

Guide to Fairmont

Fairmont likes to compare itself to the Hungarian city of Budapest. Budapest was originally 2 towns on the opposite sides of the Danube River: Buda & Pest. Similarly, Fairmont was once 2 towns, Fairmont & Palatine, on opposite sides of the Monongahela River. We could almost take the comparisons further to our 2 races. The half marathon in January is held on the outskirts of Fairmont's east side, formerly known as Palatine. The summer Run to Read Races are held on the west side of Fairmont.

If you think it's a little strange to compare a city with a population of maybe 25,000 to the great city of Budapest, a local historian has compared the nearby unincorporated coal camp of Four States to Rome, Italy. "Four States, like Rome, is built on a series of hills...."

For those who may not be familiar with Fairmont, I've listed a few restaurants & a few suggestions for things to do while you are visiting in the area.

Restaurants:

Aquarium Restaurant & Lounge- Cuisine includes Cajun dishes, seafood, steaks and pasta. Reservations are recommended. Don't let the average looking exterior fool you. 620 Gaston Ave., Fairmont. 304/366-1500 Five stars

Muriale's- Fairmont's most popular eatery. Specializing in Italian cooking. 1742 Fairmont Ave., Fairmont (US 250). 304/363-3190.

Hoop's Bar & Grill- Site of our post race activities at our summer race. The menu is limited. Located near Fairmont State but frequented by older patrons as well as students. 505 Locust Ave., Fairmont 304/363-6446. One of your race director's favorite places.

Mom's Place. For those on a limited budget. Large servings; small prices. Located on Fairmont's east side, not too far from the first turnaround for the half-marathon. 304/368-9223

Minard's Spaghetti Inn: A 30 minute drive down I-79 south of Fairmont to Clarksburg, but well worth the drive. Take exit 119 to US 50 west and use the Joyce St. exit. This restaurant has been owned & managed by the Minard family for over 60 years. With the half marathon starting at noon, you can sleep in a bit Saturday morning if you go there Friday evening & get back to your motel a bit on the late side.. 813 E Pike St, Clarksburg. 304/623-1711. Personally recommended by your race director.

Oliverio's Ristorante in Morgantown. A 20 minute drive north to Morgantown. Use exit 148. Located in the revitalized Wharf District. In warm weather, one can reserve a table outdoors on the terrace and watch folks using the rail trail. (19 miles down the trail is our half's finish line.) "Italian cuisine at its very best.... Fresh seafood, chicken, veal, thick-cut steaks, homemade pastas, breads & pastries," 304/296-2565. www.oliveriosristorante.com. Reservations recommended.

Philadelphia is known for its cheese steak sandwich, Buffalo is known for wild wings & weck, Pittsburgh is known for the Primanti Brothers sandwich, and Fairmont is known for its pepperoni rolls. Several small bakeries in north central West Virginia make this local delicacy. Most local convenience stores sell pepperoni rolls; some are plain, others are sold with cheese or hot pepper jack cheese. Several small hot dog stands in Fairmont's east side such as Att's, Woody's and Wright Dawgs sell pepperoni buns heated with cheese, chili sauce and peppers.

Things to do:

Saturday night:

Sage Brush Roundup: Semi professional country music in a family friendly environment – no smoking, no alcohol. Reasonably priced concessions. Located off exit 139, but in the opposite direction from Prickett's Fort State Park. www.wvpics.com/sagebrush.htm

The Hillbilly Gypsies will be featured Saturday evening, January 5, at the Sagebrush. Click here to see You Tube videos of their hard drivin' mix of bluegrass & traditional Appalachian music: <http://www.thehillbillygypsies.com/index.htm>

All weekend:

Skiing: Fairmont is a 2 to 3 hours drive to ski resorts such as Timberline, Snowshoe & Wisp.

Purple Fiddle: About a 90 mile drive from Fairmont in Thomas, WV. Located in ski country, this drive can be hazardous in winter weather for those not used to driving on curvy hilly roads. Live music ranges from Celtic to Bluegrass to Folk to Singer Songwriters to Swing. Check their website to see who is booked. Live music Friday night, Saturday night & Sunday night. Get there early, have dinner and get a good seat. Be sure to fill up on gas before you get there, too.

Friday evening, January 4 The New Familiars from Charlotte, NC, featuring a blend of acoustic, folk rock & thrash <http://www.myspace.com/thenewfamiliar>

Saturday evening January 5 The Davisson Brothers Band with a remarkable blend of country, southern rock & bluegrass <http://www.davissonbrothersband.com/home.html>

Sunday evening January 6 Joe Kile from Columbus, Ohio performing a mixture of folk, indie & country <http://www.myspace.com/joekile>

Sunday:

Join your race director in church Sunday morning at Tree of Life Church, site of post race activities following the first half marathon in 2006. Located on Fairmont's east side.
<http://www.tolchurch.com/>

Sunday morning hash run. 6 to 8 hash runners typically meet around 9am Sunday morning in the far corner of the Shop'n'Save parking lot near the intersection of Fairmont Ave & Country Club Road. A hash run is also known as a paper chase or a hounds & hare.

Big East Men's Basketball: WVU vs Marquette 2pm. The WVU Coliseum is a just short drive up I-79.