

A Step Back in Time – The Museum of Appalachia

Friday, November 5, 2010

Sample Itinerary	
8:30 am	Depart Convention Center
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Self guided tour of Museum of Appalachia with lunch
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Drive to Norris Dam State Park, Tour Lenoir Museum
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Drive to Norris, walking tour of this unique Town
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Return to Convention Center

What grew out of John Rice’s love for this region’s past and its people is an impressive living history that has been nationally acclaimed. It has been featured in the *Smithsonian* magazine, which said, "it vividly portrays something ethereal—the soul of mountain people," and it has been named one of only a handful of affiliates of the prestigious Smithsonian Institution in the state of Tennessee. *Southern Living* has featured the Museum of Appalachia in its pages no fewer than five times.



We start the day with a self guided visit to the Museum of Appalachia. Their collections are among America's most significant, telling the story of a brave and hardy people who carved out lives of joy and toil, often in isolation and often with too little money. How they worked, how they rejoiced and mourned, how they found ways to bring beauty into harsh lives -- the collections are nothing less than a revelation. Stroll the grounds to view the exhibits and building; enjoy the music of the porch pickers; and a delicious home made lunch at the restaurant.

Later we head to Norris State Park and a stop at Lenoir Museum, an 18th Century Grist Mill and a Threshing Barn. The Lenoir Museum contains artifacts from Early Americana which were collected for over 60 years by Will G. Lenoir. The "touch" museum has something for almost everyone's interest from Indian artifacts, fine china, pressed glass, furniture, farm implements, bottles, bells, baskets, and rocks, to historical documents.

We finish with a walking tour of the City of Norris; originally planned and built by the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933 to 1934 to house the TVA personnel that were constructing Norris Dam. For the City's first 15 years, it was a "government town" completely owned and operated by TVA. The original town center and many of the hand split shingled houses are much the same today as when they were built in 1936. In 1948, TVA declared Norris to be "surplus property" and sold the city at public auction to private land developers. The town remains much the same as when it was originally built, designed to be completely walkable!


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 Museum of Appalachia and Lenoir Museum
- Lunch at the Museum of Appalachia
- Guided walking tour of City of Norris
- 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 both indoors and outdoors, layered clothing is suggested
- Don't forget your camera!