

A night sky filled with stars serves as the background for the top half of the page. Below the sky, a mountain range is visible, with the central peaks illuminated by a warm, golden light, possibly from a low sun or moon. The foreground shows the dark silhouettes of trees.

# WEST VIRGINIA

VACATION GUIDE

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*almost heaven*

# EASTERN PANHANDLE

## TIME TRAVEL

Tucked among the area's emerald hills, discover fascinating landmarks, notable sites and picturesque towns. Plan to spend a couple of days exploring, adding this list of historic hotspots to your itinerary.



Martinsburg Roundhouse Center

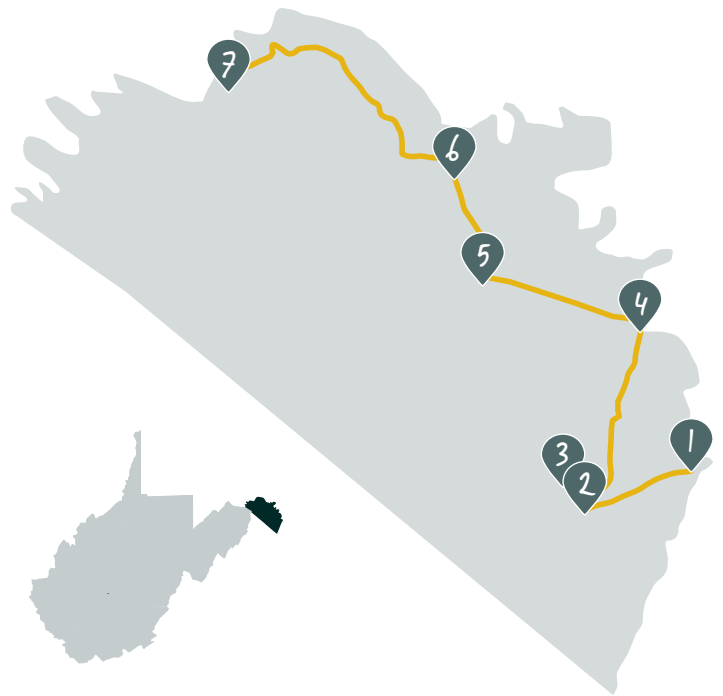
### Washington Heritage Trail

Follow in George Washington's footsteps along the Washington Heritage Trail, a 136-mile National Scenic Byway loop that winds through three counties and includes Washington-family homes, early industrial landmarks and noteworthy Civil War locations. Along the main loop are five towns—Berkeley Springs, Martinsburg, Shepherdstown, Harpers Ferry and Charles Town—and more than 40 official sites, not to mention breathtaking panoramas of the region's pristine mountains and valleys.



#### Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

One essential stop is Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the perfect place to gain insight into West Virginia's natural and cultural legacy. Located at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers, this unique park includes the village of Harpers Ferry, as well as many gorgeous hiking trails. Make time for a workshop on historic trades to brush up on 19th-century skills like blacksmithing and pie baking.



#### Charles Town

Heading south, you'll come to Charles Town, founded by George Washington's brother Charles in 1786. His stately home, **Happy Retreat**, is located on the edge of town and includes an 18th-century mansion, a kitchen/smokehouse and an octagonal schoolhouse.

Take in more of Charles Town's history at the **Jefferson County Courthouse**, the site of two major treason trials: John Brown and his men for the 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry and unionizing leaders of the United Mine Workers of America after protests in the early 1920s.

Charles Town is also where you'll find **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**. In addition to gaming, there's live horse racing, including the annual Charles Town Classic each spring, and concerts featuring classics like Smokey Robinson and the Charlie Daniels Band.



#### Ranson

For more thrills, the nearby town of Ranson offers whitewater rafting, as well as more relaxing activities like hiking, fishing and horseback riding. Finish your day by sipping craft cordials and cocktails at nearby **Bloomery Plantation Distillery**.



#### Shepherdstown

Northwest of Harpers Ferry is Shepherdstown, the oldest incorporated town in West Virginia. This distinction, along with the picturesque Colonial architecture, makes Shepherdstown a charming portal to the past. Pick up a handy map of the **Historic Shepherdstown Museum's** self-guided walking tour, which provides context for the landmarks and historic buildings around town.



Berkeley Springs

Your visit to Shepherdstown isn't complete without a trip to **O'Hurley's General Store**, a local mainstay where you can wander through aisles of time-tested merchandise, including glassware, crockery, furniture, toys, hardware and much more.

Have a meal at **The Press Room**. Once home to a local newspaper, this inviting Shepherdstown staple focuses on simple, fresh food ranging from steak and seafood to pasta.

If you have the time, stay the night at the **Bavarian Inn**, a AAA Four Diamond hotel with an infinity pool overlooking the Potomac River and a casual-dining brewpub, the Rathskeller, featuring night caps and live entertainment on weekends.

## 5 Martinsburg

Travel west from Shepherdstown to the vibrant town of Martinsburg, known as the "Gateway to the Shenandoah Valley." Delve into Civil War history at Martinsburg's **Berkeley County Museum**, located in the Belle Boyd House—once the home of notorious Confederate spy Marie "Belle" Boyd.

At the **Martinsburg Roundhouse Center**, you'll see three historic B&O Railroad buildings, including an enclosed 1866 cast-iron frame roundhouse. It was here that Stonewall

Jackson started his raid in 1861, and it was also the site of the first national labor strike in 1877.

If you like your history with a side of the paranormal, add a Haunted History and Legends walking tour to the agenda. As you stroll **Old Town Martinsburg**, you'll hear spine-tingling tales of the past, spanning from the time of the Tuscarora people to the American Revolution and Civil War. (Can't get enough thrills and chills? Haunted history tours are available in Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown, too.)

## 6 Hedgesville Historic District

Next, make a stop in the town of Hedgesville, located at the site of a natural limestone spring and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hedgesville boasts many interesting antebellum structures, as well as historic log homes.

## 7 Berkeley Springs State Park

At the northernmost point of the trail and in the center of the town of Berkeley Springs, take a healing 19th-century-style dip at the Roman bathhouse in Berkeley Springs State Park. In use since Colonial times, the springs' famous mineral waters flow at a constant 74 degrees. It's still a popular spot for spa treatments today. Nearby is the grand **Berkeley Castle**, completed in 1891, and now a private residence.



## EASTERN PANHANDLE



# TRAVEL HILL & DALE

The Eastern Panhandle's rolling green hills and expansive valleys make for more than just striking scenery—these landscapes are also the setting for exciting adventures and activities that will take you high and low. Combine any two for a full day of exploration.

### > TREK PART OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Headquartered in Harpers Ferry, the iconic Appalachian Trail is the longest hiking-only footpath in the world, spanning 2,190 miles from Maine to Georgia. The 4-mile stretch through the Eastern Panhandle affords views of the famed Shenandoah Valley. Passing through the Harpers Ferry Historic District, it leads to **Jefferson Rock**—a shale rock formation with a vantage point that the third U.S. president declared “worth a voyage across the Atlantic.”

### > GEOCACHING IN MARTINSBURG

Go on a high-tech hunt for “treasure” trinkets while connecting with nature. The area around this town in Berkeley County has become one of the top destinations for geocaching in the country, offering two active trails. Using a GPS-based device and a set of coordinates, participants navigate to specific sites to collect trackable geocoins—signs of the expedition's success.

### > RIVER RIDERS FAMILY ADVENTURE RESORT IN HARPERS FERRY

If thrills are what you seek, River Riders' plethora of activities won't disappoint. Take to the treetops on a guided **Harpers Ferry Zipline Canopy Tour**, where you'll soar through the air on eight ziplines ranging from 200 to 800 feet in length. Or, challenge yourself to the nine courses that make up the **Aerial Adventure Park**. Whitewater rafting, tubing and kayaking trips are additional ways to tap into your adventurous side.

### > GOLF AT THE WOODS IN HEDGESVILLE

Perfect your swing with 36 holes of golf at this luxurious retreat set on 1,800 lush acres. Spread across a wooded plateau, the championship Mountain View course boasts

fairways framed by dogwood, maple, oak and pine trees, and Third Hill Mountain dominates the views. The mid-length Stony Lick course is a fun but challenging option for players of all ages and abilities.

### > CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

For nearly 100 years, coal, lumber and agricultural products floated down this 184.5-mile passage—also known as the C&O Canal Towpath—to market, providing a lifeline to communities along the Potomac River. These days you can hike or rent a bike from Shepherdstown Pedal & Paddle to ride down the towpath, soaking up the beauty of **C&O Canal National Historical Park** and connecting to other canal towns.

### > HORSEBACK RIDING THROUGH CACAPON RESORT STATE PARK

Located within the 6,000-acre state park's boundaries, **Triple C Outfitters** riding stable will have you saying “giddy up” in no time. Let the experts match you with a steed to suit your skills, then get ready to meander over hills, through forests and alongside tranquil streams. Guided rides range from an easy-going, one-hour loop to overnight excursions, as well as moonlight outings on certain evenings.

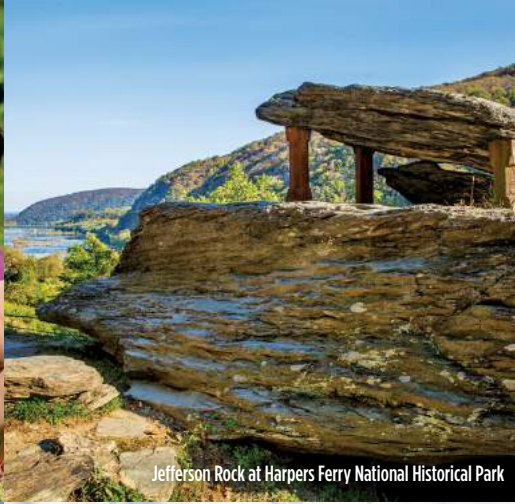
### > BIRDING WITH THE POTOMAC VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Grab your binoculars and enjoy the wonderful opportunities for wildlife viewing year-round with the help of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Based in Shepherdstown, the organization hosts numerous birding trips throughout the year. Use the birding trail map to identify local birding hotspots, or visit the four nature preserves that are managed by the society.

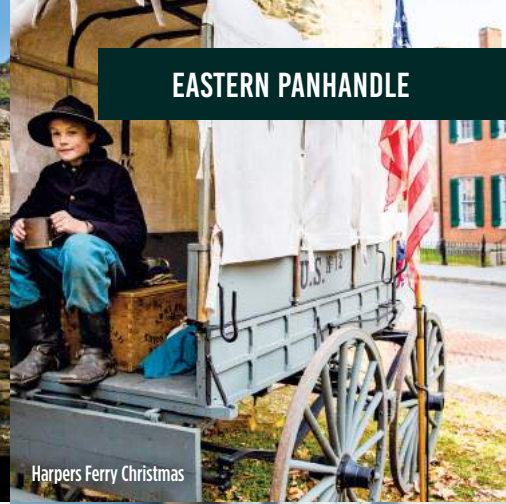
## EASTERN PANHANDLE



Orr's Farm Market



Jefferson Rock at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Harpers Ferry Christmas



General Adam Stephen House



Appalachian Food Evangelist



Blue Moon Cafe



Black Draft Distillery



Shepherdstown Shopping



Cacapon Resort State Park

## OTHER MUST-VISITS, STAYS & EATS

Angler's Inn B&B and Vintage Lady Boutique in Harpers Ferry • Skyline Terrace and Inn at Charles Town (both at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races), Sumittra Thai Cuisine, Elle's Niche, Art Deco Dekor, Alfredo's Mediterranean Grill & Steakhouse and Hillbrook Inn in Charles Town • Dickinson & Wait Craft Gallery, Blue Moon Café and Domestic Restaurant in Shepherdstown • Summit Point Motorsports Park in Summit Point • Tari's Café in Berkeley Springs