



WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA



Wheeling, known as The Friendly City, is a city on the Ohio River in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia. As the birthplace of West Virginia during the Civil War, Wheeling served as the state’s first Capital, and hosted the Wheeling Convention and the West Virginia Constitutional Convention, which resulted in West Virginia seceding from Virginia. Throughout the 20th Century, much of the city’s economy centered on manufacturing and the steel industry.



Fast Facts:

- Wheeling was first established by Colonel Ebenezer Zane in 1769 after he explored the region and claimed it through “tomahawk rights”.
- Washington Hall, located in Wheeling, is known as the “Birthplace of West Virginia”.
- West Virginia’s first capital city was located in Wheeling. It was later moved to Charleston, then back to Wheeling, and then back to Charleston.
- National Road, the nation’s first roadway, was created by an act of Congress and reached Wheeling in 1818. Soon, Wheeling became known as the “gateway to the west”.
- In the late 1800’s, iron and steel mill development led to cut iron nails. Wheeling became known as the “nail capital of the world”.
- The Wheeling Suspension Bridge across the Ohio River was the largest suspension bridge in the world from 1849 to 1851.
- The Wheeling Suspension Bridge is the also the first bridge to span a major river west of the Appalachian Mountains.
- By the end of the 19th century, Wheeling became the richest city per capita in America.
- The world’s largest shipment of matches (20 carloads or 210,000,000 matches) was shipped from Wheeling to Memphis, Tennessee in 1933.
- Wheeling is one of the top cities in the country containing Victorian architectural structures.
- Wheeling University and West Virginia Northern Community College are situated in the city.
- I-70 runs through the city and connects Wheeling to Columbus and Pittsburgh

