

Cultural

Wayne

1. Kenova Historical Commission Museum and Ceredo Historical Society Museum

Cabell

2. *Huntington*: Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, Museum of Radio Technology, Marshall University, Heritage Farm Museum and Village, Classic Cars Automotive Museum, Huntington Museum of Art, and Old Central City Antiques

3. *Milton*: Blenko Glass

Putnam

4. *Hurricane/Winfield*: Quilts By Phyllis, Civil War Weekend (Reenactment of the Battle of Scary Creek and Skirmish of Hurricane Creek Bridge), and Mary Ingles Encampment

Kanawha

5. *South Charleston*: Rock Lake Pool and South Charleston Museum

6. *Charleston*: Clay Center for the Arts and Science WV, WV Cultural Center, Vandalia Gathering, Mountain Stage, Craik-Patton House, and Ruffner Log Cabin

7. *Malden*: Malden Historic District and Cabin Creek Quilts

8. *Belle*: Old Stone House

Fayette

9. *Ansted*: African-American Family Tree Museum, Contentment House Historical Complex, and Halfway House

10. *Clifftop*: Midland Trail Gallery, Camp George Washington Carver, and the West Virginia String Band Festival.

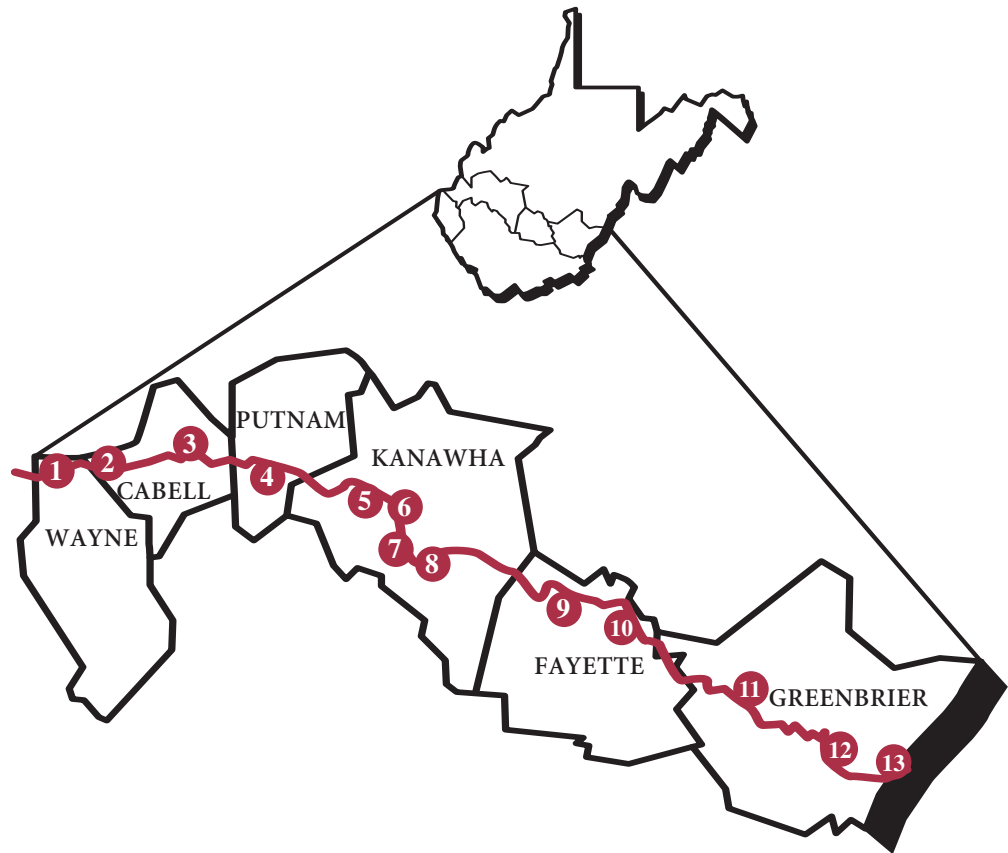
Nearby: Court Street Gallery and Tamarack

Greenbrier

11. *Sam Black*: Sam Black Methodist Church

12. *Lewisburg*: Carnegie Hall, WV State Fair, Battle of Lewisburg Reenactment and Organ Cave Civil War Days, and American Heritage Music Hall

13. *White Sulphur Springs*: The Greenbrier Hotel and Bunker and Battle of Dry Creek Reenactment



Cultural Qualities

4.23

Along The Midland Trail

“ Twenty-One Centuries of exploration, conquest, American industrial history.”

Listen closely, and you will hear the echoes of the past. The footfalls of hooves. The creaks of wagon wheels. Feet marching in cadence to the drumbeat of war. Steam whistles and chugs of locomotives.

Cultural qualities include evidence and expressions of customs or traditions of a distinct group of people; cultural features including, but not limited to, crafts, music, dance, rituals, festivals, speech, food, special events, vernacular architecture, etc., that are currently practiced. The cultural qualities of the corridor could highlight one or more significant communities and/or ethnic traditions.

The Kenova Historical Museum Commission houses an extensive collection by native companies Pilgrim and Kemple. A large railroad steam engine outside the Museum acknowledges the town's rich railroad history.

History and culture are also important to Huntington. The Museum of Radio and Technology is the largest radio museum in the United States and also exhibits hundreds of telegraph items, early televisions, and computers. The Heritage Farm Museum and Village recreates and preserves Appalachian heritage and culture with its more than seventeen restored buildings.

Marshall University's beautiful campus lies between 16th and 22nd Streets and Third and Fifth Avenues. More than 150-years old, the university's twelve colleges and schools educate about 16,000 students. Marshall also hosts numerous art exhibits, concerts, lectures, and other cultural events. The Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center seats 530 people.



Art lovers will appreciate the nationally acclaimed Huntington Museum of Art, which features 19th and 20th Century American and European art and artifacts. The complex includes ten exhibition galleries and a sculpture garden.

Central City (1839-1909) began as an independent manufacturing town, just west of Huntington, but was annexed by Huntington in 1909. Its early industries included Heiner's Bakery, today a leading national bakery. Now known as Old Central City, the 14th Street West antique district, makes both history and Appalachian culture available to the public.

Milton is also home of world-famous Blenko Glass. William Blenko, the London-born founder, imported the European mouth blown process to Milton in 1921. Blenko Glass allows visitors to watch as skilled craftsmen transform molten glass into its final form using a 1000 year-old tradition of hand blowing. The Blenko Visitor Center offers an observation deck, beautiful museum exhibits of stained glass, and gift shop. Also, see Blenko stained glass windows throughout the sanctuary of Milton Baptist Church.

Murals depicting the community's rich Civil War and railroading history are found on various downtown buildings. Hurricane's restored homes house residences and shops, for example, Plantation Corner, which is housed in a Federal Style house built in 1885. Culture and history are alive in other ways. Quilts by Phyllis, offers quilting fabrics, services, and classes, which allows this important domestic skill to be passed to a new generation.

Individuals can take part in Living History by walking the Mary Ingles Trail near Winfield and by talking to actors portraying colonists from 1757 who tell the story of Mary Ingles' capture by Native

Americans and her later escape. In March, Valley Park hosts the Civil War Reenactment Weekend. Over 300 reenactors commemorate the Skirmish at Hurricane Creek Bridge and the Battle of Scary Creek with everything from battle maneuvers to a Civil War Ball.

In addition to history, Charleston celebrates the present. The Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia opened in 2003. Its 240,000 square feet houses the Maier Foundation Performance Hall, an 1883 seat theater; the Walker Theater, a 150-200 person black-box theater; the Avampato Discovery Museum; the Juliet Museum of Art; and the ElectricSky Theater, which contains a Planetarium and a 70-mm large-format film theater. The Center is also home to the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.



The West Virginia Cultural Center, opened in 1976, houses the State Museum and State Archives. Located on the grounds of the Capitol Complex, it also hosts fairs, festivals, and exhibits. The Vandalia Gathering, held each Memorial Day Weekend, is a three-day festival celebrating traditional arts and folk heritage. Multifest is another three-day festival held in early August to celebrate the music, food, and culture of the many ethnic groups found in West Virginia.

The Cultural Center is home to West Virginia Public Broadcasting's Mountain Stage, a two-hour radio show featuring stylistically diverse national and international acts. Most shows are taped before a live audience in the Cultural Center Theater and then broadcast around the world.

Early salt-makers made the Malden-Belle area home. Several historic homes still stand, including Samuel Shrewsbury's Old Stone House (circa 1810) in Belle. The Malden Historic District has been successful in preserving several buildings. The William Putney House (circa 1836) is now a private law office. Hale House (circa 1848), once the home of physician/entrepreneur/politician John Hale, houses Cabin Creek Quilts Cooperative. Norton House (circa 1840) is the oldest frame house in Malden. During the Civil War, soldiers for the North and South slept here. Recent renovations include murals painted by Remy Cabrera showing the history of the house and town. Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church (circa 1840) was organized in 1819 by the Ruffner family. The Ruffner Family Private Cemetery is just west of Malden.

In the Ansted-Hawks Nest area, historical/cultural landmarks include Halfway House, a former tavern on the Kanawha Turnpike and headquarters of the Chicago Dragoons during the Civil War; the African-American Heritage Family-Tree Museum,

which helps Afro-Americans trace their roots; and Contentment Historical Complex, an 1830 home which houses a museum and the headquarters of the Fayette County Historical Society.

Like many other places on the Trail, Camp Washington Carver is relevant to dual intrinsic qualities, history and culture. Although the 4-H movement was popular with youth in rural American in the late 1920s, there was no camp for African



Americans. Two black extension workers hired by West Virginia University began lobbying for such a camp. The site was dedicated in 1942 and was named for two prominent African Americans, Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver.

In 1980, the camp was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and was rededicated as West Virginia's mountain cultural arts center. It draws over 10,000 visitors annually to events such as the five-day long West Virginia String Band Festival.

Western Greenbrier's historical sites include Sam Black Methodist Church and Hern's Mill Covered Bridge. Reverend Sam Black (1813-1899) was a Methodist circuit rider for nearly fifty years. The church, built in 1901, was dedicated to Black. The community also bears his name.

West Virginian's geographic position led to divided loyalties and unique battles during the Civil War. Greenbrier celebrates several living history events. The Battle of Lewisburg (May 1862) is commemorated in May with speakers, period music, and battle reenactments.

Greenbrier State Forest, near White Sulphur Springs, hosts a weekend reenactment of the Battle of Dry Creek (August 1863). The weekend includes maneuvers, an actual battle reenactment, and settlement camps.

Ronceverte's Organ Cave celebrates its Civil War history in late July-early August. The large entrance room of the cave provided shelter for many Confederate soldiers. It was large enough to hold religious services for 1100 of General Robert E. Lee's men. The cave also was an important source of saltpeter, a necessary ingredient in gunpowder.

Greenbrier County's rich history blends with culture, for example the area's Civil War Reenactments and the Greenbrier's unique culture of hospitality. Lewisburg's galleries and live theater helped to distinguish the town as one of the 100 best small art towns in America. Carnegie Hall, built in 1902 as a gift from Andrew Carnegie, is one such venue.

The West Virginia State Fairgrounds and American Heritage Music Hall are located in Fairlea. The West Virginia State Fair is held every year in August, but the grounds are also the site of additional festivals and activities. The American Heritage Music Hall promotes American heritage music with open jam sessions and live entertainment.

