

## The Tuscarora Trail & Great Eastern Trail

The West Virginia section of the Tuscorora Trail (TT) is part of a 250-mile four-state, side branch of the Appalachian Trail extending from near Harrisburg, PA to Luray, VA. It was originally constructed as an alternate route for the Appalachian Trail but is now maintained for its own special qualities. The southern section of the TT starting in Morgan County, WV was initially called the Big Blue Trail, but in 1995 the entire trail was renamed *Tuscorora*.

Thousands of hours of volunteer time by members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) were used to construct the trail and continue to be used to maintain and improve the current trail. The Trail runs through public property such as Sleepy Creek WMA, private property secured with easements or in some cases just "handshake" agreements and small parcels of property owned by the PATC.

### THE GREAT EASTERN TRAIL

Recently, a section of the Tuscorora Trail including the Berkeley and Morgan County, WV miles has been incorporated into the Great Eastern Trail. The Great Eastern Trail is a new north-south footpath entirely separate from the Appalachian Trail. It is now possible to start on the Tuscorora Trail in Morgan/Berkeley County and walk north all the way to Maine or south to Alabama following the new Great Eastern Trail.

---

*It is now possible to follow the new Great Eastern Trail from Morgan/Berkeley County and walk north to Maine or south to Alabama.*

---

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

The path of the Tuscorora Trail is carefully marked with blue painted rectangles (blazes) usually located at eye level on trees. A double blaze means an abrupt change of direction; stop, look for next blaze before continuing. Be aware that the Trail is an evolving creation and that the pathway may be relocated to accommodate changes in land ownership, make sections more user friendly, or incorporate additional scenic and historic features. All relocations are carefully marked.

Although the TT is an improved and well-maintained hiking trail, most sections are well beyond the Sunday stroll category. You should be prepared for walking on very rough terrain, with VERY steep climbs, small stream crossings (dangerous at high water), bog areas and the usual natural hazards common to wilderness areas. There is neither safe drinking water nor rest room facilities, except at Sleepy Creek Lake. Be aware that most of the TT is surrounded by prime public hunting land. Late November to mid December is deer season. Small game is hunted from October to February and turkey in April and May. Hunting is not permitted on Sundays. Avoid the trail or wear blaze orange during hunting season. In general, camping is only allowed at designated campsites along the trail. Check with the manager of Sleepy Creek WMA for rules about open fires and other special regulations. Free running dogs are discouraged. At the north end, the trail crosses several areas of private property. You are a guest of the land owner in these areas, so please be respectful.

Prepared by: **Travel Berkeley Springs**  
127 Fairfax St • Berkeley Springs, WV 25411  
800-447-8797 [www.berkeleysprings.com](http://www.berkeleysprings.com)

## Spectacular Hiking in Morgan & Berkeley Counties, WV

The Tuscorora Trail (TT) in West Virginia is a 33-mile footpath running north south roughly along the border between Morgan and Berkeley Counties. The Trail offers an exciting opportunity to experience hiking on one of the great, long distance, footpaths traversing the eastern United States. It is a national class recreational treasure, which provides access to some of the most remote parts of the area. Weaving through the historical Spruce Pine Hollow area, the Meadow Branch valley and the wilderness of the Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area (SCWMA) the Trail offers glimpses of historical sites, spectacular overlooks, isolated woodlands, rock formations, a pristine lake, rushing streams and endless opportunities to see the best of the areas flora and wildlife.



Contact Travel Berkeley Springs at 1-800-447-8797 for special brochures on the Cacapon River and Ecotourism in Morgan County. For motorcycle ride maps and all information to plan your visit - [www.berkeleysprings.com](http://www.berkeleysprings.com)



Funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration.

3/08

# Tuscarora Trail

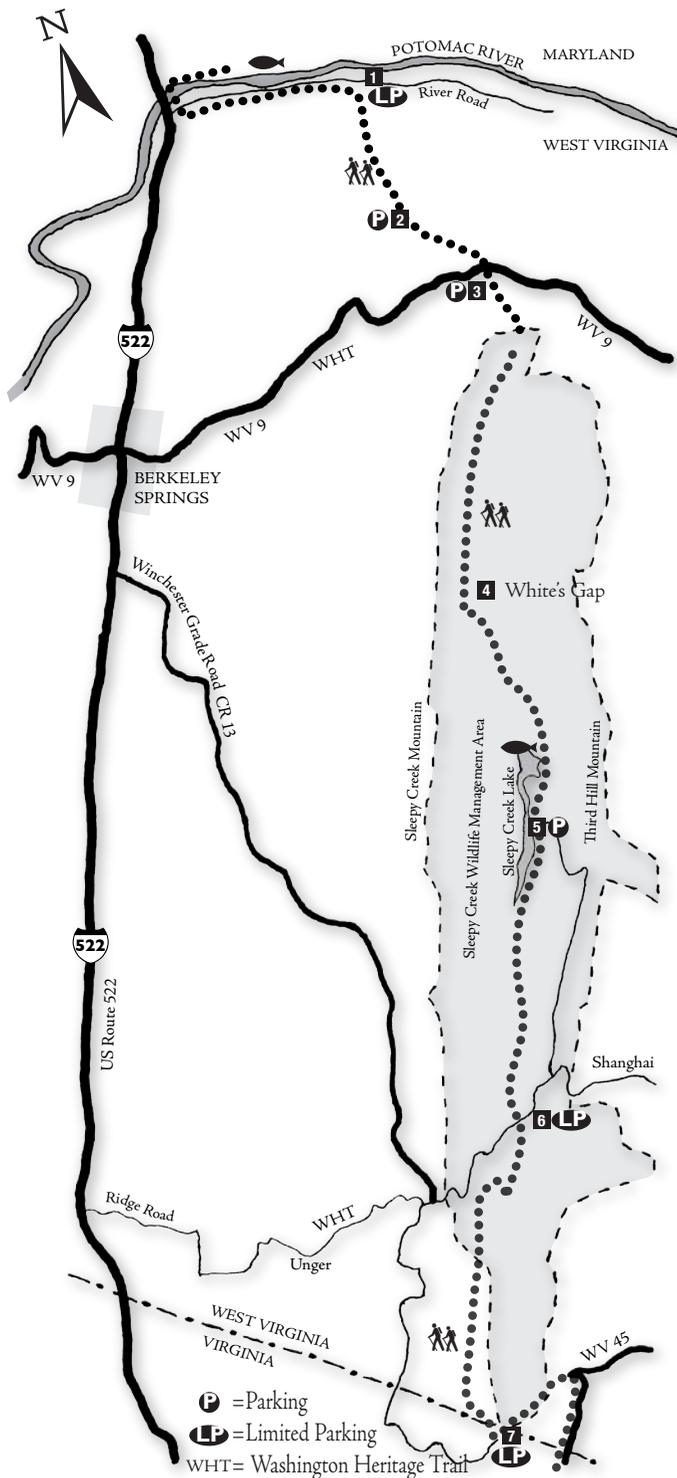
## Morgan & Berkeley Counties

### West Virginia



Travel Berkeley Springs  
800-447-8797

[www.berkeleysprings.com](http://www.berkeleysprings.com)



## Directions To Access Points & Brief Trail Descriptions:

From the north, the Tuscorora Trail enters Morgan County across the US 522 Potomac River Bridge from Hancock, MD and follows River Rd east, then heads south into the forest.

**1** *Driving directions from Berkeley Springs: US 522 north to last right turn before the Hancock bridge (River Rd), 2.7 miles to Culp Rd, then continue .3 miles on River Rd to small sign on right marking Trail entrance. There is a small parking area just past here on left. Don't block road!*

The trail heads overland from here and reaches the first PATC overnight shelter in 1.5 miles (shelters are free for anyone to use) The trail continues overland across private property (please be respectful) and along some private roads until the next access point at the intersection of Jim West, Burnt Mill and Potomac roads. (Total trail distance from River Rd 3.5 miles)

**2** *Driving Directions from Berkeley Springs: WV 9 east 7.9 miles to Meridian Rd on left. Go .3 miles and turn left on Burnt Mill Rd then 1.8 miles to Jim West/Potomac roads intersection and TT trail head.*

Continuing south, the trail follows Burnt Mill and Meridian roads back to WV 9 and crosses into Spruce Pine Hollow Park (SPHP).

**3** *Driving Directions from Berkeley Springs: WV 9 east 8.2 miles to Park on right.*

From the SPHP parking area follow the white blazed trail from the south side of the Park a short distance to the TT along the Meadow Branch creek. The TT heading south immediately crosses the creek (Caution! difficult at high/cold water. PATC plans to put up a foot bridge here. A short dis-

tance on the south side of the creek is a PATC backpackers campsite. Also in this area are the Rumsey mill and mill-race remains. The trail climbs steadily through one of Morgan County's most beautiful spruce forests and continues uphill along some dirt roads and past a few houses. A VERY STEEP climb up the northern end of Sleepy Creek Mountain follows. From here the trail enters Sleepy Creek WMA and follows the crest of Sleepy Creek Mountain along the Berkeley/Morgan county line until it descends the eastern slope to the next access point at Sleepy Creek Lake.

The trail crosses the Meadow Branch in this area. Caution! (Total trail distance 10 miles)

**4** It is possible to access the trail at Whites Gap near the midpoint of this long stretch. This involves a rough, steep climb up the west face of Sleepy Creek Mountain from an access point along Duckwall Rd.

**5** *Driving directions to Sleepy Creek Lake and Shanghai Rd Trail accesses from Berkeley Springs: US 522 south 2 miles, turn left onto Winchester Grade Rd (CR 13), follow CR 13 12 miles to top of mountain and red gate on right, continue on Shanghai Rd .7 miles to small sign on right "Beacon Trail". This is the TT south and directly across is TT north Shanghai Rd (Locks of the Mountain) access. Continue on Shanghai Rd 1 mile and turn left toward Sleepy Creek Lake. Follow "Lake" signs 5.1 miles to lake and junction of road with TT. Left to follow trail south, right toward dam and TT north.*

From the southern (upper campground) at the lake the trail heads south to the next access at Shanghai Rd. in 5.5 miles. This makes for a very nice half day hike with cars at both ends. Heading north is mostly downhill. Mountain



laurel blooms in June. Watch out in wet weather for bog areas near lake.

**6** *Driving directions: see 4.*

From the Beacon Trail access the TT leads south to the western edge of Sleepy Creek Mountain and follows the Berkeley/Morgan line toward Shockey's Knob. A second PATC shelter is near the knob and spectacular views of southern Morgan County can be seen from the rock edge all along this section, especially when leaves are down. From the Shockey's Knob area the trail steeply descends the western slope and arrives at the final area access point on

Shockeyville Rd in Frederick County, VA. (Total distance 6 miles)

**7** *Driving directions from Shanghai Rd and CR 13: continue on CR 13 .1 miles and turn left onto Pine Grove Rd. Follow Pine Grove 3.7 miles (turns to gravel), turn left on VA 671 (Shockeyville Rd) follow total of 2.5 miles to small TT sign on left. TT continues south from here following Shockeyville Rd.*

## Additional Information:

**1. Potomac Appalachian Trail Club:** offers excellent maps and a descriptive trail guide (WV section = "South Half"): 118 Park Street S.E., Vienna, VA (703) 242-0693, [www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net)

**2. Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area:** [www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/WMAAreas.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/WMAAreas.shtm). (304) 754-3885

**3. Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce:** offers an excellent road map of Morgan County: 127 Fairfax St, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411, 304-258-3738, [www.berkeleysprings.com](http://www.berkeleysprings.com)

**4. Washington Heritage Trail:** This 136 mile driving trail intersects the TT at Spruce Pine Hollow Park [3] and at Locks of the Mountain [6]. For a detailed map and directory of all sites on the three-county, National Scenic Byway call 800-447-8797 or [www.washingtonheritagetrail.com](http://www.washingtonheritagetrail.com)

