

4 Day Sample Itinerary

featuring NRAO, Cass Scenic Railroad, and Snowshoe Mountain Resort

Day 1

- 3:00 p.m. Check into *The Inn at Snowshoe* offering standard double units located at the base of *Snowshoe Mountain*.
- 4:00 p.m. Head to the top of *Snowshoe Mountain* and enjoy an open air dinner outside of the *Mountain Lodge*, where your backdrop will be beautiful mountain scenery.
- 7:00 p.m. Enjoy live entertainment at the top of *Snowshoe Mountain*. From bluegrass to jazz there is always exciting entertainment awaiting your group.



Day 2

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast at the *Inn at Snowshoe*
- 8:30 a.m. Depart *Snowshoe* for tour of the *Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Museum*.
- 9:30 a.m. Located in the beautiful and historic "Little Levels" of Pocahontas County, the birthplace of Pearl S. Buck, stands in loving memory of the woman who helped shape the 20th century through her writing. Built in 1857, the house serves as a museum with the original family furniture and other personal belongings. Knowledgeable guides will meet you and give you a thorough tour.
- 11:00 a.m. Depart for the **National Radio Astronomy Observatory** in Green Bank, WV.
- 12:30 a.m. **NRAO's Green Bank Science Center** is a new, modern facility designed to inform and expand guest's understanding of radio astronomy. The **Green Bank Science Center** offers several options for groups to enhance their tour, and can develop an itinerary to suit any group size, interest level and time frame. The tour includes lunch at the Starlight Café located in the **Green Bank Science Center**.
- 2:30 p.m. Depart the **Green Bank Science Center** leaving for *Durbin, WV*.
- 3:00 p.m. Arrive in historic *Durbin, WV* where your group will have the opportunity to ride and experience one of the rarest steam locomotives in existence. *The Durbin Rocket Excursion Train* is powered by a rare steam locomotive; Old #3, one of only three operating Climax geared logging locomotives on earth. You can ride in the authentic 1920-era coach and vintage wooden cabooses behind #3 as she puffs and whistles her way along the free-flowing Greenbrier River, your ride will cover 10.5 miles in 2 hours and offers many beautiful river and mountain views in the *Monongahela National Forest*.
- 5:30 p.m. Depart *Durbin, WV* for dinner atop *Snowshoe Mountain*.

To have a trained step-on guide join you at any point during your visit simply call **Abbey Withrow** at the Pocahontas County CVB, **800-336-7009** for rates and more information.

- 6:30 p.m. Your final evening in Nature's Mountain Playground will be spent atop *Snowshoe Mountain*, enjoying a meal at *The Junction*, a restaurant with a train theme to continue the excitement from Durbin, dinner will be followed by music from a local bluegrass group.

Day 3

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at the *Inn at Snowshoe*, included in room rate.
- 9:00 a.m. Depart for *Cass Scenic Railroad State Park* for a rail excursion that will transport your group back in time... and let them relive the era of steam-driven locomotives. The trip to *Cass* will be filled with a rich history of the past, and a close-up encounter with the sights and sounds of original steam-driven locomotives. The trip will include a bag lunched which will be enjoyed at *Whittaker Station* before re-boarding the train and returning to *Cass*.
- 2:00 p.m. Return to the town of *Cass* and enjoy the relatively unchanged and restored buildings that add to the charm and atmosphere, including the company store gift shop.
- 3:00 p.m. Visit the *Pocahontas County Artisan Co-op* for a live demonstration by one of Pocahontas County's very own artisans.
- 4:30 p.m. Depart for *Marlinton, WV* and the *Pocahontas County Opera House*.
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner and a show at the *Pocahontas County Opera House*. This evening's entertainment will take place in the refurbished *Pocahontas County Opera House* built in 1909. The venue provides a wonderful atmosphere as the group relaxes from a fun filled day.
- 7:00 p.m. Return to the *Inn at Snowshoe*.

Day 4

- 7:00 a.m. Depart for the *Greenbrier Grille* in *Marlinton, WV* where you will enjoy breakfast and a beautiful view of the *Greenbrier River*.
- 8:30 a.m. Depart Nature's Mountain Playground for a fun filled day at *The Greenbrier*, including lunch at *Sam Snead's* and a tour of the famous cold war bunker.



National Radio Astronomy Observatory
P.O. Box 2
Rt. 28/92
Green Bank, WV 24944-0002

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc.



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National Radio Astronomy Observatory



Green Bank, West Virginia



The National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Green Bank, West Virginia is a national facility devoted to radio astronomy, and home to the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope - the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope. Nestled in the West Virginia mountains, this technological marvel rises from the valley floor to a height of 485 feet, weighs 17 million pounds and sports a reflector 2.3 acres in area. Astronomers from around the world use the Green Bank Telescope (GBT) to investigate the cosmos. Open to the public year round, the Green Bank Science Center is the NRAO's learning center for casual visitors, motor coach groups and student field trips. Adding the NRAO to your itinerary offers a great way to enrich fall foliage tours and train excursion packages. The Green Bank Science Center staff will custom design tours from 1.5 hours to half a day to fit, any itinerary. Green Bank Science Center Group Tour includes:

- Introduction to Radio Astronomy & Site Tour - including a stop at the GBT! \$2 fee per person to guarantee motor coach tours plus 2 comps per coach
- Enrichment Activities
- Hands-On Exhibit Hall
- Galaxy Gift Shop and Starlight Cafe - group meals available
- Large modern restrooms

Complimenting your NRAO experience is the natural wonder surrounding the site, Pocahontas County, WV. Explore the unique variety of nearby educational, historical, and natural attractions, to round out your enrichment tour itinerary. Lifelong learners, active adults, multi-generational, and students groups will have lasting memories of the quality time spent visiting the mountains of Pocahontas County.

To book your NRAO group tour contact:
Cara Rose, phone: 304-456-2164, or email: crose@gb.nrao.edu



Snowshoe Mountain

Who Knew a Few Hours on the Road Could Take You So Far Away.

Once you arrive at Snowshoe Mountain, you will know why you came here. With just one look around you will see why this place can be described with a single word, "wow." With breathtaking mountaintop views, fantastic events, cool summertime temperatures and sprawling wilderness waiting to be explored; you will enjoy a feeling of escape... exactly what you wanted.

To learn more about Snowshoe Mountain's Motor Coach offerings, please call our Sales office toll free at **877-536-9757**.

WV Rail Excursions

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park

The historic Cass Railroad transports passengers back in time for a memorable adventure along the turn-of-the-century logging railway. The railroad is the center of the relatively unchanged and restored town of Cass. Don't miss the company store gift shop and restaurant.

- 2 – 4 hour rides
- Group pricing is available.

800-CALL-WVA www.cassrailroad.com

Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad

Departing from different small mountain towns, these trains transport you into some of the best scenery this side of the Rockies. This premier tourist rail operation offers a host of excursions to meet every group itinerary need.

- 2 hour – all day train rides
- Group reservations, meals & pricing available.

(877) MTN-RAIL www.mountainrail.com

Potomac Eagle

The Potomac Eagle train excursion will transport guests through the narrow Potomac River "trough" a natural habitat for the American Bald Eagle. Sightings of this majestic bird are frequent.

- 3 hour narrated excursion
- Group reservations & pricing available.

304-424-0736 www.potomaceagle.info

Area Attractions



Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Museum

Pearl S. Buck won the hearts of Americans with her famous novel *The Good Earth*, which she won the Pulitzer Prize for Literature in 1932. She is also the recipient of the Nobel Laureate for Literature in 1938.

Located in Hillsboro, WV, historical guides will greet you and provide guests with an insightful tour of the home and the author's life.

- Open Monday – Saturday, May through October. Fee applies and group reservations suggested.

304-653-4430

www.pearlsbuckbirthplace.com

Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park

The last significant battle of the Civil War in West Virginia occurred November 6, 1863 on land which today is Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park. Listed on the official Civil War Discovery Trail, Droop Mountain tells an excellent history of the region. Free guided tours may be arranged, however, advance reservations are necessary.

- Open year round and located 4 miles south of Hillsboro WV.

304-653-4254

www.droopmountainbattlefield.com

Highland Scenic Highway

This 22 mile long highway is one of the highest roadways east of the Mississippi winding up and over high ridges of the Monongahela National Forest. A motor coach trip across this National Scenic Byway reveals to travelers the unmatched beauty of the West Virginia mountains. The

Highland Scenic Highway is a must for any fall foliage excursion. Access the highway from Rt. 55, across from the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center and from Rt. 219 5 miles north of Marlinton.

Cranberry Mountain Nature Center and Cranberry Glades Botanical Area

Operated by the USDA Forest Service, the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center features an exhibit hall and audio visual program interpreting the forest ecosystems as well as local history. A gift shop features a wide range of books on nature, birds & animals along with nature CD's, memorabilia and more. For active adult groups interested in adding mild exercise to the itinerary, the Cranberry Glades Botanical Area is a natural area two miles from the Nature Center. A half mile handicap accessible boardwalk traverses through the sphagnum bogs similar to those found in "Muskegs" of the Arctic Tundra and allows observation of the fragile community.

Groups should call ahead to inquire about days of operation & guide services.

- Open April through November.

304-653-4826

www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/sp/naturecenter.html

Beartown State Park

One of the most intriguing scenic areas of West Virginia, Beartown is a unique natural area featuring massive boulders, overhanging cliffs and unusual rock formations. A boardwalk allows easy access and interpretive signs provide insight into the fascinating ecology of the area. Recommended

for active adults & groups desiring moderate exercise.

- Open April through October.

Guided tour available with advance arrangements.

304-653-4254

Pocahontas County Historical Society's Museum

Located in Marlinton, WV and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Museum offers guests a glimpse into the lives of families living in the region when log cabins, railroads and the Seneca Indians roamed the land. This attraction is ideal for groups interested in area history, historic photos & memorabilia, etc.

- Open during the summer months & by reservation in the fall.

Call **304-799-6659, 304-799-4973, or 304-799-4369** for fee & reservation information.

Edray State Trout Hatchery

Trout fishing is synonymous with West Virginia. For groups wishing to add a unique educational element to an itinerary, the Trout Hatchery offers tours of the facility. Learn how this 'fish farm' produces and raises rainbow, brook and brown trout for release into the cold, clear streams and rivers of West Virginia. Located off Rt. 219, three miles north of Marlinton on Woodrow Road.

- Tours are free but reservations are necessary. Allow 45 minutes at this stop.

304-799-6461

Regional Attractions

American Mountain Theater

West Virginia's only "Branson style" family music, comedy and variety show, the American Mountain Theater features an outstanding cast of professional performers. Located in Elkins, WV, the AMT offers something for every group. Special one-hour shows for bus groups, Christmas Show and more.

- Fully reserved seating, group rates & special offers.

800-943-3670

www.americanmountaintheater.com

Seneca Rocks & Discovery Center

One of the most photographed sites in West Virginia, the exposed rocks are a magnificent formation rising nearly 900 feet above the North Fork River. The Discovery Center, located at the base of Seneca Rocks offers an outstanding and majestic view of the vertical wall dominating the scene and features exhibits, audio visual presentations and gift shop. For active adult groups, a self-guided interpretive trail offers the non-climber a way to reach the lofty heights of the rocks and view the scenic valley below.

- Although the rock formations may be visited throughout the year, the

Discovery Center is open April – October.

Call for days and hours of operation **(304) 567-2827** or Potomac Ranger District at **(304) 257-4488**.

The Greenbrier Resort Bunker Tours

Visit the former U.S. Government Relocation Facility, commonly known as the Bunker. Public tours available. Reservations are required. For group reservations, call the Reservations Department

800-624-6070 or 304-536-7810

email: the_greenbrier@greenbrier.com

Group Services



Relax and let our experts plan your memorable vacation or getaway to the mountains of Pocahontas County. Whether you are with a large or small group, the Pocahontas County CVB offers expertise, knowledge and connections to make your next meeting or group travel experience and unforgettable one.

The beauty of Pocahontas County and its many recreational opportunities, natural wonders and historic treasures make this an ideal place to hold your next meeting, conference or retreat. When it comes time to play, your group can explore more than 900 square miles of mountains and forests.

Snowshoe Mountain, with its unique village of shops and restaurants, offers the new 15,400 square foot Expo Center and a total of 40,000 square feet of meeting space. Snowshoe can provide overnight accommodations for 10,000 people and has exciting activities and adventures on the 11,000 acre mountain all times of the year.

For smaller groups, there are several other lodging and meeting options in the country including Mountain Quest Institute, Ambassadors for Christ, the Marlinton Motor Inn, and the Hermitage.

The region offers modes to rigorous recreational options for active adult groups such as skiing and float trips. Call us for customized information.

GPS coordinates available for many attractions.

For a consultation with our Group Sales Specialist, call us at **(800) 336-7009** or email: groups@pocahontascountywv.com