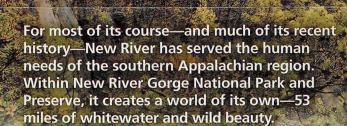
New River Gorge

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park and Preserve West Virginia





Sunrise over New River



It is one of the oldest rivers in the world, older than the **Appalachian Mountains** themselves. Here at the gorge, the river cuts through the Appalachian Plateau. Human history, wild habitat, and spectacular natural beauty converge in this protected stretch of New River and its extended family, Bluestone and Gauley rivers. Famous for sport fishing and whitewater rafting, the rivers and surrounding landscape offer hidden delights for those who venture off the beaten path—coal mines that fueled the age of steam, rails and roads that opened this remote country to industry, and trails that lead to a blanket of spring wildflowers or a limitless horizon.

TALES OF THREE RIVERS

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

For centuries this part of New River was inaccessible to most people. In 1873 the railroad arrived, making it possible to ship coal to the outside world. Towns like Thurmond sprang up and thrived.

In the last century people started to come to experience one of the nation's premier whitewater stretches—the elevation drops 750 feet in 50 miles. New River Gorge National River was established in 1978 to preserve this freeflowing waterway. Now millions of visitors enjoy the natural scenery and many activities. In 2020 it was redesignated a national park and preserve to further protect its many recreational opportunities and natural treasures.

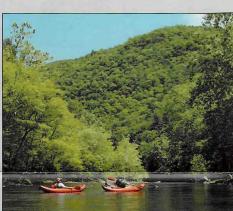
The New River gorge is home to over 1,500 species of plants and animals. Virginia big-eared and Indiana bats are among the endangered species. In a world of dwindling natural habitats, migrating neotropical birds depend on this protected place for breeding.



Taking on the Gauley

Gauley River National Recreation Area, established in 1988, includes 25 miles of Gauley River and 5 miles of Meadow River. Expert boaters rank Gauley among the best whitewater rivers in the world. Dropping more than 668 feet through rugged terrain, the river's complex stretch of whitewater has over 100 rapids with a steep gradient, technical runs, a high volume of water, and huge waves. Gauley offers whitewater boating, fishing, hunting, camping, and picnicking. Next to the recreation area is Summersville Dam, which regulates the flow of Gauley River and causes its outstanding fall whitewater season.

Bluestone National Scenic River, established in 1988, is named for the deep blue limestone riverbed of its upper reaches. The river has carved a gorge 1,000 feet deep near where it meets New River. Hundreds of species thrive in several diverse Appalachian habitats. Bluestone Turnpike, a riverbank road for those who farmed and logged the area, is now a trail that hikers, bikers, and horseback riders use to reach this undeveloped, remote park.



Floating the Bluestone River

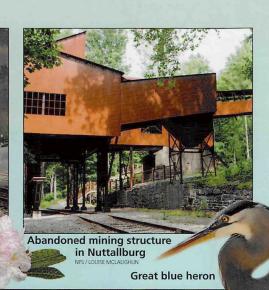


Sandstone Falls



Thurmond Historic

Great rhododendron



Scarlet tanager ON AND OFF THE WATER

Boating New River is big and powerful but always runnable to experts. The Lower Gorge has some of the most technical rapids, from Class III to V difficulty. Outfitters run trips April through October. Visit the park website for details on logistics and conditions.

Fishing and Hunting Catch bluegill, catfish, and bass in New River's warm waters. Hunt turkey, deer, and squirrel in the preserve's forests. West Virginia fishing and hunting licenses are required.

Climbing The New River gorge's hard sandstone cliffs range from 30 to 120

feet high. Most of the over 1,400 established routes are rated 5.9 or higher and require climbing expertise.

Hiking and Mountain Biking Trails range from 0.25 to 8.6 miles and vary in difficulty. Trail maps are available.



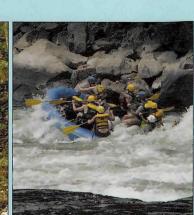
Biking Arrowhead Trail



Climbing Bridge Buttress



Hiking Turnpike Trail



Rafting New River



Explore New River Gorge

In 2020 New River Gorge National River became New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. This change further protects the spectacular features and traditional recreational opportunities of this natural and recreational treasure.

Visitor Centers Canyon Rim and Sandstone have information, exhibits, program schedules, bookstores, and picnic areas. Sandstone is open seasonally.

Thurmond Historic District In the early 1900s this railroad boomtown generated the most freight revenue on the C&O Railway. The restored 1904 depot is a park visitor center (open seasonally).

Grandview This area is known

Trails Hike to old coal towns, waterfalls, geological formations, and views of the gorge. Mountain biking and horseback riding are allowed on some trails.

River Recreation Licensed outfitters run river trips April-October. Ask at a visitor center or check the park website. New River also has some of the state's best fishing. A West Virginia fishing license is required. Bluestone National Scenic River, south of Hinton, protects a pristine area of the Bluestone River. Gauley River National Recreation Area, north of Canyon Rim Visitor Center, is known for its rugged beauty, whitewater, and fishing.

State Parks Within or near the Ferry Battlefield, Babcock, Blue-

Trains Industrial trains run daily through the park and a passenger train comes through three days a week. Stay away from all access roads and tracks.

Accessibility We strive to make facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For more information, ask a ranger, call, or visit the park website.

Stay Safe and Protect the Park Federal law protects all natural and cultural features in the park. Do not disturb or collect wildlife or historic objects. • Beware of decaying structures and industrial remains. • Wear a life vest or personal floatation device (PFD) while on the water. • For a full list of park regulations, including

More Information

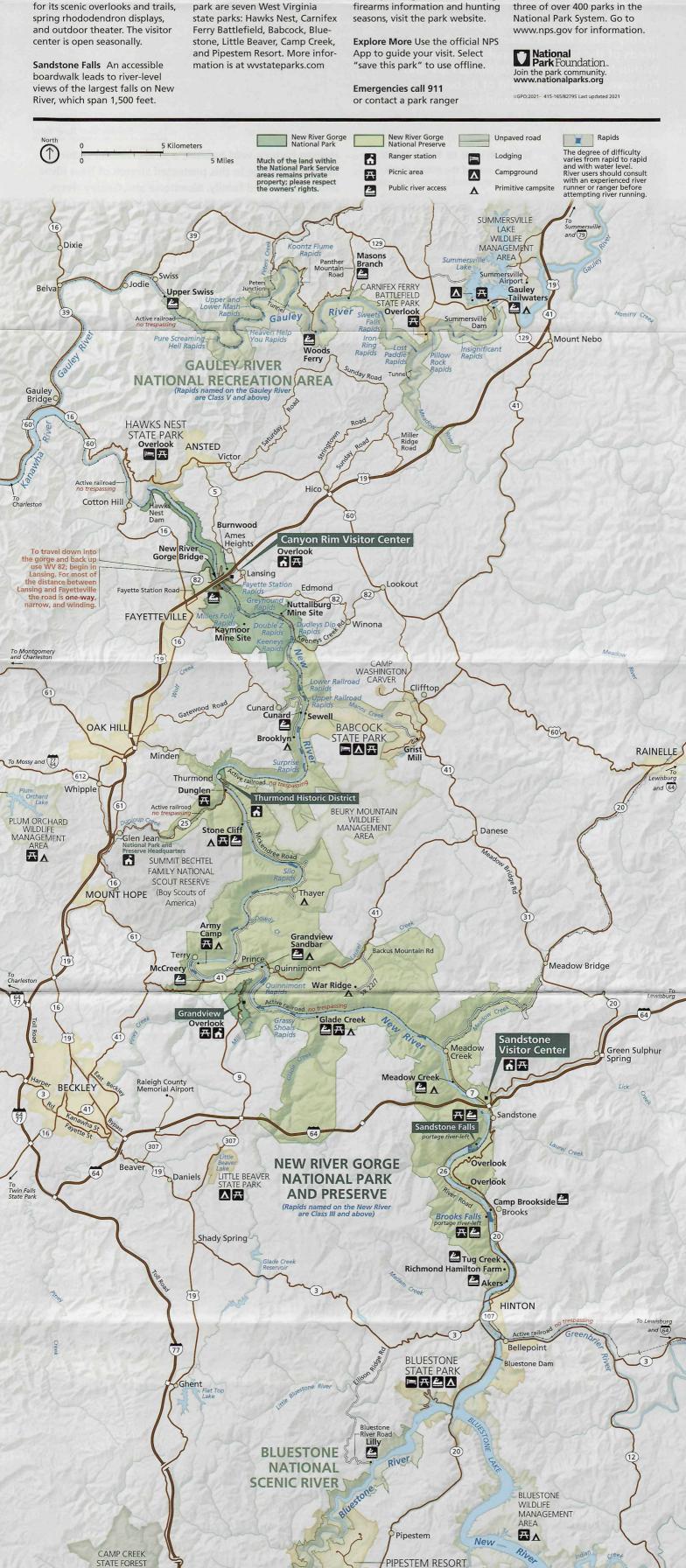
New River Gorge National Park and Preserve PO Box 246 104 Main St. Glen Jean, WV 25846 304-465-0508 www.nps.gov/neri www.nps.gov/blue (Bluestone) www.nps.gov/gari (Gauley)

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Area Information Visit Southern West Virginia 800-847-4898

www.visitwv.com New River Gorge National Park

and Preserve, Bluestone National Scenic River, and Gauley River National Recreation Area are three of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Go to www.nps.gov for information.



STATE PARK

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CAMP CREEK STATE PARK

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To Bluefield and 81