

Helpful Information

◆ Climbing Season

The climbing season at New River extends from April through November, with winter offering occasional good days. The best months are usually late April to mid-June, and mid-September to late October.

◆ Food and Water

Water is available at the spring on Route 82, one mile past Bridge Buttress (does not meet Department of Health standards), and at Canyon Rim Visitor Center. There are numerous markets and eating establishments in nearby towns.

◆ Showers

Showers can be purchased at many of the private campgrounds in the area. **Please do not bathe in the restrooms at park visitor centers.**

◆ Camping

There are many private and state park campgrounds located within easy driving distance from the climbing areas. Primitive camping is allowed on park property. See the guidelines given under **Camping Regulations**.

◆ Private Property

There are many areas of private property within the New River Gorge, including some within the park boundary. Do not trespass on private property!

◆ Parking and Security

Park in designated parking locations—do not block roads or driveways. **Always change clothes out of view.** For security reasons, do not leave vehicles unattended overnight at parking areas or trailheads. Hide or remove all valuables while climbing, and lock vehicles.

Emergency Information

In case of serious injury — call **911**

First aid is available at park visitor centers and ranger stations. Emergency medical treatment can be obtained at Summersville Memorial Hospital in Summersville (304-872-2891), or Plateau Medical Center in Oak Hill (304-465-8600).

Because of the remote nature of some of the climbing sites within the park, rescue can be difficult and time-consuming. Climb safe and “climb smart.”

A Word Of Warning

Climbing has inherent risks and hazards, and is a potentially dangerous activity. A variety of skills and techniques are required to ensure a safe climbing experience. Please seek instruction from qualified sources before venturing onto the cliffs.

For More Information

New River Gorge National River
P.O. Box 246
Glen Jean, WV 25846
(304) 465-0508
<http://www.nps.gov/neri>



The Access Fund
P.O. Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308
(303) 545-6772

<http://www.outdoorlink.com/accessfund>

Credits

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I M P O R T A N T

Climber Information

NEW RIVER GORGE
NATIONAL RIVER



LEAVE

NO

TRACE

Outdoor Skills & Ethics

Outdoor Skills & Ethics

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Introduction

Within the 70,000 acres of New River Gorge National River are over 1600 established rock climbs. “The New” has become one of the most popular climbing areas in the country. Over one million people visit New River Gorge each year, thousands of whom are climbers. With this large number of visitors, park issues develop that can only be solved through everyone’s cooperation.

Briefly, the National Park Service mission is to protect park resources for future generations, while providing opportunities to enjoy these resources. This task is obviously a difficult one—balancing resource protection and visitor use. Park managers are concerned about the impact visitors and climbers have on the park resources. This brochure is devoted to what you, as a climber, can do to limit your impact on New River Gorge and preserve it for future generations.

Climbing at New River Gorge is a special experience. A little respect for the environment, other climbers, and other park visitors will go a long way toward assuring continued access and enjoyment of the area. Please follow the leave no trace practices outlined in this brochure, which are designed to reduce impacts on this unique parks.

For more information on Leave No Trace:

National Outdoor Leadership School
288 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520
(307) 332-8800
<http://www.lnt.org>

Every Time You Climb

Commit yourself to the Leave No Trace

Ethic: Remove litter, old slings, tape, candy wrappers, cigarette butts, bouldering pads, etc. from crags and the base of walls.

Dispose of human waste properly: Use toilets whenever possible. If none are available, dig a six-inch-deep hole at least 50 yards from water and bury waste. Always pack out toilet paper (use zip-lock plastic bags).

Use existing trails: Avoid cutting switchbacks, trampling vegetation, or creating new trails.

Use discretion when placing bolts and fixed protection: Camouflage all anchors. Bolting above public trails often results in conflict with other trail users and should be avoided.

Respect restrictions to protect natural resources and cultural artifacts: Be aware of seasonal closures to protect nesting raptors. Power drills are illegal throughout the park. Minimum-impact guidelines stress leaving the rock in its natural state. Deliberately damaging the rock is illegal.

Park in designated areas: Try not to park in vegetated or undeveloped areas. Do not park within six feet of the edge of the pavement, or block private driveways or access roads.

Maintain a low profile: Treat other users with respect.

Respect private property: Respect “No Trespassing” signs. Consult landowners before establishing routes at new crags.

Principles of Leave No Trace

- ◆ Plan ahead and prepare.
- ◆ Camp and travel on durable surfaces.
- ◆ Pack it in, pack it out.
- ◆ Properly dispose of what you can’t pack out.
- ◆ Leave what you find.
- ◆ Minimize use and impact from fires.
- ◆ Minimize climbing impacts.

Climbing Regulations

- ◆ The use of motorized drills is prohibited throughout the park.
- ◆ Do not remove or disturb any natural or cultural object.
- ◆ Do not deface, damage, or alter the natural rock surface.
- ◆ Pets must be on a leash at all times.

Camping Regulations

- ◆ Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of all roads, trailheads, and parking areas.
- ◆ Do not camp within 100 feet of the top or bottom of the cliffs. This is a fragile and easily impacted resource.
- ◆ Camping is prohibited along Route 82 in the vicinity of the Bridge Area Crags.
- ◆ Do not camp within 100 feet of any cultural or historical site.

Climbing Overview

The cliffs at New River Gorge are made up of a very hard sandstone (*Nuttall Sandstone*), and range from 30 to 120 feet in height. The rock is highly featured, offering an abundance of crack and face routes. The approximately 1600 climbing routes in the gorge provide a good variety of traditional and sport routes.

Most of the routes at New River Gorge favor the advanced and expert climber. The majority of routes are 5.9 and harder, and most sport routes are in the 5.10 – 5.12 range.

Where Do I Go?

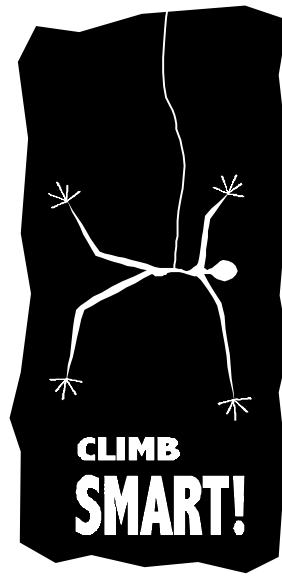
Climbing in the New River Gorge is spread out over a large area, and is approached from over a dozen different locations. Each climbing location has a slightly different setting and type of climbing available, and approach distances range from a hundred yards to several miles.

First time visitors, and those looking for easily top-roped climbs, should consider the Bridge Area — located close to Canyon Rim Visitor Center, and providing easy access to beginner climbs. Fern Buttress, Endless Wall and Kaymoor also offer a good selection of routes, but top-roping at these areas is much more difficult.

A guidebook is an essential tool for locating climbs, and local climbing shops can offer information and specific recommendations.

Private Property

Not all climbing sites within New River Gorge National River are on land owned by the National Park Service. Respect the rights of private land owners, and do not trespass on posted property. Check with area climbing shops or local climbers if in you have questions concerning access, and before establishing routes at any new areas.



Climbing Is Dangerous:

Stack
the
Odds
In
Your
Favor!

- ◆ Check you knots and harness buckles.
- ◆ Know your partners and their habits.
- ◆ Check your belay — are you sure you're on?
- ◆ Use extra care when lowering — do you have enough rope?
- ◆ Fixed gear can be unreliable — back it up when possible.
- ◆ Rock can break — check your holds.
- ◆ Always double check your rappel system.

How's the Weather?

The best seasons for rock climbing are during the spring and fall. Summers often see temperatures in the mid 80s to lower 90s, and 70% – 90% humidity. Winters tend to be cold and damp, however it is not uncommon to have mild spells during the winter with perfect climbing conditions. Long range weather forecasts tend to be unreliable, so check the weather maps frequently.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Precipitation	3.5"	3.1"	4.0"	3.5"	3.7"	3.4"	5.2"	4.1"	3.1"	2.8"	3.0"	3.2"
Daily High	43	46	54	67	76	82	84	83	79	73	57	45
Monthly Mean	35	37	43	54	63	72	75	73	66	57	43	36
Daily Low	24	25	33	42	51	60	63	62	55	43	34	27

Precipitation in inches. Temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit.

Guidebooks

Best Sport Climbs of New River Gorge, Roxanna Brock & Brian McCray

New River Gorge: Rock Climbers' Guidebook, Steve Cater.

New River Rock, Rick Thompson.

Climbing Supplies

Blue Ridge Outdoors

101 E. Wiseman Ave., Fayetteville, WV 25840, (304) 574-2425.

Fly'n Brian's Resoles

101 E. Wiseman Ave., Fayetteville, WV 25840, (304) 574-3483.

Hard Rock Climbing Services

131 S. Court Street, Fayetteville, WV 25840, (304) 574-0735.







Guiding & Instruction

All businesses and schools offering climbing instruction within the park are **required to have a permit** issued by New River Gorge National River. A list of permitted guide services is available by calling (304) 465-0508.

NEW RIVER CLIMBING AREAS

Not all areas are public property.
Always respect the rights of
private land owners!

KEY

-  Primary Road
-  Secondary (4-WD) Road
-  Climbing Area
-  Creek
-  Trail
-  Parking

