



## Legacy Journey to East Tennessee

Embark on a journey through the natural wonders of Tennessee, featuring some of the most ecologically diverse regions of Southern Appalachia. Visit Shady Valley, a hidden treasure blanketed in a mosaic of sphagnum and cranberry peat bogs and white pine/hemlock forests that 26 rare species of plants and animals call home. From there, head to Doe Mountain Recreation Area where you'll learn about the projects that are promoting sustainable tourism opportunities as a means to conserve the area. Making our way south, spend three days in the "Peaceful Side of the Smokies," hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Cherokee National Forest, where we will discuss either the important aquatic conservation priorities in the southern Blue Ridge Mountains or forest resiliency and storm recovery efforts. With exclusive insight from TNC experts, visits to local preserves, and local highlights, you'll experience special places throughout Tennessee that most visitors never see.



Photos: Sunset in the Great Smoky Mountains, TN © Traci Thornton/TNC Photo Contest 2019; Red Fox Kit, Smoky Mountains, TN © Anna Grob/TNC Photo Contest 2019

### Legacy Journey Highlights

- Discover globally rare peat wetlands, plants and animals, and an unusual, naturally occurring cranberry bog in Shady Valley.
- Explore trails and overlooks on side-by-side vehicles and partake in a picnic with a view at Doe Mountain Recreation Area.
- Spend time hiking in Great Smoky Mountains National Park as you learn how fire benefits nature in the Southern Appalachians.





## Conservation Highlight: Tennessee's 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.

Photo: Orchard Bog, Shady Valley, TN © Erin Crowther/TNC

## Itinerary Overview

### DAY 1

Sunday, October 11

Welcome to Tennessee! On arrival at Knoxville Airport, look for your Iconic Adventures trip leader and Nature Conservancy host. Once everyone has arrived, we begin the two-hour drive to Bristol, Virginia, located just north of the Tennessee border.

On arrival, settle into your comfortable accommodations at The Bristol Hotel. Known as the "Birthplace of Country Music," you'll have time to walk around Bristol's charming downtown before gathering for a welcome reception and dinner.

Overnight at The Bristol Hotel, Bristol, VA

### DAY 2

Monday, October 12

After breakfast at the hotel, we will transfer 40 minutes to Shady Valley to spend the day with local TNC experts.

Explore on foot the mountain bogs that support 26 rare plants and animals and are one of only two locations in Tennessee where the American cranberry grows naturally. Depending on time and interest, we'll visit a few different preserves in the area, discussing TNC's work to ensure the long-term protection of these wetlands. Enjoy a picnic lunch amongst the landscape.

In the late afternoon, return to The Bristol Hotel to freshen up before dinner at a local favorite.

Overnight at The Bristol Hotel, Bristol, VA

### DAY 3

Tuesday, October 13

Following breakfast, we make our way south to Doe Mountain Recreation Area. Featuring 8,600 acres of protected mountain terrain and trails, TNC purchased this pristine landscape with the State of Tennessee in 2012.

Covered by native hardwood forests, the area provides habitat for 40+ rare plant and animal species. A unique economic development project, Doe Mountain is a registered forest carbon project and Adventure Tourism District. The project looks beyond managing forests through timber values and aims to foster local economic growth by 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, we continue our journey approximately 3 hours south to Townsend, Tennessee, known as the "Peaceful Side of the Smokies." Settle into our home for the next three nights, before dinner at the Appalachian Bistro, on-site.

Overnight at Dancing Bear Lodge, Townsend, TN





## Conservation Highlight: Protecting Our Forests

Forests cover 53 percent of Tennessee, providing numerous benefits including 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 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 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,” or 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.

Photo: Carlos C Campbell Overlook, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN © Erin Crowther/TNC

## Itinerary Overview (cont.)

### DAY 4

Wednesday, October 14

Following breakfast, we'll transfer as a group to Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Begin the day by learning about The Nature Conservancy's long history with the National Park Service. You'll be 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 taking in the breathtaking views and noticing burn scars, both from wildfires and prescribed burns. This afternoon, there will be time to either relax at leisure or join a private tour at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. Dinner will be in town this evening at The Abbey.

Overnight at Dancing Bear Lodge, Townsend, TN

### DAY 5

Thursday, October 15

Rise early for breakfast before departing 1 hour and 30 minutes for one of the following options; the exact itinerary will be determined based on local priorities.

Option 1: Citico Creek, located within the Cherokee National Forest. One of the most important aquatic conservation priorities in the southern Blue Ridge, we will explore along this beautiful mountain river and visit some of the sites where TNC is working to remove culverts and other barriers to aquatic organism movement.

Option 2: North end of the Cherokee National Forest, near Knoxville. See TNC's work in action as you learn about TNC's collaborative efforts with the Cherokee National Forest in the areas of storm recovery and forest resiliency.

We will return to our accommodations to freshen up before enjoying a final dinner and reflections as a group.

Overnight at Dancing Bear Lodge, Townsend, TN

### DAY 6

Friday, October 16

Bid farewell to Tennessee!

After breakfast, prepare for a 10:00 AM departure from our hotel to Knoxville Airport. Please book your return flights no earlier than 1:00 PM.





## Trip Cost

Double Occupancy: \$6,190/person

Single Occupancy: \$7,275/person

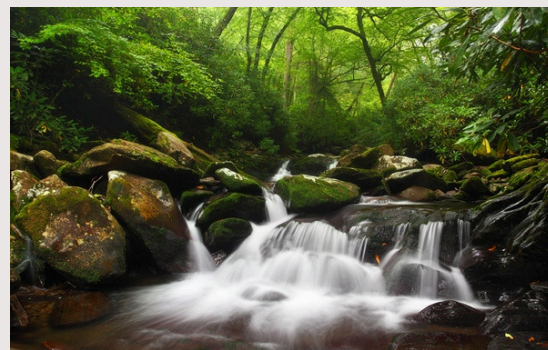
This trip must have 14 travelers.

### This cost includes:

- Accommodations
- All ground transportation
- All meals beginning with a Welcome Reception and dinner on Day 1 and ending with breakfast on Day 6
- All activities
- All gratuities
- All park entrance fees and permitting
- All guides
- Iconic Leaders
- Honoraria to local partners and experts
- 2 TNC hosts

### This cost excludes:

- Travel to and from Knoxville, Tennessee
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals and spa services
- Alcohol, beyond the welcome and farewell reception



Photos (from top to bottom): Newfound Gap, Smoky Mountains, TN © Amanda Ciotto/TNC Photo Contest 2022; TNC Hikers in the Smoky Mountains © Erin Crowther/TNC; Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN © Daniel Ewert; Appalachian Trail Marker in East Tennessee © Erin Crowther/TNC





## Payment & Cancellation Terms

All payment requests will be sent through Square. This may include the deposit, final payment, and any supplemental amounts for pre/post nights or extra transfers. If you need to cancel, please contact Iconic Adventures via [concierge@iconicadventures.com](mailto:concierge@iconicadventures.com).

### Deposit:

- A \$1,500 per person deposit is due at the time of registration.
  - Cancellation 0-7 days after payment (when booked 7+ days before full payment is due): Deposit is fully refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
  - Cancellation 8-21 days after payment (when booked 8-21 days before full payment is due): Deposit is 50% refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
  - Cancellation 22+ days after payment: Deposit is non-refundable.

### Full Trip Payment:

- Full trip payment is due 150 days prior to trip start.
  - Cancellation 150-136 days prior to trip start: Full trip cost is 50% refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
  - Cancellation 135-0 days prior to trip start: Full trip cost is non-refundable.

## Contact Information

As you plan for your journey with The Nature Conservancy and Iconic Adventures, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

### TNC Legacy Journeys Team

[legacyjourneys@tnc.org](mailto:legacyjourneys@tnc.org)

317-829-1873

### Iconic Adventures Team

[concierge@iconicadventures.com](mailto:concierge@iconicadventures.com)

877-706-4266



## TNC Travel Values

### ● Access

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

### ● Impact

Witness how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference in the wild places and 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 observing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

Photo: Davis Mountain Preserve, TX © Jerod Foster





## TNC Traveler Expectations

Group travel with The Nature Conservancy provides our donors with the opportunity to experience, alongside fellow supporters, the places TNC is working collaboratively to advance our conservation mission. Within these curated trips is the chance to engage with a community of active individuals and conservation staff who enjoy teaching and learning about the important conservation work we do and exploring the outdoors.

In order to ensure an enjoyable trip environment that supports learning and enrichment, we need your partnership. We ask that all participants review TNC's Code of Conduct prior to joining a trip. We also encourage you to carefully review all trip information to make an informed decision as to whether travel with TNC and a specific trip's characteristics and activities are right for you. 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, by registering for a TNC trip, you agree to uphold the Code.

While the entire Code of Conduct is important, the tenets that are especially relevant to TNC group travel are:

- respect for each other,
- respect for the world around us, and
- acting with integrity.

The following traveler expectations are intended to provide guidance for how those tenets translate to group travel but are by no means an exhaustive list. By participating in a TNC trip, you make a commitment to act in accordance with the TNC Code of Conduct to your fellow travelers, as well as to TNC staff, partners, community members and vendors. Any violation of or disregard for the Code of Conduct may result in removal from a trip and/or denial of future TNC travel participation.



## TNC Traveler Expectations (cont.)

### ● **Respect all people, places and perspectives.**

Each participant on a trip is an integral part of the travel experience. Demonstrating respect and consideration is imperative not only for nature, local communities and cultures in the places we visit, but also for fellow travelers, staff, partners, community members and vendors. Everyone will bring different goals, backgrounds, experiences and abilities, and it is important that the group respect each individual's perspectives and needs throughout the trip. Sometimes trip participants become lifelong friends, and we encourage the camaraderie and community built through these shared experiences!

### ● **Harassment in all its forms, including discrimination and microaggressions, is not tolerated.**

There is no place on any TNC travel experience for disrespect to or bullying or intimidation of fellow travelers, TNC staff, partners, community members or vendors. All travelers agree to support an environment free from any behavior that could make an individual feel unsafe or diminish their dignity. If you experience or observe this type of behavior on a trip, please report it to your trip host or guide.

Examples of behavior that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited, to:

- Racial discrimination in any form (jokes, comments and/or actions)
- Verbal abuse of any traveler, staff, partner, community member or vendor
- Actions or statements that exclude or divide people because of their differences or differing perspectives
- Jokes about gender or sexual orientation or that include sexual innuendo
- Discriminatory actions or statements based on gender or sexual orientation
- Unwelcome physical contact or physical intimidation of a sexual nature

### ● **Act in accordance with the applicable law of the location(s) of the trip.**

Your trip location(s) may have different laws from your home location. You are expected to be aware of and adhere to the trip destination's laws throughout the experience, even when locations change throughout a trip.

### ● **Employ an attitude of flexibility.**

At times, there may be changes in the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable for the comfort and well-being of trip members. We appreciate your understanding, flexibility and adaptability in order to make the trip safe and enjoyable for you and everyone else.

**TNC and its tour operators reserve the right to deny registration or remove a tour participant from a trip should such person's behavior, health or mental condition impact the safe and equitable operation of the trip.**

**Thank you for your attention and understanding, and please let a TNC travel representative know if you have any questions in advance of registering at [legacyjourneys@tnc.org](mailto:legacyjourneys@tnc.org).**

