

▶ E-mail us for group  
travel opportunities.  
*info@prestonsburgky.org*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
ACCOMMODATING YOU.



- ▶ **Brookshire Inn & Suites**  
85 Hal Rogers Drive  
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653  
(606) 889-0331 // 1-877-699-5709  
brookshireinns.com



- ▶ **Comfort Suites**  
51 Hal Rogers Drive  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-2555  
choicehotels.com/KY019



- ▶ **Quality Inn**  
1887 U.S. 23 N  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 506-5000  
choicehotels.com/KY267



- ▶ **Super 8 (Pet Friendly)**  
80 Shoppers Path // 550 U.S. 23 S  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-3355  
super8.com/prestonsburgky



- ▶ **Jenny Wiley State Resort Park**  
419 Jenny Wiley Drive  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 889-1790 // 1-800-325-0142  
parks.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/  
jenny-wiley/



**Prestonsburg Tourism Commission**  
50 Hal Rogers Drive  
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653  
(606) 886-1341 // 1-800-844-4704

prestonsburgky.org f @

▶ *explore*  
prestonsburg



**PRESTONSBURG  
KENTUCKY**

*#feeltheburg*





The 2018 Travel Guide is published by Prestonsburg Tourism Commission. Every effort is made to ensure all the information in this guide is up-to-date and correct at the time of printing. All information is subject to change without notice.

Photo credits: Michael Wallace, Kaye Willis

# ▶ explore prestonsburg

- 2 ▶ Welcome
- 4 ▶ Recreation
- 6 ▶ Entertainment
- 8 ▶ Outdoor Experiences
- 10 ▶ Outdoor Adventure
- 12 ▶ Culinary Experience
- 14 ▶ History
- 18 ▶ Events







expect the unexpected

## JOIN US FOR AN EASTERN KENTUCKY ADVENTURE

**P**restonsburg is the Star City of Eastern Kentucky and truly a jewel in the heart of the Appalachian mountains.

The story of Prestonsburg, the first town established in eastern Kentucky, is one as old as the mountains themselves. The year was 1797 and a man by the name of John Graham from Virginia surveyed the land that became Prestonsburg. Graham's vision of a settlement called Preston's Station shaped the modern-day spirit of our town. Brave, adventurous men and women alike walked the footpaths of these mountains and paddled downstream in the waters of the Levisa Fork River. They saw the original elk herds and hunted these forests.

*Follow the path of the elk.*

*Walk the winding trails of the Native Americans who lived and hunted here.*

*Explore the rugged, wild beauty that convinced early settlers to make a home here.*

*Move your feet to the mountain music that defines our state.*



**What story will the mountains share with you?**  
*#feeltheburg*



# play until your heart's content

## PRESTONSBURG'S SCENIC VIEWS MAKE RECREATION THAT MUCH MORE FUN

**W**hether you're looking to play a round of 18, or you're rounding up the kids for a picnic and playtime at the park, you'll find a place to enjoy yourself in Prestonsburg.

### STONECREST GOLF COURSE

Stonecrest Golf Course is a championship-level layout that plays to a par 72 and is easily accessible for all skill levels. Located on 700 acres of reclaimed strip mine, its one-of-a-kind location sports breathtaking views of the surrounding mountain range. On-site there is a practice green and driving range, a pro shop for any game-time necessities, and a clubhouse and lounge for a little post-game rest and relaxation.

➤ 918 Clubhouse Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-1006  
stonecrestgolfcourse.com

### PRESTONSBURG EQUINE CENTER

Prestonsburg Equine Center has year-round events for the horse enthusiast. The center features a show ring with stadium seating and 188 stalls that are the perfect setting for multi-day, sanctioned shows. There are options available for self-boarding as well as full boarding, depending your needs.

➤ 1900 Cassidy Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-6390

### GERMAN BRIDGE

Horseback riders can bring their horses to German Bridge for the ultimate trail ride. These trails connect to Jenny Wiley State Resort Park's multi-use trails, where you can experience the beauty of this area with your four-legged friend. Both German Bridge and Prestonsburg Equine Center have boarding and overlay available to horse and rider.

➤ 7533 Ky. 194, Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 874-1150

### ARCHER PARK

Archer Park is a multi-use, family friendly park with tennis courts, swimming pools, ball fields, a playground, and even a dog park. It has a lighted outdoor basketball court and picnic pavilions. During the holiday season, the park hosts the Christmas lights display and a winter carnival.

➤ 66 Archer Park Road, Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-6390

### LEVISA FORK RIVER PARK

The Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River plays a part in Prestonsburg life even today. Located directly behind Billy Ray's Restaurant downtown, this park goes all the way to the river-side and includes boat ramp access, a picnic shelter, outdoor stage and primitive camping.

*#feeltheburg*

**Head east to your next adventure.**



## FROM FESTIVALS TO CONCERTS, OPTIONS ABOUND

We appreciate the arts and sciences here in Prestonsburg. Between big name musical acts at the Mountain Arts Center to the summer shows at the Jenny Wiley Amphitheatre, you won't miss out on any big city entertainment.

### JENNY WILEY AMPHITHEATRE

The Jenny Wiley Amphitheatre debuted in 1964 with "South Pacific." Since then, during each summer season from June to August, the Jenny Wiley Theatre Company stages some of the most popular Broadway shows, including "The Legend of Jenny Wiley." It has the honor of being one of the longest running outdoor theaters in the country.

► [jwtheatre.com](http://jwtheatre.com)

### EAST KENTUCKY SCIENCE CENTER

With its huge, interactive exhibit hall, planetarium and traveling NASA exhibits, space pioneers young and old can explore galaxies beyond the Milky Way at the East Kentucky Science Center. The mind-bending 40-foot star dome and projection system is only one of two dozen existing on planet Earth. A regular schedule of laser light shows set to popular music like Pink Floyd and The Beatles is out of this world.

► [bigsandy.kctcs.edu/EKSC](http://bigsandy.kctcs.edu/EKSC)

### TUESDAY NIGHT SONGWRITERS SCENE

Discover your next favorite tunesmith! Some of the finest songwriters hail from this area, and to carry on that tradition, we encourage

local musicians to share their stories and songs each week. Tuesday Night Songwriters Scene happens in different restaurants across town, so be sure to follow Prestonsburg Tourism on Facebook for details.

### MOUNTAIN ARTS CENTER

The Mountain Arts Center is one of the premier music venues in eastern Kentucky. Big name acts perform here, including Dwight Yoakam and Chris Stapleton, among others. The facility contains an art gallery, the Ranier Racing Museum and the Coal Miner's Exhibit. There is also space for music lessons and public and private events, as well as a state-of-the-art recording studio.

► [macarts.com](http://macarts.com)

### BILLIE JEAN OSBORNE'S KENTUCKY OPRY

Billie Jean Osborne's Kentucky Opry will keep your feet tapping and hands clapping on Saturday nights during the summer and the Christmas season at the Mountain Arts Center. For almost 30 years, audiences have enjoyed a musical variety show featuring familiar bluegrass, country, and gospel songs, and homespun, mountain-style comedy from a rotating cast of rising stars, all of whom hail from the mountains of eastern Kentucky. A retired music teacher, Billie Jean Osborne was known as a champion of mountain music. When the Opry formed in 1990, she made good on a promise of support to her former students and up-and-coming musicians of the area.

*stay informed* ► [facebook.com/prestonsburgtourism](https://facebook.com/prestonsburgtourism)





## JENNY WILEY STATE RESORT PARK OFFERS INCREDIBLE VIEWS, LASTING EXPERIENCES

Jenny Wiley State Resort Park has more than 9,000 acres of awe-inspiring wilderness to explore. Hit the trails, bait your hook, stoke the campfire, or sit down to enjoy a Broadway-style show – there is plenty to do!

Who says you have to go out west to see elk? They live in our backyard! The park hosts guided elk tours from September to early March. The reintroduced herd is now 11,000 strong and spans a territory of 16 counties. It is your chance to see these majestic herbivores up close.

Looking for a room with a view? Depending on your idea of "roughing it," lodge rooms, cabins and cottages are available for rent, as well as campsites.

Another noteworthy stop is The Josie Harkins School, where children learned their ABCs and 123s in the last one-room schoolhouse left in the state.

▶ 419 Jenny Wiley Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 889-1790 // [parks.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/jenny-wiley/](http://parks.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/jenny-wiley/)

### ▶ BASIC ELK TOUR

**\$30/adult, \$15/children ages 12 and under.** Reservation price includes transportation to the viewing site and continental breakfast.

### ▶ ELK TOUR PACKAGE

**\$160 per couple.** Includes lodging, dinner, and elk tour, along with continental breakfast.

To make reservations call (606) 889-1790. Special group tours are also available.

# hear the call of the wild

## WHO WAS JENNY WILEY?

It was a rainy October day in 1789 when Tom Wiley took ginseng to sell at the trading post. He left behind his pregnant wife, Jenny, and their four children, under the watch of her 16-year-old brother. In broad daylight, Native Americans burst in their home, killing Jenny's brother and three children and taking her and her fourth child captive. Jenny later escaped and spent her remaining years in Kentucky, but not before seeing her 1-year-old murdered.

▶ *read the full story*  
[prestonsburgky.org/blog](http://prestonsburgky.org/blog)





## EXPLORE PRESTONSBURG'S BEAUTY WHILE ON FOOT, BIKE OR ON THE WATER

The reclaimed mountaintops that once housed coal mines now provide the best views overlooking the Appalachian mountain chain. Visitors have a chance to see all the way to both Virginia and West Virginia from here.

Whether you're looking for leisurely, scenic quiet time or you are ready to break a sweat and a personal record, there are several easily accessible trail systems for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Retrace Jenny Wiley's escape route on a 4 1/2-mile trail or pedal your way to the top of the "Escalator." Sure, you can get to the top by car, but we encourage you to travel by two wheels – or two (or even four) legs – for the best experience.

### SUGARCAMP MOUNTAIN TRAILS

The Sugarcamp Mountain trail system is a multi-use facility for biking, hiking and horses, providing some of the most incredible views of the region. Almost 20 miles' worth of hand-carved trails are available for adventurers of any skill level. Jenny Wiley State Resort Park provides a five-minute shuttle ride to the top of the mountain, with easy access to Sugarcamp Mountain Trailhead.

[sugarcamptrails.com](http://sugarcamptrails.com)

### GARFIELD TRAIL

Walk the old wagon trail that connected Prestonsburg to Paintsville. It's about a mile long, with a mix of intensities, and is well worth the sweat. Garfield Trail has beautiful views, especially during the winter months when the trees are bare. The trail begins next to a metal scrap yard in West Prestonsburg and climbs above the CSX railroad tracks, providing spectacular views of the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River.

### DEWEY LAKE

The Dewey Lake Wildlife Management Area is a world of breathtaking wilderness with 52 miles of shoreline to explore by foot, bike or boat. The underwater world is an extraordinary ecosystem swimming with life. Resident varieties of bass and catfish, crappie and bluegill, and native muskie populate the waters. Could you be the one to reel in the catch of a lifetime? The largest muskie ever recorded in the state of Kentucky was caught here and

# take the scenic route



weighed in at 13 pounds, 12 ounces. If you're looking for waterfront real estate, Dewey Lake also has boat slips available for rent.

### LEVISA FORK PADDLEFEST

The fourth Saturday of each month from May to September, kayakers and canoers launch into the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River and make the 16.4-mile trek down river. The journey begins in downtown Prestonsburg,

where watercrafts meet the waves behind Billy Ray's Restaurant. The scenic floating trip lasts four to six hours, and ends with lunch in Paintsville. Participants can bring their own kayak or canoe, or rentals are available. Registration is \$10, which includes a tasty lunch and shuttle service from Paintsville back to your vehicle in Prestonsburg.

*find your adventure*  
[prestonsburgky.org/paddling](http://prestonsburgky.org/paddling)





# delight in a little mountain flavor

Fill your plate full of eastern Kentucky favorites – including white beans, salmon patties, cucumber tomato salad, fried potatoes, cornbread and jam cake – at many of our local restaurants.

➤ [prestonsburgky.org/local-restaurants](http://prestonsburgky.org/local-restaurants)  
*full list of eateries*



## PRESTONSBURG'S FOOD SCENE OFFERS A VARIETY TO SUIT YOUR CRAVINGS

Whether you crave an old fashioned burger joint, home cooking by the river, or American fare with flair – when you're hungry during your visit to Prestonsburg, we've got you covered.

### LIZZIE B'S CAFE BAKERY

Lizzie B's features burgers and sandwiches on bread made in-house daily and uses fresh, seasonal ingredients for their soup du jour and specialty pizzas. Temptation lingers nearby in the dessert case filled with homemade muffins, cookies and decadent cheesecake.

➤ 2010 Ky Route 321, Prestonsburg, KY // (606) 886-2844

### THE BRICKHOUSE

The Brickhouse menu makes decisions difficult. For a Kentucky experience, start with the apple bourbon wings, amp up the local flair with their Kentucky Hot Brown pizza or pulled pork mac-and-cheese – but definitely, don't skip out on the bourbon burger.

➤ 358 S Central Ave., Prestonsburg, KY 41653 // (606) 886-0909

### DAIRY CHEER

When a Dairy Cheer cook flattened a burger sizzling on the grill with a No. 10 bean can, the "Smashburger" was born. Retro charm chasers love the milkshakes and French fries but the soup beans and cornbread? A mountain staple.

➤ 1384 N. Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 // (606) 806-8666

### PIG IN A POKE

Pig in a Poke is a Prestonsburg original, serving all the usual suspects: tender, delicious hickory-smoked pulled pork, beef brisket and ribs. Elevating the plate are sides like fresh coleslaw, special-recipe baked beans, and fried pickles breaded with homemade batter.

➤ 41 University Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 // (606) 889-9119

### BILLY RAY'S RESTAURANT

Stop in Billy Ray's for an early Paddlefest breakfast or afterward for the local favorite, salmon patties with a side of soup beans and cornbread. Though homemade layer cakes and pies are certainly captivating. Everybody raves about the apple dumpling.

➤ 101 N Front St., Prestonsburg, KY 41653 // (606) 886-1744



## PRESTONSBURG CELEBRATES HISTORY THROUGH LANDMARK PRESERVATION

**B**ecause Prestonsburg was the first town in eastern Kentucky, it's only natural that its ties to important events in American history run deep.

John James Floyd was only about 32 years old when he was fatally wounded during an ambush by Native Americans. Though he was young, the namesake of Floyd County made the most of his time as a surveyor, militia man and adventurer – he was a part of the rescue party for Daniel Boone's daughter, who was kidnapped by a local Indian tribe. Soon after, he became the county's first appointed judge.

### THE SAMUEL MAY HOUSE

Samuel May was born and raised in Virginia by the son of a Revolutionary war veteran. He moved his family here and soon after built the family home in 1818. Workers gathered hand-hewn logs from the surrounding forests, molded Kentucky clay bricks on-site, and ground freshwater mussel shells out of the Levisa Fork River into lime. This house is significant not only for its exceptional Federal craftsmanship but also because its owners and their families played major roles in the development of Prestonsburg and Floyd County.

Samuel was an ambitious businessman and instrumental in the construction of the Mt. Sterling-Pound Gap Road, which paved the way for increased commerce to the area.

In its heyday, this home was a social and political hub surrounded by almost 400 acres of land. By the 1830s, May became a state representative and went on to be a senator. It was from the balcony of his home that May is said to have delivered political speeches to citizens gathered on the lawn of the house, while in the meadow below he hosted horse races at his own personal racetrack.

➤ 1035 North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-1341 // [mayhouse.org](http://mayhouse.org)



relive the stories  
of our settlers

### WEST PRESTONSBURG BRIDGE

Our most recognizable landmark is the West Prestonsburg Bridge, built in 1928. It is the last of two rainbow arch bridges left in the county. Designed by a Floyd County engineer, it reaches gracefully across the breadth of the Big Sandy River. Plans are currently underway to give it new life as a pedestrian bridge. Looking out across the water, you can imagine what an impact this bridge made – it opened up a whole new world beyond the Big Sandy.



➤ **Look east. There's a movement going on.**  
*#myeastkyreborn*



# experience the civil war



Watch the  
battle unfold.

*#feeltheburg* ➤



## PRESERVED SITES TELL THE STORY OF TWO BATTLES FOUGHT HERE

Civil War buffs appreciate the preserved battle sites in Prestonsburg. In eastern Kentucky, loyalties were divided between the blue and the grey. The town changed from Union and Confederate possession numerous times. Two skirmishes of note took place here, contributing to the breakdown of the Confederate forces in eastern Kentucky.

### BATTLE OF IVY MOUNTAIN

Samuel May's son, Captain Andrew Jackson May, trained his Confederate infantry, staging military drills on the family's meadow racetrack. The skirmish lasted approximately an hour and a half. Union Commander William "Bull" Nelson was at the helm and drove the rebel troops out of the Big Sandy Valley. Captain May secured a prime vantage point at the top of Ivy Mountain, but with less manpower and dwindling supplies, the Union troops surrounded them. The Ivy Mountain Battlefield is located on U.S. 23, 10 miles south of Prestonsburg at Ivel.

### BATTLE OF MIDDLE CREEK

The Battle of Middle Creek, fought on January 10, 1862, was technically a skirmish but effectively weakened the Confederacy's hold on Kentucky. It also launched the political career of the 20th President of the United States, James A. Garfield. The Battle of Middle Creek re-enactment takes place here every second weekend in September. Visitors have the opportunity to watch the battle unfold, experience what life was like 150 years ago in this part of Kentucky, and explore both the Confederate and Union interpretative trails. There is also a 4-mile automobile trail, which includes a stop at the infamous Graveyard Point.

### ➤ Experience the re-enactment

Annually, every second weekend in September.  
More information, visit [middlecreek.org](http://middlecreek.org).



# do whatever floats your boat

## FROM ELK TOURS TO PARADES, WE'LL FILL YOUR CALENDAR

### 01 ► january

#### Elk Tours

Visit [parks.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/jenny-wiley/](http://parks.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/jenny-wiley/) for dates.

### 02 ► february

#### Elk Tours

### 03 ► march

#### Elk Tours

### 04 ► april

#### Star City Day

### 05 ► may

#### Levisa Fork Paddlefest

#### Country Music

#### Highway Yard Sale

Folks in these parts love yard sales. Held the last weekend in May from Thursday to Sunday, go treasure hunting all along U.S. 23, from Greenup County to Letcher County at the Virginia line.

#### Floyd County Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Local farmers offer homegrown veggies and fruits ripe for the picking, along with other food items for those who'd like to savor the flavor at home. Nothing beats homemade!

### 06 ► june

#### Levisa Fork Paddlefest

#### Jenny Wiley Summer Theatre Begins

#### Billie Jean Osborne's Kentucky Opry

Third Saturday in June

#### Floyd County Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### 07 ► july

#### Star City Day: 4th of July Celebration hosted by local band Sundry Best

Celebrate Independence Day with us at Archer Park. Live music and a spectacular fireworks display hosted by our friends and local band Sundry Best.

#### Levisa Fork Paddlefest

#### Floyd County Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### 08 ► august

#### Levisa Fork Paddlefest

#### Billie Jean Osborne's Kentucky Opry

First Saturday in August

#### Floyd County Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### 09 ► september

#### Battle of Middle Creek

#### Levisa Fork Paddlefest

#### Elk Tours

#### Floyd County Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### 10 ► october

#### Jenny Wiley Pioneer Festival

#### Elk Tours

### 11 ► november

#### Archer Park Christmas Lights

'Tis the season! Christmas spirit kicks into high gear with the Archer Parks Light Display that runs from Thanksgiving weekend through New Year's. Drive or walk through the dazzling light show, and warm up with refreshments while Santa and Mrs. Claus are on-hand to spread holiday cheer.

### 12 ► december

#### Christmas Parade

It's difficult not to smile. There's nothing like a small town Christmas parade with all the trimmings: the streets are filled with a sense of togetherness as the community gathers for the procession of lighted floats and holiday music, and an appearance by the man himself. It's a celebration Santa wouldn't miss! After the parade goes by, make your way to the city parking lot for the annual tree-lighting display.

#### New Year's Eve Celebration

Star City rings in the New Year with quite a bang at Archer Park. It's a winter wonderland with carnival rides, a 5K run earlier in the day, and plenty of reason to celebrate at night. Listen to the local bands playing from the top of the Ferris wheel, enjoy a sweet treat from the food vendors on hand, and count down to a brand new year ahead as the Prestonsburg Star rises over the crowd.

