

About the Highway:

The Highway is a paved two-lane road. Speed limits are 55 mph for the State Route 39/55 section and 45 mph for the parkway section. Commercial truck traffic is not allowed on the parkway. The parkway is not maintained for winter travel, and is normally closed from early December to March.

Services Provided:

Gas, food, and lodging are available at Richwood and Marlinton. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau at these locations will provide listings of businesses such as motels, restaurants, and service stations upon request. Emergency services are also available in these communities.

Scenic Overlooks:

Four Scenic overlooks located on the parkway portion of the Highway provide spectacular views of the Allegheny Highlands. On clear days, views of the surrounding ridges and valleys are a special attraction. Spring blossoms, summer wildflowers, and autumn leaves, offer color throughout the seasons. Barrier-free picnic shelters and restrooms are provided at each overlook.

Fishing and Hunting:

Trout fishing is popular in the Cherry, Cranberry, and Williams Rivers. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources stocks these streams with rainbow, brook, brown and golden trout. Summit Lake contains trout, bass, and panfish. Boats with electric trolling motors are allowed.

Hunting is also a popular activity in the Monongahela National Forest, in accordance with West Virginia state regulations.

Falls of Hills Creek:

The three waterfalls at the Falls of Hills Creek cascade over rock layers of sandstone and shale. A three-quarter mile trail and boardwalk provides access to the falls, including a paved, barrier-free trail to the first falls. This area is located six miles west of the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center.



For additional information, contact:

Marlinton/White Sulphur Ranger District
P.O. Box 210, Cemetery Road
Marlinton, WV 24954
(304) 799-4334, Extension 0

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/>

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**LARGE PRINT AVAILABLE
UPON REQUEST**



Monongahela National Forest
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
(304) 636-1800 Telephone/TTY

The Highland Scenic Highway

A National Forest Scenic Byway



Description: Welcome to the Highland Scenic Highway, a beautiful corridor through West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. This National Scenic Byway extends 43 miles from Richwood to U.S. Route 219, seven miles north of Marlinton. The Highway follows State Route 39/55 for 21 miles from Richwood to the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center. It then turns onto State Route 150 for the 22 mile parkway section. The Highway traverses the mountainous terrain of the Allegheny Highlands and Plateau, and rises from Richwood, elevation 2,325 feet, to over 4,500 feet along the parkway. While traveling the Highway, this guide will help you discover the exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and other activities within your National Forest.

Cranberry Mountain Nature Center:

Located at the junction of Rt. 150 and Rt. 39/55, the center offers information about the National Forest and other nearby attractions. An exhibit hall and audio visual programs provide interpretation of forest ecosystems and local history. Special wildlife programs and guided tours can be arranged.

Hours:

Open daily May through October

Weekends April and November

Closed December through March

Cranberry Glades Botanical Area:

The largest area of bogs in West Virginia occurs within this 750 acre National Natural Landmark. Bogs are acidic wetlands typically found in Canada and the northern United States. To protect this fragile area, a half-mile long barrier-free boardwalk has been constructed for visitor use. Guided tours can be specially arranged by contacting the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center.

Trails:

Over 150 miles of trail are accessible from the Highway. Three barrier-free trails serve the Falls of Hills Creek, the Cranberry Glades, and the Big Spruce Overlook.

In addition to hiking and backpacking, many trails are suitable for cross-country skiing. Mountain biking is permitted on most of the trails located outside of the Cranberry Wilderness. Some trails are suitable for horseback riding.

Camping:

Three campgrounds are located a short drive from the Highland Scenic Highway. Summit Lake Campground is two miles from State Route 39/55 near a beautiful 42 acre reservoir. Tea Creek Campground is one mile from the parkway portion of the Highway, and Day Run Campground is four miles away; both are located along the Williams River. All campgrounds have rustic campsites equipped with a picnic table, fire grate, and space for a tent or trailer. Drinking water and vault toilet facilities are also provided. Each campground has a few sites large enough for recreational vehicles, although hook-ups are not available. A daily camping fee is charged. Campsites are available on a first come, first served basis. Campgrounds are open from mid-March to early December.

Camping is also permitted along the Williams River (Williams River Dispersed Camping) at designated numbered campsites outside of the campgrounds. Water and toilet facilities are not provided.

For those looking for a backpacking experience, there are several backcountry areas located near the highway. Some popular areas include the Cranberry Backcountry, Cranberry Wilderness, and the Tea Creek area. Minimum impact camping methods are encouraged, including a pack-it-in/pack-it-out trash policy. Visitors are asked to camp away from trails and streams.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Cranberry Mountain Nature Center
USDA Forest Service
932 North Fork Cherry Road
Richwood, WV 26261
(304) 653-4826

Gauley Ranger District
USDA Forest Service
932 North Fork Cherry Road
Richwood, WV 26261
(304) 846-2695

Marlinton Ranger District
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 210, Cemetery Road
Marlinton, WV 24954
(304) 799-4334

Pocahontas County Convention and
Visitor's Bureau
P.O. Box 275
Marlinton, WV 24954
1-800-336-7009

Richwood Area Convention and
Visitor's Bureau
50 Oakford Avenue
Richwood, WV 26261
(304) 846-9218

1-800-CALL-WVA: toll free number for
information about West Virginia, such as
local festivals and events.