



Guide to Historic Sites in West Virginia



Northern Panhandle

Grave Creek Archaeological Complex

Around 250 B.C. the Adena people constructed this 62-foot-high, multiple-level burial mound, which visitors can walk atop. On the two-acre grounds is the Delf Norona Museum, which contains exhibits about this pre-Columbian people that lived in northern West Virginia between 250 B.C. and 150 B.C. (304) 843-4128 or www.wvculture.org/museum/GraveCreekmod.html

Wellsburg Historic District

Founded in 1791, this Ohio River town became a major port complex during the War of 1812, then emerged as a center for shipbuilding, papermaking, and glassblowing. The Wellsburg Wharf, a 1790s industrial site along the river, is open for self-guided tours. The adjacent 1794 inn, Miller's Tavern, now operates as the Brooke County Museum and features tools, newspapers, and books. (304) 737-4060 or www.brookecountywvgenealogy.org/walkingtour.html

West Virginia Independence Hall

Formerly the Wheeling Custom House and headquarters of western Virginia's federal district court, this building was the scene of many heated debates over money customs, slavery, and the 1861 vote to secede from the Confederate state of

Virginia and remain with the Union as West Virginia. Three floors contain exhibits including 13 original Civil War battle flags, Gov. Francis H. Pierpont's desk, and the original 1859 courtroom. (304) 238-1300 or www.wvculture.org/museum/WVIHmod.html

West Virginia Penitentiary

For more than 150 years the state incarcerated its most dangerous criminals in this 1876 Gothic prison. Ninety-minute guided tours wind through the first floor cellblock, cafeteria, recreation yard, and solitary confinement quarters. The 600-square-foot museum contains artifacts such as officer batons and the electric chair used to execute serial killer Harry Powers in 1932. (304) 845-6200 or www.wvpentours.com

Wheeling National Heritage Area

Since its founding in 1769, this town served as a hub of three major transportation routes: the Ohio River, the National Road, and the B&O Railroad. Visitors can take self-guided tours of the 1846 Mansion Museum, the artisan center that contains exhibits on 19th-century manufacturing life, as well as a 30-minute guided tour of the 1892 Victorian Eckhart House, which

are all located inside the 1,650-acre Oglebay Park. The visitors center, located six miles to the southwest, features interactive displays such as a talking map of the 18th-century town and a model steamboat. (304) 232-3087 or www.nps.gov/whee

Mid-Ohio Valley

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

This 511-acre island off the coast of Parkersburg features a Civil-War-era log cabin and the 1802 Putnam House, which can be seen on a 30-minute, two-mile narrated wagon ride. Costumed interpreters provide 45-minute guided tours through the reconstructed 7,000-square-foot Blennerhassett Mansion, once home to a wealthy Irish émigré family, which contains 18th-century Parisian oil paintings and porcelain china. Three miles east of the island is the Blennerhassett Museum, which features three floors of exhibits and contains a 1913 Model T Ford, Indian jewelry, Parkersburg landscape paintings, and 19th-century Ohio Valley maps. (304) 420-4800 or www.blennerhassettislandstatepark.com

Campbell Mansion

Jefferson Davis, James Garfield, Henry Clay, and other luminaries dined at this 1795 home of Alexander Campbell, the founder of Bethany College and Church of Christ leader. A 90-minute guided tour



leads through the estate's 18 rooms and outbuildings such as the hexagonal study, schoolroom, and springhouse. (304) 829-4258 or www.bethanywv.edu/about-bethany/historic/campbell-mansion

Fort Boreman Historical Park

This 1864 fort, named after Arthur Boreman, West Virginia's first governor, is strategically situated between the Little Kanawha and Ohio rivers and once served as an encampment for the Union Army's 11th West Virginia Infantry during the Civil War. The 175-acre site contains reconstructed fortifications, trenches, and a powder magazine. (304) 424-1976 or www.woodcountywv.com

Henderson Hall Plantation

This 1859 Victorian Italianate mansion, owned by oil magnate George Washington Henderson, served as a manor house of a plantation along the Ohio River. A 60-minute guided tour leads through the mansion's 21 rooms, which are filled with original antiques, such as a rosewood piano, a 12-foot gilt mirror, and documents that include letters from Gen. Robert E. Lee. (304) 375-2129 or www.mariettaohio.org/directory/henderson_hall_plantation

Museum of Radio and Technology

This 10,000-square-foot museum features seven themed rooms that trace the evolution of radio from its invention in the 1920s until the 1980s. Artifacts on display include a single-needle telegraph, a military generator set, short-wave radios, and a 1939 iconoscope television camera. Self-guided tours lead through a broadcasting studio with transistor equipment, service room with dozens of 1940s radios, a sales and repair shop, and a vintage hi-fi room. (304) 525-8890 or oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/MRT

Tu-Endie-Wei Point Pleasant Battle Monument State Park

This four-acre park, located where the Kanawha and Ohio rivers meet, contains an 84-foot monument dedicated to the 1774 battle in which the British colonists defeated Shawnee Indians under Chief Cornstalk. Visitors can take a self-guided tour through a 1796 log house with period antiques as well as see the burial site of Chief Cornstalk. Across Main Street is the Point Pleasant River Museum, which features interactive exhibits about the riverboat industry that



Gilded in 14 karat gold, the dome of West Virginia's State Capitol Complex, above, soars five feet higher than the U.S. Capitol in DC.

thrived during the 1800s. Visitors can see shanty boats and a working model of a pilot house. (304) 675-0869 or www.tu-endie-weistatepark.com

West Virginia State Capitol Complex

Cass Gilbert, architect of the U.S. Supreme Court building, also designed this 545,000-square-foot buff limestone structure, which has been home to the West Virginia Legislature since its completion in 1932. Its 293-foot-tall dome soars five feet higher than the U.S. Capitol building and is gilded with 14-karat gold leaf. Thirty-minute guided tours lead around the 16-acre capitol complex, which includes the 1925 30-room governor's mansion, the veterans memorial, and the 24,000-square-foot West Virginia State Museum. The latter contains many exhibits, including one that simulates the experience of walking through a coal mine. (304) 558-4839 or www.wvculture.org/agency/capitol.html

West Virginia State Farm Museum

This 50-acre living history museum contains 32 reconstructed 19th-century buildings, including a log cabin, country store, newspaper office, farmhouse, and print shop. Visitors can take self-guided tours and see a steam-engine-powered saw mill, antique tractors, and a Union #36 rug loom. (304) 675-5737 or www.wvfarmmuseum.org

New River/ Greenbrier Valley

Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine

Located 1,500 feet beneath the New River Park, this preserved early-20th-century coal mine is reached by an elevator ride down a mine shaft. Veteran

coal miners lead visitors on 40-minute guided tours through the former operational sections of the mine. Topside the 14,000-square-foot visitors center and coal museum features early mining tools and photographs. (304) 256-1747 or www.beckleymine.com

Hinton Historic District

This former coal and railroad boomtown overlooking the New River Gorge contains more than 200 historic buildings in its 24-block district, including C. B. Mahon General Store, McCreery Hotel, C&O passenger depot, and Hinton Historic Manor. The Veterans Memorial Museum of Southern West Virginia contains artifacts from the Revolutionary, Civil, and Korean Wars. The Hinton Railroad Museum displays conductor uniforms and wood carvings of John Henry racing steamboats. (304) 466-5420 or www.hintonwva.com

North House Museum

Located in Historic Lewisburg and home to the Greenbrier Historical Society, this 1820 estate belonged to superior court clerk John North when Lewisburg was still part of Virginia. Visitors can take a 45-minute guided tour through 14 period rooms and the adjacent log cabin, which houses an original Conestoga wagon. (304) 645-3398 or www.greenbrierhistorical.org/NH-aboutus.htm

Organ Cave

For centuries Native Americans harvested flint from the walls and ceilings of this cave to make arrowheads and cutting tools. During the Civil War, 1,100 Confederate soldiers mined the cave for nitre, a key constituent of gunpowder. A 90-minute tour leads through 2.2 miles of the passageways, past the 90-foot calcite formation resembling a pipe organ that gave the cave its name. (304) 645-7600 or www.organcave.com

Presidents' Cottage Museum at Greenbrier

Used by Martin Van Buren, James Buchanan, and three other presidents, this 1835 home contains historical artifacts that include a letter from visitor Robert E. Lee and many 19th-century antiques. Cleveland artist William C. Grauer's murals of Virginia Civil War battles and photographs of presidents who stayed there are also on display. (304) 536-7854 or www.greenbrier.com/site/activities-detail.aspx?cid=79

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The Bunker at Greenbrier

This once top-secret 112,000-square-foot underground facility was built in 1961 to harbor every member of Congress in case Washington, DC was hit by nuclear bombs during the Cold War. Ninety-minute guided tours lead through an emergency television studio, House of Representatives chamber, cafeteria, water power plant, and decontamination areas. (304) 536-7810 or www.greenbrier.com/site/bunker.aspx

Thurmond Depot

This 1905 restored depot, which now serves as a New River Gorge Park visitor center, once housed the offices of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway. Two floors of exhibit space contain the dispatcher's and yardmaster's offices. Adjacent to the visitors center are a series of 1930s storefronts leftover from the boomtown days. (304) 465-8550 or www.nps.gov/neri

Historic Bramwell

This three-mile historic district boomed in the 1880s after the discovery of coal in 1873. Self-guided walking tours lead past opulent Victorian- and Tudor-style homes built by the dozens of coal-operators who were created into millionaires

almost overnight. (304) 248-7114 or www.bramwellwv.com

Mountain Lakes

Bulltown Historic Area

On October 13, 1863, 800 Confederate soldiers stormed a makeshift Union fort along the Little Kanawha River, in an unsuccessful attempt to sever the Union's access to the Greenbrier Valley. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains the battlefield, the fort, and associated buildings, and its one-mile of trenches. Ninety-minute tours visit the early 19th-century homesteads including the Cunningham farmhouse and granary that existed here before the fort was built. (304) 452-8170 or www.wvcivilwar.com/bulltown.shtml

Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park

When a federal army repelled Confederate troops at this 156-acre battlefield on September 10, 1861, they secured the western portion of Virginia, which broke away from the state and entered the Union as West Virginia on June 20, 1863. Located on the northeast section of the park is the Patterson House Museum, a



Nearly 150 years ago, Union troops repelled the Confederate forces at Carnifex Ferry Battlefield, now a 156-acre state park.

converted 19th-century farmhouse that contains Civil War artifacts and period antiques. (304) 872-0825 or www.carnifexferrybattlefieldstatepark.com

Fayetteville Historic District

This 1818 town, named for the Marquis de Lafayette, a French officer who served with distinction under George Washington during the Revolution, became the county seat in 1873. A self-guided walking tour leads past Colonial Revival homes. One and a half miles to the north is the Canyon Rim Visitor Center, which offers views of the 3,030-foot New River Gorge Bridge. (304) 574-1500 or www.visitfayettevillewv.com

Jackson's Mill Historic Area

Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson grew up in a log cabin farmstead on this site. In the 1930s the U.S. Navy converted the grounds into an aviation training base. The complex, now owned by West Virginia University, includes the original mill, two cabins, and a barn where costumed interpreters demonstrate candle dipping, paper marbling, and blacksmithing. (800) 287-8206 or jacksonsmill.ext.wvu.edu

Watters Smith Memorial State Park

This 532-acre park once contained the late 18th-century farm of English pioneer Watters Smith and his family. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the 1876 family home that is filled with period furnished rooms and an outdoor museum that includes Smith's early farming tools. (304) 745-3081 or www.wattersmithstatepark.com

West Virginia Museum of American Glass

This 12,000-square-foot museum highlights West Virginia's glass-making boom in the early 20th century. Highlights

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include decorative Tiffany tiles, hand-painted tumblers, telegraph insulators, and Seneca goblets. The museum also houses the archives for the American Flint Glass Workers Union. (304) 269-5006 or www.mag.bgllances.com

West Virginia State Wildlife Center

This 338-acre wildlife area once contained the short-lived French Creek Game Farm, an attempt in 1923 to reintroduce wildlife into the state of West Virginia. The area today contains a 1.25-mile paved walkway that winds past outdoor enclosures containing more than 25 native West Virginian animal species including, river otter, elk, bison, and black bear.

(304) 924-6211 or www.wvdnr.gov/wildlife/wildlifecenter.shtm

Mountaineer Country

Anna Jarvis Birthplace Museum

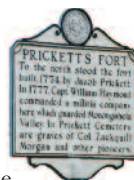
This 1854 wooden house was the home of Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day, which became a national holiday in 1914. It served as Gen. George McClellan's headquarters during the Civil War. The museum features displays about Jarvis's mother, Ann Marie, who worked as a teaching nurse during the war, as well as exhibits on the Jarvis family and a room focusing on McClellan and his role in the Civil War. (304) 265-5549 or www.annajarvishouse.com

Arthurdale Historic District

Established in 1933, this district became the first New Deal Homestead Community, part of a federally sponsored project to give unemployed Americans a fresh start during the Great Depression. The district's 165 buildings include a dairy farm, health clinic, and community center. Visitors can take self-guided tours of Center Hall, a 1935 home, and see a Depression-era service station and blacksmith forge. (304) 864-3959 or www.arthurdaleheritage.org

Philippi Covered Bridge

This 285-foot, two-lane covered bridge across the Tygart River remains the longest of its kind on a federal highway; it was erected in 1852 and used by both the North and the South during the Civil War. Displays at the nearby Barbour County Historical Museum examine the techniques used to build the bridge and include a number of 18th-century guns and cannons. (304) 457-4846 or www.philippi.org/citysite/index.php



Prickett's Fort State Park

Reconstructed from the original 1774 fort that protected Virginia settlers from Indian attacks, this

10,000-square-foot stockade contains a meeting house, gun shop, 14 small cabins, and a center common. From April to October, living history interpreters demonstrate blacksmithing, loom, and the use of 18th-century firearms.

(304) 363-3030 or www.prickettsfort.org

Round Barn

This 1912 dairy barn, built by farmer Amos C. Hamilton, was designed for efficient operation, housing the cows on the ground level, the Hamilton family on the second level, and hay on the top loft level. Visitors can see three floors of 20th-century farm exhibits with early coal mining tools, a spring-fed automatic watering system, and a horse-drawn potato picker. (304) 986-2636 or www.theroundbarn.org

Potomac Highlands

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park and Museum

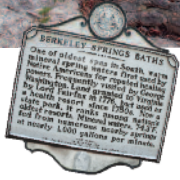
For more than a decade this 1902 railway hauled 1.5 million feet of lumber weekly from the West Virginia Pulp and Lumber Mill in Cass to the river town of Spruce. Visitors can take a two-hour ride on an original Shay #4 logging flatcar for 11 miles up to Whittaker Station at the summit of Bald Knob Mountain, eat lunch, and tour a recreated 1940s logging camp. (304) 456-4652 or www.cassrailroad.com

Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park

On November 6, 1863 on this site, Gen. William Averell's cavalry assault sent the Confederates under Brig. Gen. John Echols into full retreat, effectively securing West Virginia for the Union. This 287-acre park contains the remnants of Union and Confederate embankments, the old Beard house, which was used as a Union hospital, and a military cemetery. (304) 653-4254 or www.droopmountainbattlefield.com

Fort Edwards at Capon Bridge

British colonial settlers during the early 18th century often found haven from Indian raids at this fort built by Joseph Edwards in the Cacapon River Valley. During the French and Indian War, the fort became a key point in the protection of the western frontier. Today the 23-acre-



Lord Fairfax Spring once fed the 19th-century Gentleman Spring and Roman Bathhouse, above, two of the oldest remaining structures in Berkeley Springs.

site features a colonial kitchen, archaeological site, and visitors center with displays on the war's history. (304) 856-2336 or www.fortedwards.org/ftedhome.htm

Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Museum

Home to the Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck, this 1892 estate contains artifacts of Buck and her family, including original furnishings and her childhood clothing. Forty-five-minute guided tours lead through the dining area, living room, and bedrooms. Located on the 13-acre grounds are the carpentry shop, barn, and the boyhood home of Buck's father, Absalom Sydenstricker. (304) 653-4430 or www.pearlsbuckbirthplace.com

Rich Mountain Battlefield

On July 11, 1861, Union troops under Gen. George McClellan orchestrated a surprise flank attack on Confederate fortifications at Staunton-Parkersburg Pike, causing a Confederate surrender just two hours later. The visitors center occupies the 1850s Bushrod Crawford Store, which served as McClellan's headquarters, and contains exhibits on the battle. The original Confederate earthworks are still visible. (304) 637-7424 or www.richmountain.org

Eastern Panhandle

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

This town, a major federal arsenal before the Civil War, was the site of a raid by abolitionist John Brown, who tried to spark a slave revolt in 1859. The 3,647-acre park encompasses 24 restored 19th-century buildings, such as John Brown's Fort, the 1848 armory firehouse that was the site of his standoff against federal forces led by Robert E. Lee. Shuttle bus tours leave from the visitors center and travel to the Lower

Town Historic District, site of the best-preserved structures in the city. A Place in Time Museum highlights the city's history; the Industry Museum features exhibits on interchangeable manufacturing techniques. (304) 535-6029 or www.nps.gov/hafe

Historic Charles Town

Established in 1786 by George Washington's younger brother, Charles Washington, this town is well known as the setting for the trial and execution of abolitionist John Brown. Visitors to the Jefferson County Courthouse on East Washington Street can see the room where Brown was tried. One block to the northeast, the Jefferson County Museum includes artifacts, such as John Brown's cot on which he awaited the verdict of his trial and the wagon he rode to his execution. (304) 535-3637 or www.charlestownwv.us

Historic Shepherdstown & Museum

The three-floor, 2,000-square-foot museum, housed within the 1786 Entler Hotel, features the hotel's original dining rooms, sitting chambers, and bedrooms. Self-guided tours lead through display areas that examine the early history of the city and include artifacts such as a 1905

mail wagon, Sheetz rifles, and a Conrad Schindler copper kettle. (304) 876-0910 or www.historicshepherdstown.com

Martinsburg Historic District

This town, founded by Maj. Gen. Adam Stephen in 1773, became an important shipping point for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in the mid-19th century. Steamboat innovator James Rumsey is memorialized with a monument, museum, and replica of his first craft. The Belle Boyd House, home to a Confederate spy during the Civil War, and Triple Brick Museum, Stephen's home, are open for guided tours. (304) 264-8801 or www.travelwv.com

Museum of the Berkeley Springs

Located inside the 1815 Roman Bath House, this museum focuses on the history of the area's warm mineral springs and local inventor James Rumsey, who built one of the first operating steamboats. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the two exhibit floors, which contain displays on Cacapon River arrowheads, a diagram explaining the natural formation of the bath, and H. H. Hunter furniture. (800) 447-8797 or www.museumoftheberkeleysprings.com

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