



# Three Rivers Review

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Leah Perkowski-Sisk

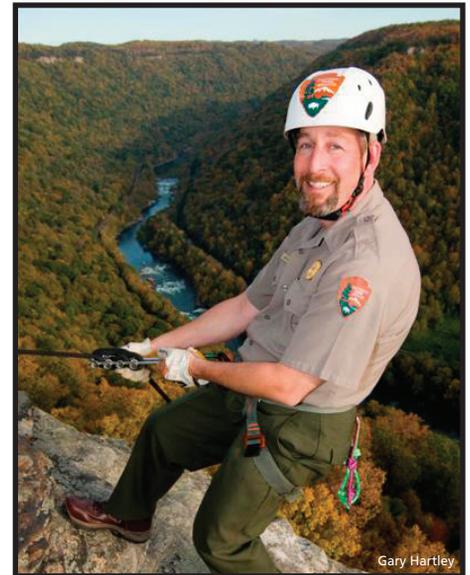
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# Welcome

On behalf of the National Park Service men and women working here in southern West Virginia, I am proud to welcome you to three impressive and exciting units of your National Park System. New River Gorge National River, Gauley River National Recreation Area, and Bluestone National Scenic River offer spectacular scenery and a wealth of recreational opportunities. The diversity of natural and historical resources found in these national park areas is being preserved as part of a larger family of nationally significant places which make up the National Park System.

As one of nearly 300 million visitors to America's national parks, we hope that you not only have a safe and enjoyable visit, but that you also take away a deeper understanding and appreciation of your role as stewards of these special places.

*Don Striker, Superintendent, New River Gorge National River*



## Your Three Parks

### ***New River Gorge National River***

New River Gorge National River was designated in 1978, protecting 53 miles of one of the oldest rivers in the world. The gorge averages 1,000 feet in depth and contains one of the most diverse plant species assemblages of any river gorge in the southern Appalachians. Cultural resources include prehistoric sites as well as remnants from the recent industrial age: abandoned coal mines, company towns, tipples, and coke ovens.

Annually, one million visitors enjoy a wide range of recreational activities. The New River is well known for its warmwater fishery and outstanding whitewater boating. Sandstone cliffs challenge rock climbers, while mountain biking and hiking trails offer many opportunities for enjoyment.

### ***Gauley River National Recreation Area***

Established in 1988, Gauley River National Recreation Area protects 25 miles of the Gauley River and 5 miles of the Meadow River. Dropping 28 feet per mile through a gorge that averages 500 feet in depth, the Gauley is a world-class destination for whitewater boaters.

Approximately one half of the land within park boundaries is federally owned; public facilities, including river access areas, are limited and not well developed. The tailwaters area below the Summersville Dam offers the only public camping facilities at this time. Public access is available at four locations along the river: Gauley Tailwaters, Mason Branch, Woods Ferry, and Upper Swiss.

### ***Bluestone National Scenic River***

In 1988, Bluestone National Scenic River was designated a unit of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, which Congress established to preserve the free-flowing condition of the nation's rivers. This park includes a 10.5-mile segment of the Bluestone River with virtually no vehicular access into the area. The most common methods of entry are the aerial tram at Pipestem Resort State Park, the parking area at Lilly, and the trailhead at Bluestone State Park.

The area is cooperatively managed with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Wild turkey and whitetail deer are the featured species, and the area is popular with hunters and fishermen.



# Park Information

## Contact Us

New River Gorge National River  
P. O. Box 246, 104 Main Street  
Glen Jean, WV 25846  
304-465-0508  
[www.nps.gov/neri](http://www.nps.gov/neri)  
[www.facebook.com/newrivergorgens](http://www.facebook.com/newrivergorgens)

Scan this QR code for our website:



## Email

[neri\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:neri_interpretation@nps.gov)

## Park Headquarters

Open M–F, 8:00 am–4:30 pm  
304-465-0508  
37.92775° N, 81.15587° W

## Canyon Rim Visitor Center

Open daily, 9:00 am–5:00 pm  
304-574-2115  
38.07003° N, 81.07583° W

## Sandstone Visitor Center

Open daily, 9:00 am–5:00 pm  
304-466-0417  
37.78320° N, 80.89778° W

## Grandview Contact Station

Open June through August  
304-763-3715  
37.83017° N, 81.06312° W

## Thurmond Depot

Open June through August  
304-465-8550  
37.95712° N, 81.07879° W

## In Case of an Emergency

Call 911 from any phone in the park to report emergencies. Park rangers, as well as county sheriffs and state police, are on patrol throughout the park. Emergency care facilities and hospitals are located in Summersville, Oak Hill, Beckley, and Hinton.

## Weather and Climate

Summers are always warm, averaging 80 degrees, with thunderstorms likely. Fall is generally the driest and most stable season, with cool mornings and mild days. Winters are variable, ranging from mild to frigid. Prepare for ranges from 50 degrees and mild to -10 degrees and blizzard conditions. Spring is very unpredictable but generally mild and wet.

## Getting Around

**To The Park:** by personal vehicle via Interstate 77/64, U.S. Route 19; via airplane with airports in Beckley and Charleston; via train — AMTRAK stops at Montgomery, Thurmond (“flag” stop, reservations needed), Prince, and Hinton.

**Within the Park:** personal vehicle, foot, or boat; bicycle and horseback on designated trails. Learn more about scenic drives in the park on pages 4-7.

## Accessibility

All four park visitor centers are wheelchair-accessible, and accessible trails are available at Canyon Rim Visitor Center and Sandstone Falls. All park films and video exhibits are presented with open captions at all times. The exhibits at Canyon Rim Visitor Center are also audio-described for the sight-impaired. Assisted listening devices for the hearing-impaired are available for the park films at Sandstone and Canyon Rim visitor centers. American Sign Language interpretation is available by request. Please call 304-465-0508 at least 14 days prior to your visit.

## Lodging

The park does not have any lodging facilities, but motels, cabins, and bed & breakfasts are available in surrounding towns. Hawks Nest and Pipestem Resort State Parks have lodges, and Babcock, Bluestone, and Pipestem Resort State Parks have cabins. For a listing of accommodations, call the West Virginia Division of Tourism at 1-800-CALLWVA, the Southern West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-VISITWV, or the New River CVB at 1-800-927-0263.

## Camping

The park provides opportunities for primitive camping only. Most park campgrounds are located near the river. See pages 10-11 for more details. There are developed campgrounds available in surrounding towns and state parks.

## Fees and Permits

No entrance fees are charged at any of the three parks. Special Use Permits are required for all commercial activities (guiding, filming, etc.). Reservations are required for picnic shelters at Grandview and Burnwood, and group campsites at Burnwood and Dungen. Fees vary. For information concerning Special Use Permits and group campsites, call 304-465-6517. Grandview picnic shelter reservations can be made by calling 304-465-6555.



# Park Destinations

## **Canyon Rim Visitor Center**

Welcoming over 300,000 visitors each year, Canyon Rim Visitor Center serves as a visitor contact station for area information and interpretation of the natural, cultural, recreational, and historic values of New River Gorge National River.

The most popular attractions at the site are the views of the gorge and bridge. A fully accessible ramp leads visitors from the parking lot to an observation deck overlooking the New River Gorge Bridge, and a boardwalk leads visitors 178 steps down to a closer view of the bridge. The back deck of the visitor center offers an unobstructed two-mile view southward into the park.

Inside the visitor center, an exhibit room features the natural and cultural history of the gorge and its people. Films give visitors an overview of the park, and a bookstore offers publications specific to the park and its surroundings as a service to visitors.

## **Directions**

Canyon Rim Visitor Center is located on US Route 19 just north of Fayetteville, WV. The visitor center is open daily 9-5 except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. GPS coordinates are 38.07003° N, 81.07583° W.



## **Nuttallburg**

From 1873 to 1958, the community of Nuttallburg shipped coal out of the New River Gorge. Today, one can visit the townsite and see the structures that survived, many of which were recently stabilized and restored by the National Park Service.

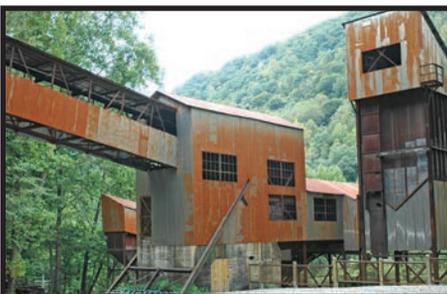
Mine owner John Nuttall became the second operator in the gorge to ship coal along the newly-completed C&O Railway in 1873. From 1920 to 1928, Henry Ford (of Ford Motor Company fame) leased the mine and modernized the facilities, dramatically increasing production. Most of the structures that remain at Nuttallburg today date from the Ford era.

In 1998, the National Park Service acquired the property and began a long process of research, restoration, stabilization, trail construction, and interpretation in order to open the site to the public.

Today, self-guided trails and exhibits relate the site's many stories.

## **Directions**

Use caution when driving to Nuttallburg; the route is a narrow, winding, sometimes one-lane unpaved road. Take Lansing-Edmond Road (County Route 5/82) off of U.S. 19, just north of the Canyon Rim Visitor Center. Travel 6.0 miles to Winona and turn right onto Keeneys Creek Road (CR 85/2). Travel 4.1 miles to the Nuttallburg parking area; disabled parking is located 0.1 miles beyond this. GPS coordinates are 38.05019° N, 81.03976° W.



## **Thurmond**

Once among the busiest railroad towns on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, Thurmond recaptures the days when steel rails, steam, and coal were the major themes in our nation's history.

During the first two decades of the 1900s, Thurmond was a classic boomtown. With the huge amounts of coal brought in from area mines, Thurmond had the largest revenue on the C&O Railway. Fifteen passenger trains a day traveled through town, with the depot serving as many as 75,000 visitors a year.

With the advent of diesel locomotives and less coal coming in from local mines, many businesses closed down, and most residents moved on. Today, Thurmond remains surprisingly untouched by modern development.

The historic Thurmond Depot has been restored to serve as a park visitor center. Exhibits and historic furnishings bring the golden days of railroading back to life. The visitor center is generally open daily from June to August, and weekends in September and October; the town and exhibits are open to visit all year.

## **Directions**

To reach Thurmond, take US Route 19 to the Glen Jean exit, north of Beckley. Follow the signs to Thurmond, seven miles down WV Route 25. Route 25 is a narrow, winding road and is not recommended for RVs and trailers. GPS coordinates are 37.95712° N, 81.07879° W.



### **Grandview**

Grandview is a peaceful place to relax and unwind while enjoying the New River Gorge. The main overlook, 1400 feet above the river, offers panoramic views of an active railway, the river, and the town of Quinnimont - where the first coal was shipped out of the gorge in 1873.

Besides overlooks of the New River, Grandview features a visitor center (generally open daily 12-5 from June through August), hiking trails, summer outdoor dramas at Theatre West Virginia, and picnic areas with playgrounds. Grandview is also well known for its beautiful rhododendron, which bloom in mid-May. Check out the views from Turkey Spur Overlook and be sure to walk the wooded trails.

### **Directions**

To reach Grandview from Beckley, follow I-64 East to Exit 129 B. From Lewisburg, follow I-64 West 40 miles to Exit 129. From either exit, turn right and follow Route 9 north six miles to Grandview. GPS coordinates are 37.83017° N, 81.06312° W.

### **Sandstone Visitor Center**

The Sandstone Visitor Center serves as a gateway to the southern portion of New River Gorge National River, where visitors traveling along I-64 can stop and get oriented to the park and southern West Virginia.

Designed with a commitment to environmental sustainability, Sandstone Visitor Center's building and exhibits illustrate ways people can practice an eco-friendly lifestyle, and enhance their knowledge of the park and the New River watershed.

The building itself uses 60% less energy than the current industry standard, and the interactive displays and media program interpret the rich resources of the watershed, discuss human impacts on the land, and review simple ways that people can lessen their impacts on the environment.

### **Directions**

Sandstone Visitor Center is located at Exit 139 off I-64, just north of the I-64 and State Route 20 interchange. The visitor center is open daily 9-5 except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. GPS coordinates are 37.78320° N, 80.89778° W.

### **Sandstone Falls**

The largest waterfall on the New River, the spectacular Sandstone Falls drops the New River 15 to 25 feet around a series of islands.

At Sandstone Falls, short trails lead to fishing beaches; there is a second river access below the falls. An accessible boardwalk crosses two bridges leading to islands and observation decks offering views below the falls.

The river around Sandstone Falls has been the site of recent drownings - always wear a life jacket when in or near the water. Avoid wading above the falls.

### **Directions**

Sandstone Falls is located 8.5 miles north of Hinton, WV. Three miles south of I-64, on the east (Route 20) side of the river, an overlook 600 feet above the river provides a view of the falls. GPS coordinates are 37.75252° N, 80.90389° W.

To view the falls at river level, visit the west side of the New River. Take River Road (State Route 26) from the west end of the Route 20 bridge in Hinton. Drive slowly, as River Road is one lane for most of its 8.5 miles. GPS coordinates are 37.75913° N, 80.90582° W.

On your way to Sandstone Falls, stop at Brooks Falls Day Use Area. GPS coordinates are 37.71797° N, 80.89297° W. Across the road is a two-mile creekside loop trail, the Big Branch Trail.



Leah Perkowski-Sisk

# Scenic Drive Destinations



**Coal Heritage Trail**  
 Approximate Distance:  
 146 miles from Bluefield,  
 WV to Fayetteville, WV

Traversing five Southern West Virginia counties between Fayetteville and Bluefield, this 146-mile route features many historic sites associated with coal mining. The trail tells the story of resilient men and women who spent generations mining coal through harsh times and perilous conditions. For more information, ask for a brochure at a park visitor center.



**Babcock State Park**  
 Approximate Distance:  
 0.5 mile from Route 41  
 (one direction)

Babcock State Park, one of the oldest parks in West Virginia, is located within the boundaries of New River Gorge National River. A feature of the 4,000 acre park is a widely photographed grist mill. Within the park are log cabin accommodations, hiking trails, a stable, a lake for fishing and boating, and campsites.



**Mount Hope**  
 Approximate Distance:  
 2.7 miles from Glen Jean  
 intersection  
 Estimated Travel Time:  
 10 minutes from Route 19

Travel the loop road through the town of Mount Hope, which was once the home of the New River Coal Company. The large buildings and stadium of Mount Hope stand as reminders of the wealth that coal once brought to the town and region. A coal seam and mine portal are visible at the outskirts of town.



**Glade Creek Area**  
 Approximate Distance:  
 6.3 miles from Route 41  
 Estimated Travel Time:  
 30 minutes (One  
 Direction)

Just before the bridge that crosses the New River to Prince is a gravel road that leads to Glade Creek. Known as the Royal Road, it passes the scattered foundations of the town of Royal 1/4 mile down the road. One mile down is Grandview Sandbar with picnicking, camping, and river access. Five miles further down is Glade Creek with a small campground, river access, and trailhead.



**Tamarack**  
 Approximate Distance:  
 0.1 miles from I-77/64  
 Exits 44/45 off I-77/I-64

Featuring “the best of West Virginia,” Tamarack in Beckley offers a large collection of juried handicrafts and fine art under its circular roof. Five artisan studios, an art gallery, a theater, and a food court showcase the state. Open daily, Tamarack also serves as a conference center.



**Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine**  
 Approximate Distance:  
 2.5 miles from I-77  
 Estimated Travel Time:  
 10 minutes from I-77

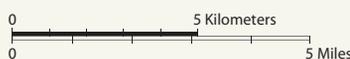
Veteran miners lead electric tram tours through horizontal underground mine tunnels. This late 1800s mine features low-seam coal mining from its earliest manual stages to modern mechanized operation. Several coal camp houses, the school, a church, the Rahall Company Store, and the mine are open April to November; call 304-256-1747 for more information.



**Hinton Historic District**  
 Approximate Distance:  
 10 miles from I-64  
 Estimated Travel Time:  
 15 minutes from I-64

The Hinton Historic District includes buildings dated from the late 1800s when Hinton was a railroad center. The downtown Summers County Visitor Center and Hinton Railroad Museum provide visitor services, exhibits, and walking tour information.

## Legend



New River Gorge National River

Much of the land within the Park remains private property; please respect the owners' rights.

Scenic Drive

Connector Road

Unpaved Road

Unpaved roads for the adventurous

Drive Attraction

Connector Attraction

Nearby Attraction

Coal Heritage Site

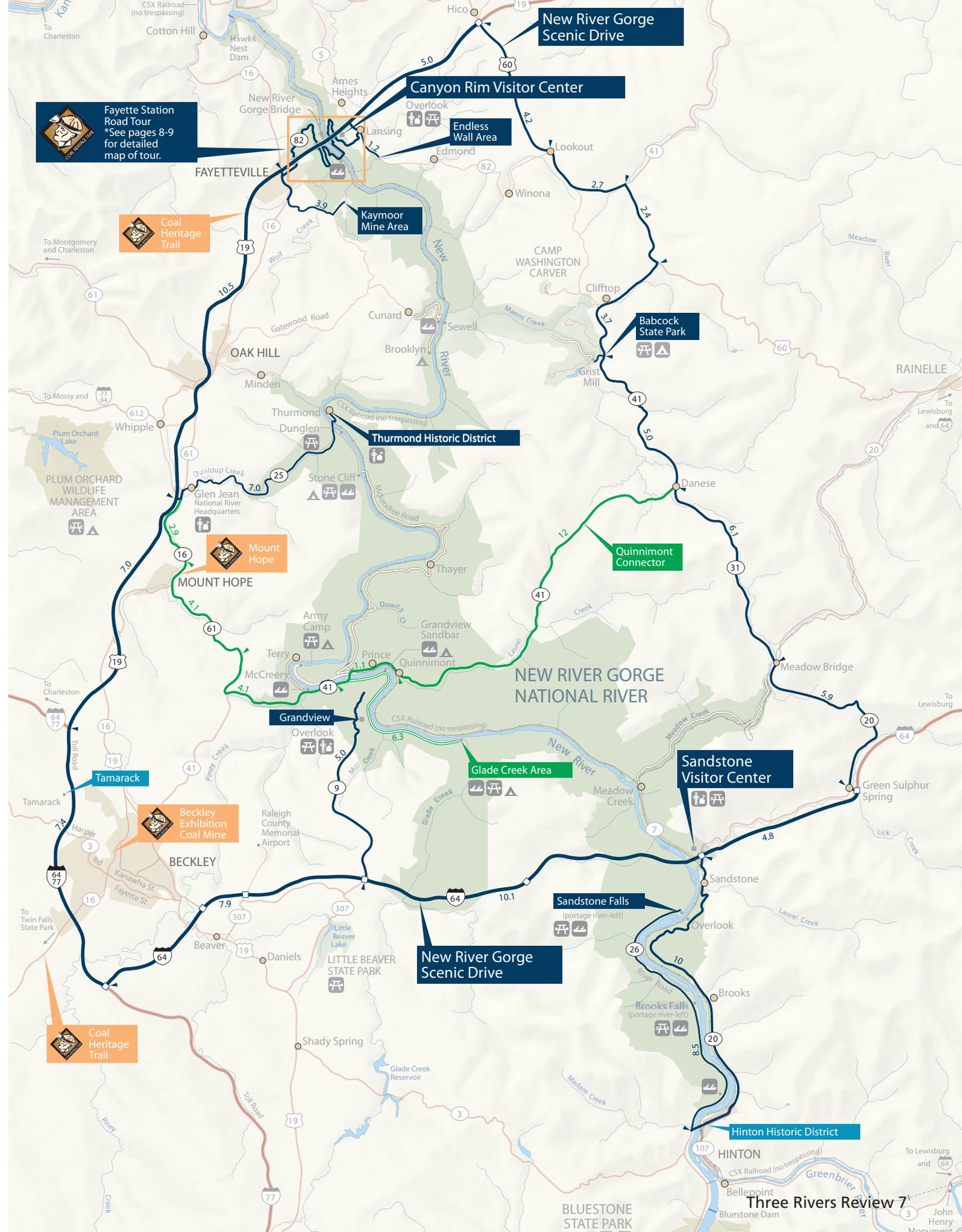
Picnic Area

Campground

Primitive campsite

Public river access

Ranger Station



New River Gorge Scenic Drive

Canyon Rim Visitor Center

Endless Wall Area

Kaymoor Mine Area

Babcock State Park

Thurmond Historic District

Quinnimont Connector

NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

Sandstone Visitor Center

Sandstone Falls

New River Gorge Scenic Drive

Hinton Historic District

Three Rivers Review 7

Fayette Station Road Tour  
\*See pages 8-9 for detailed map of tour.

Coal Heritage Trail

Mount Hope

Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine

Coal Heritage Trail

# Fayette Station Road Tour

Exploring Fayette Station Road is to travel back in time before the modern New River Gorge Bridge was built in 1977. This one hundred year-old road of hairpin turns winds down to the bottom of the gorge, across a narrow bridge, and up the other side. Visible along the way are vistas of the river and bridges, a hardwood forest, and remnants of the New River Gorge communities that once teemed with activity.

In 1873 the C&O Railway opened this rugged wilderness and carried coal out of the gorge to ports in Virginia and cities in the Midwest. By 1905, thirteen towns sprang up between Fayette Station Road and Thurmond 15 miles upstream, about one per mile. Between the 1870s and the 1950s, West Virginia coal contributed significantly to the industrialization of the United States as it fed the nation's trains, factories, and fleets.

At river level, Fayette Station Road runs directly through remnants of the townsites of Fayette and South Fayette. The establishment, growth, and ultimate demise of these two towns represent the general life cycle of a town in the gorge. A landowner or mining company opened a coal mine and built company-owned houses and a store, creating a company town. Decades later, when the coal seam was exhausted or the mine closed because of changes in the marketplace, people moved away and these towns were ultimately deserted.

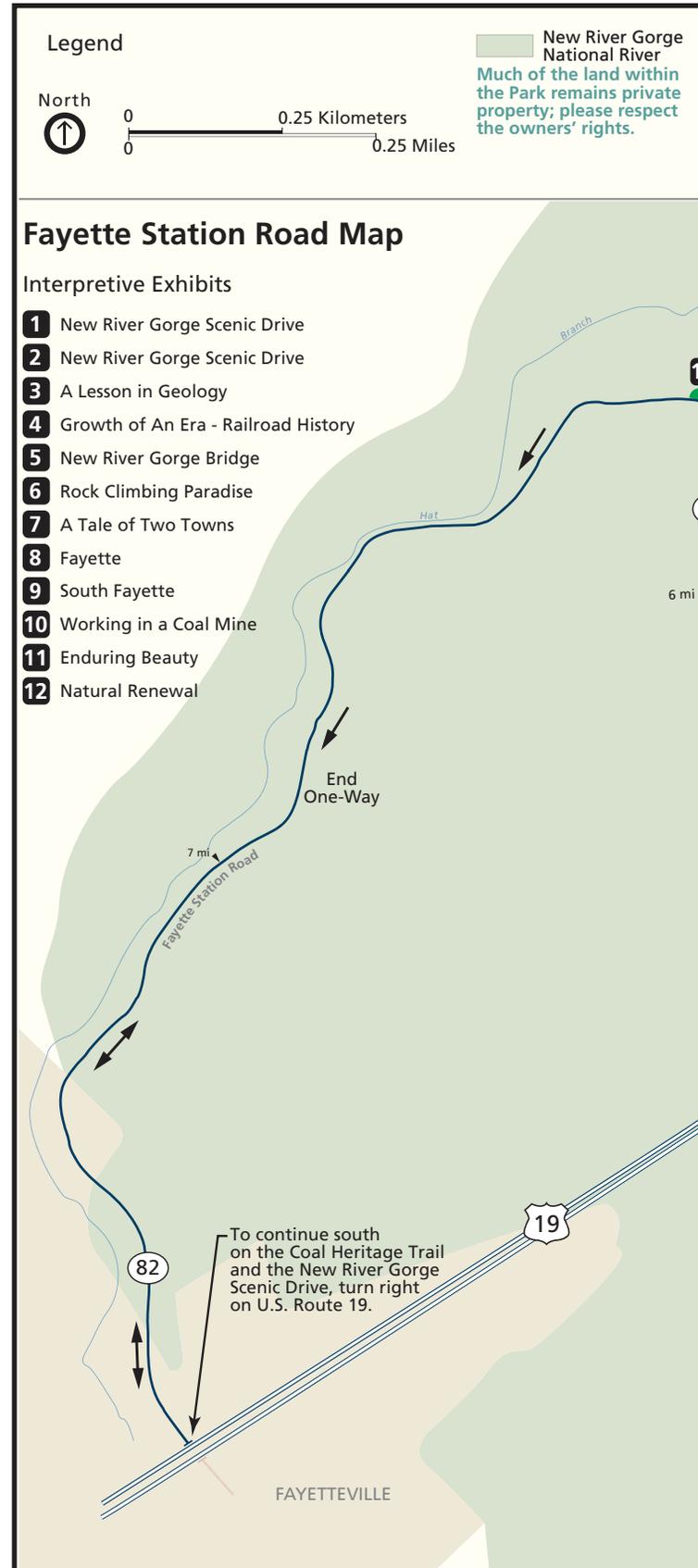
Today, the New River Gorge is known for its outstanding natural and scenic beauty. The many remains of the once vibrant towns, mines, and homes that filled the gorge are now mostly hidden beneath layers of native vegetation. Along Fayette Station Road, however, some remnants of the area's coal mining and railroad heritage prevail.

## Directions

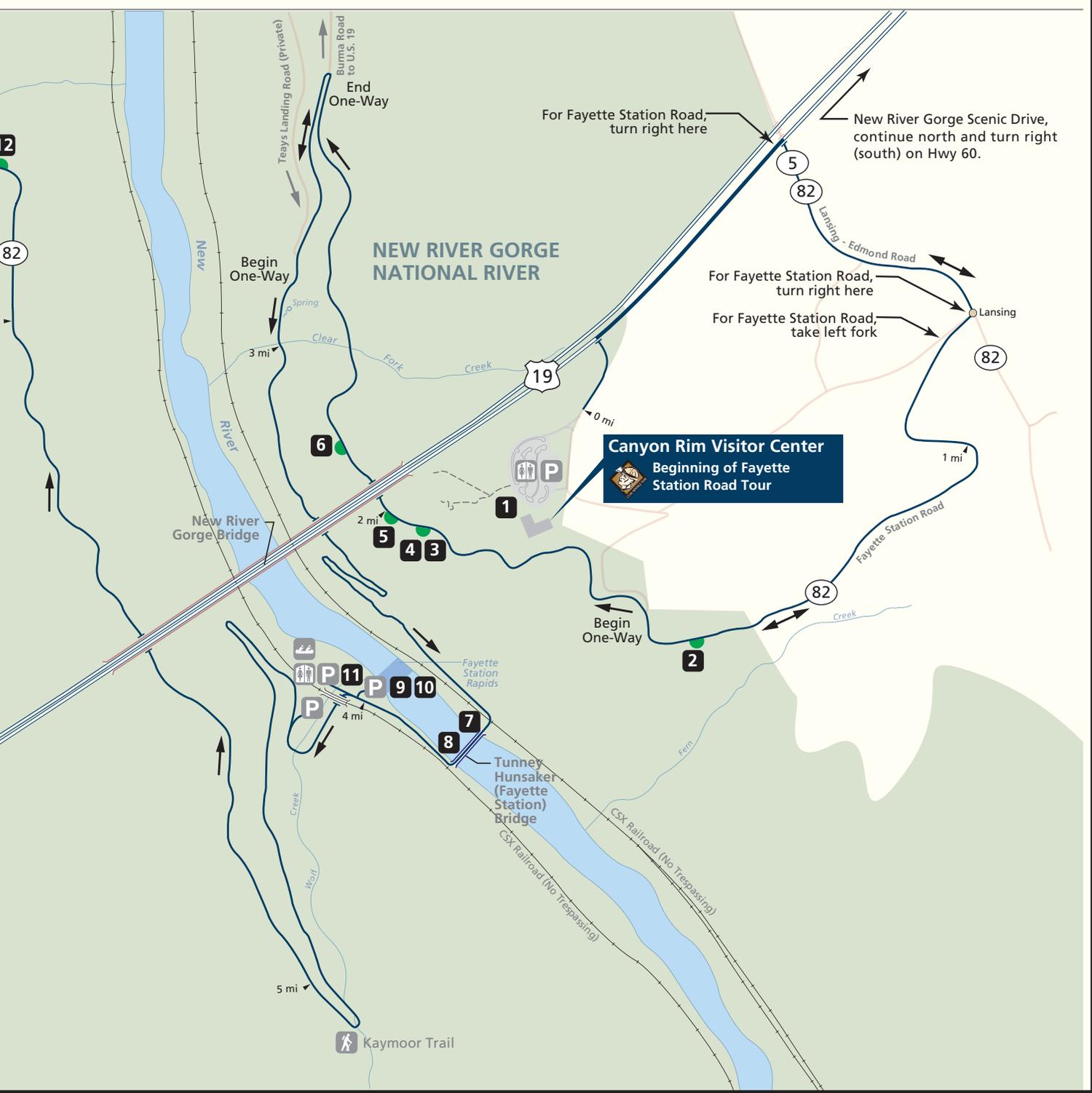
Leaving the parking lot of Canyon Rim Visitor Center, return back to the four-lane highway of Route 19. Turn right (north) onto US 19 and take your next right onto Lansing-Edmond Road (County Route 5 and 82). In 1/4 mile, turn right onto the road with a road sign marked "Fayette Station Road." The road forks almost immediately; take the left fork.

Fayette Station Road continues into the gorge on a series of two- and one-way roads, passing under the New River Gorge Bridge twice and passing exhibits along the road. At the bottom, cross over the reconstructed Fayette Station Bridge, which reopened in 1998 as the Tunney Hunsaker Bridge. Park in the Fayette Station parking area and see the wild waters here. GPS coordinates to the parking area are 38.06625° N, 81.08130° W.

After leaving Fayette Station, the road winds back up to Fayetteville. The entire trip from the visitor center to Fayetteville takes about 40 minutes (without stopping).



- Fayette Station Road Tour
- Canyon Rim Boardwalk
- Roadside Pull-off
- Interpretive Exhibits
- Arrows Indicate Direction of Traffic Flow
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Hiking Trail
- River Access



# Camping

New River Gorge National River provides opportunities for primitive camping only. Located along the river, these campgrounds have no drinking water or hookups, and limited restroom facilities. All sites are managed on a first-come, first-served basis. Developed campgrounds are available at state parks and private campgrounds throughout the nearby area.

<b>Family Campgrounds:</b>	<b>Number of Sites:</b>	<b>Directions:</b>
<b>Army Camp</b> 37.85814° N, 81.09902° W	11 drive-in tent and RV sites, some with partial shade	Located near Prince at the end of the one-lane road just north of the Route 41 bridge over the New River.
<b>Brooklyn</b> 37.98449° N, 81.02795° W	4 shaded walk-in sites for tents only and 1 drive-in site for tents only	Take Gatewood Road to the Cunard turnoff, between Oak Hill and Fayetteville. Turn, then go 1.8 miles, then follow signs to Cunard River access. Bear right through boat launch parking lot and continue upstream for a mile. Sites on left.
<b>Gauley Tailwaters</b> 38.21438° N, 80.88885° W	18 drive-in sites for tents and RVs	From Route 19 at Mt. Nebo, take Route 129 west across the dam, then turn left at the river access sign. Bear right through the parking lot to the campsites.
<b>Glade Creek</b> 37.82840° N, 81.01298° W	5 drive-in sites for tents and small/medium RVs, and 6 walk-in tent sites	From the south side of the Route 41 bridge over New River near Prince, follow the gravel Glade Creek access road for six miles.
<b>Grandview Sandbar</b> 37.85652° N, 81.05256° W	10 wooded sites for tents & small/medium size RVs, 6 walk-in tent sites, and 2 accessible sites (with permit) by the river.	From the south side of the Route 41 bridge over New River near Prince, follow Glade Creek access road for one mile, then turn left down a winding road.
<b>Stone Cliff</b> 37.93304° N, 81.06299° W	7 walk-in sites for tents and 1 drive-in site for a small RV adjacent to the boat launch. Alcohol is not permitted.	Take Route 25 from Glen Jean for six miles towards Thurmond. Turn right at intersection and go 1.5 miles to the Stone Cliff river access and campground.
<b>Thayer</b> 37.90172° N, 81.03301° W	4 walk-in tent sites upstream of the Slater Creek crossing	Take Route 25 from Glen Jean for six miles towards Thurmond. Turn right at the intersection and continue towards Stonecliff. At Stonecliff, cross the New River bridge and continue upstream on Route 25 toward Thayer. At Thayer Church, turn downhill off Route 25 to the bottom. Cross the railroad tracks and turn left towards the campground.
<b>War Ridge</b> 37.84525° N, 80.98518° W	8 drive-in sites for small RVs and tents	From Beckley, take Highway 41 toward Prince, cross the river, and continue approximately five miles towards Danese. Turn right onto Backus Mountain Road, drive approximately 1 1/2 miles and turn right at the gravel road (SR 22/7). The campground is on your right approximately 1/2 mile off Backus Road.

## Camping Regulations

- There are no fees for camping, but campers are required to register when the ranger patrols the campground.

- Maximum eight people and two vehicles per site. One tent and one RV or two tents per site.

- Stay limit of 14 days per 28 day period within any park campground or camping area.

- Quiet hours 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM. Public intoxication and disorderly conduct are prohibited.

- Camping is prohibited at Grandview, Brooks Island, day-use areas, and within Bluestone NSR.

- Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of parking areas, trailheads, boat launch areas, park structures, water sources, and historic sites; and within 300 feet of any cliff top or bottom.

- Pets must be kept on a leash.

- Dead, down wood may be used for campfires. Hand tools only may be used on firewood.

## Backcountry Camping

Areas suitable for camping are located adjacent to trails such as Glade Creek, Brooklyn-Southside Junction, and Stone Cliff trails. Other sites are along the river, accessible by boat.

Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of developed trails. Discuss your plans with a ranger before an overnight boating or backpacking trip. Camp above the high water line if possible. Use existing sites and fire rings where provided. Dispose of human waste and dishwater properly. Carry trash out.

## Group Camping

Burnwood, across Route 19 from Canyon Rim Visitor Center, and Dungen, near Thurmond, are group camping areas. A special use permit is required. Call 304-465-0508 (weekdays only) for an application.



# Hiking

New River Gorge National River provides a variety of different trails throughout the park. The trails consist of Park Service trails that are marked and maintained, trails within lands administered by state parks, and undeveloped trails and abandoned roads.

Trails range from 1/4 mile to 7 miles in length. Several can be easily connected to make for longer excursions. Difficulty varies from flat, smooth walking to steep challenging terrain. Trail recommendations and maps are offered at park visitor centers. Much of the land within the park's authorized boundaries remains private property: please respect the owners' rights.

Remember to help protect your national park by following these trail regulations:

- All trash must be carried out.
- All trails are closed to motorized vehicles.
- Pets must be on a leash.
- Disturbing, destroying, and removing natural and cultural objects is prohibited.
- Bicycles and horses are only permitted on designated trails.



For in-depth information about our hiking trails, check out the "Trails of New River" newsletter, available at any visitor center!

The image shows the cover of a newsletter titled "Trails of New River". At the top, it says "Trail Guide" and "National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior". Below that, it reads "The official trail guide of Bluestone National Scenic River, Kanawha River National Recreation Area, and New River National Recreation Area". The main title "Trails of New River" is prominently displayed. Below the title, there is a sub-heading "Take to the Trails!" and a short paragraph of text. At the bottom right of the cover, there is a small photograph of a waterfall cascading over rocks.

# Biking

New River Gorge National River offers over fifty miles of mountain bike trails, varying from easy to difficult in terrain and distance. The trail system is still in development, and trail conditions change. Check at the park's visitor centers for the most current information. Here are some helpful tips:

## ***Yield Appropriately***

Some trails are multi-use for hiking and biking. Be aware that you may encounter bikers, runners and hikers traveling at a variety of speeds. Please adjust your own speed to maximize the safety and respect of yourself and others. Do your utmost to let your fellow trail users know you're coming - a friendly greeting is a good method. Bicyclists should yield to other non-motorized trail users. Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to those headed uphill, unless the trail is clearly signed for one-way or downhill-only traffic.

## ***Respect***

It is a simple concept: if you offer respect, you are more likely to receive it. Education with friendly respect will diminish negative encounters on the trail for all users.

## ***Avoid Spreading Seeds***

Help keep weeds out of our forests. Noxious weeds threaten our healthy ecosystems and livelihoods. Stay on the trail, check your socks and bikes for hitchhiker plant seeds when you get back to the trailhead, and wash your bike before and after your ride. Help keep our park strong and clean.

## ***Trail Regulations***

- Carry out all trash; no littering.
- Disturbing, destroying, or removing natural and cultural objects is prohibited.
- Park trails are closed to all motorized vehicles.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only.
- Pets must be on a leash at all times.



## ***Safety First***

- Railroad lines throughout the park are private property and active throughout the day. Do not cross railroad tracks, or trespass on railroad right-of-ways.
- Hunting is allowed in New River Gorge National River. Exercise caution and wear blaze orange during hunting season. More information about hunting available on page 20 or at [www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting.shtm).
- Lock valuables in the trunk of your car or take them with you.
- Use caution when crossing wooden bridges - dangerous when wet.

## Featured Trails

All trail distances are one-way.

### Kaymoor Area Trails

2.0 to 8.5 miles/moderate  
Hiking/biking

To Kaymoor Miners Trailhead:  
38.04520° N, 81.06757° W

Two fairly level bike trails lead to the historic Kaymoor mine site, ranging from two to eight miles each way. One trail begins from a trailhead at Kaymoor Top; the other begins on the Cunard Access Road or Fayette Station Road.

### Rend (Thurmond-Minden) Trail

3.4 miles/easy/hiking/biking

To Minden Trailhead: 37.97570° N,  
81.10892° W

To Thurmond Trailhead:  
37.94363° N, 81.08778° W

A popular bike ride along an abandoned branch line of the C & O Railway. This mostly level trail crosses five railroad trestles. Several overlooks provide scenic views of Thurmond.

### Southside Trail

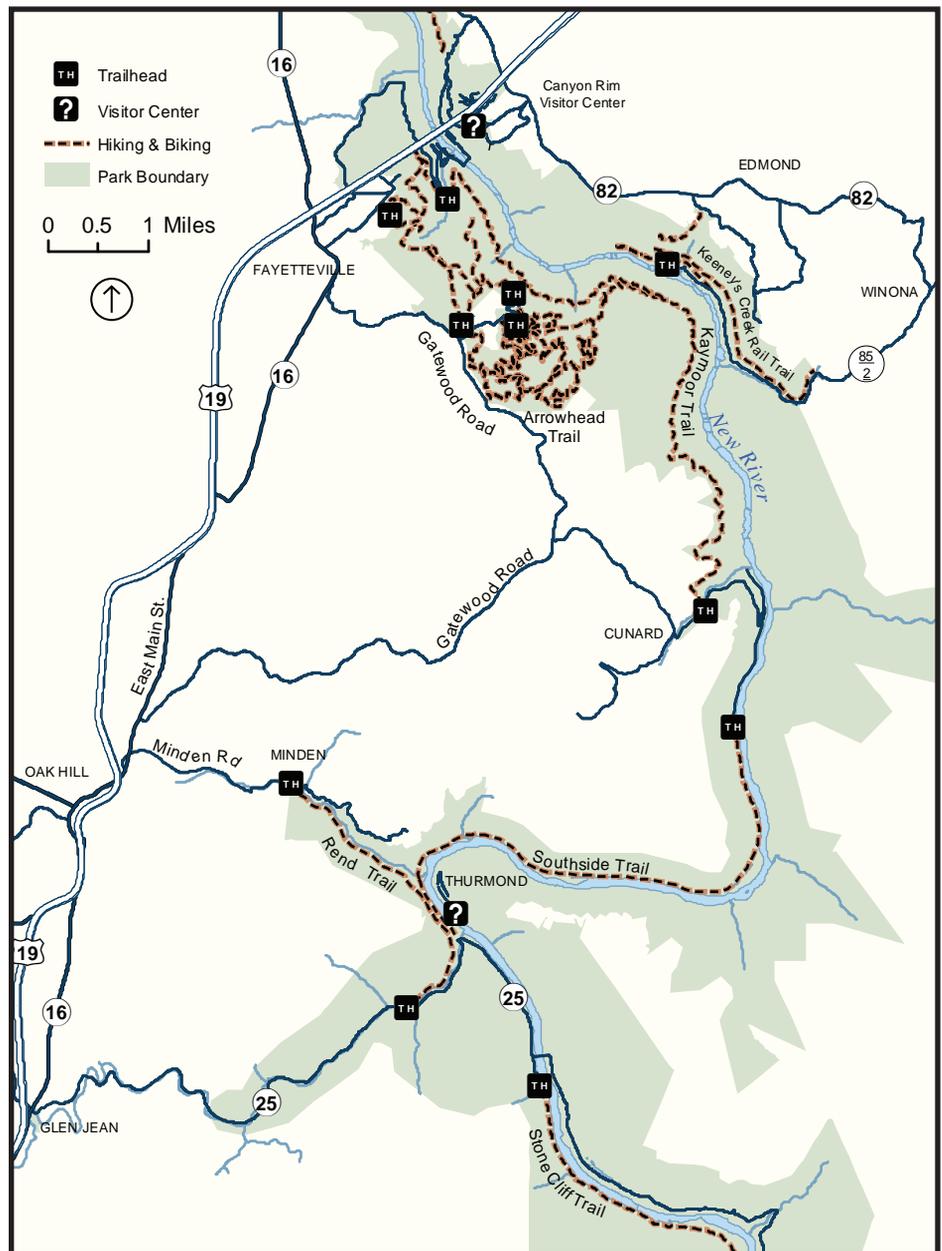
7.0 miles/moderate/hiking/biking  
37.98392° N, 81.02813° W

This riverside trail provides great views of the New River, and passes through some of the New River Gorge's abandoned mining towns. A parking area at Brooklyn marks the end of the maintained road.

### Keeney's Creek Rail Trail

3.0 miles/easy/hiking/biking  
38.04667° N, 81.03236° W

The gentle, 4% grade of this scenic forest trail runs along the steep wall of the gorge, an abandoned branch (Keeney's Creek Subdivision) of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Railway. The trail crosses four railroad trestles and passes under the historic Nuttall-burg mine conveyor.



### Arrowhead Trail

12.8 miles total/moderate to difficult/hiking/biking  
38.04149° N, 81.06793° W

More than 1,000 members of the Order of the Arrow (OA), Boy Scouts of America's national honor society, created this stacked loop trail system in the Craig Branch area. Four mountain bike loops, rated from moderate to difficult, await adventuresome riders. In one of the largest youth service projects in National Park Service history, the Scouts provided 78,544 volunteer hours, valued at \$1.6 million, to build the trails in 2011.

For in-depth information about our biking trails, check out the "Trails of New River" newsletter, available at any visitor center!



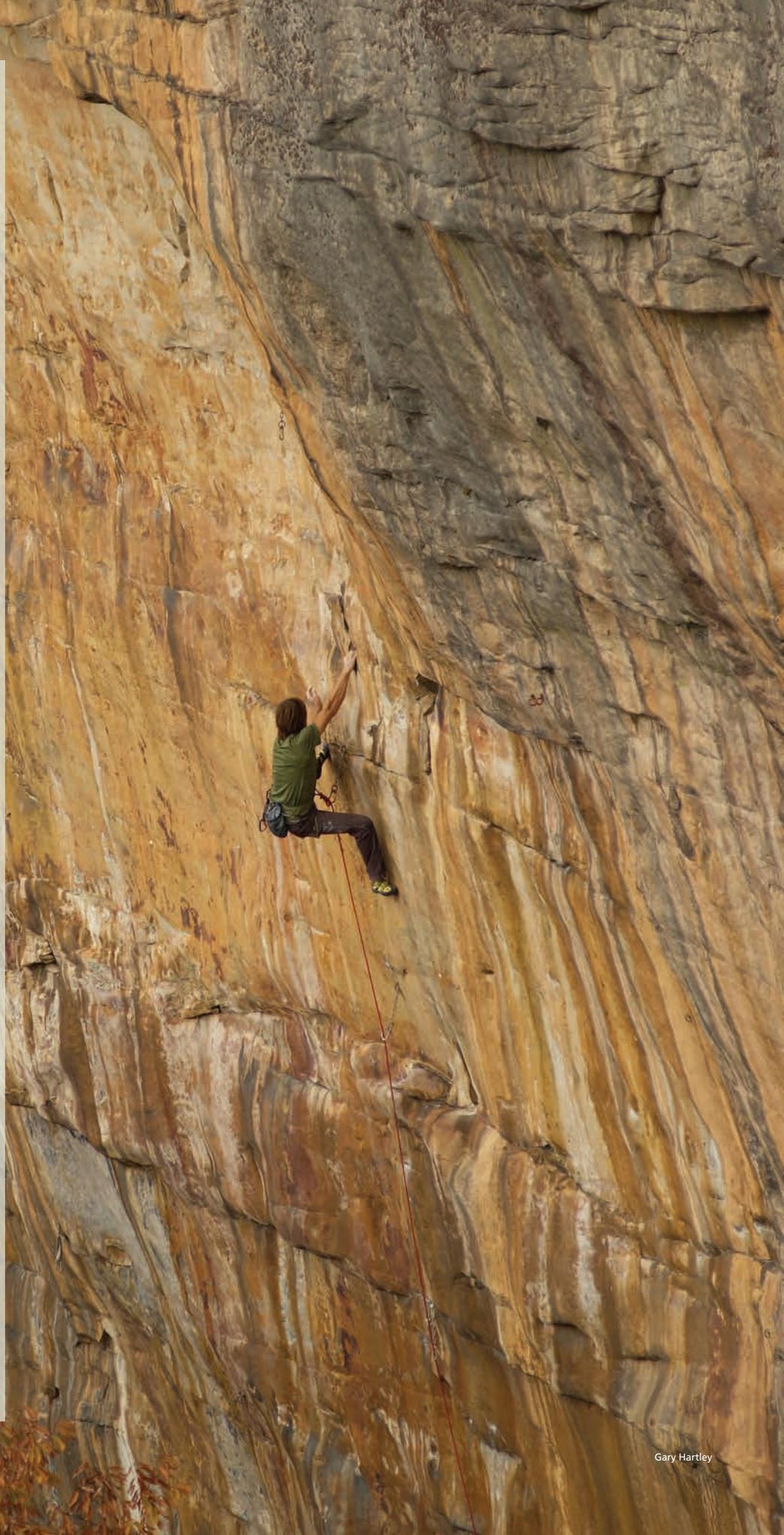
# Climbing

With over 1,600 established climbing routes, New River Gorge National River is one of the most popular climbing areas in the country. The extensive escarpment that rims much of the gorge is composed of Nuttall sandstone, renowned among rock climbers as some of the finest quality climbing rock in America. These hard cliffs range from 30 to 120 feet in height, with an abundance of crack and face routes.

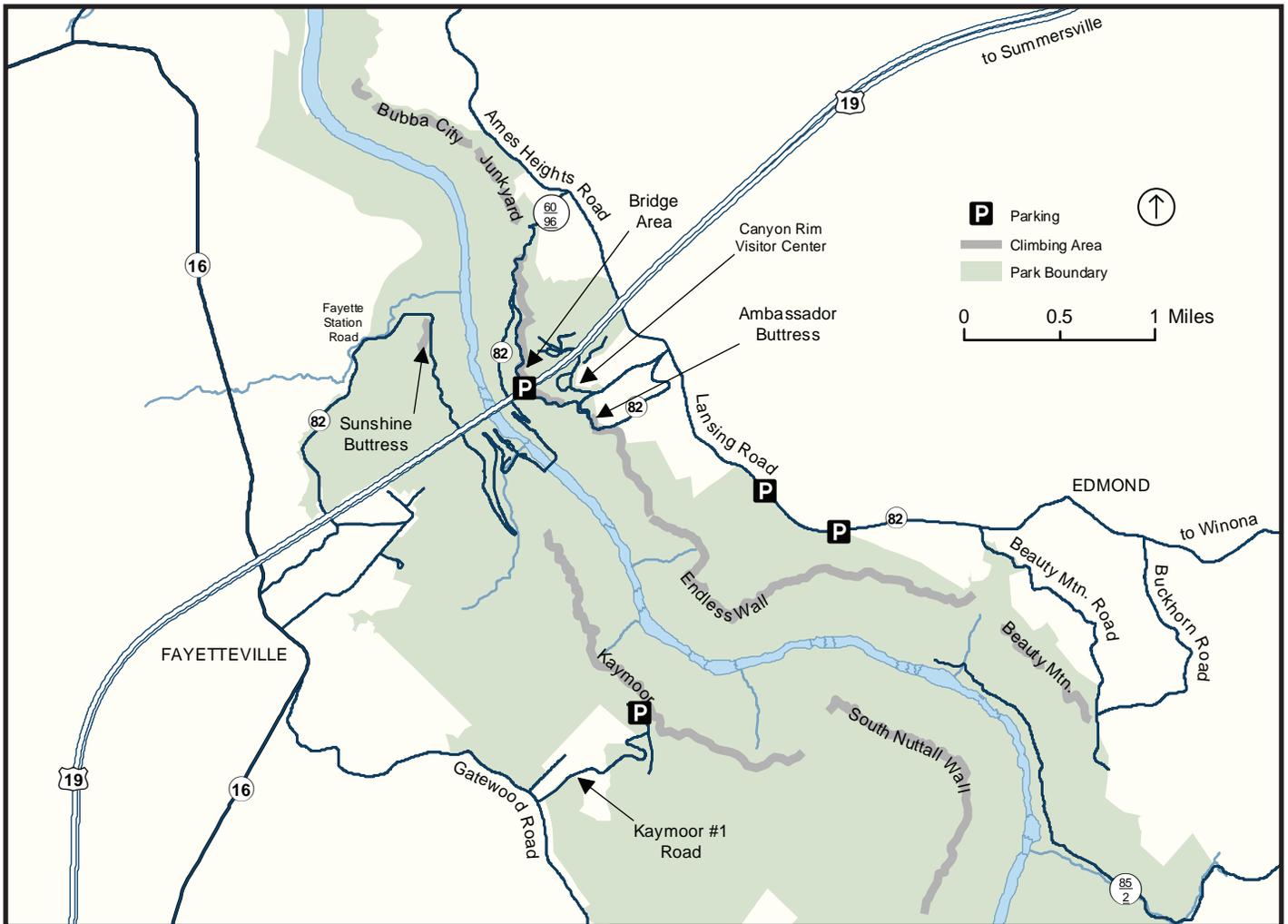
Most of the routes in the New River Gorge favor the advanced and expert climber. The majority of routes are 5.9 and harder; most sport routes fall in the 5.10 to 5.12 range. Local climbing shops and National Park Service visitor centers offer climbing information and sell guidebooks.

The National Park Service mission is to protect the park's natural and cultural resources for future generations, while providing opportunities for today's visitors to enjoy, understand, and appreciate these resources. The increased popularity of the park's climbing areas has the potential to impact soils and rock, fragile plant communities, and rare wildlife species. Litter, human waste disposal, overcrowding, and damage to cultural resources are additional issues of concern.

To address these concerns, the National Park Service, in collaboration with the New River Alliance of Climbers, created the park Climbing Management Plan, accessible at [www.nps.gov/neri](http://www.nps.gov/neri). The goal is to ensure the protection of park resources while continuing to provide opportunities for a high quality rock climbing experience. Do your part by respecting the environment, wildlife, climbers, and other park visitors. This will go a long way toward assuring continued access and enjoyment of the area.



Gary Hartley



**Parking:**

Park in designated parking locations. Be sure to hide or remove all valuables while climbing.

**Camping:**

Many private campgrounds are located within easy driving distance from the climbing areas. There are also primitive campgrounds within the park - see pages 10-11 for more details. Primitive camping is allowed on park property, except where specifically excluded. Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of parking areas, water sources, and historic sites; and within 300 feet of any cliff top or bottom.

**Emergencies:**

Call 911. Because of the remote nature of many climbing sites within the national park, rescue can be difficult and time-consuming. Area medical facilities include: Plateau Medical Center in Oak Hill, 304-469-8600; Summersville Memorial Hospital in Summersville, 304-872-2891; and Raleigh General Hospital in Beckley, 304-256-4100.

**Rules and Guidelines:**

The use of top anchors decreases impacts on cliff-top ecology. Tree trunks or other vegetation should not be used as anchors. Critical wildlife habitat can be destroyed when moss, lichens, leaves, and other natural materials are removed or “cleaned” from cliff tops. Please leave natural areas undisturbed and respect the rights of private property owners. Leave the natural rock as you find it by not defacing, damaging, or altering these surfaces. Drilling to install new anchors or replace unsafe bolts or anchors is only permitted by authorized personnel. Exceptions are decided on a case-by-case basis. For a drilling permit application, contact the National Park Service at 304-465-0508. Use chalk sparingly. If it is feasible, after cleaning a route, rappel from the anchors instead of lowering. Report bad anchors, bolts, and other hardware online at the NRAC web site: [www.newriverclimbing.net](http://www.newriverclimbing.net).

# Paddling



Gary Hartley

New River Gorge National River includes 53 miles of the free-flowing New River, beginning at Bluestone Dam and ending at Hawks Nest Lake. The New River typifies big West Virginia style whitewater. Within the park it has two very different characters. The upper (southern) part of the river consists primarily of long pools, and relatively easy rapids up to Class III. The lower (northern) section is a big powerful river, always runnable, and provides excellent fishing and camping. There are a number of different river access points, and trips can run from several hours to several days.

The Gauley River is ranked among the best whitewater rivers in the world by expert boaters. Dropping more than 668 feet through rugged terrain, the river's complex stretch of whitewater features more than 100 rapids with a steep gradient, technical runs, an incredible volume of water and huge waves. The Bluestone River offers a more "relaxed" experience. Opportunities for canoeing and kayaking are usually limited by adequate water levels to spring and early summer.

## **How to Go**

In addition to running the river on your own, a number of licensed outfitters (listed at right) offer guided trips on the New and Gauley Rivers. Trained guides, equipment, instruction, transportation to and from the river, and meals are provided. Trips vary in length from several hours to several days, and offer different degrees of difficulty -- from peaceful float and fishing trips to crashing whitewater excitement. The Bluestone River is generally run on one's own by private boaters; the Pipestem tram will transport canoes, kayaks, and bicycles (fee charged).

## **When to Go**

Ranging from mild ripples on the upper parts to big whitewater rapids in the lower section, the New River offers something for everyone. The New has trips available almost year-round, with the season running from April through October. The Gauley River is more for the whitewater enthusiast, with a number of steep and technical rapids. The main season is early September through mid-October, though trips are sometimes available at other times of the year. Water levels limit running the Bluestone River generally to spring and early summer.

## ***Padding On Your Own***

The section of the New River from Hinton to Thurmond offers challenging Class I, II, and III rapids suitable for intermediate whitewater paddlers, and consists primarily of long pools and moderate rapids.

Downstream from Thurmond the river narrows and includes technical Class III–V rapids. The New River below Thurmond is suitable only for advanced and expert paddlers. The New River is a powerful and beautiful river that usually has enough water to run.

There are a number of different access points on the New River, and trips can run from several hours to several days. See page 18 (next page) for more information.

For more information on access points to the Gauley and Bluestone rivers, please ask for the brochures available at park visitor centers.

## ***Area Outfitters***

ACE Adventure Resort  
[www.aceraft.com](http://www.aceraft.com)  
1-800-787-3982

Adventures On The Gorge  
[www.adventurewestvirginia.com](http://www.adventurewestvirginia.com)  
1-888-650-1932

Alpine Ministries  
[www.alpineministries.com](http://www.alpineministries.com)  
1-800-759-7238

Cantrell Ultimate Rafting  
[www.ultimaterafting.com](http://www.ultimaterafting.com)  
1-800-470-7238

New and Gauley River Adventures  
[www.gauley.com](http://www.gauley.com)  
1-800-759-7238

River Expeditions  
[www.raftinginfo.com](http://www.raftinginfo.com)  
1-800-463-9873

West Virginia Adventures  
[www.wv-adventures.com](http://www.wv-adventures.com)  
1-800-292-0880

## ***Safety First***

Running whitewater rivers is inherently risky. Prior to putting on a river, individual trip participants must recognize and assume responsibility for the inherent dangers, which include possible loss of life.

Before attempting any river, paddlers should satisfy themselves that every person in their group understands the inherent risks of river running, freely assumes responsibility for their own safety, and possesses the necessary skill and prior experience to reasonably ensure a safe trip. Here are some more tips:

- Always wear a life jacket/PFD (Personal Flotation Device).
- Check the river level and weather forecast before your trip. High water can make rapids much larger, and rescue extremely difficult. Low water exposes more rocks, and makes rapids more technical.
- Flotation bags are recommended for open canoes.
- Beware of hypothermia! Cold water and cool, windy weather can be a fatal combination. Be prepared for weather changes.
- If you capsize—don't panic! Swim to safety. Never try to stand in moving water. Beware of invisible hazards under the surface such as ropes and fishing lines.
- Alcohol is a factor in most drownings. Refrain from drinking while on the river.
- Calm waters still contain strong currents. Do not overestimate your swimming ability.
- Wear shoes to protect your feet against glass, fishhooks, and sharp rocks.
- Scout unfamiliar rapids from shore.
- Kneel to provide stability when running rapids in a canoe.

For in-depth information about paddling the New River, pick up a copy of our River Map and Guide, available at any visitor center!

## ***Regulations***

- While boating, each person must have a Coast Guard-approved PFD (life jacket).
- Fishing and hunting are permitted. See pages 19 and 20.
- Littering and other damage to the park is strictly prohibited.
- Trespassing on CSX railroad tracks or access roads is prohibited.
- Public intoxication, disorderly conduct, and possession of alcohol by minors are prohibited.

## ***River Level Information***

Water levels can rise and lower significantly in a matter of hours depending on your location. Comparison levels for the New River in cubic feet per second (CFS):

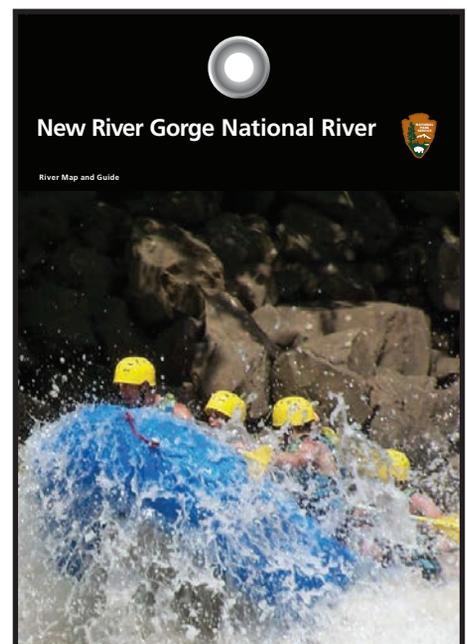
Low: generally less than 2500

Medium: 4500

High: Greater than 10,000 to 30,000+

For up-to-date river level information, call a park visitor center, or contact:

US Army Corps of Engineers  
[www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wc/whitewater.html](http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wc/whitewater.html)  
304-466-0156 (Bluestone info)  
304-872-5809 (Gauley info)



# Independent Paddling

## Selected Upper New River Trips

### Hinton to Sandstone Falls

Distance varies -  
 Several hours to half day; Class I-III  
 Akers: 37.68359° N, 80.88052° W  
 Sandstone: 37.75439° N, 80.91731° W

This popular section provides several easily reached river access locations, and offers great scenery in a less remote setting. Paddlers should approach Brooks Falls with caution. Sandstone Falls is a required portage.

Boaters should be prepared to take out above Sandstone Falls. Several drownings and serious accidents have occurred at these falls. Warning signs are on both sides of the river one-half mile above the falls, and the takeout on river left is identified by signs.

### Meadow Creek to McCreery

13 miles - 1/2 day to 2 days, Class I-III  
 Meadow Creek: 37.80957° N,  
 80.92453° W  
 McCreery: 37.84909° N, 81.09158° W

This section consists of several easy riffles and shoals as well as several Class III rapids, and is among the most isolated stretches of the New River. Few roads reach the river in this section, which makes for good fishing and camping trips.

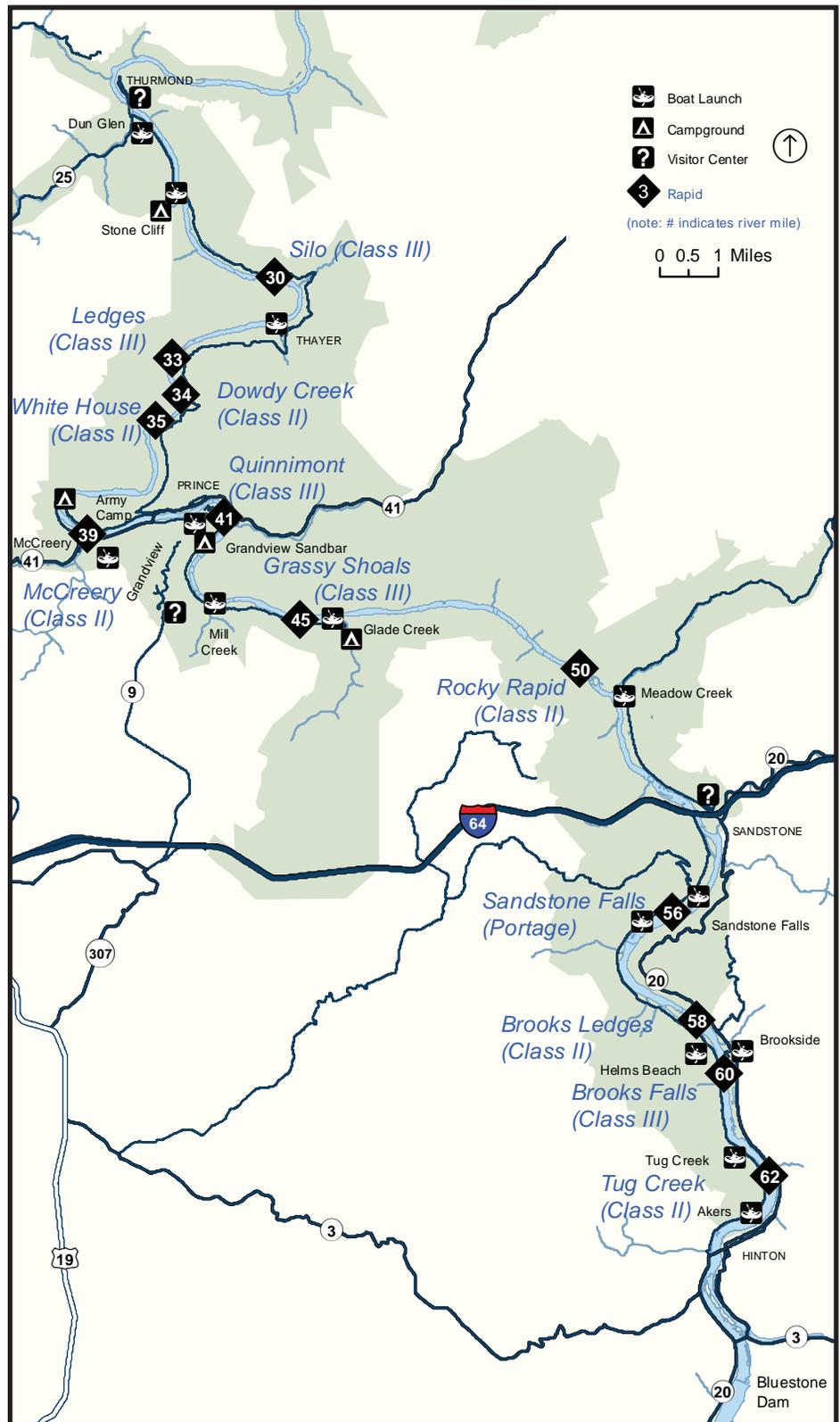
### McCreery to Stone Cliff

13 miles- 1/2 day to 2 days, Class I-III  
 McCreery: 37.84909° N, 81.09158° W  
 Stone Cliff: 37.93435° N, 81.06393° W

This section is popular for both day and overnight trips, as well as for fishing trips. It has several long pools, but also contains some challenging intermediate whitewater, particularly at higher water levels.

### Scale of River Difficulty

**Class I: Easy.** Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Few obstructions, all obvious and easily missed.  
**Class II: Novice.** Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting.  
**Class III: Intermediate.** Rapids with moderate, irregular waves may be difficult to avoid and can swamp open canoes.



# Fishing

The New River offers anglers opportunities to catch bass (smallmouth, largemouth, striped, and rock), walleye, muskellunge, crappie, bluegill, carp, and flathead and channel catfish.

## **Where to Fish**

Public river access points within New River Gorge National River are located at Tug Creek Beach, Brooks Falls, Hellem's Beach, Sandstone, and Sandstone Falls via River Road at Hinton; Meadow Creek; McCreery, Grandview Sandbar, Mill Creek, and Glade Creek off Highway 41 near Prince; Dungen and Stone Cliff near Thurmond; Cunard; and Fayette Station.

To access the river across private property, one must receive permission from the landowner. Other popular places to fish include Bluestone NSR, Gauley River NRA, Meadow River, Greenbrier River, Bluestone Lake, and Summersville Lake.

## **Regulations**

Fishing regulations for the New, Gauley, and Bluestone Rivers are the same as West Virginia fishing regulations. All persons fishing in the park are required to have a West Virginia fishing license. Year long and 3-day tourist licenses are available at area sporting goods stores and bait shops. A trout stamp is required when fishing for trout. The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov), answers questions about general fishing regulations.

## **What to Use**

Popular artificial lures are top-water crank baits, spinner baits, minnows, or crayfish. Dark-colored lures work better in murky water conditions and bright-colored lures in clear water.



Always wear your personal flotation device (PFD) when fishing. Several fishermen have drowned in the park in recent years.

## **When to Go**

Spring and fall are the best times of year to fish the New, Gauley, and Bluestone Rivers. During these seasons, water temperatures are in transition between cold winter temperatures and warm summer temperatures. Most fish species are more active in cooler water and are feeding more aggressively during the spring and fall.

The best times of the day to fish are early morning and late evening. Most fish prey is much more active at these times; therefore, more fish are out feeding. Some species of fish feed at night, providing an opportunity for night fishing.

## **Fishing Safety**

Safety on the river will make your fishing trip an enjoyable experience and could save a life!

- Wear a lifejacket around the river.
- Never drink alcohol while fishing.
- Remain seated while in a boat.
- Never fish alone; take a friend along.
- Fish at least 100 feet away from a boat launch.
- Do not wade barefoot or in water above your knees.

## **Catch and Release**

Catch and release ensures fishing opportunities for future generations. The designated catch and release area for Glade Creek is from the pedestrian bridge three miles down to the New River. Buffalo Creek is catch and release, fly-fishing only.

The New River from the I-64 bridge at Sandstone to the Grandview Sandbar is designated catch-and-release for black bass (smallmouth, largemouth, and spotted). The five-mile section of New River from Meadow Creek to Sandstone Falls is catch-and-release for walleye.

Fish survival depends on how well the angler handles the fish while catching and unhooking it. Several guidelines to follow include:

- Return the fish to the water as soon as possible.
- Unhook the fish in the water.
- Handle the fish as little as possible.
- Use needle-nose pliers to remove the hook.
- Remove the hook quickly and carefully.
- Move the fish back and forth in the water to move water through its gills until it can swim away.

# Hunting

Hunting is more than just a sport to a majority of the people in Southern Appalachia. It is a time-honored tradition that is shared from generation to generation. More and more, hunting is a sport enjoyed by the whole family. Good hunters teach, not only the basics of hunting and shooting, but a love and appreciation of the land, the wildlife, and the experience. New hunters also need to know the rules and regulations and always be aware of safety concerns.

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR) hunting webpage at [www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting.shtm) provides information on hunter safety training, rules and regulations, and many other useful topics concerning hunting in the state. New River Gorge National River's hunting regulations follow the WVDNR's regulations with the following exceptions or additions:

- Baiting game is never allowed in the park; this is considered feeding the wildlife.
- Trapping is not permitted in the park.
- No permanent tree stands may be placed on park land. If a stand remains for over 24 hours it is considered abandoned and will be removed. No nails or screws can be placed into trees.



Hunting, both for food and for sport, is a tradition in West Virginia. Deer, squirrels, and rabbits are the most popular game in the state.

## **Prohibited Areas**

There are areas where hunting is prohibited in New River Gorge National River, Bluestone National Scenic River, and Gauley River National Recreation Area, including safety zones near public areas and the 800 acre section of the park at Grandview. Maps detailing hunting areas are available at [www.nps.gov/hunting](http://www.nps.gov/hunting). It is the hunter's responsibility to know their location and rules for that area.

## **Questions?**

Questions concerning hunting in the park can be emailed to the park at [neri\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:neri_interpretation@nps.gov) or contact the park law enforcement division.

Questions concerning general hunting regulations should go to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

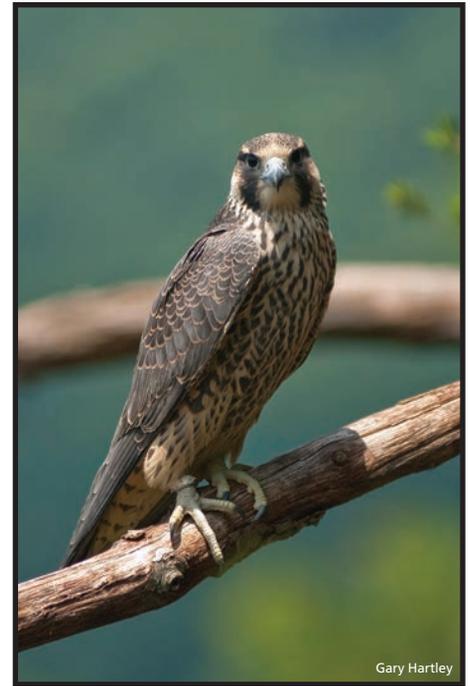
# Wildlife Watching

A wide variety of species live in and around the three rivers. The New River has long served as a migration corridor for both plants and animals. For this reason, plants and animals commonly found much farther south (such as the Catawba rhododendron) may reach the northern extent of their range in the New River Gorge area. Likewise, plants more commonly associated with the northern forests may reach the southern extent of their range in this area.

Some plants and animals are found only in the New River region. These species, called endemics, were isolated from similar populations by geological processes and barriers such as waterfalls. These species evolved to adapt to the unique circumstances found within the New River watershed. A good example is the bigmouth chub, a fish isolated in its evolution by Kanawha Falls on the Kanawha River.

The diverse forest and river ecosystems protected at New River Gorge provide critical habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species. The park contains relatively stable and healthy populations of Allegheny woodrats, a species of special concern in West Virginia. Due to this species' decline throughout the East, the woodrat populations at New River Gorge are critical from a conservation perspective.

Ten species of bats have been documented in the park including two federally endangered species (Virginia big-eared bat and Indiana bat) and one rare state species (eastern small-footed myotis). Abandoned mine portals throughout the park provide habitat for roosting and hibernating. Bats in the park are now threatened with a devastating disease called white-nose syndrome, which is decimating the bat population in many states, making the park's protection efforts even more important for these vital species.



Gary Hartley

In an effort to help the species make a comeback, wildlife biologists have released more than seventy young peregrine falcons in the park in recent years.

## Leave No Trace

Practicing outdoor ethics during your visit to the national parks is always a good idea.

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For more information:  
[www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org), 1-800-332-4100



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

**Spring and Early Summer Wildflower Checklist**

Bloodroot

The New River Gorge is home to a great diversity of native and non-native plants, with over 1,800 fauna species. This checklist does not include all plants found here, but highlights many flowers that bloom in the spring and early summer. We encourage you to report wildflower species sightings to a visitor center, particularly if a species is unlisted.

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

**Tree, Shrub, and Vine Checklist**

Flowering Dogwood

The New River Gorge offers a great diversity of native and non-native tree, shrub, and vine species. This checklist includes observations reported by National Park Service employees and visitors. We encourage you to report tree species to a visitor center, particularly if a species is unlisted.

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

**Bird Checklist**

Great Blue Heron

The New River Gorge offers a great diversity of bird species – be these year-round residents or migrants. This checklist includes observations reported by National Park Service employees and visitors. We encourage you to report bird sightings to a visitor center, particularly if a species is unlisted.

For in-depth information about species of birds, wildflowers, and trees found in the park, pick up a copy of our checklists - available at any park visitor center!

# Get Involved

## **Volunteer**

Volunteers provide valuable service to the park and the environment with resource management projects, trail construction and maintenance, administration, interpretive activities, special events, and cleanup programs. Volunteers of all backgrounds and skills are encouraged to become involved and contribute their talents and enthusiasm toward helping the park.

The Volunteer In Parks (VIP) program is the means by which volunteers can assist the park in a way that is mutually beneficial to the National Park Service and the volunteer or volunteer group. For more information, contact the Volunteer In Parks Program Coordinator at (304) 465-0508.



More than 1,000 Boy Scouts paid their own way to West Virginia in 2011 to volunteer for the park and construct the Arrowhead Trail, a 12.8 mile stacked-loop mountain bike trail. For more information on these trails, see page 13.

## **Attend A Ranger Program**

National Park Service rangers offer opportunities to learn more about our three rivers. All programs are free of charge and everyone is welcome. A wide array of subjects is covered and several areas of the park are utilized. Stop by one of the park visitor centers or check our website at [www.nps.gov/neri](http://www.nps.gov/neri) for a current schedule.



Ranger-led hikes in the park are popular with visitors. Ask at a visitor center for a schedule.

## **Become a Junior Ranger**

Are you interested in exploring? Do you like art, science, history or nature? Would you like to learn more about the national parks that belong to you? You can be a Junior Ranger!

New River Gorge National River offers the opportunity to join the National Park Service family as a Junior Ranger. Pick up a Junior Ranger booklet from one of our visitor centers, complete a series of activities during your visit, share your answers with a park ranger, and receive an official Junior Ranger badge or patch and certificate!



Complete our Junior Ranger program and receive a badge or patch just like these!

# The Bridge



Gary Hartley

When the New River Gorge Bridge was completed on October 22, 1977, a travel challenge was solved. The bridge reduced a 40-minute drive down narrow mountain roads and across one of our oldest rivers to less than a minute.

Rising an average of one thousand feet above the river, the steep slopes of the New River Gorge long presented barriers to all forms of travel. However, the development of railroads following the Civil War met the need for better transportation through the gorge. The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway (C&O) completed its route through the New River Gorge in 1873, and with the completion of secondary rail corridors, the Southern Appalachian region was opened to the coal and coke industries. “Black gold” became accessible to markets around the world.

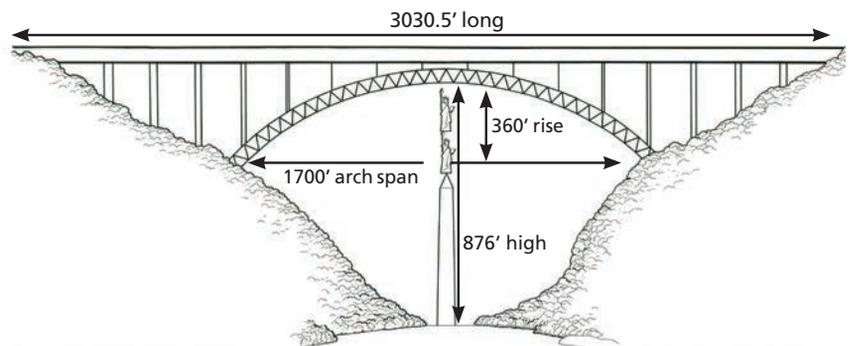
The railroad provided contacts with the outside world for the otherwise isolated inhabitants of the gorge. By 1889, a road wound down the steep slopes providing wagon access to Fayette Station. A truss bridge spanned the river connecting Fayette Station and South Fayette. The Fayette Station Bridge was 279 feet (85 meters) long and was flanked on both ends by short-span pony trusses. The original bridge was reconstructed and re-opened to vehicular traffic in September 1998.

With increased traffic and the construction of Route 19, it became clear that a replacement was needed for Fayette Station Bridge. The West Virginia Division of Highways chose the Michael Baker Company as the designer, and the construction contract was awarded to the American Bridge Division of U.S. Steel. In June 1974, the first steel was positioned over the gorge by trolleys running on three-inch diameter cables. The cables were strung 3,500 feet between two matching towers. Cor-ten steel, with a rust-like appearance that never needs painting, was used in construction.

On the third Saturday of October, the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce hosts “Bridge Day,” the only day that visitors may walk across the bridge. The event lures hundreds of parachutists, cheered on by thousands of spectators, to leap 876 feet to the river below. For more information on Bridge Day, call the New River Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 927-0263 or visit [www.876ft.com](http://www.876ft.com).

Statistics	Feet	Meters
Height (to road base)	876	267
Bridge Length	3,030	923.6
Arch Length	1,700	518.1
Rise	360	109.7
Deck Width	69' 4"	21.1

	Pounds	Kilograms
Weight (total)	88,000,000	39,916,129
Steel	44,000,000	19,958,064
Concrete	44,000,000	19,958,064
Heaviest Piece Arch	184,000	83,461
	21,066,000	9,555,377



How high is 876 feet? Beneath the bridge, the Statue of Liberty could stand twice atop the Washington Monument with 20 feet to spare.

## Contact Us

New River Gorge National River  
PO Box 246, 104 Main Street  
Glen Jean, WV 25846  
304-465-0508

### Website

[www.nps.gov/neri](http://www.nps.gov/neri)  
Or scan this QR code:



### Find Us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/newrivergorgenps](http://www.facebook.com/newrivergorgenps)

### E-mail

[neri\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:neri_interpretation@nps.gov)

### Park Headquarters

Open M-F, 8:00 am-4:30 pm  
304-465-0508  
GPS Coordinates:  
37.92775° N, 81.15587° W

### Canyon Rim Visitor Center

Open daily 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
304-574-2115  
38.07003° N, 81.07583° W

### Sandstone Visitor Center

Open daily 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
304-466-0417  
37.78320° N, 80.89778° W

### Grandview Contact Station

Open June through August  
304-763-3715  
37.83017° N, 81.06312° W

### Thurmond Depot

Open June through August  
304-465-8550  
37.95712° N, 81.07879° W

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