

## AREA HISTORY

Long before the first Europeans discovered the warm waters of Berkeley Springs, it was already a famous health Mecca that attracted Indians from the St. Lawrence Seaway in Canada and the Great Lakes to the Carolinas. Those first settlers, who came in 1730, learned the uses and value of the springs from the Indians and began spreading the word of the benefits throughout the settlements of the east.

Perhaps the most notable and influential advocate of the curative powers of the springs was George Washington, who, at 16, visited them as a member of a survey party. As the party, which was surveying the western limits of Thomas Lord Fairfax's lands, camped there for the night, young Washington noted in his diary, "March 18th, 1748, We this day called to see Ye Fam'd Warm Springs."

For many years afterwards, George Washington visited the springs regularly, and it was largely through his efforts that its fame as a health spa grew throughout the colonies. At the urging of the Colony of Virginia and in the public interest, Lord Fairfax conveyed his land holdings at the springs and fifty adjacent acres to the Colony of Virginia in 1776. Shortly thereafter, the land was offered for public sale. George Washington, three signers of the Declaration of Independence, four signers of the Constitution, seven members of the Continental Congress, and five Revolutionary generals were among the prominent colonists who made initial purchases there. Hence, the springs' reputation as a health resort became firmly established.

Borrowing the name of a famous counterpart in England, the General Assembly of Virginia formed the town of Bath on this location in 1776 and created a board of trustees to govern the new town. James Rumsey, who later invented the first successful steamboat, was then contracted to construct five bath houses and several other public buildings. This officially established the springs as a resort facility.



JAMES RUMSEY



"George Washington as a young surveyor," reproduced from the original painting by Henry Hintermeister. Top, George Washington's bath tub.

THOMAS FAIRFAX,  
6th Lord Fairfax of  
Cameron

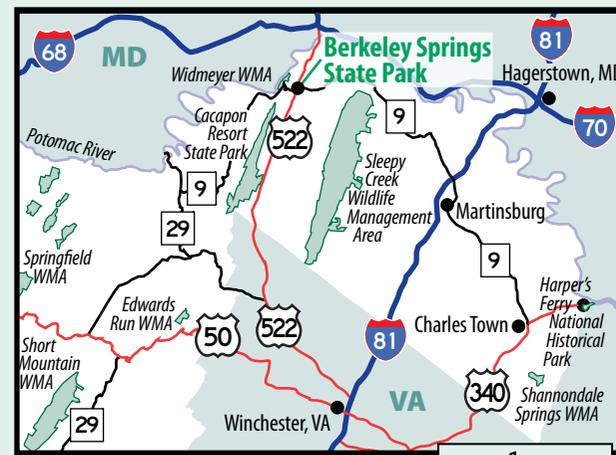
## THE SPRINGS

Located in a narrow valley about 620 feet above sea level, the springs issue from the base of a steep ridge. The springs originate from five principal sources, all within a hundred yards, with approximately 2,000 gallons of clear, sparkling water discharging per minute at the uniform and invariable temperature of 74.3 degrees Fahrenheit.

## PARK OPEN DAYS

The Main Bathhouse and the Old Roman Bath Building are open year-round, Monday through Sunday, with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter Sunday.

Hours of operation of facilities vary with the seasons; please contact the park office for details or visit the park website.



## LOCATION

Berkeley Springs State Park is located in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia in the town of Berkeley Springs. From major east/west highway I-70 (Hancock, Md.), take U.S. 522 south six miles to the park. From the south, the park is accessible from north/south I-81, by taking U.S. 522 north at Winchester, Va., and traveling 34 miles to the park. Locally, state Route 9 provides access to and from the Martinsburg area, I-81 and several nearby attractions.

## BERKELEY SPRINGS STATE PARK

2 South Washington Street  
Berkeley Springs, West Virginia 25411  
304-258-2711  
[www.berkeleyspringssp.com](http://www.berkeleyspringssp.com)

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
TO USE FACILITIES AND PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS

Visitors are responsible for observing park rules and regulations.

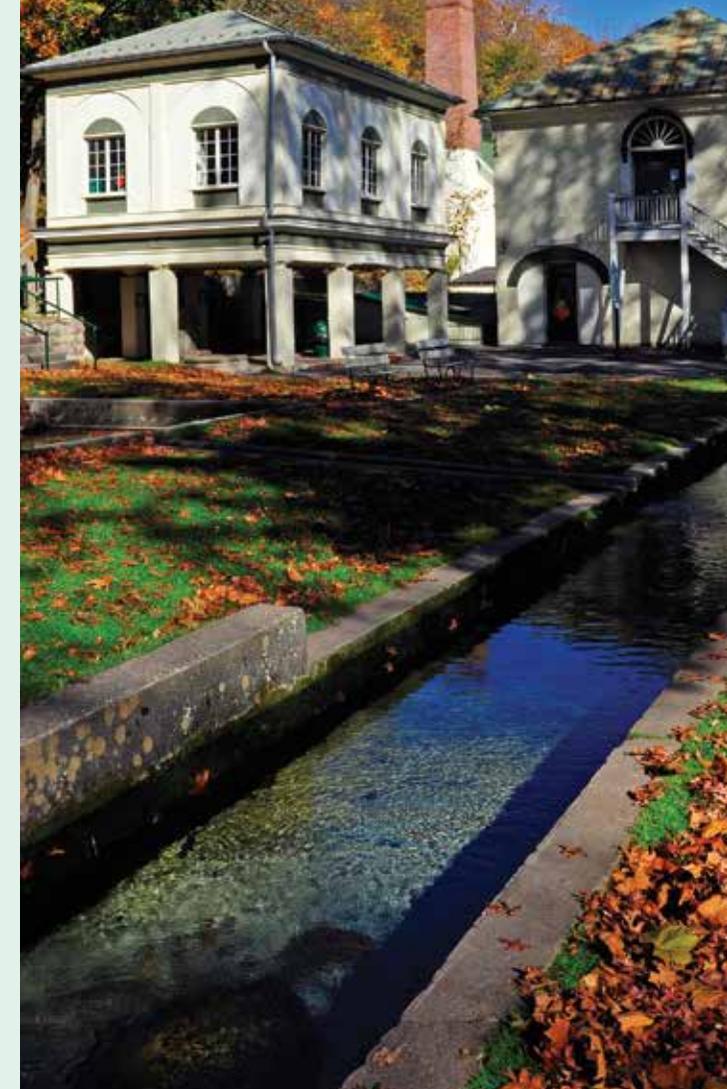
"It is the policy of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons without regard to gender, race, color, age, religion, national origin or disability. Proper licenses, registration and compliance with official rules and regulations are the only sources of restrictions for facility use or program participation."

"The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer."

Information provided in this brochure is current as of design date, but subject to change thereafter.

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# Berkeley Springs State Park





## SPA TREATMENTS

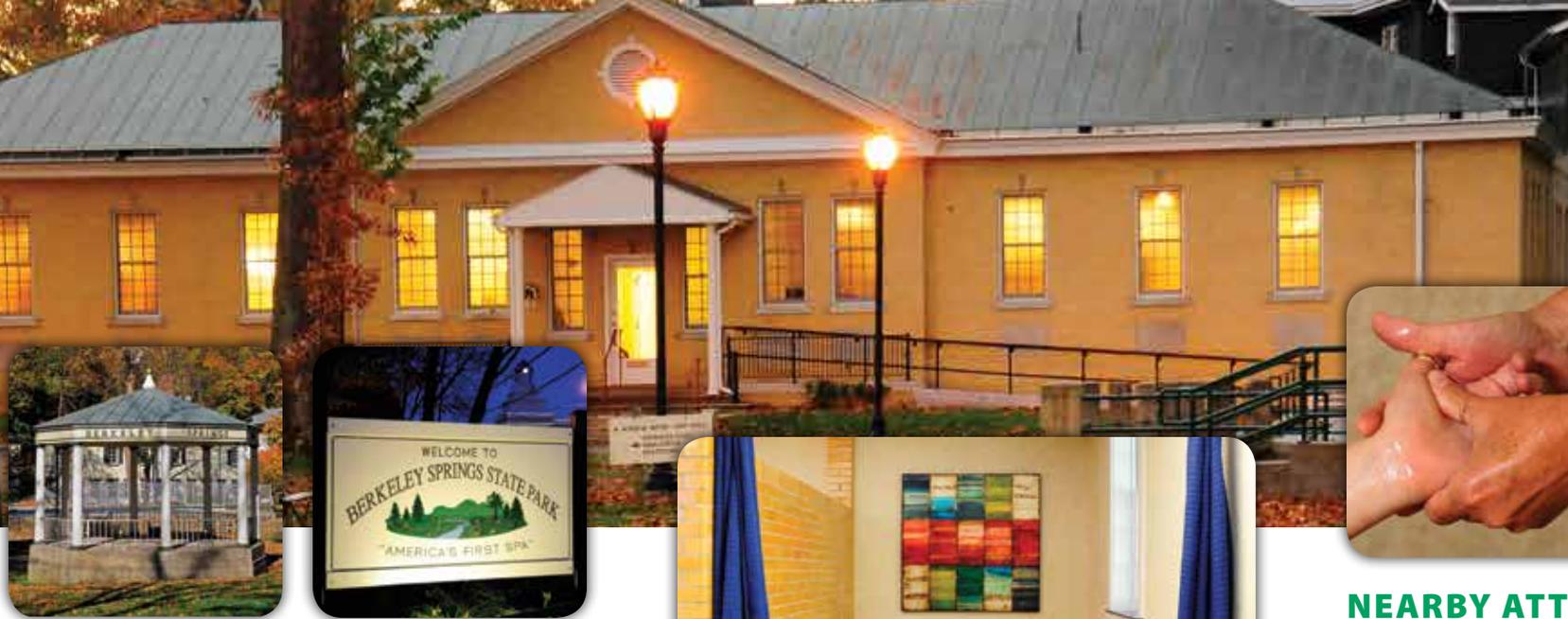
Access to the springs and the water remains free as directed in 1776 by Lord Fairfax, but nominal fees are charged for the baths, massages, and other services.

The baths consist of two types, jetted whirlpool tubs and the Roman baths. A Roman bath is an individual sunken pool lined with tile holding 750 gallons of water. Steps descend into the pool where the bather can soak in therapeutic waters. There are 13 Roman baths in the park and five whirlpool tubs. A brochure 'Taking the Waters' describes spa services and the Berkeley Springs experience.

## BATH AND SPRING RESERVATIONS

Reservations are accepted in advance and a deposit payment is required. Deposits are returned when cancellation notice is given 24 hours in advance. Payments may be made by VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and Diners Club credit cards; personal checks with identification; or cash. Spa reservations times are held for five minutes beyond time scheduled.

To make bath and spa reservations, call Berkeley Springs State Park at **304-258-2711** or **800-225-5982**.



## SPRING WATER

### Mineral Content Grains per U. S. Gallon

Sodium Chloride	0.142
Sodium Sulphate	0.598
Sodium Nitrate	0.026
Potassium Sulphate	0.116
Calcium Sulphate	0.572
Ferrous Carbonate	0.005
Magnesium Carbonate	1.110
Strontium Carbonate	trace
Alumina	0.045
Silica	0.496
Ammonium Chloride	absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.0012
Organic Matter	0.275
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.1102</b>

### Gases Cubic Inches per Gallon

Free Carbonic Acid	2.2 cu. In.
Carbonic Acid in Bicarbonates	7.14 cu. In.
Dissolved Oxygen	0.41 cu. In.



## ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND RECREATION

Berkeley Springs State Park also offers various forms of physiotherapy including dry saunas and massage with professional massage services. Reservations are recommended.

A gift shop and a museum is onsite and open to the public. An outdoor swimming pool is open most days from Memorial Day weekend – Labor Day weekend. Hours of operation are posted online.

## WIFI

WiFi is available at Berkeley Springs State Park. The Museum of Berkeley Springs collaborating with the Washington Heritage Trail received a cultural tourism grant from the West Virginia Cultural Heritages Development Program that included funds for making the Museum a wireless hot spot.



## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Berkeley Castle
- Cacapon Resort State Park
- Charles Town Race Track
- C&O Canal
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Historic Shepherdstown
- Prospect Peak scenic overlook
- Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area
- Ridge Fish Hatchery

**CACAPON RESORT STATE PARK** is nearby:

- 48-room lodge
- 12-room Old Inn
- 13 modern cottages
- Two accessible cabins
- 12 standard cabins
- Six bungalow cabins
- Full-service restaurant
- Robert Trent Jones, Sr., golf course
- Special winter spa packages with Berkeley Springs State Park



Lodge and cabin reservations may be made at Cacapon Resort State Park by calling **304-258-1022**; for online reservations visit [www.cacaponresort.com](http://www.cacaponresort.com).