

# WEST VIRGINIA GRABBING ATTENTION AS A LEADING GLOBAL DESTINATION FOR TRAVEL



**Condé Nast Traveler** chose West Virginia as one of “The 22 Best Places to Go in 2022” for its treasure-trove of outdoor adventures. The editors independently selected the Mountain State, highlighting 1,000-foot-high-sandstone cliffs for climbing, hiking, and biking trails, as well as accommodations brimming with history.

*“The new Elk River Rail Trail in central West Virginia is transforming an old railroad line once used to transport coal into a hiking and biking path that, at an eventual 74 miles, will be one of the longest trails east of the Mississippi.”*



West Virginia was named number two in the “Top Travel Regions” to visit in 2022 by **Lonely Planet**, joining global destinations, like Westfjords, Iceland; Scenic Rim, Australia; Vancouver Island, Canada; and Burgundy, France.

*“2022 is the perfect time to discover West Virginia, a still-uncrowded region with unspoiled mountains and unmistakable heritage where the leisurely tempo of Southern small towns converges with the adrenaline sports that attract adventurers from across the continent.”*



West Virginia was named one of “The World’s Greatest Places of 2021” by the international network of correspondents and contributors for **Time Magazine**.

*“West Virginia’s New River Gorge, encompassing more than 70,000 acres, became the country’s newest national park and preserve in December. The main artery of the park is New River, which—despite its moniker—is one of the oldest rivers in the world, with 53 miles of free-flowing white water. Towering above the river is New River Gorge Bridge, which hosts its annual BASE jumping “Bridge Day” in October—making this the only national park where that daredevil activity is legal.”*

“Everything that makes West Virginia a great place to visit makes it an even better place to live and work.”

- Secretary Chelsea Ruby of the West Virginia Department of Tourism



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# THE APPALACHIAN DESTINATION FOR ADVENTURE



The state is royalty in rafting and whitewater kayaking – with **2,023 miles of whitewater, the greatest density of any U.S. state**, according to America Whitewater data analyzed by the WVU Mountain Hydrology Lab. The Cheat River is part of the largest undammed watershed in the Eastern United States. The Cheat Narrows does not disappoint with spectacular wave trains and Class III whitewater, such as Rocking Horse, Calamity, and Wind.



West Virginia has more than **4,000 climbing routes that accommodate climbers of all skill levels**. According to West Virginia Tourism, two of the best spots for newbies are New River Gorge National Park in the south and Seneca Rocks in the east. Both offer unique landscapes and routes that define “natural beauty.”



With lakes dotting the map and rivers running through every corner of the state, it is not surprising that **fishing is a passion for visitors and natives**. West Virginia Tourism lists the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers as top destinations for fishing due to the “healthy” populations of tiger muskie, largemouth bass, and walleye. The South Branch of the Potomac River is known for having some of the best fly fishing in the nation.



West Virginia is known for its country roads, scenic views, and Civil War history. With more than 1,200 miles of maintained trails, the **Mountain State offers plenty of hiking options that reveal a treasure trove of natural wonders**. Coopers Rock State Forest boasts nearly 50 miles of trails, ranging from easy leg-stretchers to long, difficult day hikes. The most popular destinations: a 1,200-foot scenic overlook and the famous Rock City with 30-foot boulders.



There is no better way to hang out together than **hanging from a zip line**. West Virginia University’s Adventure WV has four lines, ranging in length from 201 feet to 980 feet, connecting thrill-seekers to an aerial bridge and a 45-foot rappel station.

 **WVU**Medicine

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