



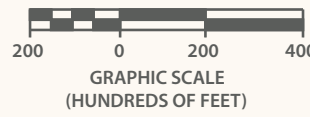
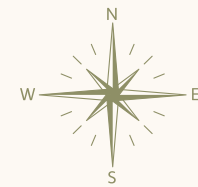
WEST VIRGINIA

# state parks

# HAWKS NEST STATE PARK

1-833-WV-PARKS

WVstateparks.com



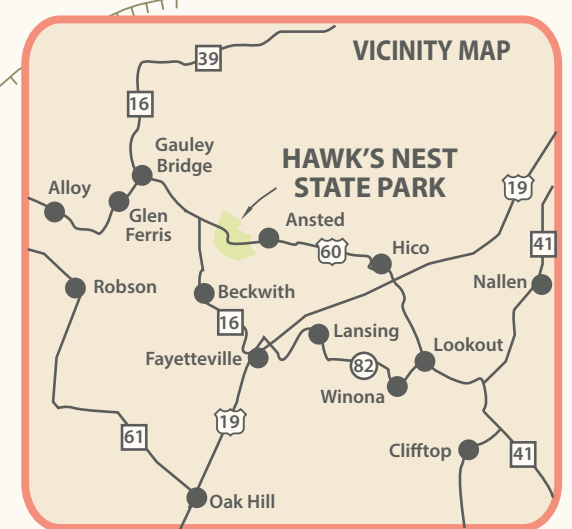
12 miles to New River Gorge and Visitor Center



To U.S. Route 60 at Ansted—1.5 miles

### Legend

- Park boundary
- Paved road
- Improved road
- Unimproved road
- Hiking trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- Cliff edge
- Lake/river
- Parking area
- Structures
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Boat launch
- Fishing
- Food service
- Gift shop
- Lodging
- Nature center
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Point of interest
- Restrooms
- Scenic viewpoint/overlook
- Swimming
- Trailhead
- Tramway



250 acres of water  
Elev. 830 feet

# PARK TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

From scenic vistas to beautiful overlooks, hiking trails at West Virginia's state parks and forests lead to breathtaking mountain scenery. Along the way create lasting memories but remember to leave no trace behind in Almost Heaven.

 = Hiking  = Horseback Riding  = Mountain Bike Riding  = Cross-Country Skiing

## CLIFFSIDE TRAIL

This trail starts behind the Midland Trail Shelter and ends near the Hawks Nest Overlook. Sections are rugged and adjacent to steep drop offs. It is an excellent trail for viewing geology of the New River Gorge and surrounding areas. This trail ends at U.S. Route 60 near Overlook. To return to the Lodge: cross U.S. 60 at the Lower Park, take the steps beside the gift shop, follow path past the CCC Picnic Pavilion and through the woods. Take right-hand fork at trail intersection and follow it up the hill until intersect with the service road. Then walk the service road to the end and cross U.S. 60 to the Lodge. Use caution when crossing U.S. 60 and near all steep embankments. Children must be accompanied by an adult and pets must be leashed.

**Distance:** 1.75 miles one way  
**Difficulty:** moderate to difficult

## FISHERMAN'S TRAIL

This trail begins at the far end of the marina boat launch parking lot toward the Hawks Nest Dam. It follows the north side of the Hawks Nest Lake and has an excellent view of the dam. Trail ends near Turkey Creek Waterfall.

**Distance:** 1.5 miles one way  
**Difficulty:** easy

## GSYP CANYON TRAIL

This steep, scenic trail from the lodge to the New River begins at the mini golf course and descends to the New River near the tram and Gift Shop/Nature Center. The trail begins atop the ridge and winds down through a forest of mixed hardwoods, ferns, wildflowers, and rock outcroppings. There are steps most of the way. During the season, you can pay half-price for a one-way tram ticket to return to the Lodge.

(NOTE: The aerial tram is closed every Wednesday during operating season and is not open in winter months. Visit WVstateparks.com to consult tram schedule.)

**Distance:** 0.75 mile one way  
**Difficulty:** moderate

## HAWKS NEST OVERLOOK

A quarter mile west of the lodge (across the road from the CCC Pavilion) is parking for this icon stop. A short, paved trail leads to the Hawks Nest Overlook for a panoramic view of the New River, Hawks Nest Dam and Tunnel area, and mountains. The overlook was constructed in the mid- 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from local sandstone.

**Distance:** 80 yards one way  
**Difficulty:** easy

## HAWKS NEST RAIL TRAIL

This gravel trail begins behind the Gift Shop/Nature Center at the base of the aerial tram, follows Mill Creek, and ends near the town of Ansted. Two bridges, waterfalls, and remains of a coal mine that operated through the 1920 can be seen along this trail that was once a railway for coal train. No trail fees. When accessing from Nature Center via tram, ticket for tram must be purchased. Slight uphill grade. Bicycles are permitted. Hawks Nest Rail Trail is maintained by the town of Ansted, WV, and volunteers.

**Distance:** 1.8 miles one way  
**Difficulty:** easy

## LOVERS LEAP TRAIL

Trail begins at the Tram Office located behind the Lodge and ends at a rock outcropping. Steps most of the way. Overlook offers sweeping views of the New River and marina. Take your time on the uphill return trip.

**Distance:** 100 yards one way  
**Difficulty:** moderate

## PARK LOOP TRAIL

Trail circles through a wooded area behind the CCC Pavilion and returns to the starting point. Many spring wildflowers visible near trail.

**Distance:** 0.5 mile  
**Difficulty:** easy

## ADVENTURE AWAITS

Scan this code with your smartphone's camera to access the exclusive West Virginia State Parks Interactive Vacation Guide.

