

Autumn in APPALACHIA



October 9 – 16, 2024

Hosted by Debra Freeberg





Explore the wonders of the Appalachian region with friends of Calvin during the most vibrant time of year!

A women’s tour: Whether you travel as a single or invite friends or family to join you, you’ll find this tour designed to welcome all women for an exploration of faith and storytelling in the heart of the country. Accommodations are in single rooms for all (double occupancy available on request). Relax in your own set of seats on our deluxe motorcoach journey to the South!

October 2024

Wednesday, October 9

Grand Rapids > Columbus

Today’s the day! Our motorcoach takes us south to Columbus, Ohio. We stop for an independent lunch at the Garden Café in the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. After lunch, we enjoy a guided tour of the conservatory and the Chihuly collection, featuring 18 installations of glass artworks spread throughout the gardens. After our visit, we check into our Columbus hotel to refresh before dinner. Dinner is a treat – a progressive meal in the form of a food tour of Columbus with Calvin alum and local, Nick Dekker of *Breakfast with Nick*. (D)

Tour Cost

\$3,035 per person
Land only, from Grand Rapids
Single or double occupancy
Note: All shared accommodations at Pine Mountain Settlement

Hosted by

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You can save \$50 per person

Make your remaining payments via eCheck/ACH or paper check, rather than credit card. Then simply subtract \$50 per person from the amount due noted on your final invoice.

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Thursday, October 10
Columbus > New River Gorge > Beckley

This morning we continue south to New River Gorge National Park and Preserve to view the fall colors. Along the way, we stop for an independent lunch. Afterward, choose to follow a guided hike through the gorge or enjoy the park's splendor at your own pace. *Please note that the guided hike involves a three-mile loop with elevation changes and uneven terrain, and it takes about two hours to complete.* Those who prefer a gentler afternoon have the opportunity to enjoy the Canyon Rim Visitor Center, featuring extraordinary views of the bridge and gorge in addition to exhibits detailing the history of the area. An upper observation deck is available via an accessible ramp. Back together, the group will make a stop at Grandview for a spectacular view of the gorge from 1400 feet above the valley. Our journey next takes us to Beckley, West Virginia where we check into our hotel before sharing a group dinner at a local restaurant. In the evening, we have time together for devotion and storytelling. (B, D)

TOUR PACE

Moderate – Activity levels vary from day to day. Sightseeing is often a brisk walk on uneven ground.



Friday, October 11
Beckley > Abingdon

After breakfast, we depart for Abingdon, Virginia. Approaching town, we stop for a visit to the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center & Marketplace, an artisan market showcasing regional art and craft work, in addition to serving as a local historic center and music venue. In the afternoon, we tour Abingdon Vineyards and enjoy a wine tasting paired with a light charcuterie board lunch. While there, Debra leads us in a guided storytelling workshop. We check into our hotel. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon to become acquainted with Abingdon and have an independent dinner. We come together in the evening to attend a performance of *The Play That Goes Wrong* at the Barter Theater's Gilliam Stage. (B, L)

Saturday, October 12
Abingdon > Bristol > Abingdon

This morning travel to nearby Bristol to tour the Birthplace of Country Music Museum and learn about some of the first recordings of country music, or enjoy free time. We

- ❶ New River Gorge
- ❷ Barter Theatre
- ❸ Weaving
- ❹ Virginia Creeper Trail

Cover: Grandview, main overlook on the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

return to Abingdon for an independent lunch. Later in the day we'll share a group dinner at the charming Martha Washington hotel. Our activities will also include a tour of Barter Theatre, the longest-running professional theater in the country. We'll attend a performance of *The Trip to Bountiful* in the evening at the Barter's Smith Theatre. If there's additional free time available mid-day, a group may convene to walk along the Virginia Creeper Trail. It's one of the top-rated bike trails in the country so you can choose to rent a bicycle if you would like a more active outing. (B, D)

Sunday, October 13
Abingdon > Pine Mountain

This morning we say goodbye to Abingdon and travel to Pine Mountain Settlement School. This early 20th-century boarding school now serves the community through educational outreach about Appalachian culture. The nature of the cabin accommodations here requires that rooms will be shared between two to four people. On arrival, we take a guided tour of the grounds, share a group lunch, and partake in a workshop craft or activity. In the evening we enjoy a group dinner before gathering to discuss our experiences so far. (B, L, D)



Monday, October 14

Pine Mountain > Shaker Village

Today we depart early for the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Kentucky, the site of 105 years of Shaker life. We'll stop for an independent lunch along the way. The Pleasant Hill Shakers are renowned for their craftsmanship and architecture, and many of their original buildings survive on the grounds today. We check into our rooms. We tour the farm and village, plus enjoy a presentation of traditional Shaker music. Afterward, we have free time to explore the 3,000 acres of land. We share dinner as a group in the evening. (B, D)

Tuesday, October 15

Shaker Village > Georgetown

After breakfast at the Shaker Village, we begin our return journey north to Georgetown. We stop at Old Friends Equine, a "living history museum" of retired racehorses. We tour the farm and visit with the retired thoroughbreds. After an independent lunch, we check into our hotel. There is time to explore Georgetown on our own. As Kentucky's fastest growing town, Georgetown has plenty to offer visitors. We come together for a farewell dinner in the evening. (B, D)

Wednesday, October 16

Georgetown > Indianapolis > Grand Rapids

This morning we continue north, making a stop in Indianapolis to tour the Newfields Museum of Art. An additional stop will be made for an independent lunch before a planned arrival back in Grand Rapids in the late afternoon. (B)

- ❶ Craft room, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill
- ❷ Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill
- ❸ Old Friends Equine *Courtesy © Mary E. Greene*

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