

The Trails

All trail distances are one-way.

Thurmond – Minden Trail

3.4 miles → easy → hiking/biking

An easy stroll or bike ride along an abandoned branch line of the C & O Railway. This predominantly level trail crosses five railroad trestles. Several overlooks provide scenic views of Thurmond and the New River.

Arbuckle Connector

0.3 miles → difficult → hiking

This trail is located 1.2 miles from the Thurmond Trailhead. Just past the third trestle, this trail drops off to the right. It has some steep and rocky terrain, and provides glimpses of some of the stonework and coke ovens of the mining town of WeeWin. Connects with the Brooklyn – Southside Junction Trail near the mouth of Arbuckle Creek.

Brooklyn – Southside Junction Trail

6.0 miles → moderate → hiking/biking

This riverside trail provides great views of the New River, and passes through some of the New River Gorge's abandoned mining towns. Rush Run, Red Ash, and Brooklyn were all once bustling communities located along this abandoned rail line. The first mile from the Cunard River Access is open to motorized vehicles. A parking area at Brooklyn marks the end of the maintained road. **Note: this trail is currently closed from Arbuckle Creek to Southside Junction (WV Route 25). The rail lines at Southside Junction are active — do not cross the railroad tracks.**

Southside Junction Update

Southside Junction serves as an interchange point between RJ Corman (RJC) and CSX. The railroad right-of-way is a privately owned workplace. A legal crossing of the rail line is **not** currently available at Southside Junction, though negotiations are underway. The National Park Service, CSX, and RJC expect the public to respect private property, and keep clear of the tracks at all times. Your patience and understanding are appreciated.

Stone Cliff Trail

2.7 miles → moderate → hiking/biking

This rugged trail follows an old road along the banks of the New River. Great views and easy access to the river are available along this trail.

Directions

Thurmond – Minden Trail

Thurmond Trailhead

From U.S. Route 19 north of Beckley, take the Glen Jean–Thurmond exit. Take an immediate left, and go 0.5 miles to Glen Jean. Take a right and follow the signs to Thurmond (WV Route 25). The trailhead is on the left, 5.1 miles down WV Route 25.

Minden Trailhead

Take the Main Street Exit (Oak Hill) off U.S. Route 19. If going south on U.S. Route 19, turn left and go 0.2 miles; if going north on U.S. Route 19, turn right and go 0.1 miles. Turn left onto Minden Road, and follow this 2.1 miles. Take a right across a small bridge to the trailhead.

Stone Cliff Trail

From U.S. Route 19 north of Beckley, take the Glen Jean–Thurmond exit. Take an immediate left, and go 0.5 miles to Glen Jean. Take a right and follow the signs to Thurmond (WV Route 25). Continue for 6.0 miles to a three-way intersection. Bear right and go 1.5 miles on this road. Take a right on a gravel road, just before crossing over the New River. Continue past the boat launch to the parking area. The Stone Cliff Trail begins beside the picnic area.

Cunard and Brooklyn Trailheads

These trailheads are located on the Cunard River Access Road. This road is reached from Fayetteville or Oak Hill via Salem-Gatewood Road. The Brooklyn Trailhead is located 1 mile up-river of the Cunard River Access following a maintained gravel road.

From Fayetteville: Take WV Route 16 South through the town of Fayetteville. Take a left on Gatewood Road, and go 4.6 miles to the Cunard turnoff. Turn left and go 1.8 miles. Follow signs indicating Cunard River Access. Continue past the Cunard – Kaymoor Trailhead, and down the steep, narrow road to the Cunard River Access.

From Oak Hill: Take the Main Street Exit (Oak Hill) off Route 19. If going south on Route 19, turn left and go 0.5 miles; if going north on Route 19, turn right and go 0.4 miles. Take a right on Gatewood Road, and go 5.4 miles to the Cunard turnoff. Turn right and go 1.8 miles. Follow signs indicating Cunard River Access. Continue past the Cunard – Kaymoor Trailhead, and down the steep, narrow road to the Cunard River Access.

New River Gorge

National River

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior



Thurmond Area Trails

New River Gorge National River offers more than fifty miles of trails. The trails vary from easy to difficult in terrain and distance. Check at park visitor centers for current trail information.

Trail Regulations

- ◆ Carry out all trash; no littering.
- ◆ Disturbing, destroying, or removing natural and cultural objects is prohibited.
- ◆ Park trails are closed to all motorized vehicles.
- ◆ Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only.
- ◆ Pets must be on a leash at all times.

Safety First

- ◆ All rail lines in the Thurmond area are active, and are private property. Do not cross railroad tracks, or trespass on railroad right-of-ways.
- ◆ Hunting is allowed in New River Gorge National River. Wear blaze orange during hunting season.
- ◆ Lock valuables in the trunk of your car or take them with you.
- ◆ Do not enter structures, mines, or coke ovens.
- ◆ During spring and summer, check for ticks.
- ◆ Poison ivy is common. *Leaflets three, let it be!*
- ◆ Two species of poisonous snakes live here, the copperhead and the timber rattlesnake. Watch where you put your feet and hands.

New River Gorge National River

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<http://www.nps.gov/neri>



Trails of the Thurmond Area

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 Arbuckle Connector → 0.3 miles → hiking
 Brooklyn - Southside Junction Trail → 6.0 miles → hiking/biking
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