



**CITIZENS
TRI-COUNTY
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Blue Ridge Parkway

4 Days September 7-10, 2024

Did you know the Blue Ridge Parkway could connect Daniel Boone with Andy Griffith? This package links "America's Favorite Drive" to the happy days of post war suburbia. A time when highways were expanding, tourist destinations were being built and television was just beginning. It's beautiful in the North Carolina High Country, the air is fresh and there's hint of nostalgia everywhere.

Tour Highlights:

- Travel along the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Mast General Store Boone
- Appalacian Theatre Tour & Entertainment
- Emerald Village Gem Mine
- Grandfather Mountain
- Visit to Blowing Rock
- Hickory Ridge Living History Museum & Entertainment
- Ride on Tweetsie Railroad w/lunch
- Mayberry Squad Car Tour
- Andy Griffith Museum
- Free Time on Main St. in Mount Airy, NC
- Three Nights First Class Lodging
- Three Hotel Breakfasts
- Two Lunches
- Three Dinners
- Luggage Handling (when available)
- All Taxes & Tips on Above Services
- Motorcoach Transportation & Driver's Gratuity

Per Person Prices:

\$1,815 DOUBLE

\$1,715 TRIPLE...\$1,615 QUAD...\$2,215 SINGLE

\$150 per person deposit with reservation
Final Payment due August 7, 2024

Cancellation Waiver is Available

\$120 per person Double, Triple & Quad
\$150 Single Occupancy

For More Information Contact:

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Day 1 – Boone, NC – Boone’s Mast General Store – Dinner at Daniel Boone Inn Restaurant - This morning, hop on your motorcoach and head to the Blue Ridge Parkway for breathtaking beauty and scenic views. Arriving today in Boone, NC, start with a stop at the Mast General Store where they have something for everyone! Clothes, cookbooks, cookie cutter, knives, puzzles, decorative signs, gadgets of all kinds, candies, and toys from way back, the best fried apple pies and traditional mercantile goods.

Then check into your hotel in the Boone, NC area for a two-night stay. This evening, your meal will be served family-style with down-home southern comfort food at the Daniel Boone Inn. With tasty, Fried Chicken, Country Style Steak, Country Ham Biscuits, and so much more.

After dinner, enjoy a guided tour of the restored Appalachian Theatre of the High Country. Learn the history of the theatre and the area with the knowledgeable staff as they take you through. Afterwards enjoy some entertainment at the theatre. (as available, 2024 schedule has not been released yet.) (D)

Day 2 - Tweetsie Railroad Ride w/lunch – The Blowing Rock – Emerald Village Gem Mine – Hickory Ridge History Museum – Pioneer Dinner & Entertainment - This morning, head to Tweetsie Railroad where you enjoy a ride on one of their steam locomotives: the #12 "Tweetsie" or the #190 "Yukon Queen." Both locomotives are coal-fired narrow-gauge engines, built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia. Before entering service at Tweetsie Railroad, the locomotives were put into operating condition by Tweetsie's on-site steam train repair shop. A boxed lunch will be provided.

Next, visit Blowing Rock which is an immense cliff 4,000 feet above sea level, overhanging Johns River Gorge 3,000 feet below. The phenomenon is so called because the rocky walls of the gorge form a flume through which the northwest wind sweeps with such force that it returns light objects cast over the void.

The current of air flowing upward from The Rock prompted the Ripley’s “Believe-It-Or-Not” cartoon about “the only place in the world where snow falls upside down.” Visible from “The Rock” down the gorge to the southwest are Hawksbill Mountain and Table Rock. To the west are Grandfather Mountain (the highest peak in the Blue Ridge chain) and Mount Mitchell (the highest peak east of the Mississippi).

Then get your mining pans ready to discover gemstones and ore... galore! At the Emerald Village Gem Mine, you'll start off at the NC Mining Museum with a digital slide show. Next a trained guide leads you on a tour of the underground Bon Ami Mine. Each member gets a color gem identification chart and a free specimen of Mica. Then you visit the Gemstone Mine flume and each person is provided with a bucket of gemstone mix to search through for a genuine rough gems.

The afternoon includes a tour of the Hickory Ridge Living History Museum. Staffed with historic interpreters in period clothing, Hickory Ridge History Museum's series of authentic, historic cabins give visitors a glimpse into the past and a feeling for the daily lives of early mountain settlers. Focused on the period of 1785 - 1805, the museum provides insight into the self-sufficiency of our forefathers by highlighting the skills they possessed such as hearth side cooking, spinning, candle making, and blacksmithing.

This evening you will have dinner at the Museum. Enjoy a real Pioneer meal with entertainment. The mainstays of a pioneer diet were simple fare like potatoes, beans and rice, but your dinner will add a little bit more for you to enjoy. (B, L, D)

Day 3 – Mount Airy, NC - Squad Car Tour of Mayberry – Andy Griffith Museum – This morning, you're off to visit “Mayberry” which starts off with a Squad Car Tour! Where else can you ride in Barney’s car except in Mayberry (Mount Airy, NC)? Cruise on over to Andy’s Homeplace then ride in Mayberry style down Main Street past Floyd’s Barber Shop and Snappy Lunch. You’ll cruise by other Mayberry attractions like The Andy Griffith Playhouse, The Old Jail and the Visitors Center – Home of the Andy Griffith Museum. While at Wally’s don’t miss the best photo opportunity of the day – your photo in front of the Squad Car, a photo that says Mayberry like nowhere else.

After cruisin' the streets of "Mayberry" you'll visit the Andy Griffith Museum. Start with a guided Behind the Scenes tour beginning in the Playhouse and ending where Andy first performed on stage at his high school. Then you will have time to visit the museum's collections featuring hundreds of items from the life and career of Andy Griffith in movies, television and music as well as a variety of memorabilia. There are even actual props from The Andy Griffith Show and Matlock given by Andy Griffith himself.

Check into your hotel in the Mount Airy, NC area for an overnight stay. Dinner tonight is at the Depot Restaurant. Your Senses are captured as you pass through the front door. The natural decor of wood, rock, and water lends a rustic aura to the completely functional water wheel that takes your breath as you see it for the first time. Couple this with the aroma of fresh grilled steaks, ribs, chicken, chops and seafood, and you can't leave unfulfilled. (B,D)

Day 4 - Grandfather Mountain – Depart for Home - This morning after checking out of the hotel, you'll make the trek to Grandfather Mountain which is the tallest mountain in The Blue Ridge Mountains. You will enjoy the breathtaking view, Swinging Bridge, walking trails and animals in their natural habitat and the museum. A boxed lunch will be provided while there. After your scenic visit, you depart for home with fond memories of your trip. (B,L)