

# *Bluegrass Country & the Smoky Mountains*

## *September 14-22, 2023*



### **Travel Preview & Registration**

*OLLI members & friends are invited to learn about this trip during a Zoom presentation with our travel provider - Collette. Call the OLLI office to register for this preview (989)964-4475*

**Wednesday, November 30, at 9:30 am**

*Location: Banquet C*

*\*Registration for this trip will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the OLLI office (C 201) and continue directly following the travel preview on a first come first served basis.*



# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute





## Experience It!

### Great Smoky Mountain National Park

Boasting 520,000 acres, more than 800 miles of hiking trails, and millions of visitors annually, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park in the United States. Rising along the Tennessee/North Carolina border, this sprawling park features lush forests and an abundance of wildflowers that bloom year-round. Travel the scenic mountain road and take in the beauty of the high-rising Chimney Tops. Stop at Newfound Gap and see the Rockefeller Memorial that honors the \$5 million donation that made this national park a reality. As you take a minute to gaze out at the horizon, you'll see the magical haze that gives the Great Smoky Mountains their name.

## General Information:

### Travel Providers

This educational travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Collette, our travel partner we traveled with to Costa Rica, Colorado Rockies, and Alaska.

### Registration:

Please fill out the registration form and bring it to the OLLI office on the day of registration. Trip reservations are on first-come-first served basis. A passport or Real ID and Covid vaccination card is required at time of registration and must be valid through six months following the end date of the tour (March 22, 2024). Registrations must be done in person in the OLLI office.

### Tour Activity Level:

This tour has an overall activity level of 2, which means walking about 30-45 minutes at a time over various terrains. Terrains may include cobblestone streets to easy pathways; a couple of hills or a few flights of stairs at a single time. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour. You should feel comfortable managing your own baggage at all times.

### About Our Lodging

• Eight nights/4-hotel stays  
We will stay in accommodations handpicked to ensure quality and comfort.

### Travel Protection:\*

Travel protection will be included in the price of this trip and must be paid at the time of deposit upon registration and will be provided by Collette's Waiver Insurance Plan. Details may be found at: <https://gocollette.com/en/about-collette/terms-and-conditions>. It is the traveler's responsibility to review insurance coverage to make sure it meets your needs prior to purchase. \* *If you choose not to take travel protection for your trip - your registration/situation will be reviewed.*

### Air Details:

Our package includes round-trip air from Detroit airport, air taxes & fees/surcharges. Specific flight information will be provided at a later date. If our flight is scheduled early, we may stay the night prior to departure in Detroit. If this is the case, there will be an added cost per person and these details will be forwarded to you closer to departure.

### Waitlist & Roommates Needed:

If you are looking for a roommate please contact our office prior to registration, and we can share names of others looking for roommates. Our office will also maintain a wait-list if this trip fills to capacity of (48) travelers.

### Included highlights:

- \* Accommodations for 8 nights in (4) Hotels
- \* **14 Meals:** 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, & 4 dinners
- \* **Included features:**
  - Churchill Downs
  - Kentucky Derby Museum
  - Old Louisville Walking Tour
  - Buffalo Trace Bourbon Distillery
  - Lexington Horse Farms
  - Great Smoky Mountains National Park
  - Asheville and Biltmore Estate
- \* Collette Professional Program Director
- \* Two on-tour activities to choose from
- \* Round-trip air transportation from DTW airport, and ground transportation to/from SVSU to the Detroit airport
- \* Private motorcoach land travel, at destination
- \* Baggage handling for 1 piece per person
- \* Pre-trip gathering at SVSU on Wed., August 29, 2023
- \* Post-trip gathering at SVSU

### Travel Requirements:

Currently requirements include proof of vaccination, & masks may be required for multiple day travel with SVSU-OLLI. We will provide any known updates closer to departure dates

### Cancellation:

All cancellations must be made in writing to the OLLI office and are subject to a cancellation fee of \$50. Collette's cancellation policies will prevail.



### **Day 1: Thursday, September 14, 2023**

#### ***Louisville, Kentucky***

Today you'll depart from a regional airport for your flight to Louisville Kentucky. Your tour starts in Louisville, famous for Thoroughbreds, Bourbon and baseball. Settle in for a 2-night stay at your hotel, ideally situated in downtown Louisville.

### **Day 2: Friday, September 15, 2023**

#### ***Louisville, Kentucky***

We'll start our day with a visit to Churchill Downs, the Thoroughbred racetrack famous for hosting the pinnacle of all horse races: the Kentucky Derby. Experience the backside of the racetrack while watching the horses during their morning workouts! Then, we'll tour the Kentucky Derby Museum and learn about the legendary history of the "Sport of Kings." Enjoy a walking tour of Old Louisville, a historic neighborhood of Victorian mansions. Later, we'll head to "Museum Row" where **it's your choice!** Visit the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory for an All-Star baseball experience -OR- explore the Frazier Kentucky History Museum, and its Spirit of Kentucky exhibit, the official start of the Bourbon Trail. Tonight, you'll join your fellow travelers at a local restaurant for a welcome dinner. (B, D)

### **Day 3: Saturday, September 16, 2023**

#### ***Louisville - Lexington***

After breakfast today we'll visit Buffalo Trace, the oldest continuously operating Bourbon distillery in America. Learn about the subtle craft, meet some of the people who make it all happen, and taste some of the home-grown spirit. Following this experience we'll stop in the quaint, historic town of Midway before exploring Kentucky's horse country, and learn about the area from a local guide and take in the rolling bluegrass pastureland and the horse farms that dot the landscape. We'll hear about time-honored traditions during visits to private horse farms before settling into Lexington for your 2-night stay. (B)

### **Day 4: Sunday, September 17, 2023**

#### ***Lexington - Berea - Lexington***

Today we'll travel to Berea, the historic college town known as the arts-and-crafts center of Kentucky. We'll meet a few artisans while they demonstrate their craft, then enjoy lunch at historic Boone Tavern, where bluegrass country meets the rolling hills of Appalachia. Tonight, we'll enjoy an included dinner and take in the tastes of Kentucky at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

### **Day 5: Monday, September 18, 2023**

#### ***Lexington- Gatlinburg, Tennessee***

Following breakfast we'll travel through Daniel Boone National Forest. Extending across the western plateau region of the Appalachian Mountains, it's named for the larger-than-life American pioneer who once blazed a trail across these rugged and wild lands. Then we'll arrive in the lively mountain resort of Gatlinburg, gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and your home for a 2-night stay. The rest of the day is yours, perhaps you will go to Dollywood or enjoy time in downtown Gatlinburg. (B)

### **Day 6: Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

#### ***Gatlinburg - Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Gatlinburg***

With a local guide, explore Great Smoky Mountains National Park (UNESCO) – the United States' most visited national park. Stop at various lookouts on your way to Newfound Gap, which boasts views of both Tennessee and North Carolina. Enjoy your picnic lunch at a scenic location before continuing through the park to Cherokee and spend time at Qualla, the oldest Native American arts cooperative where you'll learn about traditional crafts and customs. Afterwards, tour the Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery with a tasting before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

### **Day 7: Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

#### ***Gatlinburg - Asheville, North Carolina***

This morning, depart for Asheville, North Carolina, your Blue Ridge Mountains home for two nights. The afternoon and evening are yours to explore a city known for craft breweries, chocolate, and farm to table cuisine. (B)



### **Day 8: Thursday, September 21, 2023**

***Asheville*** Back in 1895, George Vanderbilt II decided to build himself a "little mountain escape" in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. The result was the impressive and decadent grandeur of the Biltmore Estate. Today, tour the sprawling mansion and the manicured grounds, enjoy a wine-tasting at the historic Biltmore Winery and experience what it was like to be a wealthy tycoon in the Gilded Age of America. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

### **Day 9: Friday, September 22, 2023**

#### ***Asheville - Charlotte***

Today your tour comes to an end. As you venture home, take the spirit and the warmth of America's Southeast with you. (B)

# Bluegrass Country & the Smoky Mountains

## Trip Reservation Form

Travel Date: Sept. 14-22, 2023

Res#: 1116196

### Traveler 1

Please ensure that your name matches what appears on your passport:

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YEAR)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### Traveler 2 (if at the same address)

Please ensure that your name matches what appears on your passport:

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YEAR)

Address: Same as Traveler 1

OR Fill out separate registration form

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information:** Please note that non members will pay an additional \$60 (payable to SVSU and receive a 2022-23 OLLI Membership)

**Trip Cost** (for reservations made prior to March 14, 2023) after this date rates subject to change

- \$3,598 SVSU-OLLI Members (double occupancy) This cost includes trip protection insurance of \$349
- \$4,498 SVSU-OLLI Members (Single— limited singles available) This cost includes trip protection insurance of \$349
- \$3,658 Non-Member (double occupancy) This cost includes trip protection and 2022-23 OLLI Membership
- \$4,558 Non-Member (single) This cost includes trip protection and 2022-23 OLLI Membership

### Trip Insurance:

- Yes, I wish to purchase travel protection, \$349     No, I decline     Yes, I wish to purchase travel protection, \$349     No, I decline

Traveler #1

Signature

Traveler #2

Signature

### Deposit and Travel Protection payment

Total deposit at time of registration (\$698 deposit + \$349 insurance) Total: \$1,047 (per traveler)

Total \_\_\_\_\_

The final balance is due by July 10, 2023.

**Payment Method:**     Check (Payable to Collette Tours)     Credit Card

Name on Checking Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card Type:**  American Express     Discover     MasterCard     Visa

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

By signing above I have read and understand all the terms and conditions and accept them on behalf of myself and my party. (MM / DD / YEAR)

**OLLI—In Office Checklist:**    **Registration Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checklist:**  Covid-19 Vaccination Copy     Emergency Form     Travel Protection     Real ID or Passport

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_