



SPRING GUIDE

WILD, WONDERFUL

WEST VIRGINIA

The logo for West Virginia, featuring a stylized sunburst or mountain peak icon integrated into the letter 'T' of 'WEST'.

Real.

MOUNTAIN BEAUTY

Oh, the snow has melted away... it's time to get outside!

In a state that's known for jaw-dropping landscapes, where to begin? Before you go wandering through fields of blooms, here's the inside guide to take you right to the best wildflowers, scenery, adventures and events of the season.

Get out and discover the best of spring in the mountains.

See the full map of WV's best spring stops at GoToWV.com/spring.

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WV WILDFLOWERS

West Virginia's hills and valleys are bursting with hundreds of wildflowers of every color and kind. Here are a few unique blooms to look for, and where you might see them:



WV Classics

CATAWBA RHODODENDRON

This WV favorite grows in pink and purple thickets in late spring at Grandview, Coopers Rock State Forest and Dolly Sods. (Our state flower, rhododendron maximum, blooms later in June.)



WV Classics

TRILLIUM

Several species of these tri-petaled flowers grow in West Virginia, from deep red to white with pink markings near the center. Spot all sorts of them along the Greenbrier River Trail.



WV Classics

CRESTED IRIS

These spreading blossoms spring up in clusters of every cool hue from pale blue to lavender to deep violet. Be on the lookout for them along the trails at Kanawha State Forest.

TIP: Blooming times will vary throughout the state, depending on weather.

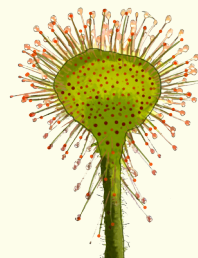
It's illegal to remove wildflowers from most parks, so please leave the beauty for others to enjoy. (Remember: a photo lasts forever!)



Unique Finds

LADY'S SLIPPERS

The ornate pink lady's slipper orchid hides in boggy, secluded areas all around the state. You may even be lucky enough to spot the more elusive yellow species.



Unique Finds

SUNDEW

The sundew's bright red tentacles lure in insects, trapping them in its sticky "dew." Spot this and other carnivorous plants in the bogs of the Cranberry Glades Botanical Area.



Unique Finds

BRISTLY ROSE

Uncover this delicate beauty in a few distinct ecological areas that mirror more northern climates (much more nothern: think Alaska or Canada), like Ice Mountain or Pike Knob preserves.

WEST VIRGINIA WILDFLOWERS



BLOOMING BESTS

FRED E. BROOKS ARBORETUM

Stroll through 400 acres of natural forest on the trails at Watoga State Park's arboretum.

CORE ARBORETUM

WVU shows off its green thumb with a variety of natural, native habitats across 91 acres in Morgantown. Join one of the spring hikes to learn more about these plants.

WEST VIRGINIA BOTANIC GARDEN

Take in the carefully manicured magnificence of these vibrant gardens in Morgantown (and learn to grow your own.)

HUNTINGTON MUSEUM OF ART

See rare and exotic blooms at the conservatory, then hike the grounds for a look at the native plantlife.

BISSONETTE GARDENS

Trace quaint brick paths through Oglebay Resort's immaculate gardens, complete with hanging baskets and pond displays.

WILDFLOWER WALKS

OSBRA EYE MEMORIAL WILDFLOWER WALKS

Discover the brightest blossoms of Kanawha State Forest on walking or driving tours.

SUE BROWNING WILDFLOWER HIKE

See signature bluebells and up to 100 different wildflowers on guided treks through Chief Logan State Park.

NEW RIVER GORGE WILDFLOWER WEEKEND

Hike out to all the area's secret spots for wildflowers, enjoy artistic floral artworks and more.

WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

Head to Blackwater Falls State Park in Davis to seek out the region's rarest blooms at one of the DNR's longest-running and most beloved events.

**Reservations Required*

HOME & GARDEN TOURS

Get exclusive access to stunning gardens at the Lewisburg Home & Garden Tour, Back Alley Garden Tour & Tea in Shepherdstown or the Annual Spring Garden Tour & Tea in Parkersburg's Julia-Ann Square Historic District.

NATIONAL, STATE & LOCAL PARKS



NATIONAL PARKS

Explore the wild, wonderful beauty of our nationally renowned parks and forests. Some spring favorites:

NATIONAL PARKS OF SOUTHERN WV

The National Parks of Southern WV include 3 of the state's most serene landscapes: the Gauley River, the New River Gorge and the Bluestone River.

HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

The famous Appalachian Trail swings through the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Take in a panoramic view atop the Maryland Heights Trail.

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

The Monongahela National Forest covers nearly 1 million acres, including the red-tinged bogs of Cranberry Glades and sweeping beauty of Dolly Sods.

STATE PARKS

Each of our more than 40 state parks and forests has its own allure, but here are just a few reasons to stop in this spring:

CARRIAGE RIDES

Take a sternwheeler cruise to Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park for a carriage ride around the extravagant mansion gardens and grounds.

AERIAL TRAMS

Take in a bird's eye view from the aerial trams at Hawks Nest or Pipestem state parks, or the namesake overlooks at Pinnacle Rock or Coopers Rock state parks.

DISCOVER

Learn more about the history and wilderness at park nature centers, like the wildlife exhibit and coal museum at Chief Logan State Park.

WATERFALLS

Discover waterfalls so grand the parks are named after them: Twin, Blackwater and Valley falls.

OUTDOOR GAMES

Play outdoor games at the courts at Tomlinson Run State Park, or just marvel at mother nature's ancient hemlocks in Cathedral State Park.

LOCAL PARKS

City parks are always abuzz with community fun! Game courts, dog parks, picnic shelters, amphitheaters, playgrounds— there are plenty of ways to get out and play all across the state.



NATURE



BIRDING AND WILDLIFE

BIRD BANDING

Bird lovers flock to Pricketts Fort State Park and Tygart Lake State Park to get hands-on at bird banding workshops.

FALCONRY

Learn the basics of this ancient art, and meet a few feathered friends with regular workshops at Canaan Valley Resort State Park.



WV WILDLIFE CENTER

Meet the Mountain State's furry and feathered residents as they roam in their natural habitats along this nature trail and zoo in French Creek.

THE GOOD ZOO

Oglebay Resort welcomes new faces every spring: newborn critters! Come meet these adorable Ogle-babies.

NEW RIVER BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

Join world-leading experts to search for more than 100 species, including neotropical and elusive birds like the Swainson's warbler.

NATURE AND WILDERNESS

WEBSTER COUNTY NATURE TOUR

Enjoy a full weekend of guided wildlife exploration in the national forest lands near Cowen.

SCENIC SURPRISES

Uncover cascading waterfalls and old-fashioned covered bridges in the mountain countryside. Philippi Covered Bridge has a rich history, and the natural amphitheater of Cathedral Falls is a unique beauty.

GET RACING!

Dash along the trails with runs like the Babcock State Park Gristmill Grinder, Coopers Rock State Park 50K & Half Marathon, or the Wonderland Mountain Challenge in Minden.

**Registration Required*



ADVENTURE

FISHING

20,000+ miles of streams and 120+ fishing lakes make West Virginia an angler's Almost Heaven. Spring is prime time for trout, including our state fish, the brook trout!

SPRING WHITEWATER

Here's a secret: spring brings the biggest whitewater waves on the Cheat and New rivers! Kick off the boating season at the Cheat River Festival, or race down the Elk River during Webster Wildwater Weekend. You can also whitewater tube the Greenbrier, Potomac and Tygart.

TRAILS

Discover the full palette of spring along the trails that criss-cross the state. Bike family-friendly rail trails, or mountain bike and hike deep into the rolling wilderness.

GOLF

Spring is blooming with color, but don't forget the greens! The rolling hills add an extra challenge on our championship courses, designed by game greats like Arnold Palmer, Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus.

TAKE TO THE SKY

For a really unique look at the colorful valleys, just go up! Sweep through the treetops on a zipline, or climb one of the world's only via ferratas— a beginner-friendly way to top the mountain cliffs.

BOATING

Explore the tranquil lakes and flat water. Kayak, stand-up paddleboard, pontoon— any small watercraft will do!



FORAGED FAVORITES

FAVORITES FROM THE FOREST

NOTE: Not everything in the woods is safe to eat!

Always be careful and consult an expert when foraging.



RAMPS

These garlicky wild onions are an Appalachian favorite. They pack a strong flavor— and scent!



WILD MUSHROOMS

Morels, also known as “Molly Moochers,” are a springtime treat. If you miss their short season, seek out chanterelles or “chicken of the woods.”



DANDELIONS & GREENS

Yup, those pesky weeds are actually delicious! They’re one of many flavorful wild salad toppings.

GET A TASTE

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Try WV’s most popular wild food! Chow down in “the ramp capital of the world” during Richwood’s Feast of the Ramson, or in small towns like Helvetia, Buckhannon and Pickens.

FORAGE + FEAST

Join the WV Mushroom Club’s annual foray, where you can try some fully-cooked wild dishes and forage fungi for yourself (with pro guides to help you spot ‘em.)

RAMP UP!

Round up a big bushel of wild onions from your ATV with the Elkhorn Inn & Theater’s foodie foraging series, or just get a taste at the breakfast table.

WILD EATS EVENT

Uncover all the forest’s finest at Hillsboro’s Wild Edibles Festival. Not only will you learn how to find a wild feast, you can also learn how to cook it!

RAMPS AND RAIL FESTIVAL

Sample creative dishes like ramperoni rolls, then take a scenic ride on the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad.

CAMP CREEK LUMBERJACK COMPETITION & RAMP FEAST

Fuel up at the ramp feast before the wood choppin’ at Camp Creek State Park.

RAMPS TO-GO

Take Appalachia’s favorite onion home! Stock up on ramp wine from Kirkwood Winery, moonshine from Heston Farm, and jelly from Woodbine Jams & Jellies!



MORE FRESH FLAVORS



MOUNTAIN FLAVOR

FARMERS MARKETS

WV is known for our agricultural heritage, and you can taste why. Meet growers and gather bushels of fresh produce at markets across the state.

WV MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Celebrate the sweetness at Pickens' long-running festival, or during WV Maple Day across the state.

LEWISBURG CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

Go cocoa crazy! Taste your way through town, with pastry demos and chocolate-themed events all along the way.

WV STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

A full week of parades, parties, entertainment, contests and (of course) treats, strawberry-style!

PEPPERONI ROLL BAKE-OFF

Who does WV's favorite snack best? You decide (after tasting!) at Fairmont's Three Rivers Festival.

DANDELION FESTIVAL

Just a weed? You're forgetting it grants wishes! Celebrate the hearty, gutsy dandelion at this country fair in White Sulphur Springs.

SPRING SIPPIN'

WINES

Our vintners craft all styles, but our sweet, fruity flavors are a treat. Sip the best at the Martinsburg Wine and Arts Festival, Spring Wine Festival at Daniel Vineyards, or along the WV Wine & Spirits Trail.

BLOOMIN' BREWS

Cheers to the lovely weather at the Greater Appalachia Craft Beer Festival in Clarksburg.



SPRING EVENTS



VANDALIA GATHERING + FESTIVAL PREVIEW WEEKEND

Some of Charleston's biggest arts events join the Vandalia Gathering for FestivALL preview weekend. Enjoy the Festiv-ALT concert, Taste-of-ALL dine around and more alongside this all-out old-time heritage celebration.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BATHTUB CELEBRATION

Celebrate our nation's first spa town— and our first president's favorite soaking spot— by saving a few Washingtons in your wallet! Enjoy special deals at the spas of Berkeley Springs.

NORTH BEND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Mountain musicians will be pickin' away the weekend at North Bend State Park.

DOGFEST

Bring your pooch for some pampering and playtime! Get his tail wagging with groomers, puppy parades, treats, handcrafted toys and more in Shepherdstown.

FESTIVAL OF INSPIRATION

If the grand Palace of Gold in Moundsville doesn't inspire you enough, the traditional Hare Krishna music, dancing, feasting and devotional presentations will.

SPRING MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

Relive the ol' springtime classics at the boxcar races and a fishing derby in Petersburg.

HERITAGE FARM SPRING FESTIVAL

Celebrate the arts of yesteryear with crafting and activities from the olden days in Huntington.

DANCE, DANCE!

Watch WV's most talented dancers at the capital city's WV Dance Festival, or try out some footwork of your own along the Mountain Dance Trail.

SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & CELTIC GATHERING

Bridgeport's Scottish ancestry brings us bagpipes, kirkin' o' the tartans, hammer throw contests, sheep herding and more.

ALL TOGETHER ARTS WEEK

Two Certified Arts Communities, Princeton and Bluefield, team up to take over both towns with creativity— performances, parades and more!

GALLERY HOPS

Enjoy the weather with monthly art hop events like Lewisburg's First Fridays After Five, Downtown Charleston ArtWalks and Huntington Final Friday Art Crawls.

For spring event information, visit GoToWV.com



Can you gather all of WV's spring badges? Find out where to get them at GoToWV.com/badges, and log your journey here!

Wild Beauty

I MARVELED AT THE SPRING SCENERY @

(location)



Wild Flavors

I GOT A FRESH TASTE @

(eatery or event)



Spring Adventures

I ADVENTURED WITH

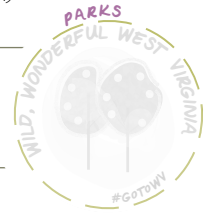
(adventure outfitter)



Parks

I EXPLORED

(national, state, or city park)



Celebrate Spring!

I CELEBRATED SPRING @

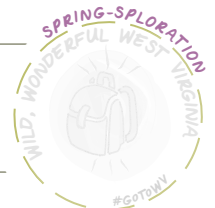
(event)



Spring-sploration

THIS SPRING, I VISITED

(place in WV)



Tip: You can also collect your badges digitally with the GoToWV app! Visit GoToWV.com/app to download it to your smartphone.





LOOKING FOR MORE SPRING FUN?

There's plenty more to discover in West Virginia this spring!

More wildflowers, more wild mountain flavor and way more gatherings. Come enjoy the fine weather and mountain beauty.

Explore the full map of best events, activities, attractions and more across the state at **[GoToWV.com/spring](https://www.gotowv.com/spring)**.

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