



Mountains, Music and Railroads!

Allegheny Mountains, Patsy Cline, Potomac Eagle Railroad, The Greenbrier Resort Bunker Tour, Western Maryland Railroad, Gandy House Dinner Theater, Cass Railroad, Jet Boat Ride, Cheat Mountain Salamander Railroad, American Mountain Theatre Variety Show, Mine Tour and More!

Join TRIPS as we travel east to ride the rails, enjoy down-home music and marvel at the beauty of the Allegheny Mountains! Starting in Winchester, VA home to legendary Patsy Cline, travel through the beautiful countryside of the Appalachians. Ride the rails, descend into a mine, experience the thrills of a jet boat ride on one of the world's oldest rivers and tour a top-secret underground bunker in the mountains of West Virginia! You'll be stomping your feet and clapping your hands during variety shows that will leave you laughing and giggling. From Blackwater Falls to Tamarack Craft Center, expect the unexpected as you experience Mountains, Music and Railroads!

Day 1 - Your Journey Begins!

Depart for your **Mountains, Music and Rail adventure** today. On arrival at the airport, you'll be met by your TRIPS representative and set off for historic Winchester, VA. Arrive at your hotel late this afternoon with time to unpack before enjoying dinner at the hotel, complete with entertainment!

Overnight: Winchester, VA (Hampton Inn or Similar)

(D)

Day 2 - Potomac Eagle Railroad and Patsy Cline!

After breakfast at the hotel this morning, ride the **Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad**, one of America's most beautiful train rides through the West Virginia landscape. For three hours, enjoy a narrated excursion through a tranquil and pristine mountain valley. Around every curve of the tracks, you'll be rewarded with the splendor of evergreens and mixed hardwoods in an unspoiled countryside environment. Don't be surprised if you spot an **American Bald Eagle** soaring high above their natural habitat, undisturbed by the low rumblings of the occasional train. Enjoy lunch while onboard. This afternoon, visit **The Patsy Cline Historic House** where she lived and often returned to. The house serves as a testament to Patsy's love of family and the loving relationship she had with her mother. Continue with a tour of Patsy Cline's hometown where she began her radio career at the age of 14 in 1946. Return to the hotel late this afternoon and enjoy dinner on your own in a restaurant or café.

Overnight: Winchester, VA (Hampton Inn or Similar)

(B/L)

Day 3 - Western Maryland Scenic Railroad!

Enjoy breakfast this morning at the hotel prior to checking out. You travel to **Canal Place** in Cumberland, the western end of the C&O Canal in 1850. Enjoy a stroll along the "**Trestle Walk**" which connects the station with the Canal Tow Path. You'll have time to visit the shops, artists gallery and tour the Canal Boat "**The Cumberland**." Then, at the Cumberland Depot, board the **Western Maryland Scenic Railroad** with a narrator who will be your guide to the views and history along the way. You travel west through a natural cut in the mountains, around a horseshoe curve, over bridges and through a tunnel. As you glide past scenic ridges, valleys and small towns, you ascend 1,300 feet in elevation to the "Mountain City" of **Frostburg**. Here, you depart the train and enjoy lunch on your own before departing for Elkins, WV. Stop along the way at **Blackwater Falls**, one of the most photographed spots in West Virginia. Arrive at your hotel later this afternoon with some time to unpack and relax. Dinner this evening includes a fun filled musical variety show in one of West Virginia's hottest new dinner theaters.

Overnight: Isaac Jackson Hotel: Elkins, WV

(B/D)

Day 4 - Beautiful West Virginia Rails!

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel this morning, then depart for a ride on the **Cass Scenic Railroad**. This historic timber train will take you to Whitaker Station where you see how logs were cabled out of the forest onto the train and then hauled to market. You will also have time at the townsite of Cass where you learn of life at the turn of the last century, when the town and all the buildings in it were company owned. Virtually unchanged over the last hundred years, see the Cass Company store built in 1902 and the Cass Jail. Enjoy lunch on your own today while riding the rails. Next, board the climate controlled passenger cars of the **Cheat Mountain Salamander** for a 2 1/2 hour ride through the wild, high-mountain wilderness of West Virginia. A photo stop is made at the **High Falls of the Cheat River**. 18 feet tall and 150 feet across, this beautiful location is 5 miles from the closest road. After High Falls the train follows the tumbling Cheat River through another 21 miles of scenic wilderness.

This is unspoiled and uninhabited forest, with gorgeous tree topped mountain vistas, where hardwoods and evergreens grow to the edge of boulder strewn white water rivers. After a day of riding the rails, enjoy dinner at the Rail Yard Restaurant. Then, stroll next door for one of the top West Virginia attractions, the **American Mountain Theater**. Enjoy a music and comedy variety show that includes gospel, pop and patriotic tunes, blended with humor to provide you with a warm and wonderful evening of wows and giggles!

Overnight: Isaac Jackson Hotel: Elkins, WV

(B/D)

Day 5 - Aerial Trams, Jet Boats and Mining!

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and then travel to the **New River Gorge Bridge Visitors Center**. When the bridge was completed in 1977, it reduced a 40 minute ride down narrow mountain roads to a journey that took less than one minute. The structural work of art is the longest trestle span in the western hemisphere and the third highest in the US. At just over 3,000 feet long the roadway itself is nearly 900 feet above the New River. Next, visit **Hawks Nest State Park** where you board an **aerial tram** down to the shores of New River. Then, board a covered **Jet Boat** for an exhilarating 30 minute high speed cruise upstream on the **World's second oldest river**. Enjoy lunch at the park before visiting the **Beckley Exhibition Mine** for a below ground tour. Under the supervision of an experienced veteran coal miner, travel 1500 feet beneath the surface riding in an authentic "man car". From the mine entrance, to the old working areas of the coal mine and back you explore the history of low-seam coal mining; from the hand-loading days into the era of modern mechanization. You also explore the historical coal camp that is a true representation of early 20th century coal camp life. Your final stop today is at the **Tamarack Craft Center** with its unique retail artisan products. You'll have time to shop in this striking building filled with merchandise that is all made in the Mountain State of West Virginia. To ensure you have ample time to browse, enjoy dinner on your own at **"A Taste of West Virginia"** food court, named by Southern Living as a favorite regional restaurant. After a full day, check in to your hotel this evening.

Overnight: Beckley, WV

(B/L)

Day 6 - The Greenbrier Resort Bunker Tour!

You check out of your hotel after breakfast and depart for the **Greenbrier Resort** where you'll enjoy a **Bunker Tour**. Surrounded by the Allegheny Mountains, the secret Eisenhower-era underground bunker here was designed to house members of Congress and their staffs during and after a nuclear attack. When the Government decommissioned the facility, all furnishings and equipment were removed. The Greenbrier has replicated the original contents as closely as possible. You'll see the cafeteria, dormitories, decontamination chambers and a clinic complete with an operating room. After your tour, you'll enjoy lunch at The Greenbrier which has welcomed distinguished guests since 1778! This afternoon, depart for Dulles, VA where you check into your hotel for the night. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening at Dulles Town Center.

Overnight: Dulles, VA

(B/L)

Day 7 - Homeward Bound!

This morning, depart for the airport and your flight home. **Memories of your time enjoying Mountains, Music and Railroads will be with you for years to come!**

(B)



Inclusions

- Roundtrip airfare (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 6 nights lodging
- Breakfast daily
- 3 lunches including lunch at the Greenbrier Resort
- 3 dinners including The Gandy Dancer Dinner Theatre
- Tickets for 4 scenic Rail Journeys including the Potomac Eagle Railroad, Western Maryland Railroad, Cass Railroad and Cheat Mountain Salamander
- All sightseeing and admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary including Hawks Nest State Park, Beckley Exhibition Mine, Patsy Cline Historic House, Winchester City Tour, Jet Boat Ride, Aerial Tramway, Tamarack Craft Center, Bunker Tour at the Greenbrier Resort, Cumberland Canal Boat tour and more
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout your tour
- Tour Guide/Director throughout your tour
- TRIPS ticket wallet and luggage tags
- Portage of 1 suitcase per person
- All government taxes and fees

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