SPRING TRAVEL

Get Off the Grid:

Top Local Escapes for Unplugging and Letting Loose

A balloon glow and children's activities kick off the 8-day Chautauqua Festival in the park.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WYTHEVILLE C

▲The Aerial Forest Adventure Park at River Riders in Harpers Ferry is an excellent choice for a family adventure with over 100 challenge course elements of varying difficulty to choose from.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISWALTER

Fun for all at Busch Garden

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BUSCH GARDENS

In our ever-connected world, it seems difficult - if not impossible! - to find an opportunity to truly go offline. But with the right getaway, you'll not only want to stop checking your email, you'll also be inclined to disconnect completely.

This spring, commit to a digital detox in your own backyard. West Virginia and Virginia offer a range of activities - from relaxing to adrenaline pumping - that will leave you feeling energized when you do plug back in. Our top picks for the season, from cozy cabins and scenic train rides to heart-pounding adventure activities like whitewater rafting and riding roller coasters, will make it easy for you to pinpoint your next vacation spots.

This special advertising section was produced by The Washington Post Custom Content department and did not involve The Washington Post news or editorial staff. This article was written by Tara Shubbuck, a freelance writer, hired by The Washington Post Custom Content department. For more information please contact Magazine Account Manager Trish Ward at 202-334-7755 or Cheryl Wood at 202-815-6280.

Throughout West Virginia

BERKELEY SPRINGS

Pamper yourself with a getaway to Berkeley Springs, where full-service spa treatments abound. This historic mountain town, known as America's first spa, boasts that they have "three times as many massage therapists as lawyers." Try a soothing facial, the warm LaStone Therapy or an exfoliating sugar scrub, and enjoy thermal waters at the historic Roman Baths in Berkeley Springs State Park. After your treatment, enjoy some not-so-hidden local gems, like specialty boutiques, the Sunday farmers market and Lot 12's upscale comfort cuisine.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

If you're looking for variety, Jefferson County is the perfect destination. ▶

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS WEISLER

Harpers Ferry is a convenient stop for bikers along the C&O Canal Towpath.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVEL BERKELEY SPRINGS' PHOTOGRAPHER STEVE SHALUTA

Lodge and golf course at Cacapon State Park.

Where to be...

happiest
healthiest
tastiest

Berkeley Springs, WV
the country's first spa

www.BerkeleySprings.com
800-447-8797

ACE Adventure Resort rafting

Enjoy whitewater rafting, hiking, biking and camping in a sprawling, natural setting. If history is your passion, you'll find exciting, beautiful architecture and historical tours that will pique your curiosity. Take a break from the outdoors to wander through boutique shops, filled with charming handmade goods. Foodies will love trying the area's top-notch independent restaurants that cook flavorful meals from locally sourced ingredients.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHASE GUNNOE

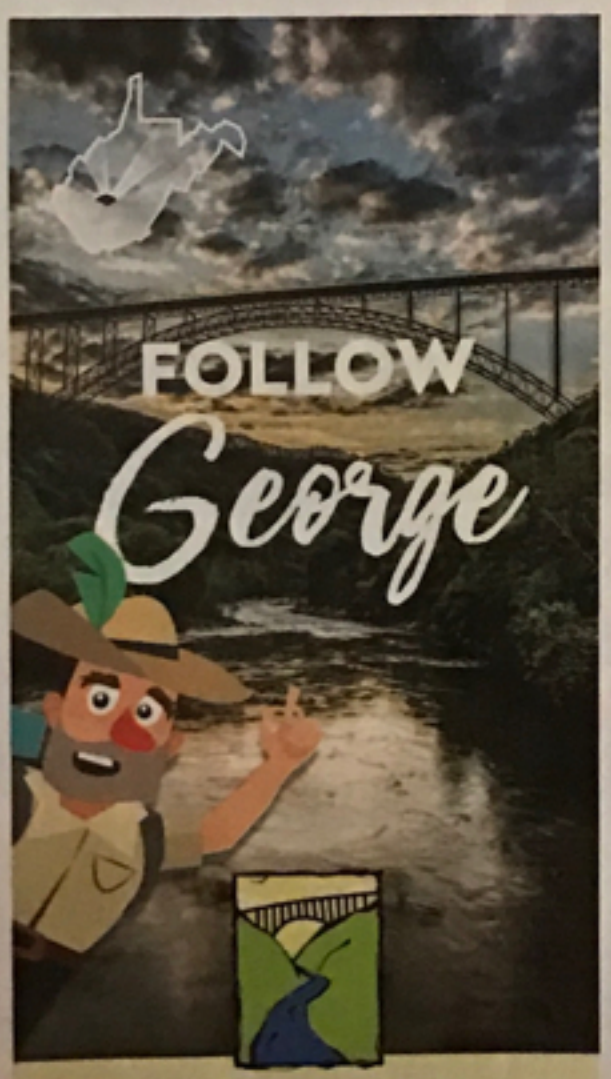
Join us on top of the mountain at Spruce for a beautiful train ride to the highlands of West Virginia! This location is accessible only to passengers who ride our Wild Heart Adventure Package!

NEW RIVER GORGE

A rustic West Virginia experience awaits you in New River Gorge. Take advantage of the countryside by tackling whitewater rafting, rock climbing, mountain biking or zip lining through the forest. Visitors of all ages will enjoy a scenic float trip down New River. At local restaurants, you can try country BBQ, Appalachian-style pub food or a gourmet buffet with tables overlooking New River Gorge. When night falls, there are ample lodging options for all types of travelers, ranging from cabins and campsites to B&Bs and hotels.

DURBIN & GREENBRIER

If you need constant eye candy to keep from checking your phone, then Mountain Rail Adventures' overnight Wild Heart of West Virginia Adventure Package is the perfect excursion. Sit back and unwind during an all-day scenic ride on both a diesel and steam train as you make your way through the stunning highlands of the Mountain State (lunch is included). You'll end the day's journey in Cass and stay overnight in Elkins, or vice versa, before a memorable return trip on both trains on the day of your choosing.



GRANT COUNTY

The variety of activities available in Grant County makes it a top destination for an outdoor adventure. Visit Smoke Hole Caverns to see the crystal cave coral pool and grand "Room of a Million Stalactites," with a 274-foot-high ceiling and glistening, ancient subterranean formations. Back in the daylight, take in the beauty of the surrounding Potomac Highlands while aboard a scenic train or plane ride. If you have more time, lace up your shoes for hiking, biking, rock climbing or exploring the historic area's seven Civil War markers.

Rider Hannah Moyers at Sunday's horse show - Spring Mountain Festival!

MARTINSBURG-BERKELEY

If you must take out your phone, do it in Martinsburg-Berkeley County,

PHOTO COURTESY DAVID MCMASTERS

Berkeley County, WV shares its vibrant culture through amazing festivals and events year-round, like Bike Night in downtown Martinsburg.

but only if you're geocaching. The area has two active geocaching trails and many stand-alone sites for this fun, treasure-hunting activity. If you're committed to staying off the grid, go kayaking on the Potomac or hit the woods to hike, hunt, fish or go birding. Consider planning your trip around one of the county's many fairs or festivals, like the Chili Cookoff, Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival, and Fridays @ Five summer concert series.

Around Virginia

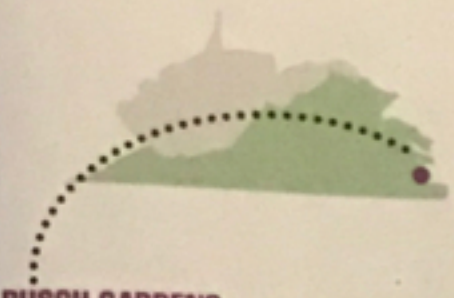
WYTHEVILLE

A requirement for anyone visiting Wytheville is to make a reservation at the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre. This is your literal ticket to a fun evening of entertainment, which includes a four-course meal and Broadway-caliber musical production.

The historic New River is surrounded by mountain scenery and provides excitement for all levels of fishing and water enthusiasts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WYTHEVILLE CVB

Outdoor enthusiasts will love the nearby 57-mile New River Trail State Park. While it offers mile upon miles of picturesque opportunities to hike, bike, kayak and canoe, you can also go tubing, boating, and horseback riding – and even BYOH (bring your own horse)! ▶



BUSCH GARDENS

If you're looking to just let loose (or be a kid with your kids), then Busch Gardens® is the ultimate destination. Even better: the KIDsiderate program helps families with children 9 and younger find the rides, shows and animal experiences that are perfect for them. Kids get a wristband when they enter the park and match its color to more than 40 KIDsiderate attractions to find the ones they'll enjoy. Busch Gardens® also hosts KIDsiderate Concerts in the Globe Theatre and is currently offering free child admission on select vacation packages. (buschgardens.com/bgwkids). ◀

Fun for all at Busch Gardens®.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BUSCH GARDENS®

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BERKELEY SPRINGS

Gala opening of Annual Delectable Mountains Quilt Show and Sale
April 21
Berkeley Springs, WV

Uniquely West Virginia Wine and Food Festival
April 22
Berkeley Springs, WV

BUSCH GARDENS

Busch Gardens® Opening Day
March 25
Williamsburg, VA

Busch Gardens® Food & Wine Festival
May 26-July 2
Williamsburg, VA

DURBIN GREENBRIER

Murder Mystery Wine Train
June 17, August 12, and October 14
Elkins, WV

Great Train Race
July 15
Cheat Bridge, WV or Cass, WV

GRANT COUNTY

Annual Spring Mountain Festival
April 28 – April 30
Tri-County Fairgrounds in Petersburg, WV

Train Rides with the Potomac Eagle
October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22
South Side Depot in Petersburg, WV

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Dogfest
April 29-30
Downtown Shepherdstown, WV

BCT Harpers Ferry Half Marathon, 5K Run, and Kids Run
May 13
Harpers Ferry, WV

MARTINSBURG-BERKELEY

Chocolate Festival and Book Faire
April 29
Downtown Martinsburg, WV

Circa Blue Fest
May 12-14
Berkeley County Fairgrounds Martinsburg, WV

NEW RIVER GORGE

Bridge Day
October 21
New River Gorge near Fayetteville, WV

Mountain Music Festival
June 1-3
ACE Adventure Resort

WYTHEVILLE

Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre
March 9 - April 30:
"Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story"
May 4 - July 2:
"Then Sings My Soul"
Wytheville, VA

Downtown Wytheville's 4th of July Celebration
July 4
Downtown Wytheville, VA