

VANTAGE STAYS

PARADISE POOL LODGE

BLACK BEAR RIDGE RESORT · WEARS VALLEY

Welcome to Paradise Pool Lodge

We are so glad you are here. This lodge was built with vacations in mind: an open floor plan, a two-story wall of windows that pulls the mountain light straight into the living room, and porches that invite you to sit down with a cup of coffee and stay a while. You can watch the sun come up or go down from either level.

You are a short drive from the lights of the Pigeon Forge Parkway, yet far enough out in Wears Valley to feel the quiet heartbeat of the valley. Everything you need for the stay is in these pages, from how the hot tub works to our favorite places for dinner.

If anything at all would make your stay better, tell us. We would much rather hear it while you are here, when we can still put it right.

The Vantage Stays Team

YOUR HOSTS

Message Us Anytime

Scan to reach the Vantage Stays team from your phone. We answer fast, day and night.

ADDRESS

1221 Bird Nest Way
Sevierville, TN 37862

CHECK-IN

4:00 PM

CHECK-OUT

10:00 AM

DURING YOUR STAY

Reply to your arrival message, any time.

PHONE

(865) 366-5730

EMAIL

info@vantagestays.com

ONLINE

vantagestays.com

YOUR CODES

Your arrival message has your door, pool room and Wi-Fi codes. For your safety, codes are never printed here.

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SECTION ONE

The Cabin

Make yourself at home

Five bedrooms across three levels, a private indoor pool and a hot tub with mountain views. Here is everything you need to know about the lodge, from the front door to the pool deck.

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BLACK BEAR RIDGE RESORT

Arriving at Paradise Pool Lodge

All roads leading to the lodge are paved and well maintained. The lodge sits on a hillside corner lot in Black Bear Ridge Resort, which is why the views are so good.



Parking

There is room for up to four vehicles, right beside the front door.

Getting in

The front door has an electronic lock. Enter your code and turn the knob to the right. Your arrival message has your code.

Settling in

If anything in the lodge is not as it should be, please send us a note with a photo or two within the first two hours, so we can put it right quickly.

The Grill

A park-style charcoal grill sits beside the parking area. Charcoal is not supplied, so bring your own.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Pre-Arrival Guide

Directions, parking, what to pack and how check-in works.

DURING YOUR STAY

Your Live Stay Guide

Wi-Fi, lock help, the newest instructions for everything in the lodge, and chat with our team.

The House at a Glance

5	5	12	3	4
BEDROOMS	BATHROOMS	SLEEPS	LEVELS	CARS

BEDS 4 king beds, 1 twin over queen bunk, 1 sleeper sofa. Every bed has a Jameson mattress, the same maker as Marriott beds, with a memory foam topper and soft luxury linens.

- Private heated indoor pool with a waterfall
- Hot tub on the lower deck with mountain views
- Theater room with a 70 inch smart TV
- Game loft with shuffleboard, foosball and an arcade machine
- Two electric fireplaces
- Smart TVs in every bedroom
- Washer and dryer
- Pool passes for the outdoor pool at Honeysuckle Meadow

A FEW KIND REQUESTS

House Rules

A handful of rules keep the lodge lovely for you and for the families who come after you. Thank you for looking after it with us.

Guests

The lodge sleeps twelve, and maximum occupancy is enforced. The person who books must be 25 or older and staying at the lodge.

Pets

Dogs only, up to two, each 40 pounds or under, with a non-refundable fee of $75 plus tax per dog. Please crate them when they are left alone.

Quiet Hours

Sound echoes in the mountains. Please keep things quiet before 10:00 AM and after 9:00 PM, and help us be good neighbors.

Pool and Hot Tub

No soap, bath products, food or alcohol in the water; cleanup is $150. Keep the pool room locked and the hot tub cover clipped when not in use, and never stand on the cover.

Furniture and TVs

Please leave furniture where you found it and keep the TVs and cables as they are. The theater futons are made to move, so fold them back before you go.

Parties and Events

No house parties. You are welcome to celebrate at the Black Bear Ridge Resort chapel and reception facility, and any event at the lodge needs our approval in advance.

Smoking

The lodge is non-smoking, vaping included. Smoking inside carries a fine of up to $1,000.

Fireworks

Fireworks are not allowed at any time.

Check-out

Check-out is 10:00 AM. Late departures are billed $125 per half hour, and after noon a full extra night applies.

If Something Breaks

Accidents happen. Tell us right away so we can fix it before the next guests arrive. Damaged items are replaced at retail value plus a $35 service fee.

MORE QUESTIONS

Guest FAQ

Policies, fees and the answers guests ask for most.

KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY

Safety and Emergencies

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL

911

GIVE THIS ADDRESS

1221 Bird Nest Way, Sevierville, TN 37862

Black Bear Ridge Resort, Wears Valley

OFFICE

Bear Camp guest services

Questions or anything not working. Option 2.

865-366-5730

AFTER HOURS

Emergency line

No water, heat, air or power, or no way in.

865-258-2971

HOSPITAL

LeConte Medical Center

742 Middle Creek Rd, Sevierville, TN 37862

865-446-8800

POISON CONTROL

Tennessee Poison Control

800-222-1222

In the Lodge

- The lodge has smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and a carbon monoxide alarm.
- A fire extinguisher is kept in the kitchen.
- The flashlight and first aid kit are under the kitchen sink.

Around the Water

- There is no lifeguard. An adult must watch children at the pool at all times.
- Never prop the pool room doors open.
- Keep the hot tub cover on and clipped when it is not in use.

If the Power Goes Out

If the power goes out, check whether the neighbors are dark too. Report outages to Sevier County Electric's Power Action Line at 865-774-6300; power usually returns within hours. If only the lodge is out, call the office and we will talk you through the breaker.

At the Grill

Never leave the grill unattended, keep a cup of water nearby for flare-ups, and tip cooled ashes into the metal bucket beside it.

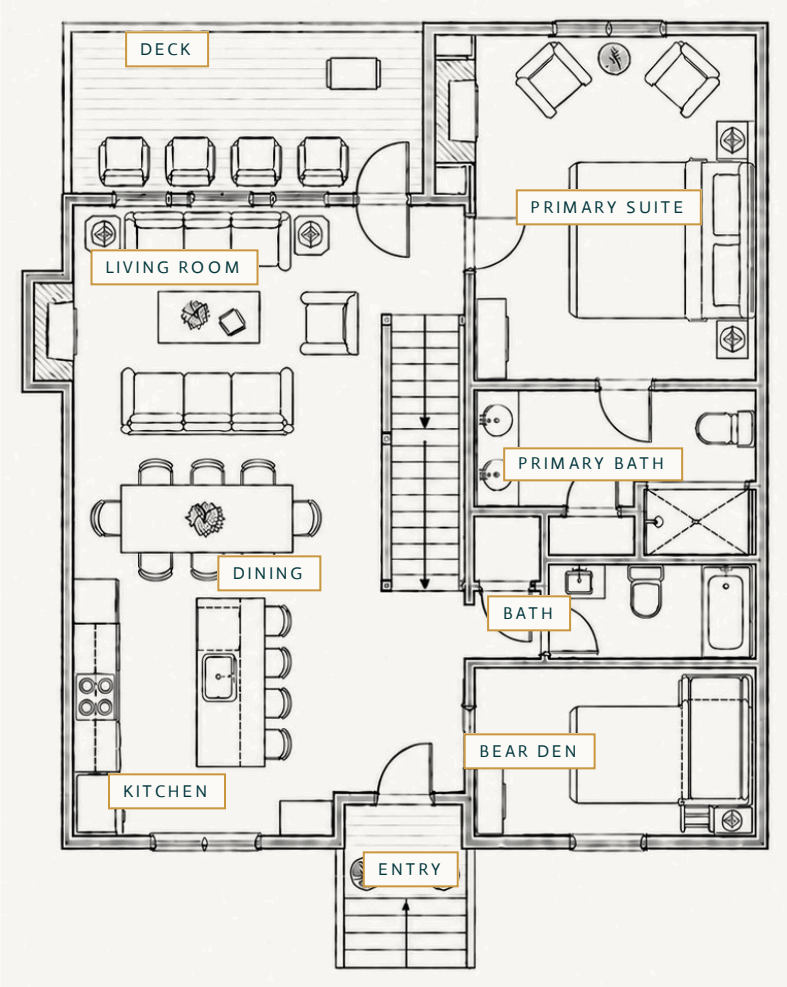
YOUR HOST

For anything that is not an emergency, reply to your arrival message, any time. You can also email info@vantagestays.com.

FLOOR PLANS · 1 OF 3

Main Level

Living, kitchen and dining under a cathedral ceiling, the primary suite and the Bear Den bunk room.



Primary Suite

SLEEPING King bed

BATH En-suite bath with a tiled walk-in shower and double vanity

Sitting area beside an electric fireplace with a 50 inch smart TV above, and the same mountain views as the living room.

The Bear Den

SLEEPING Custom twin over queen bunk

BATH Full bath next door with a tub and shower

Decorated for your little cubs, with a smart TV.

Living Room

Soaring cathedral ceiling, fireplace with a large smart TV above the wood mantel, and the deck just outside.

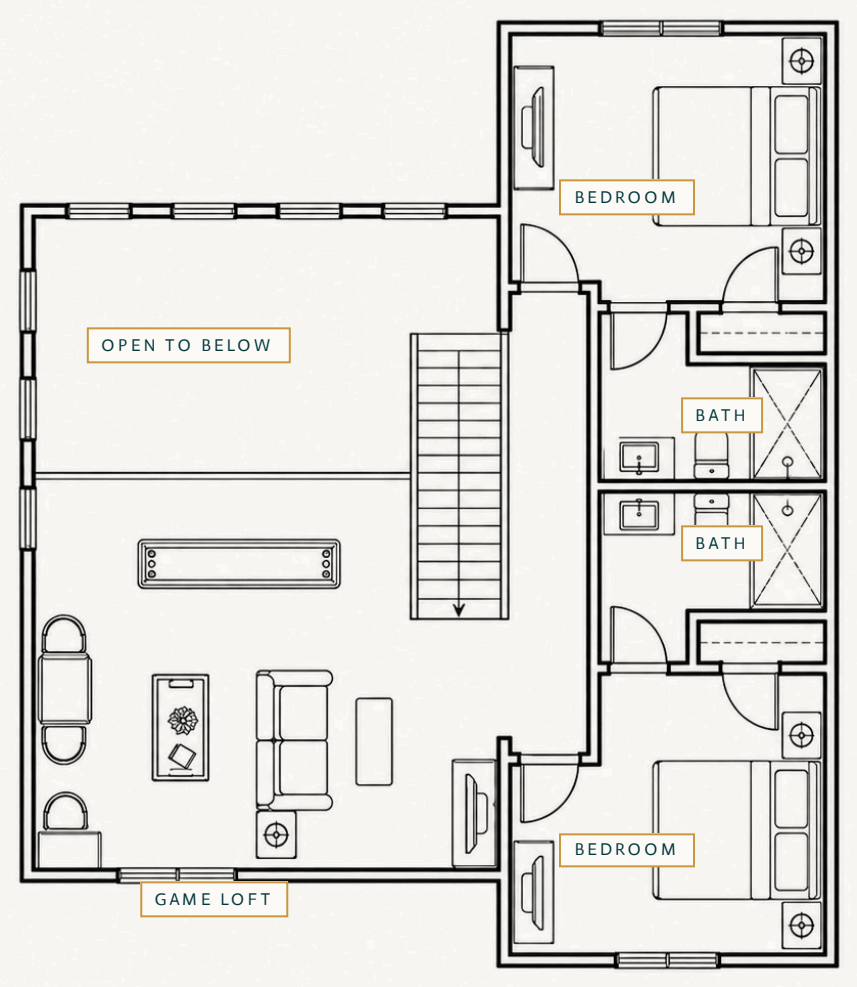
Kitchen and Dining

Island seating for four and a dining table for nine.

FLOOR PLANS · 2 OF 3

Upper Level

The game loft, open to the living room below, and two bedrooms with their own baths.



Upstairs Bedrooms

SLEEPING Two bedrooms, each with a king bed

BATH Each with an en-suite bath and a large tiled walk-in shower

New furniture and smart TVs in both. One has sweeping views.

Game Loft

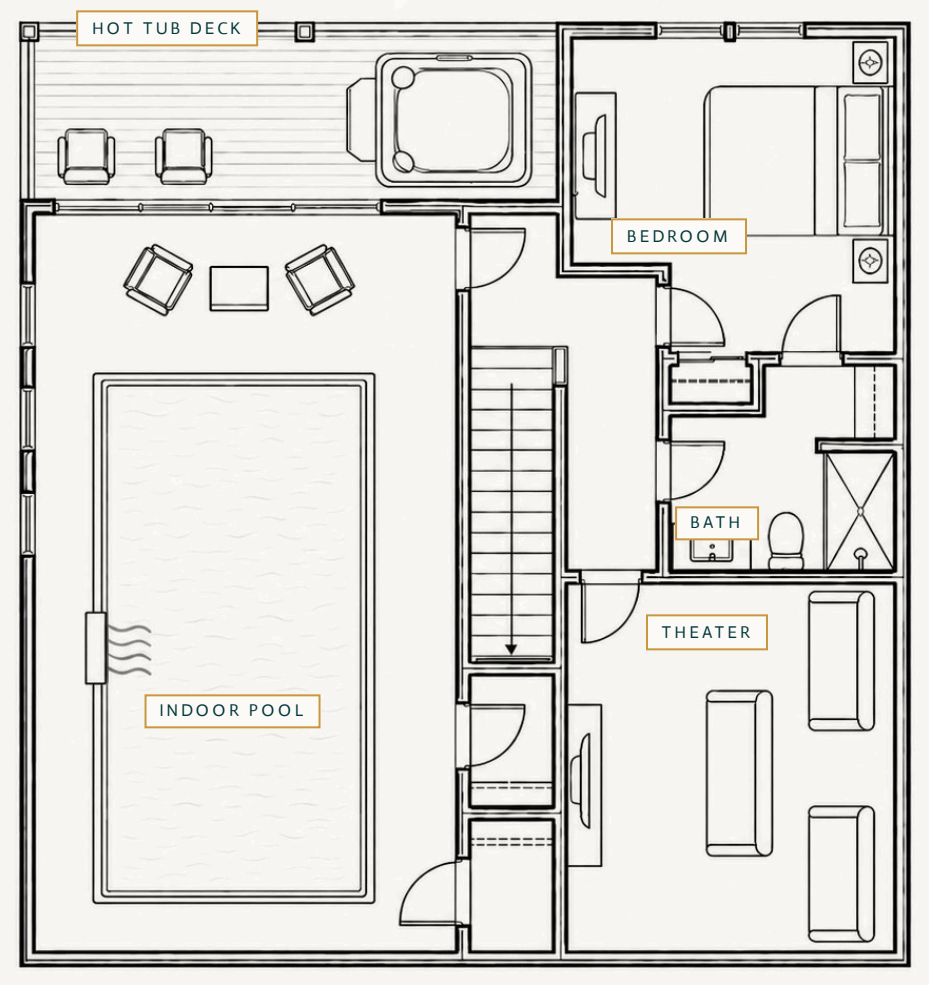
SLEEPING Sleeper sofa

Shuffleboard, foosball, an old school arcade machine and a smart TV.

FLOOR PLANS · 3 OF 3

Lower Level

The private indoor pool, the hot tub deck, the theater room and a king bedroom.



Lower Bedroom

SLEEPING King bed

BATH Jack and Jill bath with a tiled shower, shared with the hallway

Mountain views and a smart TV.

Indoor Pool and Deck

Heated, with a waterfall, a large slider to the deck and the hot tub just outside.

Theater Room

SLEEPING Futons that push together into one big lounge

Tiered seating and a 70 inch smart TV.



HOW THINGS WORK

The Kitchen

Short, clear steps for everything you might reach for, grouped by room. Every item has its own code: scan it for the most current instructions, a quick video when we have one, and live help from our team.

The kitchen is fully equipped, with stone countertops and stainless appliances. We start you off with a few prepackaged coffees, filters for the 12-cup maker and a few basics. Scan the code to see exactly what is supplied and what to bring.

WHAT IS PROVIDED

See What We Supply

Bear Camp keeps the current list of starter supplies and what to bring.



Refrigerator

KITCHEN · FRENCH-DOOR REFRIGERATOR WITH BOTTOM FREEZER

1. Open both doors for the fresh food shelves; pull the drawer below for the freezer.
2. The ice maker is kept off, so pick up a bag of ice on your way in.
3. Temperatures are already set. Please do not change the controls.

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP

GOOD TO KNOW

A full load of warm groceries takes the refrigerator a few hours to catch up. If the freezer is cold, it is working. Chill drinks in a cooler first if you can, and message us if the freezer is not freezing.



Range & Oven

KITCHEN · ELECTRIC RANGE WITH A SMOOTH GLASS COOKTOP

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP

1. Push in and turn the knob that matches the burner you want. The small diagram beside each knob shows which burner it runs.
2. The hot surface light stays on until the glass has cooled. Do not touch the cooktop while it is lit.
3. For the oven, press Bake, enter the temperature, then press Start. It beeps when it has preheated.
4. Turn on the microwave fan above the range when you cook to keep the smoke alarms quiet.

GOOD TO KNOW

Let the glass cool, then clean it with cooktop cleaner and a soft cloth. No steel wool, scouring pads or powder cleansers; they scratch the glass. Lift heavy pans instead of sliding them.



Coffee Station

KITCHEN · SINGLE-CUP POD BREWER

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP

1. Pod brewer: fill the water tank to the line, lift the handle, drop in a pod, close it and press the cup size you want.
2. Drip maker: add a paper filter and ground coffee (about 1 tablespoon per cup), fill the water to the cup line on the carafe and press On.
3. Turn the drip maker off when the pot is done so the warming plate does not scorch it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Rinse the carafe and toss used pods and filters after each use.



Microwave

KITCHEN · MICROWAVE OVER THE RANGE

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP

1. Press +30 Sec to start right away, and press it again to add time.
2. For a set time, enter the minutes and seconds on the keypad, then press Start.
3. The microwave doubles as the range hood. Its Fan and Light buttons ventilate and light the cooktop below.

GOOD TO KNOW

Use microwave-safe dishes only, no metal or foil. Cover food to stop splatter, and wipe the inside with a damp cloth.



Dishwasher

KITCHEN ISLAND · BUILT-IN DISHWASHER

1. Load plates facing the center and cups and bowls upside down on the top rack.
2. Put one dishwasher pod in the soap cup and close the lid.
3. Choose Normal or Auto, press Start, then close the door within a few seconds. The cycle starts when the door is shut.

GOOD TO KNOW

Use dishwasher pods only. Dish soap for the sink makes suds that flood the floor. Hand wash cast iron, sharp knives and wooden spoons.

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP



Dining Table

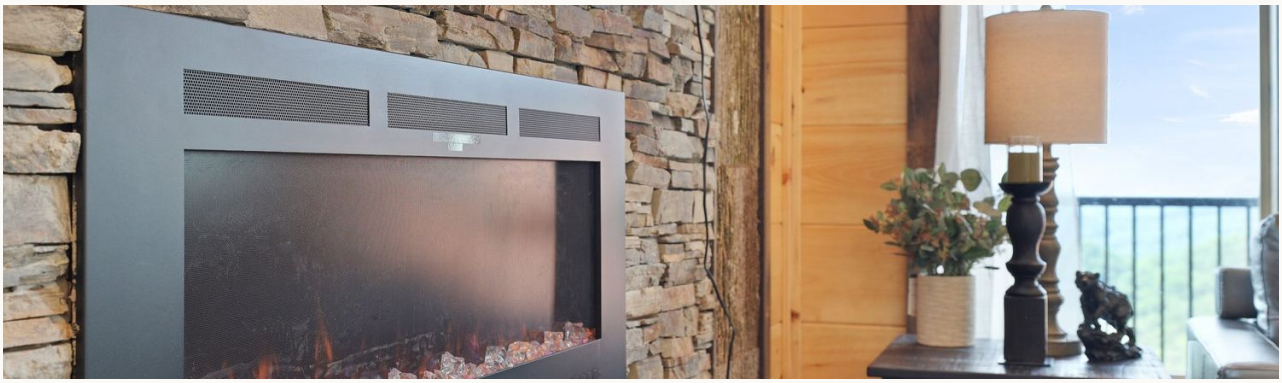
DINING AREA · TABLE SEATS NINE

1. Seat nine at the table and four more at the island when the whole group eats in.

GOOD TO KNOW

Use placemats or trivets under hot dishes. Wipe the table with a damp cloth, no harsh sprays.

SCAN FOR LIVE INFO



HOW THINGS WORK

Living Room and Bedrooms

Both fireplaces are electric and run only from their remotes, so please keep the remotes with them.



Living Room TV

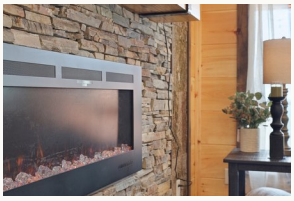
LIVING ROOM · SMART TV ABOVE THE FIREPLACE

1. Press Power on the TV remote.
2. Pick a streaming app from the home screen, or press Input to switch to a game console or other device.
3. Use the TV remote for volume. If the screen goes dark, press Home and choose the app again.

GOOD TO KNOW

Sign out of any streaming accounts you used before you leave.

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP



Fireplace

LIVING ROOM · ELECTRIC FIREPLACE, NO GAS OR WOOD

1. Point the remote at the fireplace and press Power.
2. Use the flame button to change the flame look, and the heat button to turn the heater on or off.
3. Press Power again to turn it off. The flames can run without heat on warm nights.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keep blankets, bags and furniture at least 3 feet from the front. Turn it off at bedtime and when you leave the room.

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP



Bedroom Fireplace

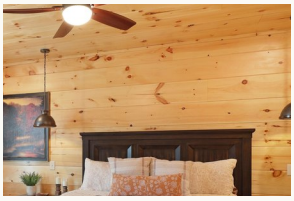
BEDROOM 1 · ELECTRIC FIREPLACE, NO GAS OR WOOD

1. Point the remote at the fireplace and press Power.
2. Use the flame button to change the flame look, and the heat button to turn the heater on or off.
3. Press Power again to turn it off. The flames can run without heat on warm nights.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keep blankets, bags and furniture at least 3 feet from the front. Turn it off at bedtime and when you leave the room.

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP



Ceiling Fans

BEDROOMS · IN EVERY BEDROOM

1. Each bedroom has a ceiling fan with a light.
2. The remote for each fan is mounted on the wall by the door.
3. Press the fan button to cycle speeds and the light button for the light.

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP

Outside and Trash



Trash and Bear Bin

OUTSIDE · BEAR-RESISTANT ENCLOSURE BESIDE THE DRIVEWAY

1. Bag all trash and carry it out to the bear-resistant enclosure by the driveway.
2. Open the lock with the house number, set the bags inside and lock it again every time.
3. Staying seven nights or more? Call the office at 865-366-5730 at least 24 hours ahead for a courtesy pickup.

GOOD TO KNOW

Bears live all around the lodge, so never leave bags on the deck, the porch or in your car. Only toilet paper goes down the toilets, and grease goes in the trash, never a drain. Extra trash left at checkout that will not fit in the bin carries a $50 charge.

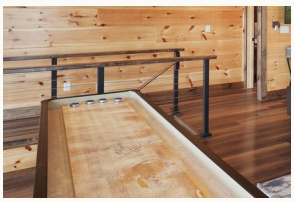
SCAN FOR LIVE HELP



HOW THINGS WORK

The Game Loft

The loft TV has a spare HDMI cable ready for a game console or streaming stick.



Shuffleboard

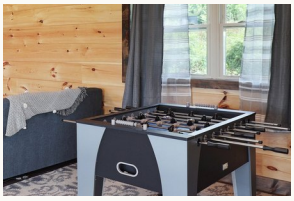
GAME LOFT · SHUFFLEBOARD TABLE

SCAN FOR LIVE INFO

1. If there is shuffleboard wax by the table, sprinkle a light dusting along the playing surface.
2. Slide the pucks from your end; score by where they stop in the numbered zones.
3. Push, do not throw. Pucks that fly off the table can hurt someone below the loft rail.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keep drinks off the playing surface. Brush any wax back toward the ends when you finish.



Foosball Table

GAME LOFT · FOOSBALL TABLE

SCAN FOR LIVE INFO

1. Drop the ball in through the side hole to start.
2. Spin the rods gently; the first to 5 or 10 goals wins.
3. Put the balls back in the goal trays when you are done.

GOOD TO KNOW

No leaning or sitting on the table; the rods bend.



Arcade Machine

GAME LOFT · ARCADE MACHINE

1. Turn it on with the power switch on the back or side of the cabinet.
2. Use the joystick to pick a game from the menu and press Start.
3. Switch it off at the cabinet when you are finished.

GOOD TO KNOW

Gentle on the buttons and joystick. Keep drinks off the control panel.

SCAN FOR LIVE INFO



Loft TV

GAME LOFT · SMART TV

1. Press Power on the TV remote.
2. Pick a streaming app from the home screen, or press Input to switch to a game console or other device.
3. Use the TV remote for volume. If the screen goes dark, press Home and choose the app again.

GOOD TO KNOW

Sign out of any streaming accounts you used before you leave.

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP



Sleeper Sofa

GAME LOFT · PULL-OUT SOFA BED

1. Remove the cushions and pull the bed out by the handle under the front edge.
2. Sheets for the sofa bed are in the table beside it.
3. Fold it back into a sofa and return the cushions before you check out.

SCAN FOR LIVE INFO



Board Games

GAME LOFT · GAMES FOR ALL AGES

1. The board games are on the shelf in the game loft.
2. Scan the code for the current list of what is on the shelf.

GOOD TO KNOW

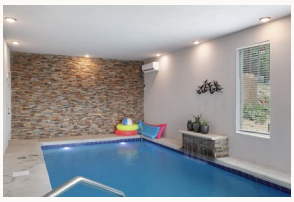
Please count the pieces back into each box.

SCAN FOR LIVE INFO



HOW THINGS WORK

Pool, Hot Tub and Theater



Indoor Pool

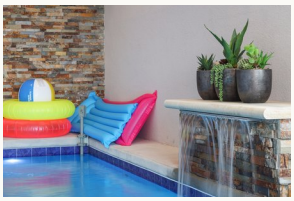
POOL ROOM · PRIVATE HEATED INDOOR POOL

1. The pool room has its own keypad lock, separate from the front door. Enter 8850.
2. There is no lifeguard. An adult must watch children at all times. No diving.
3. Close the sliding door to the deck behind you to keep the heat and humidity in.

GOOD TO KNOW

Shower off before you swim. No glass in the pool room.

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP

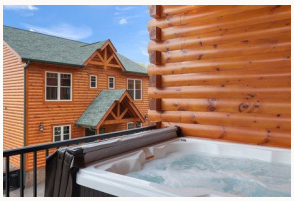


Pool Waterfall

POOL ROOM · WATERFALL FEATURE

1. The waterfall runs on its own switch in the pool room.
2. Flip it on to start the waterfall and off when you leave the pool room.
3. If it does not start, message us and we will help.

SCAN FOR LIVE INFO



Hot Tub

LOWER DECK · ON THE LOWER DECK BESIDE THE POOL

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP

1. Unclip the cover and fold it back.
2. Check the temperature on the panel before you get in. Stay below 104°F.
3. Press Jets to start the jets. They turn off on their own after a while; press again to restart.
4. When you get out, put the cover back on and re-clip it. It keeps the heat in and keeps children out.

GOOD TO KNOW

Rinse off first and skip lotions and oils. No soap, bubble bath or glass in the tub. A new temperature setting can take a few hours to reach, so keep the cover on while it heats.



Theater TV

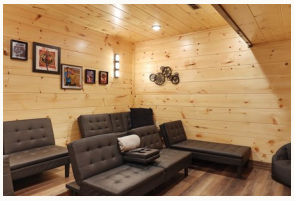
THEATER · 70-INCH SMART TV

SCAN FOR LIVE HELP

1. Press Power on the TV remote.
2. Pick a streaming app from the home screen, or press Input to switch to a game console or other device.
3. Use the TV remote for volume. If the screen goes dark, press Home and choose the app again.

GOOD TO KNOW

Sign out of any streaming accounts you used before you leave.



Theater Futons

THEATER · TIERED FUTON SEATING

SCAN FOR LIVE INFO

1. Pull the seat forward and lower the back to fold a futon flat.
2. Push two flat futons together for one big lounging area.
3. Lift the back upright to make it a sofa again.

GOOD TO KNOW

Fold them back into sofas before you check out. Keep food and drinks off the fabric.



LOWER LEVEL

Pool and Hot Tub

The Private Indoor Pool

The heated indoor pool is on the lower level beside the theater room. Open the large slider to take in the mountain views from the water, and there is plenty of seating for anyone who would rather stay dry.

- There is no lifeguard. An adult must watch children at all times.
- The pool room is kept behind a locked door. Never prop the pool room doors open.
- No diving.
- Shower off before you swim. No glass in the pool room.
- Close the slider to the deck behind you to keep the heat and humidity in.
- The waterfall has its own switch in the pool room. Turn it off when you leave.

The Hot Tub

The hot tub sits on the lower deck beside the indoor pool, with the same mountain views.

- Check the temperature on the panel before you get in. Stay below 104°F.
- Rinse off first. No lotions, oils, soap, bubble bath or glass.
- Keep the cover on and clipped whenever the tub is not in use. It holds the heat and keeps children out.
- Please do not stand or sit on the cover.
- A new temperature setting can take a few hours to reach, so keep the cover on while it heats.

POOL ROOM DOOR — The pool room door code is 8850. It is different from your front door code.



Honeysuckle Meadow Outdoor Pool

Your stay includes passes to the big outdoor pool at Honeysuckle Meadows in Wears Valley, about eight minutes away, with a poolside deli and grill and a catch-and-release fishing pond. Check in at the window and tell them you are staying at Paradise Pool Lodge. The pool is open May through September, 10 AM to 7 PM.

HOURS AND DIRECTIONS



SETTLING IN

Wi-Fi, TV and Comfort

Wi-Fi

The quickest way online: scan the code on the refrigerator, or the one here, or type the web address shown under it. The network name and password are also in your arrival message.

hubstone.com/c/paradise-pool-lodge

SCAN TO GET ONLINE

TV and Streaming

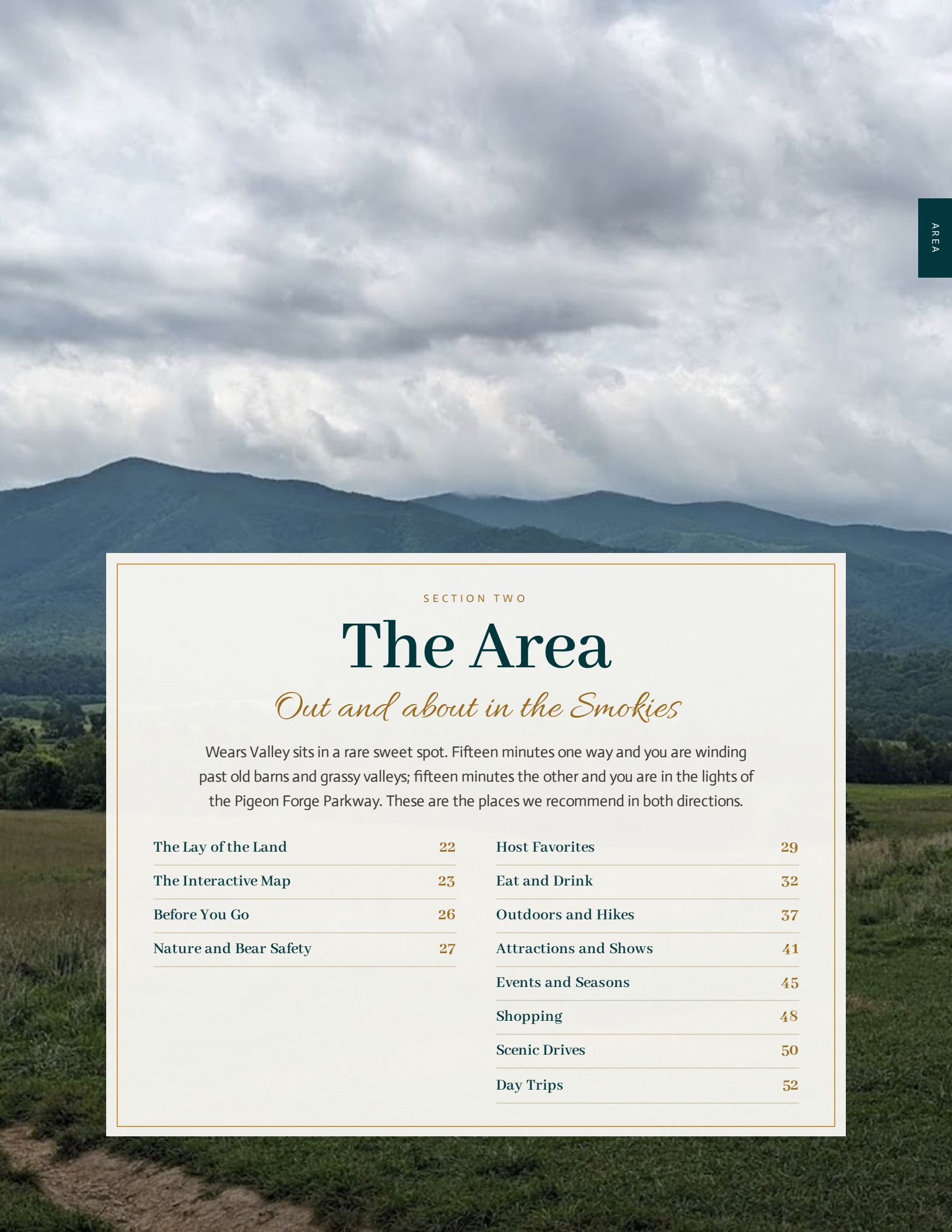
There is cable for local channels and a smart TV in every bedroom and living space, so you can sign in to your own streaming apps. There are DVD players as a backup. The cabin cannot record shows.

- Please do not unplug or rewire the TVs or other equipment.
- Keep each remote in the room where you found it.
- Sign out of your streaming accounts before you leave.

Heating and Cooling

Heating and air conditioning are split into zones by floor. The main level thermostat is on the wall to the right as you come in the front door. If the barn door is open, it is behind it.

- Please do not set the air conditioning below 71°F. Lower settings can freeze the coil.
- Do not run a fireplace heater while the air conditioning is on.



SECTION TWO

The Area

Out and about in the Smokies

Wears Valley sits in a rare sweet spot. Fifteen minutes one way and you are winding past old barns and grassy valleys; fifteen minutes the other and you are in the lights of the Pigeon Forge Parkway. These are the places we recommend in both directions.

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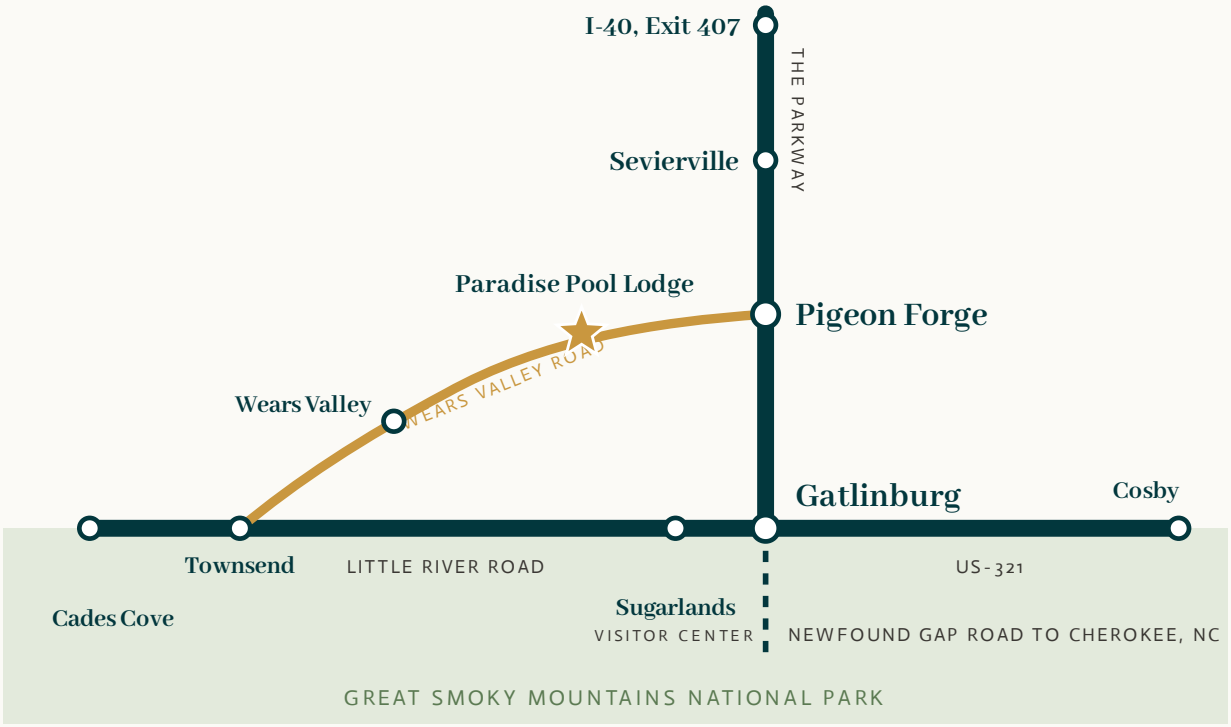
GETTING YOUR BEARINGS

The Lay of the Land

Picture the area as an upside-down T. The Parkway runs straight up the middle from the interstate to Gatlinburg, and at the bottom the national park stretches out left and right.



FROM THE LODGE

Pigeon Forge Parkway 15 min **Sevierville** 20 min **Gatlinburg** 30 min **Sugarlands Visitor Center** 35 min
Wears Valley 30 min **Townsend** 30 min **I-40, Exit 407** 35 min **Cades Cove Loop** 1 hr **Cosby** 1 hr

The Parkway

US-441 is the spine: Sevierville, then Pigeon Forge, then Gatlinburg at the park's front door. In Pigeon Forge the traffic lights are numbered, and most directions use them.

The Park

From Gatlinburg, Little River Road runs west past Elkmont and The Sinks to Townsend and Cades Cove. Newfound Gap Road climbs south over the mountains to Cherokee, and US-321 heads east toward Greenbrier and Cosby.

Your Side of Town

The lodge sits off Wears Valley Road on the quiet west side of Pigeon Forge. That road is also the back way to Wears Valley, Townsend and the Foothills Parkway.

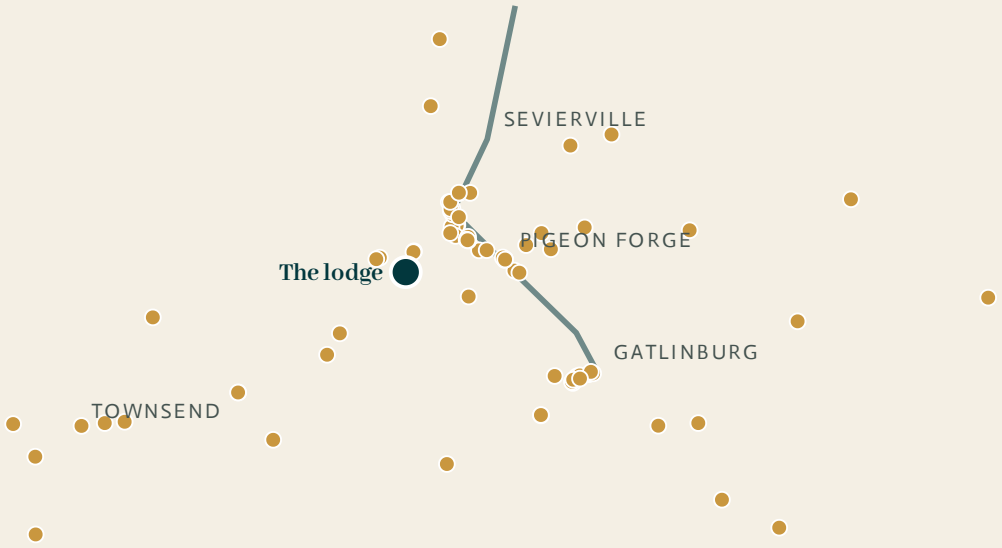
Beating the Traffic

Veterans Boulevard and Teaster Lane run parallel to the Parkway in Pigeon Forge, and the Gatlinburg Bypass skips downtown on the way into the park. Go early, especially on weekends and in October.

EVERYTHING, MAPPED

The Interactive Map

Every place in this guide, and hundreds more, on one live map. Filter by what you are in the mood for, see how far it is, and tap for directions.



SCAN TO OPEN THE MAP

vantagestays.com/explore

Hours and seasons change, so each place links to its own page with the latest details. Please check with the business before you go.

THE AREA

At a Glance

Everything in this section, on one page. Every place has its own code for directions and details.

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Hours and seasons change. Each code links to a page we try to keep current, but please check with the business before you go.

PLAN THE REST OF YOUR STAY

Vantage Stays Online

Our biggest guides live online, where we keep them current. Point your camera at any code.

Area Guide and Map

Interactive map of 780+ places to eat, play and hike, host picks, a build-your-own printable guide, and what's on this week.

vantagestays.com/explore/area-guide

Events Calendar

Festivals, concerts, car shows and holiday lights across the Smokies, with a date picker and a 'Happening Now' filter.

vantagestays.com/vantage-events

Trip Itineraries

Ready-made 3 to 5 day plans for families, couples, friend groups, reunions, church groups and teams, plus 27+ day-trip and rainy-day guides.

vantagestays.com/vantage-itineraries

Concierge Services

Complimentary trip planning plus bookable private chefs, in-cabin massage, guided adventures, celebration setup and photographers.

vantagestays.com/vantage-concierge

Free Attraction Tickets

How to claim the complimentary attraction tickets included with the stay (18 free attractions, 40+ discounted), with full terms.

vantagestays.com/vantage-free-tickets

National Park Guide

Cades Cove, Kuwohi, Roaring Fork, best trails, scenic drives and park tips.

vantagestays.com/vantage-national-park

Backroads and Closures

Local routes that skip Parkway traffic, plus seasonal road closures and the park's road-status line.

vantagestays.com/vantage-backroads

Rainy Day Activities

Indoor attractions and cozy ideas for when the weather turns.

vantagestays.com/articles/rainy-day-activities-smoky-mountains

Family-Friendly Attractions

Kid-friendly attractions, shows and activities across the Smokies.

vantagestays.com/explore/family-friendly

Free Things to Do

No-cost outings: trails, overlooks, fountain shows, historic sites.

vantagestays.com/explore/free-things

Grocery Stores

Nearby grocery stores and markets for stocking the cabin.

vantagestays.com/explore/grocery-stores

Kids Activity Book

Free 60-page printable: road-trip games, Smokies trivia, scavenger hunts, attraction spotter maps, coloring pages.

vantagestays.com/kids-activity-book



THE AREA

Before You Go

Drive times are by road from the lodge in light traffic, rounded to five minutes. On the Parkway in peak season, and on winding mountain roads after dark, allow extra time.

Park Parking Tag

Any vehicle parked in Great Smoky Mountains National Park for more than 15 minutes needs a parking tag, a rule in place since 2023. Check nps.gov for where to buy one before you head in.

Kuwohi

The park's highest peak, long known as Clingmans Dome, was officially renamed Kuwohi, its Cherokee name, in 2024. You will see both names on signs and maps.

Getting Around

Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge both run trolley routes, a real help when Gatlinburg parking is full, and a fun way to see the holiday lights. From Wears Valley, Line Spring Road is a local back way into the park.

Hours Change

Opening hours, prices and seasonal closures change often, especially in winter. Please check with each business before you set out.

COMPLIMENTARY FOR GUESTS

Xplorie Passes

Your stay includes free tickets to a changing list of local attractions and shows through Xplorie, plus discounts on dozens more. Look for the Free with Xplorie label on places in this guide.

1. Xplorie emails you a personal booking link within about 48 hours of booking.
2. Open the link, choose your activities and reserve your spots.
3. Look for the Free with Xplorie badge on places in this guide.

EXPLORE ONLINE

VantageStays.com/explore

Photos, directions and current hours for every place in this section. Hours and seasons change. Each code links to a page we try to keep current, but please check with the business before you go.



THE AREA

Nature and Bear Safety

The Smokies are home to more than 65 species of mammals, hundreds of kinds of birds and more than 80 types of reptiles and amphibians. A little know-how keeps everyone, bears included, safe.



YOU ARE IN BEAR COUNTRY

Black Bears

About 1,500 black bears live in the national park, roughly two per square mile, and they wander well beyond it, including through Black Bear Ridge Resort. Sightings are not unusual, especially early in the morning and late in the evening in spring and summer.

1. Stay at least 50 yards away, and never approach or feed a bear.
2. If a bear notices you and makes noise or swats the ground, it wants more space. Do not run. Back away slowly.
3. If a bear keeps approaching, change your direction and act aggressively to scare it off.
4. Lock your car and never leave food, coolers or trash inside. Bears open unlocked doors.



LATE MAY AND JUNE

Synchronous Fireflies

Nineteen species of fireflies live in the Smokies, and one, Photinus carolinus, flashes in unison in bursts of five to eight. The display near Elkmont usually peaks within a two-week window in late May or June, depending on the weather. In recent years the National Park Service has run a lottery for viewing passes; check nps.gov for this year's dates.



RARELY A WORRY

Snakes

Of the 23 species of snakes in the Smokies, only two are venomous: the northern copperhead and the timber rattlesnake. Take care around woodpiles, rotting logs and fallen branches. The harmless northern water snake is often mistaken for a cottonmouth, which does not live here. If you see a snake near the lodge you think may be venomous, or any snake indoors, let us know.



HARMLESS, AND GOOD TO KNOW

Small Visitors Indoors

Mountain life sometimes finds its way indoors. Wood cockroaches live outdoors and wander in by day; they cannot survive inside and do no harm. Ladybugs like warm, sunny spots and are best vacuumed up.



LATE SUMMER AND FALL

After Heavy Rain

Millipedes can appear after heavy rain, especially in late summer and fall. The two local scorpions have a sting similar to a bee sting. If anything becomes more than a nuisance, tell us and we will send someone.

PHOTO CREDITS

Parrot Mountain and Gardens: Photo: Keith Allison, via Bear Camp Cabin Rentals. Foothills Parkway: Photo: Federal Highway Administration, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons. The Lost Sea Adventure: Photo: Brenda (lightningsky2), CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons. Black Bears: Black bear, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NPS photo. Synchronous Fireflies: Photo: Niemand für Polyphemus, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons. Snakes: Northern copperhead, Grayson Smith/USFWS. Small Visitors Indoors: Photo: Gilles San Martin, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons. After Heavy Rain: Cosby Creek in flood, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, USGS photo by Stewart Tomlinson. The Sinks: Photo: NPS / Warren Bielenberg, public domain. Elk Season at Cataloochee: Photo: Warren LeMay, CCo, via Wikimedia Commons. Winterfest Lights: Photo: Sarrail, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons. Fourth of July Midnight Parade: Photo: Bneu2013, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons. Tail of the Dragon: Photo: wjklos, CC BY 2.0, via Flickr. Smoky Mountain Deer Farm, Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Smoky Mountain Christmas: AI renderings, not actual photos. License details at creativecommons.org/licenses.



THE AREA · CHOSEN BY YOUR HOST

Host Favorites

The places we send our own friends. Not the biggest names on the Parkway, just the ones we keep going back to.



Sawyer's Farmhouse

PIGEON FORGE · 10 MIN DRIVE

Our pick for a hearty country breakfast or lunch: biscuits and gravy, farmhouse skillets and homestyle cooking worth the wait. Several locations around Pigeon Forge and Wears Valley.

862 Wears Valley Rd, Pigeon Forge

vantagestays.com/places/sawyer-s-farmhouse-restaurant



Pawpaw's Catfish Kitchen

WEARS VALLEY · 15 MIN DRIVE

Crispy fried catfish, red beans and Southern seafood right here in Wears Valley. Check the hours before you go.

2760 Wears Valley Rd, Sevierville

vantagestays.com/places/pawpaw-s-catfish-kitchen



Elvira's Cafe

WEARS VALLEY · 20 MIN DRIVE

A homey cafe out in Wears Valley itself, for Southern breakfasts, lunches and home-style plates. A pretty drive through the valley.

4143 Wears Valley Rd, Sevierville

elvirascafe.com



Chubby's Restaurant

SEVIERVILLE · 20 MIN DRIVE

Southern homestyle cooking on Dolly Parton Parkway, a Sevierville local secret. Come hungry for the comfort-food plates and friendly, unfussy service.

1386 Dolly Parton Pkwy, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/chubby-s-restaurant



Little Tokyo

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Fresh sushi and rolls, hibachi and teriyaki on Teaster Lane. A welcome change from Southern comfort food and a local go-to for date night.

2430 Teaster Ln #212, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/little-tokyo-restaurant

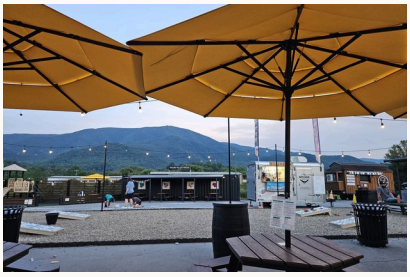


Blue Moose Burgers & Wings

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

A casual, family-friendly sports bar for big burgers, wings and cold drinks with the game on.

2430 Teaster Ln #108, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/blue-moose-burgers-wings

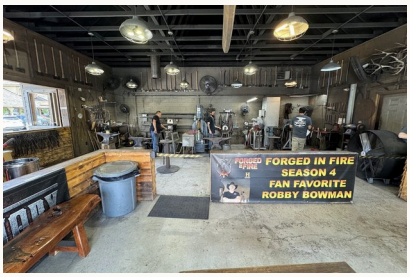


Wears Valley Social Food Truck Park

WEARS VALLEY · 15 MIN DRIVE

A lively, family-friendly food truck park in Wears Valley with a mix of gourmet trucks. Easy for a big group where everyone wants something different.

3209 Wears Valley Rd, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/wears-valley-social-food-truck-park

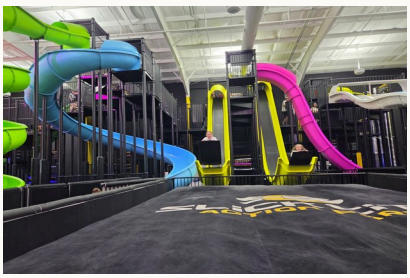


Iron Mountain Metal Craft

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Hand-forged knives from a working blacksmith shop in the Old Mill area. Watch the forging, shop the craftsmanship or book a forge-your-own experience.

172 Old Mill Ave, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/iron-mountain-metal-craft

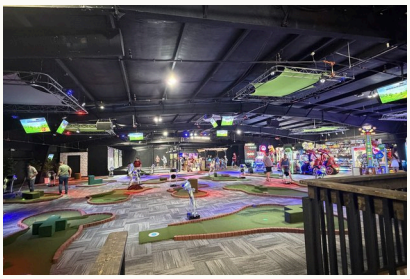


Slick City Action Park

PIGEON FORGE · 20 MIN DRIVE

An indoor slide park packed with towering slides, air courts and climbing, all weatherproof. A rainy-day lifesaver on the Parkway.

3735 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/slick-city-action-park



The Sweet Spot

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Sports simulator suites, a baseball and golf themed mini golf course and an arcade under one roof on the Parkway, plus warm chimney cones filled with ice cream. A great rainy day pick.

2141 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/the-sweet-spot-pigeon-forge



Lucille's General Store

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

A general store and bakery on the Parkway with house-made fudge, fresh biscuits, craft sodas and gourmet popcorn, plus smoked brisket and pulled pork from the counter.

2450 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/lucille-s-general-store



THE AREA

Eat and Drink

From catfish in Wears Valley to a white-tablecloth night in Townsend, with the breakfasts and evening spots worth knowing about.

DINNER



The Old Mill Restaurant

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Next to a water-powered grist mill that has been running since 1830, and the stone-ground cornmeal and flour from the mill turn up all through the menu.

164 Old Mill Ave, Pigeon Forge

vantagestays.com/places/the-old-mill-restaurant



Local Goat

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Scratch-made American comfort food on the Parkway and one of the best-reviewed dinners in Pigeon Forge. Expect a wait at peak times.

2167 Parkway, Pigeon Forge

vantagestays.com/places/local-goat



Mama's Farmhouse

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

All-you-can-eat Southern cooking served family style at the table, which makes it an easy dinner for a group of twelve.

208 Pickel St, Pigeon Forge

vantagestays.com/places/mama-s-farmhouse



Alamo Steakhouse

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

A Texas-style steakhouse and a dependable steak night for a big group. There is a second location in Gatlinburg.

3050 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/alamo-steakhouse



Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant

SEVIERVILLE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Southern cooking in a restored farmhouse surrounded by apple orchards, serving guests since 1987.

240 Apple Valley Rd, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/applewood-farmhouse-restaurant



Cherokee Grill

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

Contemporary cooking with Appalachian ingredients in Gatlinburg: mountain trout, game dishes, house-made pastas and steaks.

1002 Parkway, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/cherokee-grill



The Park Grill

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

Classic American fare close to the national park entrance in Gatlinburg. A good family dinner after a day on the trails.

1110 Parkway, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/the-park-grill



Dancing Bear Appalachian Bistro

TOWNSEND · 35 MIN DRIVE

Upscale Appalachian-inspired dining at Dancing Bear Lodge in Townsend. Lovely for a special night out.

7140 E Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Townsend
vantagestays.com/places/dancing-bear-appalachian-bistro

BREAKFAST AND SWEETS



Mel's Classic Diner

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

A 1950s-style diner right where Wears Valley Road meets the Parkway, for breakfast, burgers and milkshakes on your way into town.

119 Wears Valley Rd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/mel-s-classic-diner



Crockett's Breakfast Camp

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

Big mountain breakfasts in a log cabin restaurant in Gatlinburg.

1103 Parkway, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/crockett-s-breakfast-camp



Pancake Pantry

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

A Gatlinburg institution since 1960, with 24 scratch-made pancake varieties.

628 Parkway, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/pancake-pantry



Frizzle Chicken Farmhouse Cafe

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Southern breakfast and lunch with country charm in Pigeon Forge. Good for a family brunch.

2785 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/frizzle-chicken-farmhouse-cafe



The Old Mill Pottery House Café

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Salads, soups, sandwiches and pastries with river views at The Old Mill.

3341 Old Mill St, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/the-old-mill-pottery-house-caf



The Donut Friar

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

Fresh doughnuts, cinnamon bread and pastries from a Gatlinburg favorite.

634 Parkway #15 (The Village Shops), Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/the-donut-friar



Cruze Farm Ice Cream

SEVIERVILLE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Farm-fresh ice cream made from Tennessee milk, in a changing list of inventive flavors.

1642 Parkway, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/cruze-farm-sevierville

EVENINGS OUT



Old Forge Distillery at The Old Mill

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Handcrafted spirits and tastings inside the historic Old Mill in Pigeon Forge.

170 Old Mill Ave, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/old-forge-distillery-historic-old-mill



Ole Smoky Distillery, The Holler

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

The original Gatlinburg Holler, where Ole Smoky began as Tennessee's first legal moonshine distillery.

903 Parkway, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/ole-smoky-distillery-the-holler



Smoky Mountain Brewery

GATLINBURG · 15 MIN DRIVE

House-brewed craft beer (order a flight), burgers and pizza, with live music some nights.

2530 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/smoky-mountain-brewery



Peaceful Side Social

TOWNSEND · 30 MIN DRIVE

Craft beer and a chef-driven menu in Townsend, on the quiet side of the Smokies.

7967 E Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Townsend
vantagestays.com/places/peaceful-side-brewing



The Abbey

TOWNSEND · 30 MIN DRIVE

A cozy bar and live music room in Townsend for acoustic and Americana artists.

7765 River Rd, Townsend
vantagestays.com/places/the-abbey-townsend

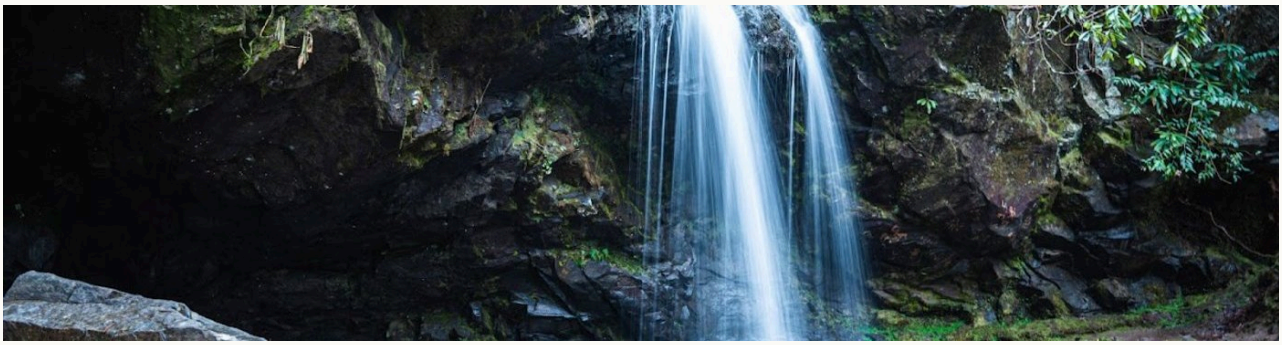


Alibi Speakeasy

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

A Prohibition-style cocktail bar tucked into Elks Plaza in downtown Gatlinburg. Look for the hidden entrance.

968 Parkway, Suite 5, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/alibi-speakeasy



THE AREA

Outdoors and Hikes

Waterfalls, ridgelines and a little adrenaline. Start early, carry water, and remember the park parking tag.

WATER AND EASY WATERFALLS



Metcalf Bottoms Trail

NATIONAL PARK

An easy 1.5-mile out and back, open year round and lovely in any season.

vantagestays.com/places/metcalf-bottoms-trail



The Sinks

NATIONAL PARK · 30 MIN DRIVE

A roadside waterfall and deep pool on Little River Road, seen from a short walkway with no hike needed. The current is dangerous, so enjoy it from the rocks.

Little River Rd, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/waterfalls.htm



Townsend Wye

NATIONAL PARK

The classic Smokies swimming hole where the Little River's two prongs meet, just inside the Townsend entrance. The water is cold and there are no lifeguards.

Little River Rd at Laurel Creek Rd, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

vantagestays.com/places/the-townsend-wye

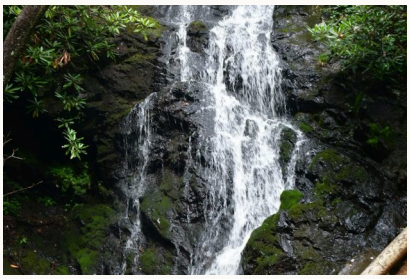


Smoky Mountain River Rat Tubing

TOWNSEND · 30 MIN DRIVE

Summer tubing on the gentle Little River in Townsend, with a shuttle back to the start. An easy afternoon for a big group.

205 Wears Valley Rd, Townsend
vantagestays.com/places/smoky-mountain-river-rat-tubing

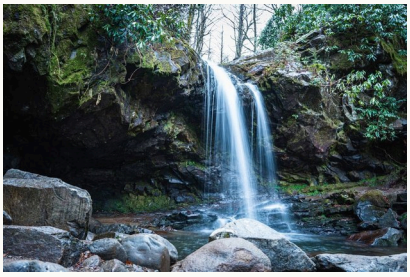


Cataract Falls

NATIONAL PARK · 30 MIN DRIVE

Three-quarters of a mile on a paved-then-gravel path beside Fighting Creek to a 20-foot waterfall. Children love the footbridges.

vantagestays.com/places/cataract-falls



Grotto Falls

NATIONAL PARK · 55 MIN DRIVE

The only waterfall in the park you can walk behind. The trailhead is on the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail.

Trillium Gap Trailhead, Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail
vantagestays.com/places/grotto-falls-walk-behind-the-waterfall

HIKES



Abrams Falls Trail

NATIONAL PARK · 1 HR 15 MIN DRIVE

A 5-mile round trip to a 20-foot waterfall with a surprising volume of water.

Abrams Falls trailhead parking, Cades Cove Loop Rd
vantagestays.com/places/abrams-falls-trail

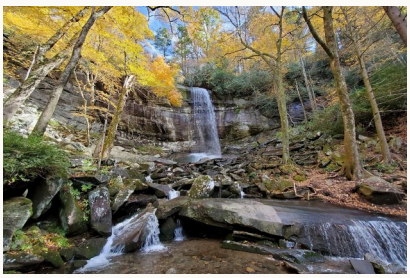


Alum Cave Trail

NATIONAL PARK · 55 MIN DRIVE

A 5-mile round trip to Alum Cave Bluffs through Arch Rock, a natural tunnel, and over log bridges. Inspiration Point is on the way up.

Alum Cave trailhead parking, Newfound Gap Rd (US-441)
vantagestays.com/places/alum-cave-trail

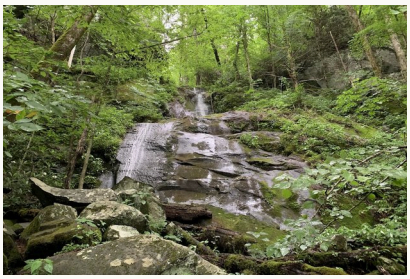


Rainbow Falls Trail

NATIONAL PARK

From the trailhead on Cherokee Orchard Road just outside Gatlinburg, it is 2.7 miles to an 80-foot waterfall known for its winter icicles. One of the most popular routes to Mount LeConte.

vantagestays.com/places/rainbow-falls-80-feet-with-rainbows



Porters Creek Trail

NATIONAL PARK · 45 MIN DRIVE

A relatively flat 4-mile round trip past wildflowers, footbridges and historical remnants, with a waterfall at the end.

vantagestays.com/places/porters-creek-trail



Gatlinburg Trail

NATIONAL PARK · 35 MIN DRIVE

One of only two trails in the national park where leashed dogs are welcome, an easy riverside walk from Sugarlands Visitor Center toward town.

Starts at Sugarlands Visitor Center, Gatlinburg

vantagestays.com/places/gatlinburg-trail-only-dog-friendly-trail

OUTDOORS

ADVENTURE



Smoky Mountain Alpine Coaster

PIGEON FORGE · 10 MIN DRIVE

A mile-long alpine coaster on the Wears Valley side, with day or night rides and speed you control.

867 Wears Valley Rd, Pigeon Forge

vantagestays.com/places/smoky-mountain-alpine-coaster



CLIMB Works Zipline Tour

GATLINBURG · 50 MIN DRIVE

A nine-line canopy zipline tour of about two hours over Gatlinburg forest, streams and ravines.

155 Branam Hollow Rd, Gatlinburg

vantagestays.com/places/climb-works-smoky-mountains-zipline-tour



Legacy Mountain Ziplines

SEVIERVILLE · 30 MIN DRIVE

Seven ziplines from 200 to 2,000 feet on a mountaintop course with views the whole way.

2805 Legacy Vista Dr, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/legacy-mountain-ziplines



Bluff Mountain Adventures ATV

PIGEON FORGE · 25 MIN DRIVE

Guided ATV tours on mountain trails and through streams, with all equipment provided.

3610 Waldens Creek Rd, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/bluff-mountain-adventures-atv



Big Rock Dude Ranch at Ponderosa

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Horseback riding and Western ranch activities.

909 Little Cove Rd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/big-rock-dude-ranch-at-ponderosa



Rocky Top Mountain Coaster FREE WITH XPLORIE

PIGEON FORGE · 20 MIN DRIVE

East Tennessee's longest mountain coaster: a ride of more than nine minutes with four lifts, tunnels and 360-degree turns. You set your own speed.

2940 Veterans Blvd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/rocky-top-mountain-coaster



Foxfire Adventure Park

SEVIERVILLE · 45 MIN DRIVE

Ziplines, a suspended swinging bridge, a 60-foot climbing wall and hiking trails on 150 acres east of Sevierville.

3757 Thomas Ln, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/foxfire-mountain-adventure-park

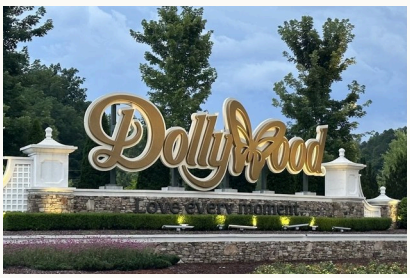


THE AREA

Attractions and Shows

The big days out, the rainy-day saves and the dinner shows the Smokies are famous for.

BIG DAYS OUT

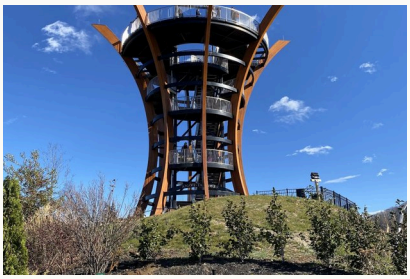


Dollywood

PIGEON FORGE · 30 MIN DRIVE

Consistently ranked among the best theme parks in the country, with thrilling rides and real Smoky Mountain charm.

2700 Dollywood Parks Blvd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/dollywood



Anakeesta

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

A mountaintop park above downtown Gatlinburg, reached by chondola, with the Treetop Skywalk, a mountain coaster, gardens and restaurants with views.

576 Parkway, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/anakeesta-complex



The Island in Pigeon Forge FREE WITH XPLORIE

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

A 23-acre entertainment district home to the 200-foot Great Smoky Mountain Wheel, shops, restaurants and fountain shows.

131 The Island Dr, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/the-island-pigeon-forge

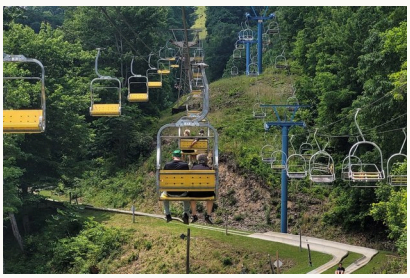


Gatlinburg SkyLift Park

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

A chairlift up Crockett Mountain, running since 1954, to a 680-foot pedestrian suspension bridge.

765 Parkway, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/gatlinburg-skylift-park



Ober Mountain

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

Year-round mountain fun above Gatlinburg, with skiing, ice skating and snow tubing in winter.

1001 Parkway, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/ober-mountain

ANIMALS

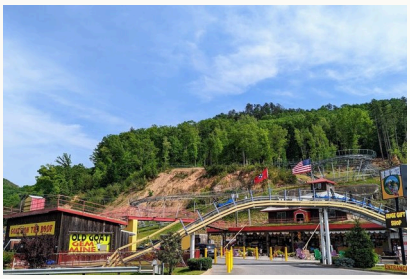


Parrot Mountain and Gardens

PIGEON FORGE · 25 MIN DRIVE

Hand-feed friendly birds among landscaped gardens near Dollywood. A gentle, memorable morning for every age.

1471 McCarter Hollow Rd, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/parrot-mountain-and-gardens



Goats on the Roof

PIGEON FORGE · 10 MIN DRIVE

Goats living on the roof, a mountain coaster down the hill, gem mining and fudge, just down Wears Valley Road toward Pigeon Forge.

1341 Wears Valley Rd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/goats-on-the-roof-of-the-smoky-mountains



Smoky Mountain Deer Farm

SEVIERVILLE · 25 MIN DRIVE

Hand-feed tame fallow deer and goats, meet elk, reindeer and zebras, and add a pony ride or a guided trail ride.

478 Happy Hollow Ln, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/smoky-mountain-deer-farm-and-exotic

RAINY DAYS



WonderWorks FREE WITH XPLORIE

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

An upside-down building full of hands-on science exhibits, plus a ropes course and laser tag. A reliable rainy-day pick.

100 Music Rd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/wonderworks



Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

A moving walkway carries you through a 340-foot shark tunnel at this Gatlinburg aquarium.

88 River Rd, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/ripley-s-aquarium-of-the-smokies



Titanic Museum Attraction

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

A genuinely moving museum experience, far more than a typical attraction.

2134 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/titanic-museum-attraction



Tuckaleechee Caverns

TOWNSEND · 40 MIN DRIVE

Guided tours through stalactites, stalagmites and underground formations in Townsend.

825 Cavern Rd, Townsend
vantagestays.com/places/tuckaleechee-caverns



Alcatraz East Crime Museum FREE WITH XPLORIE

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Five centuries of American crime history told through more than 500 authenticated artifacts.

2757 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/alcatraz-east-crime-museum

DINNER SHOWS



Dolly Parton's Stampede Dinner Show

PIGEON FORGE · 20 MIN DRIVE

Dinner and a show with 32 horses and trick riders in an 1,100-seat arena.

3849 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/dolly-parton-s-stampede-dinner-show



Hatfield & McCoy Dinner Feud

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Two hours of comedy, stunts and music, including swimming and diving pigs, served with dinner.

119 Music Rd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/hatfield-mccoy-dinner-feud



Comedy Barn Theater

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

A family-friendly variety show running since 1994.

2775 Parkway, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/comedy-barn-theater



Country Tonite FREE WITH XPLORIE

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Big voices, many with Nashville credentials, in a country music show.

129 Showplace Blvd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/country-tonite

SUMMER WATER PARKS



Soaky Mountain Waterpark FREE WITH XPLORIE

SEVIERVILLE · 25 MIN DRIVE

A 50-acre waterpark with a water coaster, an 83,000-square-foot wave pool and an adventure river.

175 Gists Creek Rd, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/soaky-mountain-waterpark



Dollywood's Splash Country

PIGEON FORGE · 25 MIN DRIVE

Dollywood's water park, open in summer, with slides, a wave pool and a lazy river.

1198 McCarter Hollow Rd, Pigeon Forge
dollywood.com/splash-country



THE AREA

Events and Seasons

Something is always on in the Smokies. These are the big ones each year; scan for this week's full calendar.

FALL



Dollywood Harvest Festival

PIGEON FORGE

Fall colors, pumpkins, gospel and bluegrass, and the Great Pumpkin LUMINights after dark. Usually September through early November.

dollywood.com/themepark/festivals/harvest-festival



Gatlinburg Craftsmen's Fair

GATLINBURG

Hundreds of artisans selling handmade work, with live music. Usually mid to late October.

craftsmenfair.com



Wears Valley Fall Fest

WEARS VALLEY

A small-town fall festival just down the road from the lodge. Usually in October.

vantagestays.com/vantage-events.html



Elk Season at Cataloochee

NATIONAL PARK

The elk rut brings bugling bulls to the fields at dawn and dusk, September through November.

nps.gov/grsm/learn/nature/elk.htm

WINTER



Winterfest Lights

PIGEON FORGE AND GATLINBURG

Millions of lights along the Parkway, a driving tour and a walking trail. Early November through mid February.

vantagestays.com/vantage-events.html



Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas

PIGEON FORGE

Millions of lights, holiday shows and seasonal food. Early November through early January.

dollywood.com/themepark/festivals/smoky-mountain-christmas

SPRING AND SUMMER



Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

GATLINBURG

Guided wildflower and nature walks in the national park each April.

vantagestays.com/vantage-events.html



Synchronous Fireflies

ELKMONT, NATIONAL PARK

A two-week window in late May or June when thousands of fireflies flash in unison. Viewing is by NPS lottery.

nps.gov/grsm/learn/nature/fireflies.htm



Fourth of July Midnight Parade

GATLINBURG

The first Independence Day parade in the nation, starting at midnight on the Parkway.

vantagestays.com/vantage-events.html

EVERY NIGHT



Show Fountain at The Island

PIGEON FORGE

Water, light and music shows every half hour after dark. Free.

islandinpigeonforge.com



Live Music Around Town

PIGEON FORGE, GATLINBURG AND TOWNSEND

Bluegrass at the distilleries, rooftop bands and Friday nights on the porch in Townsend. The calendar lists who is playing.

vantagestays.com/vantage-events.html



THE AREA

Shopping

Handmade, homemade and a few outlet bargains.



Tanger Factory Outlets

SEVIERVILLE · 20 MIN DRIVE

More than 100 brand-name outlet stores in one stop.

1645 Parkway, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/tanger-factory-outlets



Smoky Mountain Knife Works

SEVIERVILLE · 25 MIN DRIVE

Far more than a knife shop: a huge outdoor and gift store in Sevierville.

2320 Winfield Dunn Pkwy, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/smoky-mountain-knife-works



The Apple Barn & Cider Mill

SEVIERVILLE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Fresh apple cider, apple butter and handcrafted gifts among the orchards in Sevierville.

230 Apple Valley Rd, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/the-apple-barn-cider-mill



Gatlinburg Strip

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

The busy main street of Gatlinburg, lined with shops, restaurants and attractions.

Parkway at Airport Rd (traffic light #8), downtown Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/gatlinburg-strip



Gatlinburg Arts and Crafts Community

GATLINBURG

An 8-mile loop of more than 100 independent studios and shops. Watch potters, woodworkers, candlemakers and glassblowers at work.

vantagestays.com/places/great-smoky-arts-crafts-community



Ogle Brothers General Store

PIGEON FORGE · 15 MIN DRIVE

Souvenirs, local goods and gifts in an old-style general store.

1640 Parkway, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/ogle-brothers-general-store



Harper Bros. Mountain General Store

WEARS VALLEY · 20 MIN DRIVE

Mountain souvenirs and outdoor gear here in Wears Valley.

4149 Wears Valley Rd, Sevierville
vantagestays.com/places/harper-bros-mountain-general-store



The Antique Mall

PIGEON FORGE · 10 MIN DRIVE

A big antique mall full of vintage finds and collectibles.

1386 Wears Valley Rd, Pigeon Forge
vantagestays.com/places/antique-mall-yesterdays



THE AREA

Scenic Drives

Some of the best of the Smokies is seen through the windshield. Sunrise drives beat the crowds, and Cades Cove and Newfound Gap are busiest in mid-October.



Cades Cove Loop Road

NATIONAL PARK · 55 MIN DRIVE

An 11-mile one-way loop through a broad valley ringed by mountains, with some of the most reliable wildlife viewing in the park. Go early to beat the traffic.

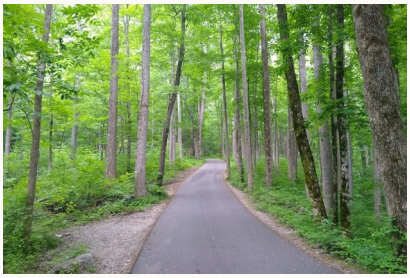
Start of Cades Cove Loop Rd (one-way), end of Laurel Creek Rd
vantagestays.com/places/cades-cove-loop-road



Foothills Parkway

Wide-open views of the Smokies to the south and the Tennessee Valley to the north, with overlooks made for photographs.

nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/foothills-parkway.htm



Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail

GATLINBURG · 45 MIN DRIVE

A narrow, winding 5.5-mile one-way loop past old-growth forest, rushing streams and historic log buildings. Usually closed from late November through spring.

Entrance from Cherokee Orchard Rd, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/roaring-fork-motor-nature-trail

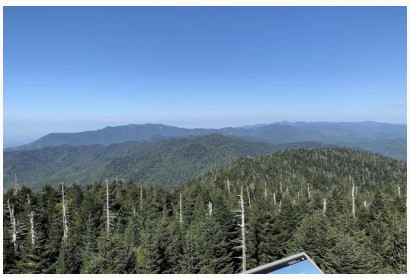


Newfound Gap Overlook

NATIONAL PARK · 1 HR DRIVE

At 5,046 feet, where US-441 crosses the state line, with wide views and the Rockefeller Memorial.

Newfound Gap, US-441 (TN/NC line)
vantagestays.com/places/newfound-gap-overlook



Kuwohi

NATIONAL PARK · 1 HR 30 MIN DRIVE

Formerly called Clingmans Dome, Kuwohi is the highest point in the park and in Tennessee at 6,643 feet. The road up is closed in winter.

Kuwohi summit (end of Kuwohi Rd off US-441)
vantagestays.com/places/clingmans-dome-kuwohi



Sugarlands Visitor Center

NATIONAL PARK · 35 MIN DRIVE

The park's main visitor center, with natural history exhibits, a film, a bookstore and rangers to help plan your day.

1420 Fighting Creek Gap Rd, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/sugarlands-visitor-center



Elkmont Ghost Town & Historic District

NATIONAL PARK · 45 MIN DRIVE

The abandoned cottages of an old resort community, slowly being reclaimed by the forest.

Elkmont, off Little River Rd
vantagestays.com/places/elkmont-ghost-town-historic-district



Gatlinburg Scenic Overlook

GATLINBURG · 30 MIN DRIVE

A short drive from downtown to wide views over the town and the mountains beyond. Especially lovely after snow.

Gatlinburg Bypass Rd, Gatlinburg
vantagestays.com/places/gatlinburg-scenic-overlook



Emert's Cove Covered Bridge

PITTMAN CENTER · 40 MIN DRIVE

A quiet, photogenic covered bridge on Hills Creek Road near Pittman Center, an easy detour on the way to Greenbrier.

Hills Creek Rd, Pittman Center
vantagestays.com/places/emert-s-cove-historic-covered-bridge



THE AREA

Day Trips

Worth the drive when you are ready for a change of scenery. Times are approximate drives from the lodge.



Asheville and Biltmore Estate

ASHEVILLE, NC · 2 HR DRIVE

George Vanderbilt's 250-room chateau, completed in 1895, is still the largest privately owned home in America. Tour the house and taste the estate winery.

vantagestays.com/places/biltmore-estate



Great Smoky Mountains Railroad

BRYSON CITY, NC

Scenic train excursions through the mountains of western North Carolina, leaving from Bryson City, about an hour from Gatlinburg.

vantagestays.com/places/great-smoky-mountains-railroad



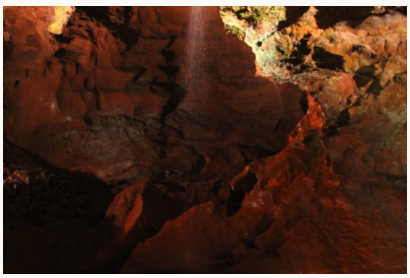
Mountain Farm Museum

NATIONAL PARK · 1 HR 30 MIN DRIVE

An open-air museum of preserved farm buildings beside the Oconaluftee Visitor Center, on the North Carolina side of the park.

1194 Newfound Gap Rd, Cherokee

vantagestays.com/places/mountain-farm-museum



The Lost Sea Adventure

1 HR 30 MIN DRIVE

America's largest underground lake and a Registered National Landmark. Cavern tours take about an hour and fifteen minutes and include a boat ride on the lake.

140 Lost Sea Road, Sweetwater

vantagestays.com/places/the-lost-sea-adventure

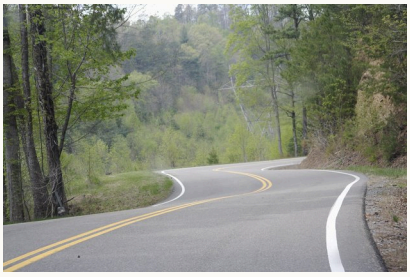


Bush's Beans Visitor Center

DANDRIDGE, TN

A free museum, general store and cafe at the Bush's Beans homeplace in Chestnut Hill. The pinto bean pie is the sleeper hit.

vantagestays.com/places/bush-s-beans-visitor-center



Tail of the Dragon

DEALS GAP · 1 HR 45 MIN DRIVE

US 129 at Deals Gap packs 318 curves into 11 miles, a classic drive for motorcyclists and sports cars. Go early on weekdays to avoid the crowds.

US 129 at Deals Gap, TN/NC line

vantagestays.com/places/tail-of-the-dragon-318-curves-in-11



BEFORE YOU GO

Check-Out by 10:00 AM

Check-out is 10:00 AM. Just a few things before you go.

- Start the dishwasher.
- Towels in the tub.
- Trash in the bear bin, lid locked.
- Fridge emptied.
- Thermostats to 75°F in summer, 65°F in winter.
- Hot tub cover on and clipped.
- Doors and windows locked.

SCAN TO CHECK OUT

Check Out on Your Phone

Tap through the same short list and let us know how it went.

Left something behind? Message us as soon as you can and we will do our best to find it.



UNTIL NEXT TIME

Y'all Come Back Now

Thank you for spending your time in the Smokies with us. We hope Paradise Pool Lodge felt like yours, and that you are already planning the next trip.

Tell Us How We Did

Reviews are how families like yours find us, and how we keep getting better. If anything was less than perfect, tell us while you are here so we can fix it. After check-out, watch for our email: the review link inside comes straight to our team.

A quick guide to vacation rental stars, which work differently from hotel stars:

★★★★★	Perfection does not exist, but we were happy here.
★★★★	Numerous issues need to be improved.
★★★	Major problems that must be addressed.
★★	Board up this cabin and fire this host at once.
★	Burn down the cabin and put this host in jail.

Come Back and Save

Our returning guests are our favorites. Join the return guest list and we will send you a discount toward your next stay when you book direct with us.

SCAN TO JOIN THE RETURN GUEST LIST

vantagestays.com

(865) 366-5730 · info@vantagestays.com

The Vantage Stays Team