



COAL HERITAGE TRAIL

Designated in 1998, the Coal Heritage Trail is a nationally designated byway that tells the story of America. The Coal Heritage Trail tells the story of coal mining and its role in developing West Virginia and shaping the lives of generations of West Virginia families.

JOURNEY BENEATH THE EARTH!

A great way to begin your journey along the Trail is inside a coal mine. Experience life underground and gain an appreciation of a coal miners' world by venturing 1500 feet under a hillside at the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. Visitors are carried into the mine along track in authentic "man cars" to actual working areas of an old coal mine.

LEARN MORE HISTORY!

The northern loop of the Coal Heritage Trail begins near Ansted and travels down into the New River Gorge and along the famed New River Gorge Bridge. Traveling south, the Trail takes you deep into coal country through what were once thriving coal camps. Along the way you will see remnants of the coal boom era such as coke ovens, company stores and other relics of the coal industry.

As you travel the Trail, allow time to visit the many sites open to the public. Train depots, company stores, miner's memorials, museums and other sites are open and available to provide you and your family with an authentic heritage experience.

Your trip would not be complete without a stop in historic Bramwell located at the southern end of the Trail. Step back in time as you explore the "Town of the Millionaires." Bramwell is known for having the largest number of millionaires per capita of any town in America in the late 1800s. The well preserved Victorian and Tudor style mansions that remain there today testify to this wealth. Visit the reconstructed train depot exhibiting historical displays, travel information, and a gift shop featuring West Virginia made products. Don't forget to ask for your free walking tour guide brochure.

For More Information visit www.CoalHeritage.org.

NATIONAL COAL HERITAGE AREA

REST FROM WEARY TRAVELS!

Although the Coal Heritage Trail itself is a slightly rural and often remote route, quality accommodations are located along the trail. Lists of lodging, dining and other travel information is available from:

Coal Heritage Highway Authority

City Hall
100 Kelly Avenue
Oak Hill, WV 25901
304-465-3720
www.CoalHeritage.org

Bramwell Train Depot

100 Simmons Street
Bramwell, WV 24715
855-982-2625
www.CoalHeritage.org

Southern West Virginia Convention And Visitors Bureau

1406 Harper Road
Beckley, West Virginia 25801
304-252-2244
www.visitwv.com

Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau

704 Bland Street
Bluefield, West Virginia 24701
304-325-8438
www.mccvb.com

New River Convention and Visitors Bureau

310 Oyler Avenue
Oak Hill, West Virginia 25901
304-465-5617
www.newrivercvb.com

Fayetteville Convention and Visitors Bureau

310 North Court Street
Fayetteville, West Virginia 25840
304-574-1500
www.visitfayettevillewv.com



Coal Heritage Highway Authority
P.O. Box 15
Oak Hill, WV 25901



A Journey through the Coalfields

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"A West Virginia Driving Tour"

www.CoalHeritage.org

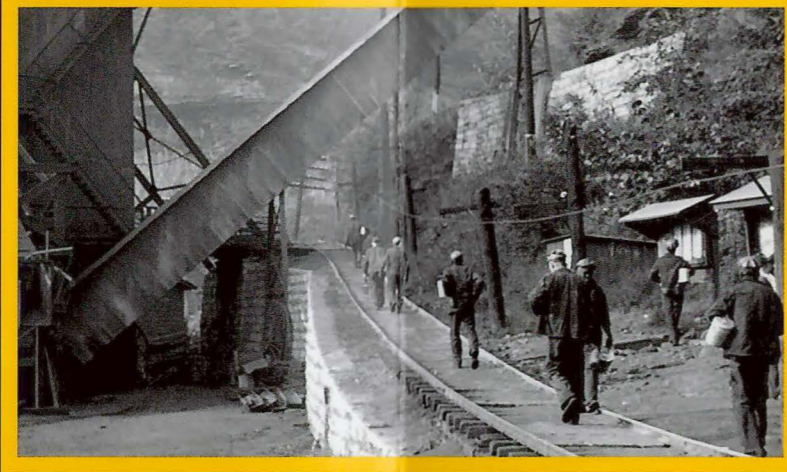
NATIONAL COAL HERITAGE AREA

The designation of the National Coal Heritage Area (NCHA) in 1996 came about as a result of the concern of citizens that the essential elements of this nationally significant story were being lost through neglect.

The NCHA encompasses hundreds of square miles in southern West Virginia where thousands of miners labored to produce the coal which

created modern America. In the National Coal Heritage Area's rugged industrial landscapes, hard-working miners of many races and ethnicities

labored to extract and transport the coal that helped to fuel the rise of American industrial might from steel production in Pittsburgh and Chicago to shipbuilding in Baltimore and Norfolk. While the coal



mining history of southern West Virginia shaped the nation it also shaped the communities and people of the region as well.

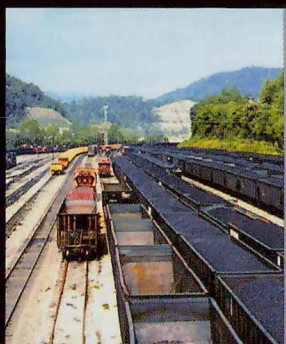
The stories of the NCHA, its communities, and its people are truly of national significance. Coalfield history and culture contain key elements of American social and economic history: industrial might, labor struggles, and the growth of distinctive cultural enclaves among disparate ethnic groups who worked side-by-side. The stories of the coalfields

are uniquely American stories, which continue to be expressed in the customs, communities and narratives of this remarkable region and its people. Through the activities

of the National Coal Heritage Area, these stories can be related to a broader audience in many new ways, while celebrating and preserving the history and culture of the region.



COAL HERITAGE AREA MAP



BLUEFIELD Bluefield developed as a thriving railroad town where coal was shipped from the many mining operations that opened in the late 1800s. Still in operation, the Bluefield rail yards stand as a symbol of the importance of the Norfolk and Western Railroad (now Norfolk Southern). The rail yards are located adjacent to the Bluefield Downtown Commercial Historic District and near Chicory Square.

www.mccvb.com or www.cityofbluefield.com or 800-221-3206


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BRAMWELL Once known as the Town of Millionaires, Bramwell was home to many of the first prospectors and mine owners in the Pocahontas coalfields. The historic district is so well preserved you will feel like you have stepped back into time. While you are there you will want to visit the Coal Heritage Trail Interpretive Center in the reconstructed Bramwell Train Depot to learn more about the region. A Coal Heritage Trail interpretive kiosk is located near the depot.

www.coalheritage.org or 855-982-2625

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NUTTALLBURG Nuttallburg was one of almost fifty towns that sprang up along the New River in response to a growing nation's need for coal. The town became the focus of national attention in the 1920s when automobile industrialist Henry Ford leased the town's mines to provide coal for his company steel mills. This is one of the country's first examples of "vertical integration" which is the process of gaining control of all aspects of production in order to maximize profits.

www.nps.gov or 304-574-2115

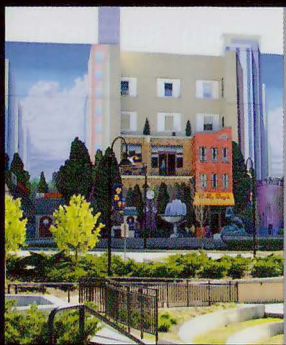
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KIMBALL The Houston Company Store, located along Rt. 52 in Kimball, remains as one of Southern West Virginia's most intact company stores. Just down the road you will discover the beautifully restored War Memorial to African-American veterans. The Kimball War Memorial is the first memorial built in the U.S. to honor African-American veterans of World War I and is the only such memorial remaining.

forgottenlegacywv.org or 304-585-7789

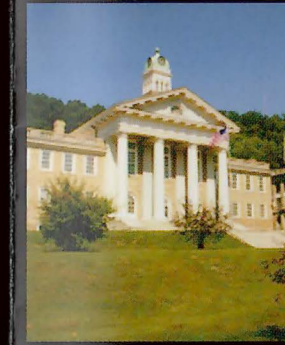
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WELCH The Welch Historic District features the McDowell County Courthouse and two historic murals highlighting the history of the town and county. Once known as little Chicago, Welch was an important service town for the southern coalfields. The ethnic diversity of the region is apparent in the architecture of the buildings, homes and churches located there.

City of Welch
304-436-3113


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PINEVILLE According to many historians, Pineville stands at what was once the convergence of seven Native American trails. In the late 1890s, the town bore the name of its most defining natural characteristic, Castle Rock. Visit the stately Wyoming County Courthouse. Built in 1923 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is a temple-form structure of native cut stone and is typical of neoclassical buildings of the early 20th century.

Wyoming County CVB
304-732-7909

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COALWOOD Coalwood is world famous as the site of Homer Hickam Jr.'s book *Rocket Boys* and the setting for the film *October Sky*. By the 1930s it was nationally recognized as a "model town," where management invested wisely in the quality of life of its employees and reaped the benefits in increased productivity and relative labor contentment.

www.coalwoodwestvirginia.com

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TWIN FALLS This state park offers unspoiled scenic beauty and a range of recreational opportunities such as golfing, hiking, biking and bird watching. Twin Falls features the Pioneer Farm, a living history farm, constructed much like area homesteads in the 1830s and provides a glimpse into the lives of the pioneers who settled this area. A Coal Heritage Trail interpretive kiosk is located in the park.

www.twinfallsresort.com or 304-294-4000


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SOPHIA The Sophia Historic District reflects its history as a service town for the surrounding coal camp communities and serves as a gateway to the Winding Gulf Coal Fields. Just down the road, you will find a Coal Miner's Memorial dedicated to miners from the still intact coal camp community of Helen.

www.visitwv.com or 304-683-4456

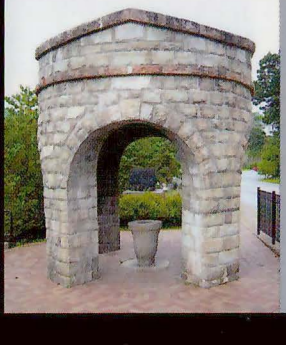
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BECKLEY EXHIBITION COAL MINE Visitors ride through the dark passages of a vintage coal mine. The guides are veteran miners and provide firsthand accounts of the daily responsibilities of past and present day miners. In addition to the Mine, one can tour the period coal camp buildings situated throughout the grounds.

www.beckleymine.com or 304-256-1747


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MT. HOPE Mount Hope visitors can still view many examples of the grand structures built by the coal barons and coal companies. The town's downtown section remains virtually the same as it did during the 1920s, the decade when the town was one of the most important communities in the vast coal fields of the region.

www.cityofmounthope.org or 304-877-2211


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THURMOND Thurmond recaptures the days when steel rails, steam, and coal were the major themes in our nation's history. The railroad town of Thurmond features the Thurmond Historic District, including the restored Thurmond Depot Interpretive Center operated by the National Park Service.

www.nps.gov or 304-465-8550


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WHIPPLE Discover the rich history as we celebrate the heritage of the West Virginia coal miner, family, and Coal Camp Life. Sitting on a high cut stone foundation, the Whipple Company Store is one of few remaining wooden coal company stores. Its unique architecture and interesting history make it an important stop along the Trail.

www.whipplecompanystore.com or 304-465-0331

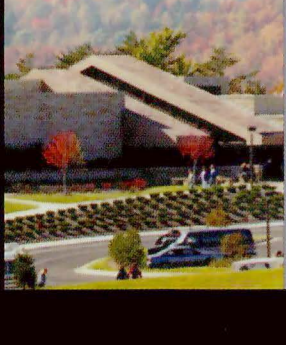
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FAYETTEVILLE Fayetteville Historic District and the Fayette County Courthouse are highlights of this charming town, a New River Gorge National River gateway community. Voted one of the coolest small towns in America, Fayetteville offers an abundance of recreation for the outdoor enthusiast.

www.visitfayettevillewv.com or 304-574-1500


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CANYON RIM VISITOR CENTER A National Park Service facility, the Canyon Rim Visitor Center, located off Rt. 19, offers breath taking views of the gorge and the New River Gorge Bridge. The center features an exhibit room filled with photographs and displays on the people, towns, and industry of the area. Open daily.

www.nps.gov or 304-574-2115

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ANSTED Ansted is a must see along the historic Coal Heritage Trail. It is nestled in the center of whitewater country and is home to Hawks Nest State Park and is rich in coal mining heritage. Ansted is rich in coal mining heritage. Whether you walk the rail trail or visit the museum, you will truly enjoy the hospitality that abounds in Ansted!

www.anstedwv.com or 304-658-5901

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THE COAL HERITAGE TRAIL

AMERICA'S BYWAYS

ABOUT THE COAL HERITAGE TRAIL

The Coal Heritage Trail is located within the National Coal Heritage Area, one of 49 national heritage areas. Designated in 1996 by legislation introduced by Congressman Nick J. Rahall, the National Coal Heritage Area consists of 13 southern counties and recognizes the importance of coal mining to the state and the nation. From 1870 until 1945 and continuing today, huge amounts of coal, unsurpassed in quality, were exported from the region leaving behind a society and landscape rich in culture and history. Today, the region's communities retain much of their original character as company towns, reflecting the local traditions, immigrant laborers, and dominance of the coal industry.