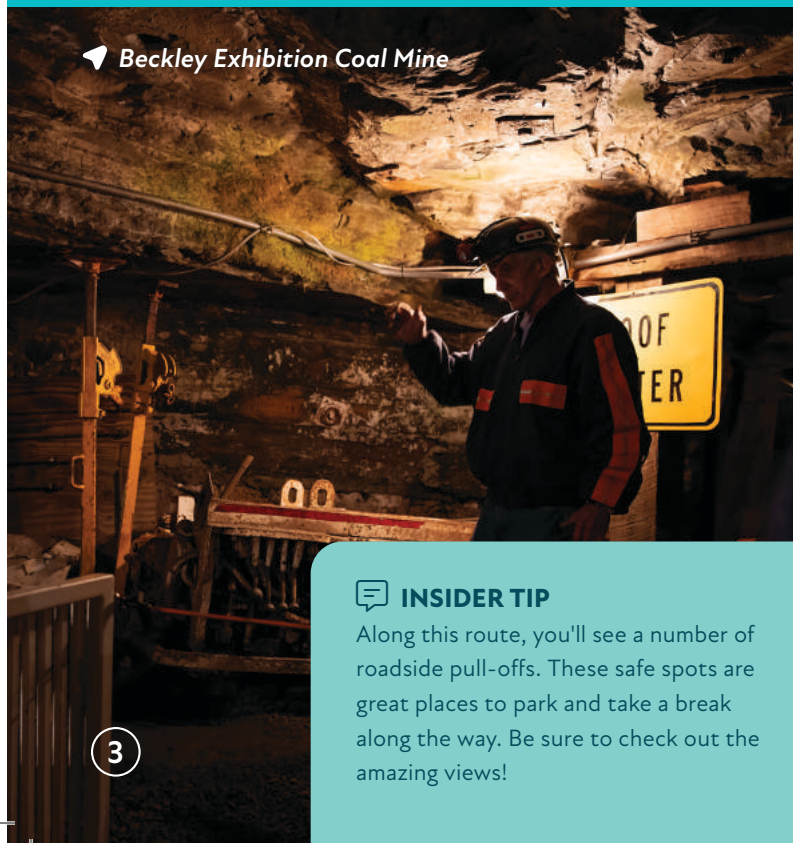
LITTLE BEAVER STATE PARK

Find an 18-acre lake for fishing and boating, hiking and biking trails, picnic areas and a campground at Little Beaver State Park.

GRANDVIEW

Soak up the spectacular scenes at Grandview, part of the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve.

Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine



INSIDER TIP

Along this route, you'll see a number of roadside pull-offs. These safe spots are great places to park and take a break along the way. Be sure to check out the amazing views!



Scan here for Google
Map route directions.

PETERSTOWN to Sweet Springs

via Routes 219, 3 & 311 • 43.9 miles

Cruise the countryside on this 43.9-mile trip through Monroe County. This route has few twists and turns — just smooth, rolling hills dotted with covered bridges, historic churches and cemeteries and other remnants of a bygone era.

Area Highlights

HISTORICAL SWEET SPRINGS RESORT PARK

Designed by President Thomas Jefferson in 1830, this historic property in Sweet Springs consists of a large hotel, several houses and a warm water spring with a pool house. *Note: Though currently undergoing renovations, you can still drive by and see the estate.*

MONCOVE LAKE STATE PARK

Open seasonally, Moncove Lake State Park is located along the 140-acre Moncove Lake and offers fishing, swimming, boating, picnic areas and campsites.

DOWNTOWN UNION

See historic architecture, enjoy a casual meal and experience the charm of small-town life in downtown Union.



Scan here for Google
Map route directions.

5



INSIDER TIP

Stop at one of the rural towns along the way or go right on through — there are no stoplights in this quiet corner of the state.



Gap Mills Overlook

6



COAL HERITAGE

Ride North

145 miles

Dramatic overlooks and winding rivers are hallmarks of this 145-mile route through Raleigh, Kanawha and Fayette counties.

Area Highlights

NEW RIVER GORGE BRIDGE

The New River Gorge Bridge is a landmark, boasting the longest steel arch span in the Western Hemisphere and the third highest in the United States.

HAWKS NEST STATE PARK

Head to Hawks Nest State Park in Fayette County for incredible views of the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve.

KANAWHA AND CATHEDRAL FALLS

These two waterfalls can be found along Midland Trail by the town of Gauley Bridge. Kanawha Falls is where the New and Gauley rivers collide.

LAKE STEPHENS

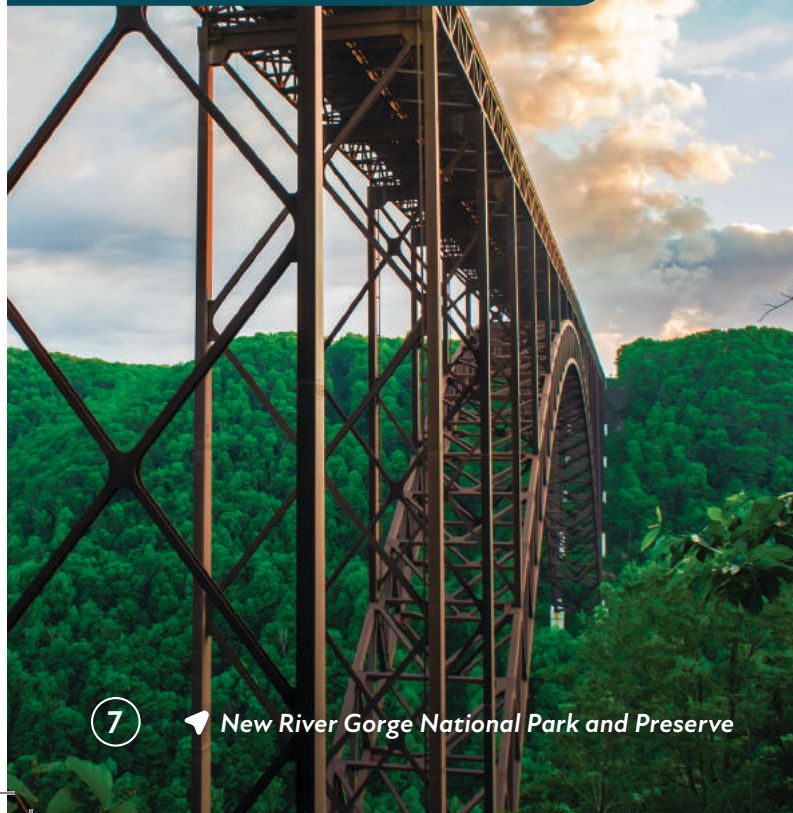
Spend a day on the water at Lake Stephens, just a few miles outside of Beckley. The park also has plenty of activities and overnight accommodations.



Scan here for Google
Map route directions.

INSIDER TIP

Complete the Ape Hanger Ride by taking the Canyon Rim Visitors Center exit and following the windy road underneath the NRG Bridge, across the river and back up the other side.



7

➤ New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

8

COAL HERITAGE

Ride South

130 miles

Covering 130 miles in Raleigh, Wyoming, McDowell and Mercer counties, this scenic route takes you through the southern coalfields, passing former boom towns in Mullens, Pineville, Welch and Keystone.

Area Highlights

CAMP CREEK STATE PARK AND FOREST

Camp Creek's beautiful waterfalls and camping make it a popular stop.

PINNACLE ROCK STATE PARK

Pinnacle Rock's 3,100-foot sandstone formation is one of the most unique geological structures in West Virginia.

BRAMWELL

Referred to as "The Town of Millionaires," Bramwell is home to lavish mansions once owned by coal barons in the late 19th/early 20th century.

COALWOOD

This McDowell County coal town is the setting of the novel "Rocket Boys," the basis for the movie "October Sky."

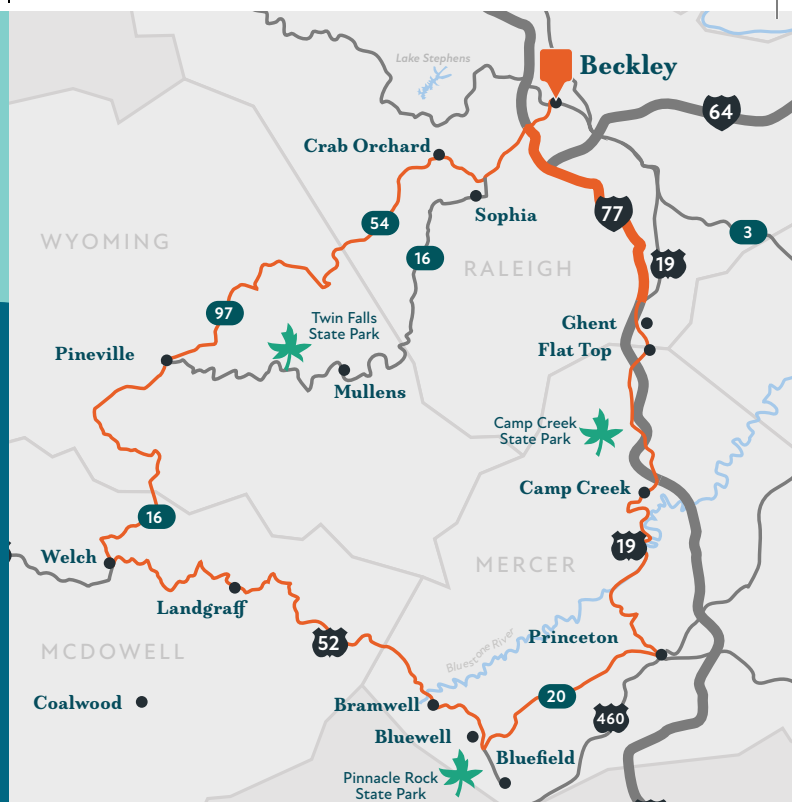
TWIN FALLS RESORT STATE PARK

Take a hike to see Marsh Fork Falls and Black Fork Falls, the two waterfalls that give the park its name.



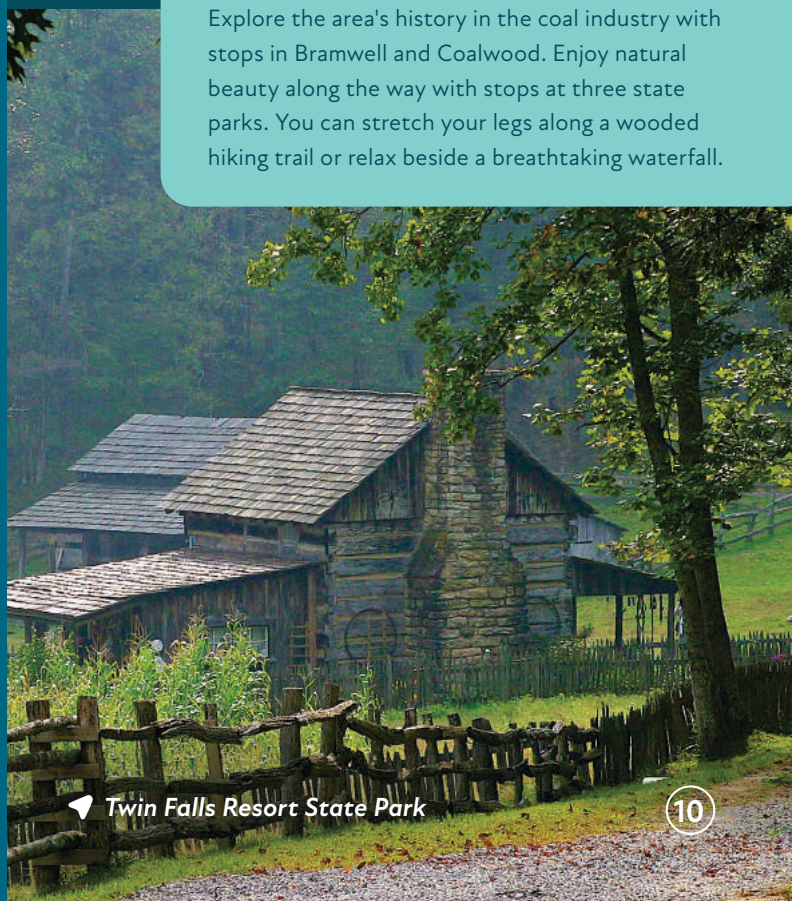
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9



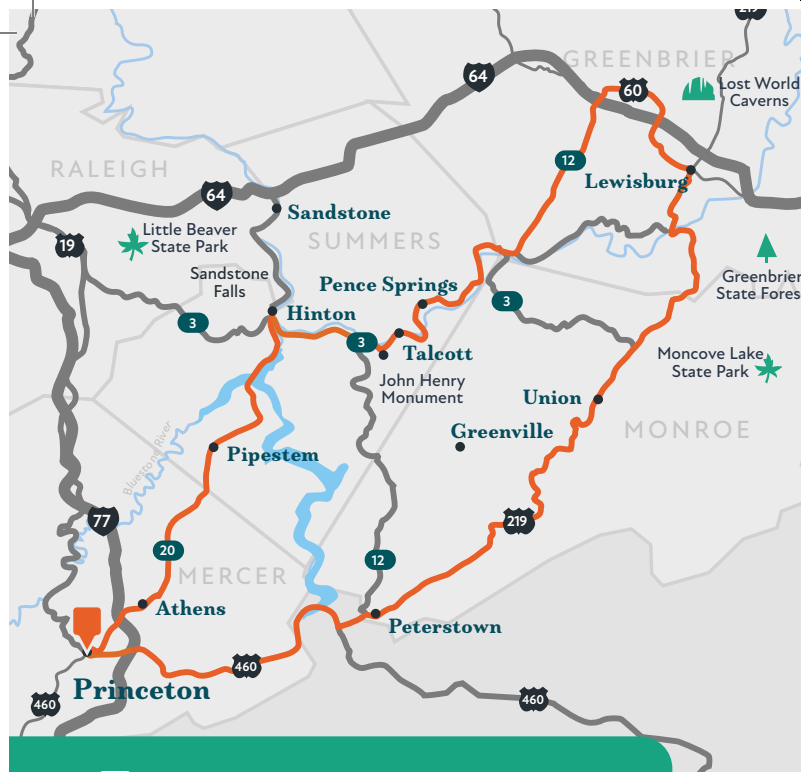
INSIDER TIP

Explore the area's history in the coal industry with stops in Bramwell and Coalwood. Enjoy natural beauty along the way with stops at three state parks. You can stretch your legs along a wooded hiking trail or relax beside a breathtaking waterfall.



Twin Falls Resort State Park

10



FARM Country

via Routes 219, 60, 12 & 20 • 141 miles

Dramatic overlooks and winding rivers are hallmarks of this 141-mile route through Mercer, Monroe, Greenbrier and Summers counties.

Area Highlights

INDIAN CREEK COVERED BRIDGE

One of the most photographed bridges in West Virginia, Indian Creek Covered Bridge, near Union, was built in 1898. It was restored in 2000 and is now open to pedestrians.

HISTORIC LEWISBURG

Make a stop in Historic Lewisburg for an array of art galleries, unique restaurants, antique shops and more.

GREENBRIER RIVER

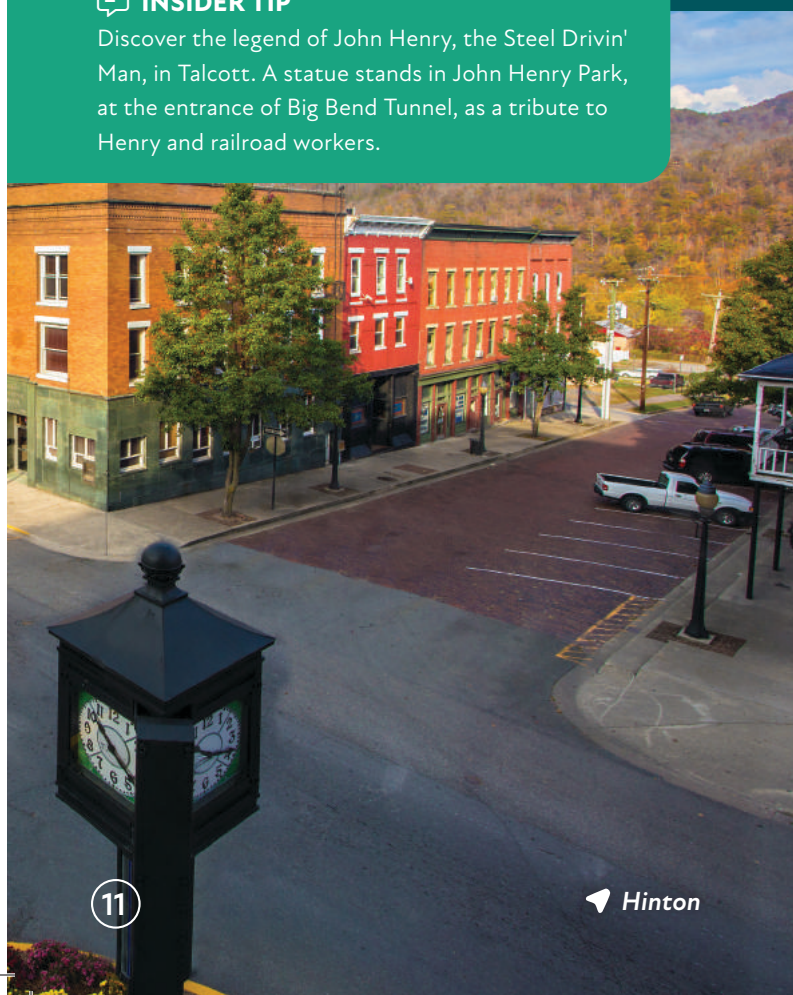
A tributary of the New River, the Greenbrier River is one of the longest rivers in West Virginia.

HINTON

A historic railroad town, Hinton has many museums and interesting architecture as well as shops, eateries and other small businesses. Stop at nearby Sandstone Falls for gorgeous scenery.

INSIDER TIP

Discover the legend of John Henry, the Steel Drivin' Man, in Talcott. A statue stands in John Henry Park, at the entrance of Big Bend Tunnel, as a tribute to Henry and railroad workers.



11

Hinton



Scan here for Google
Map route directions.

12

NATIONAL River Ride

via Routes 219, 60, 12, & 20 • 116 miles

Travel along and across the ancient river valleys of the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, Gauley River National Recreation Area and the Meadow River on this 116 mile picturesque route through Raleigh, Fayette and Nicholas counties.

Area Highlights

PRINCE C&O PASSENGER TRAIN STATION - This Art Moderne station, completed in 1946, is one of the last depots built for passengers along the mainline of the C&O Railroad. It is located adjacent to the New River.

BABCOCK STATE PARK

Babcock State Park, and its operating grist mill, is one of the most photographed spots in West Virginia.

SUMMERSVILLE LAKE - The largest recreational lake in West Virginia, Summersville Lake is home to a lighthouse that offers stunning views of the water and the Gauley River National Recreation Area from the top.

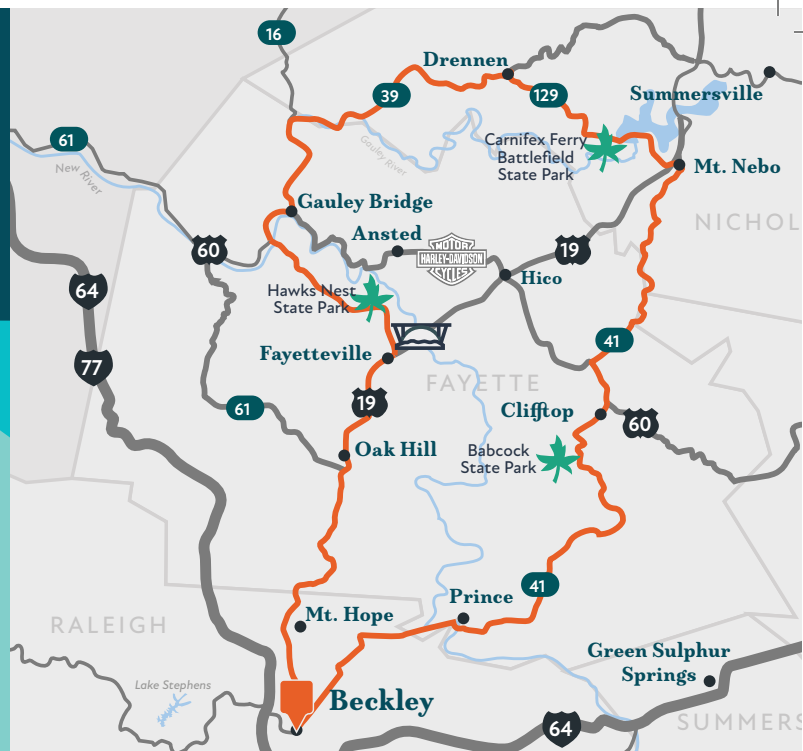
GAULEY RIVER - Known for its raging whitewater rapids, the Gauley River is an exciting challenge for adventurers.

CATHEDRAL FALLS - With a 60-foot cascade, Cathedral Falls on Route 60 is a perfect picture opportunity.



Scan here for Google
Map route directions.

13

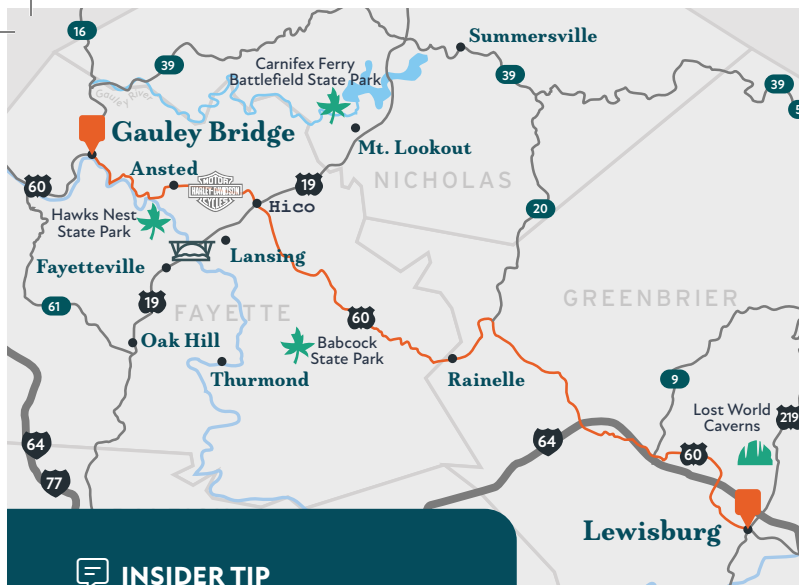


INSIDER TIP

Popular with whitewater rafters, the New and Gauley Rivers are focal points along this route. The New River is one of the oldest rivers in North America, and the Gauley has several Class V+ rapids, earning it the nickname, "The Beast of the East."

▶ Babcock State Park

14



INSIDER TIP

Spanning 18 miles with an elevation up to 1,457 feet, The Talon winds through the mountains along U.S. 60 from Gauley Bridge to Hico.



15

📍 Cathedral Falls

HAIRPIN Adventures

via Midland Trail & U.S. Route 60 • 138 miles

Pass by waterfalls, beautiful vistas and over 245 curves on this twisty 138-mile ride through Fayette and Greenbrier counties. US Route 60, dubbed the Midland Trail National Scenic Highway, is one of America's oldest highways.

Area Highlights

GAULEY BRIDGE

Home to the historic Glen Ferris Inn, this town is a picturesque spot with views of Kanawha Falls and Cathedral Falls.

GAULEY MOUNTAIN

Located between the Gauley and New rivers in Fayette County, Gauley Mountain peaks at 2,547 feet. The switchbacks of the mountain allow for an exciting ride.

HAWKS NEST STATE PARK

Offering sweeping views of the New River Gorge, Hawks Nest State Park is the perfect place to stop, stretch your legs, have lunch or enjoy a jetboat ride on the New River.

BABCOCK STATE PARK

Widely known for the Glade Creek Grist Mill, Babcock State Park also has a lake with paddleboat rentals, hiking trails and more.



Scan here for Google
Map route directions.

16

HEAD OF THE Dragon

via Routes 52, 161, 16, 83 & 80 • 89.6 miles

Comprised of 89.6 miles of curvaceous, two-lane country roads, Head of the Dragon is a scenic, half-day ride highlighting the mountain vistas and small towns of McDowell County.

Area Highlights

MCDOWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

This historic courthouse, located in Welch, played a pivotal role in the Mine Wars of West Virginia.

THE HATFIELD-MCCOY TRAILS

One of the largest off-road vehicle trail systems, the Hatfield-McCoy Trails cover more than 700 miles throughout Southern West Virginia.

INSIDER TIP

The Head of the Dragon passes connectors to the Indian Ridge Trail System in Ashland, Northfork and Keystone. This loop completes the Body of the Dragon, which includes the Back of the Dragon and Claw of the Dragon in Virginia and Tail of the Dragon in Tennessee and North Carolina. Become a Dragon Master by finishing all four rides! The Head of the Dragon Motorcycle Run and Sports Car Ride takes place annually in September.



Scan here for Google
Map route directions.

17



McDowell County

18



NATIONAL Forest Ride

via Routes 19, 39, 219 & 60 • 196 miles

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This wide-ranging, 196-mile ride through Fayette, Nicholas, Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties cross a variety of landscapes and elevations. Traveling through spectacular plateaus at a beginning elevation of 1,800 feet, the road rises to the dense forest of the Appalachian Mountains — elevation 4,545 feet — before descending into lush countryside. Be sure to stop by the Richwood Visitor's Center for more information on the Hellbender W.V. ride! Part of the National Forest route, this ride takes you through some of the most beautiful parts of West Virginia.

Area Highlights

NEW RIVER GORGE BRIDGE & NPS CANYON RIM VISITOR CENTER

With the longest steel arch span in the Western Hemisphere and the third highest in the U.S., the New River Gorge Bridge stretches 3,030 feet across the gorge.

CARNIFEX FERRY BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

An important Civil War battle site, Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park commemorates the 1861 Battle of Carnifex Ferry and is one of the oldest state parks in the country.

CRANBERRY GLADES BOTANICAL AREA

One of the most unique natural settings in North America, Cranberry Glades Botanical Area showcases a northern bog climate in a southern setting.

INSIDER TIP

Admire the beauty of the region as you travel this scenic route, which goes through the Monongahela National Forest, one of two national forests in West Virginia (and the only one that lies entirely within the state).



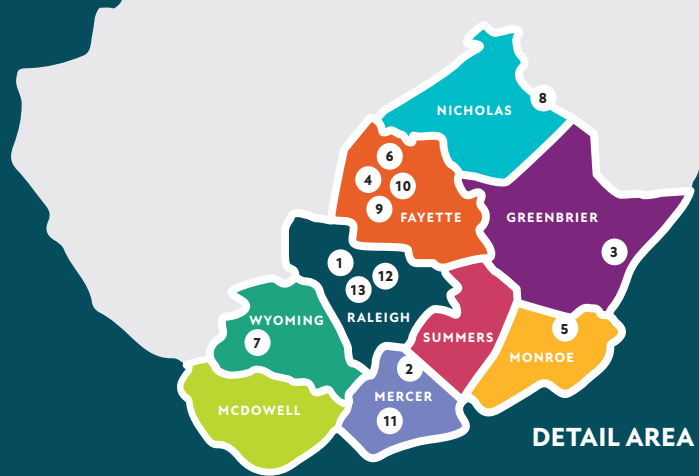
Scan here for Google
Map route directions.

INFORMATION CENTERS

Convention and
Visitor/Tourism Bureaus



MAP AREA



DETAIL AREA

Key

- Fuel
- Food Court/Picnic Area
- Visitor Information
- Public Restrooms
- Open 24 Hours

1 BECKLEY TRAVEL PLAZA

Exit 45 on I-77 (WV Turnpike)
500 Van Kirk Dr., Beckley
304.265.6773



2 BLUESTONE TRAVEL PLAZA

I-77 Northbound, Princeton
(WV Turnpike)
Milepost 18 NB
304.384.9618



3 I-64 WESTBOUND INFORMATION WELCOME CENTER

White Sulphur Springs
304.536.4553



4 FAYETTEVILLE CVB

310 N. Court St., Fayetteville
304.574.1500

visitfayettevillewv.com



5 MONROE TOURISM

261 Health Center Dr., Union
304.772.3003 x15

travelmonroe.com



6 INFORMATION CENTER AT GRILLBILLIES

10739 Midland Trail
Gauley Bridge, WV 25085
304-719-9639

grillbillieswv.com



7 WYOMING COUNTY CVB

Wyoming County CVB
visitwyomingcountywv.com

8 WV HELLBENDER VISITOR CENTER/RICHWOOD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

38 Edgewood Ave., Richwood
304.846.6790

richwoodchamberofcommerce.org



9 NEW RIVER GORGE CVB & VISITORS CENTER INFORMATION CENTER

310 W. Oyler Ave., Oak Hill
304.465.5617 or
800.927.0263

newrivergorgecvb.com
officialbridgeday.com



10 NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER CANYON RIM VISITORS CENTER

162 Visitor Center Rd., Lansing
304.574.2115

nps.gov/neri



11 WEST VIRGINIA TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

186 Greasy Ridge Rd,
Princeton
304.487.2214



12 TAMARACK & VISIT SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA INFORMATION DESK

1 Tamarack Park, Beckley
304.256.6843

visitwv.com



13 VISIT SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

1408 Harper Rd., Beckley
304.252.2244 or

800.VISIT.WV

visitwv.com



WEST VIRGINIA RULES OF THE ROAD

- A securely fastened protective helmet must be worn.
- Safety, shatter-resistant eye protection must be worn.
- To carry a passenger, the vehicle must be designed to carry more than one person or be equipped with a sidecar with safety belts.
- All motorcycles, motor-driven cycles and mopeds must have a rearview mirror as well as working turn signals and lights.
- Watch for wildlife! West Virginia is home to a healthy deer and wild turkey population. Please keep an eye out for all wildlife near roadways.
- Watch for large vehicles, including coal trucks and logging trucks on the narrow, curvy mountain roads.
- Be cautious of gravel, railroad tracks, potholes and other road hazards.
- As you cross through the mountains, be aware of high winds near the mountaintops or overlooks.

Please travel safely.
visitwv.com/motorcycle



Take a Ride on the Hatfield-McCoy Trails, West Virginia's all-terrain amusement park! With over 1,000 miles of mountain trails and ATV-friendly towns along the way, there's a lot to explore on the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System.

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EXHIBITION
COAL MINE**



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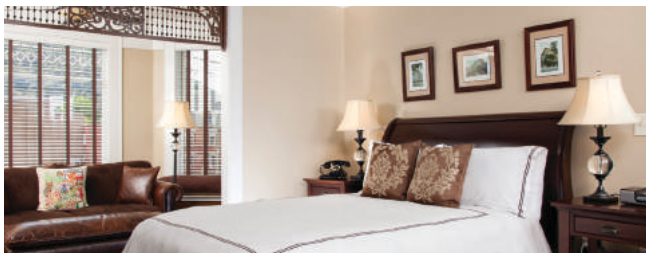


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WEST VIRGINIA
themarketwv.com

The
GUEST HOUSE
INN ON COURTHOUSE SQUARE
guesthousewv.com

A ride to Hinton will not disappoint—you'll catch glimpses of the New, Greenbrier, or Bluestone Rivers as you wind through the mountains.

Once you arrive, fuel up with a meal from The Market and relax in a suite at The Guest House.



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