

# October 15-22, 2022 (8 Days)

Personalized Tours is offering a fantastic "*new*" tour to-WEST VIRGINIA, "THE MOUNTAIN STATE". Rocky Peaks receding toward a misty horizon; rivers churned to a froth, rushing through narrow canyons; waterfalls tumbling down steep hills into secluded valleys; vast forests ablaze with autumn color...these images only begin to describe West Virginia's most beautiful regions.





We're off to the wild, rugged country of West Virginia. Meet your fellow travelers as we head south and east through Illinois and Indiana to Central Ohio. Overnight accommodations are in Columbus, OH (D)

Our first stop is in Columbus at The Wilds. This safari park and conservation center is run in conjunction with the Columbus Zoo, and is home to a huge array of animals. We



board our safari and wind through the park, viewing wildlife up close. Our route, today, takes us through southwestern Ohio. Crossing the Ohio River, we enter West Virginia at Wheeling. Our next stop is at the Oglebay Resort where we visit the Mansion Museum, once the summer home of Colonel Earl W. Oglebay and family. It is furnished with items reflecting Ohio Valley life during various eras. We'll walk through the 16-acre Bissonnette Gardens between the mansion and the glass museum. With displays containing over 3000 examples of West Virginia glass made from 1829-



1939, the museum features cut lead crystal and Victorian art glass, plus the 21-gallon Sweeney punch bowl — the largest piece of cut lead crystal ever made. Luncheon is included today at Oglebay. Mid-afternoon we make our way to Morgantown and our hotel for the evening. (B, L)



MONDAY OCTOBER 17 Morgantown is the home of Don Knotts, fondly remembered as the bumbling Deputy Barney Fife, on The Andy Griffith Show. A local expert

joins us as we see where Mr. Knotts was molded into the beloved comedian and actor. We'll finish with a delicious hot apple dumpling just like Aunt Bee would have made. Then it's on to the Mannette Steel Drum factory, the only facility in the world that allows you to experience the building, tuning, and history of the Caribbean Steel Drum, and the workshop of Dr. Ellie Mannette, the father of the modern steel drum.



We continue our journey, visiting Blackwater Falls State Park. A park naturalist will board our coach and show us the 65-foot falls of the Blackwater River, whose amber-colored waters plunge 5 stories, then twist & tumble through an 8-mile long, 525-foot deep gorge. We drive the short distance to Elkins and our overnight accommodations. Dinner is included



tonight along with a spectacular show at the Gandy Dancer Dinner Theatre. (B, D)



Today our rail adventure begins. We experience a very unique train beginning with the New Tygart Flyer. The 4-hour trip starting in Elkins features 2 separate mountain grades, an "S" curve tunnel,

passage into a 1500' deep Canyon with steep densely forested slopes and the crossing of the high bridge over the rushing waters of the Cheat River before reaching the "High Falls of Cheat". This 18'-high, 150'-wide waterfall is in one of the most remote  $\Rightarrow$  pristine settings in the Eastern United States. A box lunch will be served en route (included). (B, L, D)







Sunday morning finds us visiting the National Radio Astronomy
Observatory in Green Bank where we have time to wander through the
Green Bank Science Center, featuring hands-on exhibits and displays

that introduce us to the science of radio astronomy. A guide will board our coach and take us out to see the huge radio telescopes. From there we head south to "The Greenbrier"...this

historic and fabulous estate nestled amid 6500 acres of Allegheny Mountain woodlands is the beautiful setting for the rest of the day and evening, We will experience the elegance and grandeur that has earned this 5-diamond resort many top awards. Our visit begins with luncheon followed by a tour of "The Bunker", a massive underground facility that was meant to serve as an emergency shelter for the United States Congress during the Cold War. The bunker was stocked with supplies for 30 years and contained a dormitory, kitchen,



hospital and broadCast center. The remainder of our day will include an afternoon tea and concert, elegant dinner and evening movies. Staying at the Greenbrier is a once in a lifetime experience. (B, L, D)



After a wonderful breakfast at The Greenbrier we travel east to Ansted where we are outfitted for a float trip through the New River Gorge and under the





famed New River Gorge Bridge. Take in the scenery as we wind through the narrow mountain passages. This will give us a Chance to see West Virginia from a whole new perspective. Luncheon will be provided upon returning to base. Then it's on to



Beckley and the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. Veteran miners lead our underground tour of this vintage coal mine where we learn first hand how a turn-of-the-century mine operated. We will have time to browse through the coal mining museum and coal Camp where Camp homes, schools, a miner's shanty and churches provide a glimpse into life in a typical coal Camp. This evening we stop



at TamaraCk, a showcase for the state's cultural heritage and traditions, displaying West Virginia-made juried arts, foods and agricultural products. Demonstration areas will allow us to see artisans at work creating items such as pottery, glass, woodcrafts, and quilts. Our hotel is in Beckley. (B, L)



We begin our northerly trek and travel to the Cincinnati area. En route we visit Blenko Glass Company in Milton, known for its contemporary glass tableware and stained glass. We are able to see artisans using the earliest-known techniques of glassblowing. Our route takes us along the Ohio River through many quaint old river towns to our hotel in Covington, Kentucky. Located across the river from Cincinnati, the hotel gives us a wonderful view of the city from our high rise riverside rooms. Tonight we



are treated to dinner and musical entertainment aboard the beautiful sternwheeler, *Belle of Cincinnati.* Take in the skyline as we cruise past the Great American Ball Park and other landmarks. (B, D)



Today we cover the final leg of our West Virginia adventure. Traveling through Indiana and Illinois, we reminisce about the gorgeous scenery and the experience of returning to yesteryear aboard a historic train of West Virginia. **(B, L)** 

\*\*\*Attractions and routing subject to change based upon availability and location closures\*\*\*

## **TOUR PRICE:** \$2239 Per Person Double \$2859 Per Person Single

#### **TOUR INCLUDES :**

- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- Hotel Accommodations for 7 Nights
- Sightseeing & Attractions Per Itinerary The WILDS - Animal Safari The Mansion & Glass Museum at Wheeling, WV Morgantown Local Guided Tour Mannette Steel Drum Visit Blackwater Falls State Park Gandy Dancers Dinner Theatre Tygart Flyer Mountain Train The Durbin Rocket Train Ride Greenbrier River Valley **Snowshoe Mountain** National Radio Astronomy Observatory Green Bank Science Center The Greenbrier Estate New River Gorge Float Trip **Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine** Tamarack Blenko Glass Company Belle of Cincinnati Dinner Cruise Baggage Handling for 1 Suitcase per Person
- Services of a Personalized Tour Manager

#### \$300 Per Person Deposit Due with Reservation Final Payment Due August 15, 2022



Tour #6332

## FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

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PEACE OF MIND PROTECTION: \$179

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