

# Cool Appalachian Mountain Escape

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## **TRAVEL IS FUN TOURS**

919 Tyrone Boulevard ([WWW.TIFTOURS.COM](http://WWW.TIFTOURS.COM))

St. Petersburg FL 33710 (727) 347-1600



**NOW 6 DAYS! July 26 - 31, 2019**

**Includes: 8 Meals Included. 4-1/2 hour Steam Engine Train Ride along the beautiful Nantahala River with a lunch stop at the Nantahala Outdoor Center – Crossroads of the Appalachian trail or a 3 hour guided Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Nantahala River, 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 July are in the 60s at night with highs in the low to mid 80s!**

**DAY ONE** – Our destination today is the **Atlanta, GA Drury Airport**, just south of **Atlanta**. 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 a sovereign nation! Located in the heart of Western North Carolina Cherokee offers amazing arts & crafts, Elk Herds, Mountain Views & history that spans millennia!

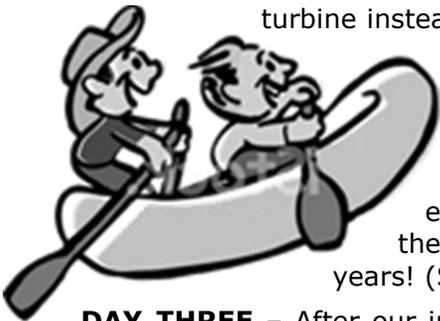
We'll start our visit to Cherokee with lunch at the charming Newfound Lodge restaurant (on your own) After lunch it's off to Oconoluftee Mountain Farm Museum and the Mingus Mill. At the Mountain Farm Museum visitors can explore a log farmhouse, barn, apple house, springhouse, and a working blacksmith 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.

A half-mile North 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.

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

For those who want some more Cherokee Culture we'll have evening group tickets for the play "Unto These Hills" a moving history of the Cherokee people that has been in constant production for almost 70 years! (Show Tickets require an additional fee)

**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. We'll ride behind historic #1702 Steam Engine, a piece of history that dates back to 1942. This is one of the world's largest engine's and is one of two remaining in the US!

We'll cross Fontana Lake on the historic Fontana Trestle bridge 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. You might even recognize some of your fellow passengers! At the Nantahala Outdoor Center there are several choices for a great lunch 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!)

For the truly Adventurous instead of peacefully riding in comfort on the railroad you can opt for a once in a lifetime 3-hour Whitewater rafting experience with a professional guide! Commemorative photo's and a tumbler will be included from this adventure. Passenger's going on the whitewater rafting trip should be in good health and free of serious back problems. Please ask for more details in our office!

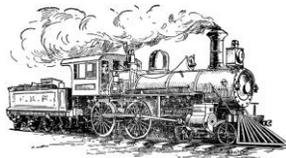
After our adventure on the rails we will tour the Cherokee Area a bit, maybe we'll even spot some of the Elk that are around! Then it's time for a great dinner at Granny's Kitchen buffet. (On own) One of Cherokee's favorite restaurants!

**DAY FOUR** – After our included Continental Breakfast We will have a day of exploration and adventure! In the morning we will offer a chance to tour downtown Cherokee and see Qualla Arts and Crafts, the oldest and leading Native American Arts cooperative in the United States. 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.

Qualla Arts and crafts and the many of the shops along the main road have no fees. Some other activities you may wish to take part in include: The Museum of the Cherokee\*, The Oconaluftee Indian Village\*, Cherokee Bear Zoo\* or Harrah's Casino, (\* Requires additional admission fee)

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

**DAY SIX** – 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: \$799 PER PERSON TWIN / \$1089 PER PERSON SINGLE**

Please pay deposit of \$100 to secure a seat, balance due 6/14/2019

Travel protection is recommended and available office at \$44 per person double or \$82 Single  
(Seats will continue to be sold after balance due date if space is available)

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