

Tuckaleechee Caverns and Smoky Mountain Heritage Center

Thursday, November 4, 2010

Sample Itinerary	
8:30 am	Depart Convention Center
10:00 am -11:30 am	Guided tour of Tuckaleechee Caverns
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch at local restaurant
12:30 p m- 1:30 pm	Smoky Mountain Heritage Center
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Return to Convention Center

Carved over tens of thousands of years in one of the earth's oldest mountain chains, Tuckaleechee Caverns in Townsend are known as the "Greatest Site Under the Smokies". Estimated to be between 20 and 30 million years old, the Caverns are rich in history and lore in recent years as well.

According to legend, the Cherokee Indians knew of the Caverns and hid in them before the white man discovered them about 1850. All the Cherokees lived in this part of the nation until about 1840 when the United States forced them to move to Oklahoma in a bitter winter trip known as "The Trail of Tears." Some refused to leave and eventually were granted land in western North Carolina at Cherokee.



The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center celebrates the cultural heritage of East Tennessee and the Great Smoky Mountains region. The gallery exhibits, educational programs, demonstrations and festivals guide you on a historic journey through time to visit the diverse cultures of Townsend and Tuckaleechee Cove. Artifacts representing 5,000 years of Native American life related to hunting, pottery, foodways, ceremony, games, medicine, and trade as well as Pioneer and Mountain Culture daily life, family and community, medicine, industry, recreation, and education are represented.

We depart Knoxville for a drive to "the quiet side of the Smokies" Townsend. We explore the Tuckaleechee Caverns with guide to learn how the unique formations came to be; how the caverns were used by Indians and settlers. We enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant then visit the Smoky Mountain Heritage Center to learn more about the hardy people of the Tuckaleechee Cove area.


Services Included

- Onsite staff member to Meet & Greet and coordinate tour departure
- Transportation from the Convention Center
- Escort / Guide will be with group entire trip
- Admission to Tuckaleechee Caverns and guided tour
- Lunch at the local restaurant
- Admission to Smoky Mountain Heritage Center
- All taxes and gratuities
- 24 Hour Emergency Service

Capacities

A minimum of 15 participants is required for this tour.

Notes

- Level of Activity: 
- Tour is outdoors, layered clothing is suggested; Cavern Temperature is constant 58 degrees
- Don't forget your camera!