

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. This would be my favorite restaurant if I could afford it!

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

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 2pm, you can sleep in a bit Sunday morning if you go there Saturday 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, thickcut steaks, homemade pastas, breads & pastries," 304/296-2565.
www.oliveriosristorante.com. Reservations recommended.

Fazoli's. This chain offers cheap pasta. Right off exit 133 near the Super 8 & Cracker Barrel. 2204 County Road 64, Pleasant Valley. 304 363-9569.

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:

Saturday morning hash run. 10 to 12 hash runners typically meet around 9am Saturday morning at Fairmont West High School (also known as Fairmont Senior High). A hash run is also known as a paper chase or a hounds & hare.

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. Tickets are usually \$5.

Big 12 men's college basketball: WVU vs Oklahoma 4pm. The WVU coliseum is a short drive from Fairmont.

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.

<http://www.purplefiddle.com/schedule.html> Get there early, have dinner and get a good seat. Be sure to fill up on gas before you get there, too. The co-owner, John Bright, is a regular at local 5K & 10K races. No smoking but imported brews are served.

Sesame Street Live: All 3 evenings at the WVU Creative Arts Center

Sunday:

Church services: Your race director's church meets Sunday morning at 9:30am. Tree of Life Church, was the site of post race activities following the first half marathon in 2006. Located on Fairmont's east side, not far from the first turnaround <http://www.tolchurch.com/>

The Viola Union Mission Church meets Sunday morning at either 10:30am or 11am. It's located just above the starting line for the half. We're using their parking lot as an overflow lot this year.

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.

Lodging:

Clarion Inn :Exit 137 As mentioned elsewhere on our web site, the Clarion has a special rate either Saturday night and/or Sunday night. This is also the closest motel from our race site. 304-366-5500.

Super 8: Exit 133 2208 Pleasant Valley Road, Fairmont 304 363-1488. No special race rate but the Super 8 & the Comfort Inn & Suites help fill the "coffers" of the Town of Pleasant Valley.

The Town of Pleasant Valley is a big sponsor of our summer race. Next door to Cracker Barrel & Fazolis (which has cheap pasta)

Clarion Inn & Suites Exit 133 1185 Airport Road, Fairmont. . No special race rate but the Super 8 & the Comfort Inn & Suites help fill the “coffers” of the Town of Pleasant Valley. The Town of Pleasant Valley is a big sponsor of our summer race. Note: I do not recommend eating at DJ’s Diner. Great atmosphere, nice desserts but poorly cooked entres. Especially avoid the alfredo pasta.