

Mountains, Mansions and Beaches 24 (tentative)

ITINERARY

Sat Sept 14:

Leaving Fredericton Frex parking lot at 6 AM we proceed up the Saint John River valley on one of the most picturesque drives in our part of this country we pass through the forests and farmlands through York and Carleton Co's arriving at Woodstock (Murrays, Highway) for a quick comfort stop and border crossing review. Upon leaving Murrays we turn towards Houlton and upon arrival precede to clear customs, (generally only about a 20 mins. and then hit the I-95 southbound next stop Dysarts near Bangor for a comfort stop and pickup a coffee etc.

After this brief stop we will continue heading south on I-95 until we reach Portland ME where we take a lunch break for about 1 hr. Good food court at the Maine Mall that has clean restrooms and a good variety of food to get us around Boston on I-495 till we arrive at our next scheduled stop at a rest area on I-90 and then after a brief comfort stop its back on the bus and very soon we swing south on I-84 with Hartford in our destination view where we will spend that night arriving at 5PM at the Fairfield Inn in Manchester CT which is conveniently adjacent to the Buckland Mall with a great variety of food and stores to relax and enjoy the pool etc. Remembering that 6 AM breakfast comes quickly.

Sun Sept 15

Breakfast (provided) starts at 6AM and the Bus departs at 7 AM After a good breakfast we west on I-84 completely across the state of Connecticut on a quiet and peaceful Sunday morning starting through Hartford (the Insurance Capital of the world) when their notorious traffic is at its very best, continuing west to our first comfort stop at the Fishkill rest area, just prior to crossing the mighty Hudson

River at Newburgh. While on the bridge if you look closely out the left side you might see the famous West Point Military Academy. Continuing to head west towards the state of Pennsylvania we will begin to notice the hills of the Adirondacks in the distance and where we will be travelling most of the day, with our next stop for lunch being in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre PA at approx 11:30 AM before the Sunday crowd overtakes over for a good lunch, nothing like a Cracker Barrel for noon lunch on a Sunday. After a great meal we begin to swing south on I-81 with a rest stop in about 2-3 hrs over a lot of hills with some amazing views as we climb higher and then we cross from the northern (coal mining) area of PA continuing on I-81 we quite suddenly drop out of the hills into the fertile farming area of southern PA continuing in a south-west direction passing briefly through Maryland and then West Virginia to our destination, Waynesboro VA at 5PM, where we will rest up and spend the night at a nice Best Western Premier with many eating options within a very short walk.

Mon Sept 16 6AM:

6:00 AM early Breakfast (provided) Waking early you can view the amazing Blue Ridge/Smoky Mts. through the early morning mist where today we will be traveling through them on our way to Ashville NC. Comfort stop around 10 AM Lunch at noon and another comfort stop mid afternoon. This a day to sit back and enjoy the scenic views of the Blue Ridge Parkway, one of the most popular tourist destinations in all of the USA. Arriving at our first night in Ashville at the Comfort Inn and Suites Outlet location. Its called this because it is basically in the parking lot of a large Tanger Outlet shopping center and you will have the whole evening to check it out and find a favourite eating spot.

Tues Sept 17:

Breakfast (provided) starts at 7:AM today no need to check out as we will staying another night, and we depart to the Biltmore Estate (the largest single family

residence on the continent) at 9AM arriving around 10AM where we will spend the best part of the day “experiencing” ...including a guided tour and wine tasting etc. Returning to the hotel at 3PM it will then be another free time night to relax and maybe which might include back to the Outlets to get that certain thing you were undecided about yesterday.

Wed Sept 18:

The day starts off with another complimentary breakfast at the hotel from 7:00AM. And then loading the bus at 8:30 with a departure AT 9AM for Pigeon Forge. On our way we will be travelling through the Smokies today with time for scenic lookouts pictures and rest stop arriving at noon, for a nice relaxing lunch prior to checking in to the Willow Brook Lodge. This is our hotel for 2 nights and it is right on the Parkway in the heart of the town. The rest of the day and the evening is allotted as free time for you to explore all the attractions etc in Pigeon Forge. If you have a particular attraction, like the Comedy Barn which is located very close to our hotel, getting discounted tickets is a good possibility if given enough advance notice.

Thurs Sept 19

The day arrives as a beautiful Sept morning with amazing views of the Great Smoky Mtns. to the south as we begin our day in one of our favorite places. With Breakfast available at 7AM (provided) and the whole day to spend as u wish .. there are shopping, attractions all kinds of great places to eat, many within a short walking distance and for those that want to travel a little further the trolley system stops directly in front of your hotel and it will take u basically anyplace in Pigeon Forge

A trip to Gatlinburg 20 mins up into the mountains can be arranged if there is enough that want to go, if not enough the trolley system will also take you.

Wherever your heart Takes you, it will be necessary to be back at the hotel by 5 to get ready laugh and feast on delicious southern style food when we go to the Hatfield & McCoy dinner theatre for an all you can eat served dinner and show at 7PM. One of Dolly's Pigeon Forge premium show places.

Fri Sept 22

Dawns early as today we head for the BREACH!, and not just any beach but rather one of the most popular beaches on the east coast, Myrtle Beach.

7:AM breakfast (provided) we will begin loading the bus at 7:30 with departure coming at 8:30 as we head on over the Myrtles in S. Carolina retracing some our steps on I-40 up into and over the Smokies where y'all will get to see what's out the other side of the bus, sometimes quite up close and personal, until we reach Ashville where we will switch to I-26 heading south east towards the coast passing into S Carolina and going through Spartanburg SC switching to I-20 and heading almost due east at Columbia SC arriving at the Dayton House Resort directly on Myrtle Beach (step out and feel the sand between your toes) at approx. 4:30, where will be for the next 3 nights. Take advantage of this allocated free time to explore our portion of the beach in the middle of everything tonight.

Sat Sept 21

Breakfast from 7:00 till 9:00 (provided)

This a beach day for you to do as you want but make sure you are back by 6PM As we have tickets to the Carolina Opry at 7PM.

Sun Sept 22

7:00 till 9:00 AM Breakfast (provided) at the hotel Bus departs at 9AM for a 2 hr Barefoot cruise (10AM-12noon) (provided) and lunch of your choice after the cruise while strolling the Marshwalk. After which its back to the beach bus departs at 2PM until 6:30 when we are going to the Original Benjamin's Calabash for an all you can eat seafood buffet (other items are on the menu for those that can't eat seafood) (provided) until u can't eat anymore and then back to the hotel.

Mon Sept 23

Early morning travel today to Harrisburg as we start our journey back to reality.

Bus departs at 7AM (provided) in order to make happy hour at one of our fav hotels the Best Western Premier Hotel and Conference Center where we plan to be there at 5PM to check in and enjoy this great hotel. The attached restaurant (pub style) has a great menu and excellent food.

Tues Sept 24.

Another travel day with a 7AM buffet breakfast (provided) and departing at 8AM

Today we retrace our steps (subject to traffic conditions) with regular comfort stops and lunch stop at Danbury Fair Mall in Danbury CT with destination being Best Western Plus in Portsmouth NH.

Wed Sep 25

Last day on the road breakfast 7AM (Coupons provided by hotel) departure at 8:30 comfort stop at and last meal together at 11:30 at Dysarts in Bangor. Arrival times should be at 5PM local time at Frex parking lot where we boarded just 11 days ago and it just seems like yesterday.