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Reservations

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Great Smoky Mountains Backpacking — Appalachian Trail



[book this trip](#)

Call 1-800-622-2236

Trip Details ▼

Gear List ▶

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Great Smoky Mountains Backpacking — Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail through the Great Smoky Mountains offers fantastic hiking and expansive mountain views. We backpack from one primitive shelter to the next on this short section of a classic route, where hikers can expect an authentic taste of the Appalachian Trail thru-hiker life. Our experienced guides will offer instruction for those looking to hone their skills in survival techniques, backpacking basics and learn about native plants and their uses. Be aware that this is a backpacking course, and participants will be required to carry their personal gear (weighing about 20-25 lbs) and a portion of their food and group gear (weighing about 10-15 lbs) for the duration of the trip. This is a challenging trip for experienced backpackers or for the very fit beginner. The outstanding Smoky Mountains guide service A Walk in the Woods provides ground operations on our trip.

Traveling with kids under 18? Check out our [Great Smoky Mountains Family Backpacking Adventure](#).

Great Smoky Mountains Backpack - Appalachian Trail Itinerary:

▶ [Show more for all days](#)

Day 1 Backpack to our first shelter along the famed Appalachian Trail in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Day 2 Ridge walk through open forest and grassy balds while watching for wildlife as we hike one of most remote section of the eastern US.

Day 3 Hike steeply up and down, along ridges and over rock outcroppings, enjoying panoramic views over the Smokies.

Day 4 Hike above valleys rich with Cherokee and Scots/Irish history. See a forest of Table Mountain Pine, found nowhere else but in the Southern

Trip Reviews

★★★★★ (23 reviews)
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Highlights

Trip Dates: 2013

- Jun 6-9 Sold out
- Jun 13-16
- Jun 20-23
- Jun 27-30
- Jul 4-7 Sold out
- Jul 18-21
- Jul 25-28
- Aug 30 - Sep 2
- Sep 12-15
- Sep 19-22
- Sep 29 - Oct 2
- Oct 6-9
- Oct 13-16 Sold out
- Oct 20-23 Sold out

Or, book a [private departure](#).

Price: 2013

Appalachians.

Note on Itinerary

There are multiple routes that we may select from along the Appalachian Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains that will enable us to create a fantastic hut to hut hiking experience for guests, and we may utilize any of those options. Our final route is determined by our guides and based on the availability of suitable shelter access and other factors which may be beyond our control. Changes in the availability of shelters from one departure date to the next will necessitate changes to the shelters we use each night, changes to the route and to the number of miles that we hike each day. Although we do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, this itinerary is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control. **This trip is operated rain or shine.**

Important Information about Air Travel

Contact REI Adventures prior to purchasing your airline tickets to confirm the trip has the minimum number of participants required to operate.

Single Travelers

Single accommodations are not available for this trip. Shelters are shared by all members of the group.

Price Includes

All accommodations; meals as noted in the daily itinerary; professional instruction and guiding; group cooking gear; group first aid kit, water filter; shuttle between trailheads.

Not Included

Transportation from your hometown to group meeting point; park entrance fees where required, insurance of any kind; 2 lunches and snack items (see pack list for detailed guidance); alcoholic beverages; soft drinks; guide gratuities and items of a personal nature.

Closest Airport(s)

McGhee-Tyson Airport, Knoxville, TN; 79 miles; 1.5 hours
Asheville Airport, Asheville, NC; 75 miles; 1.5 hours
Charlotte Douglas International Airport, Charlotte, NC; 185 miles; 3.5 hours

Transfers

There is no reliable transfer service from any airport to our group's meeting point. Plan on renting a car if you are flying in for this Weekend Getaway.

Qualifications

This trip is rated **Vigorous (4)** as we plan to hike for 6-10 hours per day most days on steep, rocky, sometimes exposed terrain, gaining and/or losing up to just over 3,000 feet in elevation some days. We will carry packs weighing 30-35 lbs while we hike as well. To maximize your enjoyment of the trip we suggest that you engage in a regular exercise regimen beginning at least three months prior to your departure. Most important to your enjoyment of the trip is your overall fitness level.

Weather

Daytime temperatures usually range between 50-75 degrees F, with evening temperatures dropping into the 30s - 50s. You may encounter freezing temperatures at some of the higher elevations. Afternoon thunderstorms are a distinct possibility, so adequate raingear is important.

General Information

This trip is subject to the booking information set forth in the current REI Adventures Weekend Reservation Information. Please read this information carefully and call us if you have any questions. A full gear list and detailed

REI Member: \$675

Non-member: \$740

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Total Days: 4

Group Size: 4-6

Activity Level: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)
[Levels explained](#)
[Activity level for this trip](#)

Activities:

- Backpacking
- [Read About Our Guides](#)

Accommodations:

Primitive backcountry shelters, 3 nights

- [Suggested Reading List](#)

pre-trip information is sent upon sign-up. We highly recommend the purchase of travel insurance through REI Adventures. **If coverage is purchased at the time of your initial reservation, the 'Pre-existing Conditions Exclusion' is waived** (certain exclusions apply).

We look forward to having you join us for the trip of a lifetime! Why wait? Space is limited, reserve your adventure today.

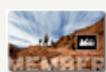
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