



DAY TRIP TO THURMOND

From Fayetteville · Fayette County, West Virginia



RAILROAD AND
ROAD



Photo: Brian M. Powell (user Bitmapped on en.wikipedia), Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

NATIONAL PARK SITE

An incorporated town of 5 people (2020), mostly owned by the National Park Service. Depot visitor center open in summer and on fall weekends.

From Fayetteville, Thurmond is a 34-minute drive and an easy half day. Come on a summer day, or a September or October weekend, when the depot is open. The town has no shops or restaurants; the Park Service says the last business, a bike rental and ice-cream shop opened in the old post office in the late 1990s, closed after only a few years.

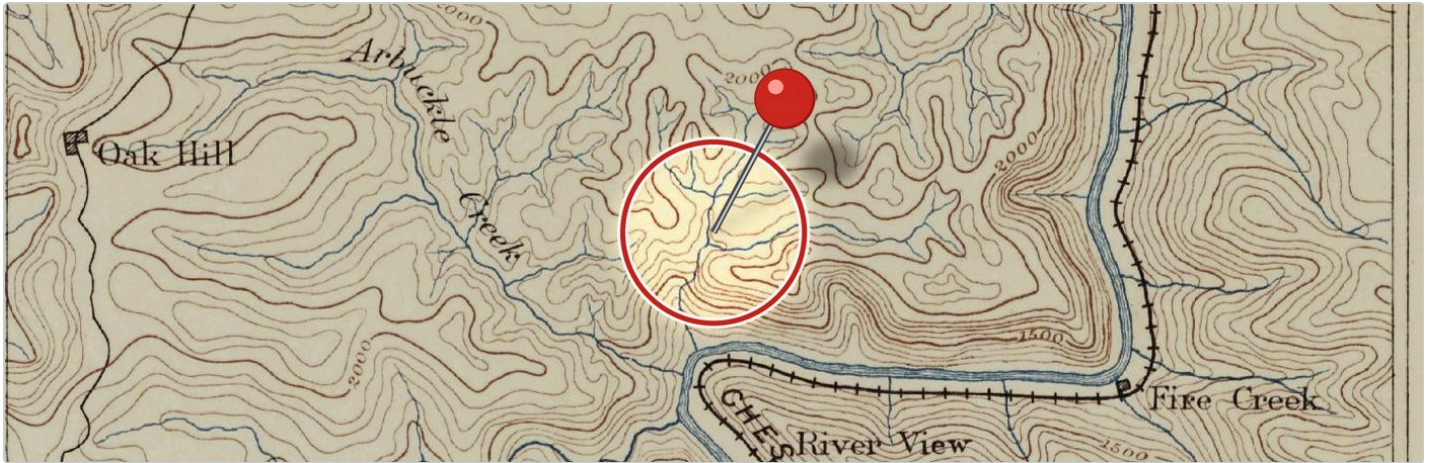
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9:15 a.m. Leave Fayetteville. The drive is 17.1 miles, about 34 minutes, with the last miles on narrow Thurmond Road.
- ☐ 10 a.m. The depot visitor center opens. Look at the exhibits, then pick up the walking tour at the depot.
- ☐ 10:30 a.m. Walk the tour: the commissary, the water-tank footings, Commercial Row, the bank building, the Lafayette Hotel wall and the coaling tower, seen from a distance.
- ☐ 12 p.m. Drive back to Fayetteville for lunch.
- ☐ Afternoon The Canyon Rim Visitor Center, just north of Fayetteville on US 19 by the New River Gorge Bridge, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

From November through May the depot is closed, but the streets and the outside of Commercial Row can still be seen. Coming from Charleston? Allow about 88 minutes for the drive.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Commercial Row.** Stand by the depot and shoot up the line of brick fronts with the tracks beside them, as most of the photos here do.
- **The depot.** The yellow 1904 building is narrow; step back across the road to fit it in with the signals.
- **The coaling tower.** Use a longer lens. CSX owns it and the Park Service asks visitors to keep their distance.
- **Trains.** Freight trains pass many times a day. Film them from well back of the tracks, never from the right of way.
- **The Dungen piers.** Across the river, the walkway piers show best in fall and winter, when the leaves are down.



USGS topographic map, 1891 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	17 mi, about 34 min each way from downtown Fayetteville. From Charleston: 58 mi, about 1 h 28 min.
OPEN	The park is open year-round. Depot visitor center: daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day; typically open Saturdays and Sundays in September and October; closed November through May.
ADMISSION	Free. New River Gorge National Park and Preserve charges no entrance fee.
TIME ON SITE	The Park Service's walking tour is about 0.5 mile round trip and takes about an hour.
RESTROOMS	The park pages we read don't list current restrooms or water at Thurmond. Plan on Fayetteville or the Canyon Rim Visitor Center.
FOOD AND WATER	None in town. Bring water and eat in Fayetteville.
ON FOOT	Flat but uneven pavement, brick and gravel. Cross the CSX main line only at the designated crossing.
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/planyourvisit/thurmond.htm

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- 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 37.96111, -81.08167 • 37°57'40"N
81°04'54"W

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

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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