

Eastern Kentucky and US 23 Country Music Highway Tourist Guide



published annually

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cmhtravelguide@gmail.

If it touches tourism and any of our visitors. we are there to help 100 percent!

AN INSIDE

LOOK AT

THIS ISSUE

Publisher Harlan's Black Mountain Zipline is the Longest, Highest and Fastest!

In Carter Co, explore Tygarts Creek by kayak, and an adjacent 13-mile trail and visit stop in at Carter Caves Resort Park

Find family friendly museums in Beattyville, Pikeville, Flemingsburg, Ashland and more.

Great Golf Courses Too!

These locations send you a special invitation to spend time with them in



EASTERN KENTUCKY AND COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY TOURIST AND TRAVEL GUIDE

Come for the music, stay for the views.





MEADOWGREEN APPALACHIAN MUSIC PARK







RED RIVER GORGE

plan your adventure today!





GOPOCO.ORG





YOU CAN SEE IT ALL FOR YOURSELF AT HARLAN COUNTY'S TOUR OF ONE OF THE MANY ACTIVE MINES OF YESTERDAY, KNOWN AS PORTAL 31 IN THE TOWN OF LYNCH.

The Perfect Place To Find FamilyActivities

Welcome to Harlan County, Kentucky—where adventure begins, Appalachian spirit runs deep, and community celebrations bring folks together nearly every weekend of the year. No matter if you're chasing adrenaline or seeking a genuine mountain getaway, Harlan County offers outdoor thrills, rich history and heritage, and some of the most memorable festivals in the region.

Fire up your ATV at Black Mountain Off-Road Adventure Area, Kentucky's premier off-road destination. With over 200 miles of trails winding through 7,000 acres of rugged ridgelines and hollows, riders of all abilities will find routes that lead to breathtaking summit views and the thrill of conquering steep, technical terrain.

Ready for a new vantage point? Black Mountain Thunder Zipline soars across 11 lines—Kentucky's longest, fastest, and highest zipline coursepropelling you up to 500 feet above the forest floor at speeds nearing 60 miles per hour. From this bird's-eye perspective, the Appalachian Mountains unfold in every direction.

For those who prefer boots to handlebars, Kingdom Come State Park beckons with 14 miles of well marked trails, dramatic sandstone formations like Raven Rock, and peaceful overlooks that stretch across the Appalachian Mountains. Cast a line in its mountain lake, picnic beneath towering hardwoods, or linger as sunsets set the sky ablaze.

Step inside Kentucky's coal legacy at **Portal 31**, an authentic underground mine tour. Board a rail car and get the full effect of descending into the mountainside while animated exhibits and expert guides illuminate the stories of the thousands of miners who forged Appalachia's industrial

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

6 EASTERN KENTUCKY AND COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY TRAVEL AND TOURIST GUIDE

More Harlan County Attractions

preserve, invites hikers to wander beneath towering trees along trails leading to geologic treasures such as Knobby Rock, hidden sand caves, and panoramic overlooks that reveal the forest's ancient grandeur. On the water, **Martins Fork Lake** provides a tranquil escape—paddle its clear mountain waters, cast for bass and trout, or simply relax lakeside as clouds drift over the peaks.

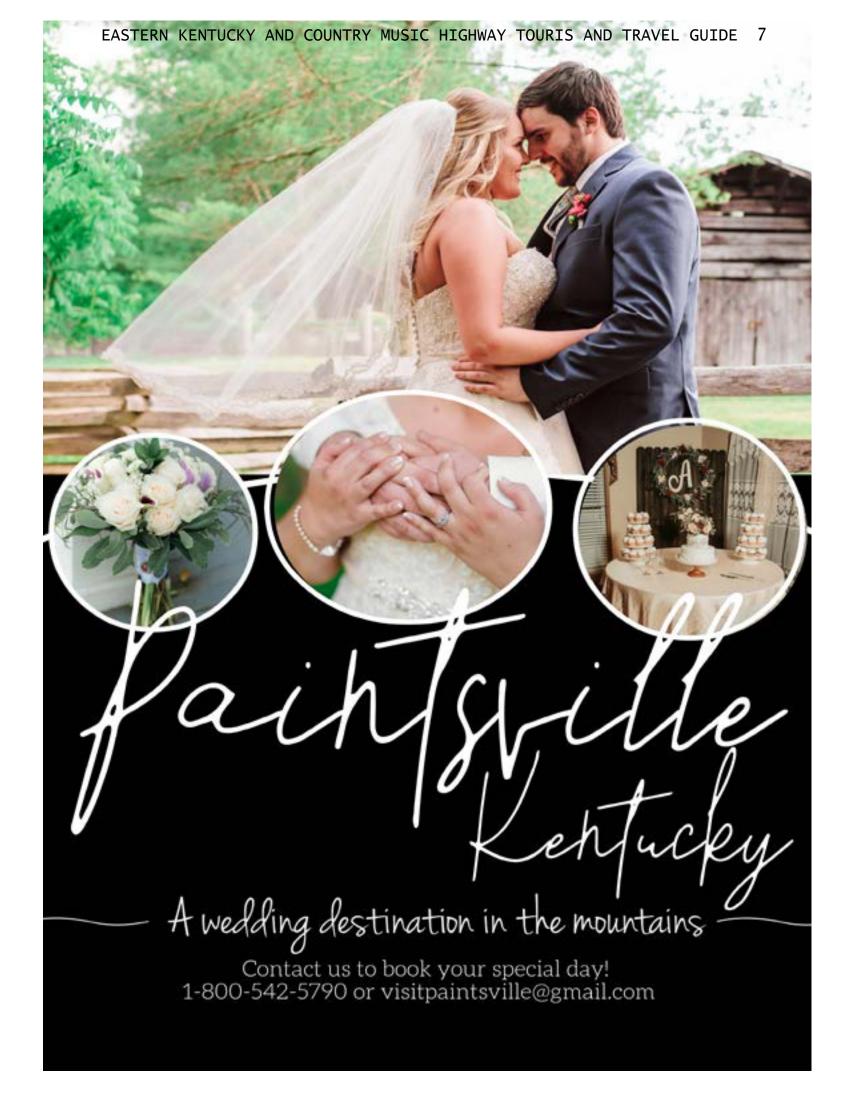
Yet nothing captures Harlan County's spirit quite like our festivals. Each year, nearly 250 events bring locals and visitors together to celebrate Appalachian heritage and community pride:

- Poke Sallet Festival: Harlan's largest festival on, the first full weekend in June, features nationally touring acts, carnival rides, a classic car show, and all the poke sallet (wild greens) you can savor.
- Fourth Fest: Join downtown Harlan for Independence Day fireworks, live music, and small-town camaraderie that lights up the summer night.

- small-town camaraderie that lights up the summer night.
- Festival of the Mountain Masters: Taking place the weekend after Thanksgiving, this is a true Appalachian craft fair where every offering is homemade, homebaked, or handcrafted—celebrating our mountain artisans and culinary traditions.
- **Dog Days of Kentucky**: Kentucky's only hot dog festival and championship that takes place on Labor Day weekend, this dog-friendly event serves up sizzling contests, delicious eats, and family fun.
- **Possum Fest:** September holds a playful homage to Appalachian folklore, complete with themed activities, live entertainment, and quirky contests.

From seasonal hikes and history tours to craft fairs and street dances, Harlan County delivers an authentic Appalachian experience that blends adventure, culture, and genuine hospitality. Ready to plan your next mountain escape? Discover itineraries, lodging options, and our full calendar of nearly 250 annual events at www.harlancountytrails.com. Your Appalachian adventure starts here.







Eastern Kentucky offers serveral different outdoor and indoor locations. All four seasons offer a picturesque grounds, with an 1850's church, school hourse, and barn. ALso on site is a reception hall, patio, and ampitheater.

Surround yourself with elegance at the Country Music Highway Museum. The Museum offers different decoration options to suit your special event.

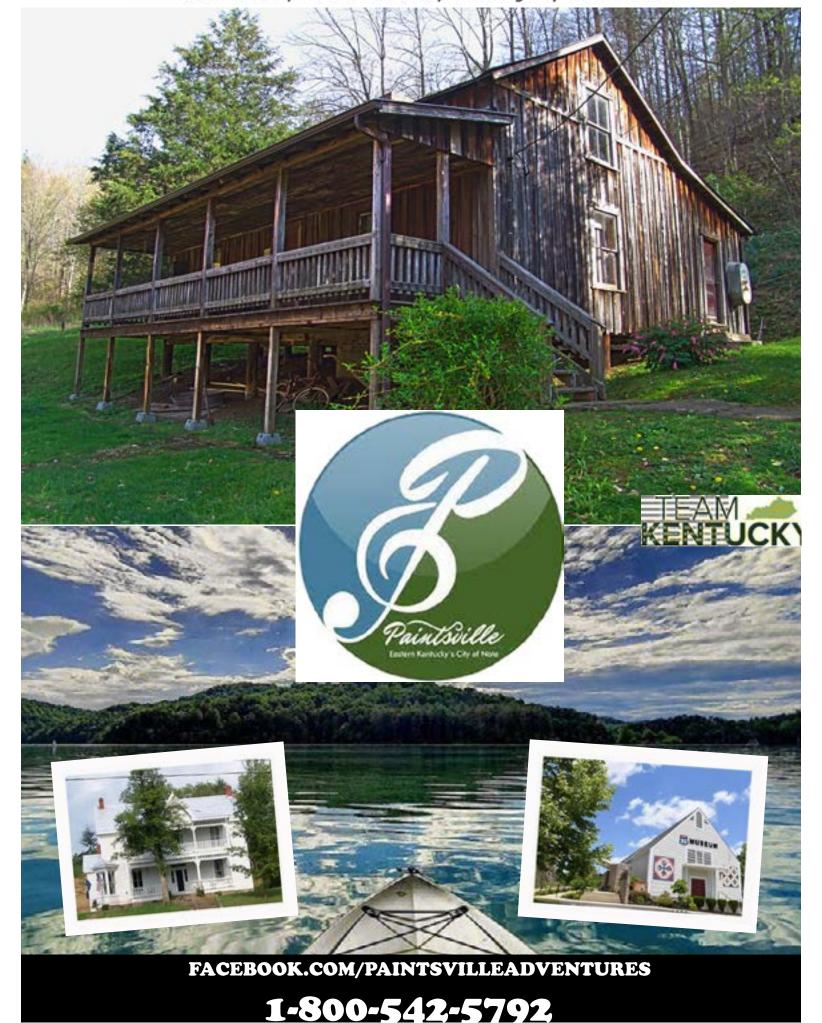


your artistic side to show, then the SIPP is for you. The newly renovated theater has room for 300 guests with a stage as your backdrop and our beautiful downtown streets

The Stafford House is an 1840's Victorian era house and is perfect setting for a charming wedding or wedding shower. It also serves as a classic or vintage backdrop for stunning photos.



Photography by: Ashley Dawn Photography, Amy Wallen Photography, Gingersnaps Photography, Reggie Beechner Photography







MONTHLY

Market #286 - At the Olive Hill Depot (1st Saturday of each month) Olive Hill Cruise-Ins - At the Olive Hill Depot (Last Friday of each month)

MAY

22nd - 25th Grayson Memory Days

JUNE

6th & 7th Carter County Shrine Club Horse Show

KCU Summer Concert Series w/Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder

Olive Hill 4th of July Homecoming Parade

JULY

4th Olive Hill Fireworks (at dusk)

17 - 19th Carter County Shrine Club Bluegrass Festival

26th Orange Army Motorcycle Show & POKER Run, Car Show, & Country on Tygart

AUGUST

July 31st - Aug. 2nd Orange Army Bluegrass Festival 3rd - 9th Carter County Fair

SEPTEMBER

20th American Legion Post #138 Cruise In

OCTOBER

4th "It's Fall Y'all!" Vendor & Craft Festival

25th Grayson's Oktoberfest







www.visitleecountyky.com



Check out what Beattyville/Lee County has to offer! Located 20 miles South of Mountain Parkway Exit 33.

















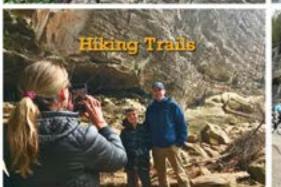




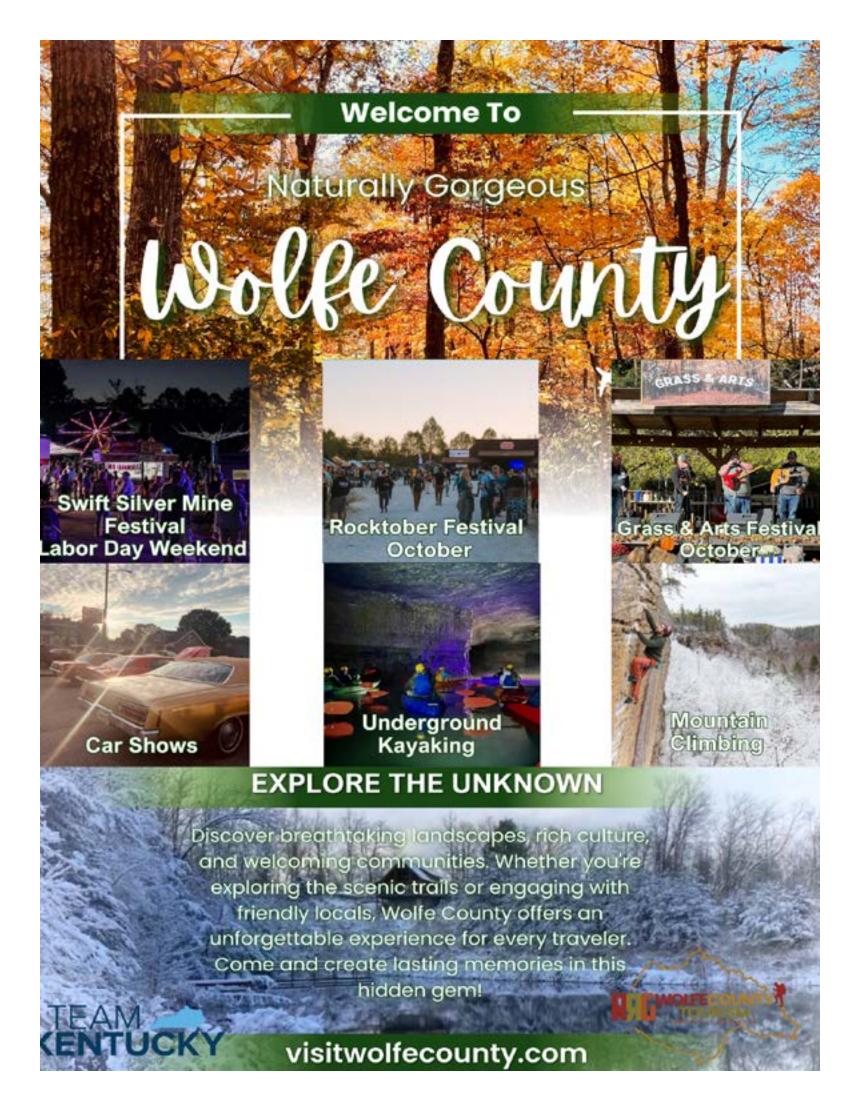














of recreational opportunities. From shopping, splash pads, hiking, biking, fairs and festivals, Greenup County has something for everyone.





www.discovergreenup.com



Flemingsburg: the friendly town that hospitality built Covered Bridge Capital of Kentucky



Antiques, Barn Quilts, Covered Bridges & More come see the best of

Fleming County

Call 606-845-1223 or visit www.flemingkychamber.com



Save This Date!! OCTOBER 3, 2025 Join Fleming County, Ky. as we celebrate the re-opening of our restored wooden COVERED BRIDGES





Tourism

Golfing, hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, listening to local music, soaking up local history and culture, or just relaxing - you can also check out our many wonderful restaurants and unique shopping!



The Banner/Allen Boat Ramp is our newest river access! Enjoy our many other adventure trails!

www.floydcountytourism.com





Alpike Inn 606 874-2475
Comfort Suites 606 886-2555
Eastern Heights 606 478-5156
Eastern Ky Trails Campground 606 949-1380
German Bridge Campground 606 874-1180
Jenny Wiley State Resort Park 606 889-1790
Jenny Wiley Campground 606 889-1790
Quality Inn 606 889-0331
Super 8 606 886-3355

Great Food, Comfy Hotels, and Good Ole' Southern Hospitality Await YOU in Floyd County!



Paula Hinton poses in front of the Lonesome River Band at her Flemingsburg Bluegrass venue. She features nine Sunday afternoon shows each year at the SS Entertainment Center, and has done so since 2011.

Bluegrass Fans Always See Major Artists In Flemingsburg

Since 2011, a Bluegrass fan can count on multiple shows from top performers at a spacious Flemingsburg location.

Paula Hinton is the promoter of Years of Farming and special friend to many, if not all, Bluegrass artists, and says she books around nine shows annually at the Double S Entertainment Center. This building was once home to a shoe factory, so there is ample room for a regular show schedule.

Paula and her husband Frank "Buddy" Hinton and their 3 sons are business operators of Hinton Mills, a feed and fertilizer business with locations in Flemingsburg, Plummers Landing, Jabetown, Mays Lick, Cynthiana, and Mt. Sterling.

She said her son actually led her into being a Bluegrass fan. Before, she was primarily into country music. Her son attended a Ralph Stanley performance and he continually expressed how impressed he had been with that show.

She says her shows are almost always at 2 p.m. on a Sunday, so as to accommodate churchgoers and others to finish their lunches.

She developed an interest in organizing and promoting these shows in an interesting way. James King was doing a show and asked Paula when she was going to "make him another meat loaf". She asked when he was coming to Flemingsburg. He suggested doing a show and they did! Her second show was IIIrd Tyme Out.

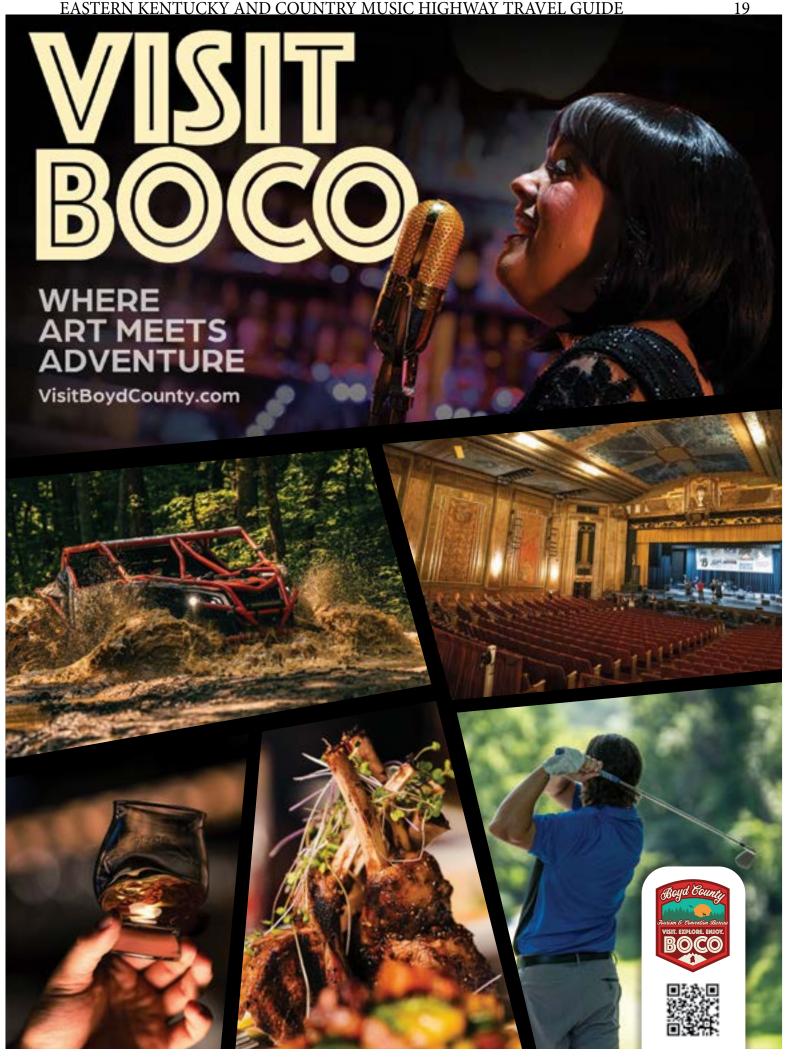
A show is set for May 4 at the Double S Entertainment Center with Kenny and Amanda Smith and The David Parmley Band.

Paula noted the skills of all Bluegrass bands, singing and playing multiple instruments.

Over the years she has worked with the key artists in the business, and has put on 112 shows altogether.

She has hosted Marty Raybon, IIIrd Tyme Out, Flatt Lonesome, Doyle Lawson, Paul Williams, Melvin Goins, The Grascals, Bobby Osborne, Po' Ramblin' Boys, Blue Highway, Junior Sisk, Ralph Stanley II, Larry Cordle, Sideline, Sammy Adkins, and dozens more.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 30



Red River Gorge

Great Gorge Getaways await! Plan your vacation with the friendliest folks who'll support you from planning to check-out.

We've got something to suit every taste and budget.



RedRiverGorgeVacations.com



Lodging

Accommodations for every budget conveniently located in the heart of Kentucky's top getaway destination.



Activities

Soaring adventure, jaw-dropping beauty, and unexpected finds in the heart of Red River Gorge.



Shopping

From supplies, apparel, treats, and gifts, you'll never need to worry about leaving anything at home or finding that special something.



Dining

Snacks, ice cream treats, or hearty after-hike meals, we've got something for every appetite!

Host your Event in the Red River Gorge

The Red River Gorge is an idyllic spot for weddings, corporate retreats, and all kinds of group getaways.



Corporate Events



Reunions, Retreats & More



Cabins For Every Budget & Group Size RedRiverGorgeCabinRentals.com



The Perfect Destination For Groups & Weddings
CliffviewResort.com



Relax in Clean & Cozy Comfort RedRiverGorgeInn.com



Hodern Styling & Exceptional Comfort 3RiversInn.com



Comfortable Camping With Stunning Views NaturalBridge,camp



All American Favorites
HungryHiker.org



Soar Over The Gorge On 5 Thrilling Ziplines RedRiverGorgeZipline.com



Kayak, Canoe, SUP Tours Through The Gorge Grotto Gorge Underground.com



Challenge Yourself With Our Mini Golf Course Thrillsville Adventure Golf.com



Guided UTV Rentals & Off-Road Jeep Tours RedRiverGorgeOffRoading.com



Cance & Kayak Rentals KayaktheRed.com



Local Artists, Crystals & Uncommon Gifts EarthShopAtRedRiverGorge.com



Enjoy Sweets & Supplies While In The Gorge RedRiverGorgeGeneralStore.com



Gifts & Supplies For The Perfect Gorge Visit GiftShopAtRedRiverGorge.com



Authentic Mexican Cuisine LaCabanaOfSlade.com



Lee Co. and Beattyville is a Clear Choice For Tourists

Located in Eastern Kentucky along the Mountain Parkway Trails Corridor, Beattyville/Lee County is located only 20 miles from the natural wonders of the Red River Gorge Geological area and the popular Natural Bridge State Resort Park.

The county got its name from fabled Confederate general Robert E. Lee

The topography of Lee County is hilly, creating a bicyclist's and motorcyclist's dream with 450 miles of country roads winding along ridges with panoramic views

and through forested valleys which have virtually remained unchanged since Dr. Thomas Walker trod them in 1750.

The Kentucky River provides recreational activities for boating, fishing, and kayaking.

Motorsports enthusiast can experience the two marketed trails, Ride the River Dragon and Ridge Runner Road 587, which wind through the county connecting the city of Beattyville to attractions such as Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park.

Motorsports clubs such as the Porsche Club of America and the Whitley County Motorcycle Club have made Beattyville's beautiful and nationally accredited Main Street District a stop along their way for downtown dining, refueling, and shopping.

are more your speed, be sure to check out the 90 mile loop of off the beaten path roads along the Daniel Boone Backcountry Byway or buy a weekend pass to ride the private trails at Hollerwood Guided serves are also available in the area.

Majestic and abundant cliff and rock formations can be found throughout northern Lee County, similar to the nearby Red River Gorge and Natural Bridge State Resort Park. These formations have attracted rock climbers from around the world. 30,000 visitors a year frequent this area to hike, mountain bike, and rock climbing in the 1,100 acres designated as recreational preserves and owned by the Red River Gorge Climber's Coalition.

Lodging is plentiful thru numerous Air BNB outlets in Lee County, with more such facilities coming to completion.

Beattyville is the birthplace of the Kentucky River, formed by the merging of North, South, and Middle Fork tributaries. There are over 30 miles of Kentucky River trials which can be accessed by public boat If dirt roads and trails ramps and kayak launch areas. The river provides great fishing as it is full of bass, catfish, walleye and record muskie. You may see a majestic bald eagle while on the water or spot a family of deer or turkey near the waters Offroad Adventure Park. edge.(MORE ON PG 38)



Make Memories in the Mountains

Explore the adventures that PRESTONSBURG has to offer



To discover more about Prestonsburg and the surrounding area, scan the QR code.



WILEY STATE PARK

Sugarcamp Mountain



The mountain offers breathtaking views of the surrounding Appalachian landscape, making it a popular spot for hiking. mountain biking, and nature photography

Mountain Arts Center

up close in their natural habitat

Jenny Wiley State Resort Park

Known for its scenic beauty and

abundant wildlife, this park offers

thrilling elk tours where visitors can

experience these majestic creatures

A cultural hub offering live performances, art exhibits, and community events that celebrate the rich heritage of the Appalachian region



Stonecrest Golf Course

A scenic and challenging golfing experience amidst the natural beauty on top of the Appalachian foothills



East Kentucky Science Center

State of the art Interactive exhibits and educational programs, inspiring curiosity and a love for science and astronomy among visitors of all ages.



Dewey Lake

Picturesque scenery and recreational activities such as boating, fishing, and king, set amidst the tranquil Appalachian Mountains



Prestonsburg Passage

This 8.6 mile paved trail offers beautiful views of nature and several unique markers, including the famous school bus bridgel

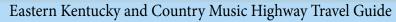


Middle Creek Battle Field

Where Union forces, led by General James A. Garfield, secured a victory over Confederate troops in January 1862. Visitors can explore the site's well-marked trails and interpretive exhibits,







EXPLORE MAYSVILLE'S

LEGENDARY CHARACTER

Nestled along the scenic Ohio River, Maysville,

Kentucky is one of Country Living's 2025 Best **Small Towns in America**. Rich in history—from

bourbon's earliest beginnings at **Old Pogue Distillery** to connections with Daniel Boone and **Simon Kenton**—this charming town boasts stunning historic architecture, vibrant arts, and the world's largest private miniature collection.

Whether catching a show at the historic **Washington**

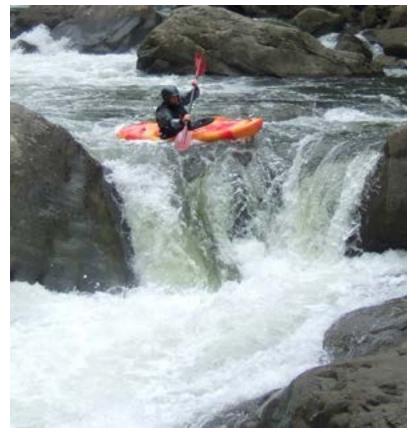
Opera House, dining riverside, or exploring outdoor adventures, Maysville offers the perfect weekend escape filled with genuine Southern hospitality.

MAYSVÁLLE

Start your legendary journey at VisitMaysville.com



LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE? ITS ALL AROUND US!



ABOVE, WHITE WATER RIDE, NEAR BREAKS PARK. BELOW, A FLOYD CO. TRAIL BIKER.

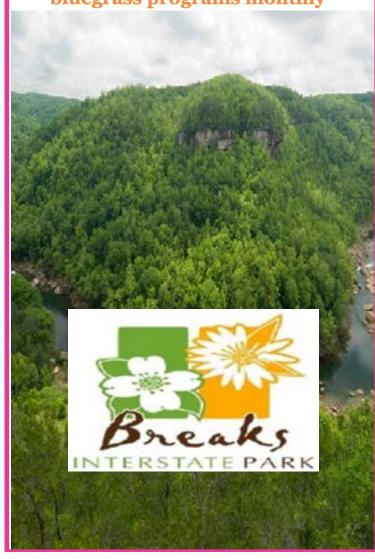


Enjoy our majestic, panoramic nationally renowned "Grand Canyon Of The South"

Up in the mountains of Virginia and Kentucky is where history, heritage, and warm hearts welcome. you!

Come enjoy the 2025 Tri-State Gospel Sing Saturday, August 30, Sunday, August 31 at 9:00 a.m. thru 8:00 p.m and Monday, September 1 from 8:00 a.m thru 5:00 p.m. at the amphitheater on Labor Day Weekend!

We present old-time traditional bluegrass programs monthly









Knott County Kentucky Small Town, Big Adventure!



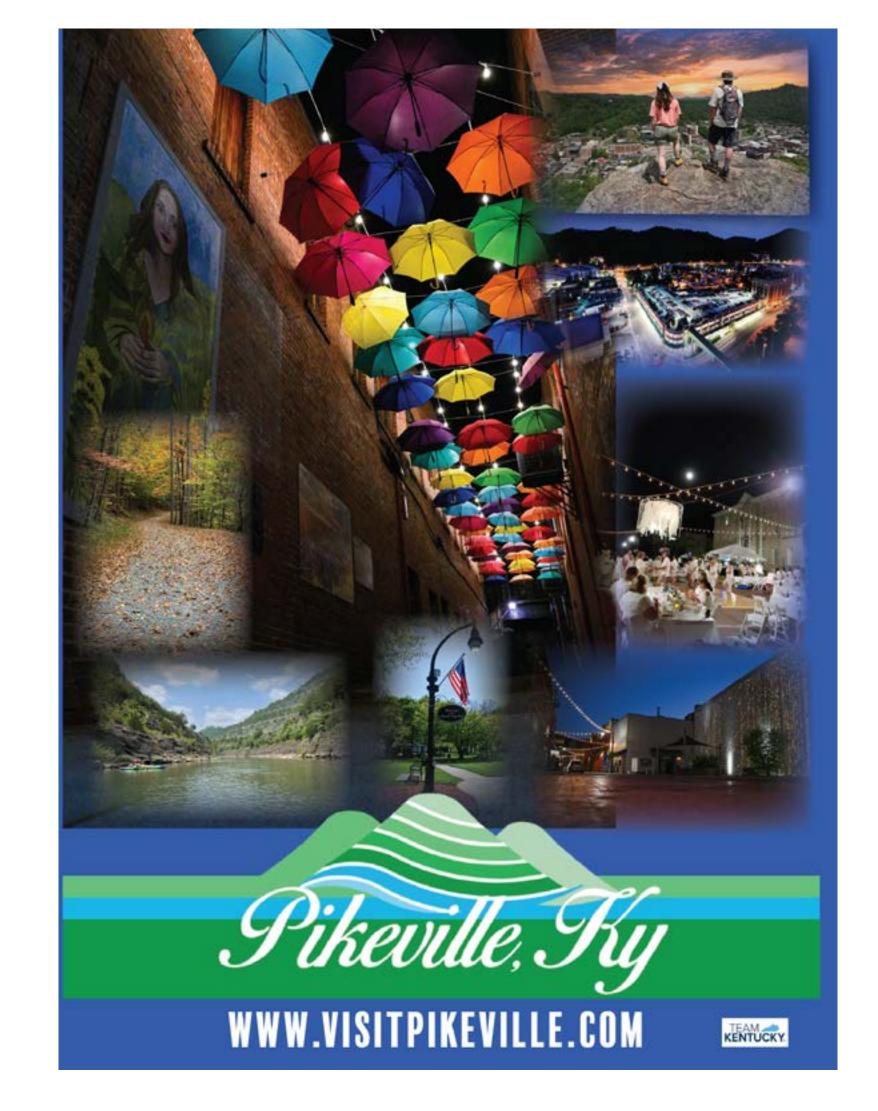




Mine Made Adventure Park! Open Year Road!

Over 60,000 acres of Trails and gorgeous scenery!

Visit Knott County Tourism facebook page for all event infomation! Knott County Horse Trail Ride Every <u>May and</u> <u>October!</u>



EASTERN KENTUCKY AND COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY TOURIST AND TRAVEL GUIDE 29

Tyra Madison Is Well On Her Way To Stardom

Tyra Madison is a rising country star from the talent-rich mountains of Eastern Kentucky with roots in Knott County. Daughter of auto dealer-Tim Short, who grew up in Knott County's Pinetop community. Recently Tyra opened for Brad Paisley at the Lexington Opera House. He issued an impromptu invitation during his show for her to come out and join him for a duet. This special moment was saved on video, and can be seen online (You Tube

and others)

Paisley said afterward of her performance, that it was "one of the best". She said she was shaking and after a rousing audience reaction to her performance. She later found out that her Mom was "bawling" after the emotionally charged event.

The 28-year-old singer has built a sizeable Tik Tok following. She grew up in a musical family at Pinetop, her grandpa played the harmoica, an uncle played the guitar

and she was influenced first of all by Bluegrass. She stressed that she started singing at age four.

Tyra remembers singing "Rocky Top" during her younger years, and she noticed that Bluegrass and country music both have a storytelling quality about them.

Tyra is a dedicated songwriter and storyteller. She likes the way Country and Bluegrass place a lot of importance on telling stories in song. From the country music

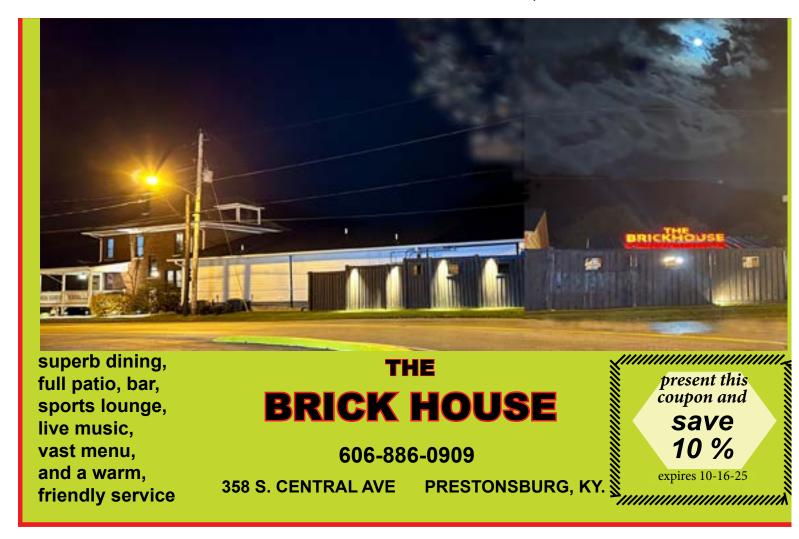


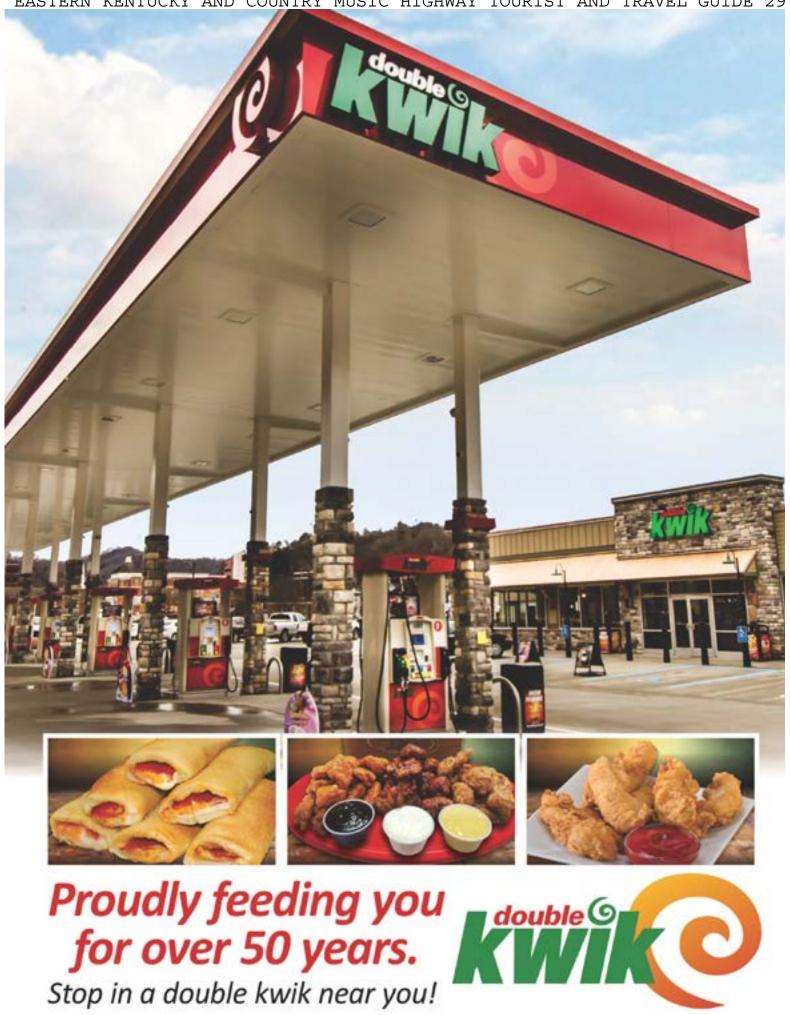
TYRA MADISON world, she cited two of her major female influencers, Carrie Underwood and Kelly Clarkson.

ready for a quick riddle?

Where is Shoulderblade, Ky.?

Ans. Breathitt County





Now The Entertainers Contact Paula Hinton To Set Up A Show

From Page 16

"Early on, I tried to catch bands that were traveling through the area after a show the night before," she explained. "Now they are mostly contacting me."

The Hintons have three sons and six grandchildren, and love what they do. They also get sepstrong local sponsorship for their efforts, averaging from 25 to 40 local businesses offering their support, as well as exceptional volunteers that have been with them on the long haul.

Paula has had people from 16 different states attend her shows. If you have attended she hopes to see you again and if you've never been she hopes you will come see a show sometime. Tickets and contact info are on her website www.yearsoffarming.com.





THE VIEW FROM THE STAGE AT SS ENT.



EASTERN KENTUCKY AND COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY TRAVEL GUIDE

Throughout Eastern Kentucky, as in most of the nation, there has been a proliferation of overnight lodging opportunities. These facilities augment the existing hotels and motels in some of our cities, while in other counties, they constitute the main choices for tourists.

Air BNB along with VRBO have a number of active sites in the region.

These are some of the main areas where we have identified these locations. Interested parties may search specific areas in Eastern Kentucky for a rental that suits their needs. Presently, we have identified the following counties and communities that are ready to serve new customers: Ashland, Rush, Slade, Stanton, Rogers (four and one is a dome) Wolfe County, Campton, Powell County, Beattyville, Lee County, West Liberty, Hazel Green, Salt Lick, Catlettsburg, and Hager Hill.

For the persons that appreciate a more unique place to stay, you can find tree house lodging in Russell, Argillite and Flatwoods in Greenup Co, and two such offerings in Maysville.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM





FIND COMPLETE INFORMATION AT

VISITWESTLIBERTY.COM





HISTORY OF LETCHER COUNTY'S MOUNTAIN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

tage Festival grew out of Black Gold Festival, held a countywide pig roast in Hazard, loaned its par- All of these communithat began in 1982. The titions to construct the ty festivals have grown pig roast was sponsored booths under the "big from one-day events to by then-County Judge/ tent," which was located weekend festivals during Executive Ruben Watts, on Railroad Street and then -County Treasurer was home to the many and October. Phillip Hampton and the craft booths and comcounty's five magistrates mercial exhibits. cooking and preparing new festival, a contest cookout.

throughout the coun- Heritage Festival."

The Mountain Heri- in getting it started. The

employee of the old A&P Following its huge suc- Food Store, had the win-

ty met to determine The committee, hoping event brings together whether or not Letch- to involve all of Letcher arts/crafts, food, free er County could pos- County in the Mountain music entertainment, a sibly host a festival. Heritage Festival, ded-As county judge/execu- icated individual days ment midway. It is a tribtive, Watts was eager for for local communities such a festival to succeed to celebrate their comand offered the assis- munity. Those individual tance of county resources days included Neon Day, Letcher County unique.

Jenkins Day, Isom Day, and Blackey Day.

the months of September

Many days and nights are spent planning for which involved hours of Needing a name for the this festival, which is now in its 42nd year. to feed thousands during was held to name it and This week-long event this countywide free Toby Davis, longtime was established to help promote and celebrate the mountain traditions cess, a group of people ning name, "Mountain and pride that make up our area's heritage. The parade, and an amuseute to our people, traditions, culture, and all the things that make

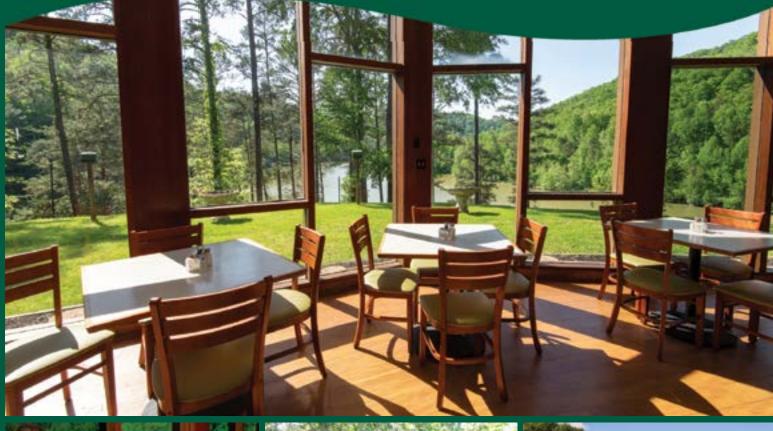
People make their way to the festival village from all corners of Letcher County and many return home from across the country for a special nostalgic reunion(and an apple dumpling).

Mountain Heritage is unique in the fact that all food and vendor booths are manned by local churches, civic groups, school organizations and non-profit organizations. It is designed to help give back to the communities we come

The first festival parade was a huge success and has continued to grow over the years. The Festival Parade is on Saturday morning, bringing hundreds of people to line MORE ON PAGE 37



There is no better place to explore the outdoors than **Genny Wiley Stateo Resort Parko and** there is no better time than during Kentucky State Park's 100th year. Whether you take part in an elk tour, enjoy a hearty meal, explore trails by foot or bike, or just want to get away from it all, a cozy lodge, cottage, or campsite awaits your visit. Oh, and did we mention the views? Bring your camera. Memories will be made.









Jenny Wiley State Resort Park 75 Theater Court • Prestonsburg, KY • 606-889-1790 Visit parks.ky.gov to make your reservation today.

#kystateparks #kystateparks100



COVERED BRIDGES REMIND US OF THE STRENGTH AND THE DURABILITY OF EARLY AMERICAN WORKMANSHIP approach to the bridge and abutment. The bridge

Eleven surviving authentic wooden covered bridges remain in the state of Kentucky. A covered bridge is considered authentic, not due to its age, but by its construction. An authentic bridge is constructed using trusses rather than other methods, such as stringers.

Of the eleven bridges remaining, Fleming County has three. All were built before 1870. Two of the bridges are of the Multiple Kingpost truss design while one is of the Ithiel Town lattice-truss design, the only one left in Kentucky and one of the few in the United States. Fleming County bills itself as the covered bridge capital of the State of Kentucky.

Take a step back in time and visit our three bridges recently restored by the master bridgewright, Arnold Graton and Associates:

Start your tour with a visit to the Covered Bridge Museum in Flemingsburg where you will see pictures and other information about these architectural treasures, all listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Enjoy our rural heritage as you leave Flemingsburg on Route 32 to the Goddard -White Bridge, restored in 1968 by Stockton Bowers, and again in 2006, under the direction of Arnold Graton. The view of this bridge offers a good example of the only Ithiel Town lattice-truss design in Kentucky. The actual date of construction is unknown but the design dates back to the 1820's. The bridge is put together with wooden tree nails, called trunnels. The Dry Stone Conservancy restored the eastern



Wooden pegs were used in some of the 19th century covered bridges instead of nails. The bridge pegs were heavier than these, and were also used in older barns.

approach to the bridge and abutment. The bridge crosses Sand Lick Creek alongside Route 32. Located in Goddard, the bridge is still in use today, providing access to Goddard Methodist Church and Covered Bridge Road. From inside the 60 foot bridge, a pastoral view of the church creates a photographer's delight. This view was the second most photographed covered bridge in the United States, documented by a survey of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges.

Ringo's Mill Covered Bridge, located 13.7 miles south of Flemingsburg, Kentucky on Ky 158, spans Fox Creek in Fleming County in a single 90-foot span. It was named for a grist mill located 50 yards downstream. The bridge's timbers are of yellow pine. The red stone abutments were built by brothers, Christopher and Dawson Smoot. The bridge, built in 1867, is a good example of Theodore Burr's 1814 patented truss design that used multiple kingposts. Only about twenty historic examples of Kingposts - truss covered bridges remain in the United States. Arnold Graton and Associates restored this bridge in 2025.

The Grange City or Hillsboro Covered Bridge was built in 1867 across Fox Creek between Grange City and Hillsboro on what is today known as Kentucky Highway 111. The 86- foot Multiple Kingpost Truss bridge was built as a twin to the nearby Ringo's Mill Bridge. The bridge stands above Fox Creek and rests on a massive dry stone foundation. In the late 1940's the bridge's picturesque image was somewhat diminished when corrugated sheet metal replaced the original horizontal wooder siding. In 1984 the metal siding was replaced and the bridge once again had wooden siding. This time it was applied vertically instead of horizontally like the original. The bridge has withstood many devastating floods throughout its lifetime such as the 1937 and the 1997 floods. In 1968 the bridge was closed to automobiles upon the completion of a concrete bridge beside the aging span. Arnold Graton and Associates restored the bridge in 2025.

Tragically, the Sherman Covered Bridge was CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Just 15 minutes up the road from Jenny Wiley you will find **Paintwilles Lakes Parks** with its sparkling waters inviting you to sit down and stay a while. When adventure calls, bring your canoe or kayaks to the universal launch that provides individuals with disabilities accessibility to explore the lake, or try some casting along the new fishing boardwalk. Developed and primitive campsites with playgrounds and nearby marina provide all the fun and necessities.



In the middle of these two parks, 10 minutes south of Paintsville Lake, lies the newest addition to Kentucky State Parks, the **Dawkins Lines Rail Thail** stretching 36 miles from Hagerhill to Evanston. The paved path is open to hikers, bikers, and horseback riders.







Paintsville Lake State Park 1551 KY 2275 • Staffordsville, KY • 606-297-8486 Visit **parks.ky.gov** for camping reservations.

Dawkins Line Rail Trail Hwy. 825 Swamp Branch, KY • 502-564-2172 Visit **parks.ky.gov** for more details and map.



PINE MOUNTAIN VISTAS FROM A CLEAR MORNING WILL REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT AND REINFORCE AN APPRECIATION OF NATURE'S GRANDEUR AND HANDIWORK.



THIS HAPPY COUPLE ENJOYS A VIEW FROM ONE OF HARLAN COUNTY'S TOWERING OVERLOOKS. MANY DAYS ALLOWS A CLEAR PANORAMA FROM ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

Covered Bridgescontinued from previous page

destroyed by fire in 1981. It was the only suspended covered bridge in the world. A historical marker identifies the bridge's location in tribute to and its history.

Fleming County's covered bridges' architecture tells stories about the past much like those written by historians. The bridges remain to tell about the everyday lives of past Kentuckians. Have a fun day trip and enjoy the history and the bridges of Fleming Co.

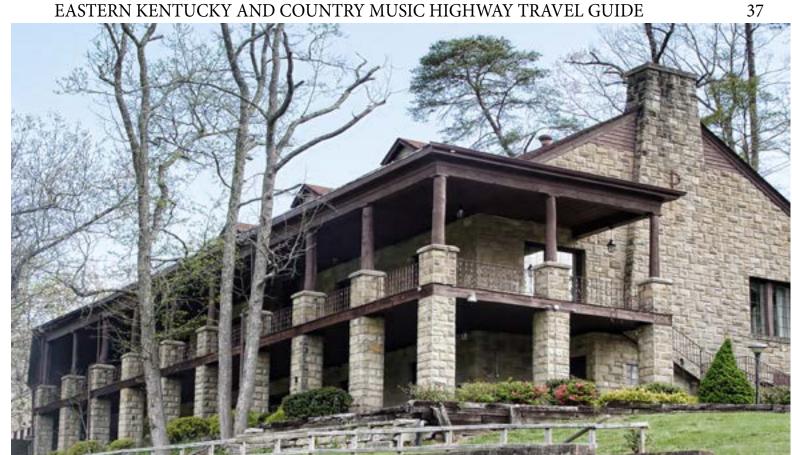
OUR TOWNS WITH FUNNY NAMES

Frog Onery, Ky. What?Yes indeed, this JohnsonCounty community is just one of the weird names we enjoy.

You've got Beefhide in Pike Coounty, Possum Trot, Fisty, Hemp Patch, Onion Blade, and Talcum in Knott County.

Then you have Hi Hat in Floyd Co., Defeated Creek in Letcher Co.

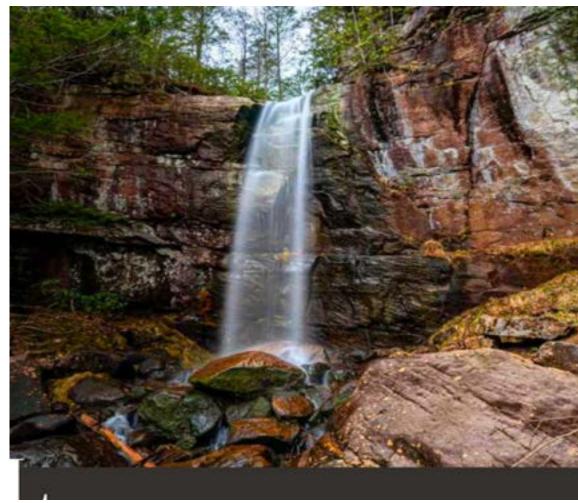
Back to Johnson Co. where Hell's Half Acre was a village anchored by a general store and an area where drinking and carousing was a way of life. It was flooded by Paintsville Lake in the 70s



The historic Paintsville Country Club overlooks the Paintsville Golf Course. It was back in 1929 the public faciity was built, making it one of the oldest 18-hole courses in Eastern Kentucky. It was designed by Dr. Paul B. Hall, along with his brothers, C. Mitchel Hall and Dr. Lon C. Hall. The course is a true Eastern Kentucky treasure, offering golfing enjoyment for all skill levels.

A Must See Site

Bad Branch Falls, with its beautiful trail and enchanting 60 ft. waterfall, is a Letcher County treasure. It is a must see for visitors wanting to explore our area. The hike to Bad Branch Falls is a little over a mile (one way) and takes close to 2.5 hours at a leisurely pace. The trail will take you through an old timber haul road that was built in the 30's or 40's. This hike is a categorized as a moderate hike because it requires climbing over rocks and walking around small ledges.



TRAVEL TO LEE COUNTY, **KENTUCKY**

from Page 22

Numerous festivals are scheduled throughout the year in downtown Beattyville, the most well known being the Woolly Worm Festival, celebrate the local culture, musicians, and crafters. The festival has one of the most unique experiences for children and adults alike; racing woolly worms.

The weekend before Halloween in Beattyville is packed with fun activities for all ages. In addition to racing woolly worms, visitors enjoy delicious Eastern Kentucky festival food, walk through an impressive classic car show, witness a parade, and sit and listen to excellent live music. Added to the annual community schedule of events for June, is also the Beattyville Bourbon and Moonshine Festival. A first of it's kind festival, for the small quaint town of Beattyville . The town is situated on the rim of the Red River Gorge and Natural Bridge State Resort Park area of Eastern Kentucky. A community which remained dry since prohibition until It has a large display of overnight experience, as information.



SPRING ARRIVES WITH GLORIOUS COLORS, AND IS A PRELUDE TO SUMMER JOYS, OUTDOOR BEAUTY, AND VISITORS' MEMORIES

the vote changed ev- artifacts, and preserves there are many cabins erything in 2019. This the history of the de- varying in size, location, through storytelling and also showcases area distilleries and their Kentucky crafted bourbon and moonshine prod-

A weekend of live music, making moonshine in festival food, bourbon and moonshine tastings, cocktail contests and an Teresa were cast memannual Hillbilly BikeFest. Guest include cast members from the Discovery Channels popular shows: Moonshiners & Master Distillers.

Stop in and pay a visit to the two museums in Lee County. One is the Three Forks Museum located in downtown Beattyville.

festival celebrates the velopment of the Three and level of amenities. heritage of multi-gen- Forks Area of Eastern Book a cabin on a prierational moonshiners Kentucky. Also be sure to vate lake, surrounded by check out the Backwoods woods, or one up on a Moonshine Museum, an official stop along the on the porch overlooking Moonshine Trail. Tour artifacts and listen to tive camp, bring your RV some excellent stories of the hills of Appalachia. The owners Donnie & bers of the Discovery Channel's Moonshiners Show. Stop in, talk to them, tour the museum, and get your moonshine trail passport stamped! Spend the weekend this fall or book a gorgeous winter getaway in Beattyville/Lee County. Choose your preferred

cliff edge with a hot tub gorgeous views. Primior go heated glamping in the hills. Lodging is plentiful thru numerous Air BNB outlets..

For information on lodging, dining, events, outdoor adventure, trail maps, geology trails, and more, visit www.visitleecountyky.com or contact the Beattyville/Lee County Tourism office at 606-464-5038. You can also email visitleecountyky@gmail.com and request to be sent visitor

Eastern Kentucky has a legacy of coal, and the boom and bust cycles of a volatile industry, its in our blood

It is commonly known that the coal industry in Appalachia and particularly in our own Eastern Kentucky region has been a roller coaster ride for a little over a century.

During a very strong coal boom in the early to mid-70s, a Martin County coal miner was near the top of the industrial hourly wage

There was a superb opportunity to earn \$25 per hour plus overtime opportunities, and that was without a college education. Some individuals earned \$40 an hour during this same period.

It caused some migration from other parts of the nation until the coal market turned sour in the late70s.

Another high point in the coal industry happened in 1948. This peak period of industry operation was brought about by World War II demand followed by post-war rebuilding projects and a high demand to transition to a prosperous peace time.

Coal is present in

In Eastern counties. Kentucky, 37 counties have coal reserves, and in west-central Kentucky the Western Coal Fields account for 20 counties in the Illinois Basin.

When coal can be accessed less than 200 feet below he surface, a surface mine will be created. The underground or deep mine becomes the only approach to mine the coal. Some mines have installed shafts at depths of just a little more than 2000 feet. Not only do mines sink shafts deep into the earth, but many horizontal tunnels can run for considerable distances from the main mine entrance.

The struggle for miners to gain stable wages often resulted in tense situations between labor and management. Brave miners have squared off on several occasions in various coal towns, but the rise of the United Mine Work-

ers of America led to a fair and stable wage for the mine workers.

A key figure for the UMWA was John L.

President from 1920 to 1960.

Surprisingly, a January 1890 meeting in Columbus, Ohio led to the creunion.

times ahead was perfect at the end of World War II, and population growth was stunning.

Well known coal towns such as Lynch in Harlan County, built largely by U. S. Steel, reached a population of almost 10,000. Today it is closer to 600.

Harlan County has a key tourist attraction nearby, the Portal 31 location, where tourists can board a mantrip, a sort of buggy that transported miners, and go down into a genuine former coal mine.

There were other current towns like Floyd County's Wheelwright, Letcher County's Jenkins, and Johnson County's Van Lear, where the population boomed.

For a while, Van Lear, Loretta Lynn and Crystal Gayle's home town, grew larger than

57 of Kentucky's 120 Lewis, who served as its the county seat of Paints-

When the railroads pushed in from the east, creating a large multitrack terminus at Elkation of the fabled UMW horn City in Pike County, the stage was set for The climate for good immense growth for the industry.

> Consolidation Coal Company was another key corporation that helped to build a large corporate presence in the 20th century mining industry.

> These companies actually built most houses, and had a company store where most miners bought their family necessities.

> Van Lear has a fabulous coal mining museum that captures this history.



Want to be the next tourist to descend? This is Portal 31 at Lynch.

