

# Cool Appalachian Mountain Escape

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## ***TRAVEL IS FUN TOURS***

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### **5 DAYS AUGUST 5 - 9, 2018**

**Includes: 4-1/2 hour Train Ride along the beautiful Nantahala River with a lunch stop at the Nantahala Outdoor Center – Crossroads of the Appalachian trail, Cherokee Qualla Arts & Crafts Co-Op, Visit to Harrah’s Casino Cherokee and much more!**

**A Great Chance to escape the Florida heat for a few days, the average temperatures in Cherokee for August are in the 60s at night with highs in the low to mid 80s!**

**DAY ONE** – The destination for our first day of travel is **Morrow, GA**, just south of **Atlanta**, where we will have one-night at the **Drury Inn**. Drury Inns are offering their guests an incredible array of amenities including: arrival refreshments, complimentary in-room coffee, deluxe continental breakfast (hot & cold), free long-distance calls (60 minutes per room, per night) also, evening beverages and the **FREE 5:30 KICKBACK** from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Drury has increased their evening food offerings to always include salad and baked potato bar, nacho bar, snack mix, chips, carrots, celery and dip. There will also be items such as broccoli cheddar soup, macaroni and cheese, breaded chicken strips, boneless chicken wings, and chili-dogs offered on a rotating basis. We will call this our “Drury Dinner”. The delicious, very deluxe continental breakfast Drury has always offered includes eggs, sausage, self-serve waffle maker, yogurt, fresh fruit, juices, milk & cereal, bagels, biscuits and gravy and more.

**DAY TWO** – After a Delicious Drury Breakfast we journey to Cherokee North Carolina, A Culture, a People, & a place that’s actually a sovereign nation! Located in the heart of Western North Carolina Cherokee offers amazing arts & crafts, Elk Herds, Mountain Views & history that spans millennia!

We’ll start our visit to Cherokee with lunch at the charming Newfound Lodge restaurant (on your own) After lunch it’s off to Qualla Arts and Crafts, the oldest and leading Native American Arts cooperative in the United States. In our world of mass production, it’s a welcome sight to behold something beautifully handmade in Cherokee. As you touch the smooth wood of the dramatic masks used in traditional dance rituals or the cool clay of the wedding jugs, you are reminded of the power of your own hands. Remember? Your fingers can do a lot more than navigate an iPhone touch screen or flip channels on a remote control. No reality TV here; this is a refreshing reality of a time past, preserved and carried on in the hands of present-day Cherokee craftsmen. Founded in 1946 with the purpose of preserving and advancing Cherokee arts and crafts.

After being inspired at the Qualla Arts Co-Op we’ll get in a visit to the Harrah’s Cherokee Casino for some afternoon Gaming and Dinner, (on your own) The casino features 11 Restaurants including Johnny Rocket’s, Chef’s Stage Buffet, Earl of Sandwich, Ruth’s Chris & much more! There is something for everyone here!

Finally, after a wonderful day of adventure it’s off to a well-earned night’s rest at our home for the evening, the Microtel, Cherokee.

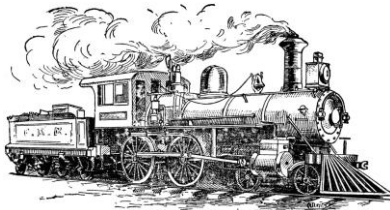


**DAY THREE** – After our included Continental breakfast we will enjoy the sights and sounds of the Great Smoky Mountains while traveling along the Tennessee and Nantahala (nan-tuh-HAY-luh) River. We'll cruise the rails in our air-conditioned car while enjoying the complimentary soft drinks in your commemorative tumbler. The historic trellis bridge Fontana Trestle takes you across Fontana Lake and into the beautiful Nantahala Gorge. Arrive at the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) for a one-hour lunchtime layover where you can relax by the river or enjoy sightseeing! On the Train Trip we'll cheer for white water rafters navigating the class 3 rapids of the Nantahala River below us. At the Nantahala Outdoor Center there are several choices for a great lunch including the Rivers End, or Big Wesser restaurants or grab a bite on the train in the Conductor's Café! While at NOC you can hob-nob & listen to the stories of thru-hikers attempting to complete the 2400-mile trek from Georgia to Maine! The Appalachian Trail passes right through the middle of the Nantahala Outdoor Center crossing the river on a wooden footbridge. Look for the white blazes marking the trail! When you get home, you can tell your friends that you've hiked on the legendary Appalachian Trail! (How far you actually hiked can be our little secret!) After our adventure on the rails we will tour the Cherokee Area a bit, maybe we'll even spot some of the Elk that are around! Then it's time for a great dinner at Granny's Kitchen buffet. (On own) One of Cherokee's favorite restaurants!

**DAY FOUR** – After our included Continental Breakfast it's off to visit the Oconaluftee Mountain Farm Museum and the Mingus Mill. At the Mountain Farm Museum visitors can explore a log farmhouse, barn, apple house, springhouse, and a working blacksmith shop to get a sense of how families may have lived 100 years ago. Most of the structures were built in the late 19th century and were moved here in the 1950s. The Davis House offers a rare chance to view a log house built from chestnut wood before the chestnut blight decimated the American Chestnut in our forests during the 1930s and early 1940s. The museum is adjacent to the amazing Oconaluftee Visitor Center. A half-mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center is Mingus Mill. Built in 1886, this historic grist mill uses a water-powered turbine instead of a water wheel to power all of the machinery in the building. Located at its original site, Mingus Mill stands as a tribute to the test of time.

After our adventures today, we leave Cherokee and travel back to Georgia to spend our final tour night at the **Drury Inn Atlanta Morrow**. All the same amenities, food and drink will be complimentary again as described in **Day One**. Enjoy!

**DAY FIVE** – After enjoying Drury's delicious breakfast offerings this morning, our tour begins winding down as we return to St. Petersburg. Enjoy the lovely sights today and thank you for choosing Travel Is Fun Tours!



**COST: \$599 PER PERSON TWIN / \$759 PER PERSON SINGLE**

**Please pay deposit of \$100 to secure a seat, balance due 6/18/2018**

Travel protection is recommended and available office at \$34 per person double or \$44 Single  
(Seats will continue to be sold after balance due date if space is available)

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