Morgan County is on the northwestern edge of East Tennessee. Although the county is entirely on the Cumberland Plateau, it has two distinct topographic divisions. Its western and central parts, or three-fourths of its total area, is an eroded tableland. The county’s remaining fourth, on its southeastern side consists of a higher terrain of mountainous ridges and peaks between deeply cut stream valleys. This rugged terrain forms the southwestern side of Cumberland Mountains, a major subregion of the plateau province. Both topographic divisions are formed of nearly level beds of sandstones, conglomerates, shales, and siltstones along with several minable coal seams. All of these rock units are Pennsylvanian in age. Elevations on the plateau are generally higher along the county’s western and northwestern sides, about 1,500 to 1,700 feet. They gradually lower to 1,200 to 1,400 feet in the southwestern and south-central parts, and to the east along the base of Cumberland Mountains.

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