

HARPERS FERRY SHEPHERDSTOWN CHARLES TOWN RANSON BOLIVAR



WHERE Almost Heaven BEGINS

EXPECT
THE
Unexpected
HISTORY. RECREATION. FLAVOR.

Jefferson
County
WEST VIRGINIA

A EUROPEAN TRADITION,
50 YEARS IN THE MAKING.



For 50 years, the Bavarian Inn has welcomed guests to experience a touch of Europe in our corner of West Virginia. Perched above the Potomac River in historic Shepherdstown, this family-owned resort pairs gracious hospitality with exceptional dining, beautifully appointed accommodations, Bavarian Brothers Brewing, and the spectacular Infinity 101 pool.

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—and make a few memories of your own.**



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County**
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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WELCOME TO Jefferson County

WHERE ALMOST HEAVEN BEGINS



History may have put Jefferson County on the map, but there's much more here than you might expect. In Harpers Ferry, Bolivar, Shepherdstown, Ranson and Charles Town, remarkable stories and centuries-old landmarks share the landscape with creative communities, locally owned shops and restaurants, outdoor adventures and inviting places to stay. Come for the history, then discover everything else that makes this corner of West Virginia worth exploring.



WEST VIRGINIA'S OLDEST TOWN

Shepherdstown

Don't let its age fool you. Shepherdstown pairs centuries of history with an unexpectedly lively arts, dining and shopping scene. Stroll along German Street to discover locally owned shops, inviting cafés and destination-worthy restaurants, then catch live music or a performance in a town known for its creative spirit. Shepherd University adds youthful energy, while the nearby Potomac River and C&O Canal offer an easy escape outdoors. Historic, cultured and just a little eclectic, Shepherdstown proves that West Virginia's oldest town still knows how to surprise you.



WASHINGTON FAMILY FOUNDERS

Charles Town

George Washington's youngest brother founded Charles Town in 1786, but there's much more here than its famous family connections. Explore a walkable downtown filled with historic architecture, local shops, restaurants and art, and discover the courthouse where John Brown was tried following his raid on Harpers Ferry. Then shift gears completely with an evening of thoroughbred racing, gaming and entertainment. From Revolutionary-era roots to contemporary nightlife, Charles Town serves up an unexpected mix of history, culture and fun—all within a few blocks of one another.

THE PERFECT SPRINGBOARD FOR ADVENTURE

Ranson

Ranson puts you right in the middle of the action while keeping its welcoming, small-town personality. Rooted in the railroad and industrial growth of the Shenandoah Valley, the city blends its working-town heritage with a growing mix of shops, restaurants and local businesses. Use it as your jumping-off point for exploring Jefferson County's historic sites, trail adventures, river recreation and scenic countryside—all just minutes away. Conveniently located in the Blue Ridge foothills and just over an hour from Washington, D.C., Ranson makes a comfortable home base for discovering just how much adventure can be packed into one corner of West Virginia.



STEEPED IN HISTORY

Harpers Ferry

You may come for the history, but don't be surprised if the scenery steals the show. At the dramatic meeting of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, Harpers Ferry blends nationally significant stories with some of the region's best outdoor adventures. Wander the historic streets of Lower Town, stand where John Brown's raid changed the course of American history, hike a stretch of the Appalachian Trail or climb to a breathtaking overlook. Add charming shops, local flavors and two rivers ready for adventure, and Harpers Ferry becomes much more than a history lesson.

IN THE HEART OF THE ACTION

Bolivar

Just uphill from historic Harpers Ferry, Bolivar offers a quieter side of the adventure. This friendly community, named after South American Revolutionary leader, Simone Bolivar, is surrounded by Harpers Ferry National Park. With the Potomac River to the north and Shenandoah River to the south, Bolivar puts scenic trails, river recreation and the sweeping views of Bolivar Heights within easy reach. Grab a bite at a local favorite, then head down the hill to Lower Town or set out to explore more of the area. Close to nearly everything, yet comfortably removed from the crowds, Bolivar offers a peaceful place to settle in between adventures.



Old trails lead to new discoveries.

Jefferson County's story is woven into the story of America itself. George Washington surveyed land here as a young man, and his family established deep roots in the region. His youngest brother, Charles Washington, founded Charles Town in 1786, while other members of the Washington family built homes throughout the county.

Another chapter unfolded in 1803, when Thomas Jefferson selected Meriwether Lewis to help lead an expedition into the newly acquired western territory. Before setting out on the Corps of Discovery, Lewis traveled to the U.S. Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry to secure weapons, tools and supplies. Working with armory craftsmen, he also developed equipment for the remarkable journey west.

Harpers Ferry would soon find itself at the center of

an even more turbulent period in American history. In 1859, abolitionist John Brown and his followers raided the federal armory in hopes of sparking an uprising against slavery. Brown was captured, tried in nearby Charles Town and executed. His raid intensified the national

debate over slavery and became a catalyst for the Civil War.

When war came, Jefferson County's strategic location at the gateway to the Shenandoah Valley placed it between North and South. Armies repeatedly moved through the area, and control

of Harpers Ferry changed hands several times. Today, preserved buildings, battlefields, museums and historic streets invite visitors to stand where these pivotal moments unfolded and discover just how much American history happened here.

**History happened here.
Walk in the footsteps of
explorers, abolitionists,
presidents and pioneers.**



local legend



JOHN BROWN

On October 16, 1859, abolitionist John Brown led a band of 21 men in a raid on the federal armory at Harpers Ferry. His goal was to spark an armed slave rebellion. The raid failed, and Brown was captured by U.S. Marines and later executed. These events and their aftermath served as a catalyst for the American Civil War.



The Buzz

"For all its history, one of Harpers Ferry's best attributes is its timeless natural beauty. Stand at The Point (where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet) in Lower Town and see it all."

— Southern Living



Our Top Four Places to Experience History

HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Walk historic streets, visit **John Brown's Fort** and explore museums and exhibits where some of America's biggest stories unfolded.

STORER COLLEGE AND MURPHY CHAMBERS FARM

Explore two significant sites in African American history: **Storer College** campus, West Virginia's first institution of higher learning for African Americans, and nearby **Murphy-Chambers Farm**, where Niagara Movement members made a pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort during their landmark 1906 Harpers Ferry meeting.

MUSEUMS

Explore the people and events that shaped the county—and the nation—at the **Jefferson County Museum**, then step inside Shepherdstown's historic **Entler Hotel** to learn more about one of West Virginia's oldest communities.

CEMETERIES

Walk among centuries of history at **Elmwood Cemetery** in Shepherdstown with graves spanning the American Revolution through the Civil War, and **Zion Episcopal Church Cemetery** in Charles Town is the final resting place of Revolutionary War officers and some 70 members of the Washington family.



Where History Inspired Change

After the Civil War, Harpers Ferry became a place of new beginnings. Missionary teachers from the Freewill Baptists of Maine came here to educate formerly enslaved men and women, establishing a school in Lockwood House that would grow into **Storer College**—the first institution of higher learning for African Americans in West Virginia.

Nearly four decades later, Storer became part of another important chapter in American history. In 1906, civil rights leader W.E.B. Du Bois and members of the Niagara Movement gathered on campus for their second annual meeting. The organization advocated for full civil rights

at a time when segregation and discrimination were deeply entrenched across the country. The Niagara Movement helped lay the groundwork for the founding of the NAACP several years later.

Today, visitors can explore the former Storer College campus within **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**. Walk the grounds, visit historic Lockwood House and discover a side of Harpers Ferry history that reaches far beyond John Brown and the Civil War. It's a powerful reminder that this small town at the meeting of two rivers also became a gathering place for people working to change America.

Walk in the Washingtons' Footsteps

George Washington's connection to Jefferson County began long before he became the nation's first president. He first came to the region as a young surveyor, and over time, members of the Washington family settled here and made the area home.

In 1780, George's youngest brother, Charles Washington, built **Happy Retreat** on land he had inherited. Six years later, he established Charles Town, naming its streets for members of his family and donating land for public buildings. Today, six Washington family homes remain in Jefferson County, creating one of the area's most fascinating connections to America's founding family.

Start your exploration in Charles Town, where history is still part of the streetscape. See Happy Retreat, stroll through the historic downtown and discover landmarks connected to generations of Washingtons as well as later chapters of American history.

Across Jefferson County, there's more to uncover. From Charles Town to Shepherdstown and Harpers Ferry, a scenic drive or afternoon walk can become a journey through more than two centuries of American stories.

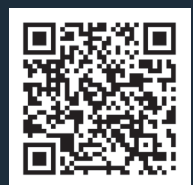


TAKE HISTORY WITH YOU

Go beyond the history books and explore the places where it happened. Follow our self-guided tours through battlefields, historic streets and landmarks across Jefferson County.

Choose your route: John Brown • 1862 • 1864
Battle of Shepherdstown • Charles Town • Washington Heritage Trail

SCAN TO START
EXPLORING.





Eventually all things merge into one.

At the meeting of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, Jefferson County's landscape seems made for adventure. Mountains rise above rushing water, wooded trails lead to sweeping overlooks and some of America's most legendary pathways cross through a place where history and nature are never far apart.

Lace up your hiking shoes and follow the **Appalachian Trail** through Harpers Ferry, climb **Maryland Heights** for an unforgettable view of the rivers below, or choose an easy walk through the scenic landscapes of **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**. On two wheels, explore the **C&O Canal Towpath** or take to quiet roads that wind through rolling countryside.

Two rivers. Legendary trails. Endless ways to explore. Whether you're chasing a thrill or simply taking in the view, adventure comes naturally here.

The rivers offer another way to experience it all. Paddle or kayak beneath forested hillsides, cast a line in search of the day's catch, float along on a summer afternoon or take on the rapids for a little more adrenaline. And the adventures don't stop at the water's edge. Zip through the treetops, tackle an aerial course or summon the courage for a 150-foot bungee jump.

Go big or take it slow. Spend an entire day on the trail or simply find a beautiful place to watch the rivers roll by. Here, every path offers another way to experience the outdoors—and another reason to keep exploring.



local legend



RIVER RIDERS FAMILY ADVENTURE RESORT

For decades, River Riders Family Adventure Resort has been making a splash in Harpers Ferry. What began with whitewater rafting has grown into a four-season destination for outdoor fun. Ride the rapids, float the Shenandoah, soar through the treetops on a zipline or tackle the aerial adventure park. Summer brings even more ways to cool off at the Harpers Ferry Waterpark, while winter means racing down Snow Riders tubing hill. With camping, cabins and dining on-site, River Riders makes it easy to turn one adventure into a getaway.



The Buzz

“Known as the “psychological midpoint” of the AT, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy headquarters in Harpers Ferry also serves as the starting point for a solid day hike.”

— Garden & Gun



Choose Your Adventure

There's more than one way to get outside in Jefferson County. Follow a wooded trail to a breathtaking overlook, pedal beside the Potomac, cast a line into cool river waters or grab a paddle and head downstream. Looking for a bigger rush? Whitewater, ziplines, aerial adventures and even a 150-foot jump at the **Great Bungee Company** are ready to raise your heart rate.

Or simply slow things down. Wander along the river, explore a scenic trail or find the perfect spot to take in the view. Whether you prefer high-energy thrills or fresh-air escapes, choose your pace, pick your path and make your own adventure.

BEYOND THE TRAIL





ON TWO WHEELS

With quiet country roads, river scenery and easy access to one of the region's most celebrated cycling routes, Jefferson County is a great place to explore on two wheels. Shepherdstown makes an ideal starting point.

Just across the Potomac River from town, cyclists can access the **C&O Canal Towpath**, a mostly level trail following the historic Chesapeake & Ohio Canal through a wooded corridor along the river. The towpath also connects with the **Great Allegheny Passage**, creating a continuous route stretching from Washington, D.C., to Pittsburgh. From Shepherdstown, head south toward Harpers Ferry, ride north toward Antietam and beyond, or simply pedal for a few miles before turning back to enjoy downtown shops and restaurants.

No bike? No problem. **Shepherdstown Pedal & Paddle**, located right on German Street in the heart of downtown, offers bicycle rentals, repairs and shuttle-supported cycling adventures. Rent a bike for your own outing or let the local experts handle the logistics. Their cycling trips include rides along the C&O Canal Towpath, a trip to Antietam National Battlefield and a ride from Shepherdstown to Harpers Ferry with transportation back.

For a uniquely local adventure, try their signature Pedal and Paddle trip: cycle five miles along the C&O Canal Towpath to Snyder's Landing, then trade two wheels for a kayak or canoe and paddle the Potomac back to Shepherdstown.

304.535.2627



Our Favorite Trails

MARYLAND HEIGHTS OVERLOOK

Moderate–Strenuous | Active Adventurers

Want *that* Harpers Ferry view? Climb above the Potomac to the iconic overlook where you can take in Harpers Ferry and the meeting of two rivers below.

MURPHY-CHAMBERS FARM TRAIL

Easy | Families + Casual Walkers

Open fields, mountain views and layers of history make this an easygoing walk with a big payoff. A great choice when you want beautiful scenery without a strenuous climb.

LOWER TOWN + POTOMAC RIVERFRONT

Easy | Families + History Lovers

Combine the historic streets of Lower Town with a relaxing walk along the Potomac. Explore Virginius Island, discover historic landmarks and plenty of river views make this an ideal explore-at-your-own-pace outing.

LOUDOUN HEIGHTS + APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Strenuous | Experienced Hikers

Ready to make a day of it? Big climbs, wooded trails and rewarding views make this a more challenging way to experience the Appalachian Trail and the landscape surrounding Harpers Ferry.

JEFFERSON ROCK

Strenuous | Experienced Hikers + History Lovers

Follow in the footsteps of Thomas Jefferson on this popular short hike along the Appalachian Trail. Half a mile of steep climbing rewards hikers with spectacular views of Harpers Ferry.



SCAN TO FIND YOUR TRAIL

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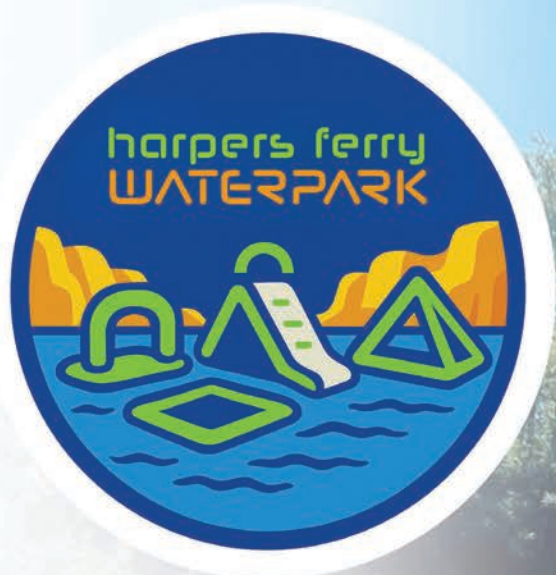


The Great Bungee Company

Harpers Ferry's Old Standard Quarry is now home to America's premier bungee jumping site. Jumps start at \$140 and daily bookings are available.

www.greatbungee.com





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Every brick tells a story.

Few places bring the past to life quite like Harpers Ferry. Tucked into the mountains where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet, this remarkably preserved town invites you to wander streets where some of America's most consequential moments unfolded.

Explore **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park** and stand at **John Brown's Fort**, then follow steep stone steps and winding streets past historic buildings, museums and exhibits. Along the way, stop into locally owned shops, grab a bite or simply find a spot to take in the view.

But Harpers Ferry's story extends well beyond its

historic streets. The **Appalachian Trail** passes directly through town, leading hikers toward spectacular Blue

Ridge views, while the two rivers below invite paddling, fishing, tubing and whitewater adventure. Cross the footbridge over the Potomac to connect with the **C&O Canal Towpath**, or climb high above town for a completely different perspective.

History may be what first put Harpers Ferry on the map, but it's the combination of history, scenery, outdoor adventure and small-town charm that makes you want to stay awhile. Here, exploring one story has a way of leading you straight into another.

Walk the streets. Follow the trails. Meet the rivers. In Harpers Ferry, history and adventure are always just around the corner.



local legend



VINTAGE LADY

For more than two decades, The Vintage Lady has given Harpers Ferry visitors a place to discover something authentically West Virginian. The High Street shop is filled with handmade jewelry, pottery, blown glass, carved coal, local food and photography. Even a devastating 2015 fire could not end its story—the shop reopened nearby within six weeks. Built on resilience, kindness and personal connection, The Vintage Lady remains a treasured Lower Town original.



The Buzz

“Few places make rail-to-trail travel easier than Harpers Ferry. Amtrak’s Capitol Limited stops in Lower Town, a five-minute walk from cafés, trail outfitters, and guest houses, as well as historical sites, like Marmion Row. A free shuttle connects Lower Town to the visitor center at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.”

— National Geographic



Six Reasons Harpers Ferry is the Ultimate Weekend Escape

There's a reason a day trip to Harpers Ferry has a habit of turning into an overnight stay. Between two rivers and surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains, this tiny town packs an incredible amount of adventure, history and character into one unforgettable weekend.

1. HIT THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

You don't have to be a thru-hiker to experience one of America's most legendary trails. **The Appalachian Trail** passes right through town. Stop at the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy Visitor Center** to learn about the trail, pick up maps and see why Harpers Ferry is such a celebrated milestone for hikers. Need gear? **Harpers Ferry Outfitters** is conveniently located in Lower Town.

2. FLOAT THE DAY AWAY

Spend a summer afternoon on the Shenandoah or Potomac with **River & Trail Outfitters** or **River Riders Family Adventure Resort**. Choose a mellow Shenandoah float, add some excitement with whitewater rafting or make a full day of exploring the rivers surrounding Harpers Ferry.

3. WANDER THE HISTORIC STREETS

Follow brick sidewalks and stone steps through **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**. Between historic sites, browse locally owned shops and galleries like **The Vintage Lady**, **Tenfold Fair Trade Collection**, and **Harpers Ferry Park Association Bookshop**. Enjoy a memorable lunch at **Battlegrounds Bakery** or **Appalachian Snail**.

4. MEET THE GHOSTS

See those centuries-old streets in an

entirely different light with **Ghost Tour of Harpers Ferry**. After dark, local history, legends and tales of the unexplained add a few goosebumps to your weekend.

5. CLIMB FOR THE VIEW

In Harpers Ferry, a great view is never far away. Climb the stone steps to **Jefferson Rock**, where Thomas Jefferson famously admired the meeting of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, or continue toward **Camp Hill** for beautiful views surrounded by history. For the classic bird's-eye perspective, venture across the Potomac and tackle **Maryland Heights**.

6. SETTLE IN FOR THE EVENING

After the trails, rivers and hills, slow down over dinner and drinks. Grab a table at **The Rabbit Hole Gastropub** in Lower Town, unwind at **Coach House Grill n' Bar**, or head to **White Horse Tavern** for casual tavern fare and a huge beer selection.

Harpers Ferry offers plenty of places to settle in. Relax among the gardens at **Rockhaven B&B**, or make yourself at home at **St. John's Divine Bed & Breakfast**. Many stays put you within walking distance of historic sites, restaurants and trails—so you can park the car, unpack your bags and experience Harpers Ferry at a slower pace.



Know Before You Go

MAKE THE WELCOME CENTER YOUR FIRST STOP

Before you start exploring, stop by the **Jefferson County Welcome Center** for maps, local recommendations and ideas for making the most of your time throughout the county.

PARK & RIDE

Parking in historic Lower Town is extremely limited, especially on busy weekends. The National Park Service recommends parking at the **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Visitor Center** and taking the shuttle into Lower Town. Shuttles run regularly, and the ride is included with your park entrance fee.

WEAR YOUR WALKING SHOES

Harpers Ferry is best experienced on foot—and that means hills, steps, brick sidewalks and uneven surfaces. Comfortable shoes will make exploring much more enjoyable.

GIVE YOURSELF TIME

There's more here than you can see in an hour or two. Between museums, trails, shops, restaurants and river views, Harpers Ferry rewards visitors who slow down and wander.

THINK BEYOND LOWER TOWN

Leave time to explore nearby Bolivar, scenic overlooks and trails—or use Harpers Ferry as your starting point for discovering even more of Jefferson County.



LOWER TOWN FINDS



✨ Sometimes a voice from the past echoes in the breeze.

In Charles Town, history has a way of finding you. Walk through downtown and you'll pass handsome architecture, centuries-old landmarks and places connected to stories that helped shape the nation. The **Jefferson County Courthouse** stands at the center of one of the most dramatic chapters—the trial of abolitionist John Brown following his raid on Harpers Ferry. Nearby, the **Jefferson County Museum** offers an even deeper look into the people and events that shaped this corner of West Virginia.

But Charles Town is hardly stuck in the past. Its walkable downtown pairs historic character with an evolving collection

In Charles Town, history sets the scene—but local shops, great food, arts and entertainment keep the story moving forward.

of locally owned shops, cafés and restaurants. Browse handcrafted and vintage finds, stop for locally roasted coffee, catch a performance at the **Old Opera House** or simply wander and see what catches your eye. This

award-winning Main Street community as “anything but ordinary”—and that contrast is part of the fun.

When evening arrives, the energy shifts again. Live thoroughbred racing, gaming, dining and entertainment at **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races** offer an entirely different way to experience the town.

In Charles Town, the past is always close—but so is your next unexpected discovery.



local legend



CHARLES WASHINGTON

Charles Town is named after its founder, Charles Washington, youngest brother of George.

Charles built his home, known as Happy Retreat, here in 1780. After the town's incorporation in 1786, he named its streets to honor members of the Washington family, including George, Samuel and Lawrence.



The Buzz

"If you're going to visit historic spots like Charles Town, you may as well stay in a place that's just as historic. The Carriage Inn Bed & Breakfast was built in 1836 and once hosted Civil War generals. Today, you'll find modern amenities in each of the tastefully decorated rooms and delicious two-course breakfasts on offer every day."

— Yahoo

48 HOURS IN Charles Town

HISTORY SETS THE SCENE—BUT LOCAL FLAVOR, CREATIVE ENERGY
AND A LITTLE UNEXPECTED EXCITEMENT KEEP THE WEEKEND MOVING.

Charles Town rewards visitors who look beyond its famous past. Downtown, independent shops, locally roasted coffee and a thriving community theater bring fresh energy to historic streets. Add distinctive dining, craft beer, grand historic homes and the excitement of live racing, and two days fill quickly.

Day One

9:00 A.M. COFFEE WITH CHARACTER

Begin at **Sibling Coffee Roasters**, a small downtown micro-roastery known for carefully sourced coffee or enjoy an old-fashioned breakfast at **Grandma's Diner** before exploring Washington Street.

10:00 A.M. FINDS FOR ALL AGES

Browse handcrafted soaps, bath products and gifts at **Candlelight Soap Company**. Then explore three floors of books, records and vintage discoveries inside the historic Tate House at **Fuzzy Dog Books & Music**. And the kids will love **Funtopia**.

12:30 P.M. TACOS—NO DEBATE

Stop at **Ortega's Taco Shop** for authentic tacos, burritos, fresh salsa and other made-from-scratch favorites. This locally loved Washington Street fixture has been serving Charles Town since 2013.

2:00 P.M. STORIES THAT SHAPED A NATION

Visit the **Jefferson County Museum** to explore exhibits tracing the county's people, places and defining moments—including Charles Washington, John Brown and the Civil War.

5:30 P.M. ABOLISH THE PREDICTABLE

Raise a glass at **Abolitionist Ale Works**, where creative, flavorful beers are brewed on-site. Pair a flight with a naan pizza, sandwich or shareable appetizer.

Day Two

9:00 A.M. START YOUR DAY

Start your second day with locally brewed coffee at **La Gazelle** or a hearty breakfast at **Rossy's**. Fuel up, soak in the small-town charm, and hit the trails.

12:00 P.M. TAKE A LUNCH BREAK

Stop for lunch at **Homespun**, where creative comfort food, fresh ingredients, and a welcoming atmosphere makes for the perfect midday pause.

5:00 P.M. ENJOY INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS

Savor flavorful dishes at **Alfredo's Mediterranean Grill** or **Paddy's Irish Pub** as you prepare for a night of fun.

7:00 P.M. DINNER, RACING & AFTER-DARK FUN

Add some excitement or culture to your getaway at **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**, for live racing and casino gaming or take in a performance at the **Old Opera House**, one of West Virginia's oldest theaters.

STAY THE NIGHT

Keep the evening's entertainment close with a stay at **The Inn at Charles Town**, located on the Hollywood Casino property, or settle into one of seven history-inspired rooms and enjoy a gourmet breakfast at **Carriage Inn Bed & Breakfast**, just four blocks from downtown.



Beyond Downtown

GOLF, GREEN SPACES, FAST CARS AND FARM-FRESH FLAVOR
ARE ALL JUST A SHORT DRIVE AWAY.

Downtown Charles Town may be the center of the story, but some of the area's most unexpected experiences wait just beyond its historic streets.

Trade brick sidewalks for rolling fairways at **Locust Hill Golf Course**, an 18-hole public course framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains. Four sets of tees welcome different skill levels, while lakes, ponds and streams come into play on 11 holes—adding equal measures of scenery and challenge.

For a different kind of driving, follow the sound of engines to **Summit Point Motorsports Park**. The first circuit opened in 1969, and today four road courses host racing, drifting, performance driving programs and spectator events. Check the calendar before your visit to see what is happening on track—or find an opportunity to get behind the wheel yourself.

Families can slow the pace at **Jefferson Memorial Park**, an 11.6-acre retreat with a walking trail, playgrounds, tennis, pickleball and basketball courts and picnic pavilions. **Cool Spring Nature Preserve** offers a peaceful escape into nature with scenic trails and unique geological features.

Finish the outing at **Rippon Tavern**, set in the small village of Rippon just outside Charles Town. The lively corner tavern serves house-crafted beers, cocktails and farm-fresh pub fare. Or grab a pizza or subs at **Bakerton Market**.



local legend



BUSHEL & PECK

Discover a taste of Jefferson County at Bushel & Peck, a downtown Charles Town market featuring locally and regionally sourced foods, farm-fresh produce, meats, dairy, baked goods and specialty products. Created to support area farmers, artisans and producers, the market offers visitors an authentic way to experience the region's food culture. Stop in to browse, pick up local provisions and connect with the community.



Contemporary culture abounds in WV's oldest town.

Tucked along the banks of the Potomac River, Shepherdstown blends small-town charm with an unmistakably creative spirit. Start your visit at the **Welcome Center**, located in the iconic Market House at 100 E. German Street in the heart of downtown, then set out to explore independent bookstores, locally owned shops and historic streets alive with music, conversation and the energy of **Shepherd University**. From craft cocktails and farm-to-table dining to riverside luxury at the **Bavarian Inn Resort & Brewing Company**, this is the kind of town that invites you to slow down and stay awhile.

Mornings begin with fresh coffee and warm pastries along German Street before drifting into locally owned bookstores and shops filled with handcrafted goods, specialty finds and plenty of Shepherdstown personality.

Art, conversation, and unforgettable meals spill onto historic sidewalks beside the Potomac River in Shepherdstown.

In the evening, the town shifts effortlessly into candlelit dinners, live music, and conversations that linger late into the night. Restaurants like **Alma Bea**, **Bistro 112** and **The Press Room** help define Shepherdstown's surprisingly sophisticated culinary scene, while the Bavarian Inn pairs European-inspired hospitality with sweeping Potomac River views, award-winning dining, and its own craft brewery.

What makes Shepherdstown special isn't just the food or the history—it's the atmosphere. Students, artists, musicians, hikers and longtime locals all seem to move at the same relaxed pace here. Around every corner, you'll find another reason to linger: a hidden courtyard patio, a gallery opening, a bookstore recommendation or the sound of live music drifting through the evening air.



local legend



BAVARIAN INN RESORT & BREWING COMPANY

For nearly 50 years, the Bavarian Inn has welcomed guests to its scenic perch overlooking the Potomac River in Shepherdstown. What began as a family-owned country inn has grown into a destination resort, while keeping the warm hospitality that made it a local favorite. Today, guests come for fine dining, handcrafted beer at onsite Bavarian Brothers Brewing, an infinity pool with unforgettable river views and a relaxing getaway that feels both European-inspired and distinctly West Virginian.



The Buzz

“Shepherdstown never goes out of style. This 300-year-old town has kept up with the times with ease—all thanks to a dedicated community.”

— WV Living

A PERFECT DAY IN Shepherdstown

SOME PLACES ARE BEST EXPLORED WITH A PLAN. SHEPHERDSTOWN IS BETTER DISCOVERED SLOWLY.

Start the morning with strong coffee and nowhere particular to be, then spend the day wandering historic sidewalks lined with bookstores, record shops, galleries, cafés and locally loved hidden gems. Here, the best moments tend to happen between destinations—an unexpected conversation, a perfectly timed live song drifting from an open doorway, or the discovery of a shop you didn't mean to spend an hour inside. From relaxed lunches and afternoon treats to cocktails and evening entertainment, Shepherdstown rewards visitors who take their time.

9:00 A.M. SLOW MORNINGS & STRONG COFFEE

Ease into the day at **Shepherdstown Sweet Shop**, a longtime local favorite serving expertly crafted drinks and sweets or try the famous homemade sausage and chipped beef gravy at **Betty's Restaurant**.

10:00 A.M. TRAILS, RIVER VIEWS & FRESH AIR

Rent a bike and cross the bridge to ride on the shaded **C&O Canal Towpath** along the Potomac River, then head to **Rumsey Park** to snap a photo with Shepherdstown's iconic **Almost Heaven Swing** overlooking the water.

11:30 A.M. A LONG LUNCH WORTH LINGERING OVER

Settle into the lush outdoor patio at **Blue Moon Cafe** or savor bold, authentic Mexican flavors at **Maria's Taqueria**, famous for fresh ingredients and generous portions.

1:30 P.M. LOSE TRACK OF TIME

Wander through the shelves of best sellers and local stories at **Four Seasons Books**. Uncover Appalachian-inspired goods at **Dogwood General Store**, and flip through vintage vinyl and retro finds at **Admiral Analog's**.

3:00 P.M. AN AFTERNOON TREAT

Follow the irresistible aroma to **Mountaineer Popcorn** for handcrafted sweet and savory flavors, or pick your favorite flavor at **Rock Hill Creamery**.

5:00 P.M. COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

Slip into **Bistro 112** for a French 75 and an order of their beloved truffle parmesan frites, paired with an exceptional wine list and candlelit atmosphere perfect for lingering conversations.

7:00 P.M. DINNER THEN A SHOW

Settle in at **The Press Room** for seasonal regional fare accented with Mediterranean flavors and an international wine list. Then stroll next door to the historic **Shepherdstown Opera House** for an evening of live music or a film. Prefer a beer and live music? Try **Stoney's Pub** or the **Mecklenburg Inn**.





BISTRO 112



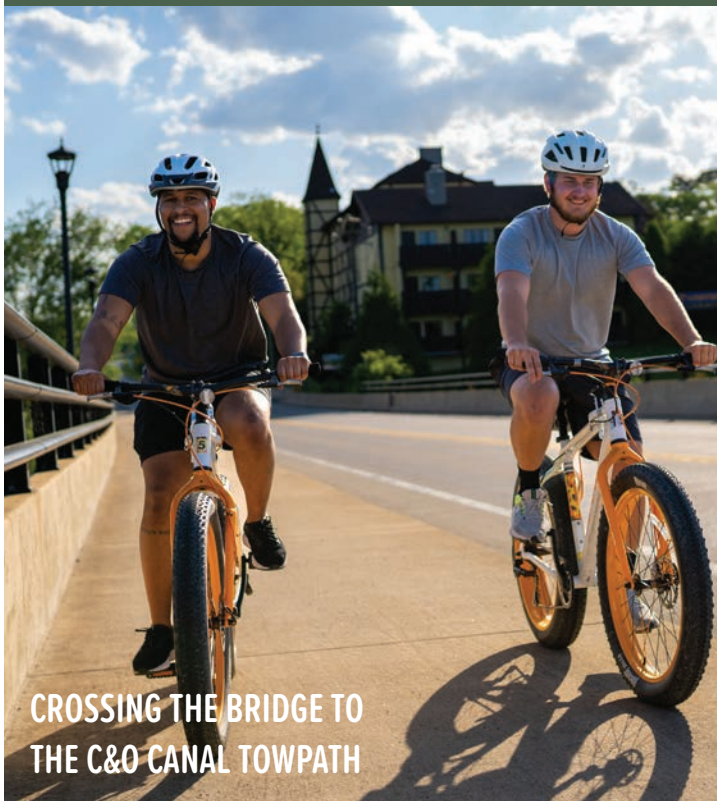
FOUR SEASONS BOOKS



The Buzz

"As the oldest town in West Virginia and home to Shepherd University, Shepherdstown has a PROGRESSIVE, ECLECTIC, AND ARTSY ATMOSPHERE that is reflected in its food scene. Its main thoroughfare, German Street, is packed with unique dining options."

— PhillyBite Magazine



CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO
THE C&O CANAL TOWPATH



GERMAN STREET MARKETPLACE
COFFEE & CANDLERY



Quiet beauty sits at the edge of adventure.



The quaint town of Bolivar is encircled by the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Just up the hill from the bustle of Lower Town, Bolivar offers a quieter side of the Harpers Ferry experience—and a fascinating history of its own. Originally known as Mudfort, the town was chartered in 1825 and renamed for South American revolutionary leader Simón Bolívar. Today, this welcoming little town sits between the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, with history, scenery and outdoor adventure practically at its doorstep.

Take in the sweeping landscape from **Bolivar Heights**, one of the area's most significant Civil War landscapes. More battle action occurred here than at any other Harpers Ferry location, and the heights served as a strategic military position and encampment. Even President Abraham Lincoln visited during his 1862 trip to Harpers Ferry.

Explore nearby trails or use Bolivar as your starting point for a day of hiking, paddling and discovering Harpers Ferry. Then slow things down and experience the town like a local. Start the morning with a fresh pastry or hearty breakfast, browse locally made art, linger over lunch or catch live music after the sun goes down.

With locally owned shops and restaurants, distinctive places to stay and a few wonderfully unexpected attractions, Bolivar rewards visitors who venture beyond the best-known stops.

Small, friendly and close to just about everything, it's an easy place to make yourself at home. Stay awhile, meet the neighbors, and discover why sometimes the best part of an adventure is finding the place just beyond the crowds.



Hidden Gems

BOLIVAR HEIGHTS

Take in sweeping views while exploring one of the area's most significant Civil War landscapes.

KELLEY FARM KITCHEN

Dig into creative plant-based comfort food at this casual local favorite.

THE BARN OF HARPERS FERRY

Catch live music, grab a drink and settle into this laid-back gathering place loved by locals and visitors alike.

SNALLYGASTERS CAFE AND WINE BAR

Stop in for good food, wine and an easygoing neighborhood atmosphere.

LIGHT HORSE INN

A historic and inviting destination where charming accommodations, craft cocktails, and a warm atmosphere create the perfect vacation home base.

RATIONS SPACEPORT

Step into something completely unexpected with immersive escape rooms and virtual-reality adventures.

REVERSA ROSE

A charming local shop filled with unique finds, thoughtful gifts, and plenty of character to explore.



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local legend



COUNTRY CAFÉ

For a taste of Bolivar's welcoming, small-town spirit, pull up a chair at Country Café. This family-owned favorite serves hearty, home-style breakfasts and lunches in a casual setting filled with local character. From breakfast classics to burgers, sandwiches and the quintessential West Virginia hot dog, the menu keeps things comfortably familiar. Locally sourced ingredients are used whenever possible, while original artwork from area artists makes this neighborhood gathering place feel unmistakably at home in Jefferson County.





Friendly “hellos” are common-place.



Ranson has a way of making you feel at home. Here, community pride runs deep, hellos still come easily and a growing collection of local businesses gives visitors plenty of reasons to stop and stay awhile.

Browse a boutique, grab fresh-baked bagels or locally roasted coffee, meet friends over a craft beer or discover a family-friendly place to play. Ranson’s mix of longtime favorites and new arrivals gives this small town an energy all its own.

Expect a warm welcome in Ranson, where local flavor, friendly faces and your next Jefferson County adventure are never far away.

Ranson is also home to one of the county’s primary services corridors, where familiar national restaurants, retailers and everyday essentials make it easy to fuel up, stock up or grab what you need along the way. It’s a convenient complement to the independent shops and local flavors found throughout the county.

It also puts you right in the middle of the Jefferson County experience. Harpers Ferry, Charles Town and Shepherdstown are all within easy reach, along with Civil War history, the **Route 9 Bike Path** and adventures on the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers.

Whether Ranson is your home base for a weekend of exploring or a stop along the way, take time to discover what’s here. You may arrive for its convenient location, but it’s the friendly faces, local flavor and welcoming spirit that make Ranson worth getting to know.



local legend



BAGEL CHICKS BAKERY

Four generations of family baking tradition come together at Bagel Chicks Bakery, where authentic, hand-rolled, kettle-boiled bagels are made the old-fashioned way using recipes that date back to a 1932 New York bakery. Locals swear by the sausage, egg and cheese on a jalapeño cheddar bagel, while others return again and again for the legendary Reuben or an Asiago bagel topped with lox. One visit, and you'll understand why this bakery has earned such a devoted following.



The Buzz

Ranson has industry in its DNA. Founded in 1910, the town grew around manufacturing and became an important industrial center in Jefferson County. More than a century later, Ranson continues to reinvent itself—mixing its hardworking roots with new businesses, neighborhoods and places to gather.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN NEAR Ranson

THE BEST FAMILY ADVENTURES BEGIN WITH A WELCOMING PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Ranson makes an easygoing home base for a family getaway. Its central location puts Jefferson County's best-known adventures within easy reach, while welcoming neighborhoods, local businesses and community gathering places offer plenty to enjoy right in town.



START WITH SOMETHING LOCAL

Begin with freshly baked bagels from **Bagel Chicks Bakery** or locally roasted coffee at **Black Dog Coffee**. Before heading out, stop at **Orr's Farm Market at the Junction** for locally inspired finds and road-trip snacks.

PLAY—RAIN OR SHINE

Let younger travelers burn off some energy at **The Little Treehouse Play Studio**, **Wild and Wonderful Play Café**, **Ninja Kingdom** or **Scooplex**. Each offers its own kind of indoor fun—especially welcome when the weather changes the day's plans.

GET OUT AND GET MOVING

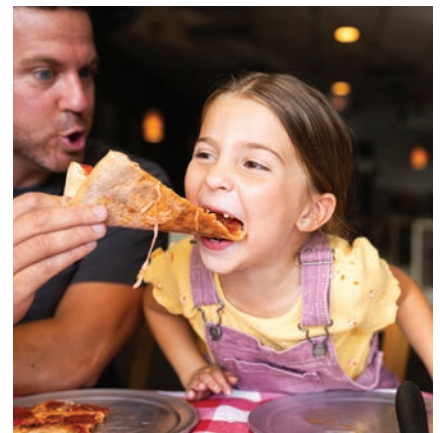
Walk, run or ride a section of the **Route 9 Bike Path**, with a stop at **Two Rivers Treads** for running and outdoor gear. **The Ranson Community Garden** provides a quieter glimpse of the town's neighborly spirit, while the **Ranson Civic Center** and local parks host recreation programs, festivals, car shows and seasonal family events.

EAT LIKE A LOCAL

Choose pizza and craft beer at **Andy's Pizzeria and Inferno Brewery**, hometown pies from **Pizza City**, American flavors at **Glory Days** or casual comfort food at **Big Mike's Grillin'**.

ADVENTURE IS JUST MINUTES AWAY

Harpers Ferry's trails, rivers and living history are only a short drive away, with Shepherdstown and Charles Town nearby, too. Return after a day of exploring and you'll understand Ranson's appeal: convenient, comfortable and genuinely connected to the community around it. Relax for the evening at the conveniently located **Hampton Inn or Home 2 Suites**.



Shop Small: A Jefferson County Treasure Hunt

Jefferson County is a shopper's delight, where historic streets and charming downtowns are filled with independent boutiques, galleries, antique shops and specialty stores. From handcrafted treasures to vintage finds, each community offers its own distinctive shopping experience. From charming downtown boutiques and antique treasures to artisan goods and outdoor gear, each community offers its own distinctive shopping experience.

In Shepherdstown, browse an eclectic mix of clothing, specialty goods and artisan products. Visit **Tonic Herb Shop** for herbal remedies, wellness products and thoughtfully crafted goods, then explore unique finds and locally made products at **Creative Procrastinations**, **The Good Shop** and **Wild Laurel Boutique**.

Charles Town combines historic character with an evolving downtown shopping scene. Browse vintage furnishings and collectibles at **Art Deco Dekor** and **Needful Emporium**, discover distinctive jewelry and gifts at **Feagans Jewelers**, then find houseplants, pottery and plant-inspired gifts at **Succulent Garden**.

In Ranson, treasure hunters can explore antique malls, boutiques, specialty retailers and locally owned shops. **Two Crows Antique Mall** is a standout destination, featuring an ever-changing collection of antiques, vintage pieces and collectibles.

Harpers Ferry takes shopping to another level, with unique stores tucked into historic buildings along the picturesque Lower Town. Find handcrafted pottery at **Magpie Pottery**, distinctive jewelry at **Blue Point Jewelry**, crystals and unique treasures at **Wild Crystal**, along with artisan gifts, outdoor gear and memorable souvenirs. At **Harpers Ferry Outfitters**, outdoor enthusiasts can gear up for adventure with equipment, apparel and essentials for exploring the area's rivers, trails and mountains.



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local legend



GERMAN STREET MARKETPLACE COFFEE & CANDLERY

For more than 30 years, German Street Marketplace Coffee & Candlery has been a Shepherdstown destination for the delightfully unexpected. Tucked along German Street, this longtime local shop brings together artisanal cheeses, wine and gourmet foods, fresh coffee beans and teas, candles, soaps, bath and body products, table linens and West Virginia-made goods. It's the kind of place where browsing is half the fun—and you rarely leave empty-handed.



So many memories begin around a table.

Some of the best moments of a getaway happen when everyone finally sits down. A table fills with plates, glasses are raised, stories get better with every telling—and somewhere between the first bite and the last, a meal becomes part of the memory.

In Jefferson County, what arrives at the table might surprise you. Here, Appalachian food traditions share the menu with flavors from around the world. Award-winning chefs bring fresh ideas to small-town kitchens. Locally sourced ingredients become beautifully composed plates, while bakeries, cafés and neighborhood favorites prove that memorable doesn't have to mean fancy.

Come hungry. From Appalachian roots to global flavors, Jefferson County serves up plenty of delicious surprises.

You might discover European-inspired dining overlooking the Potomac, inventive plant-based fare in an unassuming storefront, or Appalachian cuisine thoughtfully reimagined for a new generation. Follow that with a locally

brewed beer, a craft cocktail, something warm from the oven—or dessert simply because you're on vacation. Jefferson County's culinary scene stretches from chef-driven restaurants and historic dining rooms to casual patios, coffee shops and tucked-away local favorites.

Come for the history, rivers and mountain views. Then pull up a chair.

Around here, one of the most unexpected parts of your trip just might be what's on the table.



local legend



ALMA BEA

Chef Mary Ellen Diaz earned national recognition as a 2026 James Beard Award finalist for Best Chef: Southeast, drawing attention to her creative “tapalachian” approach—blending Appalachian ingredients and traditions with global inspiration. Seasonal dishes like smoked duck wings, braised bison short rib and locally sourced vegetables showcase both innovation and deep regional roots. Warm, intimate, and distinctly Appalachian, Alma Bea reflects the evolving food culture of Shepherdstown while honoring the flavors, stories and communities that make Jefferson County unforgettable.

The Buzz

“The Bavarian Inn is still run by the Asam family, and it includes a sprawling resort complex with a brewery and a restaurant focused on German-inspired cuisine. Order the Bavarian Inn Sausage Sampler before jumping into other specialties such as schnitzel.”

— Southern Living

Hot Plates

Come hungry. Jefferson County serves up everything from chef-inspired plates and Appalachian favorites to craft brews, sweet treats and casual bites. Here's a taste of what local restaurants are serving—and sharing—right now. Follow along, then find your own favorite.



A Weekend Designed Around Food

In Jefferson County, a great meal is never just a meal—it's part of the trip. Build a weekend around the places that make the local food scene worth exploring, and you'll quickly discover how many different flavors fit into one small corner of West Virginia.

Start Friday night with a memorable dinner in Shepherdstown, where **Bistro 112**, **Alma Bea**, and **The Press Room** turn an evening out into something special. Or venture to Charles Town for a memorable meal at **Final Cut Steakhouse**.

The next morning, ease into the day with locally roasted coffee from **Joan + Joe** or **Lost Dog Coffee**, then wander downtown before settling in for brunch or exploring one of the county's farmers markets. The **Charles Town Farmers Market** and **Shepherdstown Farmers Market** are great places to discover fresh local produce, baked goods, artisan products and the people who make the region's food scene special.

By afternoon, shift from plates to pours. Sample craft beer at **Abolitionist Ale Works** or **Bavarian Brothers Brewing Company**, or head to **Devil's Due Distillery** for locally made spirits. For even more ways to sip local, explore the selections at **Pour Choices** and **Grapes and Grains**. When hunger strikes, grab lunch at **MJs on German**, **Yatai Corner** or **Tommeez Pizza & Subs**, each offering its own take on casual, satisfying fare. Save room for something sweet from **Amy and Alex**, then slow down and enjoy the rest of your afternoon.

Sunday morning, make your way toward Harpers Ferry and Bolivar for one last taste of the county. Settle in for a home-cooked breakfast at **Country Café**, pick up fresh pastries from **Bolivar Bread Bakery**, or linger over coffee at **Epigram Coffee** before exploring a little more—or heading home with a full stomach and plenty of new favorites to remember.



EVERY GREAT MEAL HAS A STORY

Behind Jefferson County's memorable flavors are the people who bring them to life. Meet the chefs, bakers and entrepreneurs whose creativity, traditions and passion shape the local dining scene. Our Local Legends video series takes you inside their kitchens and behind their stories—from Appalachian roots to global inspiration.

SCAN TO MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PLATES.





Art, On and Off the Walls

Creativity in Jefferson County is not confined to traditional galleries. It appears on downtown walls, takes center stage, fills working studios and turns up in independent shops and public spaces across the county.

Begin in Charles Town, where a walk downtown doubles as a public art tour. Look for the colorful **Ceramic Tile Mosaic** mural, created with the help of more than 600 community members, and pose beside the interactive **Angel Wings** mural. More mosaics at **Evitts Run Park** illustrate scenes inspired by local history and nature, while **The Earth and the Sky** adds another vivid stop along Washington Street. Nearby, the historic **Old Opera House** continues a century-long tradition of theater, music and dance. **The Firehouse Gallery** and **Prismatic Art Studio** add even more opportunities to discover the work of local and regional artists.

In Shepherdstown, creativity is woven into the town's character. Browse the shelves at **Four Seasons Books**, discover the downtown mural created by Shepherd University students, and seek out the colorful art benches and galleries showcasing art in many forms.

Catch a performance at the **Black Box/Roving Peregrine Theater** or **Shepherdstown Opera House**, where live theater, music and entertainment add to the town's vibrant cultural scene. Plan a summer visit around the nationally recognized **Contemporary**

contemporaryamericantheaterfestival

AT SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY



The Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF)
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Since its founding in 1991, CATF has presented nearly four decades of innovative work while supporting playwrights and their voices. Each year, the Festival offers a diverse calendar of theatrical productions and events that engage audiences with contemporary American stories and ideas.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CATF, ITS HISTORY, MISSION, AND VALUES AT **CATF.ORG.**

American Theater Festival, where bold new American plays come to life. Be sure to explore **Hot Button Gallery** and **Bridge Gallery** for distinctive works by local artists and makers.

Continue to **Washington Street Studios** in Bolivar, where working artists create and sell functional pottery and other handcrafted pieces.

In Harpers Ferry, visit **Magpie Pottery Studio & Gallery** to meet the artist and browse one-of-a-kind vessels, mugs and other ceramic work. Continue exploring the local creative scene at **Mary Adams** and **Tessoterica**, where distinctive artwork, handmade goods and unique finds showcase the area's artistic spirit.

Around Jefferson County, art is not simply something to view. It is something to experience, discuss, discover—and bring home.





Find Something You Didn't Know You Needed

Sometimes the best souvenirs are the ones you never knew you were looking for. In Jefferson County, shopping is less about checking items off a list and more about discovering something unexpected—whether it's a handmade treasure, a great read, a locally crafted treat or the perfect gift for someone special.

Start in Shepherdstown, where independent shops invite you to slow down and browse. At **Boxer Craft House**, creative types can stock up on quilting, sewing and embroidery supplies, fabrics and project inspiration. For something practical—and wonderfully eclectic—**O'Hurley's General Store** is a Shepherdstown institution, packed with useful hardware, quirky gifts and hard-to-find treasures. **Shepherds Blessings** adds handmade bath and body products, artisan gifts, coffee and tea to the mix. **Wings of Dreams** offers unique gifts, colorful finds and plenty of inspiration. And when hunger strikes, **Community Garden Market** offers natural and organic groceries, local products and made-to-order favorites.

In Charles Town, discovery continues around the historic downtown. **Bushel & Peck** feels like a farmers market and specialty grocery rolled into one, with local

and regional foods perfect for a picnic, pantry or edible souvenir. Book lovers can easily lose track of time at **Fuzzy Dog Books & Music**, where multiple floors of books and music create a true treasure-hunt experience. Romance readers should make a stop at **Miss Willa's Bookshop**, a specialty bookstore devoted to romance. For vintage finds, **Rezbar Dee Vintage** and **Studio M Boutique** offer distinctive clothing, décor and gifts.

In Ranson, fashion and footwear make for some unexpected finds. **Apricot Lane** offers contemporary women's clothing, accessories and gifts for refreshing your wardrobe or finding something special for someone back home. At **Two Rivers Treads**, shoppers can discover stylish footwear and accessories that combine comfort with everyday versatility.

In Harpers Ferry, shopping comes with a healthy dose of history and adventure. **Tenfold Fair Trade** offers an eclectic collection of goods inspired by travel, craftsmanship and exploration, making it an ideal stop for those looking for something distinctive. At **The Village Shop** and **Blue Door Exchange**, browse a charming selection of gifts, home décor, souvenirs and locally inspired finds.



WEAR A LITTLE ALMOST HEAVEN

Take your Jefferson County memories home with you. Shop T-shirts, long-sleeve styles, sweatshirts and hoodies featuring designs inspired by country roads, outdoor adventures and the place Where Almost Heaven Begins. Styles are available for adults and kids. Shop online anytime, or visit our Jefferson County Welcome Centers in Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown for an even larger selection.

SCAN TO SHOP AT WHEREALMOSTHEAVENBEGINS.COM/SHOP





Best Places to Unplug for a Weekend

Some weekends are made for doing less. In Jefferson County, quiet comes with river views, gardens, and places designed to make slowing down feel effortless. In Shepherdstown, settle into a chaise beside the **Bavarian Inn's Infinity 101 Pool**, where the cascading edge appears to spill toward the Potomac River 101 feet below. Order something refreshing from the pool bar, watch the light move across the water and let the afternoon unfold without an agenda. Quaint downtown shops and restaurants are nearby when you are ready to wander. **Thomas Shepherd Inn** offers another inviting retreat, placing you within easy reach of Shepherdstown's charming streets, restaurants and galleries.

For a more secluded escape, **Hillbrook Inn & Spa** offers an elegant retreat across more than 30 acres near Charles Town. Choose a distinctive room or suite, schedule time at the **Gatehouse Spa** and linger over fine dining. Its gracious surroundings and connection to George Washington's first land purchase add a touch of history to the experience. **Mountain Mama Cabins** provides another peaceful option for those seeking a cozy getaway surrounded by nature.

Prefer your peace a little more rustic? **River Riders'** cabins overlook the Potomac near Harpers Ferry, with heat, air conditioning, private bathrooms, fire rings and picnic tables. Wake to a breathtaking sunrise, follow the nearby walking and biking trail toward town, or simply stay put and listen to the river below. Jefferson County makes it easy to step away—and return restored.

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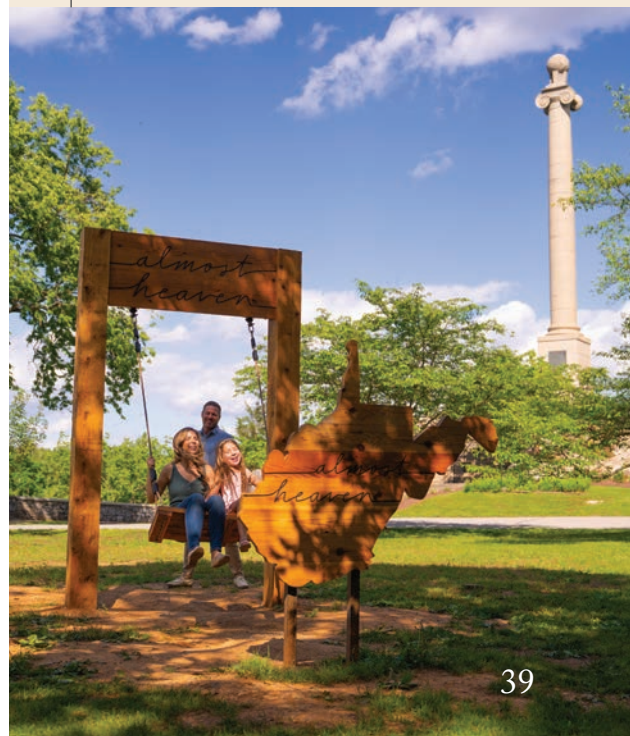
local legend



ALMOST HEAVEN SWING

Perched above the Potomac River at Shepherdstown's Rumsey Monument Park, the Almost Heaven Swing captures a view that feels especially fitting at sunrise. Here in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, the morning light reaches the Mountain State first—one reason we say this is "Where Almost Heaven Begins." Take a seat, frame the perfect photo and look across the river toward Maryland. The swing is also part of West Virginia's statewide SWINGO Challenge.

**Find the swing at
206 N. Mill St.
in Shepherdstown.**





There's Always Something Worth Celebrating

EVERY SEASON BRINGS ANOTHER REASON TO RETURN.

In Jefferson County, the calendar is filled with events that bring our towns—and visitors—together. Some celebrate food, art and music. Others honor history, heritage and the landscapes that make this corner of West Virginia unforgettable. Plan a trip around a longtime favorite or arrive to discover something unexpected while you're here.

WINTER WARMS UP

Frostyfest turns the chilliest season into a countywide celebration with special activities, local flavors and plenty of hot cocoa. **Restaurant Week** follows with limited-time menus and creative offerings from locally loved restaurants.

SPRING INTO THE SEASON

The **American Conservation Film Festival** brings filmmakers and audiences together through powerful environmental stories. In Shepherdstown, the **Back Alley Garden Tour & Tea** opens the gates to private gardens, while **Shepherdstown Street Fest** fills downtown with music, makers and community spirit.

local legend



HOLIDAYS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

For more than five decades, Olde Tyme Christmas has brought holiday magic to Harpers Ferry, while hometown celebrations brighten Charles Town, Ranson and Shepherdstown. After dark, dazzling displays at River Riders and The Mountain Lake Club add even more sparkle.



SCAN FOR
DATES, DETAILS
+ MORE EVENTS

SUMMER TAKES CENTER STAGE

Celebrate local pride at **WV Fest** in Charles Town, admire the rides at the **Charles Town Car Show**, and enjoy family fun, food, entertainment and classic cars at the **Ranson Festival & Car Show**. Theater lovers gather for the nationally recognized **Contemporary American Theater Festival**, while the **Appalachian Chamber Music Festival** presents performances throughout the county. The **African American Culture & Heritage Festival** honors generations of history, culture and community.

FALL IS WORTH THE TRIP

Browse work from talented makers at the **Mountain Heritage Arts & Crafts Festival**, or meet artists in their creative spaces during the **Over the Mountain Studio Tour**. **Freedom's Run** carries runners through scenery shaped by American history, while **Shepherd University football** brings the energy of game day to Shepherdstown.

As Halloween approaches, the county embraces its spirited side with **Halloween in Shepherdstown**, **ghost tours in Charles Town and Shepherdstown**, and **Shepherdstown Mystery Walks**. Seasonal racing events bring even more excitement to **Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**, including the **Charles Town Classic** and **Breeders' Cup** events.



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