

# Tennessee Country Christmas

December 1 – 6, 2023 • 6 Days • \$2590

We invite you to join us and experience the holiday lights and sparkle of Nashville, the natural beauty of Kentucky's subterranean wonderland at Mammoth Cave National Park, and Georgia's marvelous Lookout Mountain attractions!

[Contact Us](#)

**[Tour Type: Classic Curated](#)**

- [Overview](#)

Enjoy walks and holiday fun throughout 3 states - Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia!

## **Highlights:**

- Nashville, "Music City, USA," showcasing the sparkling lights and Christmastime atmosphere of Opryland Hotel
- The Hermitage (home of President Andrew Jackson)
- A world-class Christmas Show at the Grand Ole Opry (details to be announced)
- An underground walk at the biggest cave in the world— Mammoth Cave National Park—featuring an unforgettable Christmas Cave Sing and subterranean stroll by candlelight
- The exceptional natural beauty of Ruby Falls, Rock City, and Lookout Mountain
- Fascinating Civil War history along the Tennessee/Georgia Border in Chattanooga!



**Including:**

- All land travel as outlined
- Superior tourist-class hotel accommodations - 3 nights in the same hotel near Opryland in Nashville and 2 nights in Chattanooga

- Hotel to airport transfer on last day
- 6 Meals: All breakfasts and 1 dinner as listed in itinerary (BD)
- 4 walks as listed (3 different states: Tennessee, Kentucky, and Georgia!)
- Fees for those collecting AVA walking credit
- All tipping for local guides, coach drivers, and group meals
- WAI guide service throughout
- Pricing is based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available for a supplement of \$540. We also provide a roommate matching service.

### **Activities/Entrance Fees:**

- Christmas Show at Grand Ole Opry
- The Hermitage (President Andrew Jackson's home)
- Opryland Hotel's Christmas Displays (Hall of Trees, and Craft Show)
- Delta Riverboat ride inside Opryland Hotel
- Mammoth Cave National Park (including Christmas Cave Sing)
- Rock City in Georgia
- Chattanooga's Incline Railway
- Ruby Falls
- More fun stops than we can list!

### **Optional Excursion:**

- ICE, the magical world of ice sculptures inside the Opryland Hotel (Day 0)
- Nashville Bonus Day including Scholars Walk and Belle Meade Plantation (Day 1)

- [360.260.9393](tel:360.260.9393)
- [Email Us](#)



## Adventure Pace

**Tour Pace:** 1 2 3 4 5

**Walk Challenge:** 1 2 3 4 5

[About Adventure Pace](#)

Adventure Pace

How much Adventure do you want? Here are a few features to help gauge the following factors on each tour.

**Tour Pace:** On a scale of 1 (slowest pace) to 5 (fastest pace), we've rated the following factors: number of 1-night hotels; driving miles per day; fullness of schedule; mid-tour airline flights; high elevation setting; and average amount of walking per day.

**Walk Challenge:** This number represents an average walk difficulty rating for the tour using a scale of 1 (easiest) to 5 (hardest).

[Contact Us](#)

## Important Info



### Group Size

Approximately 24-28 travelers



### Hotels

Superior tourist-class hotel accommodations - 4 nights in the same hotel near Opryland in Nashville and 2 nights in Chattanooga



### Meals

7 Meals: All breakfasts included with 1 Dinner as listed. Letters BD indicate which meals are included.



### Airfare

Not included. We can connect you with a local travel agent that can help with airfare bookings! This tour starts and finishes in Nashville, TN.



## Transportation

Included. We use motorcoaches with a seating capacity of 40+ seats.



## Traveler Age

Our travelers usually range from 50-75 years of age. All ages welcome!

## Your Guides



**Scott Isom** has had a passion for the outdoors ever since his childhood days spent exploring the waterfalls and outstanding hiking trails of the Columbia River Gorge with his family. Scott has led tours on all 7 continents and is one of WAI's busiest guides and on-site Adventure planners. Scott will be lead guide on our Tennessee Country Christmas tour.

## Your Guides



**Tim Friesen** has been guiding for Walking Adventures since 2003, and prior to 2022 was most often leading our summertime adventures in Europe. Now that he has finished up a long and satisfying career as a high school music teacher in Molalla, Oregon, he assists in planning tours and continues to lead Adventures year-round. If you're lucky, you may even catch him bursting into song on the trail!

# Itinerary

*Click on each day to reveal more details. BLD refers to meals included, Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner.*

## [DAY 1-December 1: Arrive in Nashville, Tennessee](#)

*Optional Nashville Scholars Walk - 11 km, rated 2A*

Travelers arrive from across the country today into Nashville, Tennessee, affectionately known as “Music City, USA”. We rendezvous at our hotel near Opryland, where we begin a 7-day and 6-night Country Christmas celebration spanning 3 states. Following a get-acquainted orientation this evening, feel free to explore the dazzling Christmas sights and sounds of Opryland Hotel.

*Optional Nashville Bonus Day: Travelers how opt to arrive a day early, November 30, are invited to join us for a few high quality bonus activities. We start our morning with a walk in Nashville featuring the campuses of Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities, and a stroll down Nashville’s famous Music Row to view a full scale replica of the Parthenon.*

*Our coach then takes us down the road for a Christmas Tour at historic Belle Meade Plantation, one of America’s premier thoroughbred horse farms.*

*Estimated price: \$95 per person including guide service, guided walks with walk credit, entrance to Belle Meade Plantation, and bus service for the day.*

*NOTE: Travelers who arrive a day early, on November 30, are also invited to join us on an excursion inside the world of holiday-themed ice sculptures inside the Opryland Hotel. Price TBA*

## [DAY 2-December 2: Activities in Nashville \(B\)](#)

*Nashville Capitol Walk - 12 km, rated 3A*

Our second morning in Nashville begins with a walk focusing on the Tennessee state capitol, Bicentennial Mall, and historic Ryman Auditorium.

After a lunch stop, we look forward to presidential treatment during a Holiday Tour at the Hermitage, home of our seventh commander-in-chief, Andrew Jackson.

Enjoy dinner on your own this evening at one of the area’s numerous restaurants. Also consider imbibing the marvelous Christmas ambiance of Opryland Hotel, using your included tickets to ride the indoor Delta Riverboats.

### [DAY 3-December 3: Activities in Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky \(B\)](#)

#### *Mammoth Cave Walk - 10 km, rated 2B*

A short drive into Kentucky this morning connects us with the largest subterranean wonderland on the planet, Mammoth Cave National Park.

Prepare for spectacular natural sights as we embark on an underground/above ground walk. Witness the famous “Frozen Niagara” cave formation as well as numerous sinkholes, disappearing streams, and springs common throughout Kentucky’s karst landscape.

Be filled with yuletide cheer as we participate in the annual Cave Sing and Storytelling event, a unique and memorable Christmas tradition dating back to 1883 that takes place only one day each year in the decorated and candlelit chambers of Mammoth Cave.

After our time in the Bluegrass State, we return to Nashville for a little down time, or more Opryland exploration.

### [DAY 4-December 4: Nashville - Chattanooga \(B\)](#)

#### *Chattanooga Downtown River Walk - 10 km, rated 2A*

Today we shuffle down the tracks a couple of hours to charming Chattanooga, enjoying a downtown walk that features the Chattanooga Choo Choo and Walnut Street Bridge, the country’s longest pedestrian bridge.

During your free time this afternoon, you may want to dive in to the fascinating environment of the world-class Tennessee Aquarium (optional).

This evening, we receive a little geological inspiration in our third state, Georgia, as we explore Rock City, a marvel of nature featuring massive ancient rock formations, gardens, and a wonderful display of Christmas lights.

### [DAY 5-December 5: Activities in Chattanooga \(BD\)](#)

#### *Lookout Mountain/Ruby Falls Walk - 10 km, rated 2C*

After a brief drive back into the Peach State, we navigate the scenic and historic footpaths of Lookout Mountain during a combination Georgia/ Tennessee walk. Along the way, we discover the Civil War history of “The Battle Above the Clouds” and experience “America’s Most Amazing Mile” as we descend down the 72.7% grade of Chattanooga’s Incline Railway.

We then soak up more Christmas ambiance at impressive, 145 foot tall Ruby Falls, one of the largest underground waterfalls open to the public.

A fitting finish to our day comes at a Farewell Dinner at our Chattanooga hotel.

### [DAY 6-December 6: Depart from Nashville \(B\)](#)



Following breakfast at our hotel, we reminisce together on our coach ride back to the Nashville airport for flights homeward.

Full of Christmas cheer and warm memories of our 3-state holiday extravaganza, we hope 'Yule' be back to join us for a future Adventure real soon!

## Before You Book

*Click on each heading for more details.*

### [How Do I Lock in My Place on This Adventure?](#)

To register, a non-refundable \$300 deposit is required to hold your spot. A final payment is due 90 days before departure and is non-refundable after the due date. You will receive a prompt email from us a week or two in advance.

Soon after registration, an "Adventure Advice" email will be sent with critical information on flight arrangements as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. Please do not buy your airline tickets until you review this Adventure Advice email.

Follow this link to read our full [General Tour Conditions](#).

### [What's a Classic Curated Tour?](#)

With help from local experts and walking guides, these itineraries are hand-crafted with extensive on-site planning by WAI tour planners.

When planning Classic Curated Tours, our objective is to capture the essence of a destination—the history, culture, and natural wonders unique to that part of the world. We then build activities and walks that take us inside these characteristics.

Yes, these tours are educational, but they are also interactive and immersive; walking gets us off the bus and penetrates local cultures to not only see, but touch, smell, and feel these special spaces.

Along the way, interactions with locals amplify the experience as they share insights into the magic of that particular location.

### [Walk Ratings](#)

We generally walk at a pace of 2 to 3 miles per hour. Several walks on this trip are oriented more towards education, and therefore take longer due to stops for guide commentary. Nature walks, on the other hand, generally continue at a steadier pace because we're stopping less to talk.

In most cases, we are not "strolling." We are walking at a relaxed but steady pace. Your

experience will be significantly affected by your level of physical fitness. If not walking regularly at home, we strongly recommend that you make a priority of “training” beforehand to both enjoy the trip and avoid medical issues due to overexertion. If you have questions about your ability to participate, please contact our office at [fun@walkingadventures.com](mailto:fun@walkingadventures.com).

We have adopted a walk difficulty rating system which contains a numeric indicator for trail incline and an alpha indicator for trail terrain. The explanation for this system is presented on the table below:

## **INCLINE**

1. Minimal hills or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: <200 feet.
2. Some moderate hills and stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 200-1000 feet.
3. Some significant hill or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 1000-2000 feet.

## **TERRAIN**

- A. Almost entirely on pavement.
- B. A significant part of the route is on well-groomed trails with very few obstacles.
- C. A significant part of the route is on somewhat difficult terrain (rocky / rooted paths or soft sand).

## [How is Airfare Arranged?](#)

Our official start point is our hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. The nearest airport is Nashville International Airport (airport code BNA). The official finish point of the tour is the Nashville International Airport.

We recommend that you contact Laura Pfahler, the travel agent we work with, to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment! More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided in an Adventure Advice PDF by email after you register for the Adventure. Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving these flight details from us!

- Laura Pfahler: 503.434.6401 or [llp@wtpdx.com](mailto:llp@wtpdx.com)

## [Travel Insurance](#)

WAI believes strongly in the importance of travel insurance for financial and medical protection from any number of unforeseen circumstances that can arise before departure or during your Adventure. Many travel insurance providers are available for you to consider. Laura Pfahler and Sharon Mitchell of World Travel Inc. are travel agents who provide air travel and insurance services to many WAI travelers. Laura specializes in air travel; Sharon specializes in travel insurance.

Laura Pfahler: 503.434.6401 or [llp@wtpdx.com](mailto:llp@wtpdx.com)

Sharon Mitchell: 971.261.2091 or [smitchell@wtpdx.com](mailto:smitchell@wtpdx.com)

Check out [Insurance Tips](#) from World Travel for a short introduction to travel insurance. (NOTE: WAI receives no commission or financial remuneration from World Travel Inc.).

As always, do some shopping to ensure you are getting the best value. Using the [SquareMouth.com](#) website can be a good way to compare pricing.

Other options include:

Allianz

Betins

Travel Guard

Travel Insured International

WAI bears no responsibility for travel insurance benefits advertised by various credit card companies. If you are relying on this type of benefit for insurance, we advise you to verify coverage types and limits and that your purchase does in fact qualify you for this insurance.

*NOTE: We suggest purchasing from a reputable, well-established insurance company (avoid buying insurance from an unknown company found only online). Travelers interested in purchasing "cancel for any reason" insurance coverage should be careful to check pricing and terms BEFORE they register for a tour. Recent changes in the international travel landscape has caused changes in the policies of some insurance companies, and made the purchase of this particular type of policy even more time-sensitive.*

### [What if WAI Cancels the Tour?](#)

Walking Adventures International reserves the right to cancel this tour departure with fewer than 12 participants, in which case registered participants would receive a 100% refund of payments received.

This refund policy contains one exclusion. Many suppliers require non-refundable deposits as a condition of booking services. Though it is rare, unforeseen circumstances can force us to cancel a tour. In cases where supplier's non-refundable policies are imposed, WAI attempts to retrieve as much of these deposits as possible but cannot guarantee a 100% refund. In cases where full refunds cannot be obtained for a cancelled tour, we will do our best to transfer unrefunded money as traveler credits to be applied to a future tour to that destination.

### [What Happens Next?](#)

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome email and initial invoice notifying you of your tour balance and due date. All payments for the tour or optional

services/excursions can now be made online.

Soon after registration, an “Adventure Advice” email will be sent with critical information on flight arrangements as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. Please do not buy your airline tickets until you review this Adventure Advice email.

A final payment is due 90 days before departure (currently September 1, 2023) and is non-refundable after the due date. You will receive a prompt email from us a week or two in advance. Please see our [General Tour Conditions](#) for the full terms and conditions for participation in this Adventure.

Around 2-3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final email packet with details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

Take a few minutes to peruse the *Tennessee Country Christmas* itinerary. We are eager to share the natural and cultural wonders of this fun Yuletide Adventure in Tennessee!