COME. GO WILD!

Mini Guide to Mountaineer Country, WV

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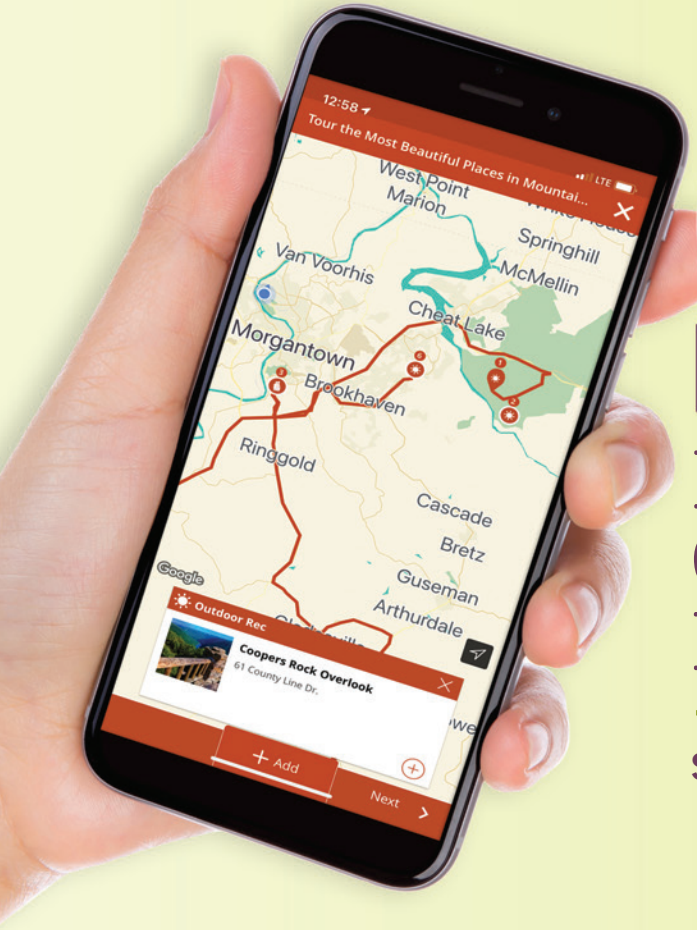

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VISITORS CENTER

In addition to providing information and services for leisure visitors, the Visit Mountaineer Country Convention & Visitors Bureau is a full-service CVB committed to making your vision of a successful meeting or group tour a reality. Complimentary meeting services are provided, including proposals (telephone, e-mail, and online), site selection assistance, promotional materials, vendors, welcome tables, and volunteers. Contact our destination experts today at **800-458-7373** or visit us online at:

VISIT MOUNTAINEER COUNTRY.com™

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Whether you're creating a detailed day trip or just exploring as you go, the Visit Mountaineer Country CVB Visitors Center helps you make the most of every minute you spend in Mountaineer Country! Our staff really knows the area; local golf courses, shopping excursions, and how to get tickets for big performances and hot attractions.

- Free Maps
- Suggested Day Trips
- Visitors Guides
- Calendar of Events
- Accommodation Assistance

WEST VIRGINIA

CERTIFIED
West Virginia Convention & Visitors Bureau

Cheat River

OUTDOORS

Adventure WV

WATCH THIS VIDEO!

WELCOME TO MOUNTAINEER COUNTRY!

For most visitors, this place becomes a second home: familiar, yet a world away. The time you spend here will take residence in your heart and soul. **Cavers, climbers, cyclists, boaters, hikers, naturalists,** and **paddlers** sing the praises of a region offering unlimited adventures. Between the spectacular **scenic overlooks, the waters,** and the **local folks** you'll meet along the way, this is the haven that calls you back year after year. We hope you'll embrace every opportunity to immerse yourself in this place called Mountaineer Country!

OUTDOORS

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Whether you prefer trails made of concrete or dirt, miles of trails are open for adventure in Mountaineer Country. There are routes for every skill level, from flat rail trails where the whole family can pedal together to heart-pounding technical courses climbing up through thickly forested mountains and back down again. Each trail is ready to delight the most experienced mountain bikers.

Bike rentals in downtown Morgantown have easy access to the Mon River Rail-Trail. If you brought your own wheels with you and need a tune-up or repair, count on local businesses to keep you moving. Once your ride is ready to go, choose the route that's right for you.

Scan for more adventures and trail maps in Mountaineer Country!

MOUNTAINEER Est. 2024 GRAVEL

MOUNTAINEER GRAVEL

Perfect for any adventure seeker, **Mountaineer Gravel** delivers a rugged experience, with off-road routes that wind through scenic backroads, rolling hills, and challenging terrain.
MountaineerGravel.com

COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST

Roughly 50 miles of bike trails wind through Coopers Rock State Forest, just 15 minutes from downtown Morgantown. If you're an experienced mountain biker up for a challenge, take the **Raven Rock Trail** and climb to the top of the forest for an epic view of the **Cheat River Canyon**. Forty registered and 10 single-track trails will keep you exploring for hours.

VALLEY FALLS STATE PARK

Mountain bikers will enjoy the 18 miles of scenic trails that cut through **Valley Falls State Park**—located south of Morgantown near Fairmont. Bike routes also traverse the stone remains of the grist and lumber mills that supported a small community that existed here along the banks of the **Tygart River**.

Big Bear Lake Trail Center

Big Bear Lake Trail Center

BIG BEAR LAKE TRAIL CENTER

For an affordable day pass, you can enjoy more than 50 miles of expertly groomed trails within this privately-owned Bruceton Mills trail park. At **Big Bear Lake Trail Center**, you'll find routes the whole family will enjoy, gradual climbs, challenging rocky paths, and a white-knuckle downhill route or two for more experienced riders. Plus, visit our events calendar at **vistmountaineercountry.com/events** for your favorite biking events, such as Bike Bash WV in July.

WHITE PARK

Managed by the Board of Parks and Recreation, **White Park** is a green space in Morgantown that has become an urban playground for mountain bike enthusiasts. There's a 3.5-mile trail fitting for intermediate riders, 3-4 miles of hard-pack trails perfect for beginners, and single-track routes meandering through the park.

MON RIVER RAIL-TRAIL SYSTEM

You'll discover epic river views, waterfalls, and historical sites near the **Mon River Rail-Trail**, stretching over 47 miles along the mighty **Monongahela River** through Marion and Monongalia counties. The trail is paved in some areas and crushed stone in others, and the entire length is well-suited for riders of all levels. You'll find the trailhead just north of Morgantown in Point Marion, Pa., and its terminus at Prickett's Fort State Park near Fairmont. The Mon River Rail-Trail is recognized by the National Rails-to-Trails Hall of Fame—and if you're up for more, the connecting **Deckers Creek Rail-Trail** climbs into Preston County with wooded views and a steady, scenic ascent.

OUTDOORS

WHITEWATER RAFTING AND KAYAKING

West Virginia is a year-round whitewater destination for paddlers from all over the world. The Cheat Canyon section of the Cheat River is North Central West Virginia's premier springtime Class V whitewater run. Located in Albright, the canyon boasts 13 miles of unsurpassed wilderness. Enjoy fully guided whitewater rafting, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, swimming, rock jumping, rock climbing, paintball, and riverside picnicking for a perfect summer day on the river.

Rafting and kayaking tours and rentals are available through local guiding companies: Cheat River Outfitters in Albright, WV; Blackwater Outdoor Adventures in Parsons, WV; Morgantown Adventure Outfitters; and Padlz in Bruceton Mills.

Valley Falls

CHEAT NARROWS

You'll find the **Cheat Narrows** section of the Cheat River near the community of **Kingwood**. The run is best for beginner to intermediate paddlers with rapids ranging from class II-III, depending on the time of year. The Narrows is one of the cleanest and most beautiful runs around. Summer tends to have the slowest water when river levels are typically at their lowest point. There are multiple areas to enter the river along Route 72.

CHEAT CANYON

The **Cheat Canyon** offers 13 miles of adrenaline-pumping rapid fun from **Albright** to the **Jenkinsville Bridge**. The route isn't for the faint of heart, with rapids from class III-V along the way. Rafting in the canyon happens mainly in the spring, but trips are possible in the summer and fall, depending on water levels.

VALLEY FALLS STATE PARK

Valley Falls State Park gets its name from the four cascading waterfalls that follow along the natural bend of the **Tygart River**. Kayakers and paddlers are invited to test the waters; fast currents and rocky falls make each section of the Valley Falls to Hammond kayaking route challenging. Rated a class II-IV in difficulty, this 3.4-mile route features three drops: the **Valley Falls** (class rating IV), the **Hamburger Helper** (class rating IV+), and the **Twist and Shout Takeout**.

BULL RUN

This waterway is a favorite of local kayakers and is best suited for paddlers with extensive river experience. The 3-mile route with class V+ rapids ends at the entrance to the **Cheat River**.

DECKERS CREEK

The most experienced paddlers with little fear will cherish the ride on Deckers. The route is steep and full of undercuts and sieves that can quickly flash fill. If you think you'd like to paddle **Deckers Creek**—ideal for its proximity to Morgantown—go with someone who knows the route well.

LAUREL RUN

This advanced paddler route runs roughly 5 miles from **Morgantown** to the **Big Sandy Creek** confluence near **Bruceton Mills**. On the run, you'll encounter class V+ rapids and enjoy spectacular, pristine wilderness.

Monongahela River

INSIDER TIP

For a local perspective on flatwater paddling in Mountaineer Country visit **www.facebook.com/MorgantownAreaPaddlers,** a local paddling group focused on promoting and developing social, relaxed kayaking and canoeing.

Alpine Lake

Scan for more rafting and kayaking adventures in Mountaineer Country!

OUTDOORS

FISHING

West Virginia has an infinite number of rivers, lakes, streams, creeks, and ponds where aquatic life thrives. Reeling in a prized catch like the one-of-a-kind golden trout is possible any time you wet a line. The state has become an angler's dream destination with so much opportunity in a stunning setting.

More than 150 species of fish will taunt you as long as you let them. Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, muskie, northern pike, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, sunfish, trout, and walleye are a few of the most common species you might hook in the area. Many of the ponds in the region are even stocked annually by the state.

Remember that fishermen and women older than 15 must hold a valid fishing license to cast in West Virginia waters. You can purchase your license online or get one in person from participating retail merchants.

CHEAT LAKE

This popular recreational lake sees plenty of traffic from early spring through late fall. You can fish from your boat—put in at the free **Sunset Beach Public Launch** or pay to launch from the Cheat Lake Marina. You can also fish from your kayak—put in at the fishing area and kayak launch near the **Cheat Lake Bridge** or from **Cheat Lake Park**. Keep your eyes peeled for bass, catfish, walleye, and pike.

MONONGAHELA RIVER

Cast a line for channel catfish and smallmouth bass on the 128-mile mighty **Monongahela River**. Fish from the shore or launch your boat from one of four public boat ramps in **Fort Martin, Star City, Granville,** and **Morgantown**—which is handicap accessible at the **Walnut Street Landing**. You can also lock through the Mon on your kayak for greater access to the river north or south of Morgantown.

CHEAT RIVER

Free-flowing water, breathtaking swimming holes, and incredible wilderness entice visitors to **Cheat River**. There's boat access along this river that is an excellent waterway for angler fishing. Expect to see channel catfish, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass in the pristine waters.

Scan for the top spots to fish in Mountaineer Country!

INSIDER TIP

Call (304) 265-5953 for daily water levels and conditions at Tygart Lake.

TYGART VALLEY RIVER

The **Tygart Valley River** is stocked annually by the state in February, every other week from March to May, and twice more each October. That means it's a great fishing destination with a high probability of catching bass and trout.

TYGART LAKE

This 1,750-acre body of water is the crown jewel of **Tygart Lake State Park** and is stocked monthly from February to May and twice in October. You can fish from the shore in designated areas throughout the park and launch your boat from the **Tygart Lake Marina**. Boat rentals are available from the marina, too.

BIG BEAR LAKE

A favorite outdoor recreation destination for Mountaineer Country families since 1972 is the privately-owned **Big Bear Lake Family Campland**. Boats are allowed, and no fishing license is required on the 35-acre lake. Access is only available for property owners or those staying in the resort. Day-use passes are available.

DIXON LAKE AND MASON LAKE

Both **Dixon and Mason lakes** are stocked by the state and full of bass, channel catfish, muskie, and trout. The lakes are part of the **Pedlar Wildlife Management Area** accessible from West Virginia Rt. 7, also known as the Mason-Dixon Highway.

FESTIVALS

- **West Virginia Gold Rush**—statewide, March through April
- **Trout Stocking Carnival**—3 Forks & Tygart River in Taylor County; April
- **West Virginia Bass Tournament**—Cheat Lake; May, June, August, September, and October
- **West Virginia Bass Tournament**—Tygart Lake; May, June, July, September, and October
- **Bass Nation Events**—Monongahela River at Palatine Park, June through September

For more information on area fishing and hunting, go to visitmountaineercountry.com/hunting-and-fishing-licenses.

OUTDOORS

ZIPLINE CANOPY TOUR

As you're heading northeast on I-79 from Morgantown, you'll quickly see signs to Coopers Rock State Forest. Exit 15 delivers you to the WVU Zipline Canopy Tour, where you'll find four zip lines leading to seven platforms and aerial bridges that you'll traverse on your tour. You'll be 980 feet above sea level at its highest point in the canopy until your final rappel to the course-terminating platform.

The tour takes around three hours to complete and is available to visitors in the spring, summer, and fall. It's the perfect activity for families traveling together, groups, or solo travelers with a taste for adventure. You can even spend the night in the forest in one of the campsites, yurt bunkhouses, or cabins. Learn more about the zipline tour and other Adventure WV Outdoor Classroom activities, like the state-of-the-art challenge course, and make reservations online at **adventurechallenge.wvu.edu.**

Scan for more on ziplining in Mountaineer Country!

Adventure WV

BONUS:
ALMOST HEAVEN SWING

Visit the Almost Heaven swing on the walkway to the scenic overlook at **Coopers Rock**.

Don't forget to share your swing selfie at **#AlmostHeaven**.

ROCK CLIMBING/ BOULDERING

Experienced rock climbers know where to go for the best routes on the East Coast: Almost Heaven, West Virginia. This is home to world-class climbing, and Mountaineer Country offers everything from technical pitches to bouldering. You'll find easy ascents where new climbers can practice more advanced routes and multi-pitch climbs. The scenery around you is worth almost as much as the climb, with canyon overlooks, mountain lakes, and thick, emerald-colored Appalachian forest around every bend.

Mountaineer Country has a robust climbing community if you're searching for like-minded enthusiasts to show you the way. Head to a premier destination like Coopers Rock State Forest or Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area—offering some of the best bouldering terrains—to experience a true climbing paradise less than 20 minutes outside of Morgantown.

Coopers Rock State Forest

COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST

One of the best places to start your climbing adventure in Mountaineer Country is on the **sandstone cliffs** within **Coopers Rock State Forest**. More than 100 established boulder problems, short trad leads, and top-rope climbs provide ample challenges.

SNAKE HILL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Avoid the crowds and head to **Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area** near the **Cheat Lake area** of Monongalia County. You'll find trad routes and what some consider the best-established boulder problems in the area.

THE BRIDGE INDOOR CLIMBING WALL

The Bridge Sports Complex houses an impressive—and colorful—**indoor climbing area featuring 31 unique walls**. The space simulates an outdoor climbing experience for the whole family and everyone enjoying it must complete a pre-climb safety briefing.

The **clip 'n climb challenges** are housed inside a 155,000 s.f. indoor recreation facility, which includes six basketball/volleyball courts, two pools (competition and warm-up), a fitness center with group training rooms, an elevated running track, and a café.

More climbing and route information is available at visitmountaineercountry.com/rock-climbing-in-mountaineer-country-wv.

OUTDOORS

HIKING AND SCENIC NATURE

West Virginia is considered one of the best states for hiking. Almost Heaven catalogs more than 450 identified trails traversing the state with varying terrain and something for hikers of all skill levels.

The seven-county region boasts hundreds of miles of developed trails weaving through areas of unsurpassed beauty. Multiple parks and forests include Cathedral State Park and Coopers Rock State Forest in Preston County, Valley Falls State Park in Marion County, Audra State Park in Barbour County, and Tygart Lake State Park in Taylor County. And there's still more to explore on the miles of trails at the WVU Arboretum and West Virginia Botanic Gardens in Morgantown.

CORE ARBORETUM

Visit the 91-acre Core Arboretum in the center of Morgantown. Explore three miles of hiking trails through the **old-growth forest** and **botanical garden** containing more than 150 native species. The arboretum is free and open to the public daily, closing at dusk.

WV BOTANIC GARDEN

The WV Botanic Garden is another special place to log a few miles on woodland trails. The **85-acre public garden** is maintained by volunteers and open to the public all year. You'll find a wide variety of native plant species, wetlands, meadows, and a virgin hemlock grove. Plus, the newly opened visitors center offers educational exhibits, event space, and a welcoming spot to begin your exploration.

Scan for more hiking adventures in Mountaineer Country!

WV Botanic Garden

Photo Credit: Malia Rae

COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST

Visitors are treated to **50 miles of hiking trails** within Coopers Rock State Forest in Preston County. Popular routes include the **Overlook Trail**, which delivers hikers to an epic vista over the glorious Cheat River Canyon; the **Henry Clay Iron Furnace Trail**, which features an iron furnace dating back to the 1800s; **the Virgin Hemlock Trail**, which leads hikers through canopies of lush hemlock trees; and the **Raven Rock Trail**, which opens to a spectacular view of the Cheat River Gorge.

CATHEDRAL STATE PARK

There are very few tracts of **old-growth virgin forest** left in West Virginia, but you can explore one of them in Cathedral State Park. Several miles of trails include the popular **Giant Hemlock Trail Loop**, where hikers can take in the majesty of some of the park's largest trees.

CRANESVILLE SWAMP

This **Nature Conservancy-protected** land is a special place and one of the state's most unique ecosystems, unlike anything in the immediate vicinity. You'll encounter a few miles of developed trails within the Cranesville Swamp, meandering through the **unique arboreal bog habitat** that's always a few degrees cooler than the surrounding area.

MASON DIXON PARK

Mason Dixon Park is situated on the border of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. A 20-minute drive north delivers you to a quaint park with six hiking trails on 300 acres. One of the most popular routes is the **Fairy Door Trail**, complete with several tiny fairy houses constructed by local artists.

BONUS: ALMOST HEAVEN SWINGS

Visit the **Mason Dixon** Almost Heaven swing just a short ½-mile walk along the Green Trail.

Visit the **Tygart Lake** Almost Heaven swing at the Tygart Lake Dam Overlook.

Both are perfect for a scenic pause or photo. Share your swing photos at **#AlmostHeaven**.

TYGART LAKE STATE PARK

This mountain lake is a stunning shade of blue and is **recreation heaven**, especially in the summer when you can take a cool dip after a long hike. Tygart Lake State Park has five established trails ranging from half a mile to two miles.

OUTDOORS

LODGING

Mountaineer Country caters to all travelers, offering hotels perfect for short stays and long-term business trips. Find lodges, cabins, cottages, and campgrounds for your next outdoor adventure, or relax in a lush, riverside suite. Stay right in the middle of the action in Morgantown; opt for a slower pace in Kingwood or Terra Alta, or visit the Tygart Lake State Park Lodge outside Grafton. Lodging is available at a wide range of price points to fit your budget, making a stay in the region an affordable getaway.

Before traveling, check **MountaineerDeals.com** for special discounts and coupons that could help you save on your stay.

Modern Homestead Guesthouse

Scan for more lodging information in Mountaineer Country!

TYGART LAKE STATE PARK LODGE, CAMPING, AND CABINS

Booking space in **one of West Virginia's state parks** is an affordable option offering incredible views no matter which park you choose. Consider the cerulean blue waters of Tygart Lake for your vacation, and choose from a stay in the **lodge**, reserve one of the **campsites** in the park, or book one of the park's 11 **cabins** available year-round.

ALPINE LAKE RESORT

This **lake community** is situated on 2,000 acres east of Morgantown near Terra Alta in Preston County. **Airbnb and Vrbo properties are available** at various price points. During your stay, you can take advantage of the resort's amenities, including lodge activities, golf, and recreation on the **150-acre lake**.

DORSEY'S KNOB LODGE

Consider renting the lodge at Dorsey's Knob for a **large gathering,** since the property's seven bedrooms can accommodate up to 16 people. You'll be minutes away from all the excitement in Morgantown, including its long list of exceptional dining venues.

MOUNTAIN CREEK CABINS

Reserve one of eight **rustic log cabins** near Coopers Rock State Forest for your stay in Mountaineer Country. Each cabin has room for four or five guests, depending on your choice, and some are pet friendly.

Riffle Farms

COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST CABINS AND CAMPGROUNDS

There are five new A-frame stargazing cabins equipped with telescopes; seven more cabins will be added in spring 2025. There are over 50 campsites from which to choose, situated in two campgrounds: **McCollum** and **Rhododendron**, and open to campers from April to October. Or consider booking a **Tentrr campsite** where you'll find a pre-set canvas tent pitched on a wooden deck surrounded by majestic forest.

KICK BACK N CAMP IN BELINGTON

Open April to November. Located in Barbour County, just outside of Audra State Park, Kick Back N' Camp is your go-to spot for rustic relaxation and outdoor adventure. This locally owned campground offers a variety of sites, **from primitive tent camping to full hook-up RV options,** along with a brand-new **Grand Pavilion**, a cozy **camp store (Momma D's), hiking trails, a catch-and-release fishing pond,** and a **full-service bathhouse**. Firewood delivery and on-site amenities make it easy to unwind without ever leaving camp. Whether you're here to hike, fish, or simply kick back, this Belington gem is ready to welcome you.

MYLAN PARK RV PARKING

If RV travel is your forte, you'll be happy to hear you can reserve one of **31 paved spots** at the Mylan Park complex in Morgantown. And while you're in town, you can enjoy the proximity to the events and activities that happen at the park most weekends. New in 2025, the **KOA Kampground** brings even more lodging options with cabins, tent sites, RV and camper spots, plus amenities like dog parks and access to Mylan Park's recreational facilities.

AIRBNB, VRBO, HOMESTAY

Find the space your family needs with a **vacation rental** through one of these popular web-based reservation platforms: Airbnb, VRBO, or Homestay. Search locations like Morgantown, Kingwood, Terra Alta, Grafton, Belington, Bridgeport, or Clarksburg for your stay in Mountaineer Country.

HOTELS AND MOTELS

A long list of hotels and motels offers rooms for your stay in Mountaineer Country. Most hotel chains are represented in the area, and there are a few privately owned properties, as well.

OUTDOORS

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Save the date because every year, all year long, Mountaineer Country celebrates everything from buckwheat to brews . . . and all that jazz! It's a great chance to see us as we are. Authentic flavors, sights, and sounds are a fantastic way to get a taste of honest-to-goodness Mountaineer Country hospitality.

Here is a brief list of some of our favorite events. Please confirm dates and locations at **visitmountaineercountry.com/events.**

Hazel Run Flower Farm (WV Farm Crawl)

Scan for more festival and event information in Mountaineer Country!

CHEAT RIVER FESTIVAL

Held annually in May, this is the largest fundraiser for **Friends of the Cheat**, the conservation organization that has made great strides in improving and protecting the river. The festival lasts three days and features **crafts, live music, and a down-river race**.

FARM CRAWLS

Get an iniside look at locally-owned and operated growers and purveyors of sustainable vegetables, meats, spirits, flowers, and plant-based products. The **WV Farm Crawl** takes place every Saturday and Sunday in July.

RAGNAR TRAIL APPALACHIANS, WV

This race is like few others, and the fact that it's held in such a scenic location each August—Big Bear Lake Camplands—is a bonus. The race pits **teams of eight** against one another in an **overnight relay race** with plenty of built-in fun.

BIKE BASH

Held each summer, **Bike Bash at Big Big Bear Lake Trail Center and Campground** brings riders together for a weekend of scenic rides and live music. With on-site camping and direct trail access, it's a can't-miss event for mountain biking enthusiasts.

Arthurdale Heritage
Photo Credit: Erika Lerfald

CULTURE

Buckwheat Cakes

Appalachian roots run deep in Mountaineer Country. Not only is the mountaineer West Virginia University's mascot, but it's also an important symbol to the state and the people that call these mountains home. **The mountaineer** is a link to a time when the terrain was an **untamed wilderness**. A time when frontiersmen in coon-skin hats explored the rugged lands west of the Appalachian Mountains in search of food, furs, and a future.

The region became an **ethnic melting pot** from the 1880s to the 1920s when coal mines attracted immigrants from Europe. Slovak, Polish, Hungarian, and Italian roots are common in the region, and their heritage has become an indistinguishable part of Mountaineer Country's tapestry. Countless customs and traditions passed down over generations are a vibrant part of daily life here and make Mountaineer Country an **epicenter of culture**.

WATCH THIS VIDEO!

CULTURE

HISTORY

Mountaineer Country offers tremendous opportunities to immerse yourself into history that stretches as far back as the Revolutionary War. Not far from these parts, you can walk in the footsteps of the great George Washington, visit pre-revolutionary forts, and stand in the middle of significant Civil War battlefields. When the Western half of Virginia seceded during the Civil War, West Virginia's road to statehood was initiated, making it the only state to form by splitting from another state.

From the nation's first homestead community following the devastating years of The Great Depression to important military sites highlighting soldiers who fought in every battle this country has faced, history lives on here. It colors a rich past that's as resilient as her people.

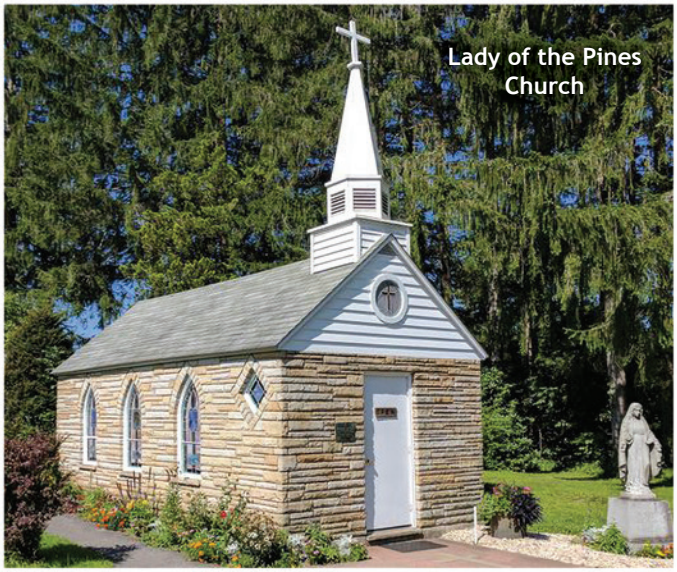
ARTHURDALE NEW DEAL HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

As part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal legislation in the early 1930s, **resettlement communities** popped up around the country. The first was **Arthurdale** here in Mountaineer Country, built in the hills of Preston County. **First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt** nurtured the community and often visited, earning Arthurdale the nickname **"Eleanor's Little Village."** Today, you will find 160 homesteads, a sampling of community buildings, and a museum preserved and celebrated as a **National Historic District**.

WEST VIRGINIA CENTRAL RAILROAD

The West Virginia Central Railroad runs through the heart of the Mountain State, with a key storage yard and shops located in **Belington, Barbour County**. This active freight line supports the region's economy and connects communities across north-central West Virginia with vital rail infrastructure.

Rowlesburg B&O Depot Museum



Lady of the Pines Church

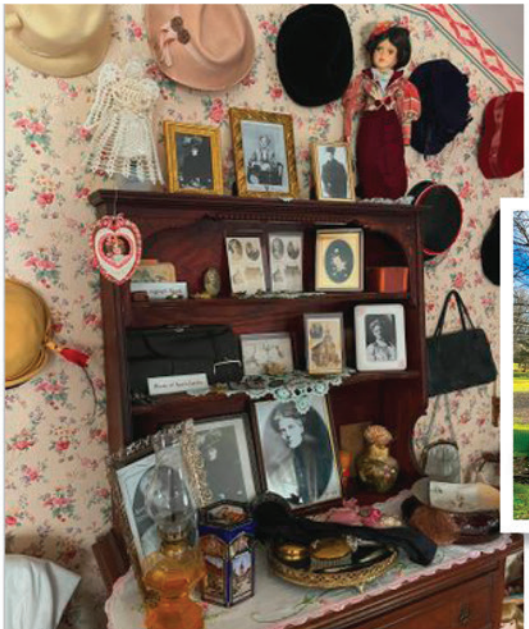
Scan for more historic experiences in Mountaineer Country!

LADY OF THE PINES CHURCH

If your bucket list includes visiting the **smallest church in the Lower 48**, plan to visit Lady of the Pines in Parsons. There is room for just 12 faithful in the tiny church's six pews. The entire building measures only **24 feet by 12 feet**. Sign the guest book before leaving and go to the **Silver Lake Post Office** next door, the world's smallest.

BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER'S DAY

Located in Grafton, WV, the **Anna Jarvis Birthplace Museum** serves as an ode to the founder of Mother's Day. The house is also known as the first field headquarters of General George McClellan during the Civil War and holds one room of McClellan memorabilia. **Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church**, built in Grafton in 1873, was incorporated as the **International Mother's Day Shrine** on May 15, 1962, and designated a National Historic Landmark on October 5, 1992. Open by appointment.



Anna Jarvis House

CULTURE

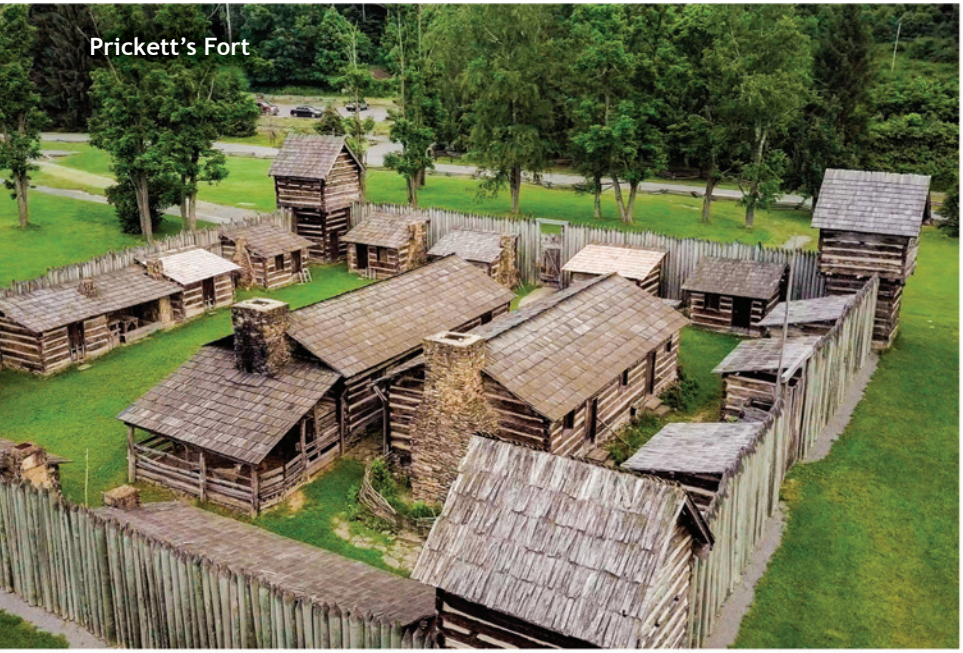
PRICKETT'S FORT STATE PARK

History buffs are in for a treat with a visit to Prickett's Fort State Park in Marion County. Relive the pioneering spirit in the **18th-century re-creation** of the original Prickett's Fort, which provided a place of refuge from Indigenous American attacks. Tours feature **costumed interpreters** demonstrating various colonial skills and conveying the fort's fascinating history. The day-use park is just north of Fairmont.

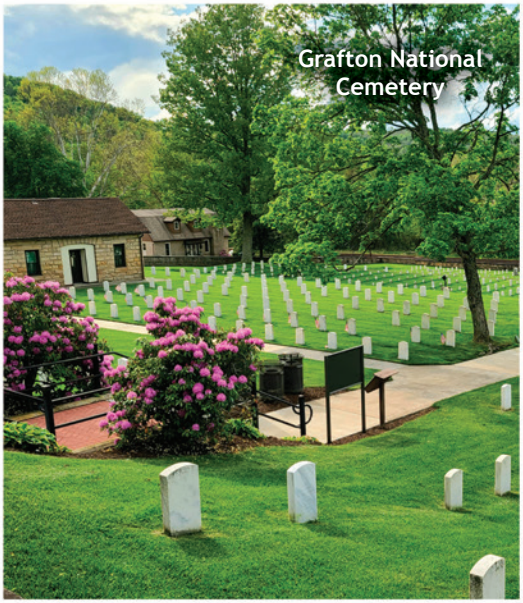
NATIONAL CEMETERIES

The **Grafton National Cemetery** encompasses 3.5 acres in Taylor County and is listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. It first opened in 1868 and contains the remains of more than 2,000 soldiers. Soldiers from every war—**from the Civil War to Vietnam**—are buried there.

Also located in Grafton, the **West Virginia National Cemetery** provides a dignified resting place for veterans and their families. Established in 1987, it stands as a lasting tribute to those who served, offering a peaceful space for remembrance and reflection.


Prickett's Fort

Scan for more historical destinations in Mountaineer Country.


Grafton National Cemetery

GREATEST GENERATION WWII MUSEUM

The Greatest Generation WWII Museum in Rowlesburg contains **allied and axis artifacts and exhibits from the war**. It's open to visitors on weekends from May to October.

THE MAST OF THE USS WEST VIRGINIA

Visit a piece of WWII history in the heart of the WVU campus in front of Oglebay Hall near the Mountainlair. The **USS West Virginia was bombed and sunk at Pearl Harbor** in the early morning of December 7, 1941. A student effort in 1961 brought **the recovered ship's mast** to Memorial Plaza on campus.

LAUREL HILL BATTLEFIELD

Located in Belington, this historic Civil War site in Barbour County marks the **1861 Battle of Laurel Hill** and features interpretive trails and monuments.

FESTIVALS

Festivals focused on history are the gemstones of Mountaineer Country. If you're in the area over Memorial Day, a visit to Prickett's Fort State Park is a local favorite. Or relive the year 1861 with multiple activities in May and/or June at the Annual Blue and Grey Reunion in Philippi. In July, The New Deal Festival in Arthurdale is held, and stop in for the Rowlesburg Ox Roast on Labor Day weekend.

New Deal Festival

CULTURE

ART BEAT

Mountaineer Country is an art lover's paradise, and at the heart of the region's creativity are the artists, performers, and creators that live and work here.

With more than a dozen galleries to explore, you'll be astonished by the area's array of art, including traditional and contemporary painting, photography, pottery, sculpture, and textiles. Mountaineer Country's Appalachian roots are reflected in many galleries, but cultures from around the world are well-represented.

Community theater groups offer fans a never-ending showcase of dramatic plays, musicals, comedic performances–even children's dance and theater.

Ruby Amphitheater

ART MUSEUM OF WVU

Browse the collection of **more than 4,000 works** in paint, in print, on paper, and carved in clay at the Art Museum of WVU located on Fine Arts Drive on WVU's Evansdale Campus. The museum is committed to bringing the world's great artistic traditions to Mountaineer Country while showcasing the talents and practices of artists who have called West Virginia home.

THE MESAROS GALLERIES CAC

The Mesaros Galleries, also on the WVU campus, house special collections and **exhibits by Master of Fine Arts Students** attending the University. The galleries are in the Douglas O. Blaney Lobby of the WVU Canady Creative Arts Center and are worth a visit while you're in town.

RUBY AMPHITHEATER AT THE HAZEL RUBY MCQUAIN PARK

Rising stars performing at the Ruby Amphitheater are rivaled by—the stars! The outdoor venue is ideally situated on the riverfront and hosts **popular summer concert series and family-friendly celebrations**.

INSIDER TIP

The Morgantown Public Art Passport lists a variety of publicly accessible art and sites in and around Morgantown. Pick up a pocket public passport at the Visit Mountaineer Country CVB Visitors Center (341 Chaplin Road, Morgantown, WV 26501). As you visit each piece of art, check the stamp in the corner of each page so you can track your journey.

www.visitmountaineercountry.com/greater-morgantown-public-art-passport.

Scan for more art experiences in Mountaineer Country!

Nutting Gallery at WVU Erickson Alumni Center

Apothecary Ale House & Cafe

METROPOLITAN THEATRE

The Metropolitan Theatre was dubbed "West Virginia's most beautiful playhouse" when it opened to the public in 1924. The building was listed on **the National Register of Historic Places** in 1984, is still beloved by the community, and continues to host live performances all year.

MONONGALIA ARTS CENTER

The nonprofit, community-driven Monongalia Arts Center is located in a beautifully restored post office built in 1913 and designed in the Beaux-Arts classical style. There are **two galleries** within the center and **a small historic theater**. Events, art workshops, and classes are offered throughout the year.

WVU CANADY CREATIVE ARTS CENTER

Big name acts often perform on the WVU Canady Creative Arts Center stage, and the space is also the **home of the West Virginia Public Theatre**. The center is located on the University's Evansdale campus, a stone's throw from the WVU Art Museum.

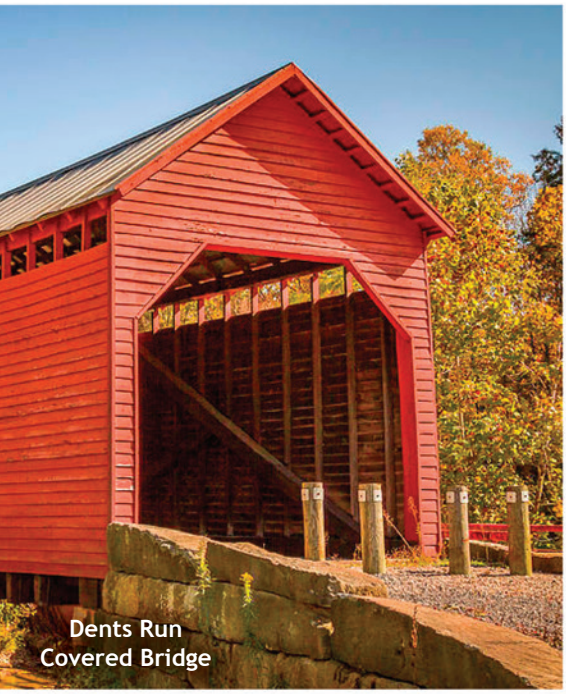
PUBLIC ART AND FESTIVALS

From outdoor sculptures and murals to indoor galleries and venues, Morgantown offers **many opportunities to experience art for free**. Arts walks are held from spring to fall, featuring more than 50 vendors throughout downtown Morgantown. If you're lucky enough to be in the area at the end of May, don't miss the River City Festival of the Arts in Rowlesburg for a weekend full of unforgettable arts and live entertainment.

CULTURE

RIDE GUIDES AND MAPS OF SCENIC ROUTES

We've put together seven exceptional road trips that last between three and eight hours–depending on how many photo stops you make! Routes include Scenic Beauty, Nothing but Curves, Covered Bridges, Veterans Memorial, Flight 93 Memorial, Out & Back, and Haunted Prison Twisties. Pick up a brochure at the Visit Mountaineer Country Visitors' Center or download routes at **visitmountaineercountry.com/ride.**



Dents Run Covered Bridge

CHARGING STATIONS

Electric vehicle drivers can breathe easily while exploring the area, knowing that there are **dozens of regional public and high-powered charging stations**. West Virginia State Parks also provides electric vehicle charging stations at Blackwater Falls, Cacapon, Canaan Valley, Chief Logan, Hawks Nest, Pipestem, Stonewall, Twin Falls and Tygart Lake.

COVERED BRIDGES

Covered bridges are an endearing part of the state's history, and there are a few in Mountaineer Country that shouldn't be missed. The oldest, and longest bridge in West Virginia, at 285 feet, is the **Philippi Covered Bridge** in Barbour County. The second-longest is **Carrollton Covered Bridge** in Volga, just a few miles away. Also, check out the **Simpson Covered Bridge** in Bridgeport, the **Barrackville Covered Bridge** in Marion County, and the **Dents Run Covered Bridge** outside Morgantown.

Discover the breathtaking beauty of West Virginia with the **West Virginia Dept of Tourism's Birdeye Bend route**. This scenic drive offers a captivating journey through lush, rolling hills and serene woodlands, providing stunning views at every turn. Perfect for nature enthusiasts and those seeking tranquility. Embrace the peaceful charm of Mountaineer Country and create unforgettable memories along this picturesque route.

Metropolitan Theater

JFK MEMORIAL

President John F. Kennedy left his mark on Mountaineer Country when he announced his intent to enter the 1960 West Virginia primary while visiting Star City. The **impressive memorial honoring his memory** is 27 feet wide, consisting of three tall granite pillars with bronze statues of JFK and a solitary statue of John Jr. saluting his father. The memorial is near the Rail-Trail riverfront in Star City.

DON KNOTTS STATUE

The famous actor Don Knotts was born and raised in Morgantown, graduating from one of the local high schools and then West Virginia University in 1948. He died in 2006, and 10 years later, the Morgantown community unveiled **a statue in his honor** on High Street in front of the Metropolitan Theatre. It's become a must-see for locals and visitors alike and a great spot for a selfie.

JERRY WEST AND HOT ROD HUNDLEY STATUES

Jerry West and Hot Rod Hundley were products of the West Virginia University basketball program. Both men landed in the NBA after college and are **honored in Morgantown with bronze statues** completed by local artist Jamie Lester. The life-size statues stand outside the WVU Coliseum on Monongahela Boulevard.

Star City Riverfront

Scan for maps and scenic rides in Mountaineer Country!

CULTURE

HOMEMADE

Call it ingenuity, creativity, or luck, but folks in Mountaineer Country and West Virginia have produced one-of-a-kind products; we recommend bringing an extra suitcase for souvenirs and gifts.

The **pepperoni roll** is West Virginia's official state food, and Country Club Bakery in Fairmont is widely regarded as the birthplace of this iconic West Virginia food.

Grab a bottle of **Heasley Homestead Maple Syrup** and a sack of **buckwheat flour**, and you'll have the makings of a proper Preston County breakfast when you get home.

Moonshine has a long tradition in the Appalachians. There are a few legal moonshine producers in the region, including MannCave Distillery in Weston and Forks of Cheat Distillery in Morgantown-where they also use the product to "fortify" their port wine! They are a family-owned and operated vineyard offering tastings and tours seven days a week.

Immerse yourself in the sweet taste of local tradition with the **WV Honey Trail**, where each stop offers a delightful experience of artisanal honey and charming local businesses. Pay a visit to **Portland Coffee** in Terra Alta for the best coffees, teas, baked goods, and people Mountaineer Country has to offer!

You can also outfit your kitchen with the 170 different hardwood kitchen utensils fashioned by the folks at **Allegany Treenware** in Thornton.

FESTIVALS

Food and drink are always a good excuse to celebrate with a festival

- **Mountain State Maple Days**—Statewide, February and March.
- **West Virginia Farm Crawl**—Every Saturday & Sunday in July
- **Preston County Buckwheat Festival**—Kingwood, Last Thursday in September through the weekend
- **WV Wine and Jazz Festival**—Morgantown, September or October
- **Taste of Morgantown**—Morgantown, September

Morgantown Market Place

LIVING LIKE A LOCAL

WATCH THIS VIDEO!

NOTHING COMPARES TO A LOCAL'S PERSPECTIVE

They know all the hidden treasures and best-kept secrets when it comes to food, entertainment, and events. If you aim to travel like a local, you're one step closer to achieving it by reading this guide—written by locals because the best people to help plan your visit to Mountaineer Country are those who live here!

SHOPPING LOCAL

Mountaineer County cherishes its local business community. From friendly faces to fantastic finds, history, culture, and energy live here. Make a day out of dining, shopping, and exploring the area. Treat yourself to farm-to-table flavors and take home a unique Mountaineer Country memento. You never know what you will find along your adventure and the stories you will have to tell for years to come.

River Fair Trade

ARTHURDALE HERITAGE SHOP

Browse the quaint shop inside the **New Deal Homestead Museum** celebrating the first New Deal Community. Pick up **Appalachian crafts and gifts, cookbooks, and food products** to commemorate your visit to "Eleanor's Little Village."

RIVER FAIR TRADE

The team at River Fair Trade has expertly sourced **ethically produced fair trade items** created by artisans from around the world. **Clothing, home decor, jewelry, and gifts** fill the shelves.

ALUMNI HALL

With every visit to Mountaineer Country, you'll want to take home a WVU Mountaineer souvenir! Shop Alumni Hall, family-owned business, selling **licensed WVU apparel and gifts**.

Scan for more shopping information in Mountaineer Country!

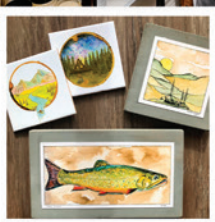
HOOT AND HOWL

Considered **one of the best gift shops around,** Hoot and Howl on Walnut Street in downtown Morgantown has a perfectly curated mix of items by 180 artisans, from jewelry to drink mixes and home goods.

TANNER'S ALLEY

Tanner's Alley has been a Morgantown institution since it opened to the public in 1976. It's a locally-owned shop creating **custom leather designs** and offering repair services to breathe more life into your favorite leather items.

Hoot and Howl



Tanner's Alley

Sip the Morgantown Mile!

Did you know Morgantown has a PRIVATE OUTDOOR DESIGNATED AREA, or PODA?

During PODA hours, you can grab a to-go adult beverage (21+) in a PODA to-go cup from one of the participating downtown businesses and explore the downtown and Wharf area while you sip and shop!

PODA operating hours are between 4 and 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends.

Black Bear Burritos

CULINARY EXPLORATION

Dining in Mountaineer Country has evolved into a culinary adventure where new and creative dining venues thrive next to timeless family establishments. Many local chefs draw inspiration from Appalachian traditions. The farm-to-table eateries feature delicious concoctions and combinations with locally sourced veggies and proteins. Whether you're craving a piled-high plate of pasta, a bowl of steaming pho with all the toppings, happy hour specials with top-notch bar food, or finger-licking barbecue, there's always a comforting blend of mouthwatering meals to choose from. To help with your decision, visit the comprehensive restaurant listings at **visitmountaineercountry.com/eat.**

Von Blaze

VON BLAZE

Located in the heart of Downtown Morgantown, family-owned Von Blaze creates classic **sandwiches with a modern touch, rich soups, fresh salads, and "sophisticated drunk food"** all made from scratch and served in a reinvented nostalgic local space. **The Sunday Brunch is the talk of the town.**

RISING CREEK 2 TUTTO GELATO

Originating in Mt. Morris, Pa., Rising Creek Bakery is **known for its salt-rising bread—a traditional Appalachian staple—and home-baked goods**. Rising Creek and Tutto Gelato came together to create a second location in Morgantown, Rising Creek 2 Tutto Gelato. This café-style eatery offers various flavors of **hand-dipped gelato, soups, salads, paninis, pastries, and a full espresso bar.**

Almost Heaven Desserts and Coffee Shop

NONNO CARLO

One step inside Nonno Carlo in the Suncrest Towne Centre will have you taking **a trip to Italy**. With house-made and imported products, this family-owned and operated business prioritizes freshness and authenticity in its kitchen. Here, **you must try the DeMedici Meatballs and Ricotta**. Turns out, going to Rome just got a lot more realistic—Viva L'Italia!

Table 9

FARMERS' MARKETS AND FOOD TRUCKS

Living like a local in Mountaineer Country means supporting your local farmers and stocking your homes with fresh produce regularly. Take a trip to one of the area's weekly farmers' markets, such as **Star City every Friday** or **downtown Morgantown every Saturday**. Or catch one of the roadside pop-up stands located around town. If you want to fully immerse yourself in the Mountaineer Country culture, pay a visit to one of several well-known food trucks as they appear at various locations and events. **Catch the unique food truck, Rollie Pollie Egg Roll Factory, or try a chimichanga from the Stray Cat Chimmi Shack**. You won't leave here hungry.

TABLE 9

The restaurant drifts easily between the **bar scene**-which overlooks the Monongahela River-**to a casual gastropub**. It's an excellent option for **Appalachian-inspired** cuisine using ingredients from West Virginia farms.

Scan for more culinary experiences in Mountaineer Country!

Are you a coffee or tea enthusiast looking for a unique adventure? Do you love supporting local businesses and exploring new communities? Then we have an exciting initiative just for you! The Mountaineer Country Coffee Trail is a curated list of cafés, coffee houses, and tea rooms across Mountaineer Country, each offering their own blend of flavors and experiences.

MTNR CTRY COFFEE TRAIL

THE TEA SHOPPE

Located inside the Seneca Center, this café and gift shop offers **fine-brewed loose-leaf teas and a gourmet menu**. Browse over 180 premium teas, from white and green to herbal and fruit blends. Enjoy traditional tea services like afternoon tea, cream tea, and royal tea, complete with scones, quiche, and sweets. The menu also features gourmet sandwiches, fresh salads, homemade soups, paninis, and more, with select wines to complement your experience.

POP! THE SODA SHOP AND BAKERY

Nestled in the heart of Westover, Pop! combines the nostalgia of soda fountains with the irresistible charm of a **neighborhood ice cream shop & bakery**. Stop in for a delightful twist and fusion of classic refreshments and mouthwatering baked goods.

BELINGTON BAKERY

A small bakery and cafe located in a beautiful, historic building. Enjoy homemade bagels, soups, sandwiches, salads, lemonade and fresh-baked pastries in a unique atmosphere with friendly service and good vibes.

MAMA K'S KITCHEN

Mama K's is known for cooking fast-fine Italian food that is joy to gather around and is a local's favorite go-to for carryout and casual catering - with a few seats in-house, too.

BLACK BEAR BURRITOS

After just a few minutes in Morgantown, you'll hear words of praise for locally-owned Black Bear Burritos. The community loves the restaurant for its inventive dishes, vegetarian-friendly plates, dedication to local brews, and regular live music. It's also the **best place for chips and guac**.

BIG SANDY BREWS

Get a true taste of Mountaineer spirit with a **winery and restaurant** that serves West Virginia craft beer and use 100% natural ingredients for every meal. The **pub-style diner** in Bruceton Mills is known for its Buffalo Style Beef on Weck.

The Tea Shoppe

Mountain State Brewing Co.

ROSEMARY'S THYME

Authentic Mexican food lives in Kingwood; just head to Rosemary's Thyme! Whether you're seated indoors or outdoors, a cold drink and some queso are waiting for you here. Located on Preston County Country Club grounds, this locally-owned restaurant has a **beautiful indoor and outdoor environment**. The walls are filled with Frida Kahlo and Day of the Dead art, along with beautiful chandeliers, making it extremely inviting and cultural.

LEONARD'S GRILL

Come to Leonard's Grill in Taylor County to get BOGO $1 Milkshakes with our Mountaineer Deal, featuring a wide variety of flavors to satisfy any craving. With a full menu of pub-style comfort dishes, this local favorite puts their own signature twist on all their creations. From appetizers to sandwiches, craft beers to hand-dipped milkshakes, they offer vegetarian, gluten-free, meat-lovers, and other food-preference options. Fresh, fast, and friendly, Leonard's Grille has got you covered.

FESTIVALS

Mountaineer Country loves to celebrate its food and drink. A few festivals that should be on your list are:

- **Italian Heritage Festival**—Clarksburg, September
- **Fiesta Hispana**—Clarksburg, October
- **West Virginia Chestnut Festival**—Rowlesburg, October
- **Feast of the Seven Fishes**—Fairmont, December

GAME-DAY FAVORITES

That Mountaineer Country is named after the region's favorite mascot should indicate how passionate fans get on game day. WVU tailgates are legendary, and there are lots of lots surrounding the Milan Puskar Stadium—home of WVU Mountaineer Football. Chances are you'll meet new friends who will share great food with you. If you decide to catch the game on a big screen, a list of can't-miss local hangouts—some that have lasted more than 40 years in Mountaineer Country—is included below. Each one is worth the visit for an authentic taste of game day in Morgantown—and most are within reasonable walking distance from the stadium.

MARIO'S FISHBOWL

This WVU alumni favorite and local watering hole has more than 60 years of "reflections" written on receipts, napkins, and business cards that layer the walls; stop by and add yours. **Pouring fishbowls to Mountaineer fans for years,** this game-day favorite destination is known for "the coldest beer in Morgantown." Check out their two dine-in locations, or order takeout from the third.

THE GOAT

In collaboration with the Country Roads Trust NIL collective, The GOAT – Country Roads Pub is located in Suncrest Towne Centre. Featuring craft beers, signature cocktails, and a menu full of pub-style favorites, it's a lively spot with regular live music, themed events, and a perfect atmosphere for Mountaineer fans and visitors.

PRIMANTI BROS. RESTAURANT & BAR

Founded in Pittsburgh's historic Strip District in 1933, the Primanti Bros. two Morgantown locations are your go-to for delicious handcrafted **sandwiches piled high with house-made coleslaw and perfectly seasoned fresh-cut fries.** Stop by for an ice-cold beer and a slice of our famous Primanti Bros pizza.

SABRATON STATION

Sabraton Station is a **favorite stop for locals and trail-goers** alike. This casual spot features a full bar, relaxed atmosphere, and regular live music. It's the perfect place to unwind after a ride or catch up with friends over a cold drink.

VARSITY CLUB

Arguably the **closest place to get a cold beer outside of WVU's Milan Puskar Stadium,** the Varsity Club is across from the stadium's south entrance and is alumni-owned and operated. You'll appreciate the walls covered in WVU sports memorabilia and the excellent service. The place is fairly small, so get there early.

KEGLER'S SPORTS BAR

Kegler's Sports Bar is another **sports-loving, wing-eating institution** in Morgantown. It's within walking distance of the stadium and is usually packed with Mountaineer fans on game day. Plenty of seating makes it a great choice if you're getting to town closer to kickoff.

NIGHTLIFE

Listen closely on any evening in Mountaineer Country, and you'll hear the sound of people having fun! Looking for live music, an outdoor patio to grab a drink with friends, or an upscale cocktail bar? In the mood for a laid-back vibe, country music, or open mic? The choices are endless! Mountaineer Country keeps the party going from day to night.

Check the events calendar on visitmountaineercountry.com/events to include a live show on your visit. The comprehensive calendar includes scheduled concerts, live music, and special events.

Apothecary Ale House and Cafe

Scan for more nightlife options in Mountaineer Country!

123 PLEASANT STREET

The original home of live music in Morgantown is, without a doubt, downtown at 123 Pleasant Street. It's been the hot spot for local and national acts since it opened in 1998. Check the calendar to find out who's on stage when you're in town.

CROCKETT'S LODGE

The go-to for football season **where "table surfing" started in Morgantown!** Since 1983, Crockett's has satisfied the hunger and thirst of many a Mountaineer before and after the games.

TROPICS RESTAURANT AND BAR

This **Hawaiian-themed restaurant** is a favorite for its taste of paradise, and **creative, live entertainment performances** are listed well in advance. Happy hour is always celebrated inside and on the restaurant's extensive outdoor patio. The signature cocktails are "aloha" in liquid form, and their **Sunday brunch** is a must. "Okole Maluna"— bottoms up!

Scan for the Brew Tour in Mountaineer Country!

BREWERIES AND BEER PUBS

The surge in craft breweries over the past 20 years has put Mountaineer Country on the map for microbrew lovers. Local craft breweries are concocting exciting ales; all you need is a glass to experience one-of-a-kind flavors. Several brewers have expanded with comfy taprooms and eateries where you can sample products by the glass or by the flight. Here is where hops, malt, barley, and yeast are blended with pure Appalachian ingenuity. It's time to plan your beer-drinking journey through Mountaineer Country.

APOTHECARY ALE HOUSE AND CAFÉ

On the corner of Spruce and Pleasant Streets in downtown Morgantown, you will find the Apothecary Ale House and Café. Surrounded by outdoor lighting and a privacy fence, this spot offers the perfect space to hang out, relax, and **enjoy the city sounds with a cold beer in hand.** Browse a wide selection of beers, kick back with some friends, or compete in a friendly game of Bocce Ball. This is the place to be on the weekends.

PIES AND PINTS

A go-to spot for craft pizza lovers, Pies & Pints pairs unique, stone-fired pies with a rotating selection of local and regional beers. Grab a pint and settle in for bold flavors, from classic combos to creative toppings you won't find anywhere else.

MOUNTAIN STATE BREWING COMPANY

Claiming the distinction of the oldest distributing brewery in the state, this local favorite has several locations **pouring cold pints and serving piping-hot flatbreads.** The Cold Trail Ale, the Almost Heaven Amber Ale, and the Miner's Daughter Oatmeal Stout are always on tap and brewed by Mountain State.

Pies and Pints

HIGH GROUND BREWING

If you're an IPA fan, you won't be disappointed by the **beer lineup that includes sours, stouts, and pale ales**. The Terra Alta tap room offers growler fills and four-packs to go. High Ground Brewing is veteran-owned and family operated.

SCREECH OWL BREWING

A visit to Screech Owl Brewing is an authentic mountain experience. And the beer, **brewed in the "old farm style" fashion—no pasteurization**, in small batches, and with top secret recipes—is memorable. Definitely try the seasonal beers on tap.

SHORT STORY BREWING

This family-owned **craft brewery** puts a lot of hard work and a little creativity into its beer. Their **Argonaut Lager** is a local favorite and pairs well with the pork belly tacos.

WINERIES

The Mountain State has an outstanding collection of vineyards and wineries within its borders. The West Virginia Division of Tourism has created a wine road map with planning tools for visiting all the vineyards and wineries. The Mountaineer Country portion promises to delight your palate with reds, whites, and blushes, plus fruit and dessert wines.

FORKS OF CHEAT WINERY

A **family-owned vineyard in the heart of Mountaineer Country,** Forks of Cheat produces more than more than 20,000 gallons of prize-winning wine each year. Stop by for a glass of Bad Cat Catawba or Redbud, best enjoyed on the outdoor deck overlooking the vineyard.

MOUNTAIN DRAGON MAZERY

Mountain Dragon Mazery in Fairmont produces the **finest honey wine harvested from its own apiary** on the Monongahela River. Mazery's products are sold at regional specialty stores, and tastings are held Thursday and Friday evenings or by appointment.

MONVALLEY VINEYARDS

The talented winemakers at MonValley Vineyards are available Tuesdays through Saturdays each week, so you can browse the winery's products, visit its wine cellar, and learn more about how the owner, **Stephen Perrotti, turned a hobby into a full-time business.**

FESTIVALS

- **The Chocolate Wine and Shine Festival** Morgantown, February
- **Cupcake & Craft Beer Fest**—Morgantown, April
- **WV Wine and Jazz Festival** Morgantown, September or October
- **Hops on the Mon**—Morgantown, October

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

With attractions and activities for all ages (not to mention attention spans), this land of peaks and valleys also packs plenty of family-friendly attractions. Some of the best things to do with kids in Mountaineer Country are the activities adults can get behind, too.

Want to burn off some energy? Rent bikes and pedal the Rail-Trail, all 47+ miles. Want to keep the little ones focused? Spark! Imagination will hold their attention while teaching them a thing or two. Try your family's knack for escape with a visit to either Xscape Morgantown or the Morgantown Escape Room. The WVU Planetarium & Observatory is always a mesmerizing experience for families. Shows are offered every other Friday and are free to the public. To give you a head start, we've narrowed down the unique, only-in-Mountaineer Country experiences that excited little ones will enjoy as much as teens.

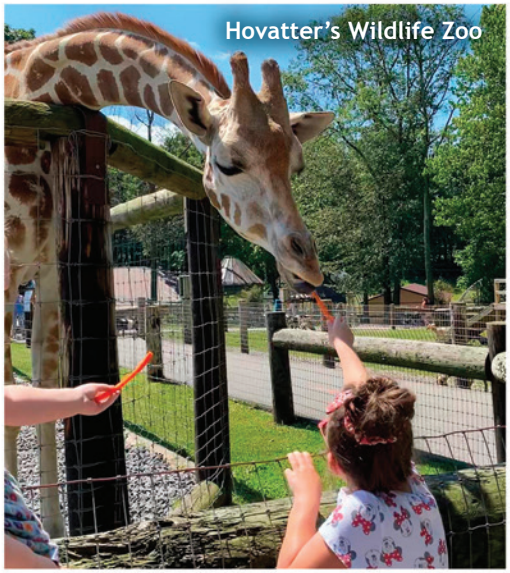
The best family trips start with great planning, and you can get started on your itinerary. Go to visitmountaineercountry.com or download our free Trip Planning App: search for Visit Mountaineer Country in Google Play or Apple Stores.

AQUATIC CENTER AT MYLAN PARK

Get wet at the Aquatic Center at Mylan Park. The **90,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility** was completed in 2019 and offers families the Huntington Community Pool for recreational swimming, a 50-meter Olympic-sized lap pool and diving well, and an outdoor splash pad.

HOVATTER'S WILDLIFE ZOO

This fun family spot is also known as the West Virginia Zoo. It is home to a menagerie of animals, including **monkeys, giraffes, black bears, cougars, tigers, and chimpanzees**. The zoo is a Kingwood institution and is open seasonally—from April to October, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.


Hovatter's Wildlife Zoo

Tygart Lake State Park

TYGART ADVENTURE LAKE

Kids think it's cool to cool off at Tygart Lake State Park near Grafton. **Over a dozen inflatables** are securely anchored in the water, and **a sandy beach with picnic tables and lounge chairs** is close enough to watch the kids at play. Half-day and full-day sessions are available, and all participants must wear a life jacket while in the water.

CRYPTID MOUNTAIN MINIATURE GOLF

An immersive, indoor, **13-hole miniature golf course** that brings together black light effects and state-of-the-art video / audio systems. Each hole highlights a specific cryptid or ghost story of Appalachia (specifically West Virginia).

PADLZ CANOE AND KAYAK RENTAL

Hit Bruceton Mills Lake in a kayak or canoe from Padlz Canoe and Kayak Rental in Preston County. The outing is **perfect for all ages and all skill levels** and is a great way to spend a hot day in Mountaineer Country. Reservations are required.

WOW! FACTORY

The WOW! Factory is a hands-on creative space perfect for all ages. This colorful studio offers **pottery painting, canvas art, mosaics, and more**—making it a fun stop for families, friends, or anyone looking to get crafty during their visit.

BLACK BEARS GAME

The WV Black Bears is a collegiate summer baseball team and part of the Major League Baseball Draft League. Tickets to the games are affordable, and the whole crew will enjoy their day at **the beautiful ballpark in Morgantown**.

Scan for more family-friendly activities in Mountaineer Country!

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY (WVU)

WVU has been the center of the universe in Mountaineer Country since the state legislature established it in 1868. The naming of the state's only land-grant university combined three Morgantown schools—the Monongalia Academy, established in 1814; the Morgantown Female Academy, established in 1831; and the Woodburn Female Seminary, established in 1858.

Higher education runs deep in the community's roots, which means there's always something going on. From Big 12 athletic matches to engaging museums, learning opportunities and lectures, and theater performances, your itinerary will be full, fast!

BIG 12 ATHLETICS

West Virginia is part of the Big 12 Athletic Conference and offers 18 varsity sports that compete within the conference. With so many teams playing so many sports, you'll have your pick of events to attend. **See the athletic schedules and buy tickets at wvusports.com.**

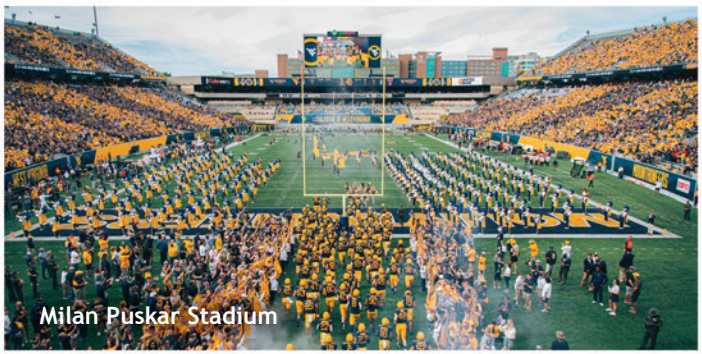
PERSONAL RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM (PRT)

Originally a demonstration project and the first large-scale automated guideway transit system in the US, WVU's PRT is an **automated people mover** that connects the three WVU campuses in Morgantown and the Morgantown central business district. Sixty-nine electric cars, all painted gold and blue, have moved more than 83 million people since opening to students and faculty in 1975.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

The historic nature of many college towns means they are **full of unique architecture and peaceful beauty that is timeless**, and WVU does not disappoint. Woodburn Circle is part of the downtown campus of West Virginia University and is a distinctive architectural assembly of three collegiate buildings, which evolved in the late nineteenth century. In chronological order, these are Martin Hall, Woodburn Hall, and Chitwood Hall. However, the largest of the buildings, Woodburn Hall, is best known as a symbol of the University.

Scan for WVU Game Day Guide for Visitors in Mountaineer Country!



Milan Puskar Stadium

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- ✔ Fairs & Festivals
- ✔ Holiday Celebrations
- ✔ Sporting Events

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