

Travel Guide to Convention From Washington DC

This guide is intended to help travelers unfamiliar with the routes from the DC area to Elkins, WV. There are numerous shops, wineries, breweries, local eateries, hiking & biking trails, scenic overlooks, and countless other points of interest all along the way. By no means are we trying to list them all or making any form of judgment by listing them or not. A direct trip will be approximately 200 miles, take about 4 hours, and your ultimate goal is the McDonnell Center on the campus of Davis & Elkins College where convention registration is located.

<https://goo.gl/maps/Wc7ftgw7XW8U7cyx9>

However, should you find yourself with some time to spare, below are mentioned some of the more known stops along the way.

As this guide most likely applies to those flying in, we begin at Dulles International Airport (IAD).

Leaving Dulles, head South on Route 28 where you will soon pass by:

Smithsonian Air & Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center

<https://airandspace.si.edu/udvar-hazy-center>

Continue South on Route 28 to I-66 West.

Traveling I-66 West you pass by:

Delaplane, VA, where there are several wineries just off the highway including:

<http://www.barreloak.com/>

<https://bluevalleyvineyardandwinery.com/>

Front Royal, VA where you can find:

Spelunkers Burgers and Custard (Cute name but otherwise just a good burger)

<http://www.spelunkerscustard.com/>

North End of Skyline Drive & Shenandoah National Park

<https://www.nps.gov/shen/index.htm>

Skyline Caverns ... Commercial Cave

<https://skylinecaverns.com/>

Continue West on I-66 to I-81 South to Strasburg, VA, to Route 48/55 West to Wardensville, WV.

Wardensville, WV, has:

Lost River Trading Post ... Craft Gallery/bakery/coffee shop

<https://www.lostrivertradingpost.com/>

Continue West on Route 48/55 (Corridor H) to Moorefield, WV.

From Moorefield, WV, there are 3 primary routes to choose from:

1) Moorefield–Seneca Rocks–Harman–Elkins

2) Moorefield–Davis & Thomas–Harman–Elkins

3) Moorefield–Davis & Thomas–Parsons–Elkins

Route #1:

Moorefield–Seneca Rocks

Travel Route 220 South to Petersburg, WV, then Route 28 South on to Seneca Rocks, WV. You pass along the South Branch of the Potomac River with several cabin rental companies and excellent trout fishing. On the way you pass by:

Smoke Hole Caverns & Cabins ... Commercial Cave! And a sponsor of the convention!
<https://www.smokehole.com/>

Dolly Sods Wilderness Area–Eastern Access
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=12366>

Seneca Rocks – Harman

Travel Route 33 West to Harman crossing the Eastern Continental Divide and entering Randolph County, WV—home to the 2023 NSS Convention. This part of the drive takes you through the heart of eastern WV.

Harman–Elkins

Travel Route 33 West. As you enter Elkins, turn right at the first traffic light. Follow the Directions to Convention Registration (separate document). On the way you pass by:

Still Hollow Spirits
<https://stillhollowspirits.com/>

Alpine Lodge in Alpena, WV, where you can stop for a quick meal. This historic lodge has been a stop for cavers for decades. Not the least because it is directly across the road from Alpena Cave! (An easy but very wet cave)

Also, along the way are a few local camping & hiking areas:

Otter Creek Wilderness Area
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=12369>

Bickle Knob Observation Tower
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=7054>

Bear Heaven Recreation Area & Campground; a quiet spot with beautiful rocks to scramble on and get a clear view west to Elkins.
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=6981>

Route #2:

Moorefield–Davis & Thomas

Travel Route 48 West (Corridor H) to Davis & Thomas with spectacular scenery as you cut across the mountains toward Mount Storm Lake. Pull off at the Scenic Overlook for a view back over the valley.

Davis & Thomas–Harman

Travel Route 32 South to Harman through a hidden jewel of WV.

Canaan Valley has miles of hiking & biking trails, restaurants, golfing, and beautiful scenery.
<https://www.canaanvalley.org/>

Dolly Sods Wilderness Area – Western Access
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=12366>

Harman–Elkins

See Route #1

Route #3:

Moorefield–Davis & Thomas

See Route #2

Davis & Thomas–Parsons

Travel Route 219 South to Parsons. There is also a connection via the Blackwater Canyon and a small bit of the Allegheny Highland Trails.

<http://www.wvbike.org/bct/>
<http://highlandstrail.org/explore/trails/>

On the way you pass by the Olson Observation Tower
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=7055>

Parsons–Elkins

Travel Route 219 South to Kerens where Corridor H resumes towards Elkins. Just north of Elkins, turn off Corridor H and continue following Route 219/250 South to Elkins. Follow the Directions to Convention Registration (separate document). On the way you are paralleled by:

Allegheny Highland Trails
<http://highlandstrail.org/explore/trails/>

Seneca Rocks, WV

In this area you can find:

Seneca Rocks themselves
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recreation/recarea/?recid=7050>

Camping is available at Yokum's across from the Rocks.
<https://www.yokum.com/>

and Seneca Shadows campground.
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=7004>

There are 2 restaurants/stores in Seneca Rocks
Harper's and Yokum's
<http://harpersoldcountrystore.com/>
<https://www.yokum.com/>

And 2 rock climbing schools
<https://www.senecarocks.com/>
<https://climbseneca.com/>

Nearby Seneca Rocks:

Try your hand at Via Ferrata ... The "Iron Way" ... at Nelson Rocks.

www.nrocks.com

Spruce Knob Observation Tower—drive to the highest point in West Virginia.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recreation/recarea/?recid=7053>

Davis & Thomas, WV

Corridor H brings you to the intersection where you can choose to go south to Davis, WV, or west to Thomas, WV. In this area you can find:

Among the numerous good restaurants, brewpubs, and craft shops!!

Try a Burrito at Hellbenders:

<https://www.hellbenderburritos.com/>

Stop in and get lunch at a caver-owned deli.

Big Belly Deli

<https://www.bigbellydeli.wv.com/>

Have a local WV beer at Stump Town Ales or Mountain State Brewing.

<https://www.stumptownales.com/>

<http://mountainstatebrewing.com/>

Or sit in on some live Appalachian-based acoustic music at the Purple Fiddle.

<https://purplefiddle.com/>

Take a rest with the kids and scramble/rock climb at Tucker Boulder Park.

<http://www.tcrocks.org/>

Or if you desire to get out and see the scenery, head just out of town to Blackwater Falls State Park! Here you can camp, hike, or just watch the amazing tannin-colored waters of the Blackwater River flowing over the falls and down Blackwater Canyon. The short hike will take you down along the river and up to the lookout below the falls. The parking area has a shop with snacks and souvenirs of the park. There are also numerous other hiking trails and a few other falls within the park.

<https://wvstateparks.com/park/blackwater-falls-state-park/>

How ever you travel to Elkins for the 2023 convention, we hope you can take time to stop and appreciate the many hidden treasures of eastern WV.

This area was shaped by logging, coal mining, and the pioneer spirit of its people who left the relative safety and comfort of the coast in search of new adventures and possibilities.

We hope you can appreciate how easily we now cross the mountains and rivers as opposed to the pioneering spirit of the original Mountaineers as they forged west on foot.

Welcome to Wild and Wonderful West Virginia!