



TreeTops Canopy Tour features 10 ziplines.

Winter in the New River Gorge; Six Things to Do Before the Rhododendrons Bloom

FAYETTEVILLE, W. Va., February 17, 2022 - There's still time for a winter-season getaway to Southern West Virginia's [New River Gorge National Park and Preserve](#) before the spring warmth thaws the frost lingering on the broad leaves of the region's famous [rhododendrons and mountain laurel](#).

The country's newest national park, the New River Gorge is a four-season destination that is within a 500-mile drive of more than 60 percent of the U.S. population. Named a national park in December 2020, the park encompasses more than 70,000 acres of land along 53 miles of the New River from Bluestone Dam to Hawk's Nest Lake. The rugged river flows northward through deep and spectacular canyons, and it is the deepest and longest river gorge in the Appalachian Mountains.

With far fewer visitors than during the summer, the winter months are a great time to explore the sprawling park and the charming towns that surround it.

The New River Gorge has several great hikes, including through the ghost town of Beury.



Rhododendrons bring color and joy to the region.

Photo by Rich Grant.

Here are six things to do before the spring thaw:

1. **Save big bucks on national park lodging.** Situated on the edge of the New River Gorge, [Adventures on the Gorge](#) is offering up to half off lodging until April 1. With architecture reminiscent some of the classic national park lodges in the West, the resort features an easily walkable campus with a restaurant, small-group conference center and plenty of outdoor decks and spaces for birdwatching, photography and stargazing. Cabins range from multi-bedroom [deluxe cabins](#) to cozy [mountain cabins](#). Located a short walk from the restaurant and other facilities, all cabins feature private outdoor spaces and some offer private hot tubs.
2. **Zipline through an Eastern Hemlock forest.** [TreeTops Canopy Tour](#) is a zipline course situated near the cabins. This guided year-round adventure is situated in a lush forest and features 10 ziplines from platform to platform, five sky bridges and a thrilling rappel back to the ground.
3. **Explore ghost towns.** In this [video](#), Adventures on the Gorge CEO Roger Wilson leads a walk between two New River Gorge ghost towns, Beury and Thurmond. Both were mining boomtowns created in the 1870s when Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad opened the rugged, coal-rich region to miners and developers. In Beury, hikers can still see remnants of the Beury General Store and explore the site where coal mining baron Joseph Beury built his 23-room mansion, complete with swimming pool, stables and greenhouse. The remarkably well-preserved town of [Thurmond](#) is more easily accessible, and casual hikers can still explore the town's railroad depot and other buildings. Most of the dozens of ghost towns in the New River Gorge began to decline in the 1930s as the railroad switched from steam to diesel and Americans began increasingly traveling by car.
4. **Winter hiking.** There are seemingly endless winter hiking opportunities throughout the New River Gorge. Travelers can take a warm-up hike along the five-mile [Wild Rock Trail](#), which begins at AOTG and winds through the forest and along the rim of the New River Gorge. Other favorite national park hikes include the [Grandview Rim Trail](#), [Long Point Trail](#) and [Canyon Rim Boardwalk](#).
5. **Aerial workouts.** [TimberTrek Adventure Park](#) at Adventures on the Gorge is an aerial obstacle course that offers fitness enthusiasts a fun and challenging workout adventure. Visitors advance to increasingly difficult courses with challenges such as rope ladders, ziplines and swinging bridges.
6. **Stargazing.** With dark skies and low light pollution, there's terrific stargazing throughout the region. Guests of Adventures on the Gorge can find near-solitary stargazing locations throughout the campus.

For more information about accommodations and activities, visit the [website](#) or connect with the resort on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TripAdvisor](#), [YouTube](#), and [Vimeo](#) and by signing up for AOTG [e-newsletter](#).

Reservations can be made [online](#) or by calling 1-855-379-8738.

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What to know about Adventures on the Gorge

Named one of the top adventure resorts in the country by [U.S. News & World Report](#), Adventures on the Gorge is located on more than 350 acres along the rim of the majestic New River Gorge near Fayetteville, W.Va. The resort provides an array of outdoor experiences including whitewater

rafting on the New and Gauley Rivers, aerial adventures, rock climbing, rappelling, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, fishing, mountain biking and hiking. There are also restaurants, bars and shops as well as a small-group conference center. Visitors can choose from a variety of [accommodations](#) and [vacation packages](#).

Travelers can find out more about Adventures on the Gorge [online](#), by calling 1-855-379-8738, or connecting on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [TripAdvisor](#), [YouTube](#), and [Vimeo](#) and signing up for AOTG [e-newsletter](#).

Media Links (please credit Adventures on the Gorge)

Video:

[Scenic spring summer](#)

[Scenic fall winter](#)

[Rafting](#)

[Adventures on the Gorge](#)

[New River Gorge Bridge](#)

Photos:

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