



Three Rivers Review

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Welcome to the National Parks of Southern West Virginia

Welcome to your national parks - New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, Gauley River National Recreation Area, and Bluestone National Scenic River! These three parks have something for everyone. Enjoy vistas from the Grandview Rim or discover cultural history while strolling through Thurmond. For outdoor adventure, try mountain biking on the Arrowhead Trails or raft the New and Gauley Rivers. If solitude is what you seek, the Glade Creek area or Bluestone National Scenic River are excellent choices. No matter where you go in these three parks, National Park Service staff welcome you and are here to assist you with your visit. Have a safe and enjoyable park adventure. We hope that you take away a deeper understanding and appreciation of national parks and your role as a steward of these national treasures.

Your Three Parks

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve was originally designated as a National River in 1978, protecting 53 miles of one of the oldest rivers in the world. In 2020 this park was redesignated as a National Park and Preserve. This gorge averages 1,000 feet in depth and is one of the most naturally diverse river gorges of the southern Appalachian Mountains. The area's cultural history ranges from prehistoric sites to remnants of the recent industrial coal and railroad boom.

Over one million visitors enjoy this park each year. Park activities include whitewater boating, fishing, hiking, climbing, mountain biking, and more.



© JODI FRENCH-BURR

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 along the Gauley River, are limited and not well developed. The tailwaters area below the Summersville Dam offers the only public camping facilities at this time. Public river access is available at four locations: Gauley Tailwaters, Mason's Branch, Woods Ferry, and Upper Swiss.



© GARY HARTLEY

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. Access to this site is limited. The main trail through the park can be accessed from the bottom of the aerial tram at Pipestem Resort State Park or the trailhead at Bluestone State Park. The site can be accessed by vehicle at the remote parking area at Lilly.

This site is managed cooperatively with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The area is especially popular for hunting and fishing.



NPS

Park Information

Scan this QR code to visit the park website.



New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

PO Box 246, 104 Main Street
Glen Jean, WV 25846
304-465-0508

Online

www.nps.gov/neri
www.facebook.com/newrivergorgenps
www.twitter.com/NewRiverNPS
www.instagram.com/NewRiverNPS

E-mail

neri_interpretation@nps.gov

Canyon Rim Visitor Center

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

Sandstone Visitor Center

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

Thurmond Depot

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

Grandview Contact Station

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

Park Headquarters

Administrative offices only
304-465-0508
GPS Coordinates:
81.15587° W, 37.92775° N

Weather in the Park

- **Summer:** mid-80° F with high humidity, thunderstorms common.
- **Fall:** generally drier with cool mornings and mild days.
- **Winter:** range from mild to frigid, 50° F to 0° F with heavy snow.
- **Spring:** generally mild and wet.



Travel in the Park

Many roads and parking lots are small and cannot accommodate oversized vehicles such as RVs. Bikes and horses are permitted on some designated trails. **Only registered and insured ATVs and UTVs are permitted on park roads. These machines are not permitted off-road anywhere in the park.**

Trains in the Park

Freight trains run through the gorge daily. These tracks are private property, so stay off the rails. AMTRAK passenger trains also operate three days a week with an active train station in Prince and "flag" stops (reservations required) at Thurmond and Hinton.



Accessibility

- All visitor centers (VC) are wheelchair-accessible
- Park films and video exhibits are open captioned
- For more information on viewing and fishing areas go to the park website (use QR code above)



Pets on Leash

Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet at all times. Please clean up after your pets. Pets are not allowed in federal buildings except for authorized service animals. See pages 11 and 13 for more details.

Fees and Permits

No entrance fees are charged at any of these three parks. Special Use Permits are required for all commercial activities (guiding, some filming, etc.). Reservations are required for picnic shelters at Grandview and Burnwood, and group campsites at Burnwood and Meadow Creek. Fees vary. Scan this QR code for detailed information concerning park reservations and special use permits.



EMERGENCIES
Call 911

to report an emergency in the park

Towns with **HOSPITALS** near the park: Beckley, Oak Hill, Summersville, and Hinton.

Nearby Campgrounds and Lodging

This park provides opportunities for primitive camping only (see pages 12 - 13). The park does not have lodging facilities. Developed campgrounds and lodging are available nearby.

- **West Virginia State Parks**
800-CALL-WVA www.wvstateparks.com
- **Southern West Virginia Convention & Visitor Bureau (CVB)** 800-VISIT-WV www.visitwv.com
- **New River Gorge CVB**
800-927-0263 www.newrivergorgecvb.com

Explore Park Rules

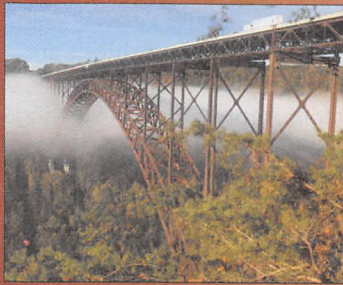


Main Park Destinations

Scan this QR code to visit the park website.



Here are the most popular places in the park. Drive to these highlighted sites during your visit.



Canyon Rim Visitor Center

Lansing, WV

Canyon Rim Visitor Center is the primary visitor contact station for area information and interpretation of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of this park. Visitors can enjoy a museum, film, and a park store. Scenic views of the gorge and New River Gorge Bridge are available from the building and the outside boardwalk.

Directions: Take US 19 north of I-77/I-64 from the north end of Beckley. Travel 20 miles, passing Fayetteville and crossing the New River Gorge Bridge. Turn right onto Fayette Mine Road. Visitor center is on the right. GPS coordinates are 81.07583° W, 38.07003° N.



Thurmond Historic District

Thurmond, WV

Explore this once-booming railroad town on a short walk through this historic district. Outdoor exhibits and a walking tour brochure tell the story of this place. Depot museum open in summer. **CAUTION: railroad is active and private property; KEEP OFF THE TRACKS.**

Directions: Take US 19 north of Beckley to Glen Jean traffic light. Follow the signs to Thurmond, 6.0 miles down WV 25. Use the parking lot at the intersection, then walk the single-lane road bridge over New River (**do not walk on the railroad bridge**) or drive over this bridge to park in the small visitor center parking lot. GPS coordinates are 81.07879° W, 37.95712° N. **CAUTION: WV 25 is a narrow, winding road, not recommended for RVs.**



Grandview

Grandview, WV

See grand views at Grandview, some of the highest vistas in the park. Rhododendron blooms of mid-May and June and the color change of autumn leaves in October add to the landscape's character. Enjoy trails, a picnic, a summer visitor center, and summer evening performances by Theatre West Virginia.

Directions: Take I-64 east of Beckley to Grandview exit 129. Follow WV 9 north 6.0 miles to Grandview. This road dead-ends at the Grandview section of the park. GPS coordinates are 81.06312° W, 37.83017° N.



Sandstone Visitor Center

Sandstone, WV

A large inlaid floor map, film, park store, and native-plant landscape are features of Sandstone Visitor Center (open seasonally). A museum with interactive exhibits interpret the rich resources of the watershed and describe ways people can lessen their impacts on the environment.

Directions: Take I-64 east of Beckley to exit 139 at Sandstone. Turn onto Meadow Creek Road/Route 7 north toward Meadow Creek. The visitor center is on the right. GPS coordinates are 80.89778° W, 37.78320° N.

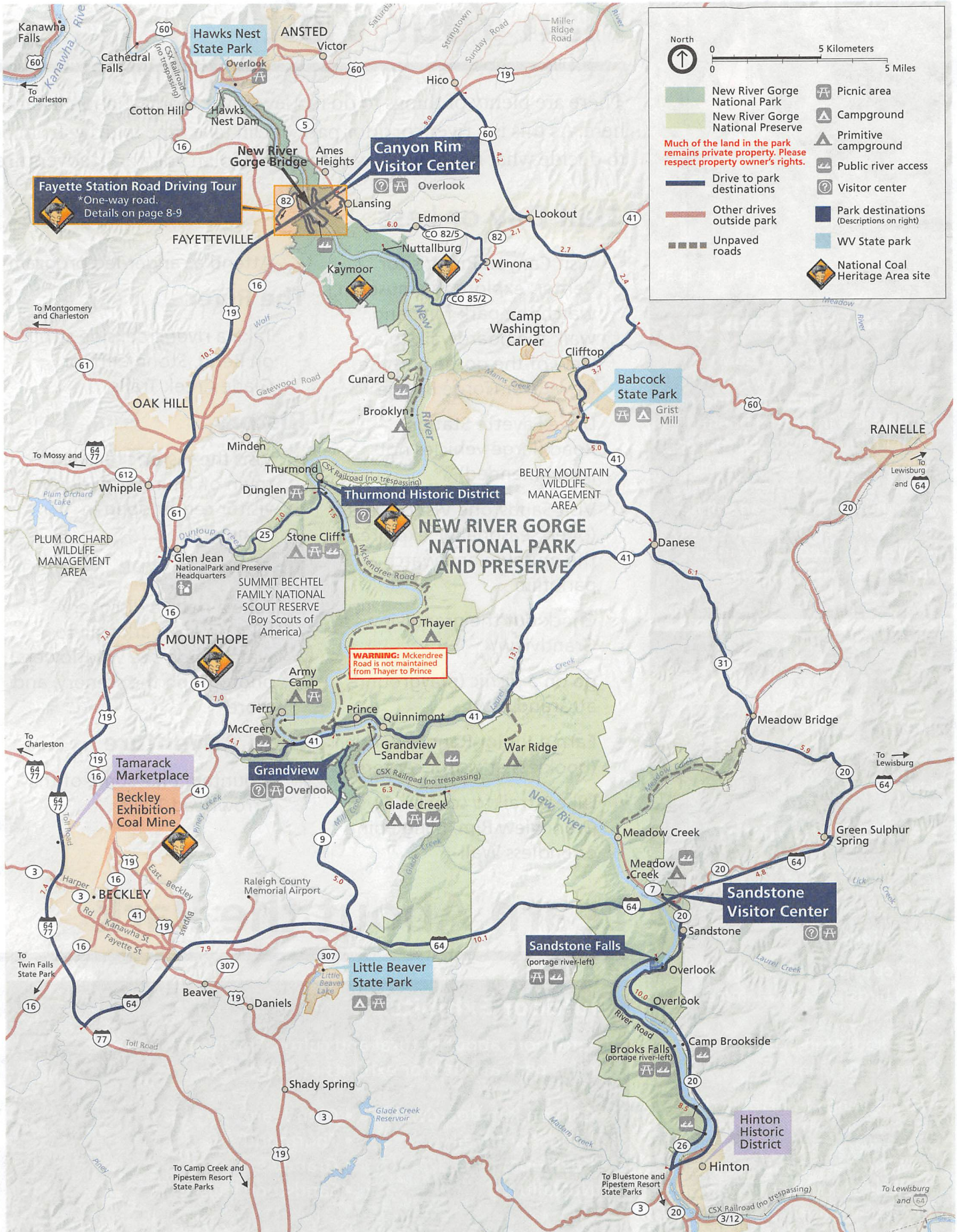


Sandstone Falls

Eight miles from Hinton, WV

See the largest waterfall on the New River from a fully accessible boardwalk with observation decks. The Island Loop Trail (0.5 miles) extends off the boardwalk. A high overlook of Sandstone Fall is on WV 20 around 2.0 miles from the Sandstone Visitor Center.

Directions: Take Sandstone exit 139 off I-64. Travel south on WV 20 for 10.8 miles to Hinton. Follow WV 20 south through town. Cross the New River on WV 20, then turn right onto WV 26 (River Road). Travel 8.5 miles to Sandstone Falls. GPS coordinates are 80.90582° W, 37.75913° N. **CAUTION: River Road is narrow, not recommended for RVs.**





Larry car at Kaymoor © JODI FRENCH-BURR

History Happenings

New River Gorge is filled with stories of people - from the area's earliest Native Americans through the industrial boom of the mid-1900s. Over 100 coal and railroad towns once filled this gorge. Today evidence of these once-thriving towns can still be seen in the park. Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics in all outdoor activities to help care for historic places.



Dutchman's Breeches © JODI FRENCH-BURR

Habitat Highlights

New River Gorge is one of the most naturally diverse places in North America, home to many types of species:

- 38 reptiles
- 48 amphibians
- 250 birds
- 65 mammals
- 90 fish
- hundreds of insects
- over 1,500 plants

Habitats range from rocky cliffs, forests, fields, to riparian areas at the river's edge. Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics in all outdoor activities to help care for natural places.

Plan Your Visit

There are plenty of things to do in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. As this is a river corridor park, it can take time to drive from one part to decide what might work well for you to plan your park adventures.

Half Day or Less

- Visit Canyon Rim Visitor Center: explore the museum, watch the park film, and walk the boardwalk to a view of the gorge and the New River Gorge Bridge
- Drive Fayette Station Road (large vehicles not recommended)
- Visit Sandstone Visitor Center (open seasonally): explore the museum and watch a park film
- Check out the grand views at Grandview
- go on a picnic (playgrounds at Grandview)
- Earn a Junior Ranger Badge (booklets at visitor centers)
- Hike a trail to scenic views: Grandview Rim, Long Point, or Endless Wall
- Attend a ranger-led program

The River

- Take a river/creekside stroll on Rend, Stone Cliff, or Glade Creek Trails

History

- Visit the historic railroad town of Thurmond (depot visitor center open in summer)

Nature

- Take a nature discovery hike on any park trail to watch birds, see wildflowers, photograph the scenery, and more

High Adventure

- Mountain bike some of the Arrowhead Trails

Learn About the Park

Outdoor Exhibits:

Learn more about natural and cultural heritage of this park at outdoor exhibits at these sites:

- Canyon Rim Boardwalk
- Long Point Trail
- Kaymoor
- Nuttallburg
- Glen Jean
- Thurmond
- Grandview
- Sandstone Falls



Scan this QR code to
visit the park website
- PLAN YOUR VISIT



reserve. You are only limited by the amount of time you have to spend
t of the park to another. Use the suggestions below as a starting point

Think Safety First

Remain alert and follow these
tips while exploring the park.

**Contact the park for updates
on current conditions.**

Wildlife Safety

Please respect wildlife, for we
are in their home.

❗ Keep your distance

from wildlife. Any creature
may defend itself if it feels
threatened.

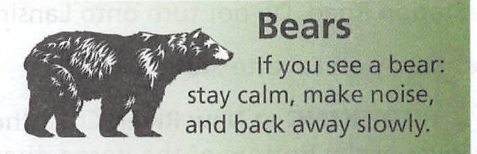


Ticks

Be sure to check for
ticks after your hike.

Insects

Many species of bees,
wasps, and other stinging
insects live in the park.



Bears

If you see a bear:
stay calm, make noise,
and back away slowly.

Snake ID

Look for these ID tips - from a distance:



Non-venomous

- oval-shaped head
- round pupils
- have nostrils only



Venomous

- triangle-shaped head
- oval pupils
- heat sensitive pit near nostrils

Poison Ivy

Do not touch these
troublesome vines.
Oils on this plant
can cause an itchy
skin rash.



Water Safety

Always wear a
personal flotation
device (PFD) when
recreating on or near
the water.

Full Day

The River

- Walk the boardwalk at Sandstone Falls
- Fishing (license required)

History

- Visit the historic coal mine site of Nuttallburg (large vehicles not recommended)
- Visit the historic coal mine site of Kaymoor (steep hiking trail)
- Visit the Trump-Lilly Farm (high clearance vehicle recommended)
- Drive the African American Heritage Tour or Coal Heritage Trail

Nature

- Mountain bike the Southside Trail at the river

- Hike Big Branch Trail

- Hike the Kates Falls Trail

High Adventure

- Whitewater raft
- Rock climb
- Mountain bike

Two or More Days

High Adventure

- Primitive camp in the park
- Backpack the Polls and Kates Plateau Trails
- Check out the two other national parks of southern West Virginia: Bluestone National Scenic River and Gauley River National Recreation Area

Scan this QR code to visit
the park website - LEARN
ABOUT THE PARK



Self-guided and Virtual Tours:

Discover stories of the cultural and natural heritage
through tours on your own. Download self-guided
tours or virtual videos online, then hit the road.

- Fayette Station Road Auto Tour (pages 8-9)
- African American Heritage Tour
- Hidden History Highlights
- Coal Heritage Trail
- Resource Management Minutes
- Historic Thurmond Walking Tour





Fayette Station Road Driving Tour

(mostly one-way)

Travel this historic route to New River and back on Fayette Station Road. This very small, windy route is a mostly one-way traffic road. Look for pull-offs with exhibits along the way.

CAUTION: This road is unsuitable for RVs

Driving Time: 45 minutes **Distance:** 8 miles

Directions: Follow signs for  **82**

- 1 Turn left out of either visitor center parking lot exit onto Fayette Mine Road to return to US 19.
- 2 Turn right onto US 19 north. Travel 0.25 miles.
- 3 Turn right onto Lansing-Edmond Road (CO 5/82). Travel 0.25 miles.
- 4 Turn right onto Fayette Station Road.
- 5 IMMEDIATELY bear left at the fork to stay on Fayette Station Road. Do not turn onto Lansing Loop Road.
- 6 Stay on Fayette Station Road.
- 7 **PARKING** at New River: Cross the bridge over New River at the bottom of the gorge, then travel 0.1 miles to the public parking lot on the right. If this lot is full, continue on Fayette Station Road another 0.1 miles to the overflow parking area to the right just past Wolf Creek. After a stop at the river, continue on Fayette Station Road to return to US 19 near Fayetteville.

History of Fayette Station Road

Fayette Station Road was the main travel route for vehicles in this area for nearly 100 years and wound from the top of the gorge to the river and back. This gorge was a busy industrial center for almost 80 years, a boom time that was ushered in by the 1873 completion of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway. Over 100 busy coal and railroad towns once dotted the landscape.

Two towns flanked the New River here, Fayette and South Fayette. A vehicle bridge connected these two communities in 1889. Coal was mined, and trains constantly ran during this industrial boom that slowed by the 1960s. This bridge was closed and condemned after the completion of the New River Gorge Bridge in 1977. A replica of the original bridge opened in 1998 and is now part of the scenic drive along this historic route.

Legend

North



0 0.25 Kilometers
0 0.25 Miles

NOT
the p
pleas

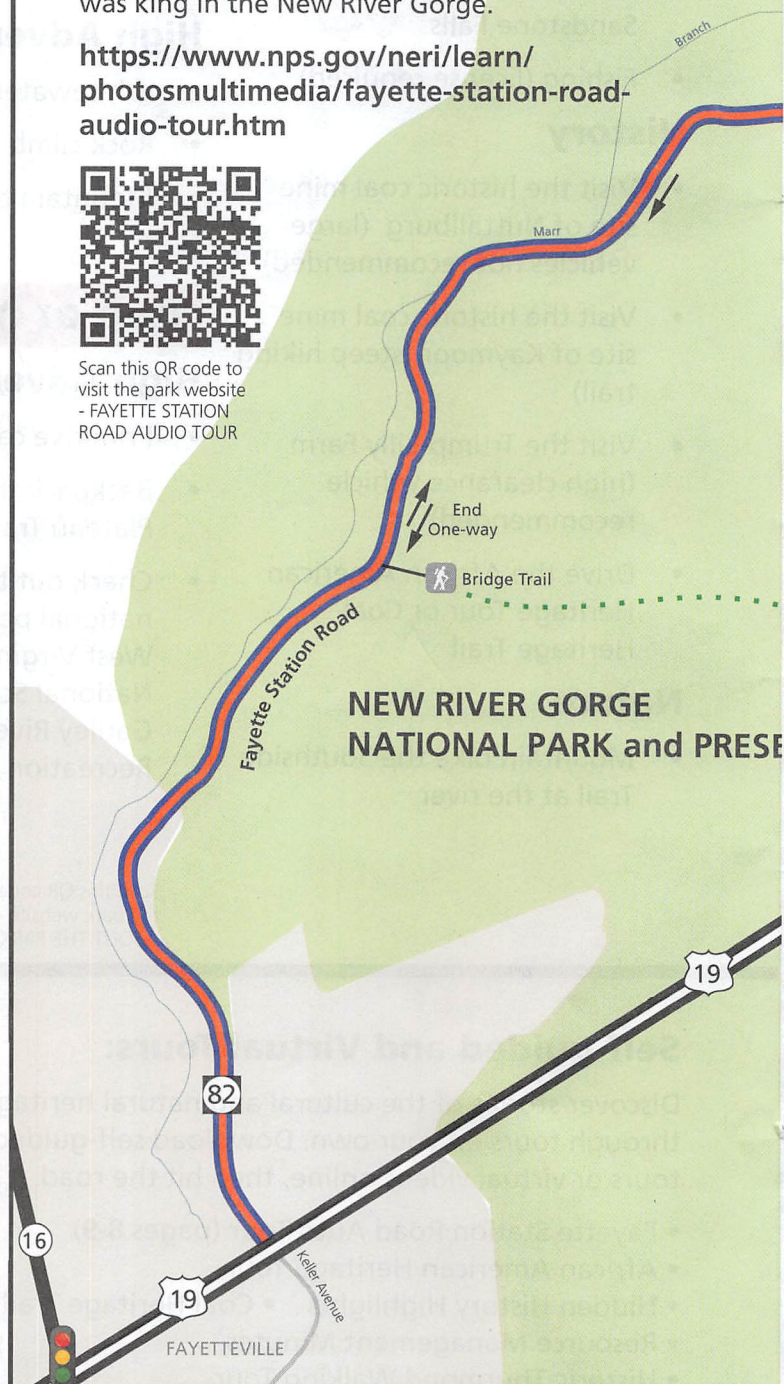
Download FREE AutoTour

to hear history of this road, a time when coal was king in the New River Gorge.

<https://www.nps.gov/neri/learn/photosmultimedia/fayette-station-road-audio-tour.htm>



Scan this QR code to visit the park website - FAYETTE STATION ROAD AUDIO TOUR



way, one lane road from Lansing to Fayetteville)

New River Gorge
National Park and Preserve

E: Much of the land within
park remains private property,
e respect the owners' rights.

Fayette Station
Road Tour

Arrows indicate
direction of traffic
on route

Roadside Pull-off
and Interpretive Exhibits

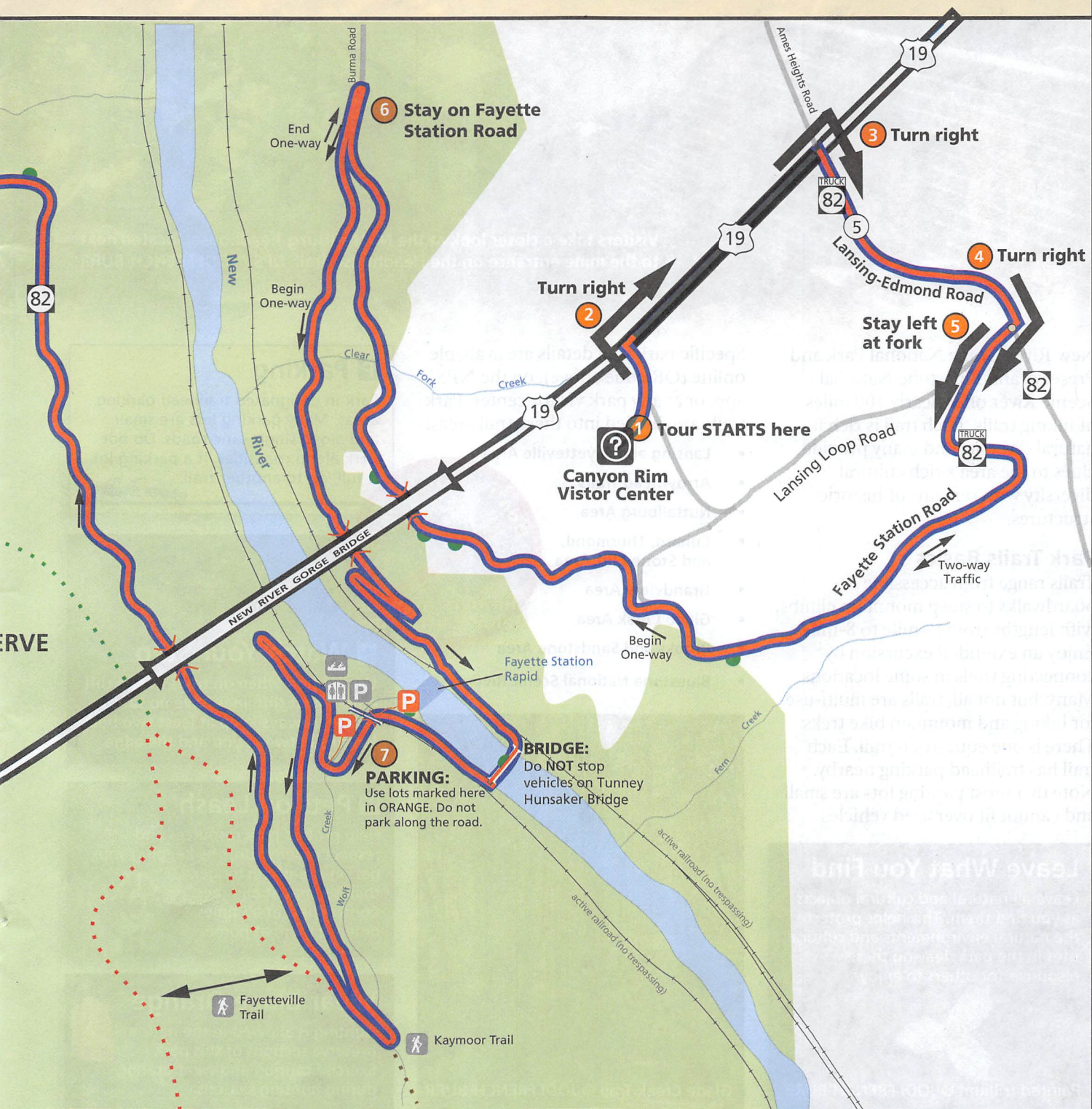
Visitor Center

Hiking Trails

Parking

Restrooms

River Access



Hiking

Scan this QR code to
visit the park website
- HIKING



Visitors take a closer look at the **Nuttallburg** headhouse, located next to the mine entrance on the Headhouse Trail. NPS / JODI FRENCH-BURR

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve and Bluestone National Scenic River offer nearly 100 miles of hiking trails. Each trail is rich in natural diversity and many provide clues to the area's rich cultural diversity with remains of historic structures.

Park Trails Basics

Trails range from accessible boardwalks to steep mountain climbs, with lengths from $\frac{1}{8}$ -mile to 8-miles. Enjoy an extended excursion by connecting trails in some locations. Many, but not all, trails are multi-use for hiking and mountain bike treks. There is one equestrian trail. Each trail has trailhead parking nearby. Note that most parking lots are small and cannot fit oversized vehicles.

Leave What You Find

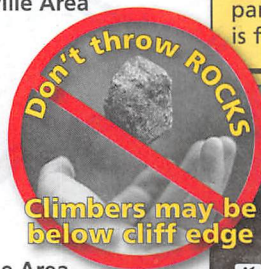
Leave all natural and cultural objects as you find them. This helps protect the natural environments and cultural sites in the park, leaving these resources for others to enjoy.



Painted trillium © JODI FRENCH-BURR

Specific park trail details are available online (QR code above), on the NPS app, or at any park visitor center. Park trails are divided into these trail areas:

- Lansing and Fayetteville Area
- Arrowhead Trails
- Nuttallburg Area
- Cunard, Thurmond, and Stone Cliff Area
- Grandview Area
- Glade Creek Area
- Brooks and Sandstone Area
- Bluestone National Scenic River



Glade Creek Trail © JODI FRENCH-BURR

P Parking

Park in designated trailhead parking areas. Many parking lots are small and along single-lane roads. Do not park along roadsides. If a parking lot is full, go to another trail.



Watch Your Step

Use caution when on trails near a cliff edge. Most cliff lines have no safety railing. Always keep at least two body lengths between you and the edge.

Pets on Leash

Help protect park resources and respect other visitors by keeping your pet on a leash no longer than six feet at all times. Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.



Wear Blaze Orange

Hunting is allowed in the national preserve sections of this park. Exercise caution and wear orange during hunting seasons.



How to Get Park Trail Maps

Scan the QR code to the left or stop by any park visitor center to pick up a copy of the park trails map. Check for current trail updates.



Rules and Guidelines:

- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet at all times. Pick up and dispose of pet excrement. No more than two (2) pets walked per person.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Littering and damage to park resources is prohibited.
- Preserve the past: examine but do not touch or collect cultural artifacts. Do not climb in or on historic structures. This can be dangerous and damage the site.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them. The collection of plants and other natural objects is prohibited. There are some exceptions for seasonal fruits, nuts, and mushrooms; check park regulations for a species list and collection limits. It is illegal to harvest or possess ginseng and ramps on National Park Service lands.
- Observe wildlife from a distance. Feeding, touching, frightening, or intentionally disturbing wildlife is prohibited.
- Respect the rights of private property owners. Trespassing on railroad tracks and railroad access roads is prohibited.

Hiking HOT TIPS:

- Prepared for weather, hazards, and emergencies. Check park conditions.
- Schedule trips to avoid times of high use.
- Terrain varies on park trails. Plan according to your skill level.
- Travel on durable surfaces like rocks, gravel, and dry leaves. Use existing trails. Walk in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy. Do not widen trails or shortcut switchbacks. Avoid impacted areas.
- Use bathroom facilities at trailheads. When facilities aren't available, deposit solid human waste in a cathole dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, trails, or trailheads.
- Lock valuables out of sight in the trunk of a car or take them with you.
- Respect other visitors and the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Visit in small groups.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.



Backpacking

Although there are nearly 100 miles of trails in the park, most trails are short and best suited for day hikes. Historic site considerations, very steep terrain, and private property within park boundaries can make planning a backpacking trip challenging. Trails best suited for overnight backpacking trips in this park include:

- Glade Creek Trail
- Kates Plateau Trail
- Polls Plateau Trail

Additional Regulations



related to backpacking:
(scan QR code at right)

- Camping is allowed on the riverbanks of New River on NPS-owned lands so long as there is no resource damage.
- Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of any trail, trailhead, park structure, historic ruins, day-use area, river access areas, and by rivers or streams. (recommend 200 feet)
- Camping is prohibited in several areas of these parks. Scan the QR code above for locations and specific site restrictions.
- Group size limited to eight people and two tents.

Backpacker HOT TIPS:

- Check current fire regulations. Use a camp stove for cooking.
- Do not drop food scraps. Store food/trash securely.
- Carry water 200 feet away from waterways for washing.
- Good campsites are found, not made.

Primitive Camping

Scan this QR code to visit the
park website - CAMPING

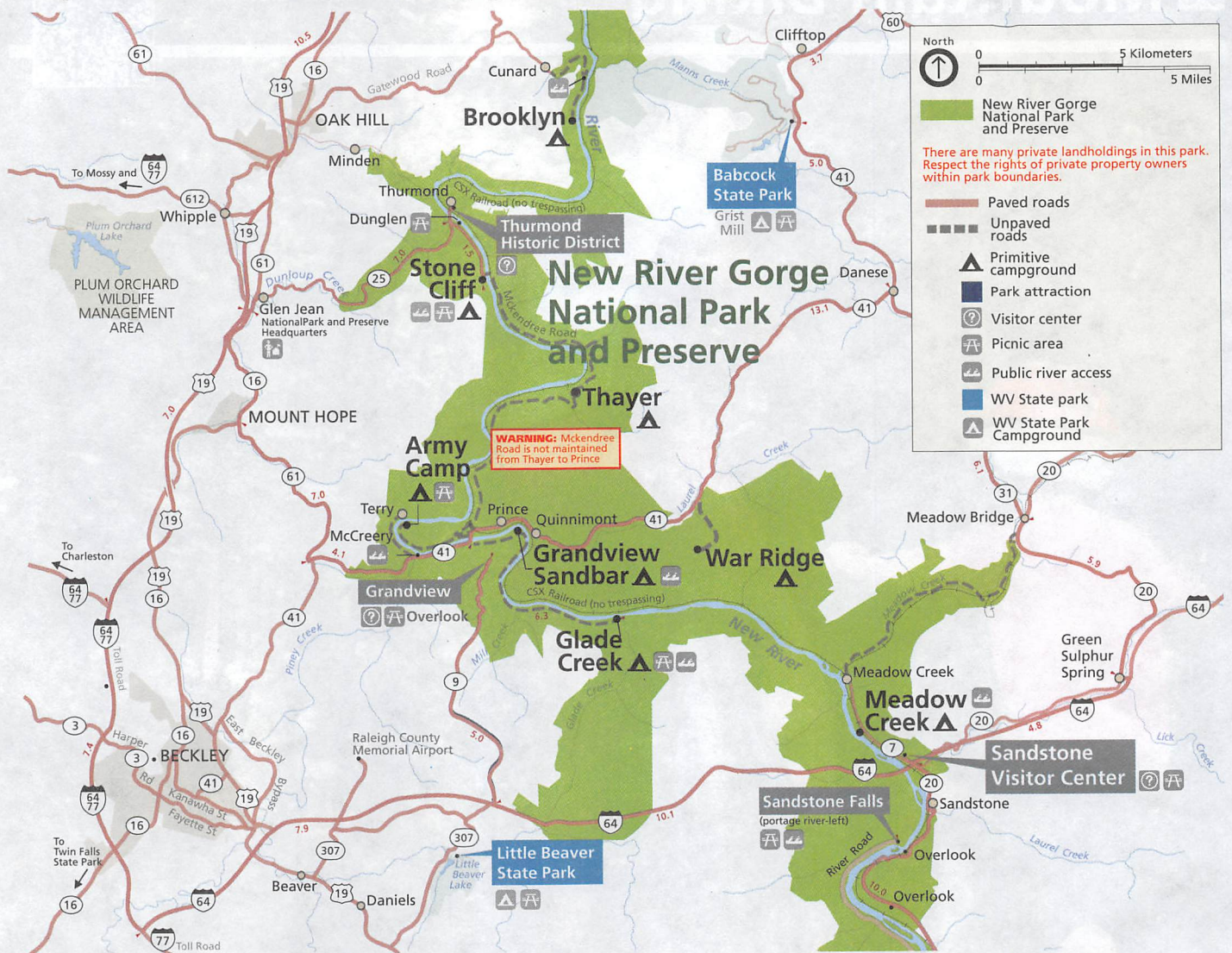


© DAVE BIERI

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve has eight primitive campgrounds. Most of these rustic sites are near the New River. Each campsite has a picnic table and a campfire ring. There are restroom facilities on site but no running water or RV hookups. Some sites are walk-in only. **These campsites are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis.** Starting January 1, 2023, some park campsites can be reserved in advance at www.recreation.gov (reservation fees applied).

Campgrounds: (listed north to south)	Number of Campsites:	Directions to Campground: (see map at right)
Gauley Tailwaters 80.88885° W, 38.21438° N	(Gauley River National Recreation Area) 18 drive-in sites for tents and small RVs	From Route 19 at Mt. Nebo, take Route 129 west across Summersville Dam, then turn left at the river access sign. Bear right through the parking lot near the river to the campsites.
Brooklyn 81.02795° W, 37.98449° N	4 shaded walk-in sites for tents only and 1 drive-in site for tents only	Take Gatewood Road to the Cunard Road between Oak Hill and Fayetteville. Travel 1.8 miles through Cunard, then follow signs to Cunard River Access. Bear right through boat launch parking lot and continue upstream for 1.0 mile. Sites on left.
Stone Cliff 81.06299° W, 37.93304° N	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 6.0 miles toward Thurmond. Turn right at the intersection and go 1.5 miles to the Stone Cliff river access and campground. (Do not cross the bridge over New River.)
Thayer 81.03301° W, 37.90172° N	4 walk-in tent sites upstream of the Slater Creek crossing	Take Route 25 from Glen Jean for 6.0 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 Thayer Bottom. Cross the railroad tracks and turn left towards the campground.
Army Camp 81.09902° W, 37.85814° N	11 drive-in tent and RV sites, some with partial shade	Take Route 41 to Prince. Turn onto Army Camp Road on the north end of the Route 41 bridge over the New River. This campground is at the end of this one-lane road.
Grandview Sandbar 81.05256° W, 37.85652° N	10 wooded sites for tents & small/medium size RVs, 6 walk-in tent sites, and 2 accessible sites (disabled permit displayed) by the river.	Take Route 41 to Prince. From the south end of the Route 41 bridge over New River (across the river from Prince), turn onto Glade Creek Access Road. Travel 1.0 mile on this gravel road, then turn left down a winding road to the campground and river access. Campground is on the right.
War Ridge 80.98518° W, 37.84525° N	8 drive-in sites for small RVs and tents	From Beckley, take Route 41 to Prince next to the New River. Continue on Route 41 for approximately 5.0 miles towards Danese. Turn right onto Backus Mountain Road, drive approximately 1.5 miles, and turn right at the gravel road (SR 22/7). The campground is on the right, about 0.5 mile.
Glade Creek 81.01298° W, 37.82840° N	5 drive-in sites for tents and small/medium RVs, 6 walk-in tent sites, and 1 accessible site (disabled permit displayed)	Take Route 41 to Prince. From the south end of the Route 41 bridge over New River (across the river from Prince), turn onto Glade Creek Access Road. Travel 6.3 miles on this gravel road. Turn left at the end of this road to the campground.
Meadow Creek 80.92009° W, 37.79667° N	17 drive-in car sites for tents	From I-64, take the Sandstone exit (#139). Turn onto Meadow Creek Road/Route 7 (pass Sandstone Visitor Center), then travel 2.0 miles. Campground entrance will be on your left. There is an uneven railroad track crossing.

Map to Park Primitive Campgrounds (see park brochure for map to Gauley Tailwaters campground)



Rules and Guidelines at Park Campgrounds:

- Campers are required to register when a ranger patrols the campground. Camp only in designated sites.
- Maximum eight people and two vehicles per site. One tent and one RV or two tents per site.
- Quiet hours 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. Public intoxication and disorderly conduct is prohibited.
- Stay limit of 14 days per 28 day period within any park camping area.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Littering and damage to park resources is prohibited.
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet at all times. No more than four (4) pets per site. Pet excrement must be picked up and disposed of by the person controlling the pet.
- Do not drive nails into trees or hang lanterns against trees.
- Use provided toilet facilities.
- Possession of firearms is permitted in accordance with WV state law. Hunting is prohibited in campgrounds.

Use Campfire Rings

Use existing fire rings at campsites. Use only dead wood found on the ground. Check for current fire restrictions in advance.

Store Food Securely

Never feed wild animals! Lock food in a vehicle when not in use.

Nearby Fee Campgrounds

There are WV state parks and private campgrounds within driving distance of this national park.
www.visitwv.com www.newrivergorgecvb.com

Mountain Biking

Scan this QR code to visit the park website - BICYCLING



Mountain biking is a fun outdoor adventure sport for people of all ages. Park trails offer a variety of trail experiences for beginner to advanced cyclists. © ARI WILE

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve offers over 50 miles of mountain bike trails. These dirt trails lead through beautiful natural and historic landscapes. Trails vary in difficulty from old railroad lines to more challenging mountain routes, making the New River Gorge among the most popular destinations for mountain bike trips in the eastern U.S.

Bicycles are permitted on the Bluestone Turnpike Trail in Bluestone National Scenic River. There are more

mountain bike trails nearby at Summersville Lake and several West Virginia State Parks.

Mountain biking is not allowed on all park trails. Be sure to check trail-use types and current trail conditions before starting your rides. Bikes are available at local bike shops or outfitters. Some outfitters and organizations offer guided bike tours of the New River Gorge and surrounding area.

Trail Builders

Over 1000 volunteers from the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America's national honor society, created a stacked loop trail system in the Craig's Branch area of the park in 2011. The Arrowhead Trails connect four mountain bike loops, easy to advanced. Scouts provided 78,544 volunteers hours for this project.



How to Get Park Trail Maps

Scan the QR code to the left or stop by any park visitor center to pick up a copy of the park trails map. Check for current trail updates.



Rules and Guidelines:

- Only ride on trails open to bicycles. E-bikes are permitted only on the Stone Cliff Trail.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Littering and damage to park resources are strictly prohibited.
- Respect the rights of private property owners. Trespassing on railroad tracks and railroad access roads is prohibited.

Mountain Biking HOT TIPS:

- Terrain varies on park trails, so be sure you possess the adequate skills and ability required for your planned trip.
- Carry a first-aid kit and basic bike repair kit.
- Travel on the most durable surfaces. Do not widen trails or cut switchbacks. Off-trail travel is prohibited. Walk your bike across bridges; these are dangerous when wet.
- Control your bicycle. Adjust your gear to accommodate for varied terrain and avoid skidding.
- Yield to pedestrians and equestrians. Establish communication to pass safely. Be prepared to stop and dismount if the situation calls for it. When descending, yield to climbing cyclists.
- Leave natural and historic objects as you find them. Take care not to damage sensitive vegetation at the trail's edge to help maintain critical wildlife habitat.
- Avoid the spread of noxious seeds; clean bikes before and after trail use.



Horses

Equestrian use is permitted on the Brooklyn Mine Trail in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve and on the Bluestone Turnpike Trail in Bluestone National Scenic River. Check for specific regulations.



Horse HOT TIPS:

- Stay on designated equestrian trails. Make it a habit to use surfaces resistant to impacts.
- Know your horses and how they relate to others.
- Yield to others. Establish communication to pass safely; few hikers know they should get off trail on the downhill side.
- Discourage horses from nibbling on vegetation to avoid resource impacts.
- Hobbles or highlines may be necessary for extended rest breaks along the trail.

P Parking

Park in designated trailhead parking areas. Many parking lots are small and along single-lane roads. Do not park along roadsides. If a parking lot is full, go to another trail.



E-bikes

The use of Class 1 and Class 2 electronic bicycles (e-bikes) is permitted ONLY on the Stone Cliff Trail in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve.



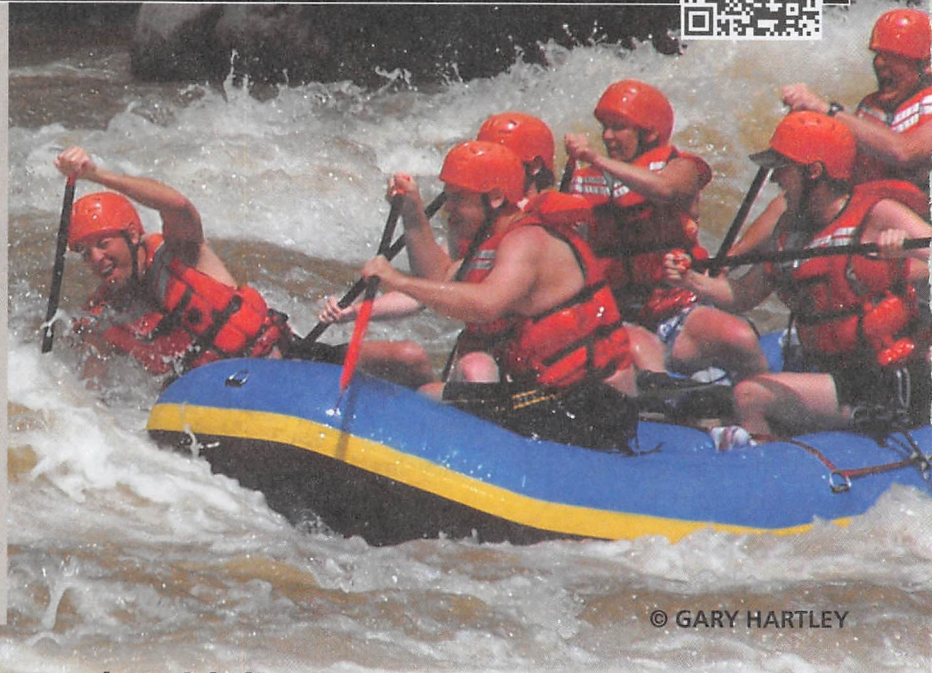
Paddling

Scan this QR code to visit the park website - WHITEWATER



New River Gorge National Park and Preserve includes 53 miles of the New River. The park's upper (southern) section consists of mostly long pools and relatively easy rapids up to Class III, while the lower (northern) part is a more powerful section of river. There are several river access points in the park.

Gauley River National Recreation Area offers even bigger whitewater thrills on 25 miles of the Gauley River, ranked among the best whitewater rivers in the world by expert boaters. This river drops over 668 feet through rugged, steep terrain. Over 100 complex rapids challenge even the best whitewater boaters. Bluestone National Scenic River offers a more relaxed boating experience along 10.5 miles of the Bluestone River through that park.



© GARY HARTLEY

When and How to Go on a Boat Trip

Whitewater boating trips on New River run in spring, summer, and fall. The Gauley River has a six-week autumn season. Most people go on river trips with licensed outfitters (company list to right). Trained guides, equipment, instruction, meals, and transportation to and from the river are provided. Trips vary from several hours to days and offer different degrees of difficulty, from peaceful float and fishing trips to adventures with lots of whitewater excitement. Experienced boaters can run these rivers independently.

River Rapid Ratings

Each rapid on a river varies in difficulty. Changes in water levels, strong currents, sudden drop-offs, and a rocky, uneven bottom make every section of the river potentially dangerous. Each rapid is rated by difficulty level from Class I (easy) to Class VI (extraordinarily difficult).

Rules and Guidelines:

- While boating, each person must wear a US Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD/life jacket) of the right size.
- Littering and damage to park resources are prohibited.
- Respect the rights of private property owners. Trespassing on railroad tracks and railroad access roads is prohibited.
- Public intoxication, disorderly conduct, and possession of alcohol by minors are prohibited.
- Fishing is permitted in this park. All people fishing must have a current West Virginia fishing license and follow WV game regulations (details on page 20).

River Paddling HOT TIPS:

- Plan your trip in advance. Know the locations of river access points and current conditions.
- Know your skill level. Be cautious and use the river sections that best match your skills.
- Use designated river access points to get on and off the river.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Clean up after yourself and others. Dispose of waste properly.
- Restroom facilities are located at river access points. When there is no facility, bury human waste in a hole six inches deep at least 200 feet (70 steps) away from the river, trails, and parking areas.
- Leave natural and historic objects as you find them. Take care not to damage sensitive vegetation at the river's edge to help maintain critical riparian habitats.

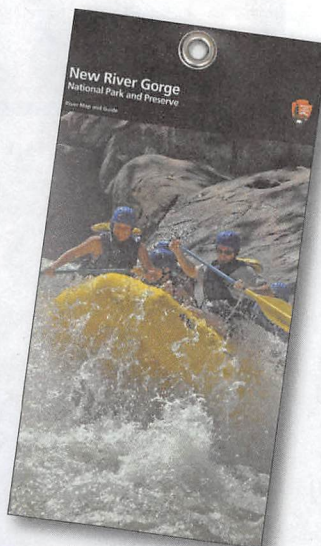


Paddling on Your Own

The New River is a powerful and beautiful river. 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 - except for a needed portage around Sandstone Falls.

Downstream of Thurmond, the river narrows and includes technical Class III – V rapids. The New River below Cunard is suitable only for advanced and expert paddlers.

For in-depth information about paddling the New River, pick up a **River Map and Guide** at a park visitor center. Information on access points to the Gauley and Bluestone Rivers are also available at visitor centers.



Water Safety TIPS

Enjoy the New River safely, but do not underestimate its power. The New River is a high-volume river with swift currents, deep holes, and a rocky bottom. Water levels change daily.

- Always wear a life jacket/PFD (personal flotation device) when recreating on or near the water.
- Alcohol is a factor in most drownings. Refrain from drinking while on the river.
- Do not boat or swim alone.
- 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.
- 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 rocks and fishing line.
- Calm waters still contain strong currents. Do not overestimate your swimming ability.
- Wear shoes to protect your feet against sharp objects like rocks, tree snags, fishhooks, and other sharp objects.
- Scout unfamiliar rapids from shore.
- Kneel to provide stability when running rapids in a canoe.

Commercial Whitewater Outfitters

- **ACE Adventure Resort**
www.acercraft.com
800-787-3982
- **Adventures On The Gorge**
www.adventuresonthegorge.com
855-379-8738
- **Alpine Ministries**
www.alpineministries.com
800-806-2180
- **Cantrell Ultimate Rafting**
www.cantrellultimaterafting.com
304-877-8235
- **New and Gauley River Adventures**
www.gauley.com
800-759-7238
- **River Expeditions**
www.raftinginfor.com
800-463-9873
- **West Virginia Adventures**
http://trywva.com
800-292-0880



How High is the River?

Water levels can rise and lower significantly in a matter of hours, depending on your location. Levels are measured in cubic feet per second (CFS).

Call a park visitor center (see page 24) or scan this QR code to link to the US Army Corps of Engineers - Huntington District Whitewater Conditions webpage at www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wm/?whitewater for current river level details.



Climbing

Scan this QR code to visit the
park website - CLIMBING



With over 1,600 established climbing routes in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve and over 880 routes in Gauley River National Recreation Area (GARI), Southern West Virginia is one of the most popular rock climbing areas in the country. The extensive cliff lines at the rim of each gorge are composed of Nuttall sandstone, renowned among climbers as some of the finest quality climbing rock in America. These rugged cliffs range from 30 to 120 feet in height, with many crack and face routes.

While there are some easier climbs, most of the routes in the New River Gorge favor the advanced and expert climber. The more recently developed routes along GARI's Meadow River and nearby Summersville Lake vary in difficulty, from very easy to very hard. Despite the growing popularity of the Meadow River Gorge routes, access to that area is challenging. Much of the land is private property.

Where are the climbing routes?

With the technical nature of the routes in this area, a guidebook is essential for locating climbing walls and routes. Independent research is a **MUST** for all rock climbers.

- **GUIDEBOOKS** are available at park stores and area climbing shops
- Climbing information and resources are available online
- Many local guide services offer expert-guided climbing excursions



Help Protect the Park and People

The increased popularity of climbing areas can 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 created a Climbing Management Plan in collaboration with the public, accessible at www.nps.gov/neri. Do your part to respect the environment, wildlife, climbers, and other park visitors.

Rules and Guidelines:

- Know and follow park regulations, including special concerns for the area where you plan to climb.
- Drilling to install new anchors or replace unsafe bolts or anchors is only permitted by authorized personnel. Report bad anchors, bolts, and other hardware online at the New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC) website: www.newriverclimbing.net.
- Use chalk sparingly. If feasible, after cleaning a route, rappel from the anchors instead of lowering.
- Defacing, damaging, or altering natural rock and wood surfaces is prohibited.
- Climbing and rappelling is not permitted in the Grandview section of the park.
- Do not trespass on private property. Always respect the rights of private property owners.



NPS

Rock Climbing HOT TIPS:

- Schedule your climbs to avoid times of high use.
- Bring the appropriate equipment for the route(s) you intend to climb. Make sure gear is in good condition.
- Acquire the necessary technical skills, first aid knowledge, and have an emergency action plan.
- Use designated access paths to approach climbs. Avoid using or creating social trails, including short-cutting trails.
- When unpacking gear at crags, choose durable locations for your staging and belay areas.
- The use of top anchors decreases impacts on cliff-top ecology. Tree trunks should not be used as anchors. Use tree-saver slings when using hammocks. Take care not to damage sensitive vegetation like moss, lichens, and other fauna to help maintain critical habitats.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Clean up after yourself, pets, and others. Dispose of waste properly.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times like mating, nesting, and raising young.
- If bringing a dog to crags, ensure they are on a leash or consider leaving them at home.

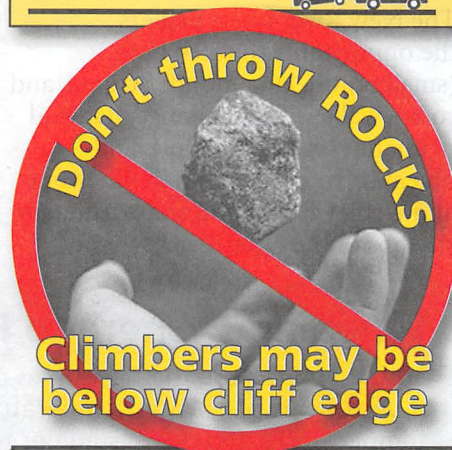


HOT TIPS for ALL in Cliff Top Areas:

Many visitors like to enjoy the clifftop areas of the park. Respect other visitors and the quality of their experience.

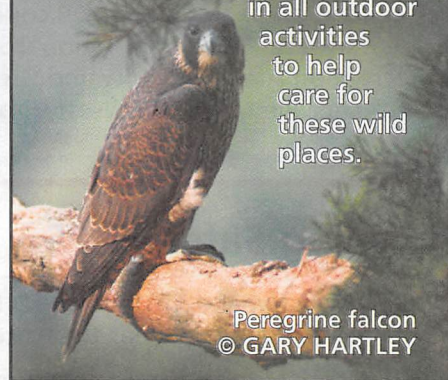
Parking

Park in designated trailhead parking areas. Many parking lots are small and along single-lane roads. Do not park along roadsides. If a parking lot is full, go to another trail.



Respect Wildlife

Many creatures make their homes on the clifftops of the New River Gorge. Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics in all outdoor activities to help care for these wild places.



EMERGENCIES

Call 911

to report an emergency in the park

Towns with **HOSPITALS** near the park: Beckley, Summersville, Oak Hill, and Hinton.



Fishing is one of the most popular activities on the New River. The diversity of fish in its waters makes the New River an excellent warm water fishery. Year-long and 3-day tourist licenses are available online or at sporting goods stores and bait shops. A trout stamp is required to fish for trout.

The New River offers anglers the opportunity to catch bass (smallmouth, largemouth, striped, and rock), walleye, muskellunge, flathead or channel catfish, crappie, and bluegill. Trout are found in Bluestone and Gauley Rivers and some tributary streams of the New River.



Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD) when fishing on or near the water. NPS

When and Where to Fish

Spring and fall are the best times of year to fish the New, Gauley, and Bluestone Rivers. Water temperatures transition between cold winter temperatures and warm summer temperatures during these seasons. Most fish species are more active in cooler water and often feed more aggressively during spring and fall. The best times to fish are early morning and late evening. Most fish prey more active at these times; therefore, more fish are out feeding.

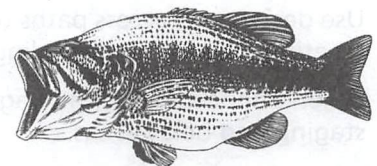
There are several river access points in the park along New River (see map on page 5 or use QR code above). Other popular fishing areas include Bluestone National Scenic River, Gauley River National Recreation Area, Meadow and Greenbrier Rivers, Bluestone and Summersville Lakes, and West Virginia State Parks.

Licenses and Regulations

All people fishing in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, Bluestone National Scenic River, or Gauley River National Recreation Area must have a West Virginia fishing license and follow state fishing regulations. There are some catch-and-release areas in the park. The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR) website (scan QR code below) has information on rules and regulations, how to purchase a license, and safety training.

Fishing Safety TIPS

- Always wear a life jacket/PFD (Personal Flotation Device) when recreating on or near the water.
- Alcohol is a factor in most drownings. Refrain from drinking while on the river.
- Fish at least 100 feet away from a boat launch/take-out area while watercraft use that spot.
- Remain seated while in a boat.
- 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 rocks and vegetation.
- Wear shoes to protect your feet against fishhooks, rocks, and other sharp objects.



Largemouth Bass © ZACHERY ZDINAK

West Virginia Fishing and Hunting Regulations and License Information

WEST VIRGINIA
DNR



Hunting

Scan this QR code to visit the park website - HUNTING



Hunting is more than just a sport to many people of Southern Appalachia. It is a time-honored tradition that is shared from generation to generation. Good hunters teach the basics of hunting and shooting, plus share an appreciation of the land, wildlife, and the experience.

There are areas where hunting is prohibited in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, including safety zones near public areas and the parts of this site designated as national park. Hunting is permitted on public lands in areas designated as national preserve. Knowing your location and rules for that area are each hunters' responsibility. Always respect the rights of private property owners.

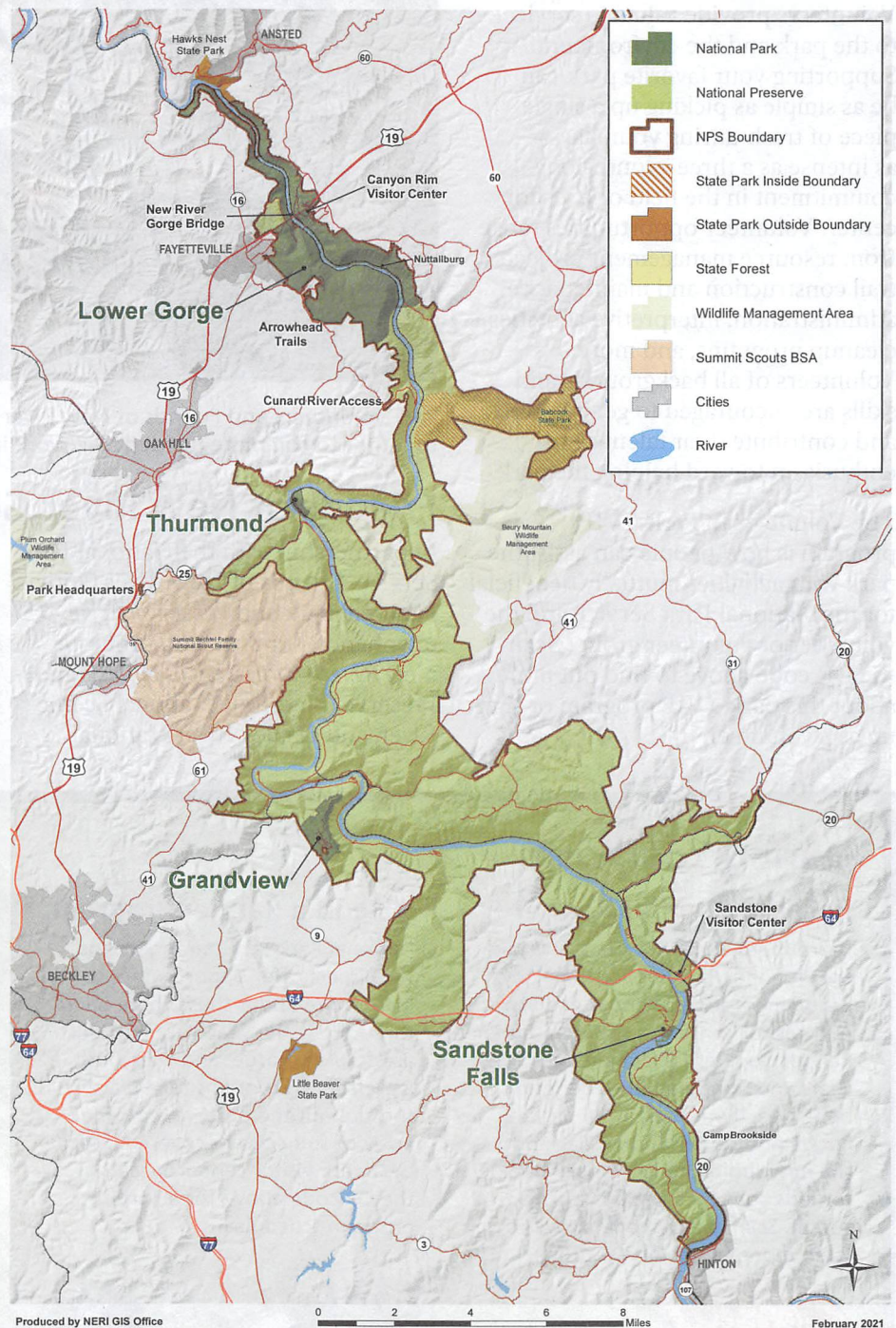


Hunting for food and sport is a tradition in West Virginia. Turkey, squirrel, and deer are popular game animals. NPS

Licenses and Regulations

Hunters in the national preserve must have a West Virginia hunting license and follow state hunting regulations. There are some additional NPS site-specific rules. The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR) website (scan QR code to left) has information on rules and regulations, game seasons, how to purchase a license, and hunter safety training.

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve



No Hunting Zones in This Park

Hunting is prohibited in national park sections of this site, including the Lower Gorge, Thurmond, Grandview, and Sandstone Falls. Hunting is also prohibited in some parts of Bluestone National Scenic River and Gauley River National Recreation Area. Site regulations and maps of hunting areas and no hunting zones are available (scan QR code above).

Be a Park Friend

Scan this QR code to visit the park website - GET INVOLVED



Volunteer

Volunteers provide valuable service to the park and the environment. Supporting your favorite park can be as simple as picking up a single piece of trash during your stay or as intense as a three-month-long commitment in the field or a visitor center. Volunteer opportunities range from resource management projects, trail construction and maintenance, administration, interpretive activities, cleanup programs, and more. Volunteers of all backgrounds and skills are encouraged to get involved and contribute their talents and enthusiasm toward helping the park.

The Volunteer In Parks (VIP) program is how people can assist the park with activities mutually beneficial for the National Park Service and the volunteer or volunteer group. Scan the QR code above to find out more about this park's VIP program or sign up as a volunteer.



Park volunteers and Friends of New River Gorge National Park and Preserve team together to complete needed trail work in the Grandview area of the park. NPS

Friends of New River Gorge

In partnership with the National Park Service, Friends of New River Gorge National Park and Preserve strive to enhance, support, and promote New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, Bluestone National Scenic River, and Gauley River National

Recreation Area. From educational initiatives to hands-on service projects, this organization helps further the goals and purposes of these three National Park Service sites. Scan the QR code above to learn more about this organization.

During Your Visit

Become a Junior Ranger

Learn more about this park and join the National Park Service family by becoming a Junior Ranger. Stop by a park visitor center to pick up a Junior Ranger booklet for people ages five years and up. Complete a series of booklet activities to earn a park badge and certification. Check out the new Junior Junior Ranger booklet for kids ages 2 - 5 years to earn a sticker. Scan the QR code above to learn more about this program.



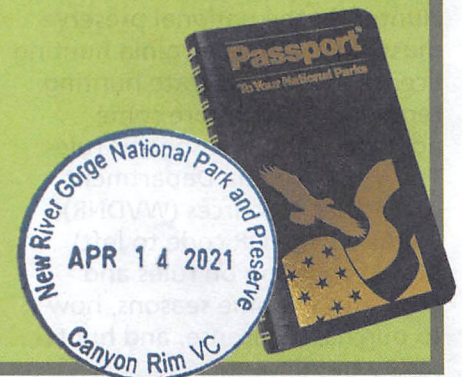
Attend a Ranger Program

National Park Service rangers and volunteers offer opportunities to learn more about these three parks throughout the year. All programs are free of charge, and everyone is welcome. Programs take place throughout the park, and a wide array of subjects are covered. Stop by a park visitor center or scan the QR code above for a current program schedule.

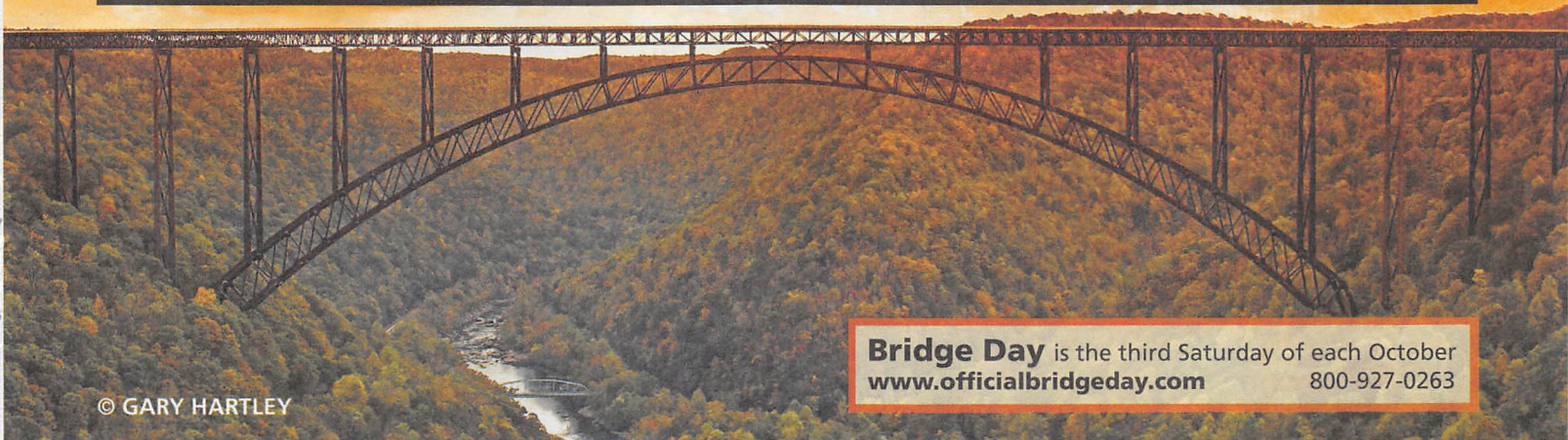


Get Your Passport Stamp

Stop by a park visitor center to get your passport cancellation ink stamp to commemorate your visit. Each park visitor center has an America's National Parks™ store to shop for books and other products to extend your park experience. Stop by a park visitor center or scan the QR code above for a link to shop at the park store.



New River Gorge Bridge



Bridge Day is the third Saturday of each October
www.officialbridgeday.com 800-927-0263

A travel challenge was solved when the New River Gorge Bridge construction was completed on October 22, 1977. This bridge reduced a 40-minute drive down a narrow mountain road and across one of the continent's oldest rivers to less than a minute. This structure is one of the highest bridges in the US and one of the world's longest single-arch, steel-span bridges. The New River Gorge Bridge is now on the National Register of Historic Places (August 14, 2013).

Area Transportation History

The steep slopes of the New River Gorge long presented barriers to travel. The 1873 completion of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway (C & O) changed transportation in the area. This railroad ushered in an industrial boom that lasted over 80 years, opening the region to large-scale coal mining and coke production. Coal companies shipped these high-quality fuels to markets around the world. By 1889, Fayette Station Road wound down this gorge and across New River. A 279 foot (85 meters) truss bridge spanned the river connecting the towns of Fayette and South Fayette at the bottom of the gorge.

New River Gorge Bridge Construction

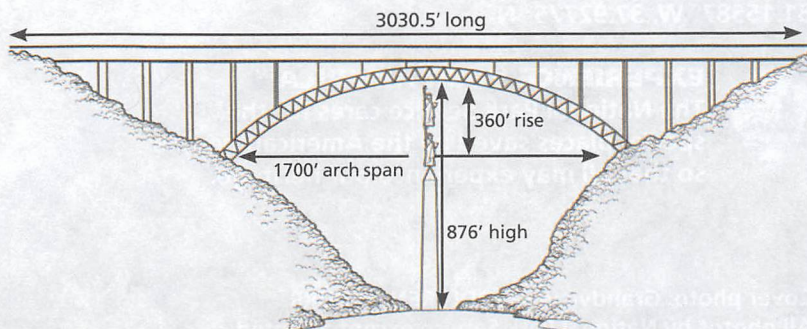
Time passed, and these industries waned. Community changes increased traffic on top of the gorge, but Fayette Station Road was not large enough to handle more traffic. The Corridor L highway construction project began in 1969, upgrading US-19 to a divided highway connecting I-77 to I-79. This plan included the New River Gorge Bridge. Michael Baker Company designed the bridge structure, while the American Bridge Division of US Steel Corporation completed the construction. Workers moved the steel using a pair of three-inch diameter cables that ran across the gorge connecting two towers on either side. A trolley moved each piece of steel along these cables. The first steel was put into place over the gorge in June 1974. Cor-ten steel, a type of all-weather, non-painted steel with a rust-like appearance, was used in construction.

Old Road Changes

That original bridge at the bottom of the gorge was closed and eventually torn down after the 1977 completion of the New River Gorge Bridge. A replica of that original 1889 structure re-opened to vehicle traffic in 1998 and now includes a pedestrian walkway. This small bridge is also now known as the Tunney Hunsaker Bridge. See Fayette Station Road driving directions on pages 8 - 9. **This road is unsuitable for RVs due to several sharp turns and low-clearance bridges.**

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	184,000	83,461
Arch	21,066,000	9,555,377



How high is 876 feet? Stack two Statues of Liberty atop the Washington Monument beneath the bridge, and there will be 20 feet to spare.

Contact the Park

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

PO Box 246, 104 Main Street
Glen Jean, WV 25846
304-465-0508

Online

www.nps.gov/neri
www.facebook.com/newrivergorgenps
www.twitter.com/NewRiverNPS
www.instagram.com/NewRiverNPS
www.youtube.com/user/newrivernps



E-mail

neri_interpretation@nps.gov

Canyon Rim Visitor Center

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

Sandstone Visitor Center

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

Thurmond Depot

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

Grandview Contact Station

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

Park Headquarters

Administrative offices only
304-465-0508
GPS Coordinates:
81.15587° W, 37.92775° N



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Scan this QR
code to visit the
park website



Cover photo: Grandview © JODI FRENCH-BURR
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