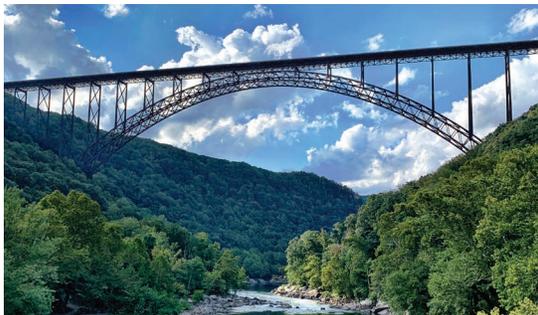


WEST VIRGINIA FUN FACTS



- West Virginia was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863, by proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln.
- West Virginia's first Capital city was located in Wheeling, Ohio County. It was later moved to Charleston, then back to Wheeling, and then back to Charleston.
- Cass Gilbert was selected as the architect to design the Capitol building. Gilbert designed other notable buildings such as the United States Supreme Court, the United States Treasury Annex and the United States Chamber of Commerce Building.
- Standing tall at 292 feet, the State Capitol dome is higher than the dome at the nation's capital.
- West Virginia is called the Mountain State because it's the only state completely within the Appalachian Mountain region, and its average elevation is higher than any other state east of the Mississippi River.
- The New River Gorge Bridge, in Fayetteville, is the longest steel-arch bridge in the United States spanning 1,815 feet across the New River Canyon.
- At 4,861 feet above sea level, Spruce Knob is the highest point in the Mountain State. Dropping down to 247 feet above sea level, Harpers Ferry marks the lowest point in the state.
- The first brick street in the world was laid in Charleston on Summers Street.
- Earlier this year Marshall University's Men's Soccer team won the Division 1 NCAA Championship in 2021.
- Huntington's Museum of Art, which opened to the public in 1952, is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and has welcomed visitors from all 50 states and international cultural tourists from around the globe.
- The Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia in Charleston is a 240,000-square-foot facility dedicated to promoting performing arts, visual arts, and the sciences. All three being housed under one roof makes the Clay Center one of the few of its kind in the United States.
- Pricketts Fort near Fairmont features showcases Pioneer life using a living history style of interpretation to preserve, document and exhibit the past.
- Located in Wheeling, Oglebay Resort is home to a championship golf course, spa, zoo, winter sports complex and much more!



- Located on a small island in the Ohio River, Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park features a Palladian mansion on the island and museum of regional history located in Parkersburg.
- The Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine opened in 1962, as the first historic site wholly dedicated to educating the public about coal mining.
- Camden Park was established 1903 in Huntington as a picnic spot by the Camden Interstate Railway Company. It is one of only thirteen trolley parks that remain open in the United States.
- Heritage Farm Museum in Huntington is a Smithsonian Affiliate that focuses on Appalachian history and culture. It is an open-air living history museum.
- The Craik-Patton House in Charleston was named in honor of Rev. James Craik, who was the grandson and namesake of George Washington's physician, and built the house. The Patton aspect of the name comes from Col. George S. Patton, grandfather of WWII hero George Patton, who lived in the house with his family from 1858 until his passing.
- The New River and Gauley River are home to top-ranked white water rafting experiences. With different intensity levels, there is an adventure for everyone on these world famous rivers!
- Snowshoe, Canaan and Winterplace are home to some of the best skiing on the east coast of the United States.
- The first battle of the Civil War was fought in Barbour County near a covered bridge that has been in use for over 160 years.
- The world famous Greenbrier Resort has been in operation since the eighteenth century and is home to many historic buildings and internationally acclaimed golf courses.
- John Brown's raid occurred at historically preserved Harper's Ferry. The courthouse in which the John Brown trial was held is still in use in historic Charlestown, located in the eastern panhandle only 90 miles from our nation's capital.
- The north central West Virginia corridor from Morgantown to Buckhannon is home to fast growing high tech and aerospace industries.
- The Greenbank Observatory in Pocahontas County is a cutting edge component for research into deepest outer space.
- The Wheeling Suspension bridge, now a pedestrian span, was the nation's first bridge across the Ohio River.
- Resource rich reserves of natural gas and coal provided the energy that fueled America's industrial revolution.
- World famous Intuit has located a state of the art facility in Bluefield, West Virginia where the chamber of commerce serves lemonade on days that reach 90 degrees Fahrenheit.
- West Virginia is home to 19 colleges and universities.

