

Elkins, WV



# ELKINS DEPOT

WELCOME CENTER

EST. 2006

Come to the Depot for all your  
information needs!

Elkins and Randolph County

Area Attractions

Rail Excursions



Food and Lodging

State Parks

Jan- March: Wed - Sun, 10am - 5pm

April - Oct: 7 Days a Week, 9am - 5pm

Nov - Dec: Tues - Sun, 10am - 5pm

315 Railroad Avenue, Elkins, WV 26241

(304) 635-7803

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



Elkins Depot Welcome Center

# History of Elkins Depot



Situated on a bend of the Tygart Valley River, the City of Elkins was incorporated in 1890 by Senators Henry Gassaway Davis and Stephen B. Elkins. The city acted as the headquarters for their vast timber, coal and railroad empire.

Named after the junior senator, the City of Elkins also served as the senators' summer retreat from Washington, D.C.

Davis and Elkins started a logging business, developed railroad lines and coal mines. Together, they built the WV Central and Pittsburgh Railway into Elkins and opened a vast territory to industrial development in the late 1890s. With those developments, Elkins started its building boom. The city attracted hundreds of rail and logging workers as well as business entrepreneurs, all looking to call Elkins their home.

Davis sold his railroad interests to the Western Maryland Railway Company in 1905. In 1908 the Western Maryland Railway Company built the current train depot. It replaced two previous depots—a wood frame passenger depot and a large freight depot. The original depot was built in 1889 and was located just north of the current station, and the freight depot was located just to the south.



As the railroad expanded, Elkins experienced the luxury of passenger train service. By 1930, eighteen passenger trains were arriving and leaving Elkins daily, filling the air with the coal dust of steam locomotives. By the late 1950s, passenger service was discontinued; and, by the end of the 1980s, all rail service ended. However, at the turn of the 21st century, the revitalization of the rail yard began.

The Elkins Depot Welcome Center, the central location for tourist information, started serving the area in 2006. The construction of a new bridge at the south end of the old Western Maryland rail yard



was completed in 2007. This gave the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad the opportunity to lease the depot for their excursion trains. Today the Elkins Depot Welcome Center is open year-round and the railroad runs trains nine months out of the year.