

Springtime in the Smokies

April 22nd-25th, 2025

Reserve by contacting Friends On Board • Email: yourfriendsonboard@gmail.com • Phone: 937-564-8017



From wildflowers galore to fun-filled activities, you'll love experiencing spring in the magical Smoky Mountains. Visit Asheville and the historic Biltmore Estate & Omni Grove Park Inn. Get a front-row view of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Nantahala National Forest, Fontana Lake, extraordinary trestles, pristine mountain rivers, historic structures, and stunning foliage with a ride on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad. Then, come face-to-face with one of nature's most awe-inspiring creatures—the American black bear - at Three Bears General Store.

Per Person Pricing

Double Occupancy \$1799

Single Occupancy \$2099

Important Information

Transportation: Deluxe motor coach transportation is included.

Meals: Breakfast is included daily, as well as two lunches & two dinners.

Entrance Fees & Gratuities: All entry fees & tips for activities & guides are included as part of your tour package.

Deposit & Final Payment: \$300 per person is due at the time of registration. Final payment is due on/before **February 14th, 2025.**

Program at a Glance (See Next Page for Full Description)

Day 1: Travel via deluxe motor coach to Gatlinburg, TN (Dinner)
Overnight Edgewater Hotel

Day 2: Biltmore Estate & Gardens; Omni Grove Park Inn (Breakfast, Dinner)
Overnight Edgewater Hotel

Day 3: Great Smoky Mountain Railroad; Great Smoky Mountain Train Museum; The Island at Pigeon Forge (Breakfast, Lunch)
Overnight Edgewater Hotel

Day 4: Three Bears General Store; Applewood Farmhouse; Return to Greenville (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day-by-Day in Detail

Tuesday, April 22nd - We will depart this morning and arrive in Gatlinburg, TN by mid-afternoon. Check-in to the Edgewater Hotel and enjoy free time in downtown Gatlinburg prior to tonight's included dinner at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.

Wednesday, April 23rd - Following breakfast, depart for Asheville, NC and arrive at the Biltmore Estate & Gardens. Experience America's Largest Home, as magnificent today as it was more than a century ago. Take time to explore the grounds & shops and have lunch on your own at Stable Café. Biltmore's 8,000 acres consist of six formal & informal gardens, a Conservatory, and trails connecting them to the French Broad River, the estate's Deer Park, Lagoon, Farmyard, and woodlands. Later this afternoon, your self-guided audio tour of the house begins and spans four floors of the luxurious family home of George & Edith Vanderbilt. Following the tour, depart for the Omni Grove Park Inn. The historical resort hotel is on the slope of Sunset Mountain within the Blue Ridge Mountains. Enjoy an included buffet dinner at the historic lodge before returning to Gatlinburg.

Thursday, April 24th - After breakfast, depart for Bryson City. Upon arrival, board the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad. Enjoy the sights & sounds of the Great Smoky Mountains while traveling along the Tennessee & Nantahala Rivers during this 4-hour excursion. The historic trellis bridge, Fontana Trestle, takes you across Fontana Lake and into the beautiful Nantahala Gorge. A boxed lunch is included for you to enjoy along the way. Upon return to the depot, walk 1 block to the Great Smoky Mountain Trains Museum. With its collection of 7,000 Lionel™ engines, cars & accessories, impressive operating layout, gift & toy shops, the museum has something for everyone! This evening, visit The Island in Pigeon Forge for free time & dinner on your own. The Island boasts 23 acres of entertainment, shopping, & dining, along with a 200-foot Observation Wheel and a Fountain Show.

Friday, April 25th - Following breakfast & hotel check-out, visit Three Bears General Store, a beloved family-owned beacon in the heart of Pigeon Forge. Since opening their doors in 1979, they have grown from a modest local shop into a sprawling 40,000ft² wonderland that captures the essence of the Smoky Mountains & the spirit of family. A highlight of the General Store is their onsite bear habitat! This specially designed 5,000ft² habitat provides a secure and nurturing environment for these American Black Bears, allowing them to thrive. Observe their playful antics, learn about their daily habits, and gain a deeper appreciation for these magnificent animals in a setting that prioritizes their well-being and your viewing pleasure. You may even have the opportunity to feed them! After, continue to the Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant for free time & a delicious lunch before departing for home. Arrive in Greenville later tonight. Meal & rest stops will be made en route.

