

# West Virginia

EXPLORE THE EASTERN PANHANDLE

**EXPLORE  
COUNTRY ROADS**  
Get off the beaten path

+  
**SCENIC  
MOUNTAIN VISTAS**

Views that go  
on forever

+  
**OUTDOOR LOVERS  
PARADISE**

Endless recreation  
all year long

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VIRGINIA

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Located in historic Shepherdstown, WV, the Bavarian Inn Resort & Brewing Company offers the best of European luxury and cuisine on a 12-acre estate overlooking the Potomac River. With 72 elegantly appointed state rooms, four distinct dining rooms, an award-winning wine list, infinity pool, tennis courts and golf, the Bavarian Inn makes for a perfect getaway. The latest addition, Bavarian Brothers Brewing, is a casual dining brew pub and lounge celebrating the family's German heritage. The beers are a representation of their European roots and West Virginia location.



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# Explore

*The Eastern Panhandle*

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Confluence of history.

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A sure bet.

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Authentic small town charm.

*Explore the Eastern Panhandle* is sponsored by the Jefferson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Ranson Convention & Visitors Bureau, Martinsburg-Berkeley County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Travel Berkeley Springs, and the West Virginia Tourism Office.



**on the cover**  
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**The three counties of the  
Eastern Panhandle of  
West Virginia—Morgan,  
Berkeley and Jefferson—**



make up the Washington Heritage Trail. Experience a rich timeline of American history that includes a colonial spa town, sites of early industries, railroad landmarks and Civil War locations. The footsteps of America's first president are particularly prominent, along this 127-mile driving trail named for George Washington and approved as a National Scenic Byway and West Virginia Scenic Byway.

# COUNTRY ROADS




# LEAD TO AMAZING WEST VIRGINIA ADVENTURES

The Mountain State is easily accessible by six major interstates: I-64, I-79, I-77, I-70, I-68, and I-81. The state's only toll road is a southern portion of I-77. Welcome centers are located along these points of entry.

Take Interstate 70 and U.S. Route 2 through the Northern Panhandle region to explore historic Wheeling and Ohio River towns. **Prabhupada's Palace of Gold** is one of the most unique attractions in the state.



Palace of Gold

-  State Park with Lodge
-  State Park
-  Town/City
-  State Forest
-  State Natural Area

Interstate 64 takes you from **Huntington** to **Charleston** to **Lewisburg** for urban culture and small-town charm, from the rural Appalachian history of **Heritage Farm** in Huntington to the opulent luxury of **The Greenbrier** in **White Sulphur Springs** and everything in between.



Heritage Farm Museum and Village



Blennerhassett Historical State Park

*almost heaven*



The Clay Center

The I-79 corridor snakes through **Morgantown** and the Mountain Lakes region, ending at the state capital of **Charleston**. The capital city is known for its music and entertainment venues including the **Clay Center** in the heart of downtown. You will also discover endless outdoor recreation opportunities, wonderful dining venues, and comfortable small towns.



Interstate 81 and the scenic Route 52 connect the Eastern Panhandle to the Potomac Highlands region of the state. Highlighted by incredible scenic beauty and endless outdoor recreation opportunities all year long, iconic **Seneca Rocks** is one of the most photographed locations in all of West Virginia.



Seneca Rocks

Famous for the **New River Gorge** and world-class whitewater rafting, U.S Route 19 in southern West Virginia leads to adventure. It is also home to West Virginia's largest single-day festival, **Bridge Day**, which is held on the **New River Gorge Bridge** and attracts base jumpers from all over the world.



ACE Adventure Resort

From the Ohio River to the Virginia border, Interstate 77 travels through some of West Virginia's greatest cities and attractions. You'll discover some of the state's most vibrant arts and cultural destinations, including **Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park**, where a plot to overthrow our nation was conceived.



## Getting Here

You can reach West Virginia's many wonders easily by interstate or scenic country road.

Five major U.S. cities are within 500 miles of popular West Virginia destinations.

### Charlotte, NC

Beckley, 207 miles  
Charleston, 264 miles  
Martinsburg, 386 miles  
Morgantown, 376 miles  
Wheeling, 442 miles

### Columbus, OH

Beckley, 220 miles  
Charleston, 162 miles  
Martinsburg, 345 miles  
Morgantown, 205 miles  
Wheeling, 128 miles

### New York, NY

Beckley, 527 miles  
Charleston, 532 miles  
Martinsburg, 262 miles  
Morgantown, 384 miles  
Wheeling, 410 miles

### Pittsburgh, PA

Beckley, 240 miles  
Charleston, 228 miles  
Martinsburg, 189 miles  
Morgantown, 75 miles  
Wheeling, 59 miles

### Washington, D.C.

Beckley, 306 miles  
Charleston, 362 miles  
Martinsburg, 77 miles  
Morgantown, 210 miles  
Wheeling, 276 miles



# PANHANDLE OF PARADISE

*almost heaven*

4

WEST VIRGINIA



## Just a short one-hour drive from the Washington, D.C. area, discover West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.

The mountain state's most vibrant region is rich in history and scenic beauty. If you don't feel like driving, take Amtrak's "Capitol Limited" route, which operates daily between Washington, D.C. and Chicago and passes through the Eastern Panhandle with stops in Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg. Or you can take the Maryland Rail Commuter (MARC), which operates Monday through Friday between Martinsburg and Washington, D.C. and has a stop in Harpers Ferry as well.

However you get here, you will quickly find out the Eastern Panhandle is a place you will want to return again and again. Five historical towns—**Berkeley Springs, Charles Town, Harpers Ferry, Martinsburg, and Shepherdstown**—all surrounded by gorgeous countryside serve as the backdrop for modern life offering world-class lodging, dining, shopping, and cultural activities in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties.

The influence of the Washington family can be felt throughout the eastern panhandle. The **Washington Heritage Trail** was established to follow the footsteps of George Washington and loops through all three counties in the panhandle. This National Scenic Byway highlights various museums, historic districts, parks, and other sites of historic significance in the area.

History comes alive when you visit **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**. Tour the U.S. Armory and Arsenal held by John Brown and his army for three days in 1859. Browse through unique shops and then head across the bridge and hike up to Maryland Heights for the most spectacular view of Harpers Ferry and the Shenandoah Valley.

Visit the gorgeous town of Berkeley Springs, which was incorporated in 1776 as Bath in

honor of England's spa city of Bath. Be sure to visit **Berkeley Springs State Park**, home to a historic mineral spa that has been used since colonial times. The park is renowned for its warm spring water, which flows at a constant temperature of 74.3 degrees.

Visit the scenic town of **Ranson**. It is the perfect place to hike, with its close proximity to the Appalachian Trail, or fish and kayak the beautiful Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. If you like a little more action, **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races** is just down the road and offers live thoroughbred racing, table games, and slots.

The home of Civil War spy and femme fatale Belle Boyd is in Martinsburg and open to the public. Visit that, then explore the **Martinsburg Roundhouse**, once burned by General Stonewall Jackson and tour a secret tunnel in the home of a Revolutionary War general.

The Eastern Panhandle is known for its wonderful selection of dining venues offering contemporary cuisine in fun, eclectic settings, many with spectacular views and outdoor dining options. Don't miss the endless wine selection at **Brix 27** in downtown Martinsburg, a casually sophisticated atmosphere where every seat feels like a cozy corner for reconnecting with friends. Take in views of the beautiful Potomac River as you enjoy delicious German and American cuisine prepared by master chefs at the **Bavarian Inn & Brewing Company** in Shepherdstown.

The craft beer and distillery movement is also alive and well in the panhandle. Highlighted by **Abolitionist Ale** in Charles Town, **Devil's Due Distillery** in Kearneysville, **Bavarian Brothers Brewing** in Shepherdstown, **Berkeley Springs Brewing** and **Cacapon Mountain Brewing** in Berkeley Springs and **Black Draft Distillery** in Martinsburg, you can find the perfect brew for you in one of these unique brew pubs.

Discover more about this amazing place as you explore the following pages. Warm hospitality, endless adventure, and the finest in creature comforts await you just a short drive away in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Come see us soon.



# BERKELEY SPRINGS

**N**atural warm springs gave this place just south of the Potomac River a hospitable start. The springs drew Native Americans, then colonists through the wilderness. It was still just a wet spot in the middle of the vast forest when a young George Washington arrived in 1748 as part of the party surveying Thomas Lord Fairfax's land grant. But by 1776 it had become such a destination that the Virginia General Assembly created the town of Bath, named for the spa city in England.

A four days journey from the settled east coast, Bath became the new nation's first spa town. It was a destination that offered hope to the afflicted and relaxation to Virginia's social elite—George Washington and his brother Samuel bought lots for summer cottages, as did signers of the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War generals, and members of the Continental Congress. The community that grew up around the warm, healing mineral waters is unlike any other in the region, one centered in healing arts of all kinds. There's even a public pump where water is available free. It also

## Explore These Shops

Unique finds await in Berkeley Springs' shops and galleries, many within a pleasant stroll of each other. Browse distinctive gifts at **Berkeley Springs Memories, Inspired Chaos, Jules, Mineral Springs Trading Company, Himalayan Handicrafts, Black Cat Music, Mountain Laurel Gallery.** Delight in the area's only year-round Christmas shop at **Berkeley Springs Memories.** Shop tasty treats at **Fleur de Lis** cheese shop and **Naked Oil** gourmet oils. Find health products in **Portals** and at **Sage Moon Herb Shop.** Or take home some local history and country touches from **Appalachian Antiques,** the **Berkeley Springs Antique Mall, RAG Shop, Stop and Shop** or **Country Traditions.**

provides the town water supply and was voted runner up as "best local non-alcoholic beverage in the Blue Ridge."

But the attractions in this lively little village—known for more than two centuries by its post office name, Berkeley Springs—go far beyond aromatherapy and hot stone massages. Its colonial and healing roots make it a first-class history stop. The entire downtown is an historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places, making for gracious streetscapes and a picturesque town center. A longtime active arts council has made the town a hub for arts of all kinds. And, as a destination from its beginning, Berkeley Springs has deep roots in hospitality, with an outside number of quality inns and eateries and three times as many massage therapists as lawyers.

A day in Berkeley Springs offers delicious meals, boutique shopping, and expert pampering. But stay awhile—make Berkeley Springs your jumping off point for day trips to the surrounding mountain and river attractions. Then return to enjoy the nightlife: from a vintage movie house to theater and dance performances and live music, you're sure to be entertained.

## THE ARTS ALIVE and WELL HERE

↔ **One look at the painted parking meters** on Independence Street and you know you're in a place that's creative, quirky, and proud of it. Recognized annually as a top arts destination, Berkeley Springs is a great find for lovers of the arts. The village traces its roots in the arts in part to famed 19th century sketch artist and travel writer David Hunter Strother, popularly known as *Porte Crayon*, who owned the 500-room Berkeley Springs Hotel and attracted a creative crowd to town. Today, working artists make up a significant part of Morgan County's population, and Berkeley Springs is their hub. Studios and galleries across town display everything from photographs and paintings in all media to fiber, clay, glass, wood, and metal crafts, all from local artists.

**The Ice House** is your premier arts stop (*138 Independence Street, 304.258.2300, macicehouse.org*). A one-time apple warehouse gifted to the Morgan Arts Council (MAC) in the 1990s, the Ice House is the center of arts education, practice, and appreciation in Morgan County. Its Hall of Dreams, Carr-Kelly, and Special Exhibit galleries feature exhibits that rotate frequently. Looking to buy? The Ice House Artists' Co-op serves as a place for its dozens of artist members to display and sell their works (*icehousecoop.com*).

The performing arts thrive in Berkeley Springs, too, with frequent dance, music, and theater performances. A summer concert series provides free live music at **Berkeley Springs State Park** every Saturday afternoon. Dance is a favorite local art form, especially bellydancing, with many classes and performances. And the active community theater produces everything from Shakespeare to musicals to locally written plays. Located near the Ice House, Black Cat Music and The Granary both feature local music venues and activities.

Anyone can get in on the art fun in Berkeley Springs—schedule a visit around a workshop, or join the annual October studio tour, when local artists invite the public into their creative processes.



## TREAT YOURSELF

No visit to Berkeley Springs is complete without a little healing self-indulgence. Many forms of bodywork can be found at day spas across town—or try one of these full-service spas. There’s a reason why Berkeley Springs was voted “Best Spa Town in the Blue Ridge.”

### Atasia Spa

Enjoy both old-fashioned West Virginia hospitality, and cutting edge spa services. Atasia owner Frankie Tan has provided more than 25,000 massages in Berkeley Springs. Schedule your favorite type of massage, facial treatment or enhancement, or nail care—or pamper yourself with one of Atasia’s bath and body rituals such as sugar and salt scrubs, steam and herbal wraps, and mud treatments. [atasiaspa.com](http://atasiaspa.com)

### Berkeley Springs State Park

Combine relaxation and history with a visit to the spas at Berkeley Springs State Park. Have a soak in one of the large private bathing chambers in the newly renovated Old Roman Bath House in operation since 1820. Or choose the contemporary facilities at the 1929 Main Bathhouse. Here in addition to Roman bath you have the option of whirlpool bath, massage, aquatic bodywork and dry sauna. **Berkeley Springs Healing Center** gathers several practitioners under one roof offering everything from acupuncture and reiki to cranio-sacral and Quantum Analysis. [berkeleyspringsspa.com](http://berkeleyspringsspa.com)

### Renaissance Spa at The Country Inn

At this spa located in the historic Country Inn overlooking the springs and town, choose from Swedish, deep tissue, and hot stone massage as well as prenatal and couples experiences. Or try a Renaissance Spa signature skin care treatment like a Detoxifying Thai Body Wrap with creamy coconut and crisp lemongrass or a Moroccan Incense Body Ritual of a scrub, a body wrap, and a light massage with the scents of sandalwood and vanilla. [arenaisancespa.com](http://arenaisancespa.com)

## Accolades

Berkeley Springs regularly earns state, regional, and national recognition.

*Berkeley Springs was voted “best spa town in the Blue Ridge” in 2019*

**Reader's  
digest**

Reader's Digest 2020 named One of 13 Most Romantic Small Towns in America

**Southern Living**

Berkeley Springs was named one of *Southern Living's* 20 Charming Mountain Towns to Visit This Fall in 2017.

**F  
&  
W**

*Far and Wide* listed Berkeley Springs as West Virginia's Best Small Town in 2020



Berkeley Springs was voted one of the 10 Best Historic Small Towns by readers of *USA Today* in 2020.



Berkeley Springs was named among The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America.

# FUN FESTIVALS

Something unusual is always coming up in Berkeley Springs.

Experience these unique Morgan County celebrations with your family.

## ANNUAL EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

#### BERKELEY SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL WATER TASTING

This largest water tasting competition in the world draws more than 100 entries from across the country and around the globe. Public can taste and vote along with judges. Named first runner up as “weirdest festival in the Blue Ridge.”

### APRIL

#### UNIQUELY WEST VIRGINIA WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

West Virginia wines and other state-produced edibles and potables, local crafts, plus ramps both fresh and prepared.

### JUNE

#### HEY GIRLFRIEND! WEEKEND

Belly dancing, spa specials, sidewalk sales, art classes, abundant live music, gallery opening, live theater, and a chocolate walk in the self-proclaimed Girlie Capital of West Virginia.

### OCTOBER

#### APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL

Two days of games and contests, music, country food, fine arts, and local crafts—all surrounding spicy apple butter stirred in giant copper kettles in the middle of the square. Extensive Beer Garden and WV wines.

### NOVEMBER

#### FESTIVAL OF LIGHT PSYCHIC FAIR AND ALTERNATIVE HEALING EXPO

Nearly 100 readers, healers, and purveyors of sacred objects come together along with two days of workshops and lectures in the largest psychic fair and alternative healing expo in the region.



## Springs Hospitality

Spend the night, weekend or longer—between historic inns, B&Bs, cottages, cabins, and camping, Berkeley Springs and Morgan County offer dozens of options. Here are just a few.

### The Country Inn

The beloved 1933 Park View Inn adjacent to Berkeley Springs State Park on the historic site of the 19th century Berkeley Springs Hotel has taken on new life under the ownership of the local Omps family. Today's updated Country Inn is an experience unparalleled in the region. The stately inn offers 70 unique guest rooms and suites, a full-service restaurant serving in several unique dining areas (*see page 11*), and the Renaissance Spa (*see page 7*). Combination packages available. [thecountryinnwv.com](http://thecountryinnwv.com)

### Highlawn Inn

Tim Miller and Sandra Kauffman bought the Highlawn Inn in 1984 and meticulously restored it to its original elegance. Now operated by Sandy's daughter, Laura, the Victorian bed and breakfast offers 10 accommodations—five in the main house, four in Aunt Pearl's House, and one large cottage—each with distinctive charm; some have whirlpools and some, private porches. Breakfasts are sumptuous, and the veranda boasts a premier view of town. Highlawn offers ongoing special packages that include lodging, breakfasts and gift certificates for Atasia Spa. Four resident cats welcome all. [highlawninn.com](http://highlawninn.com)

### Berkeley Springs Cottage Rentals

For a one-stop shop that meets a range of lodging needs, check out the dozens of options offered by Berkeley Springs Cottage Rentals. Dreaming of an in-town suite convenient to everything? Fancy a rustic cabin getaway? Need a fully equipped vacation home for the whole gang? Find all this and more at locations across the county. [berkeleyspringscottagerentals.com](http://berkeleyspringscottagerentals.com)

### White Pines Estate Bed and Breakfast

The charm of a southern mansion on 65 acres with wrap around porches to enjoy beautiful mountain views or walk along Sleepy Creek. Three distinctive bedrooms share the mansion with Ellen's Tea Room serving a choice of more than 50 organic teas and homemade baked goods. Dubbed the most romantic location in the county. [whitepinesestate.com](http://whitepinesestate.com)

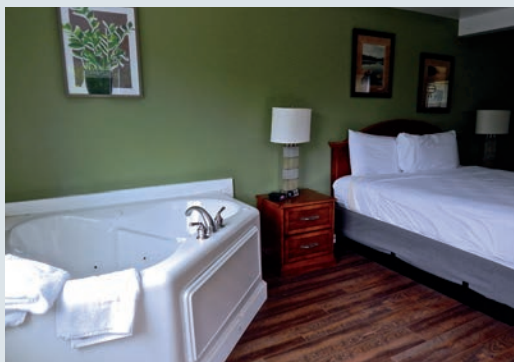
### Other options

Cabins and houses of all sizes are available to rent in town and out. Campgrounds including at the newly re-opened Coolfont Resort, offer tent and RV sites with canoeing, fishing, hiking, and other activities. And Cacapon Resort State Park offers everything from newly renovated rustic cabins, a 12-room former inn, and a resort with a restaurant and golf course. [berkeleysprings.com](http://berkeleysprings.com)

## New Memories at Coolfont

The popular 1960s-vintage **Coolfont Resort**, south of Berkeley Springs, hosted everyone from wellness buffs to D.C. elite for decades before it closed in 2005. But the landmark reopened in 2019 and has been fully updated under the ownership and experienced management of the local Ompps family, who also own The Country Inn in Berkeley Springs.

Lodging options at the new Coolfont Resort include A-frame cabins, campgrounds and rustic cabins to elegant Jacuzzi suites with private balconies. Under the exposed beams of the lodge, a family-friendly restaurant with a top chef in the kitchen and an innovative boutique bartender at the impressive horseshoe-shaped bar overlook Coolfont Lake, where guests can paddle, fish, or sun on the sandy beach. Indoor fitness options include a heated saltwater pool and an exercise room, and an on-site spa offers services from mani/pedi to body wraps and massages. The ideal setting for weddings, conferences, meetings and all-size special events. [coolfont.com](http://coolfont.com)



## Premier Parks

➔ **WEST VIRGINIA'S STATE PARKS** showcase some of the best scenic, cultural, and recreational attractions the state has to offer. Only two lie in the Eastern Panhandle—both in Morgan County, and both ready for anything from a romantic retreat to a relaxation getaway to a fun-filled weekend with the family.

We ultimately have Thomas Lord Fairfax to thank for the public springs at **Berkeley Springs State Park**. The site was already much visited by the afflicted in the mid-1700s when Fairfax granted the area to the colony of Virginia for establishment of a town— on the condition that the springs remain free and open to the public for the welfare of suffering humanity. The Commonwealth of Virginia honored Fairfax's generous intention by placing four acres around the springs in a trust, and the state of West Virginia honors it today through maintenance of that trust as a state park.

Berkeley Springs State Park serves as a pleasant village green for residents and visitors, a great place to enjoy a sandwich or a Saturday afternoon concert in the summer. Kids love watching the springs bubble up through patches of sand, wading in the channels, and catching the minnows and crayfish that dart across several stone pools, and families enjoy the natural spring water in the lifeguarded outdoor pool Memorial Day through Labor Day. The old bathhouses offer the spring waters for private soaks and as the centerpiece of a full range of spa services (*see page 7*). Or stroll the grounds, taking in the fountain and stopping for a selfie at **George Washington's Bathtub**—the nation's only outdoor monument to presidential bathing. Then visit the **Museum of the Berkeley Springs** on the second floor of the Roman Bathhouse. Enjoy exhibits of natural and cultural significance, including springs geology and a 400-pound silica crystal, bygone bathing suit fashions, and the history of fires that have devastated the community more than once. Enjoy a new exhibit featuring David Hunter Strother/Porte Crayon, the most famous illustrator and travel writer of the 19th century. Museum admission is free.

Just 10 miles south of Berkeley Springs is **Cacapon Resort State Park**. Opened in 1937 on Cacapon Mountain slopes that had been clear-cut earlier in the century, this state park offers recreation, relaxation, and all the charm of a Civilian Conservation Corps setting. Attractions

# UNIQUE PLACES



## Berkeley Castle

You may glimpse this landmark on the hill above Berkeley Springs State Park. Whiskey distiller and railroad man Samuel

Taylor Suit built the castle in the 1880s as a promise to his young bride. Privately owned; available for weddings and special events.



## Give Purrs a Chance

West Virginia's only cat cafe, Give Purrs a Chance has placed more than 400 rescued felines in permanent homes—a

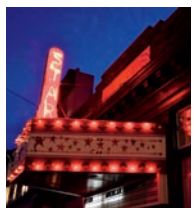
faster rate than any other cat cafe. Why shop when you can adopt? [givepurrsachance.org](http://givepurrsachance.org)



## Paw Paw Tunnel

Largest manmade structure on the C&O Canal Historic Park, it can be accessed from Morgan County's westernmost municipality, the historic

railroad town of Paw Paw. Bike or walk through or walk on the trail over the tunnel. [berkeleysprings.com](http://berkeleysprings.com)



**Star Theatre** There's a new movie every weekend at this 1928 mom and pop movie house on the West Virginia Historic Theatre Trail. The Manley popcorn machine is 1949 vintage—

don't skip the real butter. [startheatrewv.com](http://startheatrewv.com)



**Farmers Market** The extensive **Berkeley Springs Farmers Market** sets up in the downtown square every Sunday 10am–2pm from April through December

featuring local produce, meats, honey, baked goods and even gourmet street food from Lot 12. Folks wait patiently for Glascock's sweet corn and Mock's hydroponic lettuce and tomatoes, even green tomatoes at the end of the season.

include horseshoes, wobble clay shooting, a lake for boating and fishing and a sandy bathing beach with a snack bar, a nature center with a naturalist program, and guided horseback riding. Explore miles of hiking trails including a spectacular one along the top of Cacapon Mountain, scattered with impressive rock formations and ending with a view from **Prospect Rock**. Newest addition is nearly 20 miles of mountain biking trails with more to come.

A centerpiece of the 6,000-acre park is the newly enhanced 18-hole championship **Robert Trent Jones** golf course. Opened in 1974, the course includes a picturesque stone chimney on the putting green—the last remnant of the original farmhouse—and is known for a challenging double green that is over 100 yards wide. The course is staffed by professionals who can be booked for private lessons, and it offers a fully equipped clubhouse with a pro shop, a snack bar, locker rooms, and rental carts.

Accommodations at the park include newly renovated rustic cabins and a new 80-room lodge with indoor swimming pool for a true resort experience. There's a restaurant, lounge, and recreation room with arcade games, ping pong, and shuffleboard. [wvstateparks.com](http://wvstateparks.com)



PHOTO  
OP!



## PANORAMIC VIEW

**Where the long** northeast–southwest Appalachian ridge called Cacapon Mountain drops off at its northern end is an overlook that's not to be missed—*National Geographic* called Panoramic Overlook one of the five best views in the eastern U.S. Take W.V. Route 9 west out of Berkeley Springs 3 miles to the pullout for a 180-degree view across Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and the confluence of the Cacapon and Potomac rivers. Mentioned in George Washington's diary, the view surely fueled his westward vision. The new **Panorama Bar and Grill** located in an historic building takes in the iconic view.



## Warm Springs, Hot Food

There's a meal for every taste in Berkeley Springs.

Whether you're passing through or spending a week, Berkeley Springs hits the spot for taste buds. Even George Washington praised the food here. American or international, casual, upscale, or the perfect afternoon coffee stop, it's all here.

For fine dining in Berkeley Springs, you can't do better than **Lot 12 Public House** (117 Warren Street, 304.258.6264, [lot12.com](http://lot12.com)). Named among the best chefs in the southeast year after year by the James Beard Foundation, Chef Damian Heath serves locally sourced foods in a beautiful historic home overlooking downtown. Heath's culinary style reflects what he learned about life and food growing up in rural West Virginia. "Somethings are just better slow," he says, an approach that shows up in dishes like braised lamb shank with a savory tomato rosemary broth and garlic mashed potatoes or crisp-roasted duck with rosemary potato cake and pear chutney. Lot 12's seasonal, lovingly crafted menu presented in a white-tablecloth setting plus outstanding wine selection and bar has attracted attention from *Southern Living* and *The Washington Post*, among other publications.

Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day is the restaurant at **The Country Inn** (110

South Washington Street, 304.258.1200, [thecountryinnwv.com](http://thecountryinnwv.com)). Breakfast, made with local eggs, includes all of the favorites, and Sundays feature a breakfast buffet. Everyone in the family will find something on the wide-ranging lunch and dinner menu, and desserts are made fresh daily. Enjoy your meal in the dining room, tavern, or lounge, or on the patio seasonally.

If you look for the local brewpub when you travel, you'll find **Berkeley Springs Brewing Company** just a few miles outside town (110 Michigan Lane, 304.258.3369, [berkeleyspringsbrewingcompany.com](http://berkeleyspringsbrewingcompany.com)). The brewery's eight flagship brews include its signature Cacapon Kolsch—or ask for the Mountain Man Marzen or Apple Butter Ale, in season. The simple menu includes a charcuterie plate and build your own nachos with pulled pork. **Cacapon Mountain Brewery** opens in the summer of 2020 in an historic building at the north end of downtown Berkeley Springs.

### Eat Like a Local

For a real Berkeley Springs experience, go for American classics in a sports bar setting—or on the deck to enjoy the view—at **Canary Grill** ([canarygrill.com](http://canarygrill.com)), or vegetarian treats from **Sage Moon** ([sagemoonherbshop.com](http://sagemoonherbshop.com)). For steak, BBQ, or seafood, try **Angus and Ale** ([angusandale.com](http://angusandale.com)). The best pancakes around are served all day at the **Southern Belle**. Tops on every insider local list is breakfast, lunch and homemade pies from **Betty Lou's Cafe** at Roy's Service Station.

For a light meal in town, try **Fairfax Coffee House**, and the adjacent colorful outdoor venue of **The Source** for food and music (23 Fairfax Street, 304.500.2710, [fairfaxcoffeehouse.com](http://fairfaxcoffeehouse.com)); **Ravenwood Pub** (206 Martinsburg Road, 727.742.8333, [ravenwoodpub.com](http://ravenwoodpub.com)) for its in-house bakery and ever-changing menu items including venison and wild boar and spontaneous local music; or **Naked Olive Lounge** (87 North Washington Street, 304.500.2668, [nakedolivelounge.com](http://nakedolivelounge.com)) with a new, expanded dining area featuring gourmet sliders and pizza, cocktails and live music. The new **Charlotte's Cafe** ([charlottescafewv.com](http://charlottescafewv.com)) offers breakfast and lunch featuring home baked goods from its bakery.

See a more complete list of dining options at [berkeleysprings.com](http://berkeleysprings.com).



# MARTINSBURG

**N**estled at the gateway of the stunning Shenandoah Valley, Martinsburg offers access to big city amenities while maintaining the charm of small-town living. The heart of downtown lies just off of Interstate 81, making it a bedroom community for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Martinsburg, the largest city in the Eastern Panhandle, serves as the seat of Berkeley County. Visitors will discover modern entertainment, lively festivals, and contemporary dining along the picturesque avenues. Yet, with historical architecture tucked amongst the bustle, a journey back in time is only steps away.

Martinsburg was home to the state's first post office the first labor strike in America was in 1877 at the Martinsburg Roundhouse. In

the 1840s, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad laid tracks that ignited the region's industry. Conflicts during the Civil War solidified the town's place in history as the Union and Confederacy contended for this geographically important location. Confederate spy Belle Boyd was later arrested here in 1863 and imprisoned.

Following the war, water and electricity revitalized Martinsburg and transformed it into a textile factory hub. Beautiful orchards blossomed in the countryside outside of town, and Berkeley County became a leading apple producer. A cultural landmark constructed in 1913, the **Apollo Civic Theatre** continues to host stage productions and community events.

The area boasts several stops along the **Washington Heritage**

## check out **THESE SHOPPING SPOTS**

Take a stroll around **North Queen Street** for unique finds. Pick a one-of-a-kind masterpiece from the vintage posters, African tribal art, and original artwork at **Queen Street Gallery** ([queenstreetgallery.com](http://queenstreetgallery.com)). Open seven days a week, the **West Virginia Glass Outlet** (@westviriniaglassoutlet on Facebook) marvels shoppers with its rainbow array of hand-blown glass. Stop and smell the roses at **Jordan & Hess Co.** ([flowersunlimiteddwv.com](http://flowersunlimiteddwv.com)). Specializing in home décor and floral arrangements for special events or bouquets for those "just because" moments.

**Trail driving tour**, which identifies unique historical sites along 127 miles of the Eastern Panhandle. Berkeley County's must-visit locations include the **Morgan Cabin**, **Green Hill Cemetery**, and **Mills Gap** which offers a panoramic view of farmlands.

The wilderness leaves lots of room for play. Hike the more than 20,000 acres of **Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area**. Launch a kayak or canoe for a weekend float down the **Potomac River**.

With endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, impeccable historical landmarks, and vibrant shopping and dining, Martinsburg is a town of rich traditions and stunning new discoveries.



## WAR STORIES

➔ **HISTORY COURSES DEEP** through the streets of Martinsburg. **General Adam Stephen**, the town's founder, fought alongside George Washington as his second in command during the French and Indian War. He also served during the Revolutionary War. General Adam Stephen's house at 309 East John Street (304.267.4434, [orgsites.com/wv/adam-stephen](http://orgsites.com/wv/adam-stephen), [@adamstephenhouse](https://www.facebook.com/adamstephenhouse) on Facebook) is a national landmark. Made from locally quarried limestone, the building even has a basement entrance to the natural underground tunnel system that snakes below town. The neighboring **Triple Brick Museum**, built in the 1870s to house railroad workers, also showcases historical memorabilia.

Martinsburg's prominence as a transportation center led to its importance to both sides during the Civil War. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad first crisscrossed the town with tracks in 1841. These tracks later became a prime route for hauling troops and supplies, which made it a target for attacks. By the Civil War's conclusion, the besieged town had changed hands 50 times, and the railroad was left in ruins. In 1866, the B&O Railroad rebuilt the **Martinsburg Roundhouse** (304.260.4141, [themartinsburgroundhouse.com](http://themartinsburgroundhouse.com), [@themartinsburgroundhouse](https://www.facebook.com/themartinsburgroundhouse) on Facebook) which had a turntable to service locomotives. An architectural marvel, it's the only remaining roundhouse worldwide with a cast iron frame

and was the site of the first labor strike in America in 1877. Seasonal Saturday tours of the Roundhouse Center at 100 East Liberty Street are available.

Espionage also marks a chapter in Martinsburg's storied past, courtesy of Civil War spy Belle Boyd. This spirited young lady relayed messages about Union activities to Stonewall Jackson. Her reconnaissance career led to imprisonments, but she ultimately secured release and went on to write and act. **The Belle Boyd House** at 126 East Race Street where she grew up now serves as a museum about Berkeley County's history (304.267.4713, [bchs.org](http://bchs.org)). Next door is the Berkeley County Historical Society Archives Center, which contains a treasure trove of family records, photographs, maps, and microfiche.



## GEOCACHING

Navigate Berkeley County with nothing but a GPS.

**GO ON A REAL LIFE TREASURE HUNT** this summer with geocaching. At any age and any time activity, geocaching's sole requirements are a GPS or smartphone and a love for the outdoors. Participants find "caches," or hidden containers, using GPS coordinates. Once you locate the cache, sign the logbook to record your success. You can also bring along a small knick-knack and swap it out for another souvenir left by a previous geocacher.

The **Martinsburg-Berkeley County Convention and Visitors Bureau** has partnered with geocaching expert **Tim Eggleston**, otherwise known as WVTim, to design unique geotrails like "Smart Caches of Berkeley County" and "Berkeley Gadgets Geotrail and Geo Tour." Solve the caches along the trail to collect a unique, trackable coin. Berkeley County is a favorite site for geocachers country-wide, so charge your phone, round up your friends, and go hunting for your next adventure. [travelwv.com](http://travelwv.com)



## Escape to The Woods

The Woods offers endless recreation and pampering for your next getaway.

A short drive beyond the hubbub of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., **The Woods** is a peaceful oasis sprawling across 1,800 acres. Tee off either of the 18-hole golf courses, one mid-length course ideal for recreational golfers and another championship course for those seeking more of a challenge. Even if you don't make par, walking or riding a golf cart across the fairways lined with trees is enough to make for a pleasant day. Youngsters can enjoy playing FootGolf, which is golf played with a soccer ball.

Swing by the courts to pick up a game of tennis or volleyball or hit the field for a few innings of softball. Don't worry about rainy days, the indoor sports center includes a heated swimming pool, multi-purpose court, and exercise room.

If the mountaintains are calling, toss a line in with catch-and-release fishing. Walkers and joggers often hit the pavement along the quiet country roads winding around the resort. Or lace up your boots and check out the adjoining **Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area**, which offers miles of hiking trails to explore.

Once you've worked up an appetite, dine

at the **Clubhouse Grille & Pub** overlooking the greens. Saturday evenings feature live music from an array of talented performers. Treat yourself at **The Sleepy Creek Spa** with a soothing facial or much-needed massage.

Tired souls can hit the hay at any of the rental cottages and cabins. Privately owned villas also available for rental border the golf courses or dot wooded lots. Some visitors find their home at The Woods and purchase one of the many properties in the friendly community.

Whether staying for a weekend or a lifetime, you will want to get lost at The Woods. 1630 The Woods Road, 304.754.7977, [thewoods.com](http://thewoods.com)

## Spa Day

### Energize

At **The Sleepy Creek Spa**, ladies and gents can unwind. Sip herbal tea or take a dip in the whirlpool before beginning your pampering session. To rejuvenate your skin, try one of the seaweed or yogurt body wraps. Or soak in a heated mud treatment, followed by a shower and massage.

### Harmonize

Freshen up your nails with a manicure or pedicure, complete with a hand or foot massage and your choice of polish. Especially for the guys, the sports pedicure soaks your aching feet, smooths away calluses, and grooms your nails—sans the polish. Those ages 7 to 12 can get pampered with a princess manicure or pedicure.

### Relax

Several massage packages mean relief is at hand, no matter the ache. From deep tissue to aromatherapy and Swedish to stone massages, the most stressful part is choosing just one. Need a date idea for you and your significant other? Schedule the couple's massage.

### Renew

Try out a fresh new 'do with a style and cut at the salon. Prepping for a special event? Professional makeup application and spray tanning can get you picture-perfect. The spa also does deep cleansing and exfoliating facials for soothed, hydrated skin. 1630 The Woods Road, 304.754.7977, [@sleepycreekspa on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sleepycreekspa)

# Stein, Wine, and Dine

Find good eats and good times in downtown Martinsburg.

Whether grabbing a quick bite to eat while shopping or planning an elegant date night, Martinsburg has restaurants to satisfy any craving. Since 1958, **Blue White Grill** (101 North Queen Street, 304.263.3607, [bluewhitegrill.com](http://bluewhitegrill.com)) has dished up hearty, old-fashioned diner meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The omelets alone are a feast, packed with anything from hickory-smoked ham and cheddar cheese to grilled mushrooms and sweet onions. For a classic dish, opt for a juicy burger with a side of coleslaw. Save room for homemade pies. Decadent flavors include chocolate peanut butter and coconut cream. Hand-dipped milkshakes and malts come topped with whipped cream and a cherry.

Take another step back in time at **Patterson's Drug Store** (134 South Queen Street, 304.267.8903, [@pattersonsdrugstore on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pattersonsdrugstore)). This retro eatery is heavy on the

charm with its authentic soda fountain, creamy milkshakes, and friendly service. A crowd favorite is the Jojo, a concoction that's part root beer float, part banana split, and all delicious.



Break out your chopsticks for **New Peking Restaurant** (139 South Queen Street, 304.263.6544, [newpekingmartinsburg.com](http://newpekingmartinsburg.com)). Pique your appetite with pillowy dumplings or crispy egg rolls. Then grab a main dish like noodles and fried rice. Continue your international cuisine travels with homemade Italian food at **Casa Visone Italian Bistro** (120 North Queen Street, 304.260.9294, [casavisone.com](http://casavisone.com)). Start with warm bowl of pasta fagioli soup, and one of the antipasti offerings like fresh asparagus topped with

prosciutto or smoked salmon with garlic crostini. Penne, spaghetti, fettuccine, linguine, and ravioli round out the pasta courses. Or dine on dishes featuring grilled chicken, veal, and seafood.

Hankering for more of a southern fare? **Habanero Mexican Grill** (100 North Queen Street, 304.596.5667, [habanerowv.com](http://habanerowv.com)) serves fresh-from-scratch burritos, quesadillas, tacos, and nachos. The brick-and-mortar location is in a Gothic revival building that once was Martinsburg's marketplace, but they also run a food truck dubbed the "Habster." With four

## DeFluri's

Everything's better with chocolate, and that includes a day in Martinsburg. In 1998, the family-run Defluri's Fine Chocolates relocated its factory and showroom to a 1930s-era building on North Queen Street. The chocolatiers have been satisfying the town's sweet tooth ever since.

Classics include sea salt caramels, toffee, cherries jubilee, and chocolate-covered peanut butter morsels.

But don't be surprised if you find a new favorite like candied orange peel dipped in dark chocolate. Truffles come in exotic flavors like blackberry, passion fruit, and amaretto. The wine truffles are even crafted from locally grown West Virginia grapes. Made from real butter and fresh whipping cream, these chocolates are ones that will turn anyone into a connoisseur. 130 North Queen Street, 304.264.3698, [defluris.com](http://defluris.com)



# BLACK DRAFT DISTILLERY

Raise your glass at this local moonshine distillery.

➔ What once began as a family horse farm is now serving up good times with moonshine. Opened in December 2013, **Black Draft Distillery** is the first distillery in Berkeley County since prohibition. When the Prices' beloved draft horse Biscuit passed, they searched for a new activity to fill their empty barn. The result? Moonshine.

Moonshine is unaged corn whiskey, and Black Draft's is made from grains grown in-state. You can't go wrong with their classic First Harvest moonshine, but the White Julep also makes for a refreshing summer cocktail. Can't decide between coffee or whiskey? With Rise & Shine Coffee moonshine—made with Black Dog Coffee—you don't have to choose. Black Draft also brews up small-batch straight bourbon, and recently added vodka to its brands. Tours are available by appointment. 1140 Kelly Island Road, 540.686.0100, [blackdraftdistillery.com](http://blackdraftdistillery.com)



kinds of salsa ranging from mild to extra hot, spice-adverse and spice-lovers alike can find a type to suit them.

The wine connoisseur needs to plan an evening at **Brix27** (131 North Queen Street, 304.616.1628, [brix27.com](http://brix27.com)). This cozy wine bar dishes up small plates with locally sourced ingredients, and features an extensive array of spirits, brews, and wine.

**Sweet Hut Café** (220 North Queen Street, 304.263.8880) an eat-in or take-out café offer a variety of unique creations, specializing in poke bowls, bubble tea and a crowd favorite rolled ice cream.

Vegans and vegetarians—or even just the health-conscious foodie—should stop by **Good Natured** (209 South Raleigh Street, 304.262.9978, [goodnaturedllc.com](http://goodnaturedllc.com)). Grab a coffee, and then choose breakfast or lunch from the cafe's scrumptious selections. Non-meat sandwich options include a lentil breakfast

burger, ginger-baked tofu reuben, and marinated tempeh BLT. Salads come loaded with organic greens, veggies, and unique extra toppings like sriracha almonds, curry cashews, or figs. The health food market stocks groceries like dried beans and grains, local eggs, and dairy alternatives.

Don't forget dessert. **Everything Cheesecake** (324 West Stephen Street, 304.350.1567, [@everythingcheesecake on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/everythingcheesecake)) whips up fresh cheesecakes every day, and featured flavors can be purchased by the slice. Whether a classic vanilla or orange dreamsicle, each is topped with a generous dollop of icing. The cupcakery also brews a variety of espresso drinks with local Black Dog Coffee.

No matter your food hankering, it's no question that Martinsburg delivers on the flavors. The only question left is: Where are you going to eat next?



## Orr's Farm Market

**R**ight outside of Martinsburg is a picturesque farm with magnificent orchards that's one of the region's hidden gems.

Whether on the quest for fresh crops or simply a refreshing afternoon outdoors, Orr's Farm Market has all the best pickings. They sell produce, host festivals, and lead educational tours.

Customers at Orr's Farm Market can browse fresh produce, jams, sauces, and pancake and soup mixes. The bakery's range of baked goods are delightfully enticing—pies, cookies, muffins, breads, and fruit turnovers. If you're lucky, you might even spot apple cider doughnuts. For those willing to take their shopping experience to the next level, they can pick their own fruits in the orchards during various harvest dates throughout the spring and summer, or pumpkins in the pumpkin patch come autumn.

Of course, Orr's Farm Market makes for a great family outing any time. From seasonal activities and crafts to berry-picking and pumpkin-picking, this is one farm that seems to grow memories. 682 Orr Drive, 304.263.1168, [orrsfarmmarket.com](http://orrsfarmmarket.com)

## Pick Your Own

➔ **EVERY COOK KNOWS** that having the freshest ingredients makes for the most mouthwatering dishes. A quick jaunt off Interstate 81, Taylor's Farm Market in Inwood offers a wide selection of West Virginia crops, foods, home decor, and gear six days a week. Whether tart Granny Smiths or juicy honeycrisps, the rainbow selection of local apples are perfect for baking and snacking. Farms from around the state provide meats from uncured bacon and pork chops to chicken and lamb. Trickle Springs Creamery sells organic milk, rich butter, and luscious ice cream flavors.

Stop by the market's Cider Press Deli & Grill ([ciderpressdeliandgrill.com](http://ciderpressdeliandgrill.com), [@ciderpressdeliandgrill on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ciderpressdeliandgrill)) for delectable dishes made from scratch, which feature ingredients from the market when possible. The half-pound burgers come from locally raised, hormone-free beef, and the paninis use locally sourced bread. Other offerings include homemade soups, salads, and crab cakes. Follow their Facebook page for an up-to-date list of seasonal festivals and specialty dinners. 178 Pilgrim Street, 304.400.6123, [taylors-farm-market.myshopify.com](http://taylors-farm-market.myshopify.com)

## Wonderment Puppet Theater

♦♦ **Whether you're young or just young-at-heart**, this charming theater provides a slice of magic and a lot of laughter with its one-of-a-kind puppet shows. In 2007, puppeteer Joe Santoro and his wife Jane purchased an 1880s Victorian house to start the Wonderment Puppet Theater, the region's only year-round interactive puppet theater.

Six original shows each year provide creative spins on classic fairy tales including The Frog Prince, Peter Rabbit, and The Elves and the Shoemaker. Joe writes and runs the show, orchestrating the sound effects and scenery. After every weekend performance—Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.—visitors can explore the play area's hands-on activities, wishing well, and very own play theater.

For groups passing through town, the theater can even arrange a weekday show. 412 West King Street, 304.258.4074, [wondermentpuppets.com](http://wondermentpuppets.com)



## TOP FESTIVALS

**Circa Blue Fest** transforms the Harry D. Shelley Park fairgrounds into a bluegrass blowout. The weekend of June 7, groove to concerts, attend instrument workshops, and chow down on barbecued eats. Stay the night with tent and RV camping. 2419 Golf Course Road, [circabluefest.com](http://circabluefest.com)

For avid geocachers, search for your next treasure with the **Geocaching Trail and GeoTour** held annually in June.

Mark your calendar for August's **Berkeley County Youth Fair**. The Miss Youth Fair contest kicks off this week-long schedule of livestock competitions, entertainment, and carnival rides. 2419 Golf Course Road, 304.263.5869, [berkeleycountyouthfair.org](http://berkeleycountyouthfair.org)

**Fall Farm Fun Days** in September at **Orr's Farm Market** (682 Orr Drive, 304.263.1168, [orrsfarmmarket.com](http://orrsfarmmarket.com)) include hayrides and a pumpkin patch. In October, enjoy apple-themed contests and cuisines at the annual **Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival**. 304.263.2500, [msahf.com](http://msahf.com)

WHERE ALMOST HEAVEN BEGINS™

# Jefferson County

WEST VIRGINIA



**Harpers Ferry Bolivar Charles Town Shepherdstown**

In Jefferson County, historic trails lead you along majestic rivers, through a national park, and to endless outdoor adventures. Our welcoming towns make you feel at home and sometimes a voice from the past will echo in the breeze. Jefferson County is your first step to exploring West Virginia. Take it and you will quickly realize this is Where Almost Heaven Begins.



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

# LIFE IS ABOUT FAMILY



## GIVE THEM A NEW ADVENTURE

Located in the beautiful Panhandle of West Virginia, River Riders Family Adventure Resort has been guiding families on rivers and aerial adventures for over 30 years. Nothing creates lifetime connections like conquering a rapid or zipping through a forest together. Let us share our love for the outdoors with your family soon!



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## JEFFERSON COUNTY

Located where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet the Blue Ridge Mountains, Jefferson County is a gateway into Almost Heaven West Virginia. The charming and culturally rich towns of **Harpers Ferry**, **Shepherdstown**, **Charles Town**, **Bolivar**, and **Ranson** have made this area a popular escape. Highlighted by the world-famous Appalachian Trail, Jefferson County offers miles of scenic hiking and biking trails to explore.

For those who love water sports, the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers flow through Jefferson County and make for fabulous fishing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, and tubing. Or hike ragged ridgelines that give way to breathtaking bluffs, or just go for a leisurely stroll and take in the spectacular beauty of **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**.

### STEEPED IN HISTORY

The area has deep ties to George Washington and his family. In fact, Charles, George's youngest brother, founded the city of Charles Town and the county, which is home to six Washington family homes. Take a tour on page 28.

Thomas Jefferson selected Meriwether Lewis to command an army expedition—known as the **Corps of Discovery**—documenting the newly acquired territory stretching to the Pacific Ocean. In the spring of 1803, Lewis arrived at the U.S. Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry to gather supplies for the trek, including bullet molds and gun parts. He also worked with armory officials here to design and build a collapsible boat.

Located on the border between the United States and the fledgling Confederacy, Jefferson County was trapped between two nations at war. Famous for **John Brown's historic raid** in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County's strategic location at the gateway into the Shenandoah Valley made it a target for both North and South during the Civil War. Follow in the footsteps of this famous abolitionist and visit the arsenal, hanging site, trial site, museum, and even a reading room where future Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth performed Shakespearean readings to entertain attendees of the John Brown trial.

During the Civil War, thousands of former enslaved persons sought refuge behind Union lines at Harpers Ferry. As the war ended, the Freewill Baptists of Maine sent missionary teachers into the South to promote the education of former slaves. The **Lockwood House** in Harpers Ferry became the first schoolhouse in Jefferson County, and it then grew into **Storer College**—the first institution of higher learning in the state of West Virginia for African Americans.



# HARPERS FERRY/BOLIVAR

In the tip of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, where the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers meet, the picturesque little town of Harpers Ferry hugs the steep hills and ravines at the water's edge.

Heralded for its significant role in the construction of the U.S. railroad system and is the location of Storer College that educated former slaves, Harpers Ferry is best known as the place in which abolitionist John Brown led his infamous raid on the federal armory.

By the early 1900s, Harpers Ferry had become an upscale resort town popular with society folk who arrived by rail from Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Today, throngs of people still arrive by train—it's just an one hour trip from Washington, D.C.'s Union Station.

The area's historical significance is so great that almost the entire town of Harpers Ferry is designated a historic district. **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park** was established in 1944 and is administered by the

## Shopping

Looking for the perfect memento? A diverse collection of shops line High Street.

**The Vintage Lady** is the place to go for unique jewelry, accessories, home goods, and collectibles. For something sweet, visit **True Treats Historic Candy**, the only historic candy shop in the nation. On the brick-lined Potomac Street facing the train depot, you'll find even more restaurants and shops. Looking for a souvenir t-shirt or hiking gear? Check out **Harpers Ferry Outfitters**, and for a unique collection of creative, fairly traded, products from around the globe visit **Tenfold Fair Trade**.

National Park Service, which does a wonderful job of recreating the feel of antebellum history.

You don't have to be a history buff to enjoy the town. With two rivers converging upon it, there is no shortage of water-based recreation in Harpers Ferry. Outdoor enthusiasts take pleasure in the breathtaking scenery of the region and the many ways to access it. The nearby **C&O Canal** towpath, once trod by mule teams, is a smooth, level trail, perfect for hiking or biking. Hikers can also follow part of the 2,200-mile-long **Appalachian Trail**, with its midpoint at Harpers Ferry. And after you've worked up an appetite, a plethora of area restaurants will help you refuel and hydrate. Enjoy sweet treats at **Battlegrounds Bakery**, check out the assortment of flavors at **Bolivar Bread**, and cap your day off with a delicious dinner at **The Anvil Restaurant**, **Kelley Farm Kitchen** or the **The Rabbit Hole**.

Be sure to visit the Jefferson County Welcome Center at 37 Washington Court.

# Take Me to the River

Looking to enjoy the scenic outdoors? **River Riders Family Adventure Resort** and **Rivers & Trails Outfitters** offer something for everyone—from kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, canoeing, and rafting to ziplining, aerial adventures, and biking.

Tubing is one of their most popular activities in the summer—and it isn't your typical tubing experience. At River Riders, exploration is the main ingredient, whether you choose a flatwater or whitewater trip. As most tubing excursions at River Riders are unguided, groups are able to stop and go as they please. See a perfect picnic spot along one bend in the Shenandoah? Want to pull over and snap a photo—with your waterproof camera—of mom as she heads into Class III rapids? These sorts of self-guided, self-paced adventures are rare in the whitewater industry.

For families with young children, flatwater is a great way to spend an afternoon—chatting, eating a picnic lunch, and seeing the sights. Flatwater courses take place on the Shenandoah, where the water is calm with no rapids and a light current. River Riders provides tubes, flotation devices, free shuttle transportation, and parking for all trips. After your trip, visit **Alstadts Ale House** for salads, sandwiches, and brews.

Whitewater tubing on the Potomac is another story. These adventure trips include Class I to III rapids and are only open to families with children age 10 and up who are strong swimmers and at least five feet tall. This trip is best for the adrenaline-



seeking vacationer. Guests pass through the famous Harpers Ferry gap and get an up-close view of the area's well-known rock formations. A single course lasts about two hours, but can take up to three depending on water levels. Like the flatwater tour, this trip is self-guided, River Riders also offers a guided whitewater option.

If you'd like to explore by air instead, you can glide on a network of eight family-friendly ziplines, and at heights of up to 800 feet enjoy breathtaking views of Harpers Ferry. Or rent a bike and experience the **C&O Canal National Historical Park**. No matter what sort of experience you're looking for, you're bound to discover something new to love about the area. 408 Alstadts Hill Road, Harpers Ferry, 304.535.2663, [riverriders.com](http://riverriders.com)

## LET'S DO SOMETHING Here is where you can play

### ➤➤ EPIC HIKES

Discover a stunning view of Harpers Ferry and the Shenandoah Valley from the **Bolivar Heights Trail** overlook or journey along the world-famous Appalachian Trail. Download a Trail Guide at [wherealmosttheheavenbegins.com/attractions/themed-trails](http://wherealmosttheheavenbegins.com/attractions/themed-trails) for a complete list of trails.



### ➤➤ WET A LINE

Let the professionals at **White Fly Outfitters** in Harpers Ferry take you to the best spots on the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers to catch small-mouth bass. Experienced guides can help anglers of varying experience all have a great day on the river!



### ➤➤ HIT THE TRAIL

Harpers Ferry is the sentimental halfway point for the Appalachian Trail and home to the **Appalachian Trail Headquarters**. From the **C&O Canal Towpath**, long-distance hikers and bikers can connect to the **Great Allegheny Passage**.





# SHEPHERDSTOWN

Shepherdstown's charm is unmistakable—and irresistible. The town has a way of wrapping its arms around you. The historic structures, dining destinations, one-of-a-kind shops, and bucolic scenery draw vacationers from around the country. In fact, many people who visit or attend college at Shepherd University don't ever want to leave and end up making the town their home.

Shepherdstown is the oldest town in West Virginia, established in the 1730s by landowner Thomas Shepherd as Mecklenberg. Early on, the area's steady supply of water attracted artisans—millers, tanners, and potters who built houses along Town Creek and the Potomac River. By the end of the 18th century, the plentiful supply of clay had spawned brickyards. Many of the homes and businesses built more than 300 years ago of local stone and brick remain today, repurposed as shops, restaurants, and lodging.

For Civil War buffs, Shepherdstown is hallowed ground—the kind that raises the hairs on the back of your neck. On September 17, 1862, residents of Shepherdstown heard the incessant boom

of cannons five miles away on Antietam Creek, near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Battle of Antietam was the first Civil War conflict on Union soil and the single bloodiest day in American history.

Despite its somber history, the Shepherdstown of today (population 2,000) is young in spirit, bolstered by students from **Shepherd University**, which is located in the center of town and boasts year-round concerts, plays, sporting events, and other entertainment open to the public.

An influx of academics, artists, and retirees have contributed to the rich cultural mix. Residents are also passionate about active pursuits like hiking, biking, and canoeing or kayaking on the Potomac. Located along the Potomac River and the C & O Canal Towpath, Shepherdstown is the perfect spot for adventure. **Pedal & Paddle** can set you up with any outdoor equipment you may need. The town also boasts five local parks. German Street is lined with an eclectic mix of shops including: **Dickinson & Wait, Mountaineer Popcorn, Four Season Books, and German Street Marketplace.** Visit the downtown Welcome Center for visitor information.

## DINING

### The Press Room

In this historic red brick building, you'll find amazing dishes with a Mediterranean flair that draw locals and visitors alike. 129 West German Street, 304.876.8777



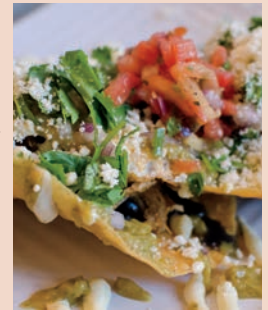
### Lilah Restaurant-

Dog-friendly American and international fusion upscale bistro and craft bar. 115 East German Street, [lilah-restaurant.com](http://lilah-restaurant.com)



### Maria's Taqueria

Enjoy a new spin on burritos and tacos made with the freshest ingredients. Try the out-of-this-world Maria's Chimi. 108 East German Street, 304.876.3333



### Bistro 112

Bistro 112 is a neighborhood French bistro in the center of historic downtown. 112 German Street, 304.876.8477, [bistro112.com](http://bistro112.com)



# UNIQUE FESTIVALS & EVENTS

## Frosty Fest

January

## Restaurant Week

February

## Dogfest

June

## Streetfest

June

## Contemporary American Theater Festival

July

## African American Cultural & Heritage Festival

August

## Charles Town Car Show

September

## WV Fest

September

## Mountain Heritage Arts & Crafts Festival

September

## Freedom's Run

October

## Holiday Festivals in all 4 towns

December

Visit [wheresomeoftheheavenbegins.com/attractions/events](http://wheresomeoftheheavenbegins.com/attractions/events) for more information.



## Bavarian Inn

Located on a spectacular bluff overlooking the Potomac River, the Bavarian Inn Resort and Brewing Company is a European-inspired boutique resort famous for incredible food, warm hospitality, and the finest in guest comforts. For over 40 years, the Asam family has hosted friends and neighbors on their 11-acre property and treated them to world-class cuisine and service. From its beginnings as a single restaurant, the resort has grown to include 72 luxury rooms, multiple restaurants, a stunning infinity pool, and a brewery.

Award-winning international cuisine is a hallmark of the Bavarian Inn. The Potomac Room offers an extensive menu of German and American fare prepared by master chefs. If you crave a more casual dining experience, the Rathskeller will remind you of an old-world European pub, with its rich wood panelling and weekend entertainment. Or grab a drink and appetizer poolside at the Infinity 101 Pool & Bar. The new brewpub and lounge offers guests beautiful soft seating areas to relax and enjoy



## BAVARIAN BROTHERS BREWING

**The newest addition** to the resort is Bavarian Brothers Brewing offering high-quality microbrews in the new brewpub, lounge, or outdoor beer garden. The brewpub is a casual dining concept offering small bites, sandwiches, and lighter options and is a great space to relax and enjoy conversation with friends. In the morning, discover fresh roasts by **Black Dog Coffee** paired with pastries and breakfast bites. The Brewery's logo is a tribute to the families rich, German heritage, so be sure to ask about the story behind the logo. And all the beers pay homage to the history of the inn and the local area. Try an **Erwin's Angry Ale**, a playful tribute to the "fine German engineering" of the inn's founder Erwin Asam.

conversation, craft brews, fine wines, and delicious food in the afternoon and evening.

The Bavarian Inn is locally renowned for its European Sunday Brunch Buffet, with eight food stations featuring breakfast favorites, seafood, European cuisine, pasta, salads, and delectable desserts.

Four Alpine-style chalets overlook the Potomac River and offer guests large, luxuriously finished staterooms graced with classical furnishings and all the modern amenities. Private balconies overlooking the scenic Potomac are the perfect spot for a morning coffee or an evening nightcap.

Manor-view rooms feature private balconies overlooking the Greystone Manor and grounds and feature gas fireplaces and relaxing whirlpool tubs to soak away your busy day of exploring.

Possibly the most beautiful spot at the resort is the Infinity 101 Pool, which overlooks the Potomac River. Poolside or from the balcony above the pool bar, spectacular views of the river and stunning surroundings are all around you. Cool off, try a specialty cocktail, and take a quick nap in paradise.



# CHARLES TOWN

**C**harles Town, named for George Washington's youngest brother, was home to several members of the Washington family for many years. Charles laid out his namesake town in 1787 on 80 acres of land adjoining his estate, **Happy Retreat**, naming streets after his brothers and his wife, Mildred. You can visit Zion Episcopal Church Cemetery, where numerous Washington family members are buried.

Today, the streets of historically, hip Charles Town are lined with 18th century homes and historic structures, like the **Jefferson County Courthouse**, the only courthouse in America to have held two treason trials—the trial of abolitionist John Brown and the Battle of Blair

Mountain labor rebellion trial. The **Jefferson County Museum** at Washington and Samuel streets houses a collection of Native American and Civil War memorabilia, including the cot from Brown's jail cell and the wagon that took him to his hanging.

The community is home to the **Old Opera House** at 204 North George Street, built in 1910, and several eclectic restaurants and shops, like **Succulent Garden** keep the town buzzing with people. But Charles Town is perhaps best known for the **Charles Town Races**, one of the country's oldest thoroughbred racetracks, opened in 1933 on the outskirts of town. In 2010, the complex became the **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**—a destination that draws thousands to the area.

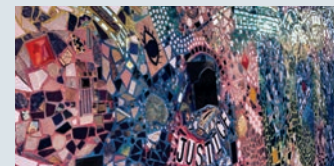
**Bushel & Peck** Bushel & Peck was opened in October of 2017 with the idea of providing local and regional small farms and businesses a unique retail opportunity and to give the community an option for healthy and fresh veggies, meats and other products. *bushelandpeck.jeffersongap.org*



**Walking Tour of Washington's Home** Charles Town is a picturesque collection of homes, churches, and public buildings. Two hundred years of history define Charles Town as we see it today. As you walk along the storied streets of Charles Washington's Town, prepare to walk in the footsteps of history.



**Abolitionist Ale Works** Looking for a place to quench your thirst? Specializing in flavorful, creative craft beers with natural ingredients, Abolitionist Ale Works has created a following. While most of the flavors rotate, a few favorites are kept on tap. Alpha Mayle IPA, the brewery's top seller, is made with Citra and Simcoe hops, and Blue & Gold n' Delicious & Tart is fermented with blueberries and apples. The brewpub also serves up artisan pizzas. *129 West Washington Street, 681.252.1548, abolitionistaleworks.com*



**Arts Community** The Charles Town Community Mosaic, designed by Isaiah Zagar and completed by the community, is a vibrant addition to the historic downtown. You can find the mosaic on the corner of West Washington and North Charles Street. One block from the mosaic is the Firehouse Gallery on North George Street, which showcases exquisite art from local residents.

## Dining at the Track

### 9 DRAGONS

For some of the best Asian cuisine this side of the Pacific, 9 Dragons has made a name for itself with its fresh sushi and creative Hong Kong-style cuisine.



### FINAL CUT STEAKHOUSE

It isn't a gamble to eat at Final Cut, a contemporary American steakhouse, open Wednesday through Sunday.



## Local Dining Favorites

### ALFREDO'S MEDITERRANEAN STEAKHOUSE & GRILLE

Traditional and modern dining all while sampling foods from Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, and Morocco. 735 East Washington Street, [alfredosmedcafe.com](http://alfredosmedcafe.com)



### COCINA PLANTOSAURUS

Puertorican fusion restaurant bringing all the flavor we love but using plants only. 216 Washington Street, [cocina-plantosaurus.square.site](http://cocina-plantosaurus.square.site)



### ORTEGA'S TACO SHOP

Best tacos in town! Made from locally sourced and fresh ingredients. 100 West Washington Street, [ortegastacoshop.com](http://ortegastacoshop.com)



### PADDY'S IRISH PUB

Local pub with everything fresh from homemade bangers to delicious hand cut fries. 210 West Liberty Street, [paddyswv.com](http://paddyswv.com)



## Side Bets

➔ **THE HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT CHARLES TOWN RACES** is a renowned Mountain State destination that offers a Vegas-themed gaming atmosphere with 1930s art deco flair. With roots in horse racing, Hollywood Casino was a thoroughbred track long before it was an upscale destination. Built in 1933 by Albert and Joseph Boyle, the track was first known as Charles Town Races. Opening shortly after the State Legislature legalized racing and betting, it was West Virginia's first horse racing venue and, at the time, was the only track in the country to operate all year. Upon opening, the track had 22 buildings, 12 stables, a clubhouse, 44 betting windows, a 3,000-seat grandstand, and a restaurant.

The casino, resort, and track added video lottery machines in 1996, and now have nearly 2,500 machines as well as 75 table games. Choose from hundreds of the latest multi-line, multi-coin machines and dollar games galore. Experience big-time jackpots in the high-limit area on \$5, \$10, \$25, and even \$100 machines. If you're looking for no-limit action, you'll find it at the Hollywood Casino poker room, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

New to the casino is sport betting at the **Barstool Sportsbook**. You can place wagers on football, basketball, hockey, soccer, baseball, golf, tennis, auto racing, rugby, cycling, boxing and MMA, and cricket. Professional and collegiate betting options will also be available. Hollywood's Sportsbook features high-top table seating—with individual viewing stations and lounge seating

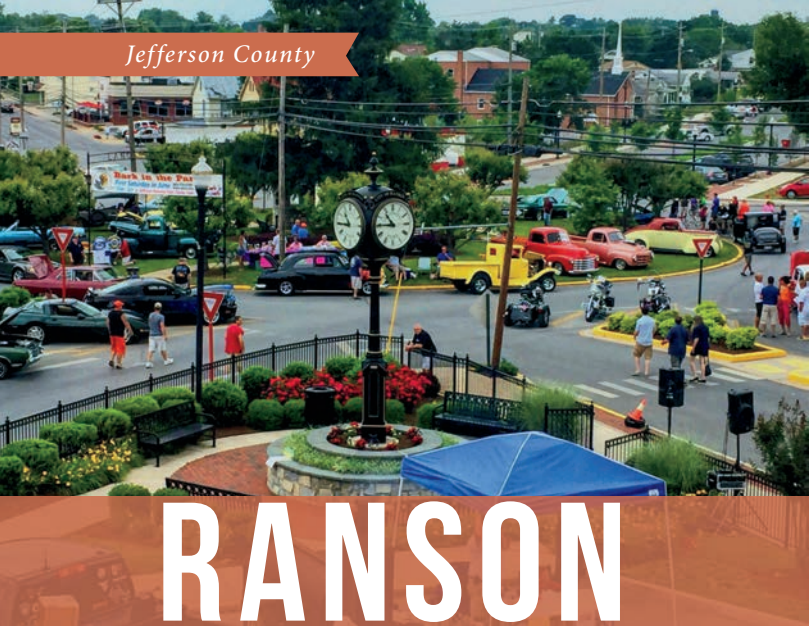
coming soon—with 24 odds-display monitors and 50 feet of wall space dedicated to 80-inch TVs for viewing the best games. And no matter where in the casino you choose to play, you'll enjoy complimentary beverages including beer, wine, and cocktails.

National artists like Trace Adkins, Sinbad, and Dwight Yoakam, as well as a long list of popular stand-up comedians, have headlined at the casino's 1,200-seat **Event Center**. New artists are on the calendar every year.



## Hit the Hay

➔ **Hollywood Casino** has a 153-room **The Inn at Charles Town** with 18 spacious and luxury suites overlooking the racetrack. The **Hillbrook Inn** has elegant guest rooms, relaxing spa, and acclaimed restaurant. The **Turf/Rodeway Inn** is located next to the track and the **Carriage Inn** is on the National Register of Historic Places.



# RANSON

**L**ocated less than three hours away from big-city hubs like Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia, Ranson offers authentic small-town life and charm. Whether you're looking for a relaxing weekend getaway or a home base for your outdoor adventure, Ranson is your dream destination!

## The Ranson of Yesterday

Although the town of Ranson is just over a century old, the history of the area goes back centuries. Members of George Washington's family had homes here (*read more on page 28*). Both Union and Confederate troops passed through the area during the American Civil War.

As a municipality, the town of Ranson traces its origins to the late 1800s. Back then, it was part of its next-door neighbor, Charles Town. The Charles Town Mining, Manufacturing & Improvement Company purchased 850 acres in the northwestern part of the city in May 1890. Much of the property came from the Ranson family.

The company started developing the land, which was soon filling up with factories, schools, businesses, and family homes. The town still boasts many homes from the era—one-and two-story single-family dwellings that make it easy to imagine the people who lived here at the turn of the 20th century.

In 1910, residents of this section of town voted 69–2 to form their own town. They chose to name their new municipality after the family who once owned the land. Specifically, the town is named for local farmer and dentist Dr. James Ranson.

## The Ranson of Today

### STAY

**Home 2 Suites** was awarded the Connie Award, which means #1 in the brand globally. The **Hampton Inn & Suites** is just a mile away, and has been ranked in the top 5% of all Hampton Inn & Suites globally based on guest surveys and inspections. **Holiday Inn Express** offers clean, comfortable rooms, and continental breakfast for reasonable prices.

### DINE

Whether you're looking for a quick snack or a full meal, you'll find delicious options in Ranson. Stop by **Rossy's** place for a mouthwatering steak. **El Rancho** and **Mi Degollado** serves up authentic Mexican cuisine or stop by **Pizza City** for traditional favorites like meat lovers and veggie pizza and specialties like cheesesteak and taco pizza.

### EXPLORE

Ranson also offers plenty of recreation options—from musicals to motorsports—and plenty of locally-owned shops and restaurants. You can learn the history of the region at the **Jefferson County Museum** or see the running of the thoroughbreds at nearby **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**. Interested in a different kind of racing? Take a quick drive to the **Summit Point Motorsports Park** for one of their races or action-packed programs.

### SHOP

Ready for some shopping? **Two Crows Antique Mall's** unique set up allows them to display the antiques they gather from their 50+ dealers to their best advantage and ensures that you'll find the perfect piece of artwork, furniture or decor for your home. If you're more of an outdoor enthusiast, **Two Rivers Treads** offers hiking and trail shoes galore. It's also the nation's first minimalist shoe store.

The following pages contain some of the best Ranson has to offer, but don't just take our word for it. Our eight square miles are packed with hidden treasures to discover! Stop by the **Ranson Convention and Visitors Bureau** to learn about other local attractions and make the most out of your stay!

For more information about Ranson, contact the Ranson CVB [ransonwv.us](http://ransonwv.us); 304.724.3862



## Center Stage

*The Old Opera House remains a vibrant performing arts hub.*

When the Old Opera House opened in 1911, locals referred to it as the “new” opera house. That moniker has long since worn off, but this 328-seat theater remains as important to the arts scene as ever.

The theater puts on six stage productions, a summer production, and a one-act play festival each year, plus a ballet every year. 204 North George Street, Charles Town, 304.725.4420, [oldoperahouse.org](http://oldoperahouse.org), [@oohcharlestown](https://www.facebook.com/oohcharlestown) on Facebook



## The Home Stretch

*See thundering thoroughbreds at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.*

**E**ver since Albert J. Boyle opened the Charles Town Races in 1933, the racetrack has been a source of entertainment and profit for the tri-state region. And although West Virginia's oldest horse racing track is now surrounded by a state-of-the-art casino, a luxury hotel, and gourmet restaurants, horse racing remains a prime attraction. Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races remains one of the busiest thoroughbred courses in the country.

While the casino is reserved for visitors 21 and older, the track is open to families—so fans of all ages can witness the power and majesty of the “sport of kings.” 750 Hollywood Drive, Charles Town, 800.795.7001, [hollywoodcasinocharlestown.com](http://hollywoodcasinocharlestown.com), [@hollywoodcctr](https://www.facebook.com/hollywoodcctr) on Facebook

## FUN FESTIVALS ANNUAL EVENTS

### Ranson Festival and Car Show

*1st Saturday in June*

A day full of fun for everyone! Unique craft vendors, food trucks, kid's zone, games, live music, and so much more. The car show is held in conjunction with the festival. All makes and models are welcome.

### West Virginia Festival

*3rd Saturday in June*

A seasonal tribute to West Virginia's birthday. Over 100 craft vendors, food trucks, children's activities, live music, and beer gardens. Bring the family and join in on all the fun!

### Jefferson County Fair

*August 20th thru 26th*

A celebration of food and festivity featuring agricultural demonstrations, carnival games, live entertainment, bull riding, demolition derby, tractor pull, and so much more.

### Charles Town Car Show

*Saturday, Labor Day weekend*

Charles Town shuts down Main Street for full throttle fun with over 300 cars.

### Ranson Tree Lighting

*4th Saturday in November  
(after Thanksgiving)*

Ranson kicks off the holidays with tree lighting ceremony and seasonal joy. Santa and Mrs. Claus will attend the lighting of the tree on a horse-drawn sleigh. Surprise visitors throughout the evening. Bring the family for s'mores, carriage rides, and a visit with Santa.

# Washingtons Slept Here

*West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle is home to several historic houses with ties to our founding father.*

**I**n 1752, George Washington's brother Lawrence wrote him from his deathbed of their shared hopes for backcountry Virginia: "I agree that the Shenandoah Valley is one of the most pristine areas and likely to advance your fortune quite nicely." When Lawrence died, he left his Shenandoah Valley acreage to their younger brothers, Samuel, John, and Charles.

This is how the Washington family came to what is now West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. On that early legacy, the brothers and their descendants built sturdy homes that still stand.

## Harewood

Samuel Washington was prominent in his own right before George became commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in 1775 and long before George was president. "In 1766, while he still lived in King George, Virginia, Samuel was one of the first signatories, along with brothers Charles and John, of the Leedstown Resolves, protesting the treatment of the colony by Parliament," says Samuel's great-great-great-great-great-grandson Walter Washington, who lives at Harewood today. Soon after, Samuel and family were the first Washingtons to move to the Shenandoah Valley. Their Harewood dazzled. As the only home still in Washington hands a quarter-millennium later, Harewood, just west of Charles Town, is arguably the gem.



## Happy Retreat

Charles Washington moved to the Shenandoah Valley a decade after Samuel, in 1780. He built his home, Happy Retreat, just a few miles from Harewood and set aside an adjacent 80 acres to form Charles Town. When Jefferson County split off from Berkeley County in 1801, Charles Town became the county seat.

Happy Retreat changed hands a number of times and, by the time of the real estate boom of the early 2000s, its 12 acres were in danger of subdivision and development. The nonprofit Friends of Happy Retreat (FOHR) bought the house in July 2015 to preserve it. In a commitment to seeing Happy Retreat a living part of the community, FOHR has turned it into a cultural center for concerts, plays, and art exhibits.



## Blakeley

Blakeley and the facing Claymont Court were built by brothers John Augustine and Bushrod Corbin Washington, grandsons of the president's younger brother John Augustine, between 1815 and 1820. The family story is that John Augustine built Blakeley smaller because he knew he would inherit Mount Vernon. "But even when they lived at Mount Vernon, Blakeley is where they came to get away from the August heat," says Walter Washington. Blakeley is in private ownership and closed to the public.

## Claymont Court

The grandest home in the region, Bushrod Corbin's Claymont encompasses some 16,000 square feet. "There probably were homes in Virginia that were that big but certainly nothing in the Shenandoah Valley that even came close to that big," says local architectural historian John Allen. The current Georgian structure, dating to about 1840, replaced the original after it was destroyed by fire. It is owned today by the Claymont Society for Continuous Education.



## Cedar Lawn

Built about 1825 by Samuel's grandson John Thornton Augustine on a portion of the original Harewood estate, Cedar Lawn was bought in the 1940s by the industrialist R.J. Funkhouser, who at one time also owned Claymont Court and Blakeley. It has been restored by the current owners, Taylor and Marjorie Fithian, and is not open to the public.



## Beallair (not pictured)

The original structure was built by Thomas Beall in the late 1700s. Beall passed the home to his daughter Eliza and son-in-law George Corbin Washington, the grandson of President George Washington's older half-brother Augustine and a two-time U.S. congressman. The large main Classical Revival portion was built by George Corbin's son, Lewis. The home is owned today by a developer and stands behind a fence in a gated community.



BILL STOLER PHOTOGRAPHY

## Zero to 50

*The Summit Point Motorsports Park has been providing the Panhandle with high-octane thrills for five decades.*

Racing has been a popular attraction in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle since the 1930's, when thoroughbreds came thundering into the area. But the horsepower increased significantly in 1969 with the opening of Summit Point Raceway.

The track immediately began hosting Sports Car Club of America-sanctioned events. Actor-turned-driver Paul Newman even ran a few of his early races here. What began as just one track has since expanded to four. Now, you can find racecars, go-karts, and motorcycles tearing up the asphalt almost every weekend from February through November.

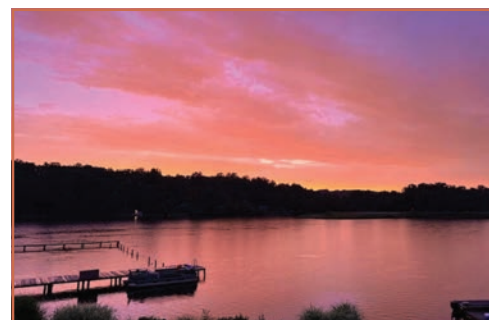
Each May, the park offers a throwback to its early days with the Jefferson 500. The event, one of the largest vintage car races in the northeast, regularly draws more than 200 vintage race cars for three days of racing. You can see the motorsports superstars of tomorrow at the park's Shenandoah Circuit, a track dedicated to kart racing, regularly hosting events with The Woodbridge Kart Club, the self-described "oldest, largest, and friendliest kart club" in the nation.

Spectators will enjoy the concession stand and its menu of breakfast, lunch, and dinner options—including the famous 100 MPH Chili. For those staying the whole weekend, there are electric hook-ups for RVs and two bath houses.

The track provides opportunities for regular joes and janes to get in on the action. During Friday at the Track, drivers can put their street cars on the track and try them out. Beginner and intermediate drivers receive classroom instruction, then get four sessions on the track with a ride-along instructor, while advanced drivers go solo.

For an even bigger thrill, the park's Drift Nirvana program teaches drivers how to "drift," that controlled tire-screaming skidding that's usually seen in *The Fast and the Furious* movies and *Gran Torino* video games.

The speedway hosts driver education classes for beginning drivers, who learn the basics of automobile operation, and more advanced drivers, who learn how to handle highway emergencies. It also serves as a training facility for military and law enforcement personnel. 201 Motorsports Circle, Summit Point, 304.725.8444, [summitpoint-raceway.com](http://summitpoint-raceway.com), @summitpoint on Facebook



### A Hidden Gem

The **Mountain Lake Club** is located just a short drive from historic downtown Harpers Ferry and Charles Town. This hidden gem offers the beautiful 55-acre **Lake Shannondale** with 25-acres of shoreline for year round enjoyment. Enjoy lunch or dinner at the **Lakehouse Bar & Grill**, relax on the beach, or spend the day on the water. All this and a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance make it a special place. 1329 Lakeside Drive, Harpers Ferry, [mountainlakeclub.com](http://mountainlakeclub.com)

### FUEL UP



Time for a pitstop? **El Ranchero** offers burritos, quesadillas and authentic street style tacos. Cheesy slices are the marquee feature at **Andy's Pizza** or discover a casual American bistro at **Rossy's Place**.

# Bring the Past Back to Life

*The Jefferson County Museum is filled with not-so-hidden treasures.*

**F**or more than 50 years, the Jefferson County Museum has been providing an up-close look at the history of the region through its collection of more than 2,200 historic artifacts. The collection includes paintings by local artists, handmade quilts, children's toys, common household objects from the 1700s to today, and uniforms and weapons from the Civil War and both World Wars.

The facility, which shares a building with the Charles Town Library, also has an extensive collection of original documents, including personal correspondence and maps, and photographs dating from the invention of photography through the 21st century.

## 100 Years of Dolls

See how the construction of children's toys changed over time, from fabric to papier mache and porcelain to plastic. At the end, kids can make their own dolls from clothespins.

## Jefferson County in Photos: Then & Now

A photo display in the museum entry hall illustrates both the changing nature of the county over time as well as its enduring heritage through vintage images of county buildings and places alongside with 21st century images of the same sites.

## John Brown Raid

Radical abolitionist John Brown intended his infamous raid on the U.S. arsenal to start a slave uprising. Instead, he sparked the powder keg of the Civil War. Get an up-close look at the raid through artifacts—including the wagon that transported Brown to the gallows.

## The Washington Family

Although George Washington did not live in the Eastern Panhandle, plenty of his family did. This exhibit contains artifacts, documents, and photographs that provide a glimpse into the private life of the most famous family in American politics.

The Jefferson County Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$4 for adults but is free for children under 18, students with ID, and patrons of the Charles Town Library.

200 East Washington Street, Charles Town, 304.725.8628, [jeffcomuseumwv.org](http://jeffcomuseumwv.org), @jeffersoncountymuseum on Facebook

## To a Tee

### Looking to work on your handicap

while also enjoying the scenic beauty of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle? Look no farther than **Locust Hill Golf Course**. This challenging 18-hole course features rolling greens, 35 acres of water features, and hidden bunkers, all against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Call Ranson Convention and Visitors Bureau to book a "Stay and Play" package. 278 St. Andrews Drive, Charles Town, 304.728.7300, @locusthillgolf on Facebook



## TREAD LIGHTLY

*The nation's first minimalist shoe store wants to get you moving.*

**Whether you're running** your first 5K, running the trails at Harpers Ferry Historical State Park, or just running some errands, you can find the shoes that will get you to the finish line at Two Rivers Treads.

This shop was founded by Mark Cucuzzella—a family doctor, Air Force Reserves lieutenant colonel, and accomplished marathoner—as the nation's first minimalist shoe store. Compared to heavily padded athletic shoes, minimalist shoes put less distance between your foot and the ground. This might sound dangerous, but it actually retrains your body to move the way nature intended, preventing injuries.

Two Rivers Treads' employees, all of whom are runners, are knowledgeable about the store's inventory, since they try out every shoe they sell. They can help pick the perfect shoe for your stride and experience level. Try out your new shoes in the Ranson Mile held on May and sponsored by Two Rivers Treads. 400 South Mildred Street, Ranson, 304.885.8843, [tworivertreads.com](http://tworivertreads.com), @tworivertreads on Facebook

# RAISE YOUR SPIRITS

*Two years in, this Jefferson County craft distillery is growing distribution and having fun.*

➔ **Devil's Due Distillery** focuses on local provenance, sourcing from within 100 miles of their facility. Their artisanal focus is on quality and their hand-crafted production aims at creating a taste to satisfy the most discerning customer. The Bourbon is sweet and smoky-aged to perfection. The Rye is spicy and ready for sipping. The Maple Whiskey will have you looking around for a stack of hotcakes. The Vodka is pure heaven. 315 James Burr Boulevard, Kearneysville. 681.252.1246. [facebook.com/DevilsDueDistillery](https://www.facebook.com/DevilsDueDistillery).



## Center of Attention

*There is always something happening at the Ranson Civic Center.*

**T**here are plenty of civic centers in the world, but few live up to their name. The **Ranson Civic Center** does. On any given day, the facility might host a regional sports tournament or a trade show or a banquet or a professional ticketed event. Day to day you might see the community walking laps around the center with the Ranson Walks program, sports teams practicing.

It's strange to think that not long ago, this vibrant community hub was an abandoned industrial site. It used to be a paint shop for a soft drink machine factory but sat vacant after the company left town in the 80's. It eventually came under the ownership of the Maytag Corporation which, after eight years, donated the building to the City of Ranson in 2009.

With the transition complete, the city began working to rehabilitate the nearly 40,000 square-foot facility. The City of Ranson made their dream of creating a space that connects the community through recreation and special events a reality. The facility boasts upgraded flooring, HVAC system, lighting and can accommodate events for up to 1200 people. The versatile space includes four regulation volleyball courts, two regulation basketball courts and space for up to seven pickleball courts.

The talented team at the Ranson Civic Center are at the ready to assist you with making your private party or large event a success. [www.cityofransonwv.us](http://www.cityofransonwv.us)

A CIVIL WAR BATTLEGROUND.

NOW A PEACEFUL RETREAT.

*almost heaven*

Stroll Harpers Ferry and hear the echoes of a town with a fascinating living history. This quaint retreat in eastern West Virginia is an official destination along the Civil Rights Trail. Feel free to explore every part of its small-town charm.

WEST  
VIRGINIA

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

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white towel, sits on the tiled edge of a hot tub. She is looking out a window where several orchids in pots are visible. The scene is bright and serene.

# *Serenity*

- Spas
- Historic healing waters
- Tasty dining
- Distinctive shops
- Lively art scene
- Splendid wilderness

**[BerkeleySprings.com](http://BerkeleySprings.com)**

**800-447-8797**

