# Nashville, Smoky Mountains, and Bluegrass

Take in the sights and sounds of Nashville, Gatlinburg, and Asheville. Enjoy reserved seats at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. Tour historic RCA Studio B and see where country legends recorded hit songs. A visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame is sure to have you hummin' and strummin' long after you leave Nashville. Explore the natural wonders of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Then, travel to Asheville, North Carolina, and enjoy the city's historic architecture, engaging neighborhoods, and robust arts districts. Tour the Biltmore Estate, George Vanderbilt's "little mountain escape" in the Blue Ridge Mountains, elaborately adorned for the holidays. When you leave, you'll still have the warmth and charm of the South in your heart.

# **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

2 Nights in Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland Resort, Churchill Downs, Kentucky Horse Park, Evan Williams Bourbon Experience, The Ark Encounter, Biltmore Estate, Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, Smoky Mountains National Park, Dollywood, Nashville City Tour, Country Music Hall of Fame, Grand Ole Opry, 3 Nights - Louisville, KY, 2 Nights - Gatlinburg, TN

## **ITINERARY**

# Day 1: FLIGHT TO LOUISVILLE, KY

Arrive in Louisville, Kentucky, known as the "Bluegrass State." Meet your Tour Director and transfer to your hotel for a three-night stay. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers. Meals included: Dinner

#### **DAY 2: LOUISVILLE**

Today, visit Churchill Downs, the thoroughbred racetrack most famous for hosting the annual Kentucky Derby. Enjoy a tour of the museum to learn about the legendary history of the Kentucky Derby. Later visit the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, which showcases the history of the Louisville Slugger brand of baseball bats, the official bat of Major League Baseball. This afternoon visits the Evan Williams Bourbon Experience for a distillery experience and tasting which celebrates the legacy of Evan Williams, Kentucky's first distiller and namesake of Heaven Hill's flagship Bourbon brand. Meals included: Breakfast

## **DAY 3: ARK ENCOUNTER**

This morning head north to Williamstown to see the life-size replica of Noah's Ark, The Ark Encounter, the largest timber frame structure in the world, which opened in 2016 and was built to the dimensions given in the Bible. Built-in part by an Amish craftsman, the structure measures 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high and is a modern engineering marvel featuring 3 decks of exhibits. Later return to Louisville and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 4: LOUISVILLE — LEXINGTON — GATLINBURG

Today travel south through lush, rolling terrain toward Tennessee. Stop in Lexington and visit the Kentucky Horse Park, a working horse farm and the world's only park

dedicated to man's relationship with the horse. Hear behind-the-scenes stories about the individuals and horses that make Lexington "The Horse Capital of the World." See other historic estates of the Bluegrass Region as well as shiny-new, multi-million dollar farms of international movers and shakers. Later arrive in Gatlinburg for a two-night stay in one of America's great mountain resort destinations & a gateway to Smoky Mountains National Park. Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 5: SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK - BILTMORE ESTATE

Today visit our nation's most visited National Park, Smoky Mountains National Park, world-renowned for the diversity of its plant and animal life, the beauty of its mountains, and the quality of its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture. Continue onto Asheville, NC, to tour a four-acre masterpiece of the Vanderbilt family, the Biltmore Estate. America's largest home boasts 250 rooms, 65 fireplaces, a 70,000-gallon indoor pool, a bowling alley, and priceless art and antiques. The grounds also feature 75 acres of formal gardens and a winery. Later return to Gatlinburg for an evening at your own pace. Meals included: Breakfast

#### DAY 6: GATLINBURG — PIGEON FORGE — NASHVILLE

Today travel to nearby Pigeon Forge to visit Dollywood, the entertainment theme park owned by the legendary Dolly Parton. The park features live entertainment showcasing the best in country, bluegrass, mountain, and gospel music with more than a dozen stage shows. Master craftsmen demonstrate centuries-old crafts, including blacksmithing, glass blowing, and wood carving. Later travel to Nashville, Music City, USA, and arrive at the amazing Gaylord Opryland Resort to begin a 2-night stay. The resort complex features three interior gardens under glass roofs including waterfalls, a river and lake system with passenger-carrying flatboats, and various restaurants, lounges, and shops. Meals included: Breakfast

#### DAY 7: NASHVILLE

Today enjoy a Nashville City Tour to see the State Capitol, famous Music Row, the Parthenon, which is a replica of the Acropolis in Greece, and the Old Ryman Auditorium, referred to as the "Mother Church" of country music. Later visit the Country Music Hall of Fame to see how country music has evolved through the past 70 years. The Hall of Fame features memorabilia and displays in a museum setting. This evening enjoys a Farewell Dinner and then a performance of America's longest-running radio show, The Grand Ole Opry. Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 8: NASHVILLE — HOME

Today fly home filled with wonderful memories of your Nashville, Smoky Mountains & Bluegrass Tour Meals included: Breakfast

# **AVERAGE TEMPERATURES & WHAT TO PACK**

Average Temperatures: High 82.6 ° F, low 61.2 °

September features mostly summer weather in Nashville. However, there can be a touch of Autumn by the end of the month.

Summer attire still works well, but also bring along some fall clothes, including a sweater, sweatshirt, or windbreaker, for the cooler nights and mornings that become more frequent later in the month.

Also bring some jeans, a pair of cowboy boots, and an umbrella for a few rainy days. Don't forget a good pair of walking shoes for your visit, as the downtown district is hilly, so comfortable footwear is a must.

# TRIP DETAILS

• Dates: Sept. 25-Oct. 3, 2024

• Length of Trip: 8 Days/ 11 Meals: 7 Breakfast & 4 Dinners

• Vendor: Premier World Discovery

• Digital Brochure

• Book Now!

• Call 877.953.8687 — Booking Number: 171163