

Visiting the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve

72,808 acres

Established in 1978. In 2020 the area was declared a National Park & Preserve

The New River Gorge Bridge opened October 22, 1977; The bridge cut the vehicle travel time from one side of the gorge to the other from about 45 minutes to 45 seconds.

Since 1980, Bridge Day has been the 3rd Saturday in October.

The New River may be one of the oldest river systems in the world. (Teays River system)

The New River feeds into the Gauley to become the Kanawha where it eventually joins with the Ohio River.

Regions of the NRG National River

Fayetteville Area

Thurmond / Cunard Area

Grandview Area

Glade Creek Area

Sandstone Brooks Area

State Parks in the New River Gorge Area

Park	Nearest Town	Counties	Area (acres)	Elevation (ft)	Est
Babcock	Clifftop	Fayette	4,127	2,510	1934-1937
Bluestone	Hinton	Summers	2154	1742	1950
Carnifex Ferry Battlefield	Summersville	Nicholas	165	1696	1931
Hawks Nest	Anstead	Fayette	370	1257	1935
Little Beaver	Beaver	Raleigh	562	2450	1972
Pipestem	Pipestem	Mercer & Summers	4050	2690	1963
Plum Orchard Lake		Fayette	3030	1600	1960

Summersville Dam and Lake

Along the Gauley River, the lake has 2700 acres of water and 60 miles of shoreline.

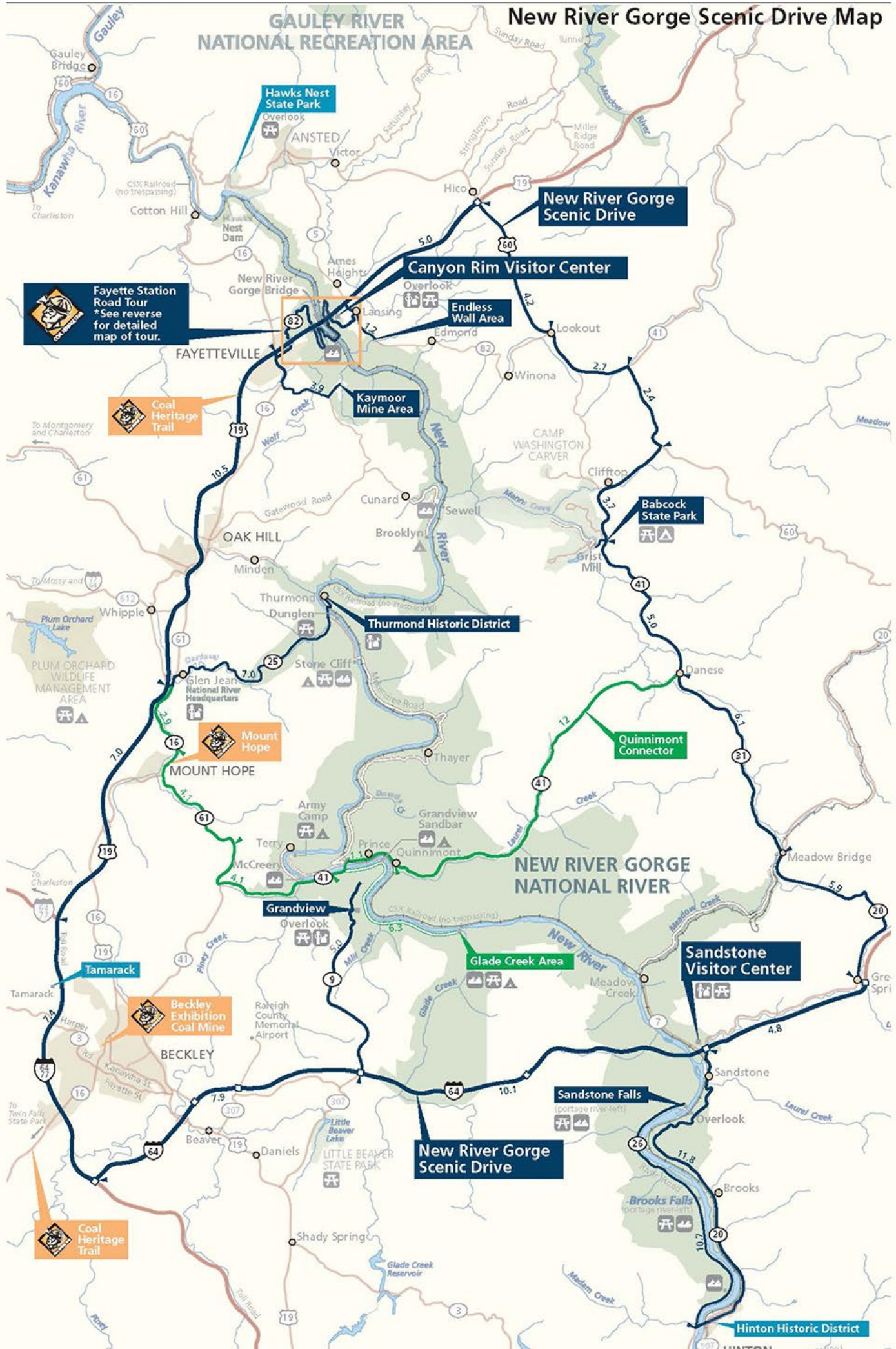
Nearby National Areas

Bluestone National Scenic River

Gauley River National Recreation Area (Summersville)

GAULEY RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

New River Gorge Scenic Drive Map



Guides

Hiking and Biking in the New River Gorge, a Trail User's Guide by R. Bryan Simon
Best Easy Day Hikes New River Gorge by Johnny Molloy

Resources

[West Virginia State Parks](#)

NPS New River Gorge Site

<https://www.nps.gov/neri/index.htm>

Kaymoor Mine Photos

<https://www.nps.gov/neri/learn/historyculture/kaymoor.htm>

Thurmond Photos

<https://www.nps.gov/neri/learn/historyculture/thurmond.htm>

Geography of the New River Gorge

<https://www.nps.gov/neri/learn/nature/geology.htm>