



The Ark & Appalachia

7 Days July 12-18, 2020

This great tour combines America's largest faith-based attraction, The Ark Encounter with the arts and music of Appalachia plus the historic grace of the Boone Tavern Hotel. Your days are filled with both artistic and divine inspiration. Then your evenings are filled with enough live entertainment and southern cooking to have your lips a smackin' and your toes a-tappin.'

Tour Highlights:

- The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum
- Cumberland Falls State Park
- Ride Big South Fork Scenic Railway
- Harlan County KY
 - Harlan Center, Justified Exhibit
 - Coal Mining Museum & Portal 31 Coal Mine
 - Loretta Lynn Exhibit
- Jenny Wiley State Park Dinner and Show
- Pikeville KY
 - Hatfield & McCoy Tour
 - Dueling Barrels Distillery
- Paintsville KY
 - Loretta Lynn's Birthplace
 - US 23 Country Music Highway Museum
- Kentucky Opry & Louisville Mega Cavern
- Six Nights Deluxe Lodging including
 - One Night at the Historic Boone Tavern Hotel
 - Two Nights, Jenny Wiley State Park
- Six Hotel Breakfasts, One Box Lunch, Three Dinners
- All Taxes and Tips on these services; Luggage Handling
- Motorcoach Transportation & Driver's Gratuities
- Travel Protection Plan

Per Person Prices:

\$1,775 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

\$2,175 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

\$150 per person deposit and completed application is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis.

Reservations made after the deposit date of May 11th are based upon availability. Final payment is due by June 1, 2020. Deposits are refundable up until May 11, 2020.

For More Information Contact

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Day 1 – Today travel to Cincinnati, OH for the night. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Day 2 - After breakfast visit the Creation Museum. Be prepared to experience history in a completely unprecedented way. This state-of-the-art 70,000 square foot museum brings to life the pages of the Bible, casting its characters and animals in dynamic form and in familiar settings. The museum offers murals and realistic scenery, computer-generated visual effects, more than fifty exotic animals, life-sized people and dinosaur animatronics.

This afternoon visit the Ark Encounter. From the moment you turn the corner and the towering Ark comes into view, to the friendly animals in the petting zoo, to the jaw-dropping exhibits inside the Ark, you'll experience the pages of the Bible like never before. This marvel of engineering is seven stories tall and is a football field and a half long. It is the largest timber frame structure in the world. Get ready to experience close-up encounters with stunning animals. Some life-like recreations from Noah's day and many living-and-breathing animals from today. Enjoy lunch on your own, at the Emzara's Kitchen located on the grounds.

Then travel to Berea, KY where you check into the stately Historic Boone Tavern Hotel for the night. Situated where the Bluegrass meets the rolling hills of Appalachia, this hotel has an historic past now stretching into its second century. It is operated by the students of Berea College who study the arts and crafts of the region.

Dinner is included tonight in the Boone Hall Dining Room that embraces southern hospitality and is now making history again. For the first time in 105 years, Boone Tavern is serving fine wines, Kentucky crafted and domestic beers and spirits to include the Famous Kentucky bourbons (on your own). The Berea Restaurant's cuisine celebrates quintessential Kentucky and Boone Tavern tradition through innovative preparations and flavors while providing a complete dining experience for guests wanting more. **(B,D)**

Day 3 - Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for Cumberland Falls State Park. Here you meet the Park's Step-on Guide for a tour of the park including a short walk to the Falls.

Then stop in nearby Stearns, KY where you ride the Big South Fork Scenic Railroad with an included "Coal Miner's Lunch Bag." This train travels deep into the rugged Appalachians where you visit Blue Heron, a coal camp abandoned in 1962. Continue to Williamsburg, KY for the night. Dinner is on your own this evening. **(B,L)**

Day 4 – This morning you visit Harlan, KY and the Harlan Center. Harlan, KY is the setting for the FX series Justified. Be sure to stop by the Harlan Center and see props from the set. Ask about a photo-op on Ivy Hill that plays in the opening credits of Justified!

Then head to Benham KY and tour the Kentucky Coal Museum. The museum brings back to life one of the most unique and interesting aspects of early coal mining... the company store. Housed in the old commissary built by International Harvester in the 1920s, the museum features four stories of exhibits on the history of mining and the life of the coal miner.

The third floor of the museum is dedicated to the life of country music singer and Coal Miner's Daughter Loretta Lynn.

The Lynn Exhibit includes portraits capturing the singer at various stages of her life in addition to many items from Mrs. Lynn's personal collection. Enjoy a tour through the Museum's Mock Mine. The short walking tour winds along coal corridors and includes vivid sound and video from modern mines.

Also included is a tour of the Portal 31 Coal Mine. Get the unique experience of touring an actual coal mine by rail car. Experience traveling through a coal mine as you enjoy animated exhibits along the tour.

End the day at Jenny Wiley State Park Lodge where you still stay the next two nights. Experience the secluded beauty of the 49-room May Lodge, which overlooks Dewey Lake, surrounded by towering pines and peaceful mountains.

Dinner is included at the Lodge this evening before a Broadway-style production at Jenny Wiley Theatre, one of the nation's leading repertory amphitheaters. **(B,D)**

Day 5 – This morning after breakfast, head to Pikeville KY for the Hatfields & McCoys Historic Feud Driving Tour. One of Eastern Kentucky's most popular attractions with thousands of visitors each year exploring the sites where the most infamous feud took place. You can see the Hog Trial Cabin, the McCoy Homeplace featuring the McCoy Well, the historic Pike County Courthouse where Cottontop was put on trial, the feudist's graves, and much more. Also included on this tour is a visit to the Dueling Barrels Distillery.

The roots of many of Country Music's biggest stars can be found all along Country Music Highway US 23. But tucked into the hills of Eastern Kentucky is Country Music's hallowed ground, Butcher Holler, the home place of Loretta Lynn. Come and see Loretta Lynn's humble beginnings, the place that shaped her into the Coal Miner's Daughter and the sensation that captured America's heart.

Today included travel on US 23 the Country Music Highway into the Eastern Kentucky Coalfields. This region is home to many famous Country Music Stars: Billy Ray Cyrus, The Judds, Keith Whitley, Ricky Scaggs, Patty Loveless and Tom T Hall. The new US 23 Country Music Highway Museum is dedicated to these native sons and daughters who have become Country Music Superstars.

The evening included the Kentucky Opry at Mountain Arts Center. Billie Jean Osborne's Kentucky Opry presents the best family-friendly entertainment this side of Branson! Don't miss this variety show that features all local talent and includes country, rock, gospel, and bluegrass music, along with Appalachian humor! Vocalists include The Voice contestant Rachel Messer and Loretta Lynn's niece Sarah McCoart. **(B)**

Day 6 - Following breakfast depart for Louisville, KY. Today also includes the MEGA Cavern. The Historic Tram Tour will take you on an underground adventure rich in history, geology, mining, recycling, green building technology, and just simply HUGE in scale. You'll hop on an SUV-pulled tram and be joined by a MEGA Cavern expert who will guide you on your underground adventure. It's a 60-70 minute tour, strategically lit to enjoy highlights. Continue travel to Franklin, IN for the night. Dinner is on your own this evening. **(B)**

Day 7 - After breakfast, depart for home with many fond memories of Kentucky and Appalachia. **(B)**