

RELAX

Linger in the healing mineral waters in Berkeley Springs.

EXPLORE

Check out the farmers markets around Martinsburg.

FAST FORWARD

Feel the speed at Summit Point Raceway near Ranson.

Explore

The
**EASTERN
PANHANDLE**
of West Virginia



BAVARIAN INN

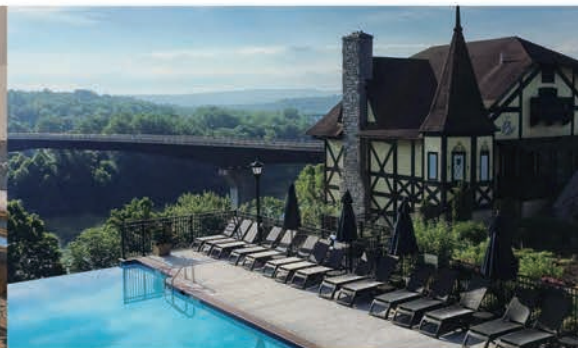
RESORT & BREWING COMPANY



EUROPEAN-INSPIRED BOUTIQUE RESORT

Located in historic Shepherdstown, WV, the Bavarian Inn Resort & Brewing Company   offers the best of European luxury and cuisine on a 12-acre estate overlooking the Potomac River. With 72 elegantly appointed state rooms, four distinct dining rooms, an award-winning wine list, infinity pool, tennis courts and golf, the Bavarian Inn makes for a perfect getaway. The latest addition, Bavarian Brothers Brewing, is a casual dining brew pub and lounge celebrating the family's German heritage. The beers are a representation of their European roots and West Virginia location.

Discover European Elegance on the Potomac at the Bavarian Inn.



BAVARIANINN.WV.COM

304.876.2551



Explore

The Eastern Panhandle

features

- 2 Panhandle of Paradise**
Just a short one-hour drive from Washington, D.C., discover West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.
- 4 Jefferson County**
Gateway to West Virginia.
- 5 Harpers Ferry**
Confluence of history.
- 7 Shepherdstown**
West Virginia cosmopolitan flair.
- 9 Charles Town**
A sure bet.
- 11 Ranson**
Authentic small town charm.

- 18 Berkeley County
Martinsburg**
Rich in history and culture.
- 26 Morgan County
Berkeley Springs**
The arts spring to life.

Explore the Eastern Panhandle is sponsored by the Jefferson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Ranson Convention & Visitors Bureau, Martinsburg-Berkeley County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Travel Berkeley Springs.



on the cover
A stunning view of historic Harpers Ferry from the Maryland Heights overlook. *Photographed by Chris Weisler*

PUBLISHED BY

New South Media, Inc.

709 Beechurst Avenue, Suite 14A
Morgantown, WV 26505

304.413.0104 • newsouthmedia.com

PUBLISHER & EDITOR

Nikki Bowman, nikki@newsouthmediainc.com

PROJECT MANAGER

Buddy Butler, buddy@newsouthmediainc.com

ART DIRECTOR

Carla Witt Ford, carla@newsouthmediainc.com

EDITORIAL TEAM

Pam Kasey, pam@newsouthmediainc.com
Zack Harold, zack@newsouthmediainc.com
Jess Walker, nsminternjess@gmail.com

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY

Jefferson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Ranson Convention & Visitors Bureau, Martinsburg-Berkeley County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Travel Berkeley Springs, Chris Weisler, Seth Freeman, Nikki Bowman, and Carla Witt Ford

EXPLORE THE EASTERN PANHANDLE
IS A PRODUCT OF



EXPLORE *The Eastern Panhandle* is published by New South Media, Inc. Copyright: New South Media, Inc. Reproduction in part or whole is strictly prohibited without the express written permission of the publisher.

© NEW SOUTH MEDIA, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVE

The three counties of the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia—Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson—



make up the Washington Heritage Trail. Experience a rich timeline of American history that includes a colonial spa town, sites of early industries, railroad landmarks and Civil War locations. The footsteps of America's first president are particularly prominent, along this 127-mile driving trail named for George Washington and approved as a National Scenic Byway and West Virginia Scenic Byway.



Panhandle *of* Paradise



Just a short one-hour drive from the Washington, D.C. area, discover West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.

The mountain state's most vibrant region is rich in history and scenic beauty. If you don't feel like driving, take Amtrak's "Capitol Limited" route, which operates daily between Washington, D.C. and Chicago and passes through the Eastern Panhandle with stops in Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg. Or you can take the Maryland Rail Commuter (MARC), which operates Monday through Friday between Martinsburg and Washington, D.C. and has a stop in Harpers Ferry as well.

However you get here, you will quickly find out the Eastern Panhandle is a place you will want to return again and again. Five 18th century towns—**Berkeley Springs, Charles Town, Harpers Ferry, Martinsburg, and Shepherdstown**—all surrounded by gorgeous countryside serve as the backdrop for modern life offering world-class lodging, dining, shopping, and cultural activities in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties.

2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of the **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**, and special events and activities are happening all summer long. Tour the U.S. Armory and Arsenal held by John Brown and his army for three days in 1859. Browse through unique shops and then head across the bridge and hike up to Maryland Heights for the most spectacular view of Harpers Ferry and the Shenandoah Valley.

Visit the gorgeous town of **Berkeley Springs**, which was incorporated in 1776 as Bath in honor of England's spa city of Bath. Be sure to visit Berkeley Springs State Park, home to a historic mineral spa that has

been used since colonial times. The park is renowned for its warm spring water, which flows at a constant temperature of 74.3 degrees.

If the outdoors is more your thing, visit the scenic town of Ranson. It is the perfect place to hike, with its close proximity to the Appalachian Trail, or fish and kayak the beautiful Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. If you like a little more action, **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races** is just down the road and offers live thoroughbred racing, table games, and slots.

The home of Civil War spy and femme fatale Belle Boyd is in Martinsburg and open to the public. Visit that, then explore the **Martinsburg Roundhouse**, once burned by General Stonewall Jackson and tour a secret tunnel in the home of a Revolutionary War general.

The Eastern Panhandle is known for its wonderful selection of dining venues offering contemporary cuisine in fun, eclectic settings, many with spectacular views and outdoor dining options. Don't miss the endless wine selection at **Brix 27** in downtown Martinsburg, a casually sophisticated atmosphere where every seat feels like a cozy corner for reconnecting with friends. Take in some local live music at **Domestic** in Shepherdstown, and don't forget to order the loaded totchos (*fancy name for tater tots*)! They are to die for.

The craft beer movement is also alive and well in the panhandle. Highlighted by **Abolitionist Ale** in Charles Town and the new **Bavarian Brothers Brewing** located at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown, you can find the perfect brew for you in one of these unique brew pubs.

Discover more about this amazing place as you explore the following pages. Warm hospitality, endless adventure, and the finest in creature comforts await you just a short drive away in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Come see us soon.





JEFFERSON COUNTY

Located where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet the Blue Ridge Mountains, Jefferson County is a gateway into Wild and Wonderful West Virginia. The charming and culturally rich towns of Harpers Ferry, Shepherdstown, Charles Town, Bolivar, and Ranson have made this area a popular escape. Highlighted by the world-famous Appalachian Trail, Jefferson County offers miles of scenic hiking and biking trails to explore. For those who love water sports, the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers flow through Jefferson County and make for fabulous fishing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, and tubing. Or hike ragged ridgelines that give way to breathtaking bluffs, or just go for a leisurely stroll and take in the spectacular beauty of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

↔ **Washington family** The area has deep ties to George Washington and his family. In fact, Charles, George's youngest brother, founded the city of Charles Town and the county, which is home to six Washington family homes. Take a tour on page 13.

↔ **Lewis and Clark** President Thomas Jefferson selected Meriwether Lewis to command an army expedition—known as the Corps of Discovery—documenting the newly acquired territory stretching to the Pacific Ocean. In the spring of 1803, Lewis arrived at the U.S. Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry to gather supplies for the trek, including bullet molds and gun parts. He also worked with armory officials here to design and build a collapsible boat.

↔ **John Brown** Located on the border between the United States and the fledgling Confederacy, Jefferson County was trapped between two nations at war. Famous for John Brown's historic raid in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County's strategic location at the gateway into the Shenandoah Valley made it a target for both North and South during the Civil War. Follow in the footsteps of this famous abolitionist and visit the arsenal, hanging site, trial site, museum, and even a reading room where future Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth performed Shakespearean readings to entertain attendees of the John Brown trial.

↔ **African American Heritage** During the Civil War, thousands of former enslaved persons sought refuge behind Union lines at Harpers Ferry. As the war ended, the Freewill Baptists of Maine sent missionary teachers into the South to promote the education of former slaves. The Lockwood House in Harpers Ferry became the first schoolhouse in Jefferson County, and it then grew into Storer College—the first institution of higher learning in the state of West Virginia for African Americans.



HARPERS FERRY

In the tip of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, where the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers meet, the picturesque little town of Harpers Ferry hugs the steep hills and ravines at the water's edge.

Heralded for its significant role in the construction of the U.S. railroad system and is the location of Storer College that educated former slaves, Harpers Ferry is best known as the place in which abolitionist John Brown led his infamous raid on the federal armory, an event that is said to have been a catalyst of the Civil War. Brown's plan was to arm the slaves of Northern Virginia and start an uprising that would have been devastating to the Confederacy. Three key battles of the Civil War were fought in Harpers Ferry, leading up to the bloody Battle of Antietam in nearby Sharpsburg, Maryland.

By the early 1900s, Harpers Ferry had become an upscale resort town popular with society folk who arrived by rail from Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Today, throngs of people still arrive by train—it's just an one hour trip from Washington, D.C.'s Union Station.

Shopping

Looking for the perfect memento? A diverse collection of shops line High Street. **The Vintage Lady** is the place to go for unique jewelry, accessories, home goods, and collectibles. For something sweet, visit **True Treats Historic Candy**, the only historic candy shop in the nation. On the brick-lined Potomac Street facing the train depot, you'll find even more restaurants and shops. Looking for a souvenir t-shirt or hiking gear? Check out **Harpers Ferry Outfitters**, and for one-of-a-kind artisan-made products check out the galleries and shops on West Washington Street, including Rivers Studio in Bolivar.

The area's historical significance is so great that almost the entire town of Harpers Ferry is designated a historic district. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park was established in 1944 and is administered by the National Park Service, which does a wonderful job of recreating the feel of antebellum history. Amazingly, a third of the original town is intact, providing a rare and authentic stage for reenactors. On weekends, volunteers from the Division of Living History dress in period costumes, reprising for visitors the sights and sounds of the town's storied past.

You don't have to be a history buff to enjoy the town. With two rivers converging upon it, there is no shortage of water-based recreation in Harpers Ferry. Outdoor enthusiasts take pleasure in the breathtaking scenery of the region and the many ways to access it. The nearby C&O Canal towpath, once trod by mule teams, is a smooth, level trail, perfect for hiking or biking. Hikers can also follow part of the 2,200-mile-long Appalachian Trail, with its midpoint at Harpers Ferry. And after you've worked up an appetite, a plethora of area restaurants will help you refuel and hydrate.

Take Me to the River

Looking to enjoy the scenic outdoors? **River Riders Family Adventure Resort** in Harpers Ferry offers something for everyone—from kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, canoeing, and rafting to ziplining, aerial adventures, and biking.

Tubing is one of their most popular activities in the summer—and it isn't your typical tubing experience. At River Riders, exploration is the main ingredient, whether you choose a flatwater or whitewater trip. As most tubing excursions at River Riders are unguided, groups are able to stop and go as they please. See a perfect picnic spot along one bend in the Shenandoah? Want to pull over and snap a photo—with your waterproof camera—of mom as she heads into Class III rapids? These sorts of self-guided, self-paced adventures are rare in the whitewater industry.

There's a trip for everyone, from doggy-paddlers to whitewater enthusiasts. For families with young children or older adults, flatwater is a great way to spend an afternoon—chatting, eating a picnic lunch, and seeing the sights. Flatwater courses take place on the Shenandoah, where the water is glassy and calm with no rapids and a light current. River Riders provides tubes, flotation devices, free shuttle transportation, and parking for all trips.

Whitewater tubing on the Potomac is another story. These adventure trips include Class I to III rapids and are only open to families with children age 10 and up who are strong swimmers and at least five feet tall. This trip is best for the adrenaline-seeking vacationer.



Guests pass through the famous Harpers Ferry gap and get an up-close view of the area's well-known rock formations. A single course lasts about two hours, but can take up to three depending on water levels. Like the flatwater tour, this trip is self-guided, River Riders also offers a guided whitewater option.

If you'd like to explore by air instead, you can glide on a network of eight family-friendly ziplines, and at heights of up to 800 feet enjoy breathtaking views of Harpers Ferry. Or rent a bike and experience the C&O Canal National Historical Park. No matter what sort of experience you're looking for, you're bound to discover something new to love about the area. 408 Alstadts Hill Road, Harpers Ferry, 304.535.2663, riverriders.com

LET'S DO SOMETHING *Here is where you can play*

➤ EPIC HIKES

Discover a stunning view of Harpers Ferry and the Shenandoah Valley from the **Bolivar Heights Trail** overlook or journey along the world-famous **Appalachian Trail**. Jefferson County is a hikers' paradise with trails suited for all skill and fitness levels.



➤ WET A LINE

Let the professionals at **White Fly Outfitters** in Harpers Ferry take you to the best spots on the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers to catch small mouth bass. Experienced guides can help anglers of varying experience all have a great day on the river!



➤ HIT THE TRAIL

In the heart of West Virginia's oldest town, Shepherdstown **Pedal & Paddle** rents equipment and runs guided excursions. Try a guided historic cycling tour to neighboring Harpers Ferry. Want to explore on your own? Rent a bike and grab a trail map for miles of adventure.





SHEPHERDSTOWN

Shepherdstown's charm is unmistakable—and irresistible. The town has a way of wrapping its arms around you. The historic structures, dining destinations, one-of-a-kind shops, and bucolic scenery draw vacationers from around the country. In fact, many people who visit or attend college at **Shepherd University** don't ever want to leave and end up making the town their home.

Shepherdstown is the oldest town in West Virginia, established in the 1730s by landowner Thomas Shepherd as Mecklenberg. Early on, the area's steady supply of water attracted artisans—millers, tanners, and potters who built houses along Town Creek and the Potomac River. By the end of the 18th century, the plentiful supply of clay had spawned brickyards. Many of the homes and businesses built more than 300 years ago of local stone and brick remain today, repurposed as shops, restaurants, and lodging.

For Civil War buffs, Shepherdstown is hallowed ground—the kind that raises the hairs on the back of your neck. On September 17, 1862, residents of Shepherdstown heard the incessant boom of cannons five miles away on Antietam Creek, near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Battle of Antietam was the first Civil War

conflict on Union soil and the single bloodiest day in American history, with nearly 23,000 dead, wounded, and missing on both sides. As Robert E. Lee retreated across the Potomac just south of Shepherdstown, 5,000 to 8,000 wounded Confederate soldiers sought comfort from the townspeople. Every house, business, and church was overflowing with the injured, and bodies lined the streets and alleys. Many of the soldiers are buried at Elmwood Cemetery on the outskirts of town.

Despite its somber history, the Shepherdstown of today (population 2,000) is young in spirit, bolstered by students from Shepherd University, which is located in the center of town and boasts year-round concerts, plays, sporting events, and other entertainment open to the public.

An influx of academics, artists, and retirees have contributed to the rich cultural mix. Residents are also passionate about active pursuits like hiking, biking, and canoeing or kayaking on the Potomac. German Street is lined with an eclectic mix of shops—you'll find everything from clothing, jewelry, toys, and homegoods to gourmet food, books, and artisan-made products. For nearby lodging options, check out the **Bavarian Inn, Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, Mecklenburg Inn, Thomas Shepherd Inn, and Quality Inn.** shepherdstownvisitorscenter.com

DINING IN SHE TOWN

The Press Room

In this historic red brick building, you'll find amazing dishes with a Mediterranean flair that draw locals and visitors alike. Sunday brunch is a local favorite at The Press Room from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. *129 West German Street, 304.876.8777*



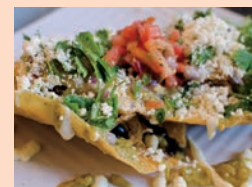
The Shepherdstown Sweet Shop Bakery

The place to go for gourmet coffee, soups, and sandwiches on fresh bread along with doughnuts, cakes, cookies, and fine pastries. *100 West German Street, 304.876.2432, 800.922.5379, wvbakery.com*



Maria's Taqueria

Enjoy a new spin on burritos and tacos made with the freshest ingredients. Try the out-of-this-world Maria's Chimi. The fish tacos are also a local favorite, and no meal is complete without the fried plantains. *108 East German Street, 304.876.3333*



Domestic

This fun and eclectic restaurant has a fabulous bar serving creative cocktails, beer, and wine. Its lunch and dinner menu includes items like Glazed + Confused—a burger served on a glazed donut bun—and entrees like Shrimp and Grits and Blackened Catfish. *117 East German Street, 304.876.1030, wvdomestic.com*



Blue Moon Café

The outdoor seating at Blue Moon Café is the perfect place to enjoy delectable sandwiches, soups, and salads made from locally sourced produce. *200 East High Street, 304.876.1920, [@bluemoonwv](https://www.facebook.com/bluemoonwv) on Facebook*



CATF

The nationally acclaimed **Contemporary American Theater Festival**, hosted by Shepherd University, produces the newest plays in America in the oldest town in West Virginia—Shepherdstown. It is an annual presentation of six new revolving plays by American playwrights—works dealing with contemporary issues snatched from the headlines that challenge and entertain audiences. It brings celebrated playwrights and actors together with an appreciative audience from around the country in unexpected ways. According to *The New York Times*, it is one of “50 essential summer festivals,” and *The Washington Post* called it “...one of the nation’s most satisfying seasonal destinations for original drama.” The season typically spans the month of July. For schedules, tickets, and list of plays, visit catf.org.



Bavarian Inn

Located on a spectacular bluff overlooking the Potomac River, the **Bavarian Inn Resort and Brewing Company** is a European-inspired boutique resort famous for incredible food, warm hospitality, and the finest in guest comforts. For over 40 years, the Asam family has hosted friends and neighbors on their 11-acre property and treated them to world-class cuisine and service. From its beginnings as a single restaurant, the resort has grown to include 72 luxury rooms, multiple restaurants, a stunning infinity pool, and a brewery.

Award-winning international cuisine is a hallmark of the Bavarian Inn. The Potomac Room offers an extensive menu of German and American fare prepared by master chefs. If you crave a more casual dining experience, the Rathskeller will remind you of an old-world European pub, with its rich wood panelling and weekend entertainment. Or grab a drink and appetizer poolside at the Infinity 101 Pool & Bar. The new brewpub and lounge offers guests beautiful soft seating areas to



Bavarian Brothers Brewing

The newest addition to the resort is Bavarian Brothers Brewing offering high-quality microbrews in the new brewpub, lounge, or outdoor beer garden. The brewpub is a casual dining concept offering small bites, sandwiches, and lighter options and is a great space to relax and enjoy conversation with friends. In the morning, discover fresh roasts by **Black Dog Coffee** paired with pastries and breakfast bites. The Brewery’s logo is a tribute to the families rich, German heritage, so be sure to ask about the story behind the logo. And all the beers pay homage to the history of the inn and the local area. Try an **Erwin’s Angry Ale**, a playful tribute to the “fine German engineering” of the inn’s founder Erwin Asam.

relax and enjoy conversation, craft brews, fine wines, and delicious food in the afternoon and evening.

The Bavarian Inn is locally renowned for its European Sunday Brunch Buffet, with eight food stations featuring breakfast favorites, seafood, European cuisine, pasta, salads, and delectable desserts.

Four Alpine-style chalets overlook the Potomac River and offer guests large, luxuriously finished staterooms graced with classical furnishings and all the modern amenities. Private balconies overlooking the scenic Potomac are the perfect spot for a morning coffee or an evening nightcap.

Manor-view rooms feature private balconies overlooking the Greystone Manor and grounds and feature gas fireplaces and relaxing whirlpool tubs to soak away your busy day of exploring.

Possibly the most beautiful spot at the resort is the Infinity 101 Pool, which overlooks the Potomac River. Poolside or from the balcony above the pool bar, spectacular views of the river and stunning surroundings are all around you. Cool off, try a specialty cocktail, and take a quick nap in paradise.



CHARLES TOWN

Charles Town, named for George Washington's youngest brother, was home to several members of the Washington family for many years. Charles laid out his namesake town in 1787 on 80 acres of land adjoining his estate, **Happy Retreat**, naming streets after his brothers and his wife, Mildred. You can visit **Zion Episcopal Church Cemetery**, where numerous Washington family members are buried.

Today, the streets of Charles Town are lined with 18th century homes and historic structures, like the **Jefferson County Courthouse**, the only courthouse in America to have held two treason trials—the trial of abolitionist John Brown and the Battle of Blair Mountain labor rebellion trial. You can also view the exact spot where John Brown was

hanged on December 2, 1859—at the **Gibson-Todd House** at 515 South Samuel Street. The **Jefferson County Museum** at Washington and Samuel streets houses a collection of Native American and Civil War memorabilia, including the cot from Brown's jail cell and the wagon that took him to his hanging.

The community is home to the **Old Opera House** at 204 North George Street, built in 1910, and several eclectic restaurants and shops that keep the town buzzing with people. But Charles Town is perhaps best known for the Charles Town Races, one of the country's oldest thoroughbred racetracks, opened in 1933 on the outskirts of town. In 2010, the complex became the **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**—a destination that draws thousands to the area.

Washington Street Artists Cooperative Gallery Located at 108 North George Street, this gallery juries and exhibits local artists from across the region. Open Thursday through Sunday. Check washingtonstartists.org for hours.



Hillbrook Inn With its elegant guestrooms, relaxing spa, and acclaimed restaurant, you'll never want to leave this historic estate property, which includes luxury rooms in the Main House, Gatehouse Suites, and Cottage Suites plus two additional homes, The Hawthorne House and Farmhouse Suites. Recently named "The Most Romantic Hotel in West Virginia" by *Reader's Digest*. hillbrookinn.com



Abolitionist Ale Works Looking for a place to quench your thirst? Specializing in flavorful, creative craft beers with natural ingredients, Abolitionist Ale Works has created a following. While most of the flavors rotate, a few favorites are kept on tap. Alpha Mayle IPA, the brewery's top seller, is made with Citra and Simcoe hops, and Blue & Gold n' Delicious & Tart is fermented with blueberries and apples. The brewpub also serves up artisan pizzas. 129 West Washington Street, 681.252.1548, abolitionistaleworks.com



Magic Mosaic Art enlivens a town, and this incredible mural by artist Isaiah Zagar, who famously created Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, is insta-worthy. The mural is located at the corner of George and Washington streets.

OFF-TRACK FUN

9 DRAGONS

For some of the best Asian cuisine this side of the Pacific, 9 Dragons has made a name for itself with its fresh sushi and creative Hong Kong-style cuisine. If sushi isn't your thing, try perennial favorite Peking Duck or choose from one of the several chef specialty noodle dishes. The ambiance is as exotic as the food—not what you'd expect to find in a casino—and the wait staff is exceptional.



FINAL CUT STEAKHOUSE

It isn't a gamble to eat at Final Cut, a contemporary American steakhouse, open Wednesday through Sunday. In addition to the highest quality cuts of beef, you'll also find free-range chicken, cold-water lobster, sushi-grade ahi tuna, shellfish, and incredible side dishes on the menu. Not to mention a 400 bottle wine list.



EVENT CENTER AND H LOUNGE

National artists like Trace Adkins, Sinbad, and Dwight Yoakam, as well as a long list of popular stand-up comedians, have headlined at the casino's 1,200-seat music and comedy venue. For an exciting night out, The H Lounge is the place to go. Regional musicians and DJs provide entertainment, while mixologists keep the good times rollin'.



Side Bets

➔ **THE HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT CHARLES TOWN RACES** is a renowned Mountain State destination that offers a Vegas-themed gaming atmosphere with 1930s art deco flair.

With roots in horse racing, Hollywood Casino was a thoroughbred track long before it was an upscale destination. Built in 1933 by Albert and Joseph Boyle, the track was first known as Charles Town Races. Opening shortly after the State Legislature legalized racing and betting, it was West Virginia's first horse racing venue and, at the time, was the only track in the country to operate all year. Upon opening, the track had 22 buildings, 12 stables, a clubhouse, 44 betting windows, a 3,000-seat grandstand, and a restaurant.

The casino, resort, and track added video lottery machines in 1996, and now have nearly 2,500 machines as well as 75 table games. Choose from

hundreds of the latest multi-line, multi-coin machines and dollar games galore. Experience big-time jackpots in the high-limit area on \$5, \$10, \$25, and even \$100 machines. If you're looking for no-limit action, you'll find it at the Hollywood Casino poker room, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

New to the casino is sport betting—and it has never been easier. You can place wagers on football, basketball, hockey, soccer, baseball, golf, tennis, auto racing, rugby, cycling, boxing and MMA, and cricket. Professional and collegiate betting options will also be available. Hollywood's Sportsbook features high-top table seating—with individual viewing stations and lounge seating coming soon—with 24 odds-display monitors and 50 feet of wall space dedicated to 80-inch TVs for viewing the best games. And no matter where in the casino you choose to play, you'll enjoy complimentary beverages including beer, wine, and cocktails.



Hit the Hay

➔ **Hollywood Casino** has a 150-room **The Inn at Charles Town** with 18 spacious and luxury suites overlooking the racetrack. While the scenery of the neighboring Blue Ridge Mountains and Hollywood Casino's activities are sure to wow visitors, customer service is what brings people back. Free shuttle service is available for guests.



RANSON

Imagine flying into Washington Dulles International Airport after a long trip to some far-flung locale. Weary from your journey, you just want to find some peace and quiet. As quickly as possible.

Well, if you're headed to Ranson, West Virginia, you're in luck. This Jefferson County hamlet of just over 4,000 people offers authentic small-town life just 40 minutes from the airport and just an hour from the nation's capital.

The Ranson of Yesterday

Although the town of Ranson is just over a century old, the history of the area goes back centuries. Members of George Washington's family had homes here (*read more on page 13*). Both Union and Confederate troops passed through the area during the American Civil War.

As a municipality, the town of Ranson traces its origins to the late 1800s. Back then, it was part of its

next-door neighbor, Charles Town. The Charles Town Mining, Manufacturing & Improvement Company purchased 850 acres in the northwestern part of the city in May 1890. Much of the property came from the Ranson family.

The company started developing the land, which was soon filling up with factories, schools, businesses, and family homes. The town still boasts many homes from the era—one- and two-story single family dwellings that make it easy to imagine the people who lived here at the turn of the 20th century.

In 1910, residents of this section of town voted 69–2 to form their own town. They chose to name their new municipality after the family who once owned the land. Specifically, the town is named for local farmer and dentist Dr. James Ranson.

Stay

Holiday Inn Express

offers clean, comfortable rooms—and a continental breakfast—for reasonable prices. If you're planning a longer stay, try the **Home2Suites by Hilton**, where suites come with cooking and working areas.

The Hampton Inn & Suites Charles Town is just one mile from exciting gaming and entertainment at the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.

The Ranson of Today

Ranson's economy has undergone a significant shift in recent decades. It has embraced its role as a weekend getaway and bedroom community for big cities like Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

Ranson also offers plenty of recreation options—from musicals to motorsports—and plenty of locally owned shops and restaurants. You can learn the history of the region at the **Jefferson County Museum** or see the running of the thoroughbreds at nearby **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**. Go for a run of your own with **Two Rivers Treads** staff, then grab a pepperoni roll at **A Step In Time Bake Shop** inside the **Ranson Civic Center**.

The following pages contain some of the best Ranson has to offer, but don't just take our word for it. The town might only be eight square miles, but there's plenty to discover.



Center Stage

The Old Opera House remains a vibrant performing arts hub.

When the Old Opera House opened in 1911, locals referred to it as the “new” opera house. That moniker has long since worn off, but this 328-seat theater remains as important to the arts scene as ever.

The theater puts on six stage productions, a summer youth production, and a one-act play festival each year, plus a ballet every other year. It will host the 19th Annual New Voice Play Festival this June 21–23, featuring one-act plays from some of the country's best new playwrights. *204 North George Street, Charles Town, 304.725.4420, oldoperahouse.org, [@oohcharlestown](https://www.facebook.com/oohcharlestown) on Facebook*



The Home Stretch

See thundering thoroughbreds at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.

Albert J. Boyle knew how to capitalize on an opportunity. Shortly after the West Virginia Legislature legalized horse racing and betting, Boyle set about constructing a racetrack in Jefferson County. Although the nation was in the grips of the Great Depression, he invested \$160,000 to construct 22 buildings, 12 stables, a clubhouse, a restaurant, 44 betting windows, and a 3,000-seat, steam-heated grandstand.

The track, then known as Charles Town Races, struggled for its first few years. It was the Great Depression, after all. But then Boyle decided to host wintertime races. This began attracting deep-pocketed bettors from Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

Although West Virginia's oldest horse racing track is now surrounded by a state-of-the-art casino, a luxury hotel, and gourmet restaurants, horse racing remain a prime attraction. Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races remains one of the busiest thoroughbred courses in the country. There are more than 160 races scheduled this year, occurring Thursday through Saturday from May through April.

In April, the track hosted the 11th annual Charles Town Classic, which brought a \$1 million purse this year. The Race for the Ribbon will be held September 22, an event that raises money for the West Virginia Breast Health Initiative. The event has raised over \$100,000 for breast cancer treatment and awareness in its 10-year history.

On October 12, 2019, Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races will host the West Virginia Breeders' Classic. This event, now in its 33rd year, was created by NFL Hall of Famer and West Virginia native Sam Huff. Like the Charles Town Classic, it will be called by Larry Collmus, the voice of the Breeder's Cup World Championship.

The races at Hollywood Casino aren't just for bettors. While the casino is reserved for visitors 21 and older, the track is open to families—so fans of all ages can witness the power and majesty of the “sport of kings.” *750 Hollywood Drive, Charles Town, 800.795.7001, hollywoodcasinocharlestown.com, @hollywoodctr on Facebook*

Washingtons Slept Here

West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle is home to several historic houses with ties to our founding father.

In 1752, George Washington's brother Lawrence wrote him from his deathbed of their shared hopes for backcountry Virginia: "I agree that the Shenandoah Valley is one of the most pristine areas and likely to advance your fortune quite nicely." When Lawrence died, he left his Shenandoah Valley acreage to their younger brothers, Samuel, John, and Charles.

This is how the Washington family came to what is now West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. On that early legacy, the brothers and their descendants built sturdy homes that still stand.

Harewood

Samuel Washington was prominent in his own right before George became commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in 1775 and long before George was president. "In 1766, while he still lived in King George, Virginia, Samuel was one of the first signatories, along with brothers Charles and John, of the Leedstown Resolves, protesting the treatment of the colony by Parliament," says Samuel's great-great-great-great-great-grandson Walter Washington, who lives at Harewood today. Soon after, Samuel and family were the first Washingtons to move to the Shenandoah Valley. Their Harewood dazzled. As the only home still in Washington hands a quarter-millennium later, Harewood, just west of Charles Town, is arguably the gem.



Happy Retreat

Charles Washington moved to the Shenandoah Valley a decade after Samuel, in 1780. He built his home, Happy Retreat, just a few miles from Harewood and set aside an adjacent 80 acres to form Charles Town. When Jefferson County split off from Berkeley County in 1801, Charles Town became the county seat.

Happy Retreat changed hands a number of times and, by the time of the real estate boom of the early 2000s, its 12 acres were in danger of subdivision and development. The nonprofit Friends of Happy Retreat (FOHR) bought the house in July 2015 to preserve it. In a commitment to seeing Happy Retreat a living part of the community, FOHR has turned it into a cultural center for concerts, plays, and art exhibits.



Blakeley

Blakeley and the facing Claymont Court were built by brothers John Augustine and Bushrod Corbin Washington, grandsons of the president's younger brother John Augustine, between 1815 and 1820. The family story is that John Augustine built Blakeley smaller because he knew he would inherit Mount Vernon. "But even when they lived at Mount Vernon, Blakeley is where they came to get away from the August heat," says Walter Washington. Blakeley is in private ownership and closed to the public.

Claymont Court

The grandest home in the region, Bushrod Corbin's Claymont encompasses some 16,000 square feet. "There probably were homes in Virginia that were that big but certainly nothing in the Shenandoah Valley that even came close to that big," says local architectural historian John Allen. The current Georgian structure, dating to about 1840, replaced the original after it was destroyed by fire. It is owned today by the Claymont Society for Continuous Education.



Cedar Lawn

Built about 1825 by Samuel's grandson John Thornton Augustine on a portion of the original Harewood estate, Cedar Lawn was bought in the 1940s by the industrialist R.J. Funkhouser, who at one time also owned Claymont Court and Blakeley. It has been restored by the current owners, Taylor and Marjorie Fithian, and is not open to the public.



Beallair (not pictured)

The original structure was built by Thomas Beall in the late 1700s. Beall passed the home to his daughter Eliza and son-in-law George Corbin Washington, the grandson of President George Washington's older half-brother Augustine and a two-time U.S. congressman. The large main Classical Revival portion was built by George Corbin's son, Lewis. The home is owned today by a developer and stands behind a fence in a gated community.



BILL STUEER PHOTOGRAPHY

Zero to 50

The Summit Point Motorsports Park has been providing the Eastern Panhandle with high-octane thrills for five decades.

Racing has been a popular attraction in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle since the 1930s, when thoroughbreds came thundering into the area. But the horsepower increased significantly in 1969 with the opening of Summit Point Raceway.

The track immediately began hosting Sports Car Club of America-sanctioned events. Actor-turned-driver Paul Newman even ran a few of his early races here. What began as just one track has since expanded to four. Now, you can find racecars, go-karts, and motorcycles tearing up the asphalt almost every weekend from February through November.

Each May, the park offers a

throwback to its early days with The Jefferson 500. The event, one of the largest vintage car races in the northeast, regularly draws more than 200 vintage racecars for three days of racing. You can see the motorsports superstars of tomorrow at the park's Shenandoah Circuit, a track dedicated to kart racing, regularly hosting events with The Woodbridge Kart Club, the self-described "oldest, largest, and friendliest kart club" in the nation.

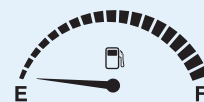
Spectators will enjoy the concession stand and its menu of breakfast, lunch, and dinner options—including the famous 100 MPH Chili. For those staying the whole weekend, there are electric hook-ups for RVs and two bath houses.

The track provides opportunities for

regular joes and janes to get in on the action. During Friday at the Track, drivers can put their street cars on the track and try them out. Beginner and intermediate drivers receive classroom instruction, then get four sessions on the track with a ride-along instructor, while advanced drivers go solo.

For an even bigger thrill, the park's Drift Nirvana program teaches drivers how to "drift," that controlled tire-screaming skidding that's usually seen in *The Fast and the Furious* movies and *Gran Torino* video games.

The speedway hosts driver education classes for beginning drivers, who learn the basics of automobile operation, and more advanced drivers, who learn how to handle highway emergencies. It also serves as a training facility for military and law enforcement personnel. 201 Motorsports Circle, Summit Point, 304.725.8444, summitpoint-raceway.com, @summitpoint on Facebook



Fuel Up

Time for a pit stop? **Ortega's Taco Shop** offers burritos, quesadillas and authentic street-style tacos. Cheesy slices are the marquee feature at **Pizza City**, but don't miss the cheesesteaks and spaghetti. **Billie's Cafe** is a cozy diner with stick-to-your-ribs home cooking. For a taste of the Mediterranean, try the kebabs, gyros, and baklava at **John's Café & Grill**.

Bring the Past Back to Life

The Jefferson County Museum is filled with not-so-hidden treasures.

For more than 50 years, the Jefferson County Museum has been providing an up-close look at the history of the region through its collection of more than 2,200 historic artifacts. The collection includes paintings by local artists, handmade quilts, children's toys, common household objects from the 1700s to today, and uniforms and weapons from the Civil War and both World Wars.

The facility, which shares a building with the Charles Town Library, also has an extensive collection of original documents, including personal correspondence and maps, and photographs dating from the invention of photography through the 21st century.

100 Years of Dolls

See how the construction of children's toys changed over time, from fabric to papier mache and porcelain to plastic. At the end, kids can make their own dolls from clothes pins.

Jefferson County in Photos: Then & Now

A photo display in the museum entry hall illustrates both the changing nature of the county over time as well as its enduring heritage through vintage images of county buildings and places alongside with 21st century images of the same sites.

John Brown Raid

Radical abolitionist John Brown intended his infamous raid on the U.S. arsenal to start a slave uprising. Instead, he sparked the powder keg of the Civil War. Get an up-close look at the raid through artifacts—including the wagon that transported Brown to the gallows.

Slavery—Our Great National Sin

This sobering exhibit pulls no punches in highlighting one of the darkest chapters of our nation's history. See papers kept to track the sale and rental of people, and even the shackles that enslaved people once wore around their hands and feet. Read accounts of descendants of enslaved people from Jefferson County.

The Washington Family

Although George Washington did not live in the Eastern Panhandle, plenty of his family did. This exhibit contains artifacts, documents, and photographs that provide a glimpse into the private life of the most famous family in American politics.

The Jefferson County Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults but is free for children under 18, students with ID, and patrons of the Charles Town Library. 200 East Washington Street, Charles Town, 304.725.8628, jeffcomuseumwv.org, [@jeffersoncountymuseum on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jeffersoncountymuseum)



TREAD LIGHTLY

The nation's first minimalist shoe store wants to get you moving.

Whether you're running your first 5K, running the trails at Harpers Ferry Historical State Park, or just running some errands, you can find the shoes that will get you to the finish line at Two Rivers Treads.

This shop was founded by Mark Cucuzzella—a family doctor, Air Force Reserves lieutenant colonel, and accomplished marathoner—as the nation's first minimalist shoe store. Compared to heavily padded athletic shoes, minimalist shoes put less distance between your foot and the ground. This might sound dangerous, but it actually retrains your body to move the way nature intended, preventing injuries.

Two Rivers Treads' employees, all of whom are runners, are knowledgeable about the store's inventory, since they try out every shoe they sell. They can help pick the perfect shoe for your stride and experience level. The shop also carries running clothes and hydration packs, along with anything else you need to get moving, and hosts multiple group runs each week. 400 South Mildred Street, Ranson, 304.885.8843, [tworivertreads.com](https://www.tworivertreads.com), [@tworivertreads on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tworivertreads)

To a Tee

Looking to work on your handicap while also enjoying the scenic beauty of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle? Look no farther than **Locust Hill Golf Course**. This challenging 18-hole course features rolling greens, 35 acres of water features, and hidden bunkers, all against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Book a "Stay and Play" package to get a round of golf, a deluxe overnight stay at The Rodeway Inn, a \$10 bonus at Hollywood Casino, and free shuttle service. 278 St. Andrews Drive, Charles Town, 304.728.7300, [@locusthillgolf on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/locusthillgolf)



eat it up

ROLLIN' IN DOUGH

This local favorite serves up a West Virginia delicacy—pepperoni rolls.

➔ **TERRY WILSON** and Marla Staubs opened **A Step in Time Bake Shop** in 2017 in a small house near Harpers Ferry. Locals soon fell in love with everything that emerged from the shop's ovens, especially Mama Jo's Pepperoni Rolls and Cliffside Rum Rolls.

The pepperoni rolls are based on a generations-old family bread recipe, which gets wrapped around slices of pepperoni and cheese. The Cliffside Rum Rolls are a revival of a local favorite, made using a recipe from the long-gone Cliffside Motel and Restaurant where Staubs worked as a girl.

By fall 2018, A Step in Time had outgrown its original location and relocated to the Ranson Civic Center, where the bakery now offers an expanded catering menu as well as pepperoni rolls and baked goods for pick-up. The shop also ships its pepperoni rolls and rum rolls anywhere in the United States. Visit the website to place an order. *432 West 2nd Street, Ranson, hfbakeshop.com, @astepintimebakeshop on Facebook*



Center of Attention

There is always something happening at the Ranson Civic Center.

There are plenty of civic centers in the world, but few live up to the name. **The Ranson Civic Center** does.

On any given day, the facility might host a cornhole tournament or a trade show or a banquet or a pro wrestling event. You might also see senior citizens walking laps around the gymnasium to get their 10,000 steps in, or hungry lunchgoers grabbing a pepperoni roll from A Step in Time Bake Shop.

It's strange to think that, not long ago, this vibrant community hub was an abandoned eyesore. It used to be a paint shop for a soft drink machine factory but had sat vacant after the company packed up and left town in the 1980s. It eventually came under the ownership of the Maytag Corporation which, after eight years of red tape, donated the tumbledown building to the city of Ranson in 2009.

With the transaction finally complete, the city began working to rehabilitate the

40,000- square-foot facility. Workers cleaned and painted, and they upgraded its flooring, lighting, and HVAC system. They installed batting cages and Wi-Fi.

Now it regularly hosts athletic competitions, conventions and trade shows, craft fairs, indoor yard sales, and other social events. There are youth and adult basketball leagues, wrestling and volleyball tournaments, and dance classes by the New Hopewell Center For The Arts. The civic center is also a popular venue for pickleball—a fast-paced paddle sport that's like a combination of badminton, ping-pong, and tennis—and hosts a league for local pickleball enthusiasts.

In 2018, the civic center became the home of A Step in Time Bake Shop after the successful small business outgrew its original location (see the sidebar on this page for more information about this local favorite). *432 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, 304.725.2437, cityofransonwv.net, @ransonparks on Facebook*

Harpers Ferry | Charles Town | Shepherdstown

Harpers Ferry
is One of the
"Best Places to
Visit in 2019"
— Reader's Digest

It's Historic



It's Jefferson County, West Virginia. Where scenic rivers and adventure trails pass through historic mountain towns. Discover our little panhandle of paradise.

DiscoveritallWV.com | 1-866-HELLO-WV

JEFFERSON
COUNTY
It's Everything





MARTINSBURG

Nestled at the gateway to the stunning Shenandoah Valley, Martinsburg offers access to big-city amenities while maintaining the charm of small-town living.

The heart of downtown lies just off of Interstate 81, making it a bedroom community for the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Martinsburg, the largest city in the Eastern Panhandle, serves as the seat of Berkeley County. Visitors will discover modern entertainment, lively festivals, and contemporary dining along the picturesque avenues. Yet, with historical architecture tucked amongst the bustle, a journey back in time is only steps away.

Martinsburg was home to the state's first post office. In the 1840s, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad laid tracks that ignited the region's industry. Conflicts during the Civil War solidified the town's place in history as the Union and Confederacy contended for this geographically important location. Confederate spy Belle Boyd was later arrested here in 1863 and imprisoned.

Following the war, water and electricity revitalized Martinsburg and transformed it into a textile factory hub.

Beautiful orchards blossomed in the countryside outside of town, and Berkeley County became a leading apple producer. A cultural landmark constructed in 1913, the **Apollo Civic Theatre** continues to host stage productions and community events.

The area boasts several stops along the **Washington Heritage Trail** driving tour, which identifies unique historical sites along 136 scenic miles of the Eastern Panhandle. Berkeley County's must-visit locations include the **Morgan Cabin**—home of the first white settlers in West Virginia—**Green Hill Cemetery**, and **Mills Gap**, which offers a panoramic view of farmlands.

The wilderness leaves lots of room for play. Hike the more than 20,000 acres of **Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area**. Launch a kayak or canoe for a weekend float down the **Potomac River**.

With endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, impeccable historical landmarks, and vibrant shopping and dining, Martinsburg is a town of rich traditions and stunning new discoveries.

check out THESE SHOPPING SPOTS

Take a stroll around **North Queen Street** for unique finds. Pick a one-of-a-kind masterpiece from the vintage posters, African tribal art, and original artwork at **Queen Street Gallery** (queenstreetgallery.com). Open seven days a week, the West Virginia Glass Outlet ([@westviriniaglassoutlet](https://www.facebook.com/westviriniaglassoutlet) on Facebook) marvels shoppers with its rainbow array of hand-blown glass. Stop and smell the roses at **Flowers Unlimited** (flowersunlimitedwv.com). They sell floral arrangements for special events or bouquets for those "just because" moments.



GEOCACHING

Navigate Berkeley County armed with nothing but a GPS.

GO ON A REAL LIFE TREASURE

HUNT this summer with geocaching. An any age and anytime activity, geocaching's sole requirements are a GPS or smartphone and a love for the outdoors. Participants find "caches," or hidden containers, using GPS coordinates. Once you locate the cache, sign the logbook to record your success. You can also bring along a small knick-knack and swap it out for a souvenir left by a previous geocacher.

The Martinsburg-Berkeley County Convention and Visitors Bureau has partnered with geocaching expert Tim Eggleston, otherwise known as WVTim, to design unique geotrails like "Mystery Caches of Berkeley County" and "Smart Caches of Berkeley County." Visit 13 of the 15 caches along the trail to collect a unique, trackable coin. Berkeley County is a favorite site for geocachers country-wide, so charge your phone, round up your friends, and go hunting for your next adventure. travelwv.com



War Stories

➔ **HISTORY COURSES DEEP** through the streets of Martinsburg. General Adam Stephen, the town's founder, fought alongside George Washington as his second-in-command during the French and Indian War. He also served during the Revolutionary War. **General Adam Stephen's house** at 309 East John Street ([304.267.4434](tel:304.267.4434), orgsites.com/wv/adam-stephen, [@adamstephenhouse on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/adamstephenhouse)) is a national landmark. Made from locally quarried limestone, the building even has a basement entrance to the natural underground tunnel system that snakes below town. The neighboring Triple Brick Museum, built in the 1870s to house railroad workers, also showcases historical memorabilia.

Martinsburg's prominence as a transportation center led to its importance to both sides during the Civil War. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad first crisscrossed the town with tracks in 1841. These tracks later became a prime route for hauling troops and supplies, which made it a target for attacks. By the Civil War's conclusion, the besieged town had changed hands 50 times, and the railroad was left in ruins. In 1866, the B&O Railroad rebuilt the **Martinsburg Roundhouse** ([304.260.4141](tel:304.260.4141), themartinsburgroundhouse.com, [@themartinsburgroundhouse on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/themartinsburgroundhouse)) which had a turntable to service locomotives. An architectural marvel, it's the only remaining

roundhouse worldwide with a cast iron frame. Seasonal Saturday tours of the Roundhouse Center at 100 East Liberty Street are available.

Espionage also marks a chapter in Martinsburg's storied past, courtesy of Civil War spy Belle Boyd. This spirited young lady relayed messages about Union activities to Stonewall Jackson. Her reconnaissance career led to imprisonments, but she ultimately secured release and went on to write and act. **The Belle Boyd House** at 126 East Race Street where she grew up now serves as a museum about Berkeley County's history ([304.267.4713](tel:304.267.4713), bchs.org). Next door is the Berkeley County Historical Society Archives Center, which contains a treasure trove of family records, photographs, maps, and microfiche.





Escape to the Woods

The Woods offers endless recreation and pampering for your next getaway.

A short drive beyond the hubbub of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., The Woods is a peaceful oasis sprawling across 1,800 acres. Tee off at either of the 18-hole golf course—one mid-length course ideal for recreational golfers and a championship course for those seeking more of a challenge. Even if you don't make par, walking or riding a golf cart across the fairways lined with trees is enough to make for a pleasant day. Youngsters can enjoy playing FootGolf, which is golf played with a soccer ball.

Swing by the courts to pick up a game of tennis or volleyball, or hit the field for a few innings of softball. Don't worry about rainy days as the indoor sports center includes a heated swimming pool, multi-purpose court, and exercise room.

If the mountains are calling, toss a line in with catch-and-release fishing. Walkers and joggers often hit the pavement along the quiet country roads winding around the resort. Or lace up your boots and check out the adjoining **Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area**, which offers miles of hiking trails to explore.

Once you've worked up an appetite, dine at the **Clubhouse Grille & Pub** overlooking the greens. Saturday evenings feature live music from an array of talented performers. Treat yourself at **The Sleepy Creek Spa** with a soothing facial or much-needed massage.

Tired souls can hit the hay at any of rental cottages and cabins. Privately owned villas also available for rental border the golf courses or dot wooded lots. Some visitors find their home at The Woods, and purchase one of the many properties in the friendly community.

Whether staying for a weekend or a lifetime, you will want to get lost at The Woods. 1630 The Woods Road, 304.754.7977, thewoods.com



» When You Go

Celebrate summer's close with the annual WoodsFest, held this year on September 14. Free to the public, enjoy live music and tasty eats while browsing artisan fares. Previous vendors have showcased handmade ceramics, unique jewelry, colorful paintings, and metalworking and woodworking. [@woodsfestwv on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/woodsfestwv)

Sleepy Creek Spa

Energize

At The Sleepy Creek Spa, ladies and gents can unwind. Sip herbal tea or take a dip in the whirlpool before beginning your pampering session. To rejuvenate your skin, try one of the seaweed or yogurt body wraps. Or soak in a heated mud treatment, followed by a shower and massage.

Harmonize

Freshen up your nails with a manicure or pedicure, complete with a hand or foot massage and your choice of polish. Especially for the guys, the sports pedicure soaks your aching feet, smoothes away calluses, and grooms your nails—sans the polish. Don't forget the kids, too. Those ages 7 to 12 can get pampered with a princess manicure or pedicure.

Relax

Several massage packages means relief is at hand, no matter the ache. From deep tissue to aromatherapy and Swedish to stone massages, the most stressful part is choosing just one. Need a date idea for you and your significant other? Schedule the couple's massage.

Renew

Try out a fresh new 'do with a style and cut at the salon. Prepping for a special event? Professional makeup application and spray tanning can get you picture-perfect. The spa also does deep cleansing and exfoliating facials for soothed, hydrated skin. 1630 The Woods Road, 304.754.7977, [@sleepycreekspa on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sleepycreekspa)

Stein, Wine, and Dine

*Find good eats and good times
in downtown Martinsburg.*

Whether you're grabbing a quick bite to eat while shopping or planning an elegant date night, Martinsburg has restaurants to satisfy any craving. Since 1958, **Blue White Grill** (101 North Queen Street, 304.263.3607, bluwhitegrill.com) has dished up hearty, old-fashioned diner meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The omelets alone are a feast, packed with anything from hickory-smoked ham and cheddar cheese to grilled mushrooms and sweet onions. For a classic dish, opt for a juicy burger with a side of coleslaw. Save room for homemade pies. Decadent flavors include chocolate peanut butter and coconut cream. Hand-dipped milkshakes and malts come topped with whipped cream and a cherry.

Take another step back in time at **Patterson's Drug Store** (134 South Queen Street, 304.267.8903, [@pattersonsdrugstore on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pattersonsdrugstore)). This retro eatery is heavy on the

charm with its authentic soda fountain, creamy milkshakes, and friendly service. A crowd favorite is the Jojo, a concoction that's part root beer float, part banana split, and all delicious.



Break out your chopsticks for **New Peking Restaurant** (139 South Queen Street, 304.263.6544, newpekingmartinsburg.com). Pique your appetite with pillowy dumplings or crispy egg rolls. Then grab a main dish like noodles and fried rice. Continue your international cuisine travels with homemade Italian food at **Casa Visone Italian Bistro** (120 North Queen Street, 304.260.9294, casavisone.com). Start with warm bowl of pasta fagioli soup and one

of the antipasti offerings like fresh asparagus topped with prosciutto or smoked salmon with garlic crostini. Penne, spaghettini, fettuccine, linguine, and ravioli round out the pasta courses. Or dine on dishes featuring grilled chicken, veal, and seafood.

Hankering for more of a southern fare? **Habanero Mexican Grill** (100 North Queen Street, 304.596.5667, habanerowv.com) serves fresh-from-scratch burritos, quesadillas, tacos, and nachos. The brick-and-mortar location is in a Gothic revival building that

DeFluri's Fine Chocolates

Everything's better with chocolate, and that includes a day in Martinsburg. In 1998, the family-run Defluri's Fine Chocolates relocated its factory and showroom to a 1930s-era building on North Queen Street. The chocolatiers have been satisfying the town's sweet tooth ever since.

Classics include sea salt caramels, toffee, cherries jubilee, and chocolate-covered peanut butter morsels.

But don't be surprised if you find a new favorite like candied orange peel dipped in dark chocolate. Truffles come in exotic flavors like blackberry, passion fruit, and amaretto. The wine truffles are even crafted from locally grown West Virginia grapes. Made from real butter and fresh whipping cream, these chocolates are ones that will turn anyone into a connoisseur.

130 North Queen Street, 304.264.3698, defluris.com





once was Martinsburg's marketplace, but the restaurant also runs a food truck dubbed the "Habster." With four kinds of salsa ranging from mild to extra hot, spice-adverse and spice-lovers alike can find a type to suit them.

The wine connoisseur needs to plan an evening at **Brix27** (131 North Queen Street, 304.616.1628, brix27.com). This cozy wine bar dishes up small plates with locally sourced ingredients and features an extensive array of spirits, brews, and wine. Another upscale place to sit and sip is **Boyd's Steakhouse** (109 North Queen Street, 304.262.2693, boydsteakhouse.com). The bar at this speakeasy-style restaurant was once owned by infamous gangster Al Capone.

Vegans and vegetarians—or even just the health-conscious foodie—should stop by **Good Natured** (209 South Raleigh Street, 304.262.9978, goodnaturedllc.com). Grab a coffee, then choose breakfast or lunch from the cafe's scrumptious selections. Non-meat sandwich options include a lentil breakfast burger, ginger-baked tofu reuben, and



marinated tempeh BLT. Salads come loaded with organic greens, veggies, and unique extra toppings like sriracha almonds, curry cashews, or figs. The health food market stocks groceries like dried beans and grains, local eggs, and dairy alternatives.

Don't forget dessert. **Everything Cheesecake** (324 West Stephen Street, 304.350.1567, [@everythingcheesecake on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/everythingcheesecake)) whips up fresh cheesecakes every day, and featured flavors can be purchased by the slice. More of a cupcake fan? **Latte' Da Cupcakery** (202 South Queen Street, 304.707.8237, [@lattedacupcakery on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lattedacupcakery)) bakes gourmet cupcakes from mini to full size. Whether a classic vanilla or orange dreamsicle, each is topped with a generous dollop of icing. The cupcakery also brews a variety of espresso drinks with local **Black Dog Coffee**.

No matter your food hankering, it's no question that Martinsburg delivers on the flavors. The only question left is: Where are you going to eat next?

BACK DRAFT DISTILLERY

Raise your glass at this local moonshine distillery

➔ What once began as a family horse farm is now serving up good times with moonshine. Opened in December 2013, **Black Draft Distillery** is the first distillery in Berkeley County since prohibition. When the Prices' beloved draft horse Biscuit passed, they searched for a new activity to fill their empty barn. The result? Moonshine.

Moonshine is unaged corn whiskey, and Black Draft's is made from grains grown in-state. You can't go wrong with its classic First Harvest moonshine, but the White Julep also makes for a refreshing summer cocktail. Can't decide between coffee or whiskey? With Rise & Shine Coffee moonshine—made with Black Dog Coffee—you don't have to choose. Black Draft also brews up small-batch straight bourbon and recently added vodka to its brands. Tours are available by appointment. 1140 Kelly Island Road, 540.686.0100, blackdraftdistillery.com





Orr's Farm Market

This charming farm offers Martinsburg fresh food, festivals, and all-around family fun.

Right outside of Martinsburg is a picturesque farm with magnificent orchards that's one of the region's hidden gems. Whether on the quest for fresh crops or simply a refreshing afternoon outdoors, Orr's Farm Market has all the best pickings. They sell produce, host festivals, and lead educational tours.

The current farm market opened in 1995, yet the farm's beginnings took root decades prior. During the Great Depression, George S. Orr Jr. spent his childhood working on

his grandfather's fruit and berry farm. In the 1950s, Orr purchased his own acreage for an orchard in West Virginia. Over the years, the Orr family accumulated land, fruit, and customers. They initially sold wholesale produce, but increased interest from locals planted the seed for opening a retail side of the business. Although the patriarch has since passed, members of the Orr family continue to run much of the farm's affairs alongside dedicated employees.

Now, customers at Orr's Farm Market can browse fresh produce, jams, sauces, and pancake and soup mixes. The bakery's range of baked goods is delightfully enticing—pies, cookies, muffins, breads, and fruit turnovers. If you're lucky, you might even spot apple cider doughnuts. Those willing to take their shopping experience to the next level they can pick their own fruits in the orchards during various harvest dates throughout the spring and summer or pumpkins in the pumpkin patch come autumn.

Special events attract crowds year-round—bluegrass weekends in the summer, fall fun days with hayrides, and Easter bunny visits and scavenger hunts. Spring also paints the orchards with delicate peach and apple blossoms. Old MacDonald might be surprised to discover some unconventional animals on the Orr's farm—bison. The herd has called the place home for several years, and visitors can see these majestic beasts roaming their fenced fields.

Kids often frequent the farm on school field trips and group tours. There, they learn the importance of agriculture, how produce is grown, and the value of healthy eating. Especially for children who might have never visited a farm before, the firsthand experience can be meaningful in instilling good nutrition.

Of course, Orr's Farm Market makes for a great family outing any time. From seasonal activities and crafts to berry-plucking and pumpkin-picking, this is one farm that seems to grow memories. 682 Orr Drive, 304.263.1168, orrsfarmmarket.com



Pick Your Own

➔ **EVERY COOK KNOWS** that having the freshest ingredients makes for the most mouthwatering dishes. A quick jaunt off Interstate 81, **Taylor's Farm Market** in Inwood offers a wide selection of West Virginia crops, foods, home decor, and gear six days a week. Whether tart Granny Smiths or juicy honeycrisps, the rainbow selection of local apples are perfect for baking and snacking. Farms from around the state provide meats from uncured bacon and pork chops to chicken and lamb. **Trickling Springs Creamery** sells organic milk, rich butter, and luscious ice cream flavors.

With dinner and dessert covered, don't forget the beverages. Taylor's Farm Market features a selection of local microbrewery beers and wines. Soaps, candles, cookbooks, and assorted apparel also make for great gifts.

Stop by the market's **Cider Press Deli & Grill** (ciderpressdeliandgrill.com, @ciderpressdeliandgrill on Facebook) for delectable dishes made from scratch, which feature ingredients from the market when possible. The half-pound burgers come from locally raised, hormone-free beef, and the paninis use locally sourced bread. Other offerings include housemade soups, salads, and crab cakes. Follow their Facebook page for an up-to-date list of seasonal festivals and specialty dinners. 178 Pilgrim Street, 304.400.6123, taylors-farm-market.myshopify.com

Wonderment Puppet Theater

➔ **Whether you're young or just young at heart**, this charming theater provides a slice of magic and a lot of laughter with its one-of-a-kind puppet shows. In 2007, puppeteer Joe Santoro and his wife, Jane, purchased an 1880s Victorian house to start the Wonderment Puppet Theater, the region's only year-round interactive puppet theater.

Six original shows each year provide creative spins on classic fairy tales including The Frog Prince, Peter Rabbit, and The Elves and the Shoemaker. Joe writes and runs the show, orchestrating the sound effects and scenery. After every weekend performance—Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.—visitors can explore the play area's hands-on activities, wishing well, and very own play theater. The gift shop also includes a plethora of puppets for the aspiring puppeteer.



Have an upcoming birthday? Supply the food and cake, and Wonderment Puppet Theater will host your next party with a private show, music, and special effects lighting. The family fun doesn't stop on weekends, either. For groups passing through town, the theater can even arrange a weekday show. 412 West King Street, 304.258.4074, wondermentpuppets.com



TOP FESTIVALS

Circa Blue Fest transforms the Harry D. Shelley Park fairgrounds into a bluegrass blowout. The weekend of June 7, groove to concerts, attend instrument workshops, and chow down on barbecued eats. Stay the night with tent and RV camping. 2419 Golf Course Road, circabluefest.com

For avid geocachers, search for your next treasure on June 8 with the **Geocaching Trail and GeoTour**.

Mark your calendar for August's **Berkeley County Youth Fair**. The Miss Youth Fair contest kicks off this week-long schedule of livestock competitions, entertainment, and carnival rides. 2419 Golf Course Road, 304.263.5869, berkeleycountyouthfair.org

Fall Farm Fun Days in September at Orr's Farm Market (682 Orr Drive, 304.263.1168, orrsfarmmarket.com) include hayrides and a pumpkin patch. In October, enjoy apple-themed contests and cuisines at the annual **Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival**. 304.263.2500, msahf.com



THE ARTS

ALIVE and WELL HERE

↔ **One look at the painted parking meters** on Independence Street and you know you're in a place that's creative, quirky, and proud of it. Recognized annually as a top arts destination, Berkeley Springs is a great find for lovers of the arts.

The village traces its roots in the arts in part to famed 19th century sketch artist and travel writer David Hunter Strother, popularly known as Porte Crayon, who owned the 500-room Berkeley Springs Hotel and attracted a creative crowd to town. Today, working artists make up a significant part of Morgan County's population, and Berkeley Springs is their hub. Studios and galleries across town display everything from photographs and paintings in all media to fiber, clay, glass, wood, and metal crafts, all from local artists.

The Ice House is your premier arts stop (138 Independence Street, 304.258.2300, macehouse.org). A one-time apple warehouse gifted to the Morgan Arts Council (MAC) in the 1990s, the Ice House is the center of arts education, practice, and appreciation in Morgan County. Its Hall of Dreams, Carr-Kelly, and Special Exhibit galleries feature exhibits that rotate frequently. Looking to buy? The Ice House Artists' Co-op serves as a place for its dozens of artist members to display and sell their works (icehousecoop.com).

The performing arts thrive in Berkeley Springs, too, with frequent dance, music, and theater performances. A summer concert series provides free live music at **Berkeley Springs State Park** every Saturday afternoon. Dance is a favorite local art form, especially bellydancing, with many classes and performances. And the active community theater produces everything from Shakespeare to musicals to locally written plays.

Anyone can get in on the art fun in Berkeley Springs—schedule a visit around a workshop, or join the annual October studio tour, when local artists invite the public into their creative processes.



BERKELEY SPRINGS

Natural warm springs gave this place just south of the Potomac River a hospitable start. The springs drew Native Americans, then colonists through the wilderness. It was still just a wet spot in the middle of the vast forest when a young George Washington arrived in 1748 as part of the party surveying Thomas Lord Fairfax's land grant. But by 1776 it had become such a destination that the Virginia General Assembly created the town of Bath, named for the spa city in England.

A day's journey from the malaria-ridden District of Columbia, Bath became the new nation's first spa town. It was a destination that offered hope to the afflicted and relaxation to Virginia's social elite—George Washington and his brother Samuel bought lots for summer cottages, as did signers of the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War generals, and members of the Continental Congress.

The community that grew up around the warm, healing mineral waters is unlike any other in the region, one centered

Explore These Shops

Unique finds await in Berkeley Springs' boutiques and galleries, many within a pleasant stroll of each other. Browse distinctive gifts at **Berkeley Springs Memories**, **Inspired Chaos**, **Jules**, **Mineral Springs Trading Company**, and **Mountain Laurel Gallery**. Shop tasty treats at **Fleur de Lis** cheese shop and **Naked Oil** gourmet oils. Find health products in **Portals** and at **Sage Moon Herb Shop**. Or take home some local history from **Appalachian Antiques**, the **Berkeley Springs Antique Mall**, or **Stop and Shop**.

on healing arts of all kinds. But the attractions in this lively little village—known for more than two centuries by its post office name, Berkeley Springs—go far beyond aromatherapy and hot stone massages. Its colonial and healing roots make it a first-class history stop. The entire downtown is an historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places, making for gracious streetscapes and a picturesque town center. A longtime active arts council has made the town a hub for arts of all kinds. And, as a destination from its beginning, Berkeley Springs has deep roots in hospitality, with an outsize number of quality inns and eateries and three times as many massage therapists as lawyers.

A day in Berkeley Springs offers delicious meals, boutique shopping, and expert pampering. But stay a while—make Berkeley Springs your jumping off point for day trips to the surrounding mountain and river attractions. Then return to enjoy the nightlife: from a vintage movie house to theater and dance performances and live music, you're sure to be entertained.



TREAT YOURSELF

No visit to Berkeley Springs is complete without a little healing self-indulgence. Many forms of bodywork can be found at day spas across town—or try one of these full-service spas.

Atasia Spa

Enjoy both old-fashioned West Virginia hospitality and Asian courtesy and respect. Atasia owner Frankie Tan has provided more than 25,000 massages in Berkeley Springs. Schedule your favorite type of massage, facial treatment or enhancement, or nail care—or pamper yourself with one of Atasia’s bath and body rituals such as sugar and salt scrubs, steam and herbal wraps, and mud treatments. atasiaspa.com

Berkeley Springs State Park

Combine relaxation and history with a visit to the spas at Berkeley Springs State Park. Have a soak in one of the large private bathing chambers at the Old Roman Bathhouse, in continuous use since 1815. Or choose the contemporary facilities at the 1929 Main Bathhouse. Here in addition to Roman bath you have the option of whirlpool bath, massage, and dry sauna. berkeleyspringssp.com

Renaissance Spa at The Country Inn

At this spa located in the historical Country Inn overlooking the springs and town, choose from Swedish, deep tissue, and hot stone massage as well as prenatal and couples experiences. Or try a Renaissance Spa signature skin care treatment like a Detoxifying Thai Body Wrap with creamy coconut and crisp lemongrass or a Moroccan Incense Body Ritual of a scrub, a body wrap, and a light massage with the scents of sandalwood and vanilla. arenaisancespa.com

Accolades

Berkeley Springs regularly earns state, regional, and national recognition.



Ranking the nation’s most stunning locales in October 2018, *Architectural Digest* named Berkeley Springs no. 27.



Berkeley Springs was named one of *Southern Living*’s 20 Charming Mountain Towns to Visit This Fall in 2017.



TripAdvisor listed Berkeley Springs among America’s Prettiest Small Town Vacations in November 2016.



Berkeley Springs was voted a Best Southern Small Town by readers of *USA Today* in 2015.



Berkeley Springs was named among The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America.



Springs Hospitality

Spend the night or spend the weekend—between historic inns, B&Bs, cottages, cabins, and camping, Berkeley Springs and Morgan County offer dozens of options. Here are just a few.

The Country Inn

The beloved 1933 Park View Inn adjacent to Berkeley Springs State Park on the historic site of the 19th century Berkeley Springs Hotel has taken on new life under the ownership of the local Omps family. Today's updated Country Inn is an experience unparalleled in the region. The stately inn offers 70 unique guest rooms and suites, a full-service restaurant serving in several unique dining areas (see page 32), and the Renaissance Spa (see page 28). Combination packages available. thecountryinnwv.com

Highlawn Inn

Tim Miller and Sandra Kauffman bought the Highlawn Inn in 1984 and meticulously restored it to its original elegance. The Victorian bed and breakfast offers 10 accommodations—five in the main house, four in Aunt Pearl's House, and one large cottage—each with distinctive charm; some have whirlpools and some, private porches. Breakfasts are sumptuous, and the veranda boasts a premier view of town. Four resident cats welcome all. highlawninn.com

Manor Inn Bed and Breakfast

A restored 1879 Victorian with a lovely wraparound porch, Manor Inn Bed and Breakfast

is located in a quiet part of town. Innkeepers Ellen and Wesley Lewis offer two elegant front rooms—or reserve the back rooms with central sitting room as a suite. In the morning, enjoy a big breakfast of local ingredients in the beautiful dining room or, in warm weather, out on the porch. bathmanorinn.com

Berkeley Springs Cottage Rentals

For a one-stop shop that meets a range of lodging needs, check out the dozens of options offered by Berkeley Springs Cottage Rentals. Dreaming of an in-town suite convenient to everything? Fancy a rustic cabin getaway? Need a fully equipped vacation home for the whole gang? Find all this and more at locations across the county. berkeleyspringscottagerentals.com

Other options

Cabins and houses of all sizes are available to rent in town and out. Campgrounds offer tent and RV sites with canoeing, fishing, hiking, and other activities. And Cacapon Resort State Park offers everything from rustic cabins or a 12-room former inn to a lodge with a restaurant and golf course. berkeleysprings.com

FUN FESTIVALS

Something unusual is always coming up in Berkeley Springs.

FEBRUARY

BERKELEY SPRINGS

INTERNATIONAL WATER TASTING

This largest water tasting competition in the world draws more than 100 entries from across the country and around the globe. Cast your vote for the best.

APRIL

UNIQUELY WEST VIRGINIA WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

West Virginia wines and other state-produced edibles and potables, local crafts, plus ramps both fresh and prepared.

JUNE

HEY GIRLFRIEND! WEEKEND

Belly dancing, spa specials, sidewalk sales, art classes, abundant live music, and a chocolate walk in the self-proclaimed Girlie Capital of West Virginia.

OCTOBER

APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL

Two days of games and contests, music, country food, fine arts, and local crafts—all surrounding spicy apple butter stirred in giant copper kettles in the middle of the square.

NOVEMBER

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT PSYCHIC FAIR AND ALTERNATIVE HEALING EXPO

Dozens of readers, healers, and purveyors of sacred objects come together along with two days of workshops and lectures in the largest psychic fair and alternative healing expo in the region.

Coolfont Comeback

The popular 1960s-vintage Coolfont resort, south of Berkeley Springs, hosted everyone from wellness buffs to D.C. elite for decades before it closed in 2005. But the landmark is open again in 2019 under the ownership and experienced management of the local Omps family, who also own The Country Inn in Berkeley Springs.

Lodging options at the new Coolfont Resort range from rustic cabins to elegant Jacuzzi suites with private balconies. Under the exposed beams of the lodge, a family-style restaurant and a horseshoe-shaped bar overlook Coolfont Lake, where guests can paddle, fish, or sun on the sandy beach. Indoor fitness options include a heated saltwater pool and an exercise room, and an on-site spa offers services from mani/pedi to body wraps and massages. The resort is fully updated but, if you're hoping for a vintage feel, you're in luck: The new owners have retained the iconic double A-frame profile of the original resort's Treetop House. coolfont.com



Premier Parks

➔ **WEST VIRGINIA'S STATE PARKS** showcase some of the best scenic, cultural, and recreational attractions the state has to offer. Only two lie in the Eastern Panhandle—both in Morgan County, and both ready for anything from a romantic retreat to a relaxation getaway to a fun-filled weekend with the family.

We ultimately have Thomas Lord Fairfax to thank for the public springs at **Berkeley Springs State Park**. The site was already much visited by the afflicted in the mid-1700s when Fairfax granted the area to the colony of Virginia for establishment of a town—on the condition that the springs remain free and open to the public for the welfare of suffering humanity. The Commonwealth of Virginia honored Fairfax's generous intention by placing four acres around the springs in a trust, and the state of West Virginia honors it today through maintenance of that trust as a state park.

Berkeley Springs State Park serves as a pleasant village green for residents and visitors, a great place to enjoy a sandwich or a Saturday afternoon concert in the summer. Kids love watching the springs bubble up through patches of sand, wading in the channels and several stone pools, and catching the minnows and crayfish that dart across several stone pools, and families enjoy the natural spring water in the lifeguarded outdoor pool Memorial Day through Labor Day. The old bathhouses offer the spring waters for private soaks and as the centerpiece of a full range of spa services (*see page 28*). Or stroll the grounds, taking in the fountain and stopping for a selfie at **George Washington's Bath Tub**—the nation's only outdoor monument to presidential bathing. Then visit the **Museum of the Berkeley Springs** on the second floor of the Roman Bathhouse. Enjoy exhibits of natural and cultural significance, including springs geology and a 400-pound silica crystal, bygone bathing suit fashions, and the history of fires that have devastated the community more than once. Museum admission is free.

Just 10 miles south of Berkeley Springs is **Cacapon Resort State Park**. Opened in 1937 on Cacapon Mountain slopes that had been clear-cut earlier in the century, this

state park offers recreation, relaxation, and all the charm of a Civilian Conservation Corps setting. Attractions include horseshoes, wobble clay shooting, a lake for boating and fishing and a sandy bathing beach with a snack bar, a nature center with a naturalist program, and guided horseback riding. Miles of blazed trails include a 12-mile easy-to-walk trail along the top of Cacapon Mountain, scattered with impressive rock formations and ending with a view from **Prospect Rock**.

A centerpiece of the 6,000-acre park is the 18-hole championship **Robert Trent Jones** golf course. Opened in 1974, the course includes a picturesque stone chimney on the putting green—the last remnant of the original farmhouse—and is known for a challenging double green that is over 100 yards wide. The course is staffed by professionals who can be booked for private lessons, and it offers a fully equipped clubhouse with a pro shop, a snack bar, locker rooms, and rental carts.

Accommodations at the park include four types of cabins, a log inn that sleeps up to 32, and a 1950s lodge with restaurant, lounge, and recreation room with arcade games, ping pong, and shuffleboard. wvstateparks.com



PHOTO
OP!



PANORAMIC VIEW

Where the long northeast-southwest Appalachian ridge called Cacapon Mountain drops off at its northern end is an overlook that's not to be missed—*National Geographic* called Panoramic Overlook one of the five best views in the eastern U.S. Take W.V. Route 9 west out of Berkeley Springs 3 miles to the pullout for a 180-degree view across Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and the confluence of the Cacapon and Potomac rivers. Mentioned in George Washington's diary, the view surely fueled his westward vision.

UNIQUE PLACES



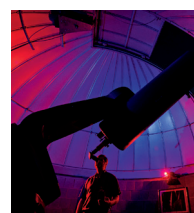
Berkeley Castle

You may glimpse this landmark on the hill above Berkeley Springs State Park. Whiskey distiller and railroad man Samuel Taylor Suit built the castle in the 1880s as a promise to his young bride. Privately owned; available for weddings and special events.



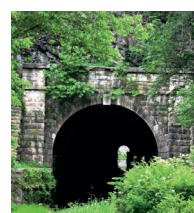
Give Purrs a Chance

West Virginia's only cat cafe, Give Purrs a Chance has placed more than 400 rescued felines in permanent homes—a faster rate than any other cat cafe. Why shop when you can adopt? givepurrsachance.org



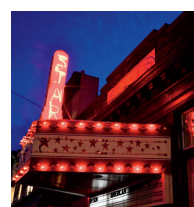
Morgan County

Observatory Revel in Morgan County's dark skies at a most-Fridays star party. Refreshments, movies, hands-on exhibits, and stargazing through the observatory's powerful 16" Cassegrain telescope. nitesky.org



Paw Paw Tunnel From 1836 to 1850, the C&O Canal Company blasted a 3,100-foot tunnel to bypass a torturous set of bends in the Potomac River. Tour it at the

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. nps.gov



Star Theatre There's a new movie every weekend at this 1928 mom and pop movie house on the West Virginia Historic Theatre Trail. The Manley popcorn machine is 1949 vintage—don't skip the real butter. startheatreww.com

Warm Springs, Hot Food

There's a meal for every taste in Berkeley Springs.

Whether you're passing through or spending a week, Berkeley Springs hits the spot. Even George Washington praised the food in here. American or international, casual, upscale, or the perfect afternoon coffee stop, it's all here.

A local favorite right downtown is **Tari's Premier Cafe** (33 North Washington Street, 304.258.1196, tariscafe.com). Founded decades ago by a Berkeley Springs native and decorated throughout with local art, Tari's serves distinctive dishes in three different atmospheres: choose the cafe, gallery, or tavern to meet your mood. Longtime chef Devin Lucas changes the menu up a few times each year, although the crab cakes stay on the menu by popular demand. You'll find lots of local, seasonal products in Tari's eclectic dishes. The restaurant features a separate barbecue menu and offers a full bar.

For fine dining in Berkeley Springs, you can't do better than **Lot 12 Public House** (117 Warren Street, 304.258.6264, lot12.com). Named among the best chefs in the southeast year after year by the James Beard Foundation, Chef Damian Heath serves locally sourced foods in a beautiful historic home overlooking downtown. Heath's culinary style reflects what he learned about life and food growing up in rural West Virginia. "Some things are just better slow," he says, an approach that shows up in dishes like braised lamb shank with a savory tomato rosemary broth and garlic mashed potatoes or crisp-roasted duck with rosemary potato cake and pear chutney. Lot 12's seasonal, lovingly crafted menu presented in a white-tablecloth setting has attracted attention from *Southern Living* and *The Washington Post*, among other publications.



Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day is the restaurant at **The Country Inn** (110 South Washington Street, 304.258.1200,

thecountryinnwv.com). Breakfast, made with local eggs, includes all of the favorites, and Sundays feature a breakfast buffet. Everyone in the family will find something on the wide-ranging lunch and dinner menu, and desserts are made

fresh daily. Enjoy your meal in the dining room, tavern, or lounge, or on the patio seasonally.

If you look for the local brewpub when you travel, you'll find **Berkeley Springs Brewing Company** just a few miles outside town (110 Michigan Lane, 304.258.3369,

Eat Like a Local

For a real **Berkeley Springs experience**, try one of the pizzas at **Maria's Garden** (mariasgarden.com) or order the 14-ounce hand-cut ribeye at **Morgan's on Main** (morganonmain.com). For steak, BBQ, or seafood, try **Angus and Ale** (angusandale.com), or go for American classics in a sports bar setting—or on the deck to enjoy the view—at **Canary Grill** (canarygrill.com).

berkeleyspringsbrewingcompany.com).

The brewery's eight flagship brews include its signature Cacapon Kolsch—or ask for the Mountain Man Marzen or Apple Butter Ale, in season. The simple menu includes a charcuterie plate and build your own nachos with pulled pork.

For a light meal in town, try **Fairfax Coffee House** (23 Fairfax Street, 304.500.2710, fairfaxcoffeehouse.com) for pastries, sandwiches, and espresso drinks; **Ravenwood Pub** (206 Martinsburg Road, 727.742.8333, ravenwoodpub.com) for its in-house bakery and ever-changing menu items including venison and wild boar; or **Naked Olive Lounge** (87 North Washington Street, 304.500.2668, nakedolive.com) for tapas and cocktails.

See a more complete list of dining options at berkeleysprings.com.



LIFE IS ABOUT
FAMILY
GIVE THEM A NEW
ADVENTURE

Located in the beautiful eastern panhandle of West Virginia, River Riders Family Adventure Resort has been guiding families on river and aerial adventures for over thirty years. Nothing creates lifetime connections like conquering a rapid or zipping through a beautiful forest together. Let us share our love for the outdoors with your family soon.

 **river
riders**
Family Adventure Resort

RiverRiders.com | 304.535.2663

ADVENTURE PASSES

Full day adventure passes that include one guided activity and one self-guided activity at a special packaged rate.



A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white towel, sits on the tiled edge of a hot tub. She is looking out a window where two potted orchids are placed. The scene is bright and serene.

Serenity

- Spas
- Historic healing waters
- Tasty dining
- Distinctive shops
- Lively art scene
- Splendid wilderness

BerkeleySprings.com

800-447-8797