

They come from all over, as was recently pointed out in 'Journals', AAA's national travel magazine; from as far away as Australia and Scandinavia, to visit the Kentucky Coal Museum and Portal 31, the nation's best coal museum and exhibition mine. And when they leave, they are invariably singing the praises of this one-of-a-kind experience that tells the story of coal mining in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Coal Museum and Portal 31 Exhibition Mine represents one of Kentucky's most valuable assets in educating the public about coal mining. Located in the picturesque mining communities of Benham and Lynch, both of which are reservoirs of coal mining history, the portal and museum are fast becoming one of the state's must-see destinations. In addition to national magazines like 'Journals' and 'Southern Living', newspapers from around the country—Ohio to California—have run feature stories on the museum and portal. It is debatable as to whether any single attraction has drawn more media attention in the past few years than has this combination.



MUSEUM HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

PORTAL 31 HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday - Saturday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Portal 31 Closed for the season: December 15 – March 15

2012 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

LABOR DAY

September 2

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

September 3

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

COLUMBUS DAY

October 7

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

October 8

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

THANKSGIVING

November 22

Closed

November 23 & November 24

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



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EXPLORE. DISCOVER. APPRECIATE.

Kentucky's Coal Mining History



THE KENTUCKY COAL MUSEUM

Benham, KY



The Kentucky Coal Museum opened in 1990 and is located in the four-story brick structure in Benham which served as the mining community's company store. Not only does the museum tell the story of coal, it reflects on the miner's lifestyle - what it meant to live in the closely protected confines of a mountain community, what the schools and churches were like, and the ways in which mining families entertained themselves. Loretta Lynn and her late husband Doolittle traveled to Benham prior to the opening of the museum to give their blessing to its Coal Miner's Daughter exhibit that is highlighted by replicas of the Butcher Hollow Home Place Front Porch, Maggard's General Store, and the Coal Company Business Office.



PORTAL 31 UNDERGROUND EXHIBITION MINE

Lynch, KY

Experience life as a coal miner through the unparalleled adventure of Portal 31, which offers a one-of-a-kind tour of the historic underground mine. At the Portal, guests can travel back in time via a mantrip, a train-like vehicle that will guide them through eight stops in the mine.



The development of Portal 31 was extensively studied and researched down to every detail, from the fabric in the clothing of the animatronic figures to the mining tools used by them. These details tell a story – the story of thousands of workers from the Deep South and Eastern Europe who traveled to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to build better lives for their families.

Experience the history of coal mining in Kentucky come alive before your eyes. Join us on this adventure!

ACCOMMODATIONS

Benham, KY

1.800.231.0627

Located across from the KY Coal Mining Museum, the Inn offers guests a special opportunity to step back in time and experience the spirit and hospitality of the people of Appalachia. Once a school for coal camp children, the Inn now offers elegant and comfortable accommodations to its guest while remaining true to its schoolhouse roots. The lockers—painted dark green—still exist. The room numbers each stand for a graduating class. You will even find some rooms have the original wood floors where students once learned their alphabet.



PORTAL 31 RV PARK

Lynch, KY

Portal 31 RV Park is located directly across from the Portal. With 12 hookups and eight primitive parking spaces, the park adds another option for local accommodations. The park offers a sewer dump station for tour buses and RV vehicles.

