



The beautiful and unique Smoke Hole Canyon Recreation Area is a mecca for hikers, bikers, climbers, fishermen, paddlers, tubers, hunters, and campers. Tucked away in 40 square miles of the Monongahela National Forest Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks

National Recreation Area the area can be accessed along Smoke Hole Road from State Route 220 in Pendleton County (Upper Tract) or you can enter from the north on State Route 55 in Grant County (near Petersburg). Discover a rugged, remarkable 20-mile-long gorge carved by the South Branch Potomac River and framed by the North Fork Mountain to the west and Cave Mountain to the east.

The North Fork Mountain Trail has been called one of the Best in the East by *Backpacker* magazine and by the International Mountain Bicycling Association, and the best trail in West Virginia by *Outside* magazine.



HIKE MOUNTAIN BIKE BACKPACK

The **North Fork Mountain Trail** follows the ridge top along the western rim of the canyon. This 24-mile trail has countless views of the Smoke Hole Canyon and North Fork Valley. This trail can be accessed from 4 trail-heads along Smoke Hole Road-North Fork Mountain, Landis, Redman, or North Fork Mountain Fire Tower trail heads. One of the most popular hikes is the hike to Chimney Top. This challenging route is a 5-mile round-trip hike with an elevation of 2,178 feet. A difficult climb up, but breathtaking views from Chimney Top make this hike well worth the effort! The best time to make this hike is April through October.

Smoke Hole Road is a popular route for bikers. Smooth surfaces and lots of elevation changes make it a challenging and enjoyable ride through this beautiful canyon. Parking is available at multiple locations along Smoke Hole Road.

FISHING - PADDLING - TUBING

The distinctive upper course of the **South Branch of the Potomac River** navigates through Smoke Hole. The river twists and turns as it traverses through this deep and narrow valley making it a popular destination for fishing, swimming, floating, kayaking, and canoeing.



Streams are stocked with rainbow and golden trout creating some of the best fishing in West Virginia. Large and smallmouth bass and native trout are also plentiful. State fishing licenses with a national forest stamp are required.

If you love to paddle or simply float, this breathtaking 16-mile excursion in a long, beautiful canyon features massive rock formations and great camping spots. The rapids are consistent Class I-II with a couple Class II+. Keep an eye out for bald and golden eagles.

Tubers love the "Big Bend" section of the river. You can put in on one side of the road, ride the big bend of the river and take out on the other side of the road.

Smoke Hole is also a popular destination for bird watchers. Birds well-known to the area include bald eagles, field birds, osprey, sandpipers, and kingfishers.

CLIMBING

Smoke Hole Canyon has over 300 established climbs, from beginner-friendly to high-end sport climbs. The area has modern hardware and is well bolted. Smoke Hole can be difficult to navigate in places. It's spread out over a large area, making it an adventure lover's crag.



Good routes include Zendo 5.8, Guide's 11 5.11b, Big Johnson 5.12a, The Lightness 5.12+ and Cartography of Spirit 5.13+.

HUNTING

Smoke Hole Canyon is a hunters paradise. Turkey, grouse and small game are plentiful. Deer and bear hunting is very popular in late fall. Most of the land in the Smoke Hole is managed by the Forest Service and is open to hunting and subject to West Virginia hunting regulations.



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Shreve's Country Store Operating in its current location since 1966. Groceries, beer, drinks, ice, bait, fishing supplies, inner tubes, and more. Live music on holiday weekends. WiFi is also available at this location but is not available throughout most of the canyon, so plan accordingly.

St George's Church Located on the top of the hill near Shreve's Country Store, this church was built about 1850 as Methodist Episcopal Meeting House and was known as Palestine Church. This historic structure still holds services on special occasions.

Unique Inns and other vacation rentals can be found right in the heart of Smoke Hole.



OUTFITTERS

Water's Edge Outfitters

Choose from a selection of river tubes, kayaks, and canoes. Water's Edge provides rentals, parking and shuttle service. www.watersedgeoutfitters.com



GUIDED FISHING

Harman's Whether you're an experienced angler or novice, our West Virginia fly fishing guides offer invaluable lessons and greatly enhance your fly-fishing excursion. www.wvlogcabins.com/fishing-guide-services

Smoke Hole Outfitters A licensed and bonded guide service that has been around for more than a decade, offering great Appalachian outdoor experiences. www.smokeholeoutfitters.com

Three Rivers Guiding Hit the river with guides Eli and Katlyn and you are guaranteed to have a good time and catch some good fish. www.threeriversguiding.com



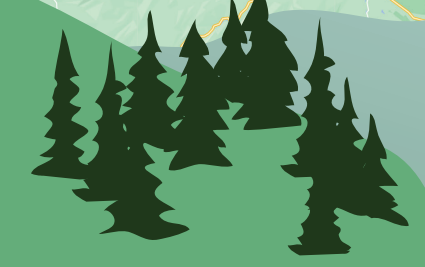
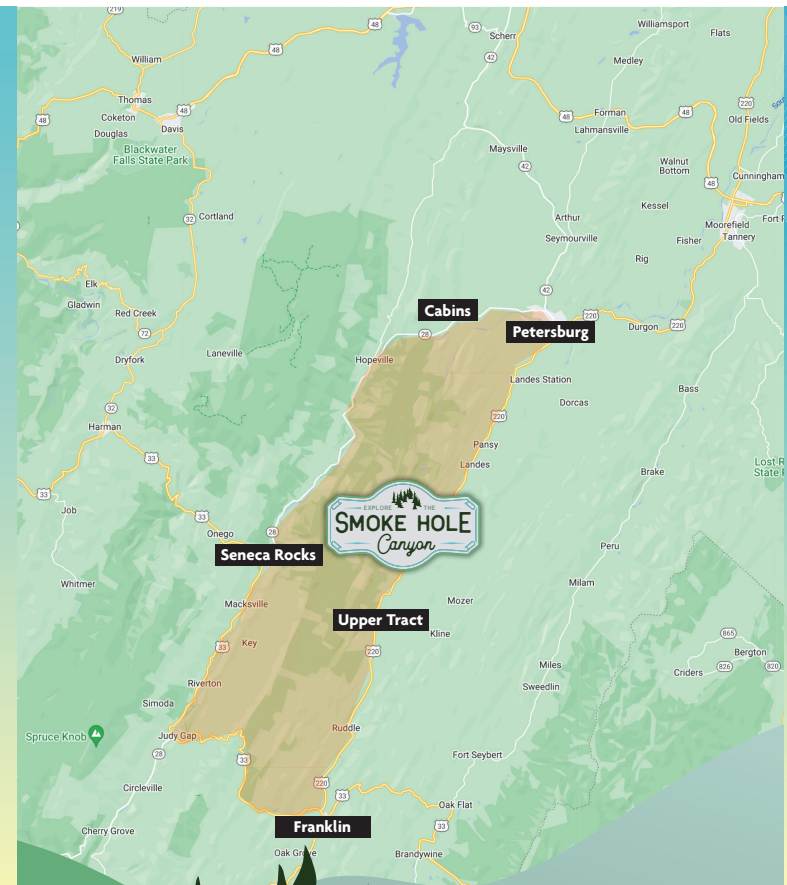
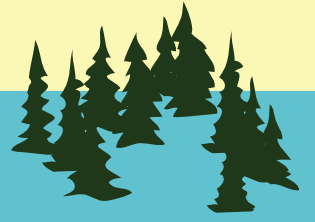
CAMPING

Big Bend Campground
www.fs.usda.gov

Eagle Rocks Campground
thedyrt.com/camping/west-virginia/eagle-rock-campground-wv

Jess Judy Campground
www.fs.usda.gov

Shreve's Campground
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