

New River Gorge
National River
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



The National Park Service administers New River Gorge National River in southern West Virginia, where 52,000 acres of park land protect important resources and provide recreational opportunities.

What is the National River?



The New River and its gorge, forested slopes and vistas, creeks and pools, foundations and coke ovens, rhododendrons and newts...



all are New River Gorge National River. The park was established in 1978 to preserve and protect 53 miles of the New River and 40 miles of its tributaries. One of almost 400 parks within the National Park System, this park encompasses over 70,000 acres of land along the New River between the towns of Hinton and Fayetteville.



The park and the surrounding area are rich in cultural and natural history, and offer an abundance of scenic and recreational opportunities.

What is a gorge?

A gorge is defined as *a deep ravine, usually with a river running through it.*

Carved by eons of rushing water and erosion, the gorge of the New River is exceptionally deep. The river flows swiftly as it winds through the gorge, and continues to cut through layers of sandstone, shale, and coal as it courses north through the Allegheny Plateau.

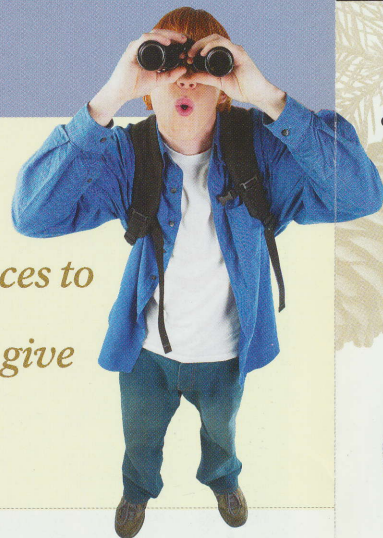
The Kaymoor Mine is one of many historic sites along New River Gorge National River's 65 miles of hiking trails. Historic sites, important cultural resources providing links to our past, are protected by the National Park Service.



The New River Gorge

What is your park?

"...Going to the mountains is going home... Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike." John Muir, author and naturalist



A Special Place



New River Gorge National River is one of 388 parks within the National Park System.

Older than the mountains through which it flows, the New River is beautiful in any season. A favorite place for all forms of outdoor recreation, the river and the surrounding gorge are home to thousands of plants and animals, some of which are rare or endangered. National Park professionals dedicated to the protection of the ecological health of the park continually monitor soil, water, and the living organisms found in the 70,000 acres of the park. New River Gorge National River is a vital part of the National Park System and a favorite destination for travelers and area residents alike.

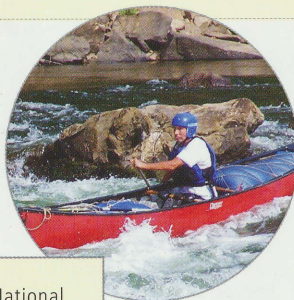
Older than the mountains through which it flows, the New River is beautiful in any



Red-spotted Newt



The National Park Service symbol is in the shape of an arrowhead, to signify the agency's mission to protect cultural resources. The buffalo, mountain scenery, and other interior details represent the protection of natural resources.

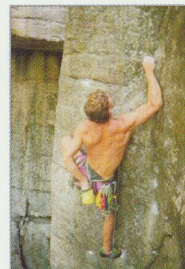


Sandstone Falls boardwalk

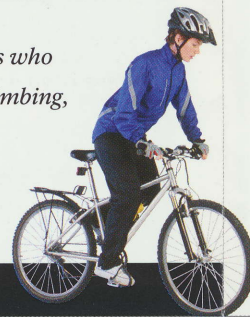
Thousands enjoy the whitewater challenges of the New River, which falls 750 feet in approximately 60 miles from Bluestone Dam to Gauley Bridge.

New River Gorge National River has become a destination as more

Americans look to the great outdoors for recreation and relaxation. The park is host to a growing number of enthusiasts who enjoy whitewater boating, hiking, rock climbing, bird watching, and mountain biking. Camping, fishing, and picnicking remain favorites as well.



Numerous rock faces and overlooks provide challenges and panoramic views.



A Place to Play

A Place to Protect

A way to preserve a cultural resource is to restore it to its original condition. The Thurmond Depot, restored in 1995, still serves Amtrak passengers as a "flag stop."



The park protects a 60-mile-long continuous span of mixed-deciduous forest, one of the largest contiguous deciduous forests in the nation. Many neotropical migratory birds depend on unfragmented forests for survival, making New River Gorge National River a vital refuge for Cerulean warblers and other species which are in decline throughout north-eastern America.



The gorge, ravines, and drainages limited travel until relatively recently. People were self-reliant, often isolated on farmsteads. The Trump-Lilly Farm preserves a cultural landscape from the 1800s.



The New River Gorge Bridge, the largest single span arch bridge in the hemisphere.

The park is a natural classroom. Park Rangers introduce young visitors to park plant and animal life, share stories of the past, and teach water safety.



Great Blue Heron

New River Gorge National River is a protector of a broad array of natural resources. Forested uplands and the

rim of the gorge, slopes and ravines, the river and the river's edge each provide a unique habitat.



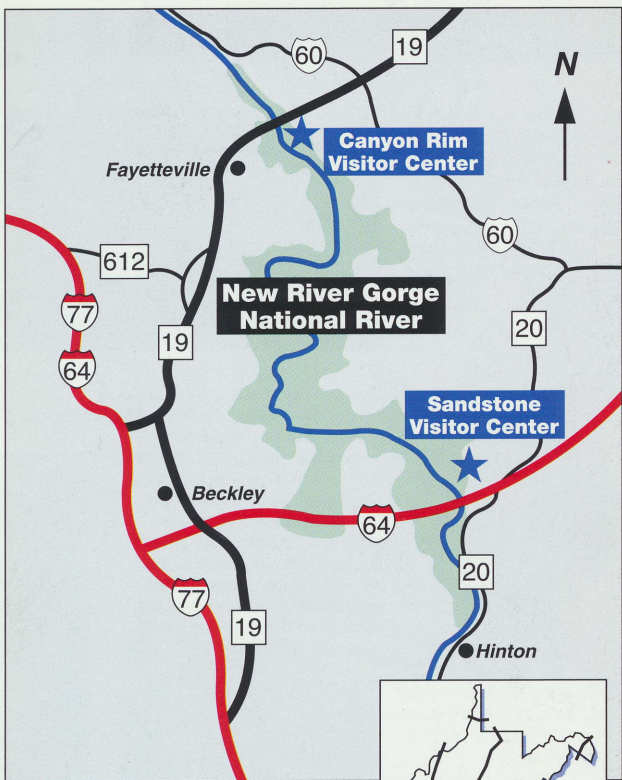
Trillium



A variety of habitats support diverse plant and animal species.

The New River slices through millions of years of geologic history like a knife through a layer cake. The Gorge's exposed rock layers reveal a part of our dynamic Earth's story of shifting continents and ever-changing seas, mountains, and climates.





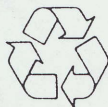
Canyon Rim Visitor Center
 Off Route 19, 1 mile north of Fayetteville



Sandstone Visitor Center
 Just north of Interstate 64 at Exit 139
 Right at the bottom of the ramp

To learn more, enjoy more, contact:
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