

WVtourism.com #AlmostHeaven WINTER DIGITAL PASSPORT



WINTER WONDER

In West Virginia, winter is the perfect time to find the path back to the simple things that matter most. Slowing down. Catching up. Relaxing around a fire with family or friends. Here, winter warmth comes standard, whether you prefer a cozy mountain hideaway, inviting bed and breakfast or a stylish resort offering the height of luxury.

No matter where your winter travels may take you - virtually or in-person, West Virginia offers an array of activities that evoke the wonder of the season and inspiration for future trips. Learn to ski and make new memories at one of West Virginia's family-friendly ski resorts. Or unwind at a local restaurant offering seasonal favorites and warm beverages—the perfect mix to keep you cozy this season.

And don't forget the simplest way to experience winter in West Virginia: a quiet stroll along a picturesque path surrounded by lush forests and a fresh blanket of snow.

This is winter, pure and unspoiled. This is the outdoor playground you can make all your own, magical and full of memories.

Your version of winter heaven awaits at **WVtourism.com/Winter**.

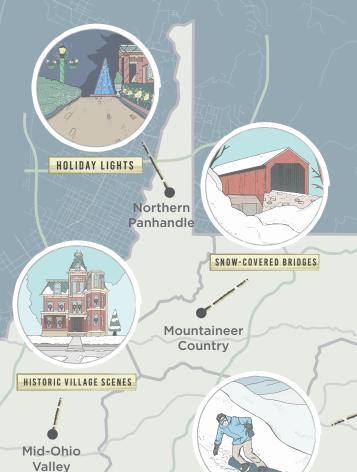


SOCIAL DISTANCING IN WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia was made for social distancing. It's the only state completely covered in the Appalachian Mountain range. There is room to roam while exploring some of the state's most iconic landmarks, like Dolly Sods, Seneca Rocks or the New River Gorge National River, all made more magical in the snow. This winter, we invite you travel responsibly while visiting Almost Heaven. A statewide indoor face covering requirement is in effect, and visitors are encouraged to maintain a safe social distance when traveling.

Enjoy the snow while learning to ski or snowboard at a mountain resort. Drive through dazzling light displays. Enjoy a weekend staycation at a state park near you.

The health and safety of residents and visitors is our top priority. For up-to-date guidelines and statewide regulations, visit **WVtourism.com/travelresponsibly.**



HOW TO WINTER THE RIGHT WAY IN WEST VIRGINIA



Eastern Panhandle

Potomac Highlands

-WINTERCHECKLIST

TRY A WINTER ACTIVITY
IN ALMOST HEAVEN



almost heaven

SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING

In West Virginia, we know how to have fun year-round. Here, seasonal blues are nowhere in sight. In fact, we long for the cooler temperatures and dark, starry night skies that allow us to hit the slopes with friends or curl up around a cozy fire with those we love most. This is winter, peaceful and awe-inspiring. This is Almost Heaven.

Explore ways to experience winter across all of our nine travel regions There's a winter adventure waiting to be discovered at

WVtourism.com/Winter.





The beauty and magic of winter in the Mountain State is truly unmatched. Charming small towns are filled with unique shops and cafés that offer an inviting atmosphere for a cozy day indoors. Picturesque mountains and valleys covered in a fresh blanket of snow set the stage for breathtaking winter hikes. No matter your ideal winter day, there's a place for you in Almost Heaven.

In fact, West Virginia is home to nine distinct travel regions with one-of-a-kind destinations and experiences to make your next winter getaway the best yet.

POTOMAC HIGHLANDS

Nestled in the mountains of the Potomac Highlands lie two stunning ski resorts, **Canaan Valley** and **Timberline Mountain**. Experience the best of the season on a ski slope or sled run. Quaint mountain towns make it an amazing winter weekend road trip.

MOUNTAINEER COUNTRY

The **Philippi Covered Bridge** is the oldest covered bridge in West Virginia and an iconic landmark in Barbour County. The bridge is popular among photographers and becomes even more breathtaking when surrounded by snow-covered hills.

EASTERN PANHANDLE

A town forged in history, rich in culture and abundant with charm, **Harpers Ferry** transforms into a classic winter wonderland. Explore streets lined with historic homes, marvel at the area's heritage and take in the panoramic views of the confluence of two prominent West Virginia rivers.

NORTHERN PANHANDLE

Tomlinson Run State Park is located north of **Wheeling**, at the very tip of the Northern Panhandle. Explore the tranquil winter woods while following one of the park's many hiking trails and stargaze from the unique yurts.



HATFIELD-MCCOY MOUNTAINS

Located in the heart of West Virginia's southern coalfields, **Chief Logan State Park** is known for its annual "Christmas in the Park"
drive-through holiday light display. Enjoy a winter getaway and
book a room in the park's impressive lodge or rent a cozy
mountain cabin.

METRO VALLEY

Located in **Huntington**, **Heritage Farm Museum and Village** transports visitors back in time to early 19th century Appalachia. The village consists of many historic buildings, a captivating museum and several cozy cabins that are perfect for a family getaway. Also, take a stroll down the snow-covered streets of the nearby capital city of **Charleston**. Lined with unique shops and restaurants, it's the perfect place for holiday shopping.

MID-OHIO VALLEY

Tucked among the beautiful rolling hills of the Mid-Ohio Valley is **North Bend State Park**. Known for its 72-mile **North Bend Rail Trail**, enjoy scenic views and picturesque tunnels during a wintertime hike along the trail.

MOUNTAIN LAKES

Stonewall Resort State Park is located just minutes off Interstate 79 and offers everything you need for a luxurious winter vacation. With a clean, modern lodge, upscale lakeside cottages and inviting spa, it's an ideal spot to unwind this winter. Warm up by the park's expansive outdoor fire pit—perfect for roasting s'mores and enjoying a warm beverage.

NEW RIVER/GREENBRIER VALLEY

The historic town of **Bramwell** transforms into a winter wonderland with freshly fallen snow covering the Victorian mansions. Take a stroll down the brick street of Millionaire Row and explore what was once the richest town per capita in America. After exploring Bramwell, head to one of the many trails in the **New River Gorge National River**. Bare trees and a light dusting of snow provide a unique glimpse of the sandstone cliffs and rugged terrain.

Visit WVtourism.com/Winter for more must-see stops.



Crisp, cool air and breathtaking scenery make winter the perfect season to socially distance and enjoy the beauty of the Mountain State. Don't let the colder temperatures scare you. Bundle up and head outdoors for an amazing winter adventure. From downhill skiing to riding ATV trails, winter in Almost Heaven won't leave you disappointed.

WINTER HIKES

You might not think of winter as prime hiking season in the Mountain State, but trails in Almost Heaven are even more majestic this time of year. Seeing the rhododendrons and beech trees of the Appalachian forests in a winter wonderland is a completely unique experience. Our roaring waterfalls freeze into beautiful blue cascading pillars. Let the snow on the trails lead you to vistas and overlooks made even more scenic this season.

For more information on hiking trails in Almost Heaven, visit **WVtourism.com/WinterHikes**.

OFF-ROADING

Explore the remote mountains of West Virginia by hitting the ATV trails this winter. Enjoy the serenity of the snowy countryside and breathtaking vistas while riding on the **Hatfield-McCoy Trails System.** Located in southern West Virginia, more than 800 miles of off-road trails make this area a year-round paradise for ATV riders.

Visit **WVtourism.com/WinterATVs** for more off-roading adventures.



SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING

West Virginia is one of the most popular destinations in the southeast for skiing and snowboarding. High elevations, combined with unique weather patterns, mean West Virginia receives snow early, creating a long season with plenty of opportunities to hit the slopes. At each of the state's resorts, trails range from beginner to advanced, so no matter what your skill level might be, there's a path for you. Fresh powder, high peaks, long runs and unsurpassed beauty make for a winter experience like no other.

Need gear? We've got you covered. Bundle your lift ticket and rentals into one package. Most resorts also have package discounts for beginners looking for a ski or snowboard lesson.

Visit **WVtourism.com/SnowSports** for more ways to hit the slopes this winter.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

The slopes aren't the only way to enjoy winter's beauty. For a laid-back, soulful ski trip, use cross-country skis to explore Almost Heaven's snow-covered terrain.

Cross-country is also called "touring," or "Nordic style." Rather than rapidly swooshing down hills, cross-country skiers look for flatter trails that allow them to kick and glide almost effortlessly through miles of winter wonderland.

West Virginia has some great places for cross-country skiing, whether you are a seasoned skier looking to explore the backcountry, or a beginner looking to rent equipment and learn the basics on easy packed and groomed trails. Pipestem Resort State Park rents cross-country skis, poles and boots to skiers who want to glide around their groomed trails and golf courses. White Grass Ski Touring Center specializes in cross-country skiing with miles of trails and full rental services.

Visit **WVtourism.com/CrossCountrySki** for a list of the best places to cross-country ski in West Virginia.

SLEDDING AND TUBING

The Mountain State boasts some of the biggest and best tubing and sledding runs in the Mid-Atlantic. **Canaan Valley Resort's** 1,200-foot-long tubing run offers hours of snowy entertainment, while **Winterplace Ski Resort's** tubing area, with 16 lanes and two super carpet lifts, is the largest in West Virginia.

If flying down a snowy hill at 25 mph is your idea of fun, there's no better place to be than West Virginia this winter. Experience the thrill of rushing down a specially groomed slope on the quarter-mile sled run located in beautiful **Blackwater Falls State**Park in Davis. Adventure seekers can race down the hill and experience the joy of winter like never before. The best part?

Making it back to the top via the magic carpet conveyor to race down the run all over again.

Visit **WVtourism.com/Sledding** to learn more about winter adventures in Almost Heaven.



Spend time with your family this holiday season exploring everything West Virginia has to offer. Sleigh rides, holiday train excursions and Christmas tree farms await in Almost Heaven and will leave an impression that lasts a lifetime. Create memories with the whole family this winter in West Virginia.

SLEIGH RIDES

A crisp, cool breeze and the sound of jingle bells in the distance can only mean that winter is approaching. And there's no better way to kick off the holiday season than with a festive sleigh ride. Kids of all ages (and even the adults) will love this timeless tradition. Snow-covered trees and beautiful scenery await. Bundle up the family and get cozy under a blanket as you glide through a winter wonderland. Be on the lookout for West Virginia wildlife—you might see deer, rabbits and even bears. Horse-drawn sleighs are the best way to experience winter in Almost Heaven.

CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS

Picking out a Christmas tree with your family is the highlight of the winter season. Tall pines glisten in the snow. The smell of warm apple cider fills the air. With many choose-and-cut Christmas tree farms around the state, you're sure to find the centerpiece for your living room. You can choose from a variety of trees like Douglas Fir, White Pine, Canaan Fir and Norway Spruce. Most farms offer other seasonal decorations like wreaths and garlands to spruce up your home, too. Afterward, enjoy a cup of hot cocoa next to a warm fire. Make sure to play some holiday tunes as you decorate your tree. With moments this special, you'll wish Christmas came more than once a year.

HOLIDAY TRAIN RIDES

All aboard a holiday express to a whimsical wonderland. While train rides might seem like a summer activity, riding up glistening snowy mountains is a magical experience you'll never forget. Just like the Polar Express, your family can enjoy a holiday train ride through Almost Heaven. Snow-covered hills and frozen streams paint a picturesque landscape out your window. The best part? You can enjoy all this from the warmth of the steam locomotive. Some train excursions offer meals while you're winding through the mountains. The kids might even get a chance to meet Santa Claus himself. By the end of it, your family will be begging for another vintage train expedition.

LIGHT SHOWS

'Tis the season of holiday light shows. West Virginia lights up like a Christmas tree during these winter season festivals. This year, it's the perfect socially distanced activity that everyone can enjoy. Hundreds of thousands of lights fill the dark winter nights as families make their way through the displays.

The lights depict everything from traditional holiday displays to West Virginia-themed folklore. Most displays start after Thanksgiving and run into the New Year, so there's plenty of time to be dazzled. New displays are added every year so the family will want to come back time and time again. This is a must-add to your holiday tradition list.



FAMILY SNOW DAYS

Winter in West Virginia is truly magical and the perfect backdrop for spending time with your family. Charming small towns are bustling with adventure as kids enjoy a snow day. Have a little family competition with a snowball fight or take the kids to a local ice rink.

Winter is the perfect season to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of the everyday and reconnect with what—and who—matters most. You never know what you might find if you step outside and enjoy the snowflakes.

Visit **WVtourism.com/FamilyFun** for more ideas of family-fun winter activities.



ALMOST HEAVEN: A PLACE WHERE KIDS LEARN TO SKI

West Virginia is a winter destination that sparks a sense of wonder. Rolling hills come alive and glisten with fresh snow. Laughter beckons from atop a ski lift. And hot cocoa is never in short supply. West Virginia is a winter wonderland for families, and this season, it's serving up a little winter magic.

Throughout the 2020-2021 winter season, children have the opportunity to learn to ski at one of West Virginia's ski resorts—Canaan Valley, Oglebay, Snowshoe, Timberline Mountain and Winterplace. The program is designed to introduce children to the adventure found in snow sports like skiing and snowboarding.

Any child in 4th or 5th grade is eligible to apply for the Ski Passport Program. Visit **WVtourism.com/KidsSki** for more information.



Full-bodied wines and bold spirits can help take the chill out of the air during the colder months in Almost Heaven. These winter warmers can be created with local liquor like vodka, brandy or bourbon for a unique West Virginia flavor.

Enjoy strong, hearty red wines or smooth, white wines this winter. Simmer your favorite red wine with apple cider, honey, cinnamon sticks, cloves and orange for a comforting mulled wine to sip as the snowflakes fall outside.

Winter craft beverage options include traditional, homemade eggnog, hot toddies with a lemon slice garnish and martinis or mimosas made with cranberry. For extra festivity, top with candy canes, peppermint bark, cinnamon sticks or mini gingerbread men.

For more recipes and winter beverage inspiration, visit **WVtourism.com/WinterSpirits**.

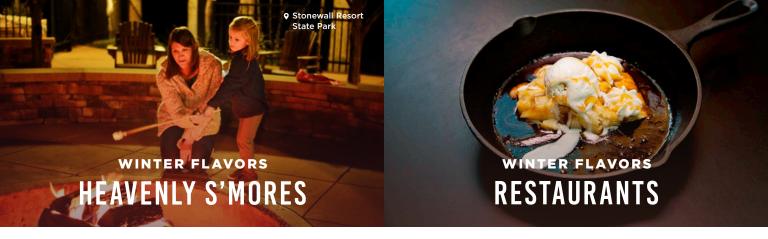
Cozy up with a soothing beverage, a sweet dessert and your own slice of Almost Heaven. The cold West Virginia temperatures call for hot drinks and sweets to warm you up during the winter months.

Pick out your favorite mug and fill it with hot apple cider, complete with cinnamon sticks, lemon peel and maple syrup.

Or, indulge in a cup of hot chocolate with whipped cream and cinnamon on top. Try your coffee mixed with a spoonful of salted caramel

Indulge your sweet tooth with signature winter desserts like local apple crisp topped with a dollop of vanilla ice cream, white chocolate bread pudding and caramel pecan skillet brownies that are rich and gooey.

Stay warm this winter with more dessert and beverage ideas at WVtourism.com/WinterDesserts.



A crackling fire. A chilly breeze. A galaxy full of shining stars above.

Winter evenings in Almost Heaven are best spent around a campfire, snacking on everyone's favorite treat: s'mores.

The classic graham cracker, chocolate bar and marshmallow treat toasted over the fire creates a delicious combination that makes you feel warm inside. In West Virginia, we take our s'mores to the next level. Try these gourmet recipes at your next campfire:

Sweet & Saltv:

Graham cracker + bacon + marshmallow + salted caramel chocolate

Fluffernutter:

Chocolate graham cracker + peanut butter + marshmallow fluff

Strawberry HazeInut:

Graham cracker + strawberries + chocolate hazelnut spread + marshmallow

The Elvis:

Graham cracker + peanut butter + bananas + marshmallow

The cool weather stirs up cravings for warm comfort food and deliciously satisfying dishes. Restaurants across Almost Heaven have switched to their winter seasonal menus that feature meals sure to soothe the soul—and taste buds.

Get your fill of velvety soups and stews this winter. Savory vegetable soups with rich broths, hearty beef bourguignon braised in red wine, and creamy tomato bisques headline menus.

Dine fireside on entrees featuring roasted chicken and winter root vegetables, buttery and creamy pastas, and casseroles filled with beef, mushrooms and spiced lentils.

These belly-filling dishes sample all the winter flavors and create comforting sensations to keep you warm all season long.

For winter-inspired recipes, visit **WVtourism.com/WinterFlavors**.



As the temperatures begin to drop and the snow begins to fall, it's the perfect time to retreat to a resort within the West Virginia mountains. Whether you prefer the adrenaline-charged excitement of the downhill ski slopes or an afternoon of tranquil relaxation by a fireplace, the options are limitless in Almost Heaven.

The Mountain State is home to several world-class ski resorts that each offer their own taste of Almost Heaven excitement. Even if you're new to outdoor winter activities, let your worries fade away. Most resorts have ski and snowboard lessons available, as well as designated beginner terrain where newbies can learn the basics. So, if you've ever wanted to try your hand at skiing or snowboarding, West Virginia is the perfect place.

In addition to downhill winter adventures, you can also go ice skating, cross-country skiing, snow tubing or take a ride on a snowmobile at many resorts.

After a long day in the crisp, cold air, warm up by grabbing a delicious meal at one of the many outstanding resort restaurants. And while you're at it, schedule a massage at a luxury spa.

Winter is the season to find new passions, rest and rejuvenate. What better place to do so than in Almost Heaven? For more information, visit **WVtourism.com/Resorts**.



Nestled within the snow-capped mountains of Almost Heaven are beautiful, historic and charming bed and breakfasts that stand ready to welcome guests with warm southern hospitality. Whether you're staying in a farmhouse down a quiet country lane, a lakeside cottage, or a community landmark built in the 1800s, you're in for a heavenly stay.

A stay in a bed and breakfast in West Virginia is more than just a cozy night's sleep. It's an entire experience. It's your chance to encounter Appalachian charm with a side of a local, homemade, delicious meals.

These incredible bed and breakfasts serve as the perfect home base to explore the surrounding area. If you enjoy visiting the must-see sites and discovering quaint towns just off the beaten path, then a bed and breakfast retreat might be the best mountain accommodation for you.

Maybe you're looking to recharge and take a break from the hustle of everyday life for a few days. Bed and breakfasts can serve as your personal oasis. With access to nature, hiking trails and gorgeous vista views, you'll be feeling at peace and ready to tackle the rest of the chilly season.

When the winter blues start to creep in, it's time to schedule a trip to an Almost Heaven bed and breakfast. Here, friendly hosts will give you a warm welcome and make you feel right at home.

For more information, visit WVtourism.com/BedandBreakfast.





Experience the best of the Mountain State this winter by taking a much-needed trip to a cozy cabin nestled in nature.

From rustic cabins perched mountainside to secluded hideaways offering the height of luxury, cabin getaways will provide the relaxing escape you've been looking for and maybe even make you wish for snow.

Before you know it, you'll be whisked away by the mountain air and snuggled under a blanket, next to a crackling fire, sipping on your favorite warm drink. Sounds heavenly, doesn't it?

From quaint to grand, rustic to luxurious—there's a cabin waiting here for you when you're ready. Whether you're bringing whether you're bringing your family, a significant other, or maybe just a great book, West Virginia is the perfect place to tuck away into the beauty of the mountains for a cabin escape.

For more information, visit WVtourism.com/Cabins.

WINTER GETAWAY PACKING LIST

Get outside and enjoy the beautiful winter landscapes in West Virginia! Check out the winter packing list below for ideas of what to bring on your outdoor adventures.

☐ : WARM-WEATHER CLOTHING

Don't forget your hats, gloves and mittens. Also dress in layers and bring back-up clothing in case you get wet!

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR

West Virginia winters can be cold, so it's time to bring out those boots you've always wanted to wear. Make sure you have waterproof footwear if you are hitting the trails.

☐ : WINTER GEAR

If you are heading outside for an adventure, it's best to be over-prepared. Pack a backpack with extra clothes, a flashlight and snacks.



West Virginia's landscape is carved from rolling hills, flowing streams and deep forests that reveal sweeping mountain vistas. The best way to experience the beauty of the Mountain State is through exploring the vast network of parks and public lands. Whether it's a recreational park, a dense evergreen forest or a serene frozen lake, step outside and enjoy the natural wonders this winter in West Virginia.

FIRST DAY HIKES

In West Virginia, we like to start the New Year off right. That's why many West Virginia State Parks and Forests offer "First Day" hikes. Led by knowledgeable park guides, these hikes are designed to get you outside and off on the right foot in the New Year. Want to tackle a trail on your own? West Virginia is home to six national parks, the **Monongahela National Forest** and hundreds of thousands of acres of public land waiting to be discovered. Get off the grid and immerse yourself in nature this winter.

ICONIC VIEWS

Looking for those breathtaking winter views? Look no further than West Virginia's public lands. Home to iconic spots like **Dolly Sods Wilderness**, the **Bluestone Gorge** and **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**, there's a winter photo opportunity waiting for you.

Looking to capture that "only-in-West Virginia" picture? Try your hand at finding a frozen waterfall. Our falls, while rushing in the spring and summer, are quiet and still in the winter. They provide a peaceful backdrop that's frozen in time.

Forge a new path this winter at one of West Virginia's many parks and public lands.

For a list of iconic winter views and first day hikes, visit **WVtourism.com/PublicLands.**



These magical lights festivals are a one-of-a-kind holiday celebration in West Virginia. Create a memorable experience this season at a local light show.

LIGHTS FESTIVALS

Winter Festival of Lights

November 5-January 10, Wheeling

A beautiful, dazzling display, the Winter Festival of Lights at **Oglebay Resort and Conference Center** is a winter must-see. With 90 lighted attractions and more than 1 million energy-efficient LED lights, the Winter Festival of Lights is a magical experience for all.

Holiday in the Park

November 23-December 31, Parkersburg

Get in the spirit at Holiday in the Park, a drive-through seasonal display at **City Park** and **Southwood Park** in **Parkersburg**. Turn on some cheerful, holiday music as you drive through glimmering light displays.

Christmas at the Fair

Thursdays - Sundays starting November 27,

WV State Fairgrounds, Lewisburg

The State Fair of West Virginia will host Christmas at the Fair, it's first-ever Christmas Light Drive-Thru experience. Christmas at the Fair will allow patrons to safely drive-through the property while enjoying the sights and sounds of the holidays.

LIGHTS FESTIVALS (CONTINUED)

Celebration of Lights

November 27-December 27, Fairmont

During the Celebration of Lights, held at **Morris Park** in **Fairmont**, you can sip hot cocoa while admiring more than 475 holiday light displays spread out over 1.3 miles.

Holiday of Lights

November 26-January 1, Bluefield

Drive through **Bluefield City Park** and see more than 1 million twinkling Christmas lights during the Holiday of Lights. From a candy cane canopy of lights to weekend events where you can visit with Santa or take a walking tour through the lights, get in the spirit at Holiday of Lights.

St. Albans Festival of Lights

November 27-December 23, 26, St. Albans

Twinkling holiday lights await at the **St. Albans** Festival of Lights at **St. Albans City Park**. Children can visit with Santa and get their picture taken with him for a special holiday memento.



TRY A WINTER ACTIVITY IN ALMOST HEAVEN

TAKE A SELFIE AT A SCENIC WINTER STOP

FIND YOUR FAVORITE WINTER FLAVOR

VISIT A CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

WARM UP BY A FIRE IN A COZY MOUNTAIN RETREAT

HIT THE SLOPES AT A WEST VIRGINIA SKI RESORT

GO ON A FIRST DAY WINTER HIKE







SHARE YOUR VERSION OF HEAVEN

Cool mountain landscapes are warmed with the pure and unspoiled joy that awaits this winter in West Virginia. If you explore the Mountain State, share and tag your favorite winter photos on social media with #AlmostHeaven.

Be sure to visit the winter activity tracker on WVtourism.com/Winter to view other travelers' photos and wintertime adventures from across the state.







