



Adventures in the Wild Group Tour

From the second oldest river in the world to the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi to the top of the highest peak in the Blue Ridge, the Mother Nature Tour offers a celebration of the beauty and the bounty of the High Country. Add in some recreational activities (listed at the end) to energize your trip or take a leisurely tour.

Day 1

Little Switzerland, Linville Falls & Linville

Altapass Orchard: The experience begins with the indescribable mountain scenery along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Then take the hayride where a storyteller gives you an entertaining glimpse into the fascinating history of The Orchard and local community. Linger in the butterfly garden and discover food treats, handmade mountain crafts, and everything to do with apples. (Music on weekends) (2 hrs)

Linville Caverns: See inside a mountain, where water is the element that has played a primary role; dissolving the limestone and dolomite and forming the natural passageways into the mountain. Water containing mineral deposits formed stalactite and stalagmite formations that enhance the beauty of the caverns. You will see columns, draperies, canopies, and an array of icicle-like forms as well as an underground stream. (1 hr)

Linville Falls: Take a short one-mile round trip hike to see these magnificent falls. A series of two falls plunge into the 2,000 foot deep Linville Gorge, known as the "Grand Canyon of the South". This is a magnificent walk in any season. (1 hr)

Grandfather Mountain: Visit this nature preserve featuring the highest swinging foot-bridge in America, the Mile High Swinging Bridge. You will also discover a native animal habitat where you may spot a bear cub, or a panther and see otters playing. The nature museum and films speak about the many aspects of the mountain, including endangered species, priceless gems, unique weather, and colorful wildflowers and birds. There is a restaurant, gift shop and hiking trails. You can make arrangements for a naturalist to escort your group and talk about the wonders of this privately owned nature preserve. (3 hrs)

Day 2

Boone, Beech Mountain, Banner Elk & Blowing Rock

Daniel Boone Native Gardens: Located right in the heart of Boone, and featuring indigenous plants in a garden setting. This is a great place to visit before you go hiking, so you can familiarize yourself with the names of native plants. This is a favorite place for small outdoor weddings. (45 min)

Fred's General Mercantile: Arrive at the "Highest Incorporated Town in the Eastern US" and make your first stop at Fred's for a modern version of an old-time General Mercantile. You can have a snack or meal, purchase anything from hiking boots to bird seed to the finest of wines and visit with some of the friendliest folks around. Pick up Beech Mountain Hiking Maps and get personal advice on the best places to go. (1 hour)

Hiking on Beech Mountain: Hike some of the many well-marked trails on this mile-high mountain. View rare and beautiful birds, wildflowers and scenery and just breathe in clean mountain air. No matter what time of the year you choose to visit, the scenery is enough to take your breath away. (2 hours)

Winery at the Blueberry Farm – Nestled on the lower slope of Beech Mountain is a delightful little winery with a wonderful tasting room evocative of an “old world winery”. Visit for a “taste” or arrange for a special themed wine dinner. There is an 8-room European-style B&B that is ideal for a small group who want a really special experience.

Moses Cone Park: Owned and operated by the National Park Service, this former home of the “Denim King” features Flat Top Manor which is home to handcrafted goods of the members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. There is a restored carriage house (with carriages), carriage trails where you may see groups of riders on horseback, and spectacular mountain views (1.5 hr)

Julian Price Park: Save this for the last stop of the day.....a photographer’s paradise, especially as the sun is setting. Take a hike on the many trails, rent a canoe and go out on the lake, or just bask in the beauty of Price Park. (2 hrs)

Day 3

New River, North Wilkesboro, Laurel Springs

Canoe Trip on the New River: See the High Country from the second oldest river in the world, the New River. On this National Wild and Scenic River, you will paddle the clear water and see scenery you will never forget. You can take guided trips in canoes or rafts, with knowledgeable folks who will tell you all about the three “Fs” – flora, fauna and fish. (3 hours)

Rendezvous Mountain: Follow the “Talking Tree Trail” where the trees tell the forest’s history or take the Forest Demo Trail to learn about forestry and logging at the sawmill exhibit. (2 hours)

Merle Watson Garden of the Senses: A garden designed to be enjoyed by all the senses, originally designed for the visually impaired but an experience to be savored by all. (1 hour)

Winery Visit: Sample Mother Nature’s bounty at one (or more) of the areas many wineries. (2+ hours)

Evening Entertainment Options: Take in a performance at ASU, *Horn in the West* (June-Aug.), or Wilkes Playmakers’ presentation of *Tom Dooley: A Wilkes County Legend*. Also, tap your toes to the sounds of concerts by MountainHome Music and at the Todd General Store’s “Homemade Jam.” Enjoy live music and square dancing at Blue Ridge Dinner Theater. Also, check the High Country Host’s calendar of events for festivals and special performances: www.mountainsofnc.com/calendar.html

Adventure Options to Add To Your Outdoor Adventure

Whitewater Rafting

Tubing

Kayaking

Rock Climbing

Spelunking (Caving)

Guided Bike Tour

Skiing & Winter sports (from Nov-Feb)

For more information on touring the High Country, contact:



High Country Host
1-800-438-7500

www.mountainsofnc.com