



# WEST VIRGINIA

## WILD & WONDERFUL

BY BRET LOVE

**74 Charleston In Brief** The city's top historic sites, annual events and more.

**81 Golden Greens** A guide to the best golfing in West Virginia.

**82 Charleston Takes Charge** West Virginia's small-town capital city offers big-city attractions without sacrificing charm.

**86 Powder Player** West Virginia, with its top-notch ski resorts, is a winter wonderland.

**90 Wild, Wonderful West Virginia** Outdoor adventures in the Mountain State.



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## 25 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

- 1 **Our own touch of Paris.** Architect Cass Gilbert based his design of the WV State Capitol dome on the Paris building housing Napoleon's tomb. Like Les Invalides, the dome is 24 karat gold leaf.
- 2 **Great free tours** of the new \$17 million WV State Museum, Governor's Mansion and State Capitol building.
- 3 **The many Charleston festivals** throughout the year including the Vandalia Gathering, FestivALL, Multifest, Charlie West Blues Fest and SportsFest.



- 4 **Catching a Broadway-Style show** at the Clay Center and afterwards taking a stroll through our Gateway Greenspace Park because you just don't want this evening to end.
- 5 **The fact that Yeager Airport** is only 5 minutes from downtown Charleston.
- 6 **Shopping** at the Charleston Town Center mall, the largest indoor urban mall east of the Mississippi.
- 7 **Golfing** in one of the many area golf courses enjoying Wild, Wonderful West Virginia.
- 8 **An afternoon at Capitol Market** with its indoor specialty shops and restaurants and the seasonal outdoor market.



- 9 **Heritage Towers.** Charleston's premiere African-American heritage center offering exhibits, lectures and art programs designed to celebrate black culture.

- 10 **Bohemian restaurants** like Bluegrass Kitchen, Lola's and Blossom Deli.
- 11 **Chic shopping** at Ivor's Trunk and Bridge Road Shops.
- 12 **Live on the Levee free concerts** every Friday evening from Memorial to Labor Day under the retractable canopy at the newly renovated Haddad Riverfront Park.
- 13 **Fazio's Italian Restaurant,** a Charleston destination, serving the best in Italian dishes surrounded by hundreds of photos showcasing 50 years at the same location.
- 14 **Art Walk** every Thursday evening through Renaissance Village showcasing our thriving art scene.
- 15 **Baseball,** hot dogs and Appalachian Power Park with Charleston's Class A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, WV Power minor league baseball team.
- 16 **Relaxing walks, or runs,** along the beautiful Kanawha River.
- 17 **The breathtaking view** of the WV State Capitol from the University of Charleston.
- 18 **Touring downtown Charleston** on the Trolley.



- 19 **Magic Island** with summer movies, beach volleyball, jet ski races and so much more.
- 20 **A great big scoop of Ellen's Ice Cream,** especially Raspberry Chocolate, with locations on Capital Street and in Capitol Market.
- 21 **Enjoying a day of niche shopping** in Renaissance Village, where you'll find everything from fine, custom-made jewelry to designer fashions out of New York.
- 22 **Dining on Sushi** with friends at Ichiban or enjoying Tapas and night-life at Vandalia Grille.
- 23 **Acres of chain store shopping** and plenty of dining at the shops at South Ridge.
- 24 **Coffee at Taylor Books** on the tree-lined Capitol Street.
- 25 **A variety of activities at Coonskin Park or Kanawha State Forest** such as fishing, hiking, biking, golfing, swimming, tennis, archery and so much more.



## CELEBRATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE



West Virginia has a storied legacy as a key battleground in the War Between the States, and today the Charleston area has several organizations and facilities devoted to preserving the region's African-American history and culture.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, **CAMP WASHINGTON-CARVER** was named in honor of Booker T. Washington (who spent part of his boyhood in WV) and George Washington Carver. Established in 1942 as a summer camp for African-American youth, the site is now a cultural arts center that regularly hosts the African-American Heritage Arts Camp and Appalachian String Band Festival.

**CAMP WASHINGTON CARVER**  
 HC 35, Box 5, Clifftop  
 304-438-3005  
[wvculture.org](http://wvculture.org)

**HERITAGE TOWERS** is Charleston's premiere African-American heritage center, offering exhibits, lectures and art programs designed to celebrate the past, present and future of black culture. The galleries take visitors on a journey from West Africa and the Underground Railroad through the Civil Rights era and the life of modern-day



coal miners, vividly bringing African-American history to life.

**HERITAGE TOWERS**  
 612 Virginia St East  
 304-343-3250  
[heritagetowers.us](http://heritagetowers.us)

**THE WEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART & CULTURE** occasionally offers Valley Heritage Tours on a turn-of-the-century trolley spotlighting local landmarks of historical significance. Stops include the formerly segregated Garnet High School for Blacks and "The Block," an area that was home to prominent African-Americans and their businesses.

**THE WEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART & CULTURE**  
 People's Building,  
 179 Summers St, Suite 507  
 304-346-6339  
[cacwv.org](http://cacwv.org)

## By the Numbers

**250,000+**  
 Estimated residents of the city's metropolitan population

**3**  
 Major interstates that come together in Charleston (I-64, I-77 and I-79)

**50+**  
 Percentage of the US population that resides within 500 miles of the city

**77.1**  
 Average high temperature

**34.1**  
 Average low temperature

**3,500**  
 Total hotel rooms in the Charleston area

**173,000+**  
 Estimated square feet of meeting and convention space in downtown Charleston



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## ANNUAL EVENTS IN CHARLESTON

### JANUARY

#### WEST VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

##### AT THE CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER

This Motor Trend-sponsored show packs the Civic Center with the latest in cars, trucks, vans and SUVs, introducing aficionados to the latest in automotive technology.

[motortrendautoshow.com](http://motortrendautoshow.com)

### FEBRUARY

#### WEST VIRGINIA SPORTS SHOW

##### AT THE CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER

Everything a sportsman needs to explore the Great Outdoors, but indoors, this event features the hottest boats, campers, RVs and ATVs and the coolest in hunting and fishing gear.

[charlestonwvciviccenter.com](http://charlestonwvciviccenter.com)

### MARCH

#### COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

##### AT THE CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER

Top West Virginia college and high school men's and women's basketball teams compete for conference championships.

### APRIL

#### WV POWER BASEBALL

##### AT APPALACHIAN POWER PARK

Charleston's minor-league baseball team, the Class A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates (and former team of MLB All-Star Ryan Braun), open their season.

[wvpower.com](http://wvpower.com)

### MAY

#### VANDALIA GATHERING

##### AT THE WEST VIRGINIA CULTURE CENTER & STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS

A yearly celebration of West Virginia's traditional arts, crafts, music, dance and food, this free three-day festival is a who's who in Appalachian culture.

[wvculture.org/vandalia](http://wvculture.org/vandalia)

### JUNE

#### FESTIVAL CHARLESTON

##### AT MULTIPLE VENUES

This 10-day citywide celebration of Charleston culture features everything from music, art, dance and theatrical performances to river cruises, tours and storytelling, almost all of which are free.

[festivalcharleston.com](http://festivalcharleston.com)

### JULY

#### CHARLIE WEST BLUES FEST

##### AT APPALACHIAN POWER PARK

Presented by the West Virginia Blues Society, this annual music festival (named after Charleston's Yeager Airport, which is affectionately known as "Charlie West") features live blues, booze and BBQ.

[charliwestbluesfest.com](http://charliwestbluesfest.com)

### AUGUST

#### SPORTSFEST

##### AT MAGIC ISLAND

This massive three-day event includes jet-ski racing on the Kanawha River, EVP Tour Pro Beach Volleyball, the Firefighter Combat Challenge, Beach Wrestling and live music at Haddad Riverfront Park—and it's all free.

[charlestonwv.com](http://charlestonwv.com)

### SEPTEMBER

#### WEST VIRGINIA STATE H.O.G. RALLY IN DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON

Hundreds of bikers descend on the city (which closes down Kanawha Boulevard) for this four-day block party, which includes guided rides, safety demos, a hog roast lunch and VIP dinner at the Governor's Mansion.

[wvstatehogrally.com](http://wvstatehogrally.com)

### OCTOBER

#### CHARLESTON ROD RUN AND DOO WOP CAR SHOW ON KANAWHA BOULEVARD

Over 800 cars lining the Boulevard along the Kanawha River with fireworks, free concerts, burnout contests and more.

[charlestonwvcarshow.com](http://charlestonwvcarshow.com)

### NOVEMBER

#### CAPITAL CITY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW AT CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER

Annually attracting upwards of 20,000 visitors, this festive 43-year-old event is the state's largest indoor exhibition, featuring more than 150 artisans selling a broad variety of one-of-a-kind items for your one-stop holiday shopping pleasure.

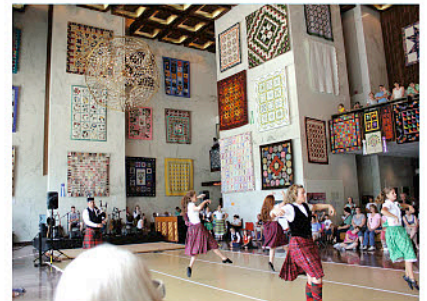
[charlestonwvciviccenter.com](http://charlestonwvciviccenter.com)

### DECEMBER

#### GOOD NIGHT CELEBRATION AT MULTIPLE VENUES

This family-friendly New Year's Eve event, hosted by the Charleston Community Music Organization, features numerous free concerts throughout the city.

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



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## GOLDEN GREENS

A GUIDE TO THE BEST GOLFING IN WEST VIRGINIA



### GREENBRIER, MEADOWS, OLD WHITE & THE SNEAD COURSES AT THE GREENBRIER

**OVERVIEW:** West Virginia's famed Greenbrier Resort features four distinctive courses and is ranked eighth on *Golf Digest's* list of Best Golf Resorts in North America. Built in 1913, the Old White plays host to the PGA Tour's annual Greenbrier Classic; the Greenbrier Course was redesigned in the '70s by Jack Nicklaus; the Bob Cupp-designed Meadows was awarded 4 ½ stars; and The Snead (named after longtime Greenbrier pro Sam Snead) is the centerpiece of the resort's ultra-exclusive Sporting Club.

**PAR:** 72/ 72/ 70/ 71

**YARDAGE:** 6,675/ 6,795/ 6,826/ 7,025

**RATING:** 73.1/ 72.8/ 73.7/ 71.4

**FIND IT:** 300 West Main, White Sulphur Springs, WV  
800-624-6070  
greenbrier.com

### PALMER COURSE AT STONEWALL RESORT

**OVERVIEW:** Both *Golf Magazine* and *Golf Digest* have ranked this 18-hole Arnold Palmer signature course in the Mountain Lakes region among the nation's best new courses. With its narrow, tree-lined fairways, pedestal greens and bountiful elevation changes, it's not hard to see why the course is widely considered the best in West Virginia.

**PAR:** 72

**YARDAGE:** 7,149

**RATING:** 75.4

**FIND IT:** 940 Resort Dr, Roanoke, WV  
304-269-8885  
stonewallresort.com

### COBB & STONEHAVEN & WOODHAVEN COURSES AT THE RESORT AT GLADE SPRINGS

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the scenic New River-Greenbrier Valley region, the Resort At Glade Springs boasts three championship-level courses. The Cobb Course (named after architect George Cobb) features gorgeous rolling fairways surrounded by old growth forest; the Stonehaven Course offers picture postcard-worthy landscaping that earned it a four-star review from *Golf Digest*; and the relatively new Woodhaven Course affords stunning views of Glade's Creek and the surrounding West Virginia mountains.

**PAR:** 72/ 72/ 72

**YARDAGE:** 7,203/ 7,203/ 7,070

**RATING:** 72.2/ 72.6/ 75.1

**FIND IT:** 255 Resort Dr, Daniels, WV  
866-504-3828  
gladesprings.com





## CHARLESTON TAKES CHARGE

WEST VIRGINIA'S SMALL-TOWN CAPITAL CITY OFFERS BIG-CITY ATTRACTIONS WITHOUT SACRIFICING ITS CHARM.

**ADMIT IT:** You already have preconceived notions of what West Virginia would be like. Chances are they involve images of mountainous terrain, hard-working miners and those quaint country roads that John Denver sang about way back in 1971. The state of West Virginia may be all of those things, but a visit to Charleston proves it's also a whole lot more.

Founded in 1794, Charleston became an important city during the pioneer era due to its remarkable natural resources, which

include coal, salt and natural gas. The Battle of Charleston and abolitionist John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry made the territory a key battleground during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln declared West Virginia America's 35th state in 1863, and in 1877, citizens voted for Charleston to become the state's capital. It's easy to see why. Surrounded on all sides by the rolling Appalachian hills for which the Mountaineer State is known, and split down the middle by the picturesque Kanawha River, Charles-

ton offers a pitch-perfect balance between small-town intimacy and the amenities of a much larger city.

Charleston has experienced an explosion in cultural offerings over the past decade. The centerpiece is the Clay Center For The Arts & Sciences, a 240,000-square-foot facility opened in 2003. Named for philanthropists Buckner and Lyell Clay, the \$100 million development includes an art gallery focused on local artists, the kid-friendly Avampato Discovery Museum, the ElectricSky Theater (which features





# LAND OF ADVENTURE



Cool mountain breezes, jaw-dropping scenery and the sound of rushing water greet you as you enter Southern West Virginia. Home to America's Best Whitewater,<sup>®</sup> the region is a mecca of outdoor adventure activities like rock climbing, mountain biking, championship golf and ATV trails. Coupled with fabulous resorts, unique festivals and great food and shopping, Southern West Virginia is truly the Land of Adventure. Get your *FREE* visitors guide today! 1.800.VisitWV • VisitWV.com

Southern West Virginia  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

West Virginia  
Wild and Wonderful





planetarium shows and large-format films) and the Maier Foundation Performance Hall, which hosts everything from Broadway tours and the West Virginia Symphony to performances by artists such as the Chick Corea Trio (Sept. 26) and Dionne Warwick (Dec. 3).

Equally impressive is the West Virginia State Museum, which recently underwent a \$17 million renovation to upgrade the 30-year-old facility. The result is an immersive experience that takes visitors through thousands of years of West Virginia history, from the time of the Iroquois Indians and pioneers such as Daniel Boone on up to modern icons such as fighter pilot Chuck Yeager and

basketball legend Jerry West. With tours of the State Capitol Building and Governor's Mansion located right next door, you could easily spend a day here.

For those who prefer outdoor activities, the newly covered amphitheater at Haddad Riverfront Park regularly hosts outdoor "Live On The Levee" concerts and offers boat-docking facilities along the Kanawha River, while Magic Island offers professional quality sand volleyball courts, walking paths and scenic picnic spots right where the Kanawha meets the Elk River.

If shopping is your idea of a good time, Charleston has plenty of options to choose from: Town Center Mall is one of the largest

urban malls in the East; downtown's Renaissance Village offers a variety of quaint boutiques, bookstores, antique shops and chic shops at Bridge Road; the Capitol Market features an open-air section offering fresh produce and flowers as well as indoor shops selling specialty wine, meats, coffee, chocolates and more.

For a small city surrounded by so much natural beauty, Charleston offers a broad range of urban activities and excursions to entertain visitors of any stripe. But the area's greatest resource may be its people, whose refreshingly friendly attitudes make a trip down West Virginia's country roads feel like going home. ■





## IF YOU GO:

**Clay Center For The Arts & Sciences**  
1 Clay Sq  
304-561-3570  
theclaycenter.org

**West Virginia State Museum**  
1900 Kanawha Blvd East  
304-558-0220  
wvculture.org

**Haddad Riverfront Park**  
400 Second Ave  
304-348-6860  
cityofcharleston.org

**Magic Island**  
101 Kanawha Blvd W  
304-348-6860  
cityofcharleston.org

**Town Center Mall**  
3000 Charleston Town Center  
304-345-9525  
charlestontowncenter.com

**Renaissance Village**  
Antique and boutique shopping  
district in downtown Charleston.

**Bridge Road Shops**  
PO Box 1925  
bridgeroad.org

**Capitol Market**  
800 Smith St  
304-344-1905  
capitolmarket.net

## OTHER AREA ATTRACTIONS OF INTEREST:

**Appalachian Power Park**  
This \$23 million facility is home to the West Virginia Power Class A baseball team along with Marshall University's baseball team and the West Virginia High School Baseball Tournament.  
wvpower.com

**Charleston Art Walk**  
Brought to you by the galleries and art-related businesses of downtown Charleston the ArtWalk is the showcase of the city's thriving art scene. The ArtWalk happens ten months of the year (March through December) and typically on the third Thursday of the month from 5 to 8pm.  
charlestonartwalk.com

**Historic East End Walking Tour**  
Where can you find a pair of homes built as mirror images of each other for two sisters? An office building that survived a cannonball hit during the 1862 Battle of Charleston? They're all part of a Walking Tour Guide of Charleston's historic East End. Walking tours of the gold-domed state Capitol and the Governor's Mansion are also available.  
304-340-4253

**Sunrise Carriage Trail**  
This historic walking trail dates back to 1905 and features artifacts, a carved grotto and monuments to women killed during the Civil War.  
740 Myrtle Rd  
304-342-7676

## Filler Ad

Your journey begins at the...  
**WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM**

**No Admission Charge**

**Tuesday-Sunday  
Closed Monday**



For tour information, call

**304-558-0162**

[www.wvculture.org](http://www.wvculture.org)



**CULTURE CENTER**

West Virginia State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, Exit 99 off I-64/77

EEO/AA Employer



## POWDER PLAYER

West Virginia, with its top-notch ski resorts, is a winter wonderland.

Often referred to as the southernmost state in the North and the northernmost state in the South, West Virginia's lofty elevation and dynamic terrain make it a natural haven for winter-sports lovers. Thanks to the state's temperate climate, the area typically offers the longest season in the mid-Atlantic and southeast regions, annually attracting hundreds of thousands of downhill and cross-country skiers, snowboarders and snowtubers. And with each resort boasting snowmaking capabilities, you can count on fresh powder even when Mother Nature proves uncooperative.

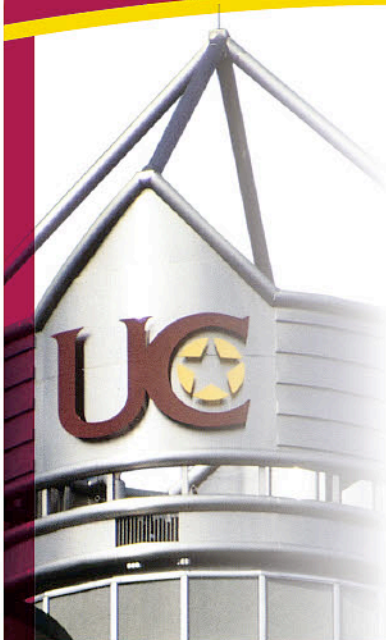




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Dr. Robert Bliss  
UC Graduate School of Business  
Charleston, West Virginia  
304.357.4865  
robertbliss@ucwv.edu



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**The Greenbrier Resort**

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Single or double occupancy



\* Exclusive offer available only to guests of The Resort at Glade Springs. Package requires a 2 night minimum stay at The Resort at Glade Springs and the additional night at The Greenbrier must be used in conjunction with this 2 night minimum stay. Based on availability through September 30, 2010. Package is not available for group bookings.

255 Resort Drive | Daniels, WV 25832 | [www.gladesprings.com](http://www.gladesprings.com) | 877-573-0161





**CANAAN VALLEY RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER**  
 H.C. 70, Box 330, Rte 32 North, Davis, WV  
 304-866-4121  
[canaanresort.com](http://canaanresort.com)

Located high in the Allegheny Mountains in the heart of the Monongahela National Forest, this West Virginia State Park resort features more than 6,000 acres of land bordered by the Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge and the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area.

Surrounded by 18 miles of trails that wind through hardwood forests, open meadows and wetlands, the resort offers abundant wildlife, guided nature walks, horseback riding and an 18-hole, par-72 golf course, ensuring that even non-skiers and off-season visitors can have a great time. Other amenities include geocaching games, a climbing wall, paintball and an outdoor pool during summer months.

During ski season, which typically begins around mid-December, the state's first commercial ski development attracts a diverse crowd thanks to the breadth of its offerings, which include ski slopes, snowboarding parks, a tubing park and an ice-skating rink. Other than the beginner skiing area and a long green trail running from the summit to the resort base, most of the mountain's terrain is marked either "More Difficult" or "Most Difficult," providing solid challenges for experienced skiers. The resort also offers night skiing every Thursday through Sunday during peak season and on holidays.

**FAST FACTS:**

Top Elevation: 4,280 feet  
 Vertical: 850 feet  
 Longest Run: 6,000 feet  
 Terrain: 37 skiing trails and slopes, two snowboarding parks, one tubing park  
 Lifts: one quad, two triple chairs  
 Snowmaking: 85%  
 Lodging: 250-room lodge, 23 cabins

**SNOWSHOE MOUNTAIN**  
 10 Snowshoe Dr., Snowshoe, WV  
 800-766-9464  
[snowshoemtn.com](http://snowshoemtn.com)

Ranked the No. 1 ski resort in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast region by Skiing magazine in 2009, Snowshoe sits on 11,000 acres of pristine woodland in the Allegheny Mountains and is the second highest point in West Virginia.

Snowshoe Mountain is the name of the resort, but it actually sits on top of Cheat Mountain, right at the head of the Shavers Fork of the Cheat River. Snowshoe's elevation, cool temperatures, stunning views and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities attract nearly 500,000 visitors each year.

The expansive resort offers year-round activities such as mountain biking, horseback riding, fly fishing, climbing walls, canoeing and kayaking, hiking, clay shooting, ATV and Segway tours and the always-popular Raven Golf Club, which has been named one of the Top 30 resort courses in America. But it's in winter that Snowshoe really shines, offering 60 different slopes and trails (41% easier, 36% more difficult, 23% most difficult), a lift capacity of 23,400 people per hour, 12 slopes open for night skiing, and both group and private lessons in skiing and snowboarding.

**FAST FACTS:**

Top Elevation: 4,848 feet  
 Vertical: 1,500 feet  
 Longest Run: 1.5 miles  
 Terrain: 60 skiing trails and slopes, one tubing park  
 Lifts: 14 total, including 3 quads, 2 handle tows and 2 Magic Carpet lift  
 Snowmaking: 100%  
 Lodging: 1,400 units ranging from cabins to condos



## OTHER WEST VIRGINIA SKI RESORTS

### **OGLEBAY RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER**

465 Lodge Drive  
Wheeling, WV  
304-243-4000  
[oglebay-resort.com](http://oglebay-resort.com)

### **TIMBERLINE FOUR SEASONS RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER**

Timberline Rd.  
Davis, WV  
304-866-4801  
[timberlineresort.com](http://timberlineresort.com)

### **WINTERPLACE SKI RESORT**

100 Old Flat Top Mt. Rd.  
Ghent, WV  
304-787-3221  
[winterplace.com](http://winterplace.com)

*For more information  
on visiting West Virginia,  
call 1-800-CALL-WVA  
or visit [www.WVTourism.com](http://www.WVTourism.com)*

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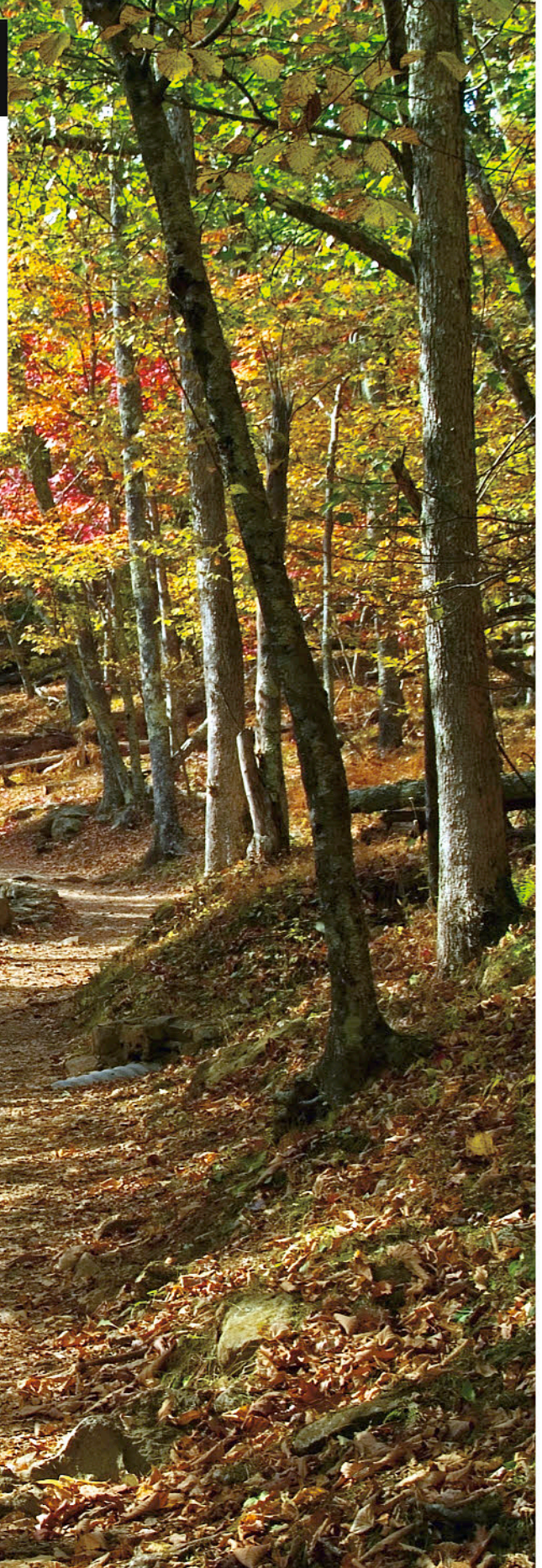




## WILD, WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE

West Virginians often refer to their state as “Almost Heaven” (borrowed from a line in the John Denver song “Take Me Home, Country Roads”), and you don’t even have to step foot on their native ground to understand why. Flying into Charleston’s Yeager Airport, you’ll find yourself amazed by sprawling views of the Mountain State’s dynamic terrain, approximately 75% of which is within the Cumberland Plateau and Allegheny Plateau regions. Sparse in population but rich in biodiversity and scenic beauty, West Virginia is a wild and wonderful paradise for nature lovers, offering endless options for outdoor adventures.





**Filler Ad**





## ATV BACKCOUNTRY TOURS

One of the best ways to explore West Virginia's rugged, rustic rural areas, All Terrain Vehicle Tours such as the ones offered by **Ace Adventure Resort** take you deep into the heart of the New River Gorge backcountry. Featured on the Travel Channel's "Extreme Resorts" as North America's Largest Adventure Resort, ACE encompasses 1500 acres of pristine wilderness, with nearly 30 miles of trails for you to explore. After a brief 30-minute safety demonstration and a quick spin to get a feel for the fine points of operating their Can Am 400 Tandem ATVs, you're off into the woods, zooming between thick undergrowth, over hills, and splashing through puddles while viewing spectacular scenery (including an amazing view overlooking the New River). Their guides will explain the history of the area, from the village that perched right on the mountaintop in the 1800s to the once-bustling mining town below that took on a Wild West-like reputation. At the end of the 3-hour trek (two of which are spent riding), you'll be thankful for a cool, refreshing dip in the resort's lake to wash off the mud!

### ACE ADVENTURE RESORT

800-787-3982  
[aceraft.com](http://aceraft.com)

Southern West Virginia offers hundreds of miles of off-road trails and adventures that range from challenging to leisurely. The award-winning **Hatfield-McCoy Trails** is one of the largest off-road vehicle trail systems in the world with 500 miles to traverse. Many trails even connect to ATV-friendly, charming small towns where visitors can shop and eat. With six unique trails, the Hatfield-McCoy system truly has something for everyone to enjoy. ATV rentals and dealers are available along the trail, as well as lodging that include resorts, hotels, bed and breakfasts, cabins and camping sites. National media outlets like *ATV Illustrated*, *ATV Sport*, *Dirt Rider* and *ATV Magazine* as well as television programs on Outdoor Channel have praised the trail system. In fact, people often say, "Since West Virginia is known as 'Almost Heaven,' it's only natural the Hatfield-McCoy Trails have become known as 'Trails Heaven.'"

### HATFIELD-MCCOY TRAILS

800-592-2217  
[trailsheaven.com](http://trailsheaven.com)

"You can have fun and get dirty. Or you can stand there in line and stay clean." That's the general sentiment of visitors who experience ATV trails at **Burning Rock Outdoor Adventure Park**. More than 100 miles of trails are available and maintained year-round for mudding adventures.

### BURNING ROCK OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PARK

877-683-9240  
[burningrockwv.com](http://burningrockwv.com)





## CANOPY TOURS

If you've never experienced the extreme adrenaline rush of a zipline before, the **TreeTops New River Gorge Canopy Tour** is an invigorating adventure that should not be missed. While ziplines themselves are inherently exhilarating, it's the spectacular scenery that makes this one special. After strapping into your harnesses and helmet, guides lead guests through orientation and allow them to practice on a "Ground School" zip located just a few feet off the ground. After that you make a short hike up to the relative tame Ajax Zip, the first in a series of ten zips varying in length from 100 to 730 feet, with speeds approaching up to 30 miles per hour. The 3.5-hour course (which also includes five sky bridges,

three short hikes and a 40-foot rappel down from the final platform) is wisely designed to ease first-timers into it, with the zips increasing in intensity as your gain confidence. By the end, you'll be screaming "Bonzai!" at the top of your lungs as you whirr through lush rhododendron and old-growth Eastern Hemlock and over pastoral Mill Creek (which is also known for excellent trout fishing). Think of it as communing with nature at a heart-pumping pace.

**TREETOPS NEW RIVER GORGE CANOPY TOUR**  
877-811-5321  
[canopytourwv.com](http://canopytourwv.com)





## WHITewater RAFTING

With its scenic wilderness and wild rivers, West Virginia has emerged as one of the nation's premiere whitewater rafting destinations. There are more than a dozen major rafting outfitters to choose from, but **Class VI- Mountain River** is among the most trusted, with over 35 years of experience in guiding guests down both the New River and the Gauley River. They offer a broad variety of tours to suit varying ages, experience and interest levels, ranging from quick two-hour treks to three-day adventures that include overnight camping. For families with small children ages six and up, the Upper New River offers a laid-back float trip, while Lower New River is rated for ages 12 and up, offering rushing rapids and a steep lower gorge canyon. For those seeking a more intense rafting challenge, the Lower Gauley River kicks it up a notch with its intense Class IV-V rapids, with a few placid pools in between to catch your breath. You might find yourself holding that breath if you dare to take on the Upper Gauley, which offers a serious series of Class V challenges stacked one on top of the other. It's definitely not for the faint of heart... or the weak of arm.

### WEST VIRGINIA WHITewater OUTFITTERS

**ACE ADVENTURE  
RESORT**  
800-787-3982  
aceraft.com

**ALPINE MINISTRIES**  
800-806-2180  
alpineministries.com

**CANTRELL  
ULTIMATE RAFTING**  
800-470-7238  
ultimaterafting.com

**CLASS VI-  
MOUNTAIN RIVER**  
800-252-7784  
class-vi.com

**NEW & GAULEY  
RIVER ADVENTURES**  
800-759-7238  
gauley.com

**NORTH AMERICAN  
RIVER RUNNERS**  
800-950-2585  
narr.com

**PASSAGES TO  
ADVENTURE**  
800-634-3785  
passagestoadventure.com

**RIVER EXPEDITIONS**  
800-463-9873  
raftinginfo.com

**RIVERMEN WHITewater**  
800-545-7238  
rivermen.com

**SONGER WHITewater**  
800-356-7238  
songerwhitewater.com

**WEST VIRGINIA  
ADVENTURES**  
800-850-5457  
trywva.com

**WILDwater  
EXPEDITIONS**  
800-982-7238  
wvraft.com