



USA WEEKEND GUIDE

GATLINBURG, TN

COMPLETE 3-DAY ITINERARY



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USA WEEKEND GUIDES
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QUICK ITINERARY



**FLY INTO: KNOXVILLE AIRPORT
(MCGHEE-TYSON AIRPORT)**



DAY 1

CLINGMAN'S DOME, LAUREL FALLS, TROLLEY, SCAVENGER HUNT, DINNER THEATER



DAY 2

AERIAL TRAMWAY, GATLINBURG TRAIL, GHOST TOUR



DAY 3

MOONSHINE DISTILLERY, ZIPLINE CANOPY TOUR, PIGEON FORGE



DEPART: RETURN TO KNOXVILLE





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MAP

- Day 1:
 - 📍 Clingmans Dome Tennessee High Point
 - 🚶 Laurel Falls Trail
 - 📍 Gatlinburg Trolley
 - 🍴 Dolly Parton's Stampede
 - 🎭 Comedy Barn Theater

- Day 2:
 - 📍 Ober Mountain Tramway Mall
 - 🍴 Lunch at Sidewalk Cafe
 - 🚶 Gatlinburg Trail Trailhead
 - 📍 Ghost and Haunt Tour of Gatlinburg

- Day 3:
 - 🍴 Pancake Pantry
 - 📍 Old Smoky Moonshine

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIMES

✈️ 1 HOUR 12 MIN

DAY 1: 2 HOURS

DAY 2: 27 MIN

DAY 3: 1 HOUR 6 MIN

CLICK HERE TO
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THIS MAP!



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FAQ'S

Best time to go:

- **Winter:** 51/27
- **Spring:** 70/42
- **Summer:** 84/61
- **Fall:** 70/45

Peak Fall Colors? Mid October- Early November

This itinerary can be completed year-round!

Know before you go:

Gatlinburg is known for having a lot of traffic, like a lot. While that is true, there are ways to avoid it, for the most part. If possible, opt for taking the Gatlinburg trolley from place to place, it will really cut down on parking fees as well. Another option is to drive in and out of the town at low peak hours when traffic is most scarce. .

Where to Stay

The best place to stay in Gatlinburg is in the Smoky Mountains themselves. There are hundreds of rental cabins available where you can wake up to beautiful views and nature at the doorstep.

If you opt to stay in a hotel, the Parkway District in Gatlinburg is the best region overall, with dozens of accommodation options, and within walking distance of many shops, restaurants, and attractions. A very popular and top-rated choice is the Westgate Smokey Mountain Resort and Spa.

If you don't mind the 5-mile drive, another option is to stay in Pigeon Forge. This is perfect for people on a budget or families with children.

\$ Cost of included activities

- **Smoky Mountain National Park:** \$5 parking pass
- **Gatlinburg Trolley:** free
- **Self-guided Scavenger Hunt:** \$10
- **The Comedy Barn:** \$35 OR
- **The Dixie Stampede** (dinner & Show): \$70
- **Tramway:** \$29
- **Ghost Tour:** \$26
- **Ole Smokey Moonshine Distillery:** \$38
- **Zipline Canopy Tour:** \$50

+ Hotel, food, rental car, flight

Total Estimate: \$545 pp (based on double occupancy w/o flight cost)





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DAY 1

Morning:

Start your weekend in Gatlinburg with sunrise at Great Smoky Mountain National Park. The park is the most visited national park in the country and it is free for visitors.

Clingman's Dome is one of the best places to watch the sunrise in the park. It sits at over 6,000 feet and is the highest spot in the park. Once reaching the parking lot, it's just a .5-mile hike to the summit with an observation tower at the top. (The road to Clingman's Dome is closed from December 1 through March 31, but you can still reach it by hiking or skiing).

After the sunrise admire the beauty and pristine landscapes of the rest of the park. There are an endless amount of outdoor activities like hiking, tubing, and camping. I recommend heading to Laurel Falls trail for an easy, but amazing 2.4-mile hike.

Afternoon:

After a morning in the great outdoors, spend some time in town on the Gatlinburg Trolley. The trolley is the best way to go sightseeing and make the most of the afternoon. There are various routes visitors can choose, depending on their interests.

After your trolley ride, explore the city on foot with this competitive self-guided scavenger hunt!

Evening:

It is impossible to visit Gatlinburg and not see some kind of live show. One of the most popular is The Comedy Barn. Venture 5 miles towards Pigeon Forge for an array of other show and dinner show options such as The Dixie Stampede which includes a 4-course feast.



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DAY 1

SCHEDULE

SUNRISE SUNRISE AT CLINGMAN'S DOME

8AM

9AM HIKE TO LAUREL FALLS (2.4-MILES)

10AM

11AM

12PM PICNIC LUNCH IN THE PARK

1PM

2PM RETURN TO GATLINBURG FOR A TOUR VIA THE GATLINBURG TROLLEY

3PM

4PM

5PM DINNER AND A SHOW AT THE DIXIE STAMPEDE

6PM

7PM

8PM

9PM

NIGHTLIFE

Notes:

THE ROAD TO CLINGMAN'S DOME IS CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 1ST-MARCH 31 BUT CAN STILL BE REACHED BY HIKING OR SKIING.



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DAY 2

Morning:

On day 2, start your morning high in the sky. The Ober Gatlinburg Aerial Tramway has some of the best mountain views available in the town of Gatlinburg. Once at the top of the mountain, visitors have an assortment of activities such as skiing, ice skating, tubing, and much more. There are also various shops and restaurant facilities and of course other activities available for all seasons.

Afternoon:

Grab some lunch at the Sidewalk Cafe and head back down to the Gatlinburg Trail. The trail is a great way to escape the tourists in town and enjoy some peace and quiet in nature. The trail can be down on foot or bike and takes you past various streams and mountains.

Evening:

Gatlinburg has a haunted past, and there is no better way to hear all the stories than on an evening Ghost Tour. The ghost walk takes visitors through town, pointing out the eeriest landmarks, including a 'haunted' cemetery.



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DAY 2

SCHEDULE

SUNRISE

8AM

9AM RIDE THE AERIAL TRAMWAY

10AM

11AM

12PM LUNCH AT THE SIDEWALK CAFE

1PM HIKE THE GATLINBURG TRAIL

2PM

3PM

4PM

5PM DINNER AT HOWARD'S RESTAURANT

6PM

7PM GHOST TOUR

8PM

9PM

NIGHTLIFE

Notes:

- The Aerial tramway's operating hours are subject to change due to weather and other concerns. Always check the website before visiting.



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DAY 3

Morning:

Enjoy a hearty breakfast on your last day in Gatlinburg at the famous Pancake Pantry. The Pancake Pantry has an assortment of pancake flavors and options, in addition to other breakfast food as well. After that, enjoy a stroll through the district area for some shopping and any last-minute gifts and souvenirs.

Afternoon:

One place that can't be missed on a visit to Gatlinburg is visiting the Ole Smokey Moonshine Distillery. Learn how authentic moonshine is actually made, without going deep into the boonies. Tastings and samples are available, in addition to a gift shop at the end of the tour. Have more time? Add some adventure to your last day with a Zipline Canopy Tour.

Evening:

On your final night in Gatlinburg, venture to explore the little town of Pigeon Forge. It's really hard to visit one town and not the other. This small strip of city has an abundance of attractions, shops, restaurants, theaters, and so much more for visitors to explore. If possible, eat dinner at The Old Mill Restaurant, one of the most famous in the area.



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DAY 3

SCHEDULE

SUNRISE

8AM

9AM

10AM

11AM SPRAGUE LAKE FOR A PICNIC LUNCH

12PM

1PM HIKE TO ALBERTA FALLS (1.6 MILES)

2PM

3PM DRIVE BACK TO BOULDER OR DENVER

4PM

5PM

6PM

7PM

8PM

9PM

NIGHTLIFE

Notes:

TIMED ENTRY RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FROM LATE MAY TO LATE OCTOBER!

IF TRAVELING DURING THE SHOULDER SEASON, BE SURE TO BRING CRAMPONS

PACK A BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR YOUR DAY AT THE PARK!



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BONUS!

MORE THINGS TO DO...

- **OLE SMOKY CANDY KITCHEN:** THE OLD SMOKEY CANDY KITCHEN IS A GREAT OPTION FOR TREAT-LOVERS WITH A SWEET TOOTH. NOT ONLY CAN YOU TASTE AN ARRAY OF HOMEMADE TAFFY AND CANDY, BUT ALSO WATCH AND LEARN HOW THEY ARE MADE.
- **RIPLEYS BELIEVE IT OR NOT ODDITORIUM:** ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS OF GATLINBURG IS THE RIPLEYS BELIEVE IT OR NOT ODDITORIUM. THE ODDITORIUM CAN BE DESCRIBED BEST AS AN INTERACTIVE MUSEUM OF ODD AND DRASTIC THINGS AND OBJECTS; YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU CAN SEE AT RIPLEY'S.
- **HISTORIC OGLE LOG CABIN:** THE HISTORIC OGLE LOG CABIN WAS ONCE HOME TO THE VERY FIRST RESIDENT OF GATLINBURG, MARTHA JANE HUSKEY OGLE. THE CABIN HAS BEEN PRESERVED AND MAINTAINED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, ALLOWING VISITORS A GLIMPSE OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE BACK IN THE 19TH CENTURY.
- **GATLINBURG SPACE NEEDLE:** THE GATLINBURG SPACE NEEDLE IS A 400-FOOT TOWER THAT ALLOWS VISITORS TO SEE FOR MILES. VENTURE UP TO THE OBSERVATION DECK TO MILES OF THE SKYLINE FROM THE CITY ONE WAY, AND ENDLESS MOUNTAIN VIEWS THE OTHER.
- **FAMILY-FRIENDLY FLOAT TOUR THROUGH THE SMOKIES:** TAKE A RELAXING TOUR DOWN CLASS 1 AND 2 RAPIDS. ADMIRE VIEWS OF THE SMOKIES DURING THIS 6-MILE TOUR.
- **HELICOPTER TOUR:** ADMIRE THE BEAUTY OF GATLINBURG FROM ABOVE.

MORE RESTAURANT RECS.....

- SPILL RAIL EATS (COUNTRY-STYLE CAFE)
- HOWARD'S RESTAURANT (STEAKHOUSE)
- MOUNTAIN EDGE GRILL (AMERICAN)
- TENNESSEE JED'S (SANDWICHES)

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