



DAY TRIP TO KAYMOOR

From Fayetteville · Fayette County, West Virginia



COAL MINING



Photo: NPS photo, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

NATIONAL PARK SITE

A protected historic site in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, reached by steep trails. Part-week trail closure through Nov 19, 2026.

Kaymoor is a hike, not a drive-up site. From Fayetteville it is 9 minutes to Kaymoor Top, then a steep half mile down to the mine bench, and 821 steps more to the river level if you want the coke ovens and Kaymoor Bottom. Budget a morning and bring water.

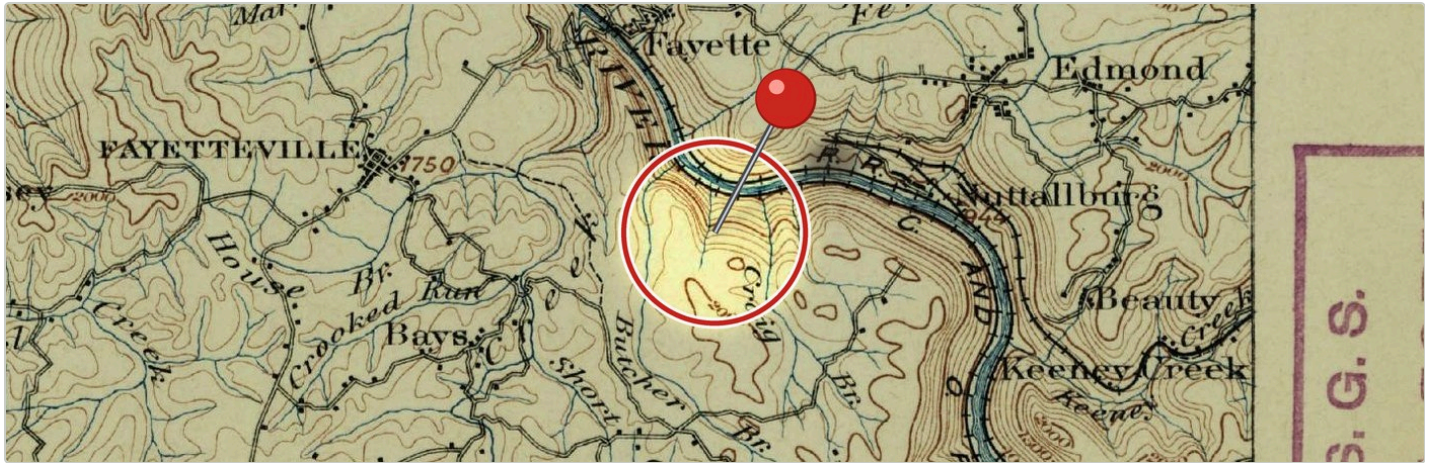
A SAMPLE DAY

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 8:45 a.m. | Leave Fayetteville; Kaymoor Top is 3.3 miles away, about 9 minutes. |
| ☐ 9 a.m. | Start down the Kaymoor Miners Trail (Friday to Sunday through November 19, 2026). |
| ☐ 9:30 a.m. | Reach the bench and follow the walking tour: powder house, safety sign, haulage and headhouse, the gated portal. |
| ☐ 10:30 a.m. | Take the 821 steps down to the processing plant, the coke ovens and Kaymoor Bottom. |
| ☐ 12 p.m. | Climb back up the steps and the trail to Kaymoor Top, and drive back to Fayetteville for lunch. |

On a Monday to Thursday before November 20, 2026, start instead from the Wolf Creek Trailhead on Fayette Station Road and walk the 2-mile Kaymoor Trail to the bench.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The portal.** The gated mine mouth with its mine car is the classic Kaymoor picture. Shoot from the path.
- **The stairs.** Look down the long run of wooden steps from the bench to show the drop to the river.
- **The coke ovens.** At the bottom, the ovens line up best from an angle in soft light.
- **Winter.** With the leaves down, the bench buildings and the ruins below show more clearly, as in the snow photo here.



USGS topographic map, 1897 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	3 mi, about 9 min each way from downtown Fayetteville. From Charleston: 60 mi, about 1 h 27 min.
OPEN	The park is open year-round. Through November 19, 2026, the upper Kaymoor Miners Trail is open Friday to Sunday only; on other days use the Kaymoor Trail or the Craig Branch Trail.
ADMISSION	Free. New River Gorge National Park and Preserve charges no entrance fee.
TIME ON SITE	The Park Service gives no total time. The Kaymoor Miners Trail is 0.5 mile each way with about 500 feet of descent; the Kaymoor Trail is 2 miles each way with about 350 feet of climb.
RESTROOMS	The Park Service's Kaymoor pages don't mention restrooms at the trailheads.
FOOD AND WATER	None at the site. The Park Service says to bring plenty of water.
ON FOOT	Steep and strenuous from Kaymoor Top: rocky stairs and switchbacks, then 821 wooden steps to the bottom. Good shoes; poles may help.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Flying drones is prohibited in the park without the superintendent's written approval (Superintendent's Compendium, July 2026). The pages we read set no other photography rules.
WEBSITE	nps.gov/neri/learn/historyculture/visiting-kaymoor.htm

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Stay out of mine shafts, tunnels and unstable buildings.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 38.04778, -81.06472 • 38°02'52"N
81°03'53"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/west-virginia/kaymoor/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.