

West Virginia Retirement Times

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“Take me home, country roads.”

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The bright lights of West Virginia are calling

West Virginia is known for its beautiful vistas, relaxing country atmosphere and numerous ways to enjoy the outdoors and nature's bounty.

But there is another element of West Virginia that is attracting visitors and growing as a day-destination for residents' casinos. There are currently five casinos, at least one in every corner of the state.

Less than an hour from three of West Virginia's Designated Retirement Communities (DRC), is the Casino Club at The Greenbrier. The Casino Club is described as Monte Carlo meets Gone with the Wind, and is open to overnight guests, members of the resorts' clubs or those attending events or conventions.

The Greenbrier itself is worth the trip. A National Historic Landmark and a world-class resort, The Greenbrier has been welcoming guests from around the world since 1778. For 250 years, people have traveled to The Greenbrier to “take the waters” at the resort's world-renowned mineral spa.

The resort is also home to The Greenbrier Classic PGA Tour and is the oldest course used for a PGA Tour event. The Greenbrier course has hosted many of golf's royalty including Hogan, Snead, Palmer, Player, Nicklaus, Trevino, Faldo, Watson, Ballesteros, Wood, Mickelson and others, and is the only C.B. Macdonald course available to the public.

A short drive from Baltimore, Philadelphia or D.C. is Hollywood! Well, at least the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races. In addition to gaming, the Casino is home to the West Virginia Breeders Classic, one of the richest nights of thoroughbred racing in the state with nine races worth \$1,875,000.00 to horses bred or sired in W.V.

The Hollywood Casino is also famous for its nightlife and live entertainment. This spring, you will be able to enjoy the sounds of Clint Black, Michael McDonald, Peter Cetera and Blood, Sweat and



Tears, as well as one of country music's legends, Merle Haggard.

Wheeling Island Casino is located in West Virginia's northern panhandle and is easily accessible from Cleveland or Pittsburgh. One of the primary draws at Wheeling Island is the live greyhound races. Races take place on the track every day except Mondays and Thursdays.

And while you're there, consider taking a greyhound home with you in addition to your winnings. Wheeling Island Casino is home to Greyhound Pets Of America Wheeling. Its offices are located

behind the racetrack and they welcome visitors. The organization places retired greyhounds in a forever loving home. They take pride in finding wonderful families with an empty spot on their couch for a loving greyhound.

A few miles up the road from Wheeling Island, you will find the Mountaineer Casino Racetrack and Resort. Located in the scenic hills of northern West Virginia on 77 acres, Mountaineer Casino offers year-round entertainment and features a luxury spa, elite fitness center, championship golf course, world-class thoroughbred horse racing, fine dining and a Grande Hotel.

Mountaineer Casino is one of the premiere resort destinations in the state. When in the area, make sure you plan time to visit the renowned Homer Laughlin China factory, makers of Fiesta dinnerware, Tomlinson State Park, First Niagara Pavilion, the World's Largest Teapot and more.

For those entering the state from Kentucky, there is the Mardi Gras Casino & Resort. Described as the complete entertainment destination, The Mardi Gras is one of the leading luxury hotels in West Virginia. Just close your eyes and imagine spending the weekend in the Presidential Suite with a 52" television or having a personal chef prepare your breakfast. Whether it's a romantic getaway for two or corporate retreat, Mardi Gras Casino & Resort offers full-scale entertainment and a resort lifestyle for any occasion.

More information on casino destinations in West Virginia can be found by visiting West Virginia's official tourism website at gotowv.com and request a free travel guide.

