



Good Times Travel

A Blue Ridge & Biltmore Holiday



Featuring a Single-Hotel Stay in Asheville, Christmas at Biltmore, Blue Ridge Parkway, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
December 1-6, 2024 – 6 Day Tour

Tour Highlights

- ◆ Enjoy a single-hotel stay at an upscale, all suites hotel in the heart of downtown Asheville, the charming city tucked into the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains
- ◆ Experience *Christmas at Biltmore* including a Candlelight Christmas Evening in Biltmore House, an included dinner on the estate grounds, Chihuly at Biltmore and more
- ◆ Join a local guide for extensive sightseeing in Asheville, on the famed Blue Ridge Parkway and through Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Gatlinburg, Tennessee
- ◆ Experience all of Asheville's historic treasures beautifully decorated for the holidays including The Omni Grove Park Inn, the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Museum, the Smith-McDowell House and the Red Rocker Inn
- ◆ Enjoy first-class seating and lunch onboard the *Great Smoky Mountains Railroad*
- ◆ Experience the magical *Winter Lights* at the North Carolina Arboretum



Tour Inclusions

- ◆ 5 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 10 Meals – 2 dinners, 3 lunches and 5 breakfasts
- ◆ Services of a professional GTT tour director
- ◆ Comprehensive sightseeing with local guides
- ◆ Admissions per the itinerary
- ◆ Transportation aboard a deluxe motorcoach
- ◆ Airport-hotel transfers (with purchase of group air)
- ◆ Luggage handling throughout the tour

Tour Prices

Double Occupancy: \$1,999 per person
Single Occupancy (no roommate): Add \$500
Roundtrip airfare from \$795 per person

Itinerary

This new tour that literally 'glows' with holiday spirit, features a single-hotel stay in Asheville, the enchanting "Paris of the South" nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Asheville offers the perfect blend of breathtaking natural beauty, southern hospitality and festive cheer, making it the perfect place to call home as we experience the Smoky Mountains at the most wonderful time of year. In addition to the magic of a Christmas at Biltmore and a ride aboard the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, we'll explore the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park on this 6-day tour that highlights the historic treasures, breathtaking holiday spectacles and true Americana that's around every corner in the heart of Appalachia.

Day 1 – Welcome to North Carolina

Optional transfers from our departure points will have us at LAX for our scheduled non-stop morning flight arriving in **Charlotte, North Carolina** this afternoon. *Those guests making their own flight arrangements can request the group's flight schedule (subject to change) to coordinate a flight arrival time that would allow them to be included on the complimentary transfer to the hotel.* In Charlotte, we'll board a deluxe motorcoach and travel west to **Asheville**, the charming southern city tucked into the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains. We'll begin a 5-night stay at a centrally-located, all-suites hotel in downtown Asheville with the balance of the evening at leisure.

Day 2 – Asheville, Blue Ridge Parkway, The Biltmore Estate

This morning we'll join a local guide for an **Asheville city tour**, showcasing this vibrant city that combines city life with country roots and goes all out for the holidays! We'll visit the Art Deco-rich downtown, the stately Grove Park historic district, the diverse Montford Area Historic District and

Reservations



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(714) 848-1255

17132 Magnolia St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

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Accommodations

- ◆ Nights 1-5 **Embassy Suites Downtown**
Asheville, North Carolina

Optional Roundtrip Airfare

Airfare is available as an optional add-on as advertised on the front of this brochure. Because airfare generally increases closer to departure, it's best to purchase airfare as soon as possible to lock in the lowest price and best schedule.

Optional Airport Transfers

Roundtrip airport transfers are available from our departure points in these cities for \$99 p.p.

- ◆Fountain Valley ◆Laguna Hills
- ◆Long Beach ◆Seal Beach

Payment Information

- ◆ Full payment due at time of booking
- ◆ Payment may be made by mailing a check to the above address or making a credit card payment at www.goodtimestravel.com

Cancellation/Travel Protection

A travel protection policy (which includes cancellation protection and other benefits) is highly recommended and available through a third-party. A travel protection brochure will be provided with your payment receipt and invoice. Regardless of the reason, cancellations, credits and transfers of paid bookings require us to retain an administrative fee (ranging from \$50-\$500 depending on the date of cancellation) in addition to all non-recoverable fees paid to our tour suppliers on your behalf. Those guests who have purchased travel protection and must cancel for a covered reason, will be reimbursed by the travel protection company the balance of any non-refunded or credited monies (minus the premium itself). Visit www.goodtimestravel.com or see our tour catalog for our full cancellation policy and other terms and conditions.

Tour Pace & Activity Level



Visit our website for further explanation of what each of these designations means to assist you in determining which tour is right for you based on your physical abilities and the pacing you prefer.

Itinerary

the ever artsy and edgy River Arts District. We'll travel north along "America's Favorite Drive," the famed Blue Ridge Parkway, to the popular **Craggy Gardens** region. We'll visit the **Southern Highland Folk Art Center**, showcasing the finest in traditional and contemporary craft of the Southern Appalachians. After an included lunch at a locals' favorite, we'll visit the legendary **Omni Grove Park Inn**, the opulent mountain retreat renowned for its impeccable holiday displays, stunning architecture and breathtaking views of downtown Asheville and the ancient mountains that surround it. In addition to dozens of lighted, decorated trees, music and the smells of evergreen, sugar and spice, the Inn will feature an incredible display of edible architecture as host of the **National Gingerbread House Competition**, a favorite Asheville holiday tradition for the last 30 years! This evening we'll experience **Christmas at Biltmore**. Dazzling by day, the Biltmore Estate is even more magical during **Candlelight Christmas Evenings**, Biltmore's most beloved of holiday traditions. After an included dinner on the estate grounds, a majestic Norway spruce and pathway luminaries will welcome us to "America's Largest Home." Inside, thousands of ornaments reflect the soft glow of flickering candles, cozy flames in the fireplaces, and twinkling lights. Imagine yourself as a guest at the first Vanderbilt family Christmas in 1895 as you view elegant Victorian decorations including bows, poinsettias, miles of evergreen garlands and Christmas trees- each tree uniquely decorated to match the room in which it is located. Smell the fragrant wreaths and enjoy the live music during this magical holiday evening that is a feast for the senses. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 3 – Asheville

This morning we'll tour the historic **Smith-McDowell House**, Asheville's oldest home, first mansion and perhaps the finest example of antebellum architecture in North Carolina. Every Christmas season this meticulously restored house furnished with period pieces features authentic Victorian-era holiday decor – from garlands and ornaments to fresh trees and toys. We'll enjoy time at leisure strolling amongst the quaint shops and eateries in the Downton Abbey-esque **Biltmore Village**, originally designed to house workers from the nearby Biltmore Estate. Visit Biltmore's **Antler Hill Village**, featuring a variety of unique shops, restaurants, the Biltmore Winery, the **Biltmore Barn & Farnyard** and **The Biltmore Legacy**, a museum that provides an opportunity to view rarely-seen treasures from the Biltmore collection. Later, we'll visit the **Chihuly at Biltmore** exhibition, featuring a collection of Dale Chihuly's awe-inspiring works specially curated for Biltmore. This evening we'll enjoy an included dinner at a locals' favorite and then experience **Winter Lights** at the **North Carolina Arboretum**. This spectacular, open-air, walk-through experience features beautifully lit displays and glowing landscapes snuggled along the Arboretum's woodland edge and garden areas (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 4 – Great Smoky Mountain National Park

We'll join a local guide this morning and travel into **Great Smoky Mountain National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that features one of the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. While standing on the Appalachian Trail at **Newfound Gap** (elevation 5,049') with one foot in North Carolina and the other in Tennessee, we'll take in sweeping views of the Park's 100-plus tree species. This afternoon we'll arrive in **Gatlinburg**, the charming yet bustling Tennessee mountain town that is adorned with festive lights and the spirit of the season. Enjoy time at leisure to explore downtown Gatlinburg, a district filled with a variety of shops, restaurants and moonshine distilleries. We return to Asheville late this afternoon with the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast)

Day 5 – Great Smoky Mountains Railroad

This morning we'll travel west to **Bryson City** and board the **Great Smoky Mountains Railroad** for a relaxing and gentle ride through the Smoky Mountains while enjoying first-class seating and an included lunch onboard. This scenic, four-hour roundtrip ride will take us through the quiet countryside and small mountain towns as we follow the Tuckasegee River to a stopover in the historic town of **Dillsboro**, featuring more than 50 unique shops before returning by train to Bryson City. We return to Asheville this afternoon with the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 6 – Journey Home

This morning we'll visit the **Thomas Wolfe Memorial Museum** for a docent-guided tour through the Victorian-style home of one of the giants of 20th century American Literature, Thomas Wolfe immortalized his childhood home in his epic autobiographical novel, *Look Homeward, Angel*. We'll continue to Black Mountain, the small but vibrant mountain town boasting a lively downtown filled with craft galleries and quaint shops filled with unique handmade treasures. We'll enjoy an included lunch at the **Red Rocker Inn**, a Victorian bed breakfast established in 1896. This afternoon we continue to Charlotte for a scheduled, non-stop flight arriving in Los Angeles this evening. *Those guests making their own flight arrangements can request the group's flight schedule to coordinate a flight departure time that would allow them to be included on the complimentary transfer to the airport.* Back in Los Angeles, those guests with pre-arranged transfers will be returned to their respective drop-offs. (Breakfast, Lunch)