The 2nd edition of Five-Star Trails: West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest has been completely revised. Veteran author Johnny Molloy used his decades of exploring West Virginia's largest national forest to choose only the best hikes, covering the mosaic of experiences to be had in the "Mon"—whether to rocky overlooks, deep into untamed wildernesses, to backcountry waterfalls, even to botanically rare and rich parcels—special places one and all. To this end, Molloy has completely rewritten the book, rehiking hikes from the previous edition and adding more than a doze.

The Monongahela National Forest is a must-visit for outdoor activities in West Virginia. Here are the nine best places to check out.

1. Spruce Knob is the highest point in the forest and in West Virginia. You can hike or drive to the lookout tower, which offers gorgeous views of the Allegheny Mountains. In every direction you look from the top of the tower, the massive forest is in front of you. The area also has picnic tables and trails to hike on.