

RAIL HERITAGE



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1-800-CALL WVA

The History of the Railroad in West Virginia

The Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) is the oldest railroad in the United States and more than 210 of its 379 miles lie within West Virginia. Baltimore and the state of Maryland constructed the B&O Railroad as a link to the agricultural Midwest and to commerce offered by the Ohio River, and to increase the city's competitive

Phillipi depot and
B&O Railroad.



West Virginia
State Archives,
Mrs. James Hammer
Collection.

edge. The B&O was completed to Wheeling, (West) Virginia on Christmas Eve, 1852. The line passed through Harpers Ferry and Grafton to become a major division point that also served the Northwestern Virginia Railroad. Later it connected with Parkersburg. Farther east, Martinsburg also became a first-class railway town, possessing a round house and machine shops.

Locked deep within the heavily forested mountains that offer a wealth of lumber are the rich deposits of coal, natural gas



First train from Parsons to
Thomas, West Virginia
Central Railroad, April 1, 1889.

West Virginia State Archives,
Barbara Elza Collection

and oil that characterize so much of the state. These reserves were largely inaccessible until the coming of the rails. Following a depression in the 1870s and the beginning of the industrialization of the United States, railroad lines were constructed with a goal to recover West Virginia's natural resources.

Construction challenges were daunting to say the least. The Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) line, which connected Richmond, Virginia and Huntington, West Virginia, faced enormous barriers. Tunnels were blasted and drilled through the



Adamson
"Dinky Train"
- Date Unknown

West Virginia State Archives,
Harrison County Historical
Society Collection

mountains, giving birth not only to a rail line, but to legends as well. One such legend concerns the Great Bend Tunnel at Talcott and John Henry, the "Steel Drivin' Man" made popular by ballads. A statue near the site of the epic contest, man versus machine, commemorates the story of John Henry's competition with a steam drill.

One of the first trunk lines built in West Virginia after the Civil War, the C&O Railway was started in 1868 and the rails were connected at Hawks Nest on January 29, 1873. Following the pathways of Native Americans and stagecoach routes, the C&O line entered the state east of White Sulphur Springs in Greenbrier County and traveled through the canyon of the New River, followed the Kanawha River for several miles and then cut across to Huntington and the Ohio River.

The completion of the line in 1873 opened the southern half of West Virginia, most notably the Kanawha River Valley, to industrialization. The railroad also made possible intensive mining operations that have fueled the state's economy for 80 years and continue to do so today.

The Norfolk and Western Railroad's Ohio Extension was completed in 1892. It was built expressly for the purpose of opening up the rich Pocahontas coalfield in southeastern West Virginia. This rich coal seam produced a fuel highly prized by America's industries.

Many of West Virginia's most renowned and colorful historical figures are associated with the rail industry. Collis P. Huntington, H. H. Rogers, Henry Gassaway Davis and Stephen Benton Elkins all built and expanded the railroad system and brought prosperity and development to the state.



Compound freight
locomotive used in
the mountainous
districts of the B&O
Railroad, 1901.

West Virginia State
Archives, Grants Photo
Record Collection

Present Day Rail Excursions

*DURBIN & GREENBRIER VALLEY RAILROAD



DURBIN ROCKET*

The Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad offers two historic depots and four excursion trains. For schedules and additional information, contact the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad Inc., 315 Railroad Ave., Elkins, WV 26241. (877) 686-7245 or www.mountainrail.com

In historic Durbin, you have the opportunity to ride and experience the sights and sounds of one of the most unique steam locomotives in existence. The Durbin Rocket Excursion Train is powered by Old No. 3, one of only three operating Climax geared logging locomotives on earth. This 55-ton antique was built in 1910 for the Moore-Keppel Lumber Co. in nearby Randolph County. Today you can ride in an authentic 1920s caboose behind Old No. 3 as she puffs and whistles her way along the free-flowing Greenbrier River in northern Pocahontas County. Your ride covers 10.5 miles on a two-hour round trip and offers many beautiful river and mountain views in the Monongahela National Forest.

Stay awhile in Durbin and visit the Rail & Trail Store on Main Street, across from the depot, where you will find a large selection of souvenirs, gifts and T-shirts, along with the famous "Big Scoop" hand-dipped ice cream cones. We invite you to share a few hours of relaxation and fun on The Durbin Rocket Excursion Train in century-old Durbin, W.Va. (877) 686-7245 or www.mountainrail.com

NEW TYGART FLYER*

This smooth climate-controlled passenger train offers one of the most exciting mountain wilderness excursion rides in the country. The four-hour, 46-mile round trip starts in Elkins and features two separate mountain grades, an "S" curve tunnel, passage into a 1,500-foot deep canyon with steep densely forested slopes, and crossing the rushing Shavers Fork of the Cheat River.



Trips culminate at the inspirational High Falls of the Cheat, an 18'-foot high, 150-foot wide waterfall in one of the most remote and pristine settings in the eastern United States.

For a comfortable ride through spectacular mountain wilderness on a vintage passenger train, visit www.mountainrail.com or call (877) 686-7245

MOUNTAIN EXPLORER PREMIER DINNER TRAIN*

Train travel and fine dining have been one of the great pleasures enjoyed by previous generations of Americans. As faster modes of transportation evolved, the magnificent long-distance passenger trains began to disappear, thus bringing to a close the era of dining car service. However, many who remember this time in history still visualize the romantic notions evoked by the unusual combination of dining while gliding effortlessly past towns and rivers, accompanied by the rhythmic melody of the rails.



The four-hour journey will highlight fresh-cooked, four course gourmet meals prepared inside a completely restored dining car and served enroute by the food service professionals from the Railyard Restaurant.

For more information, visit www.mountainrail.com or call 877-MTN-RAIL

CHEAT MOUNTAIN SALAMANDER*



Welcome to one of the most distinctive rail excursions in the eastern United States. Named in honor of the little endangered creature whose sole habitat is the river of the same name, the Cheat Mountain Salamander takes you through some of the wildest mountain wilderness you will ever experience. This 6.5-hour ride transports you through mile-after-mile of unbroken, untamed mountain wilderness that has remained unchanged since the time before modern civilization arrived. This trip also includes many interesting features such as a long tunnel built with an "S" curve far underneath Cheat Mountain, numerous long mountain vistas and many opportunities to view exotic wildlife including bald eagle and black bear. Also, stops will be made at the inspirational "High Falls of the Cheat" as well as Cheat Bridge.

For more information, visit www.mountainrail.com or call 877-MTN-RAIL

CASTAWAY CABOOSE*

Two original Wabash Railroad cabooses have been refurbished into efficiency suites on rails. Overnight packages include a round-trip fare on the Durbin Rocket steam train, where you will be "castaway" at the remote Hevener Station picnic area, located several miles from the modern world. In this secluded wilderness setting, along the Greenbrier River you will spend the evening with only the rushing waters of the river. At the end of your stay the train will pull your caboose back to Durbin.

Each castaway-caboose has room for up to six adults and includes a refrigerator, range, heat, linens, towels, utensils, full-size shower, and restroom. You will depart and arrive from the Durbin Depot on the regular schedule of the Durbin Rocket train. A personal load of firewood will be provided for a campfire.

Call for availability and reservations.
877-MTN-RAIL or www.mountainrail.com

POTOMAC EAGLE SCENIC RAILROAD



Enjoy a 3.5-hour narrated trip that winds through idyllic pastures filled with native flowers, past farms dating from the early 1700s, and through the visually striking river gorge known as The Trough. Thrill to the sight of American bald eagles soaring high above their natural habitat along the South Branch of the Potomac River. Open window coach or Classic Club seating is available. First Class seating includes a meal served in an air-conditioned club car. Schedule: Saturdays, May through September, and daily in October for fall color. Check the schedule for special events and all-day excursions. Located on Rt. 28, 1.5 miles north of Romney.

For more information, contact the Potomac Eagle, P.O. Box 657, Romney, WV 26757. Train Station Phone: (304) 822-7464. Phone reservation: (304) 424-0736 Website: www.potomaceagle.info

NEW RIVER TRAIN EXCURSIONS

In cooperation with Amtrak, the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society operates a series of special fall foliage tours through the scenic New River Gorge, "the Grand Canyon of the East." Locomotives and a mixture of Amtrak and privately owned Amtrak-approved horizon coaches, lounges, parlor cars, dome cars and open platform cars make up the trains.



The tour originates in Huntington, makes stops in St. Albans and Montgomery to board passengers, and passes through the 65-mile long New River Gorge National River and under the New River Gorge Bridge. Last stop for the trip is historic Hinton for a delightful Railroad Days street fair, which features local food booths, arts and crafts, a railroad museum and other attractions. Other excursions offered throughout the year include trips to the Greenbrier, New York, Washington, DC or Philadelphia.

For information, contact the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 393, Huntington, WV 25708. Ticket office: (304) 523-0364 or (866) 639-7487 Website: www.newrivertrain.com, E-mail: CPHRRHS@aol.com

CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK



Once used to haul logs in the bustling lumber town of Cass, the specially designed Shay steam locomotives today take passengers up steep grades and past breathtaking views of mountain scenery to Whittaker Station, Bald Knob and Spruce Run. A special "railfan" weekend previews the season in mid-May, with the regular public schedule (available upon request) from Memorial Day weekend through October. During the operating season, a dinner train series and other special events are offered. Twenty original "company" houses have been restored and are available for reservation year-round. Cass also has two refurbished cabooses available for an overnight stay. Visitors travel up the mountain and get unhitched on a lone tract.

For schedules and further information, contact Cass Scenic Railroad State Park, P.O. Box 107, Cass, WV 24927. Phone: (304) 456-4300 or (toll-free, United States and Canada) 1-800-CALL-WVA Website: www.cassrailroad.com

MOUNTAIN STATE NEW RIVER GORGE MYSTERY TRAIN™



Audience participation and fully interactive theatrical company providing train excursion and entertainment aboard the Amtrak Cardinal.

For tickets or reservations, contact The Mountain State New River Gorge Mystery Train™, 1908 Willow Street, Huntington, WV 25701. Phone: (866) 529-6412
For general information and schedules, visit www.themysterytrain.com
E-mail: information@themysterytrain.com

DEPOTS OF INTEREST

ALDERSON DEPOT: 1896 rail station located in the Alderson Historic District. Phone: (304) 445-2916. (Alderson City Hall)

BRAMWELL DEPOT: Reconstruction of the original (c.1886/ Norfolk & Western) depot serves as the Southern Interpretive Center for the Coal Heritage Trail. Museum, visitor's center and gift shop are all housed at the depot. The walking tour of historic Bramwell originates at the depot.
www.coalheritage.com Phone: (866) 858-8959



Bramwell Depot

CAPITOL MARKET: A renovated freight station from the 1800s, eclectically designed to capture the essence of an outdoor farmers' market and host to many indoor specialty shops and a full-scale restaurant featuring fine Italian cuisine. Open daily, year round. Phone: (304) 344-1905



Capitol Market

CASS WATER TOWER: Refurbished wooden tank, shored up foundations. Phone: (304) 456-4300 or (800) CALL WVA

CHIEF LOGAN MUSEUM IN THE PARK: Restoration of display area for Kanawha-type C&O locomotive (wheel configuration 2-8-4), example of primary coal hauler on C&O main lines in southern West Virginia. Phone: (304) 792-7229

CLOVER LICK DEPOT: Serves as major trailhead for the Greenbrier River Trail. Phone: (800) 336-7009

DURBIN DEPOT: Completely restored 1902 depot serves as an information center for local attractions and the focal point of the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Scenic Railroad. Phone: (877) 686-7245

ELKINS DEPOT: A two-story brick and sandstone structure constructed in 1908. The depot incorporated both a passenger area and freight terminal. Fully renovated, it now functions as a gift shop and visitors' center.
Phone: (877) 686-7245

KINGWOOD DEPOT: For information, call (304) 329-2717

MARTINSBURG TRAIN STATION/HOTEL: Because it was a privately-owned hotel, Stonewall Jackson spared the structure from destruction during the Civil War. After the war, it served as both a hotel and depot. Phone: (304) 264-2131, ext. 277 (Caperton Train Station)



Martinsburg Train Station



West Virginia Rails



Railroad Depot or Museum



Scenic Train Route



DEPOTS OF INTEREST *(continued)*

MARTINSBURG ROUNDHOUSE: Site of the first national labor strike in history, known as the Bloody Year of '77, this (c. 1866) roundhouse replaced the original one destroyed by Stonewall Jackson early in the Civil War. Utilizing what was, at the time, a new construction material, its framework is cast iron, making it one of the oldest such cast-iron structures in the United States. In June 2003, the complex was designated a National Historic Landmark. Phone: (304) 260-4141



Martinsburg Roundhouse



Matewan Depot

MATEWAN DEPOT:

Located in downtown Matewan, this replica of the Matewan Depot now houses a visitors' center, museum and gift shop. Phone: (304) 426-4522

MONTGOMERY: East of Charleston, you will enter the historic New River coalfields, which were opened up by the railroad during the last half of the 19th century. The town of Montgomery was an important trading center for the mining and industrial economy of the region. Phone: (304) 442-5181

PENNSBORO DEPOT: Tourist center and access point for the 63-mile-long North Bend Rail Trail with displays and historical interpretation. Phone: (304) 643-2738



Philippi Depot

PHILIPPI DEPOT: Depot-turned-museum, located by historic Philippi Covered Bridge. Phone: (304) 457-4846

SALEM DEPOT: Recently restored, the depot serves as a trailhead for the North Bend Rail Trail and includes displays and historic interpretation. Phone: (304) 782-1518

SOUTHSIDE DEPOT: Located in Petersburg, the depot was built in 1911 and restored in 2003 by the city of Petersburg. Today the depot houses a visitor center, gallery, shop and depot for the Potomac Eagle Excursions into Petersburg. Phone: (304) 257-9264

TUNNELTON DEPOT: This 1913 depot in Preston County is at the southern end of the West Virginia Northern Railroad, which now serves as a rail trail. Phone: (304) 568-2853 or (304) 568-2579

WHEELING B&O STATION: This restored station houses offices for the West Virginia Northern Community College. The artifacts on the second floor can be seen by appointment. Phone: (304) 233-5900



WEST VIRGINIA RAIL TRAILS: West Virginia is home to several rail trails developed from the conversion of former rail lines into non-motorized recreational use areas. Along these trails, you will find remnants of the railroad's past coupled with serene natural beauty and bountiful wildlife. Most rail trails run parallel to a scenic river and offer many access points for fishing, wading or paddling.

A few of the most popular rail trails include the North Bend Rail Trail that travels from Parkersburg to Clarksburg, the Mon-River Rail Trail system near Morgantown and the Greenbrier River Rail Trail that travels from Cass to Caldwell (near Lewisburg). For a complete listing of West Virginia's Rail Trails, visit www.wvtourism.com or call 800-CALL-WVA to request a West Virginia Rail Trails brochure.

OTHER DEPOTS & STATIONS OF INTEREST

GAULEY BRIDGE: This refurbished depot serves as city hall.
Phone: (304) 632-2505

HARPERS FERRY: This picturesque town at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers became an important manufacturing center following the 1834 arrival of the B&O Railroad - America's first public railroad. The famous raid led by abolitionist John Brown, considered by many historians to be the starting point of the Civil War, occurred here in 1859. The Harpers Ferry National Historical Park impressively preserves this history, and Thomas Jefferson described views from a promontory above the town as worth a trip across the Atlantic. The turn-of-the-century depot serves both Amtrak and the Maryland Rail Commuter (MARC).
Phone: (304) 535-6298 or (304) 535-6029



The Joy Line Railroad, Harper's Ferry

HINTON: This historic railroad town (est. 1873) includes the must-see Hinton Railroad Museum, which is filled with rail-related artifacts and memorabilia. Near the Great Bend Tunnel at Talcott (10 miles east of Hinton) stands the John Henry Memorial in honor of the "Steel-Drivin' Man" who beat a steam drill in the legendary contest at that site more than a century ago. Phone: (304) 466-5420

HUNTINGTON: Chartered in 1871 by its founder and namesake, Collis P. Huntington, the city became an important transfer point for rail to Ohio River shipments.
Phone: (304) 525-7333

PARSONS: The Heritage House Fine Arts and Crafts Co-op makes its home in this lovingly restored depot.
Phone: (304) 478-2402



Station at Prince

PRINCE: Still a working depot serving the Amtrak Cardinal run, this depot is noted for its unique art deco interior.
Phone: (304) 253-6651

THURMOND: Newly restored as part of the New River Gorge National River Recreation Area, the depot serves as a tourist center with historical displays. Phone: (304) 574-2115



Thurmond Station

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS: Nestled in the impressive mountains of southeastern West Virginia, this bucolic agricultural town is home to The Greenbrier, a tradition-steeped resort consistently rated among the best in the world. Phone: (800) 624-6070



The depot at White Sulphur Springs

WILLIAMSON ROUND HOUSE: This round house is one of the only remaining round houses in operation today.
Phone: (304) 235-1102

MUSEUMS (featuring Rail-Related Exhibits)

CASS SHOWCASE AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM interprets the history of Cass and the region's logging industry through railroad artifacts, paintings and miniatures. Both are located behind the Cass Depot. Mailing address: P.O. Box 4, Cass, WV 24927. Phone: (304) 456-4300

C&O HERITAGE MUSEUM resides in Huntington's former C&O Passenger Station, which, when it was constructed in 1913, was the largest of nine Colonial Revival-style stations built by the railway. Life-size murals, photographic galleries, lanterns and other rail paraphernalia depict the station's history and serve as a tribute to railroad workers. Open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mailing address: 935 7th Ave., Huntington, WV 25701. Phone: (304) 522-5167

HARPERS FERRY TOY TRAIN MUSEUM & JOY LINE RAILROAD offers a fascinating collection of antique electric trains and toys prior to 1950 and half-mile outdoor 16-inch gauge train and handcar rides. Located on Bakerton Road, one mile from the intersection of U.S. Route 340 and W.Va. Route 27. Open weekends and holidays, April–October, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mailing address: 937 Bakerton Road, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. Phone: (304) 535-2521

HERITAGE VILLAGE: Huntington's original turn-of-the-century B&O depot lives on as a visitors center containing a Mikado-Class locomotive and a 1925 Pullman car on display at 210 11th Street. Mailing address: Cabell–Huntington CVB, P.O. Box 347, Huntington, WV 25708. Phone: (304) 525-7333



Hinton Railroad Museum

HINTON RAILROAD MUSEUM:

Artifacts of the C&O Railway including tools, historical pictures, uniforms, dining implements and lanterns. The John Henry exhibit features 93 folk art figures depicting the John Henry legend and railroad work in the 1880s. Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Nov - May; 10 a.m. - 4p.m. Jun - Oct and by appointment for group tours. Mailing address: 206 Temple St., Hinton, WV 25951. Contact: Dorothy Jean Boley, (304) 466-5420

HUNTINGTON RAILROAD MUSEUM: Located at the end of 14th Street West, near Huntington's beautiful Ritter Park, this outdoor museum features C&O Mallet Freight Locomotive No. 1308, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places; C&O Caboose 90065; a wood frame handcar and much more. The museum opens Sundays from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., May–September or other times by appointment. Contact Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society Inc., 1323 8th Ave., Huntington, WV 25701. Phone: (866) 639-7487



John Henry Statue, Talcott

JOHN HENRY STATUE: Located on Route 3 at Talcott, this statue commemorates the “Steel-Drivin’ Man” of legend. Nearby is the 6,500-foot-long Great Bend Tunnel where Henry reputedly worked in 1873. Phone: (304) 466-1729

PRINCETON RAILROAD MUSEUM: Located at 99 Mercer Street in Princeton, this museum is a replica of Princeton's 1909 Virginian Railway Station. At the museum, you will find more than 100 railroad lanterns on display and exhibits of railroad

artifacts relating to the Virginian and Western rail lines. Known as the “Richest Little Railroad in the World,” the Virginian was responsible for the growth and expansion of Princeton. The museum's operating hours vary slightly by season, so call for more details. Website: www.cityofprinceton.org Phone: (304) 487-5060

VIRGINIAN CABOOSE No. 307 OF MULLENS: After years of “bringing up the rear” on many trains hauling area coal, Caboose No. 307 has been retired to a location near City Hall at 4th Street and Howard Avenue, where it serves as a museum. The caboose houses items that illustrate the life and times of railroad days in southern West Virginia. Located nearby on Howard Ave. is an impressive mural of Old Virginian Railway steam engine No. 215 pulling several cars. Museum open by appointment. Contact Jack Feller, 217 Howard Ave. or P.O. Box 295, Mullens, WV 25882. Phone: (304) 294-4004

WILLIAMSON AREA RAILROAD MUSEUM: Located in downtown Williamson, the museum highlights the area's railroad history. The museum is currently housed in an old Pullman sleeper and caboose. Open Saturdays from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., April-September, and by appointment. Phone: (304) 235-0105

RAIL-RELATED EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Cass Scenic Railroad

APRIL

CASS: Annual Volunteer Cleanup Weekend, free housing and other amenities are provided in exchange for an eight-hour volunteer workday. Phone: (800) CALL WVA or (304) 456-4300

MAY

CASS: Railfan Weekend, weekend prior to Memorial Day, includes daytime and nighttime photo opportunities. Phone: (800) CALL WVA or (304) 456-4300

CASS: Fiddles and Vittles specials (Memorial Day weekend and June-September, Saturdays and by special appointment) includes barbecue dinner and live entertainment. Phone: (800) CALL WVA or (304) 456-4300

CASS: Murder Mystery Specials (Memorial Day weekend and seven Fridays during June-September), includes dinner and live entertainment. Phone: (800) CALL WVA or (304) 456-4300

DURBIN/CHEAT BRIDGE/ELKINS/BELINGTON: Season begins for the three excursion trains of the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad - the Durbin Rocket, the Cheat Mountain Salamander, and the New Tygart Flyer. Phone: (877) 686-7245

ROMNEY: Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad, season begins for excursions and special events as scheduled. Phone: (304) 424-0736
Website: www.potomaceagle.info

JUNE

CASS: Dinner trains with different themes and entertainment. Phone: (800) CALL WVA or (304) 456-4300



Cass Scenic Railroad

JULY

COWEN: Cowen Historical Railroad Festival, last week of July. Contact Rita Green, P.O. Box 366, Cowen, WV 26206. Phone: (304) 226-3602 or (304) 226-5607

DURBIN: Durbin Days, third weekend. Celebration of small-town heritage. Midway rides, entertainment, special rides on the Durbin Rocket excursion train. Phone: (877) 686-7245



Potomac Eagle

AUGUST

CASS: Murder mystery special evening train includes buffet dinner. Phone: (800) CALL WVA or (304) 456-4300

SEPTEMBER

MOOREFIELD: Hardy Heritage Days, during last full weekend, includes all-day excursion of Potomac Eagle and tours of historic homes in Moorefield. Phone: (304) 424-0736
Website: www.potomaceagle.info

CASS: Special Fall Color Trains, September to October. Phone: (800) CALL WVA or (304) 456-4300

OCTOBER

CASS: Harvest Day. Phone: (800) CALL WVA or (304) 456-4300

DURBIN/CHEAT BRIDGE/ELKINS/BELINGTON: Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad fall foliage schedule, late September–October. Phone: (877) 686-7245

HINTON: Railroad Days Festival, third and fourth weekend of October. Contact Hinton Railroad Museum, 206 Temple St., Hinton, WV 25951. Phone: (304) 466-5420

HUNTINGTON: New River Excursion Trains, third & fourth weekend of October. Contact The Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 393, Huntington, WV 25708. Ticket office phone: (866) 639-7487

ROMNEY: Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad, daily fall color excursions with special events as scheduled.

Phone: (304) 424-0736

Website: www.potomaceagle.info

WILLIAMSON RAILFEST CELEBRATION: This festival is held annually in the town of Williamson and celebrates railroad history through events, displays and talks.

Phone: (304) 235-0105

NOVEMBER

BLUEFIELD: Railfest Model Train Show, held annually in early to mid-November. Contact the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 221-3206

Website: www.visitmercercounty.com

DECEMBER

ELKINS: Annual Christmas train on the New Tygart Flyer sponsored by Elkins United Methodist Church. Food, entertainment and a visit from Santa in traditional fashion. Proceeds benefit church youth mission trips.

Phone: (877) 686-7245

AMTRAK HISTORY IN WEST VIRGINIA



Winding through the heart of West Virginia's whitewater country, the Amtrak Cardinal serves Chicago and Washington, D.C. by way of the spectacular New River Gorge and White Sulphur Springs. The Cardinal features a dinette car and lounge, roomy reclining seats with leg rests, reading lights and plenty of room for you and your luggage along with first-class sleeping accommodations.

West Virginia stops include Huntington, chartered in 1871 by its founder and namesake, Collis P. Huntington; Charleston, West Virginia's capital city; Montgomery, an important trading center for the mining and industrial economy of the region; Thurmond, traveling deep into the gorge; Prince, an Art Deco aficionado's delight built in 1945 to serve the Beckley area; Hinton, historic railroad town (est. 1873); Alderson, situated on the banks of the scenic Greenbrier River; and White Sulphur Springs, home to The Greenbrier.

The Capitol Limited, the northern rail route between Chicago and Washington, D.C., affords access to the historic and scenic Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Completely equipped with a dining car, spacious coach seats, first-class sleeping accommodations and sightseer lounge, travelers enjoy comfortable surroundings along this route.

West Virginia stops include Harpers Ferry, where the turn-of-the-century depot serves both Amtrak and Maryland Rail Commuter (MARC), and Martinsburg, long an important rail center on the original B&O line.

For tickets, information or schedules, call 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit www.amtrak.com



1-800-CALL WVA

www.wvtourism.com

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER