

## ***West Virginia Mountains, Trains & Music***

***June 26 – July 2, 2012***

**Day 1** - Travel to Morgantown, WV for overnight. Dinner on own

**Day 2** - Morning travel to Huntington, WV for a sightseeing tour focused on the 'We Are Marshall' Movie Sites. Then this evening is a historical treat as you step into a frontier cabin (ca 1850) and learn of a frontier life based on agriculture and barter, as you tour from building to building the decades pass and you have witnessed 50 years of rapid change in American life as we moved from an agrarian to an industrialized society.

**Day 3** - This morning you first tour the Blenko Glass Factory one of the last producers of hand blown glass in America. Then you travel south into the coalfields. You will learn about the Matewan Massacre which occurred during a labor dispute in 1920. Miners here, who had joined the newly formed UMW, were being fired and evicted from their company owned homes. It was a hostile atmosphere with mines owners hiring mercenary guards which led to shootings. Coal miners from across West Virginia tied red bandanas around their necks and marched to Matewan in support. Did you know that it was from this March, and those bandanas, that the phrase "Redneck" was first coined. It may surprise you to know that the Matewan Chief of Police was one Sid Hatfield, a descendant of the Hatfields involved in the bitter feudal rivalry that occurred between 1878 and 1891, they were in the very middle of this shooting too. Your afternoon features narrated sightseeing to some of the actual Hatfield & McCoy feud sites and a history of the events that occurred here in the back country of West Virginia. This evening you will enjoy a Stolen Pig Dinner, with all the trimmings followed by a story teller or musical entertainment.

**Day 4** - Today begins on a train traveling from Huntington to White Sulphur Springs. With a narrator you wind through the scenic New River Gorge, the evergreen "Grand Canyon of the East". You pass waterfalls and whitewater, you see Hawks Nest and the New River Bridge towering above, and you see remote river & rail towns whose histories were tied to coal. This train ride ends at The Greenbrier Resort's Rail Station where your bus is waiting. You then drive into The Greenbrier for a marvelous lunch. During your visit a most unusual history tour awaits. You visit The Greenbrier's Cold War Bunker built by the Eisenhower Administration. It was a Fall Out Shelter for Congress in the event of a Nuclear Attack. This secret facility existed for 30 years, in plain sight, yet hidden from both hotel employees and guests. It's a fascinating story and you will learn how the pantries were stocked and replenished with fresh produce and supplies. At any moment there was enough fresh water and food here to support the entire House & Senate for 60 days. Lodging this evening is in Lewisburg, WV with Dinner on your own. This historic community has several unique restaurants, antique shops, craft stores and galleries. Once settled at the hotel you will have an option to explore it.

**Day 5** - Another day of great adventure begins as you motor north into the Alleghenies, your destination is the town site of Cass. It looks much today as it did in its heyday as a company logging town. Restored company houses line the hillside. The Historical Museum and the Cass Showcase with its diorama and film provide interpretation. You'll pick up a box lunch at the huge Company Store. Then it's an exciting moment as you board a steam locomotive and pull out of the depot. This was a logging route with grades as steep as 11%, you'll climb through deep forest with a beauty as old as the hills, then suddenly you will break out above the timber and enjoy a view of West Virginia that is beyond words. At Whitaker Station you stop for your picnic and have a chance to learn turn-of-the-century timber techniques. Leaving Cass you cross over into the next valley and find it filled with giant satellite dishes. This is the Green Bank Radio Astronomy Observatory intentionally located in one of America's most quiet spots. Here our scientists are listening for sounds from space. Into Elkins this evening, you will overnight at Holiday Inn Express – Elkins RailYard. Dinner is at the RailYard Restaurant within easy walking distance of your hotel. Your meal is followed by a two hour show next door at the American Mountain Theater. It's a variety of music styles that include country, gospel, pop and patriotic tunes. All blended together with a little homespun humor to provide you a warm and wonderful evening.

**Day 6** - This morning begins onboard the Cheat Mountain Salamander's climate controlled passenger cars with a 2-1/2 hour ride through the wild, high-mountain wilderness of West Virginia. A photo stop is made at the High Falls of the Cheat River. At 18 feet tall and 150 feet across this beautiful location is five miles away from the closest road. After High Falls your train follows the tumbling Cheat through another 21 miles of scenic wilderness. This is unspoiled and uninhabited forest, with gorgeous tree topped mountain vistas. Where hardwoods and evergreens both grow to the edge of boulder strewn whitewater rivers. During the ride you enjoy a Sandwich Buffet served in the "Red Spruce" dining car. At the end of this ride your group boards their motor coach for a 7 mile ride to the bottom of Cheat Mountain and the town of Durbin. Here the coal fired Durbin Rocket is bellowing smoke and anxious to start another exciting mountain rail expedition. Built in 1910 this steam locomotive pulls an authentic 1920s-era coach car and vintage wooden cabooses along the free-flowing Greenbrier River. This 10-1/2 scenic mile ride is through the Monongahela National Forest. Returning to Elkins, your evening begins with a meal at Elkin's newest theater: The Gandy Dancer. In a beautiful new dining room you have a very nice meal followed by the Mountain Memories Show Band. This musical variety show is filled with high energy music and family-friendly comedy. It's an unforgettable evening at West Virginia's hottest new theater.

**Day 7** - This morning our group departs for home.

**Package Price per person: Single \$1,569.00, Double \$1,269.00, Triple \$1,219.00**

**Includes:** 6 Nights First Class Lodging, 6 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 4 Dinners, We Are Marshall Tour, Heritage Farm Museum Catered Dinner, Blenko Glass Factory Tour, Matewan Massacre Tour, Hatfield & McCoys Feud Sites, Stolen Pig Dinner, New River Gorge Train Ride, Greenbrier Bunker Tour, Cass Scenic Railroad, Cass Historical Museum and Showcase, Green Bank Radio Astronomy Observatory, American Mountain Theater, Cheat Mountain Salamander, High Falls of the Cheat River, The Durbin Rocket, Gandy Dancer Dinner Theater

**For reservations call Wade Tours 355-4500 or 1-800-955-WADE(9233)**