



# TakeAFunTrip.com



## Holidays Along the Crooked Road Music Trail

*Southwest Virginia*

❖ Late November & December ❖

6 Days – 5 Nights

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### Day 1

- Visit the **Birthplace of Country Music Museum** in **Bristol**, dedicated to the crucial role played by artists from Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee, and the southern Appalachian region in country, bluegrass, and other musical avenues nurtured by this region.
- **Check in** to our local **hotel**. **Baggage** handling included.
- Enjoy **dinner** in a completely restored, elegant 1850 Victorian house. The house itself is rich in history, having been built by a family from Bristol, lost during the Civil War, and later returned to the family.
- Ride through the **Speedway in Lights – Bristol Motor Speedway**. The roar of the engines is replaced with the twinkling of two million lights during Bristol Motor Speedway's annual Speedway in Lights. Along the four mile route, including a drive around the World's Fastest Half-Mile, visitors delight in hundreds of displays.

A sampling of highlights and annual favorites includes:

1. **Symphony of Lights** - The largest display to be added in Speedway in Lights 14-year history, this light show features a large Christmas tree, dancing snowflakes, arches and fountains, consisting of more than 300,000 LED lights synchronized to music.
2. **The Twelve Days of Christmas** - A dozen scenes stretch for 180 feet, each approximately 10 feet tall and nearly 15 feet wide, depicting holiday scenes.
3. **The Sea Of Illumination** - Presented by Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, this popular display features almost 750 feet of sparkling fish, sharks and other sea creatures.
4. **The Animated Snowman Attraction** - Flying snowballs build a huge snowman.
5. **Dinosaur Village** - This display features six dinosaurs and an erupting volcano.

Meals: D

### Day 2

- Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel this morning.
- **Check out** and depart. **Baggage** handling included.
- Meet our **GUIDE** for a light walking tour of **historic Bristol**. Bristol is recognized as the official Birthplace of Country Music. Commercial recording sessions, known as the Bristol Sessions, influenced the music industry world-wide and is described as "the big bang of country music."
- Meet at the **Mountain Music Museum** (located at 626 State Street, Bristol Tennessee), dedicated to preserving the legacies of the many great men and women who helped create and promote the wonderful music that we all hold so dear. There are dozens of displays featuring one-of-kind vintage photographs, musical instruments, LP recordings, authentic stage attire and much, much more.
- Enjoy **lunch on your own** and **free time** for some holiday shopping in the unique shops and boutiques.
- Depart.

- We'll stop in Gate City for dessert in a **very special bakery** along the way. Enjoy a mouthwatering home-made cupcake or cookie, tea, or hot cocoa to warm the holiday season. Time permitting we'll visit some of the unique small town shops.
- Travel the **Daniel Boone Trail**. One of the nation's most historic routes, the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail was blazed by the legendary frontiersman in 1775 from Long Island of the Holston at what is now Kingsport, TN, through the Cumberland Gap of Virginia and into Kentucky. It would become the route for hundreds of thousands of settlers of the western frontier.
- Stop at the **Wilderness Road Blockhouse**, an important landmark for frontier travelers and served as the gathering place for hundreds of pioneers traveling the Wilderness Road to Kentucky between 1775 and 1800. The Blockhouse was a safe haven, specifically designed to be easily defended and virtually impenetrable by Indians.
- **Check in** to our local **hotel**. **Baggage** handling included.
- Enjoy **dinner** in a historic inn built in 1910. The charming hotel/inn has been restored with the addition of a wonderful restaurant.
- This evening, Saint Nick will visit us delivering a unique local cultural perspective and bearing gifts.

Meals: B, D

### Day 3

- Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel this morning.
- Tour a **Coal Museum**. Coal is to Big Stone Gap and the entire Appalachian region what automobiles are to Detroit, corn is to Kansas and oil is to Texas. Because coal mining, to a large extent, defines the area--how people live, where they work, and how they think and feel. The Coal Museum was put together, bit by bit and piece by piece, from the mini treasure troves and memorabilia of private homes and public buildings from Big Stone Gap and surrounding towns. For natives, the museum attempts to describe a personal heritage as well as provide a peek into the past. For others, it offers a rich educational experience concerning coal and its direct influence on local lifestyle.
- A National Historic Landmark, the **Southwest Virginia Museum** is in a 1890s Victorian stone mansion with original oak interior. The museum's collection includes more than 25,000 pieces and state of the art exhibits telling the story of the exploration and development of Southwest Virginia from the pioneer era of the 1700s to the mining "boom and bust" era of the late 1800s.
  - **The Festival of Trees**. All four floors of the stately Victorian home that houses the museum's collections are lavishly decorated for the holiday season by individuals, church groups, businesses and other organizations.
- Drive by the **home of bestselling author Adriana Trigiani**, author of the novel "**Big Stone Gap**".
  - Trigiani grew up in Big Stone Gap, Virginia and attended Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. She was a writer for The Cosby Show and its spin-off series A Different World before beginning on novels. In 1996, she won the "Most Popular Documentary" award at the Hamptons International Film Festival for directing the Queens of the Big Time. The following year, she served as co-producer on the documentary film Green Chimneys.
  - In 2001, Trigiani wrote a novel about the town titled Big Stone Gap, based on a screenplay by the same name she authored. It was followed by three sequels, Big Cherry Holler, Milk Glass Moon, and Home to Big Stone Gap. Aside from that series, she has written Rococo, Queen of the Big Time, and Lucia, Lucia, which became a best-seller in Britain. Very Valentine, was published in February 2009, and followed by Brava Valentine in 2010.
- See the **movie sets for "Big Stone Gap"**.
- Visit the **June Tolliver House**. The first floor of the house displays antiques dating back from the turn of the century. Throughout its rooms are paintings donated by local artists, the majority of which are actors/actresses who, over the past 45 years, have held a starring role in the Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama. Upstairs you will find an archive of historic photographs that you must see to believe. Find the time, or better yet, take the time to stop by the June Tolliver House when you are in Big Stone Gap, Virginia. And while you're here, visit our gift shop -- you'll find books written by local authors, crafts made by local artisans and much, much more!
- Enjoy **lunch on your own** and free time.
- Return to the hotel to rest and freshen up for the evening.
- Visit and enjoy **dinner** at the **John Fox Jr. Museum**. The museum was the home of John Fox, Jr., a famous mountain author of many novels and short stories. Most well-known are "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" and "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come". "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" became the nation's first million copy selling novel and was later made into a movie.
- See the **Holiday Lighting at Natural Tunnel State Park**, when the park hosts perhaps its most popular event. The event includes thousands of Christmas light decorations from the entrance of the park to the top of Chairlift Loop, down the path leading to the bottom and access to the tunnel, as well as the Carter Cabin. Beginning the first weekend after Thanksgiving, the event lasts four weekends on Friday and Saturday nights until the weekend before Christmas.

Meals: B, D

### Day 4

- Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel this morning.
- See **WOODBUGGER** himself!
- Free time for some holiday shopping.
- Enjoy a **home-made lunch** at a local winery. Our visit includes a tour, tasting, and holiday gift for all.

- Visit the **Ralph Stanley Museum**, a monument to Dr. Ralph Edmond Stanley, an American bluegrass artist, known for his distinctive singing and banjo playing.
  - **Dinner** is included at a delightful chef owned Creole restaurant.
  - Later enjoy **live music** at the **Country Cabin**, the oldest mountain music venue operating along the Crooked Road Music Trail. The original Country Cabin was built in 1937 under President Roosevelt's WPA program as a community recreational facility and is a National and State Historic Landmark. Local musicians gathered at the cabin to perform and carry on traditional bluegrass and country music.
- Meals: B, L, D

## Day 5

- Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel this morning.
  - **Check out** and depart. **Baggage** handling included.
  - Enjoy a **Gospel Brunch**.
    - There will be time to visit the shops where you'll be able to purchase local renditions of Gospel and Blue Grass CDs and DVDs. You might want to include an exceptional homemade musical instrument in your purchase. Crafts include jewelry, glass, and pottery. Many of the artisans featured at Heartwood are members of "Round the Mountain" and are masters of their media.
  - The **Fields-Penn House** was constructed in 1860 by Mr. James Fields and his wife Susan for use as their private residence. The Fields' lived there for some time, after which the estate came into the possession of George and Estelle Penn.
  - Continue to our **hotel** for the evening. **Check in. Baggage** handling included.
  - Stop and visit the **William King Museum, Center for Art and Cultural Heritage**. The museum is located in a historic 1913 building that is a former school; the William King Museum features museum-standard galleries showcasing art of the region and of the world, both contemporary and historic.
    - While at the museum the **curator will join you** telling you about the museum and answer any question you may have.
    - Enjoy a **wine reception** with the **curator**.
  - Enjoy **dinner** at a **historic Inn**. Originally built in 1832 as a private residence by a Virginia General, the Inn evolved into a young ladies' finishing school. During the Civil War, it served as a hospital and romantic legends from that era persist today. It later became a women's college and today is a warm and gracious hotel.
  - See a **Holiday Show** at the **Barter Theatre**, "*The State Theater of Virginia*" was founded in 1933 on the theory that drama could be bartered for food. During the Depression, Robert Porterfield convinced 22 Broadway actors that it was better to eat in Virginia than starve in New York. Though cash is now the accepted medium of payment, Porterfield's original theater offered tickets in exchange for milk, ham, chicken and other edibles. Barter Theater is one of the country's oldest professional theaters, which offers a range of productions. Enjoy the main stage production.
- Meals: B, L, D

## Day 6

- Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel this morning.
  - **Check out** and depart. **Baggage** handling included.
- Meals: B

**To receive a detailed or customized proposal of this tour, call  
800-769-5912 ext. 3**

**Tour includes:** 5 nights accommodation, baggage handling, 5 hotel breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners, admissions and guide service as stated in the itinerary, **except gratuity for Guide Service is NOT included.**

Artists and performers using celebrity names will be tribute performers. Local and regional entertainers will perform as themselves.. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No ST39040  
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