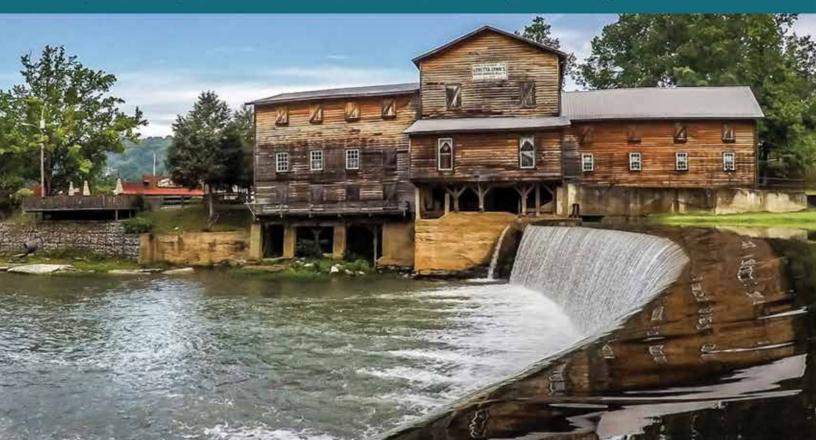


# America's Tennessee River Valley THERE IS AN ADVENTURE TO BE DISCOVERED

# TOUR ITINERARIES

Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee





## Welcome to America's Tennessee River Valley

Explore the range of experiences to be found in this spectacular geologically diverse valley sometimes called the "Great Lakes of the South." From white water to flat water paddling; from bouldering to wildflower hikes; from wakeboarding to sailing, from bass fishing to fly fishing; from antiquing to live music, there is an adventure waiting to be discovered by you.

The Tennessee River Valley is the watershed of the Tennessee River, one of the major tributaries of the Ohio River. Flowing 652 miles through 7 states- Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee, the river derives its name from the Cherokee town of Tanasi. An important river "highway" for travel, commerce, and exploration, the area was settled as early as 8000 years ago and explored by Spanish expeditions in 1540.

Today, the Tennessee River Valley is bursting with authentic places to go and things to do that is pure Americiana and rich in natural and cultural heritage.

# About the Tennessee River Valley Steward Council

The Tennessee River Valley Steward Council (TRVSC) is a volunteer organization formed in 2011. Members are tourism professional from the seven southeastern states the beautiful Tennessee River flows through.

TRVSC's purpose is to further the goals of geotourism to sustain and enhance the geographical character of local and regional communities and related public lands as tourism destinations.

TRV empowers destinations to tell the stories of people and places that instill reverence for landscape and culture, as well as stimulating local economic and community sustainability.

In partnership with National Geographic, the TRV MapGuide is an interactive online guide for destination information about authentic cultural, heritage, and recreational tourism. The MapGuide features Points of Interest nominated by locals, including: historic, cultural, and natural landmarks; music and arts festivals; outdoor adventures: and more.

### AMERICA'S TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY

### INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) Washington, D.C.

Charlotte/Douglas International Airport (CLT) Charlotte, North Carolina

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) Atlanta, Georgia

Huntsville International Airport (HSV) Huntsville, Alabama

Nashville International Airport (BNA) Nashville, Tennessee

Memphis International Airport (MEM) Memphis, Tennessee



### AMERICA'S TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY WEATHER

Located in America's mid-South region, the Tennessee River Valley enjoys a relatively mild and pleasant climate. The hottest days are mid-July, the coldest days mid-January (with occassional snowfall), and the wettest days are limited to the spring months.

### Temperature & Precipitation (averages)

remperature & recipitation (averages)			
Month	Daily High	Daily Low	Precipitation
Jan	46 F/8 C	28 F/-2 C	4.5 in/11.4 cm
Feb	51 F/11 C	30 F/-1 C	4 in/10.2 cm
Mar	60 F/16 C	38 F/3 C	5.6 in/14.2 cm
Apr	71 F/22 C	48 F/9 C	4.5 in/11.4 cm
May	79 F/26 C	57 F/14 C	4.6 in/11.7 cm
Jun	87 F/31 C	65 F/18 C	3.7 in/9.4 cm
Jul	90 F/32 C	69 F/21 C	3.8 in/9.7 cm
Aug	89 F/32 C	68 F/20 C	3.4 in/8.6 cm
Sep	83 F/28 C	61 F/16 C	3.7 in/9.4 cm
Oct	72 F/22 C	48 F/9 C	2.6 in/6.6 cm
Nov	59 F/15 C	38 F/3 C	3.5 in/8.9 cm
Dec	50 F/10 C	31 F/-1 C	4.6 in/11.7 cm

### AMERICA'S TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY TOUR ASSISTANCE CONTACT



Tennessee River Valley Stewardship Council P.O. Box 222 Sharps Chapel, TN 37866 Telephone: 865-278-3395 International Telephone: +1-865-278-3395 Email: www.ExploreTRV@gmail.com Web: www.ExploreTRV.com

Julie Graham
TRVSC Executive Director
Middle East Tennessee
Tourism Council





### AMERICA'S TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY

# MUSIC, MOUNTAINS AND MEMORIES - EAST

#### Arrival

- Knoxville International Airport, Knoxville, Tennessee
- Travel to your choice of accommodations in Sevierville, Pigeon Forge or Gatlinburg, Tennessee (all are adjoining cities.) 29 miles / 47 km

#### Day 1

Your tour begins in the heart of America's most visited national park, the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**, and the home of the country music star who has captured America's heart, **Dolly Parton**.

- > Start the day at the **Sevierville County Welcome Center.**Murals provide the history & heritage of the area.
- > Sevier County Courthouse and Dolly Parton statue. Sevierville is Dolly's hometown and the scenic statue is one of the most photographed spots in the region
- > Spend the day at **Dollywood** theme park for thrills, laughs, and music performances.

#### Day 2

- > Sugarlands Visitor Center is the primary point of contact for visitors entering Great Smoky Mountains National Park. View extensive natural history exhibits and a free 20-minute film about Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- > **The Old Mill**, dating back to the 1800's and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, one of the most photographed mills in the country.
- > Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A must see is the observation tower at the top of Clingmans Dome, the highest point in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at 6,643 feet (2024.786 meters). Driving tours and stops at historic buildings for accents.
- > Travel to Knoxville for evening meal and accommodations.

#### Day 3

- > Cradle of Country Music Walking Tour in downtown Knoxville. Walking tour takes approximately two hours. Includes jazz, blues, rock and roll, and country music history. This free self-guided walking tour explains Knoxville's ties to Hank Williams, Elvis Presley, Howard Armstrong, Dolly Parton, the Everly Brothers, Roy Acuff, and others.
- > WDVX Blue Plate Special® is a live performance radio show held at noon at the WDVX studio inside the Knoxville Visitor Center Monday through Thursday and again on Saturday.
- > Three Rivers Rambler. This vintage steam engine train takes guests on a 90-minute excursion through some of Knoxville's most historic and beautiful countryside.
- > Travel to Chattanooga, Tennesse for evening meal and accommodations. 112 miles / 180 km

#### Day 4

> **Songbirds Guitar Museum**. a world class vintage guitar museum that features two venues for weekly live performances! The guitar collection is unsurpassed in quality.

To customize your tour or to extend

your visit combine the East & West

itineraries into a 10 day-plus tour

to allow for extra travel time.

Tennessee Aquarium. Chattanooga's most visited attraction and rated the #1 aquarium in the country for visitor satisfaction. Sharks, otters, butterflies and penguins are the most popular amongst the 10,000+ animals in two separate buildings on the Chattanooga waterfront.

#### Day 5

- Ride the The Lookout Mountain Incline Railway to the top of Lookout Mountain. One of the steepest passenger railways in the world. Ride takes approdximately 15 minutes.
- > **Battles for Chattanooga Museum.** Located on top of Lookout Mountain. Offers a 3-dimensional presentation of Chattanooga's Civil War history featuring theater-seating and audio tape presentation.
- > Ruby Falls. Discover a World of Wonder! Ruby Falls, a thundering 145-foot (44.196 meter) waterfall, is located deep within Lookout Mountain and has been thrilling visitors for over 80 years.

#### Day 6

- > Depart for Fort Payne, Alabama. 53 miles / 85.29 km
- > **ALABAMA** band fan club and museum. Newly remodeled, state of the art museum, featuring over 50 years of music memorabilia.
- > City Park, feature life size statues of the music supergroup ALABAMA.
- Driving tour along the rim of Little River Canyon National Preserve.
   Optional stop at the Little River Canyon Center.
- > Travel to Huntsville, Alabama for evening meal and accommodations. 68 miles / 109 km

#### Day 7

- > Burritt on the Mountain. Unique museum of regional history is housed in a 14-room mansion built in the shape of an X in the 1930's. The Historic Park contains restored farm buildings which interpret rural life during 1850 and 1900.
- > Alabama Constitution Hall Historic Park & Museum. Step inside the picket fence and be transported back to 1819. 90-minute guided tours at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm recommended for ages 12 and up.
- > Depart from Huntsville International Airport or travel to Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee (111 miles / 179 km) for departure.

### AMERICA'S TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY

# MUSIC, MOUNTAINS AND MEMORIES - WEST

#### Arriva

- Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee
- Overnight in Nashville, Tennessee

#### Day 1

- > Travel to Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. 76 miles / 122 km
- Loretta Lynn's Ranch. Loretta Lynn is a Grammy-winning singer-songwriter known for "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Woman of the World," "Love Is the Foundation" and 'Feelins', among many other hits. This day-long visit to the rach includes five museums, Coal Miner's Daughter Museum, Doll and Fan Museum, Loretta's Frontier Homestead, Grist Mill Museum, and the. Native American Artifacts Museum
- Saslight Dinner Theater for evening meal en route back to Nashville accommodation. (Distance from Loretta Lynn's Ranch to Dinner Theater is 45 miles / 72 km,) Gaslight Dinner Theater is West Tennessee's Premier Dinner Theatre! Located in the heart of historic downtown Dickson, the GDT offers a delicious buffet meal and Broadway style professional show.
- > Overnight in Nashville.

#### Day 2

- > Travel to Huntsville, Alabama. (111 miles / 179 km)
- > Town of Mooresville, Alabama. The first town incorporated by the Alabama Territorial Legislature, on November 16, 1818. The entire town is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is one of Alabama's most important and intact villages. Site of the filming of Disney's movie "Tom & Huck."
- > **1818 Farms.** Enjoy a hands-on farm life experience with rare sheep, pigs, goats, Buff Orpington and Americauna chickens, barn cats, and Great Pyrenees dogs at 1818 Farms in the historic village of Mooresville.
- > Lunch at Old Greenbrier Restaurant. Surrounded by cotton fields, Old Greenbrier Restaurant still dons its original rustic décor while serving some of the best fried catfish, hickory smoked pork and chicken and coleslaw in the Tennessee Valley.
- Historic Huntsville Depot. Climb aboard locomotives and Huntsville's first ladder fire truck, discover graffiti written by actual Civil War soldiers, and listen as Andy Barker, the robotic ticket agent, tells of Alabama's railway history
- > Overnight in Huntsville.

#### Day 3

> U. S. Space and Rocket Center. Explore man's efforts to land on the moon and beyond. The Space and Rocket Center is the largest space museum in the world and Alabama's most visited attraction. (full day)

#### Day 4

- > Travel to Tuscumbia, Alabama. (69 miles / 111 km)
- > Alabama Music Hall of Fame. You'll experience the story of the state's contribution to our music heritage through artifacts, photographs and text panels in exhibits on more than 1,000 stars.

To customize your tour or to extend

your visit combine the East & West

itineraries into a 10 day-plus tour

to allow for extra travel time.

- > **FAME Recording Studios.** Established in 1959, FAME was first successful, professional recording studio in Alabama. The internationally acclaimed documentary, "Muscle Shoals", released in 2013, features the studio.
- Wishbone Recording Stuio. Established in 1976, artists recorded at Wishbone Studios include: Roy Orbison, Charlie Daniels, Waylon Jennings, Wayne Newton, Hank Williams Jr, John Kay, Shenandoah, Peter Noone, and HOT.
- Singing River Sculptures. Three sculptures, each 18-20 ft tall, and sculpted out of recycled aluminum.
- > Overnight in Tuscumbia.

#### Day

- > Florence Indian Mound and Museum. The mound rises from history-43 feet high 913 meters), the largest trove of ancient tools, pottery, jewelry, and pipes in Alabama. See the spear points that killed mammoths and mastadons as the Ice Age retreated and the Tennessee Valley sprouted green
- > W. C. Handy Birthplace, Museum & Library . W.C. Handy, The Father of the Blues, was born in Florence in 1873 in a simple cabin that today houses a large collection of his personal papers, memorabilia and artifacts.
- > **Helen Keller Home.** The plantation home and birthplace cottage dating back to the 1820s are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Day 6

- > Depart for Shiloh, Tennessee. 63 miles / 101 km
- Shiloh National Military Park. The 4,200-acre Shiloh National Military Park preserves the battlefield of the Battle of Shiloh. The two-day battle took place on April 6 and April 7, 1862.
- > **Tennessee River Museum.** The building was constructed in 1939 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- > Driving tour of **Rockabilly Murals in** Selmer, Tennessee.
- > Overnight in Jackson, Tennessee.

#### Day 7

- > Travel to Camden, Tennessee. 63 miles / 101 km
- > Pearl Farm at Birdsong Marina. Features guided tours of the nation's only fresh-water pearl farm.
- > Depart from Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee (100miles / 160 km) for departure.



### AMERICA'S TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY

# LEGENDS, LORE AND LANDSCAPES - EAST

#### Arrival

- Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee
- Travel to your choice of accommodations in Knoxville, Tennessee. (179 miles / 288 km) for departure.

#### Day 1

- > Start the day at the **James White's Fort.** The home of James White, founder of Knoxville, furnished with original tools and artifacts for the period.
- > **Blount Mansion.** The 1792 home of Gov. William Blount, signer of the U.S. Constitution. Experience "The Birthplace of Tennessee" with historical exhibits and an art gallery.
- > **East Tennessee History Center**. Ever-changing, award-winning exhibits tell the history of the people, places and events that shaped this region.
- > Farragut Museum. A treasure chest of artifacts and photographs which tell the history of the Farragut and Concord communities.
- > Overnight in Knoxville, Tennessee.

#### Day 2

- > **Sunsphere.** Built for the 1982 World's Fair (one of the last successful World's Fairs), this iconic feature of the Knoxville skyline is the only structure of its kind
- > Travel to Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
- > American Museum of Science & Energy. Learn how 75,000 people kept a secret during World War II in an effort to end the war. From the frontier of Appalachia to the frontier of the nuclear age, you'll learn about Oak Ridge's leading-edge technology that continues to earn the US the title of "Super Power."
- > DOE's Manhattan Project Public Bus Tour. Get a glimpse of life behind the fence in America's Secret City. You'll tour Y-12's New Hope Visitors Center, Bethel Valley Church, the Graphite Reactor at ORNL, the Spallation Neutron Source, and the former K-25 site.
- > Overnight in Knoxville, Tennessee.

#### Day 3

- > **Sequoyah Birthplace Museum.** Dedicated to Sequoyah, who gave his people a gift that will endure forever. He gave them a writing system, so that the greatness of the Cherokee could live as a part of history.
- > Fort Loudoun State Historic Park. Visit a replica of the 18th Century British fort that stood very near this site in the mid-1700's.
- > Continue on to Chattanooga, Tennessee for evening meal and accommodations.

#### Day 4

> **Tunnel Hill Heritage Center and Historic Railroad Tunnel.** Featuring the one and only engineering marvel of its time, the Western and Atlantic Railroad tunnel, as well as the Tunnel Museum and the Clisby Austin House.

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> Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (NMP). The oldest and largest of America's Civil War parks, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (NMP), commemorates the 1863 battles for Chattanooga that marked a major turning point in the war.

#### Day 5

- > Hiwassee River Rail Adventure. The L&N Old Line Railroad, known today as the "Old Line," is the only railroad line in the state of Tennessee located in a Historic District and listed on the National Register of Historic Place. passengers board shuttle buses at the historic L&N Depot in Etowah, Tennessee for a short ride to the train boarding area. The train takes passengers on a 3 hour scenic round trip journey through the Cherokee National Forest, alongside the Hiwassee River and Gorge and then around the historic Hiwassee Loop.
- > **Tennessee Aquarium.** Chattanooga's most visited attraction and rated the #1 aquarium in the country for visitor satisfaction. Sharks, otters, butterflies and penguins are the most popular amongst the 10,000+ animals in two separate buildings on the Chattanooga waterfront.

#### Day 6

- > Travel to Cleveland, Tennessee. 31 miles / 49 km
- > **Museum Center at 5ive Points**. Experience Southern Appalachian regional history dating from Cherokee history up to today in an exciting, interactive exhibit called the River of Time.
- > Tuckaleechee Caverns. These caverns were discovered in the mid-19th century and were opened to the public by Bill Vananda and Harry Myers in 1953
- > Continue on to overnight in Knoxville, Tennessee.

#### Day 7

- > **Historic Homes of Knoxville.** From log cabins to frame houses to stately stone mansions, these 7 Knoxville landmarks invite you into the past to experience the times and events that shaped our state.
- > Travel to Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee (179 miles / 288 km) for departure.

### AMERICA'S TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY

# LEGENDS, LORE AND LANDSCAPES - WEST

#### Arriva

- Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee
- Overnight in Nashville, Tennessee

#### Day 1

- > Travel to Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. 76 miles / 122 km
- Loretta Lynn's Ranch. Loretta Lynn is a Grammy-winning singer-songwriter known for "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Woman of the World," "Love Is the Foundation" and 'Feelins', among many other hits. This day-long visit to the rach includes five museums, Coal Miner's Daughter Museum, Doll and Fan Museum, Loretta's Frontier Homestead, Grist Mill Museum, and the. Native American Artifacts Museum
- > Continue on to Paducah, Kentucky. Dinner and overnight in Paducah. 136 miles / 218 km

#### Day 2

- > River Discovery Center. Celebrate Paducah's maritime legacy and lore with interactive water-filled exhibits, including a working model of a lock and dam.
- William Clark Market House Museum. Artifacts from Paducah's past are staged within the meticulously reconstructed elaborate gingerbread woodwork of an 1876 drugstore.
- > Lloyd Tilghman House & Civil War Museum. Former residence of Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, CSA and West Point graduate, highlights western Kentucky's role in the War Between the States.
- > Paducah "Wall to Wall" Murals. Robert Dafford and the Dafford Murals
  Team capture Paducah's history in life-sized paintings on the city's floodwall.
- > Overnight in Paducah.

#### Day 3

- > Travel to Eva, Tennessee. 173 miles / 278 km
- > Tennessee River Folklife Interpretive Center and Museum. The Tennessee River Folklife Interpretive Center and Museum is situated on one of the highest points in West Tennessee, Pilot Knob located in Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. Visitors can learn about General Forrest's attack on Johnsonville, river navigation, logging, commercial fishing and musselling along the Tennessee River.
- > Lunch at Country and Western Steakhouse, Camden, Tennessee.
- > Continue on to Tuscumbia, Alabama for dinner and overnight accommodations. 120 miles / 193 km

#### Day 4

- > Depart for Shiloh, Tennessee. 63 miles / 101 km
- > Shiloh National Military Park. The 4,200-acre Shiloh National Military Park

preserves the battlefield of the Battle of Shiloh. The two-day battle took place on April 6 and April 7, 1862.

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your visit combine the East & West

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to allow for extra travel time.

- > **Tennessee River Museum.** The building was constructed in 1939 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- > Driving tour of **Rockabilly Murals in** Selmer, Tennessee.
- > Return to Tuscumbia to overnight.

#### Day 5

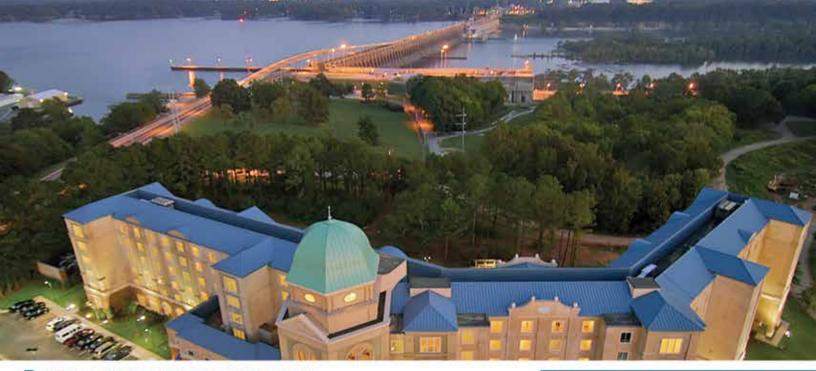
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- > Singing River Sculptures. Three sculptures, each 18-20 ft tall, and sculpted out of recycled aluminum.
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#### Day

- > Florence Indian Mound and Museum. The mound rises from history-43 feet high 913 meters), the largest trove of ancient tools, pottery, jewelry, and pipes in Alabama. See the spear points that killed mammoths and mastadons as the Ice Age retreated and the Tennessee Valley sprouted green
- > W. C. Handy Birthplace, Museum & Library . W.C. Handy, The Father of the Blues, was born in Florence in 1873 in a simple cabin that today houses a large collection of his personal papers, memorabilia and artifacts.
- > Helen Keller Home. The plantation home and birthplace cottage dating back to the 1820s are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Day 7

- > Travel to Oakville, Alabama. 88 miles / 141 km
- > **Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum.** Honors the life and accomplishments of the Olympic sprinter and gold medalist and has a mission to educate the public of the legacy of his contributions to athletics and humankind.
- > Depart from Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee (117miles / 188 km) for departure.



### AMERICA'S TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY

# A DAM GOOD TOUR (AND NICE PLACES TO SEE)

TVA operates 49 dams in the river valley. This tour selects a few of the unique ones. Tour may be expanded to include more destinations.

#### Arriva

- Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee
- Travel to your choice of accommodations in Knoxville, Tennessee. (179 miles / 288 km) for departure.
- Please note all of the dams listed include Visitor Centers.

#### Day 1

- > Travel to Fontana Village, North Carolina. in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. 29 miles / 47 km
- > **Fontana Dam**. At 480 ft. (146 meters), Fontana Dam is the tallest concrete dam east of the Rocky Mountains. Offers beautiful scenery in the area.
- > **Sevier County Courthouse** and **Dolly Parton statue.** Seviervillle is Dolly's hometown and the scenic statue is one of the most photographed spots in the region.
- > Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A must see is the observation tower at the top of Clingmans Dome, the highest point in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at 6,643 feet (2024.786 meters).

#### Day 2

- Norris Dam. Located north of Knoxville. Norris features numerous hiking trails. The River Bluff Trail is the longest at 3.1 miles and offers rich pockets of wildflowers.
- > Travel to Gatlinburg. 29 miles / 47 km
- Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. The public is welcome year-round to visit the campus and view artwork by local, national, and international artists in the school's five galleries
- > Overnight in Knoxville.

#### Day 3

- > Travel to Lenoir City, Tennessee. 26 miles/41 km
- Melton Hill Dam. Melton Hill Reservoir has a nationally recognized rowing course and is a spring training site for collegiate teams from throughout the eastern United States. The reservoir has hosted a number of national championships.
- Continue on to Chattanooga, Tennessee for evening meal and accommodations.

#### Day 4

- > Raccoon Mountain/Laurel Point Dam. West of Chattanooga. Yhe visitor center features maps, videos and displays explaining Raccoon Mountain, TVA's history and its activities today. The overlook at the visitor center offers a spectacular view of the river gorge The area around Raccoon Mountain is a state-designated Wildlife Observation Area.
- > **Southern Belle Riverboat**. Sightseeing and dinner cruises in Chattanooga.

#### Day 5

- > Travel to Guntersville, Alabama. 73 miles / 141 km
- > Tour **Guntersville Dam**. Construction of Guntersville Dam began in 1935 and was completed in 1939.
- Cathedral Caverns State Park. Originally called Bat Cave, Cathedral Caverns was opened to the public by Jacob Gurley in the 1950's. The cave was renamed because of its cathedral-like appearance. The massive entrance measures 126 feet wide and 25 feet high (38m x 7.6 m), a possible world record for commercial caves.
- > Overnight Lake Guntersville State Park Resort.

#### Day 6

- > Travel to Decatur, Alabama. 44 miles / 72 km
- > Tour Cook Museum of Natural Science. The 62,000 square foot Cook Museum offers an interactive immersion into North American Biomes, from deserts to oceans, to arctic tundra to hardwood forests.
- > Lunch at the Cook Museum of Natural Science.
- > Travel to Florence, Alabama driving over Wheeler Dam enroute. 48 miles / 67 km
- > Tour Wilson Dam. Construction of Wilson Dam began in 1918 and was completed in 1924.
- > Overnight in Florence overlooking Wilson Dam.

#### Day 7

- > Tour Helen Keller Home and Museum. The plantation home and birthplace cottage dating back to the 1820s are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- > Depart for Nashville International Airport, Nashville, Tennessee. 117miles / 188 km