

NASHVILLE & BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Includes 6 shows, Grand Ole Opry & Dollywood
September 11, 2020 ~ 11 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$6645 double/twin

\$7740 single

\$6535 triple



- > Tour is exempt from GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 12 seats; \$125 on next 8
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 109 points from this tour.
Redeem **109 points** if you book by **June 9**.

Includes

- Transportation to Seattle
- 10 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Flight from Seattle to Asheville, North Carolina
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Transfer from Asheville airport to hotel
- 8 days of coach transportation
- Guide for 10 days in North Carolina & Tennessee
- Chimney Rock Park with elevator to top
- Biltmore Estate and Gardens
- Biltmore Winery tour
- Smoky Mountain Opry show
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Locally-guided tour of Smoky Mountains Park
- Guided tour of Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery
- Hatfields & McCoys Dinner Feud show
- Dollywood Theme Park
- Country Tonite Show
- Ray Stevens' CabaRay Dinner Show
- Locally-guided tour of Nashville
- Wildhorse Saloon with line dancing
- Music of Nashville show
- Grand Ole Opry performance
- RCA Studio B tour
- Lunch with an exclusive show featuring a Nashville performer (details TBA)
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Transfer from hotel to Nashville airport
- Flight from Nashville to Victoria on WestJet
- Airline luggage fee for flight to Victoria
- Transportation from Victoria airport to your pickup point
- Gratuities to USA guides and drivers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **22 meals:** 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners

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The Heartland of American Music

The roots of so many of the most enduring and popular musical art forms were born in this region of America — rock, blues, country, and various combinations. Pigeon Forge is the little place that Dolly Parton calls home, and her theme park and her name have attracted country music legends to settle here. Sixteen theatres present an amazing variety of entertainment, and we have selected three of them for your enjoyment. Nashville is the home of country, with the mother church of country music, the *Grand Ole Opry*. Every corner bar and restaurant boasts a young talent ready to be discovered, so the opportunities for exceptional entertainment are everywhere. Add the Great Smoky Mountains, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the lovely city of Asheville, soaring Chimney Rock, imposing Biltmore mansion, and you have a magical musical tour!

Itinerary

Friday, September 11:

Transportation is arranged to Seattle where we stay overnight at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the airport. Get acquainted with your fellow travellers during a reception after arrival.

Saturday, September 12: *Meals: B*

We fly from Seattle to **Asheville, North Carolina**, arriving in the early evening. Our coach and guide meet us at the airport. We stay three nights at the Doubletree Hotel in Biltmore Village.

Sunday, September 13: *Meals: B, Brunch, D*

The beautiful city of Asheville has been heralded as one of the top artisan destinations, a favourite city for retirement, and one of the top places to visit in the world by Frommers. It is surrounded by the **Blue Ridge Mountains**, a 900-km long range that is part of the Appalachians. We take a drive east from Asheville to visit the towering monolith known as **Chimney Rock**. Ride the 26-storey elevator and climb a few stairs for an awesome view of the Hickory Nut Gorge and area. Nearby Lake Lure has been the filming location for many movies such as *Thunder Road* (1958), *A Breed Apart* (1984), *Dirty Dancing* (1987), *The Last of the Mohicans* (1992), and *Careful What You Wish For* (2016). A lavish Sunday brunch is served at historic **Lake Lure Inn**, built in 1927 and filled with antique furnishings. This afternoon, we stop at Highland Craft Guild to see some artisans at work and learn about the heritage of the Appalachian region.

Monday, September 14: *Meals: B,L,D*

Today, we visit an American castle, the fabulous **Biltmore Estate**. It was constructed for railroad magnate George Vanderbilt II between 1889 and 1895 and holds the record for the largest privately owned house in the United States as it is still in the Vanderbilt family. Our visit includes a self-guided tour of the 250-room mansion, a stroll through the extensive gardens, and a stop at Biltmore Winery.

After lunch at Deer Park Restaurant on the Biltmore grounds, we drive a short section of the **Blue Ridge Parkway**. This remarkable scenic road extends for 755 km through western North Carolina and Virginia, linking Shenandoah National Park to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It runs mostly along the spine of the Blue Ridge and reaches its highest point at 1,845 m.

Tuesday, September 15: *Meals: B,L,D*

This morning, we cross the Appalachians and enter Tennessee. Arriving in **Pigeon Forge**, we have lunch at Paula Deen's, a popular restaurant that specializes in traditional southern food. The next three nights are at the Clarion Inn. The name Pigeon Forge comes from an iron forge built about 1820 by Isaac Love on the banks of the Little Pigeon River. The resort town is best known as the home of the Dollywood theme park, but its 16 theatres attract thousands of tourists as well. Dinner is at Local Goat Restaurant, then we have seats at the **Smoky Mountain Opry**. From country hits to classic rock, and Broadway to the Silver Screen, the area's largest cast of singers and dancers also features high flying aerialists, comedy, juggling, and an incredible live band.

Wednesday, September 16: *Meals: B,D*

Great Smoky Mountains National Park preserves part of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the great Appalachian Range. It is the most visited national park in the country, and we explore it today with a local guide. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the park's unique combination of a variety of elevations, the abundant rainfall, and the presence of old growth forests give it an unusual richness of bio species. There is free time to stroll in the bustling town of Gatlinburg bordering the national park. This afternoon, enjoy a taste of the wild mountain past at **Ole Smoky Tennessee Moonshine Distillery**, the first legal moonshine in the state. See the authentic still in action and taste favourites like White Lightning and Moonshine Cherries. Next, we at-

tend the **Hatfields and McCoy's Dinner Feud** show. The audience becomes part of the longest running feud in history and helps the Hatfields and McCoy's try to settle their differences mountain-style, along with singing, dancing, feats of strength, amazing stunts, and comedy. All this is accompanied by a buffet of fried chicken and pulled pork barbecue. The real Hatfields and McCoy's lived near the border of Kentucky and West Virginia, and engaged in a violent and murderous feud from 1863 to 1891. The feud has entered the American folklore lexicon to describe any bitterly feuding rival parties.

Thursday, September 17: *Meals: B,L,D*

The day is devoted to **Dollywood**, an exciting theme park operated by singer and actress, Dolly Parton, which celebrates the beauty of the Smoky Mountains. Attractions include 40 live musical performances, the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame, the Dolly Parton Museum, Jukebox Junction which focuses on the Fabulous Fifties, and 30 rides such as the Tennessee Tornado rollercoaster. After dinner at Calhoun's, we enjoy the fast-paced **Country Tonite Show**. This production has a variety of dynamic singing, dancing, raucous comedy, and powerful gospel.

Friday, September 18: *Meals: B,D*

Welcome to Nashville, home of Country Music, USA. Our accommodation for the next three nights is at the fabulous **Opryland Hotel**. With almost 3,000 rooms, this incredible building will keep you exploring its three large tree-filled atriums, its multitude of restaurants and lounges, and its indoor gardens with extensive water features and even a river. We are booked in deluxe rooms overlooking one of the atriums. Tonight, we attend **Ray Stevens' CabaRay Dinner Show**. Legendary music and comedy icon Ray Stevens performs his many hits accompanied by his band, The River Road Symphony, and backup singers, The Hussies.

Saturday, September 19: *Meals: B,L*

We enjoy a locally-guided sightseeing tour around Nashville featuring Music Row, **Ryman Auditorium**, the Parthenon replica, and Printers Alley, and past the homes of several stars. A barbecue lunch is included at the renowned Wildhorse Saloon with line dancing. At 2 pm, we attend the **Music of Nashville show** at the Texas Troubadour Theatre. Tonight, thrill to one of America's most famous shows, **The Grand Ole Opry**. Running since 1925, the Opry features about 20 performers from its exclusive membership of 70 stars. However, we cannot tell you who will perform as the stars are announced just a few days prior.

Sunday, September 20: *Meals: B,L*

This morning, we take a tour of **RCA Studio B** where Elvis recorded more than 200 songs. It became famous in the 1960s for the production style and technique known as the Nashville Sound which revived the popularity of country music. At lunch, we are treated to an exclusive performance with a Nashville song-writer or a member of the Cash or Carter family. Afterwards, we visit the extraordinary **Country Music Hall of Fame** housed in a striking limestone and glass building that resembles a curved piano keyboard.

Monday, September 21: *Meals: B*

We fly with WestJet from Nashville to Toronto, then continue to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 9, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$250 discount on first 12 seats and \$125 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 9.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 8, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From May 9 to June 9, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From June 10 to July 9, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From July 10 to August 7, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 7, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from the airline and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until departure.

Airline luggage fee: Please note that this fee of about US\$30 from Seattle to Asheville is not included as the airline requires payment individually at airport check-in. The luggage fee is included for the flight home on WestJet.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo Credit: Nashville CVB



Activity Level: Moderate activity including short distances to walk in Asheville area, Pigeon Forge, and Nashville. There is lots of walking and standing and some stairs while visiting Biltmore and its gardens. There is a short flight of stairs after the elevator ride at Chimney Rock. There may be a few stairs to access your theatre seats.

There can be longer walks in the airports; please request a cart or wheelchair in advance or at check-in if this could be an issue for you. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. The coaches cannot carry a scooter. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, local guides, and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

E-points: This tour earns 109 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until June 9.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842