



Cadillac Point, located near the Great Smoky Mountains © Byron Jorjorian

Discover with Nature: Tennessee

DATES

October 29th-November 3rd, 2023

PRICE

Double Occupancy: \$4,510

Single Occupancy: \$5,075

Your journey begins in Knoxville, Tennessee where you will be met by your guide before departing on a two-hour drive to Abingdon, Virginia. On arrival, take time to explore the historic downtown that dates back to the 1700s. Your home for the next two nights is the Martha Washington Inn.

Explore Shady Valley, where TNC hosts will guide you through Orchard and Quarry Bog, Schoolyard Springs, and the Jess Jenkins Cranberry Bog. Bring your galoshes (or an old pair of shoes!), as there be plenty of time spent exploring the boardwalks and wetland bogs.

Next, head to Doe Mountain Recreation area; in addition to protecting wildlife habitat, promoting biodiversity, and sequestering forest carbon, TNC and local partners are using the area to capitalize on growing tourism traffic across the region. We'll explore the area on side-by-side vehicles, stopping to hike, birdwatch, and learn from TNC experts.

Making our way south, spend three days in the "Quiet Side of Smokies". Here, you'll have an opportunity to meet with local TNC staff, National Park and National Forest partners, and a representative of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. Time for hiking, kayaking, and relaxing will be available as we explore the most visited national park in the nation!

With exclusive insight from TNC experts, visits to local preserves, and local highlights, you'll experience unique places throughout Tennessee that most visitors never see.



Orchard Bog © Byron Jorjorian



Birch Branch Sanctuary © Terry Cook/The Nature Conservancy

LEARN ABOUT APPALACHIAN CULTURE

From traditional food, customs, traditions and music, experience what Appalachian culture is all about.

EXPLORE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Visit the most visited national park in the nation; here, you will meet with local experts, learn about threats to the majestic landscape, and do plenty of hiking!

TOUR THE LANDSCAPE ON A SIDE-BY-SIDE

Hop on a side-by-side vehicle to explore Doe Mountain. Recently appointed as an Adventure Tourism District, learn how TNC and the State of Tennessee are using the natural resources of the area to help stimulate the local, rural economy.

Your trip supports the local communities you're traveling in and The Nature Conservancy's efforts locally and globally. This trip has been planned specifically by The Nature Conservancy's team of scientific experts and travel liaisons to immerse you in the work the Conservancy is doing on the ground that has global consequences.

TNC TRAVEL VALUES

KEY ACCESS:

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll witness how you are helping save them.

IMPACT:

See how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference. You will see the wild places and the communities you are impacting.

KNOWLEDGE:

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

INSPIRATION:

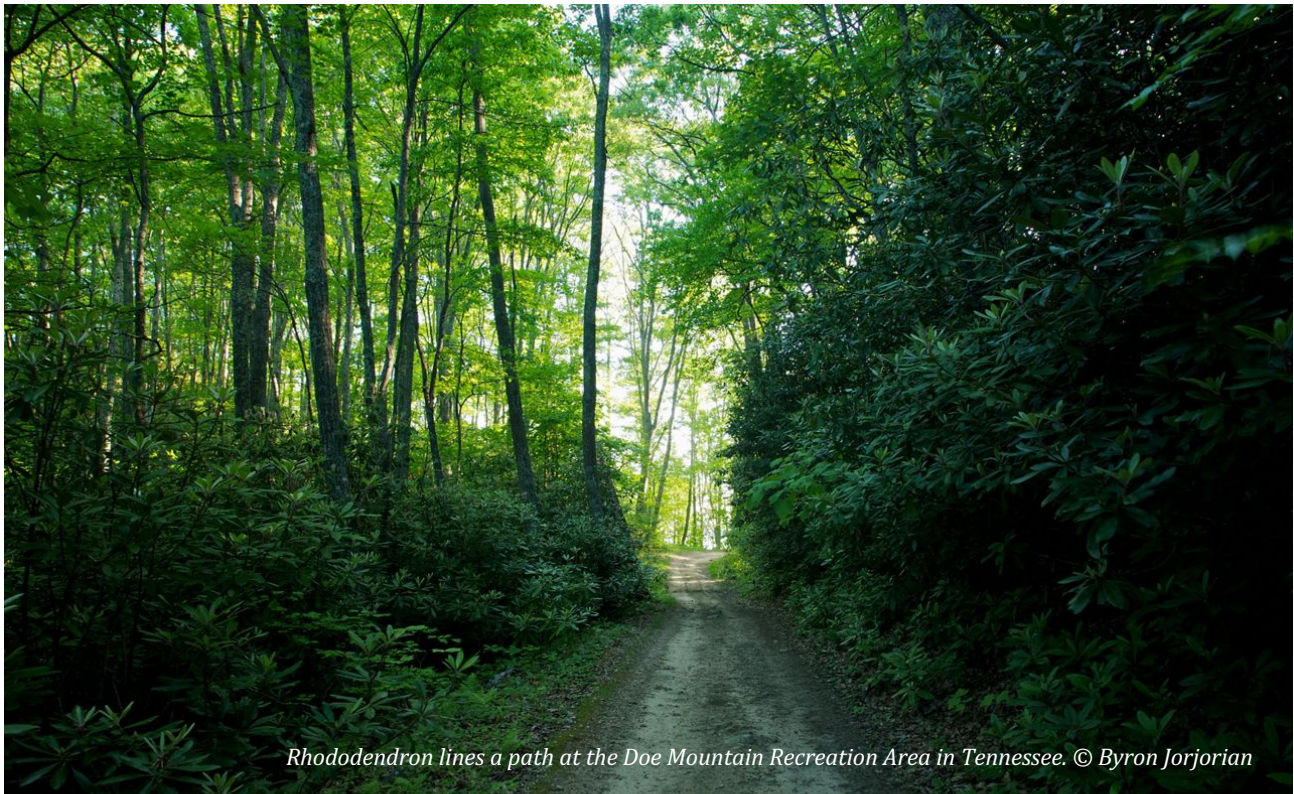
Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

GLOBALLY MINDED:

Elevate your understanding of our work by seeing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

TRAVELER EXPECTATIONS & CODE OF CONDUCT:

Please read [TNC's Traveler Expectations](#), our guide for ensuring that we treat each other with respect, fairness and integrity beyond reproach during travel in accordance with [TNC's Code of Conduct](#). Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. To that end, when registering for a TNC trip, you are agreeing to uphold the Code.



Rhododendron lines a path at the Doe Mountain Recreation Area in Tennessee. © Byron Jorjorian

THE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

WETLANDS

Shady Valley is one of Southern Appalachia's most ecologically important areas. These mountain wetlands, made up of cranberry peat bogs and white pine and hemlock forests, are home to a wide array of plants and animals. From the 1930s to the 1950s, growing populations drained most of the area to make way for agriculture, leaving only scattered patches where native species clung to existence. In order to protect these rare ecosystems, The Nature Conservancy purchased its first preserve here in 1979 and expanded its conservation efforts amongst four preserves totaling over 800 acres. Shady Valley's wetlands represent one of only two places in Tennessee where the American cranberry grows naturally. They are also home to the southern bog turtle, migratory shorebirds, golden eagle, beaver, and black bears.

PROTECTING OUR FORESTS

Forests cover 53 percent of Tennessee, providing numerous benefits to all Tennesseans that include filtering air and water, storing carbon, harboring wildlife and serving as a source of timber and other resources that support local economies and livelihoods. This important habitat currently faces threats in the form of wildfires, insects and disease, increased population and development, and climate change. The Nature Conservancy is working to combat these threats through a number of practices including forest management, restoration of native forests and woodlands, and acquisition of land and conservation easements to safeguard these fragile landscapes. In the Great Smoky Mountains, TNC is "Bridging the Smokies," connecting key portions of the National Park, Cherokee National Forest, State of Tennessee wildlife lands and Nantahala National Forest. Establishing wildlife corridors supports a more resilient landscape that, over time, allows species to adapt to habitat loss and climate change. Additionally, TNC is working to restore native forests and woodlands through controlled burns and sustainable logging, in turn creating forests that are healthy and diverse.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 — Sunday, October 29th | Arrive in Knoxville by 2:00 PM. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed by your Iconic Leader and Nature Conservancy Host. Once all guests have arrived, we'll begin the two-hour drive to Abingdon, Virginia, located just north of the Tennessee border in the Blue Ridge Mountains. On arrival, settle into your comfortable accommodations at the historic Martha Washington Inn. Featuring architecture spanning two centuries, you'll have time to explore the brick lined Main Street, before gathering for a welcome reception and dinner.

OVERNIGHT AT MARTHA WASHINGTON INN

DAY 2 — Monday, October 30th | After breakfast at the hotel, we will transfer 40 minutes to Shady Valley where we'll spend the remainder of the day with local TNC experts. Explore on foot the mountain bogs that support 26 rare plants and animals, and where the American cranberry grows naturally. We'll visit four different Preserves in the area, discussing the work The Nature Conservancy is doing to ensure the long-term protection of these wetlands. A picnic lunch will be enjoyed amongst the landscape.

In the late afternoon, return to the Inn to freshen up before dinner at The Tavern; built in 1779, it was used as a tavern and overnight inn for stagecoach travelers back in the day.

OVERNIGHT AT MARTHA WASHINGTON INN

DAY 3 — Tuesday, October 31st | Today we check out and make our way south to Doe Mountain Recreation Area. Featuring 8,600 acres of protected mountain terrain and trails, TNC purchased this pristine landscape alongside the State of Tennessee in 2012. Covered by native hardwood forests, it provides habitat for more than 40 rare plants and animal species. A unique economic development project, Doe Mountain is a registered forest carbon project and Adventure Tourism District; looking beyond managing forests through timber values, the project aims to foster growth in the local economy, utilizing the abundance of natural resources to support the tourism industry.

Spend the morning on side-by-side vehicles exploring Doe Mountain; there will be several stops along the way for birding, walking, and a relaxing picnic lunch-with-a-view. In the afternoon, continue south to Townsend, Tennessee, known as the "Quiet Side of the Smokies." Our home for the next three nights is Little Arrow Outdoor Resort.

OVERNIGHT AT LITTLE ARROW OUTDOOR RESORT

LODGING



Martha Washington Inn

This historical hotel dates back to the early 1800s, serving as a private residence to prominent Generals. It has been meticulously preserved throughout the years and has hosted guests such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Jimmy Carter and Elizabeth Taylor.

Photo credit: Martha Washington Inn



Little Arrow Outdoor Resort

Tucked in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains is Little Arrow Outdoor Resort. Your comfortable, modern cabin is the perfect place to rest your head after a long day of hiking and exploring the surrounding landscape.

Photo credit: Little Arrow Outdoor Resort



ITINERARY, CONT.

DAY 4 — Wednesday, November 1st | After breakfast, we'll transfer as a group to Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Begin the day learning about The Nature Conservancy's long history with the National Park Service- there will be plenty of time for discussions as we are introduced to forest and invasive species projects, the Don't Move Firewood Campaign, and prescribed fire work throughout the region. We will spend the remainder of the day hiking throughout the park, so be sure to pack layers, hiking poles, water and sturdy shoes!

This afternoon, there will be time to either relax at leisure or spend time at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. Dinner will be in town this evening.

OVERNIGHT AT LITTLE ARROW OUTDOOR RESORT

DAY 5 — Thursday, November 2nd | After an early breakfast, we'll depart to Chilhowee Recreation Area, located within the Cherokee National Forest. The Nature Conservancy has been integral in supporting these landscapes as a means of protecting wildlife migration corridors and encouraging healthy forests. On arrival, enjoy a light hike and interpretation with a representative of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. Our afternoon will be spent kayaking nearby; a scenic and relaxing backdrop, your hosts will use this time to highlight their high priority commitment to removing old and dangerous dams in the area.

Return to the Lodge to freshen up before enjoying a final dinner and reflections as a group.

OVERNIGHT AT LITTLE ARROW OUTDOOR RESORT

DAY 6 — Friday, November 3rd | Transfers back to Knoxville will begin at 10:00 AM; it is a 1-hour drive, so plan to book flights that depart after 1:00 PM.



PRICE DETAIL

Double Occupancy \$4,510
Single Occupancy: \$5,075

Price is based on a minimum of 14. Trip size not to exceed 14 travelers.

Price **includes** all lodging, domestic transportation, activities, tips, meals, TNC expert staff and local guides. Price does **not include** your roundtrip flight to Knoxville, Tennessee.

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is representative of your trip, and like all natural history excursions, activities are subject to modification based on weather and unforeseen events. We will do our best to keep you informed on any necessary changes.