

0 – Audio Description Introduction	345 words	2.23 minutes
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Audio Description Introduction. 2 minutes. Welcome to New River Gorge National River’s audio description tour of the Canyon Rim Visitor Center. To begin let’s explore the operation of your borrowed audio description device.

A cord is provided for your convenience. As you move through the visitor center, hold the device about chest high with the buttons positioned under either your right or left thumb. Do not block the top edge of the device, which contains sensors to receive recorded audio description segments throughout the visitor center. Descriptions will automatically play when you move into range of an exhibit or point of interest. As you hold the screen facing you, the 2 triangular buttons are used to adjust the volume.

In several areas, you will be offered an audio menu of description choices. In these instances, you may explore the audio menu by pressing the crescent shaped buttons above and below the circular button to move through the available selections. Each selection is identified by a brief audio prompt. To hear the description of the current selection, press the circular button.

After you’ve listened to a segment, you will return to the audio menu, where you may make another choice. If you wish to leave these audio menu choices, you may move to another area of the visitor center where you’ll hear automatic audio description.

If you would like to pause and then resume playing any audio description segment, press the square button. You may also press the square button after a segment has ended to hear that same segment again.

To hear these instructions again at any time, you may press the diamond-shaped button.

You may choose from 45 minutes of recorded descriptions of major features of the visitor center. This is not a detailed mobility guide.

If you have questions about this device or the audio description tour, please ask the staff at the information desk.

END TONE

0. – Audio Description Introduction/Main Hall Prompt
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For the audio description selections in the Main Hall, you may now press the crescent buttons to choose and the circular button to listen.

AUDIO MENU:

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|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to the Visitor Center Introduction• Listen to the Main Hall description• Listen to the description of the touchable topographical map and the view of the gorge• Listen to the description of the discovery table |
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0.a. – Visitor Center Introduction

168 words

1.08 minutes

Visitor Center Introduction. 1 minute. The public portion of the Canyon Rim Visitor Center is a 1-story building. The exterior walls are local sandstone cut into rectangular blocks in a variety of colors: light gray, medium gray, light tan, light brown, pale brown with yellow. The roof over the entrance is steeply slanted brown metal and the rest of the roof is flat.

There are 3 sections to the visitor center: this main hall, the auditorium and the exhibit area. The main hall contains the entrances to the auditorium and exhibit area, an information desk and bookstore, a collection of quilts, a topographical map, a display of pictures of nature in the gorge, windows with views of the gorge and the bridge, and a door to a balcony overlooking the gorge. The Auditorium has an 11-minute welcome video, which shows at various times. The Exhibit Area contains a series of photographs and materials in Plexiglas cases that describe the history, ecology and economy of this region.

END TONE

0.b. – The Main Hall	314 words	2.03 minutes
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The Main Hall. 2 minutes. The visitor center is shaped like a “T,” and is 150 feet long from the entrance wall to the back wall, which overlooks the gorge, 100 feet wide from side to side, and has 60-foot-high ceilings. The interior walls are made of rectangular blocks of sandstone in shades of grey and brown. The floor is cork with a pattern like burlwood.

The honey-colored wooden ceiling is supported by thick trestle beams of pine that are attached to the ceiling with black braces. In the area from the front door to the information desk,

4 quilts hang from the ceiling. With your back to the main entrance, the one at the front left is an Underground Railroad quilt. On the right, a LeMoyne Star quilt. Next, at the left, a Log Cabin quilt, and then, to the right, a Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt.

With your back to the main entrance, on the left wall from front to back are 2 doors to the auditorium, 2 entrances to the exhibit hall and a door to the outdoor balcony. Between the 2 doors to the auditorium, a photo, 10 feet wide by 7 feet tall, shows the rounding curve of the river and the surrounding high hills covered with green trees. Between the auditorium and exhibit hall is a discovery table or "touch table." Across the main hall from the auditorium is the information desk and bookstore.

The two entrances to the exhibit area are beyond the discovery table. Between the 2 doorways, is a photo of Sandstone Falls, 8 feet wide by 7 feet tall. A bright blue sky with white and grey clouds hangs over green rolling hills and an expanse of white water flowing over a shelf of grey rock. Below the photo, this quote:

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous. —Aristotle

END TONE

0.c. – Topographical Map and View of the Gorge	212 words	1.37 minutes
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Topographical Map. 1 ¼ minutes. At the far end of the visitor center, there is a 3-dimensional topographical map that sits in a dark blond oak platform 2 ½ feet high. It is 5 feet wide by 8 feet long and is surrounded by low glass walls. Please reach over the glass walls to

touch and you can feel the depth of the gorge in relation to the hills. From the right edge, the bridge and this visitor center is located 1 ½ feet toward the center and 1 foot above the bottom edge.

Beyond the topographical map, along the back wall, a floor to ceiling window overlooks the gorge. In the summer, there are green leaves on the trees and rubber rafts full of people drifting down the river. Fall brings colors of gold and orange on the hillside and the river has fewer rafts. Once the leaves fall, the vista of the gorge opens up, and during the winter there's snow at times. Spring sees green shoots and budding leaves and the return of whitewater rafters on the river below. This change of seasons is shown in a display of photographs in the alcove to the right of the topographical map if your back is to the main entrance.

END TONE

0.d. – Discovery Table	142 words	0.92 minutes
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Discovery Table. 1 minute. Between the auditorium and the exhibit hall, a Discovery Table holds a variety of touchable objects. Please touch these items, which may include: a black iron dipper, a black spud wrench with a long handle and an open space between 2 claws, a pie-shaped cross section of a tree, with a wedge taken out, a weathered white deer antler with a prong, a brown and beige feather of a wild turkey, several round brown pinecones, a black lumpy piece of soft coal, a light colored oven brick, the fossil of a leaf in a brown rock, a dry beige circular snake skin, a smooth rounded fresh water mussel shell, a black cone shaped oil can and

an opaque insulator. There is also a black rectangular shaped piece of coke, the by-product of coal placed under extreme heat in a beehive oven.

END TONE

1 – Change of Seasons Photos & View of Bridge	273 words	1.76 minutes
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Change of Seasons Photographs and View of the Bridge. 1 ¾ minutes. To the right of the topographical map when your back is to the visitor center’s main entrance, there is an alcove with a series of 12 photos, 3 feet wide and 3 to 5 feet tall, arranged in a two-sided, zigzag arrangement on top of a dark blonde wooden base.

Among the photos: white mist filling the gorge under a bright blue sky, then the steep hills of the gorge with shadowy sunlight peeking through clouds. Below, in a Plexiglas case, a broad winged hawk with brown and white speckled feathers.

More photos include: a whitewater kayaker rowing, immersed up to his waist in foamy water; a rock climber scaling a sheer reddish sandstone cliff; the gorge in dark shadows with mist rising from it.

Several feet past the end of this side of the photo display, windows overlook the gorge and provide a clear view of the bridge during fall and winter months. The New River Gorge Bridge is a steel-arch bridge, 3,030 feet long with an arch of 1,700 feet. The arch extends from 1 side of the gorge to the other and is held to the top of the bridge by grey steel girders.

On the back side of the zigzag arrangement, photos include green trees overhanging grey boulders with water flowing between them, the wide river with kayakers flowing along, black-barked trees covered in white snow with a dark trail running through the forest, a 2-story weathered wooden railroad depot next to a railroad track, and the misty outline of the bridge seen over a railroad track.

END TONE

2 & 3 – The Auditorium	140 words	0.90 minutes
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The Auditorium. 1 minute. In this 93-seat auditorium, an 11-minute welcome video covers the geological formation of the land, the history of the area including the railroad, which led to the booming coal mines and lumber mills before 1930, white water rafting, rock climbing, research and preservation work. The program includes color film of the gorge—panoramic views of the flowing river and rounded hillsides covered in green trees as well as the arched bridge over the gorge. Drawings include the life of native people in the area and maps of the path of the river. Black and white historic photos feature miners at work, the coke ovens belching smoke, railroads being built, lumber mills in use, and the company store. It concludes with color film of modern day white water rafters, flying eagles, and the historic town of Thurmond.

END TONE

4 – Balcony Door	94 words	0.61 minutes
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Balcony Door. Through this door, you may go outdoors to a balcony with a view of the gorge—a curving river cutting through hills covered in trees. The balcony also provides 3 wayside exhibit panels. At the left, the first 1 is about the levels of plant life in the forest and its recovery after logging. The middle 1 is about the New River, its ancient age, the mystery of its name and its unusual path going north rather than south. At the right, the third panel covers coke, and coal mining production at Kaymoor. If you're ready to leave the premises, return your audio description device before leaving.

END TONE

5 – The Entryway	70 words	0.45 minutes
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The Entryway. Inside the visitor center, facing the exterior, you are at the double automatic doors at the front of the building. As you exit the first set of doors and turn to the left, a soft drink machine is on your left and the accessible restrooms and water fountain are on the right. The second set of automatic doors leads outside. Please return your audio description device before leaving the building.

END TONE

EH 1a – Exhibit Hall Initial Intro	33 words	0.21 minutes
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Welcome to the Exhibit Hall. For the audio description selections at this entrance to the Exhibit Hall, you may now press the crescent buttons to choose and circular button to listen.

END TONE

Audio Menu

- Listen to the Introduction to the Exhibit Hall
- Listen to the first 2 exhibit panels: Road and Bridges

EH 1b – Exhibit Hall Intro

259 words

1.66 minutes

Exhibit Hall Introduction. 1 ½ minutes. In this rectangular hall, containing 9 exhibits, 3 exhibits are placed in the middle of the space and the rest are located in sections along the walls. The first middle exhibit is located on the wall between the 2 entrances, the second 1 is in the middle of the room and the third is near the back of the room. As you move around the room, an automatically played description tells you about the nearest exhibit. Each exhibit is described from left to right.

The back walls of each exhibit feature photographs, which range from 9 feet wide by 6 ½ feet tall to 5 feet wide by 4 ½ feet tall. The rest of the exhibit is located on 2 ½-foot tall dark blonde wood bases that jut out from the walls as well as being arranged in rectangular shapes in the center of the room. These displays are divided into panels in wooden frames in which raised

placards contain pictures and text. Plexiglas boxes with objects in them are also displayed on these frames.

Each exhibit has a raised slanted panel with introductory text. Moving around the walls of the room from this entrance, you will find the exhibits in this order—roads and bridges, mining, the natural world, recreation, geology, and logging. In the middle of the room against the front wall is an exhibit about the company store, across from it is the exhibit of New River people and in the back middle is an exhibit on the railroads.

END TONE

EH 1c – Roads and Bridges	534 words	3.46 minutes
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Roads and Bridges. 3 ¼ minutes. This 2-panel exhibit begins with a panel that faces the Exhibit Hall doorway closest to the auditorium.

Getting Around the Gorge. Just getting from 1 side of New River to another was a major chore—often required on a daily basis-for local people. Getting from the top of the gorge to the bottom and back up provided thrills, challenges, and frustrations.

Above, a black and white photo of the back of a 1920s car driving down a narrow dirt road with trees on the right and a rock cliff on the left. Below it on the wooden base are 2 panels. The top left 1 is a black and white photo of a straight bridge over the river.

About 1900 the ferry crossing on the ‘Old State Road’ at Sewell was replaced by a 3-span, iron wagon bridge.

Continuing around the exhibit to the right is the introductory panel to The New River Bridge.

Until 1977 it took 45 minutes to cross the gorge. Now it takes only 45 seconds thanks to the third longest single-span arch bridge in the Western Hemisphere. The Fayette Station Bridge, which had been used since 1889, was closed when the New River Bridge opened. Re-built and opened in 1998, the Fayette Station bridge is again open to vehicle traffic.

The background aerial photo shows the span of the arch bridge with green trees and the gorge below. A silent video with captions about the building of the bridge and its 1977 opening ceremony plays on a screen in the middle of this picture.

In the video, color film and line drawings show the design and building of the arch bridge over the New River Gorge. Measurements are made, cable lines are erected, steel sections are built and transported, girders are set in concrete and sections are brought together from opposite sides of the gorge until the full arch meets in the middle. The opening ceremony features marching bands and a crowd of people on the bridge.

On the center panel below is a rendering of the bridge over a dark, rounded gorge, with measurements drawn around the bridge. A line spanning the top reads, “3030.5 feet long”. Underneath, a line is drawn from 1 side of the gorge to another and reads “1700-foot arch span.” Another line is drawn from the bridge to the bottom of the gorge and reads “876 feet high,” and a line from the bridge to the arch span reads “360-foot rise.”

To the right, on the top, a dark railroad bridge with railroad cars and the river close to the bridge.

One of the highest recorded floods in the gorge was in August 1940. At Prince, loaded cars were placed on the railroad bridge to prevent its being washed away.

Below is a photo of a long suspension railroad bridge, taken from the vantage point of standing on the bridge and looking to the other side.

Built in the 1920s, this suspension bridge connected the New River Lumber Company sawmill with the Longbottom train station on the other side of the New River. Rail cars pulled by a steel cable carried lumber to the railroad station.

END TONE

EH 2a – Mining Initial Intro	42 words	0.27 minutes
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The mining exhibit has 4 panels, each with a large background photo. This audio menu allows you to choose the description of the first 2 and last 2 panels, moving from left to right by using the crescent buttons to choose and the circular button to listen.

END TONE

AUDIO MENU
• Listen to Mining First Section
• Listen to Mining Second Section

EH 2b Mining First Section	573 words	3.70 minutes
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Mining First Section. 3 ¼ minutes.

There was a thick steam of bituminous smokeless coal in the steep slopes of New River Gorge. After 1873, when the railroads made it possible to ship coal out of the steep gorge area. mining and shipping coal provided paying jobs for many and made fortunes for a few. Over 20 mining towns grew along the railroad tracks at the bottom of the gorge. By the 1950s many were deserted and in 1962 Kaymoor, the last mining town, closed its operations.

On the back wall behind a Plexiglas enclosure is a color picture of a brick wall with trees and vines growing over it. Two items hang on the photograph: a miner's pick axe—a wooden handle with a short black metal head with points on each end, and an augur—a long metal spiral drill with an indented, black metal handle.

Below it is a series of miner's implements and photos starting at the left with a 2-level tin dinner bucket with a handle.

Dinner buckets carried water in the bottom, the main meal in the middle, and dessert on top. With the lid on they were also used as chairs.

On the flat surface below it is a black and white picture of 2 men with a mule between them and a long flat wagon in back of them.

They used the horses and mules and ponies to work the mines, but they'd rather see a man get killed than a pony or a mule. Because they had to buy a mule or a pony but they didn't have to buy a man, that's the truth. —Mr. Leon Vento, Oak Hill, West Virginia.

Next to this a series of 4 green and beige line drawings that depict boring a hole with an auger to set a blasting charge. Near the center of this exhibit section are 2 miners' hats. The 1 to the left is a square, brown fabric hat with a metal attachment for a light in the front. To its right is a round, hard black hat, also with a light attachment. To the right of the hats hangs a grey metal headlamp. In front of the hats, on a round Plexiglas disc, a small metal chip with a circle cut in its top.

Miners put their own distinctive claim check in each coal car they filled, and their pay was based on the number of these checks that reached the mine entrance. The major problem with this system was that it was very easy to switch checks.

To the right, the next panel has a large black and white backdrop photo, which shows a long covered track running from an opening near the top of the hill down to a 2-story wooden building at the bottom. Below the picture, on the base of the exhibit, are 3 panels.

On the left panel, the picture shows a wooden loading structure over 3 railroad cars full of coal.

And when I came 16, I quit school and worked full-time in the coal mines. And I was paid a dollar and 10 cents a day and we worked 10 hours. —Mr. Bob Godsey, Oak Hill, West Virginia.

On the right panel is a black and white photo of the Kaymoor One Mining Complex, 1947 with labels indicating the elements of the mining center. Next to it is a beige line drawing of the New River in red with marks showing the location of mines.

END TONE

EH 2c – Mining Second Section	554 words	3.57 minutes
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Mining Second Section. 3 ¼ minutes. The large picture overlooking this panel of the mining exhibit is a color photo of the outside of a 2-story tin building, its grey wall streaked with red-orange rust, an open doorway in the bottom and a window cut into the upper story. This is the coal processing plant at the former town of Kaymoor, which operated from 1899 to 1962.

Underneath the photo, a black and white photo of a man covered in black dust crouching under a wall, working inside a mine and the Dubree #4 Mine Employees, 1929—13 men in overalls, jackets and hats sitting and standing in front of a rock wall.

To the right a Plexiglas box displays 3 black pieces of coal. Two are 3 inches in diameter and lumpy. The third is square and smooth and measures 5 inches across.

The bituminous coal from this area is relatively smokeless because it has few impurities and burns clean. It also made a very good coke used in steel production. Smokeless coal was used to heat homes in the Northeast, fuel steel mills and fire boilers in ships throughout the world.

To the right, is a background color photo of a crumbling wall of brown rocks with 3 collapsing coke oven holes in the center of it. Ferns and ivy grow among the rocks and on the top of the wall.

The coke ovens of Kaymoor, once among the busiest in the area.

Below, display panels and a Plexiglas box, jut out beyond this picture. The Plexiglas box has 2 black lumps of coke in it. The smaller one is 2 inches in diameter; the larger one is 7 inches across and 3 inches high.

Coke is needed to produce high heat in blast furnaces for metal making. It is a high-temperature fuel which is made by baking coal at a controlled temperature for a given period of time, usually 48, 72, 96, or 120 hours, to remove impurities. This was done locally with New River coal in beehive ovens along the railroad tracks.

To the right, a panel with 2 pictures. The left photo shows a stone wall with 3 openings and smoke rising from the first opening. The bottom right picture is a line drawing of a brick arch with a coal car above it.

This cross section shows the distinctive interior shape of coke ovens. To make coke, crushed coal was loaded into the oven from the top. The side door was bricked up and the coal ignited by heat retained from the previous charge. To create just the right draft, holes were cut at selected spots in the side door. Burning expelled a heavy smoke and gases loaded with tar. The product was a pure coke, which burns very cleanly and at a relatively high temperature.

When coke processing was complete, the ovens were opened and then watered down to cool the coke before loading onto railroad cars.

Continuing to the far right of this exhibit, the black and white photo on the left bottom shows a line of railroad cars loaded with coke and coal. The load to the left is bumpy and lighter in color, and the one on the right is smooth and dark.

Coke fills the cars on the left, coal the cars on the right.

END TONE

EH 3a – The Natural World Initial Intro	43 words	0.28 minutes
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The natural world exhibit has 2 sections, each with a large background photo. This audio menu allows you to choose the description of each section, moving from left to right by using the crescent buttons to choose and the circle button to listen.

END TONE

AUDIO MENU

- Listen to The Natural World First Section, at the left
- Listen to The Natural World Second Section, at the right

EH 3b The Natural World First Section	335 words	2.15 minutes
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The Natural World First Section. 2 minutes.

New River Gorge has been a barrier to human travel but a gateway for wildlife. A wide range of altitude, moisture, exposure, wind and sunlight provides a variety of ecosystems for many types of plants and animals. The major local communities are Riparian, Upland Slopes and Rim and Cliffline.

A color photo of the gorge stretches halfway across the back wall of the exhibit hall. Sunlight shines on dark green trees that follow the incline of the hill and the curve of the river. Brown water with white peaks moves around the bend. Slim trunks of trees with light green leaves in the foreground.

Below it, green line drawings of plants, trees and leaves include laurel, scarlet oak, sugar maple, white oak, St. John's Wort and silver bell.

To the right, a tall, wide Plexiglas box covers a small brown tree trunk with 4 bare branches. Five stuffed birds are poised on the branches and trunk. From top to bottom: a yellow shafted flicker, an Indigo bunting with its deep blue feathers, a small brown song sparrow, a mottled black and a white wood thrush and a red-bellied woodpecker with its bright red head. To the left, on a rock surrounded by tall green grass, rests a round box turtle with a black back marked with gold geometric patterns.

To the right of the Plexiglas box is a series of color photos of the animals of the area. On the top left, a light brown-colored white tailed deer stands among brown trees. Top right is a brown beaver swimming in the river, middle left, 2 small raccoons peer out around the branch of a tree. Middle right, a great blue heron stands in blue water. Lower left a small, smooth brown common or masked shrew stands on a fallen tree trunk. Bottom right, a wild turkey with black feathers and a grey head fluffs out its tail feathers.

END TONE

EH 3b The Natural World Second Section	299 words	1.94. minutes
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The Natural World Second Section. 2 minutes.

Continuing to the right, is a color background photo of the blue water of the New River flowing around a curve. Brown boulders frame the river at the shore, dark green trees shrouded in light mist rise up the hills above it, and a light grey sky showers shadowed sunlight on the water.

In front of the picture, 2 Plexiglas cases each hold a fish. The left is a slim brown catfish suspended in motion over a rock. The right is a brownish grey striped smallmouth bass suspended in a bright green plant. To the right of the fish is a Plexiglas case with a series of oblong fishing lures with hooks in white and red stripes, blue, and brown. Beneath the smallmouth bass, a panel with a photo of a brown peregrine falcon perched on a branch with its sharp wing tips poised for flight.

Saving Wildlife. The Peregrine falcon story shows the challenges of preserving what is left of our natural world. This falcon ranges almost worldwide but faces extinction because of pesticides. It is being re-introduced at New River and other locations to reduce the threat of extinction.

Beneath the fish are 2 photos of the woods and river. At the bottom left, the forest floor covered in leaves with rusted pieces of a car on top of them. 3 doors and 3 tires lie helter-skelter among the ferns. To its right, murky foamy water flows around a brown boulder.

Pollution. For many people, reducing human impact on the natural environment is a

matter of preserving wilderness values. The ultimate solution involves keeping the earth healthy enough to sustain its rich diversity of life. Water pollution and litter are constant reminders of our need to be more responsible.

END TONE

EH 5 – Recreation	195 words	1.26 minutes
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New River Recreation. 1 ¼ minutes.

Two hundred years ago America's wildlands were seen as barriers to human progress. As these lands disappeared, our values changed. Wilderness has become a precious source of inspiration and recreation. The New River Gorge area is a special place for doing special things. Fishing, hiking, and sightseeing have been around for a long time. New forms of boating, white-water rafting, camping, rock-climbing, biking, and National Park Service visitor activities have been added for our enjoyment.

Against the wall-mounted color photo of the wide blue-grey expanse of the New River flowing between boulders with rafters in the background and green trees rising up the hill, a Plexiglas box stands at the back left. It houses a blue life vest, a white paddle and a white helmet.

At the opposite end of the exhibit, a second Plexiglas box holds a green backpack and square black camera. Photos include white water rafters paddling in foamy water, while others drift down the blue river, a rock climber scaling a red rock, a girl in overalls holding up a fish, hikers walking out of the forest, and children surrounding a park ranger.

END TONE

EH 6 – New River Geology	449 words	2.90 minutes
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New River Geology. 2 ½ minutes.

The New River is believed to be 1 of the oldest in North America. Its deep gorge, though, is the trait of a much younger river. This unusual situation is a result of uplift and erosion over millions of years. Through that time the river has kept fairly close to its present course.

On the wall, a color photo of a semi-circle of the frothy waters of the New River flowing over the grey rocks of Sandstone Falls with green hills in the background.

Tilted layers of rock along the riverbed form cascades, rapid, and sometimes deep pools of water.

A Plexiglas box in front of the photo contains 3 grey rocks with plant fossils etched in their surface and a black and white pencil drawing of a river with plants on the shore and lizards coming out of the water.

Plant fossils are found with coal seams. Coal may look like rock but is actually carbonated remains of primitive plants and animals which lived in this area roughly 320 million years ago.

On the wall to the right, a color photo of rocks jutting out from the forest and sheer cliffs plummeting to the gorge amongst the brown and orange leaves of fall. A silent video with captions about the New River Geology plays on the screen in the middle of this picture. The film

covers the millions of years of the formation of the river from the continents shifting to the Ice Age and the merging of other rivers with the New River.

The video shows the formation of the gorge in drawings starting with a prehistoric river surrounded by ferns with dinosaurs at the edge of the water, the globe of the earth with continents clustered together and moving apart, a lightning storm with pouring rain, the blue line of the river moving over a green background and through the map of the area of the river's path. This leads to a drawing of the bright blue river flowing through the green gorge today.

Below, a panel shows a drawing of the layers of rock and hills in the gorge.

The gentle folding of rock strata in the New River area reflects great pressure, heat, and age. The local formations were probably 10 million years in the making.

To the right, you may touch a layered rock, brown and black on the top and grey on the sides.

The Nuttall Sandstone cap with weak, underlying shale is typical of the canyon area along this part of the New River. This type of contrast makes the layered or stratified nature of the local rock obvious at first glance.

END TONE

EH 7a – Exhibit Hall Initial Intro	105 words	0.68 minutes
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Welcome to the Exhibit Hall. The audio description tour of the exhibit hall is designed to describe each of the exhibits from left to right, beginning with the first exhibit inside the *other*

entrance. Although you *may* visit the exhibits in reverse order by beginning here, you will probably find it more enjoyable to return to the main hall through this entrance and re-enter through the *other* doorway, the 1 closer to the auditorium.

If you wish to proceed from this doorway, however, you may now press the crescent buttons to choose and the circular button to listen.

END TONE

Audio Menu

- Listen to the Introduction to the Exhibit Hall
- Listen to the first 2 exhibit panels: Logging.

EH 7b – Exhibit Hall Intro

257 words

1.65 minutes

Exhibit Hall Introduction. 1 ½ minutes. In this rectangular hall, containing 9 exhibits, 3 exhibits are placed in the middle of the space and the rest are located in sections along the walls. The first middle exhibit is located on the wall between the 2 entrances, the second 1 is in the middle of the room and the third is near the back of the room. As you move around the room, an automatically played description tells you about the nearest exhibit. Each exhibit is described from left to right.

The back walls of each exhibit feature large photographs, which range from 9 feet wide by 6 ½ feet tall to 5 feet wide by 4 ½ feet tall. The rest of the exhibit is located on 2 ½-foot tall

dark blonde wood bases that jut out from the walls as well as being arranged in rectangular shapes in the center of the room. These displays are divided into panels in wooden frames in which raised placards contain pictures and text. Plexiglas boxes with objects in them are also displayed on these frames.

Each exhibit has a raised slanted panel with introductory text. Moving around the walls of the room from this entrance, the exhibits are in this order—logging, geology, recreation, the natural world, mining, and roads and bridges. In the middle of the room against the front wall is an exhibit about the company store, across from it is the exhibit covering New River people and in the back middle is an exhibit on the railroads.

END TONE

EH 7c –Logging	435 words	2.81 minutes
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Logging. 2 ¾ minutes.

Logging on a large scale began when railroad transportation made it profitable but dealing with rugged terrain was still a challenge. Wood was used for coal mine timbers, houses, railroad, furniture, barrel staves and many other purposes.

In the background, a large picture of a swath of bare ground on a hillside surrounded by green trees. On a panel under it, a black and white photo of a bare forest with men standing and sitting on piles of logs.

Sewell Lumber Company operations, around 1918.

He cleaned all the lumber out now. He, he wouldn't take nothing, you know, but the very best, cut all the walnut trees was in there, and the oaks and things like that, you know. Then he started to, went up on top of the mountain and started stripping it. —Mr. James Anderson Beckley, West Virginia.

On another panel to the right, a photo shows 8 men in suits sitting on a fallen log, with horses in the background—a logging crew at Meadow Creek, 1923.

There were good eats in camp; big iron pots on the wood stove. The doctors cost \$2.00 a month but they were the best ever. —Doc Bennett, Rainelle, West Virginia.

Moving to the right, on the wall, a black and white photo shows a stone building with men standing next to it. A small dark steam-powered sawmill sits near railroad tracks in front of the building.

In the late 1800s sawmills were set up where they were needed. The steam-powered model pictured above was portable and was probably used to build mine structures at Beury. The stone building is not part of the sawmill.

On the panel below, a picture of stacked cut lumber covering a large plot of land. On the panel to the right, a black steam engine sits on a track next to piles of cut lumber and below it a photo of cut timber lying helter-skelter on the ground. To the right, in a large Plexiglas enclosure, is a display of 5 logging tools. Hung against the wall, a circular black metal saw blade, 60 inches in diameter with sharp teeth notched around its perimeter. In front, hanging across the circular blade, a long straight metal crosscut saw with intermittent sharp teeth. Leaning against it is a double-bit axe with a wooden handle and a peavey—a stick-like tool used

for rolling logs. The brown iron chain and hooks used to keep logs together are displayed in a Plexiglas stand. In front of the tools are 3 square brown pieces of hardwood boards of chestnut, hickory and oak.

END TONE

EH 8a – Company Store & New River People	68 words	0.35 minutes
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At this location there are 2 exhibits: The New River People and the Company Store. The Company Store is located on the wall between the 2 entrances to the exhibit hall. As you face the Company Store, the New River People exhibit is directly behind you. You may now choose which exhibit to visit first by using the crescent buttons to choose and the circular button to listen.

END TONE

AUDIO MENU

- Listen to the Company Store description
- Listen to the New River People description

EH 8b – The Company Store	198 words	1.28 minutes
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The Company Store. 1 ¼ minutes. Along the wall, 2 large black and white photographs of the inside of the Company Store. In the left photo, 7 people stand in front of floor to ceiling shelves, which contain bottles and boxes of groceries at the dry goods depot in the company store at Thayer. In front of them, glass cases have smaller boxes and items on shelves. The photo on the right shows 2 people standing in front of shelves holding bolts of material. Glass cases in front of them display children's clothes and hats.

You had to live in a company house; you had to deal at the company store. —Mr. George Ellison, Hinton, West Virginia.

The display under the left photo: The faded numbers written on a ledger page, a medicine ad from a 1904 newspaper, and a detailed pay slip from Babcock Coal & Coke Company, 1931, showing pay of \$12.80 and deductions of \$7.78.

To the right a Plexiglas box houses a wooden mandolin, a round tobacco tin, and the outline of a tombstone ad on a calendar.

Even music lessons were given at some company stores. This mandolin, however, was made at home.

END TONE

EH 8c – New River People	537 words	3.55 minutes
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New River People. 3 ¼ minutes.

They came from many parts of the United States, the British Isles, and Central and

Eastern Europe to work the mines, railroads and logging camps. They brought their cultural diversity and adapted their skills to create a new way of living in the deep gorge environment.

The New River People exhibit is a freestanding square display with 4 black and white background photographs standing on a dark blonde wooden base. Smaller pictures lie flat on the base. The first 2 pictures stand at a V-shaped angle, angled away from each other. On the left panel, a tall, gaunt man in overalls and work gloves and heavy shoes stands with a tin pail under his arm and a whip around his neck.

The whip around [the coal miner's] neck was used to drive mules hauling coal cars in the mines. Over five hundred million tons of coal was used in the U.S. before 1930 and almost all of it was loaded 1 shovelful at a time by miners.

On the right standing panel, a tall young man with a mustache wears a pin-stripe suit and light-colored shirt with a starched collar, leaning against a building, hands in his pockets.

Henry Beury in the mining town of Beury, West Virginia. He was the youngest son of Joseph L. Beury who started mining operations in the New River area in the 1870s.

Below is a photo of a group of several dozen men sitting and standing on the grass.

The men of Hinton assemble to leave for World War I in 1917. In some cases, women had to fill vacancies in jobs held only by men before that time

To the right, under a Plexiglas case, a worn black leather Bible.

So the Baptists met the first Sunday in the month, and the Presbyterians had their church the second, and the Methodists had it the next Sunday, and the Catholics had it the next Sunday. And we all went to church together and we all got along good together and we all enjoyed

church together. —Mrs. Hilda Dempsey of Fayetteville, West Virginia describing early days at Clifftop Church.

On the opposite side of this display, the side that faces into the exhibit hall, at the left, a Plexiglas box displays 2 stuffed robins overlooking a nest. The background on this side of the exhibit is a 2-panel black and white photo of 8 women in white nurse's dresses, hats, stockings and shoes standing shoulder to shoulder.

In February 1899 the West Virginia Legislature established 3 state industrial hospitals. McKendree Miners Hospital Number 2 opened in 1901 and continued in service until September 13, 1941, mainly treating patients injured in the mining, railroading, and lumbering industries. In 1910 the McKendree began the first school of nursing in the New River Gorge. It offered 1 of the few career opportunities available to women at that time.

To the right, under the right side of the 2-part background photo, a panel with a black and white picture of a group of soldiers sitting at tables with white cloths.

During World War II, soldiers riding troop trains through the gorge could always count on a good meal at "Mother" McClure's restaurant in Thurmond, West Virginia.

END TONE

EH 9 – Railroads	422 words	2.72 minutes
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Railroads. 2 ½ minutes. The free-standing Railroad exhibit is located behind the New River People in the center of the room to the rear of the exhibit hall.

In 1873 the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroads opened the New River Gorge area to rapid industrialization and the formation of towns and coal camps. Railroads made it possible to ship out coal, coke, and lumber. Everything needed to live was shipped in. Transport up and down the river—from 1 small town to the next—followed the tracks.

In the center of the square exhibit, a worn white 3-foot wide railroad crossing sign in an X-shape stands in a Plexiglas box on a piece of railroad track with gravel around it. Behind it, a large photo of a steam train with 4 men standing around the front of the engine. Photos below include men standing in front of a steam engine and a picture of 2 steam locomotives in a railway yard. The photos to the right include men swinging spike hammers over a rail line and a steam engine coming down the tracks.

It was right curvy, you know. You very seldom saw much, you know, a very straight piece of track. It was mostly a lot of curves ... and then—a riverbank below you and the mountains on the other side of you. —Mr. Leonard Thompson, Harvey, West Virginia

To the right, 2 photos: a man rides a cycle on the railroad tracks and a 2-story brick railroad building sits next to tracks.

On the backside of the exhibit, there is a large color picture of 3 red brick buildings with a trestle connected over train tracks. On the display below it are black and white photos of the town of Thurmond in the early 1900s, railroad tracks running together, a steam engine on the tracks, a color photograph of a diesel engine passing under the New River Gorge Bridge and a diesel electric Amtrak train on the tracks, and a railroad building with a caption that reads:

The steam engines are gone but many of the railroad structures remain at places such as Thurmond.

Under a Plexiglas case a branch of Paulownia with shiny, broad green leaves and peach colored flowers.

Railroads brought in non-native plant species. Seed pods from the Paulownia, for example, were used as lightweight packing materials for goods transported by rail. Once discarded the seeds sprouted and grew, adapting to the rugged terrain. The Low Moor Coal Co. also imported Paulownia trees for ornamental landscaping.

END TONE

End of Script
