

Natural & Family Resources, Inc.
FRANCES PARNELL TRAVEL ADVENTURES
presents

The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail
A Musical Tour Featuring Country, Bluegrass and Gospel Music
November 26, 27, 28, 29, 2018

The Crooked Road is Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, a driving route through the Appalachian Mountains from the Blue Ridge to the Coalfields region, following U.S. Route 58. The trail connects major heritage music venues in the region such as the Blue Ridge Music Center, Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, the Carter Family Fold the Ralph Stanley Museum, Barter Theater, and Lincoln Theater. The traditional gospel, bluegrass, and mountain music heard today was passed down from the generations and lives on through a wealth of musicians and instrument makers along the trail. It's a hand clapping, toe tapping, finger snapping, way to learn the culture, history and music of the Appalachian Mountains and its people. You will discover the roots that made the Grand Ole Opry "grand" while you re-live songs, you may have forgotten, that have made today's music legacy.

Monday, November 26, 2018

7:00 AM: Leave Winter Park Baptist Parking Lot via motor coach with stops about every two hours and lunch en route probably Mt. Airy.

3:00 PM: Arrive in Abingdon, Virginia with a rest stop at the Gateway to Southwest Virginia's Heartwood. Heartwood has interactive kiosk that shares the stories of the Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail.

4:00 PM: Check into Country Inn & Suites by Radisson

5:30 PM: Depart hotel for *Story of the Song: Our Roots Run Deep*, an intimate evening with Hall of Fame, Grammy Award winning songwriter Richard Leigh and Friends. Includes a traditional Appalachian dinner. He has written 40 hits including "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue," as vocalized by Crystal Gayle.

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Enjoy hot breakfast buffet at our hotel.

8:00 AM: Leave hotel for our first journey on the Crooked Road with Eugene Wolff, a retired Barter Theater actor as our local step-on host. (He is the renowned actor who played the father of June Carter Cash and does a good impersonation of Johnny Cash, I am told.)

9:00 AM: Enjoy a traditional music experience at Lay's Hardware with an authentic Appalachian band. Enjoy dancing, if you wish, along with Christmas cookies and coffee. Kick up your heels and immerse yourself in the Appalachian culture.

11:00 AM: Arrive at the Country Cabin II for an Appalachian lunch. Enjoy entertainment, music and a dance lesson for those who wish.

1:30 PM: Guided tour of Ralph Stanley Museum-a legendary American bluegrass artist, internationally known for his unique, innovative style of singing and banjo playing who was born and raised in the mountains of Virginia. Ralph Stanley was a beloved musician performing until his death in 2016. One of the most popular works he is known for was featured in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*-for which he won a 2002 Grammy Award and Best Male Country Vocal Performance.

4:00 PM: Travel through the Appalachian Mountains and return to Abingdon as the winter sun sets and see a display of the Christmas Spirit of this charming town.

5:30 PM: Dinner at the Martha Washington Inn, Abingdon's historic hotel with elegant surroundings. It was originally built in 1832 as a private home, transformed into an elite women's college and later a Civil War hospital before becoming a luxury hotel. The menu will be light and tasty after a day of Appalachian specialties.

7:30 PM: Continue the music at the Barter Theatre, *Elf, The Musical* -a hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan who accidentally crawls into Santa's bag and is taken back to the North Pole. Buddy embarks on a journey to New York to find his birth father. Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help remember the true meaning of Christmas. After all, the best way to spread Christmas Cheer is singing loud for all to hear.

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Enjoy hot breakfast buffet at our hotel.

9:00 AM: Leave hotel for another journey on the Crooked Road with Jim Bordwine, a local historian, as our host for the day. He will bring to life the history of the Appalachian mountain people and the role this region has had in the Ice Age, Revolutionary War, Civil War and some of history's greatest moments including rocket fuel and moonshine.

10:00-11:30 AM: Visit the historic Lincoln Theatre that opened to huge fanfare in 1929 with state of the art projection and sound. Now it is the home of *Song of the Mountains* a nationally syndicated Bluegrass public television series. Enjoy a festive sing-a-long, Christmas stories of Appalachia and musical entertainment.

12:30-2:30 PM: Lunch. Dine on your own in downtown Bristol, VA with more than six nearby restaurants from which to choose.

3:00-5:00 PM: Tour Birthplace of Country Music Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, that tells the story of the 1927 Bristol Sessions recordings that were influential in shaping the sounds and practices of early commercial country music. (This is interactive and you can listen to songs of your choice.)

5:30 PM: Dinner at J. Franks Restaurant, fine dining located in a fully restored 1850's Victorian house with festive holiday ambiance and food to tantalize your palate.

7:30 PM: Guided tour of *Speedway in Lights* at Bristol Motor Speedway. See the largest holiday lights show in the south, featuring 4 miles and over 2 million lights. Drive on the actual track itself, dubbed "the fastest half mile in Nascar." While you enjoy this festive time you are also part of the giving spirit since proceeds benefit Speedway Children's Charities.

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Enjoy hot breakfast buffet at our hotel.

Begin the journey home with a stop for lunch in Winston-Salem, NC. (Included)

For more information Google: The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail. This is a neat tour--one of a kind that was planned for our group.

Includes: Round trip motor coach transportation, lodging for 3 nights, 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners, all venues in the itinerary.

Total Cost: \$850 double occupancy, \$1000 single occupancy

Deposit due: \$400 due August 22, 2018

Final Payment Due: October 19, 2018

Write check to: Natural & Family Resources, Inc.

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