

Explore Arkansas

THE NATURAL STATE

October 23-31, 2024 

Arkansas, the hidden gem of nature's wonders, calls out to weary souls craving an escape from the chaos of daily life. With its majestic Ozark Mountains and charming Hot Springs National Park, this state is a playground for outdoor lovers. Prepare to be awestruck by cascading waterfalls, unwind in natural hot springs, and dive into the fascinating history of the area. Arkansas welcomes all adventurers and relaxation seekers alike, promising a wild ride or a peaceful retreat amidst nature's embrace.

Highlights

- Crystal Bridges
- Fordyce Bathhouse
- Daisy Airgun Museum
- Botanical Gardens
- Shiloh Museum of the Ozarks
- Arkansas & Missouri Rail Trip
- Fort Smith Tour
- Petite Jean State Park
- Cedar Falls Viewing
- Rock Town Distillery
- Hot Springs National Park
- Ozark Folk Center
- Clinton Library
- Arkansas State Capitol
- Quapaw Baths & Spa



Wednesday, Oct. 23 - Let's hit the road and get ready to explore The Natural State, Arkansas! As we start our journey south, we will be viewing the gorgeous fall colors that line these picturesque roads. Our overnight accommodations are in Rolla, MO. This evening we will be having a welcome dinner for you to get to know your fellow travelers. (D)

Thursday, Oct. 24 - We depart from our hotel in the morning and continue heading south to Bentonville, AR to **Crystal Bridges**. This museum of American art has numerous exhibits showcasing amazing works by different artists from around the country. In addition to the exhibits inside, there are walking trails along the property with different sculptures and art pieces to look at. We will enjoy a lunch at the museum's restaurant, Eleven. Upon departure, we will head to the **Mildred B Cooper Memorial Glass Chapel**. This beautiful work of architectural genius is nestled in the forest outside of Belle Vista. It is encased by field stone walls and 4400 square foot glass window panes. As the natural light enters the Chapel, it dances in leaf shapes patterns across the stone floor. Our final stop before dinner is the **Daisy Airgun Museum**. Daisy is known for its Red Ryder BB gun but they don't stop there. Check out the history of these air guns as well as the different types that they have created over the years. Dinner and back to the hotel after a day filled with art and history. (B,L)

Friday, Oct. 25 - We depart from the hotel this morning and it's a short drive to our first stop, the **Botanical Garden of the Ozarks**. A tour guide will show us around the 12 different gardens within the property. We will enjoy lunch at the gardens and then we are on to our next stop. The **Shiloh Museum of the Ozarks** is a museum dedicated to showcase the history of the Arkansas Ozarks. Next, we head over to **Black Apple Hard Cider**, Arkansas' first and only cidery with a variety of different cider flavors to sample. A final stop for wine and dinner at **Sassafras Winery** completes day three. (B,D)

Saturday, Oct. 26 - All board for day four! We depart from the hotel and arrive at the **Arkansas and Missouri Railroad**. We ride along and watch the gorgeous fall colors surround us, arriving in Van Buren midmorning. Van Buren's main street is six blocks of art galleries, antique shops, restaurants, and historical attractions. Lunch will be here in **Van Buren** and you will have time to do some exploring of this unique restored Victorian main street. We board the bus and will arrive at **Fort Smith, for a guided tour**. A driving tour of the historic downtown area will allow us to see some of the murals along the streets. The **US Marshall Museum** tells us the story of the oldest law enforcement agency in the US. Dinner tonight is at a local favorite before the **Miss Laura's Players** enchant us with "**The Medicine Show**", a comedy skit during dessert. (B,D)

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Today brings a day filled with exploring the state's natural parks. Before departing, we make a stop at the Chaffee Barber Shop Museum - where Elvis got the famous "buzz cut" as he was inducted into the US Army. Then it's off to **Mount Magazine State Park**, with plenty of gorgeous views throughout. From here, we travel to **Petit Jean State Park**, another wonderful Arkansas State Park that we will be able to explore. For those who are able, there is a hiking trail to **Cedar Falls**, which passes through **Cedar Creek Canyon**. After a day of fresh air, we will head to the hotel to freshen up for dinner, where we will enjoy traditional German and Czech dishes. (B,L,D)

Monday, Oct. 28 - Another day of learning about Arkansas takes us to the state capitol, Little Rock. Our morning begins with a guided tour of the city. After a stop for lunch, we head to the **Arkansas State Capitol** to view this magnificent limestone building and get a group photo. A final stop before dinner at **Rock Town Distillery** wouldn't be complete without a delicious cocktail. Another amazing day in the great state of Arkansas. (B,D)

Tuesday, Oct. 29 - Today is all things hot springs! After breakfast, we start our day with a ranger-led tour of **Hot Springs National Park**. There we will experience the world-famous thermal waters. Bathhouse Row is where we will be spending our day. We will start at the **Fordyce Bathhouse Museum**, where we learn the history of the hot springs and what the bathhouses were used for. We will stop for lunch at Arkansas' oldest bar to fill our bellies before a spa treatment or thermal bath at **Quapaw Baths and Spa**. After some rest and relaxation, we stop at **Mountain Valley Springs**. A premium spring water company that has bottled fresh spring water from a mineral spring in the Ouachita Mountains for over 150 years. Dinner and back to the hotel for a good night's sleep! (B,D)

Wednesday, Oct. 30 - Our final day in Arkansas takes us to the **Clinton Presidential Library and Museum** in Little Rock. We will get to see the timeline of our 42nd president. Our next stop is the **River Market District**, a 10,000 square foot indoor market with shops, stalls and tables selling food and unique products. A stop at the **Ozark Folk Center** wraps up our day in Arkansas and we are headed north for a quick overnight in Rolla, MO before continuing on home. (B,D)

Thursday, Oct. 31 - Our journey to the natural state has come to an end but we leave with so many fun experiences, memories, and plenty of new friends. (B,L)



Tour Price:

\$2899 Per Person Double

\$3699 Per Person Single

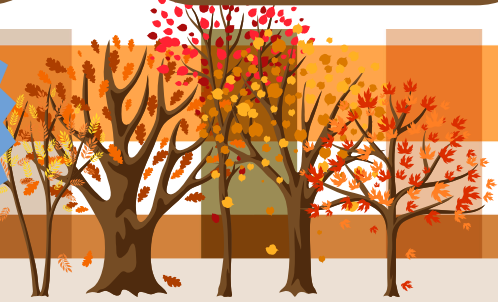
\$500 Per Person Deposit

Final Payment Due August 15, 2024

\$199 POM Protection

Tour Inclusions:

- 8 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 7 Dinners
- Hotel Accommodations for 8 Nights
- All Attractions & Admissions Per Itinerary
- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- Services of a Personalized Tour Director



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