

## BLACKBERRY FARM

ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST LUXURIOUS HIDDEN TREASURES

Nestled on 4,200 untouched acres adjoining the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in eastern Tennessee, Blackberry Farm is a truly unique place on earth. Consistently ranked among the best hotels in the world, the Farm offers a stunning setting in the foothills of the Southern Appalachians and a chance to slip quietly into a different pace of life that is tuned more to the sunrise than the clock. This trip is so special, National Geographic included it in their list of [Top 50 Tours of a Lifetime](#). It's a love poem to a vanishing America, where it's all too easy to wile away your days in Southern style with a private tour of the grounds, fantastic riding and an evening by a campfire with your new friends. In addition, this exclusive property offers a wide array of other activities—choose between a fly fishing lesson or an afternoon on horseback as part of your trip. But you'll be forgiven if some of your favorite moments are simply spent in a rocking chair on the famous Blackberry front lawn, soaking up the long view down the valley and the amazing smells drifting from the Main House kitchen. [See our Blackberry Farm 4-Day trip](#)

From  
\$6399

Rider Type  
Active / Recreational

Hotel Style  
Luxury

Duration  
6 days | 5 nights

Start | End  
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dates  
2019/Oct  
2020/Oct



**One world-class hotel your entire stay** [See more One Collection trips](#)

Discover the "Foothills Cuisine", an extraordinary culinary experience unique to the region, curated by the onsite chefs, gardeners, bakers, cheese makers, foragers, butchers, brewers and sommeliers

Spend a private evening at the Yallarhammer Pavilion by Hesse Creek—complete with a campfire and lawn games before sitting down to a family-style dinner

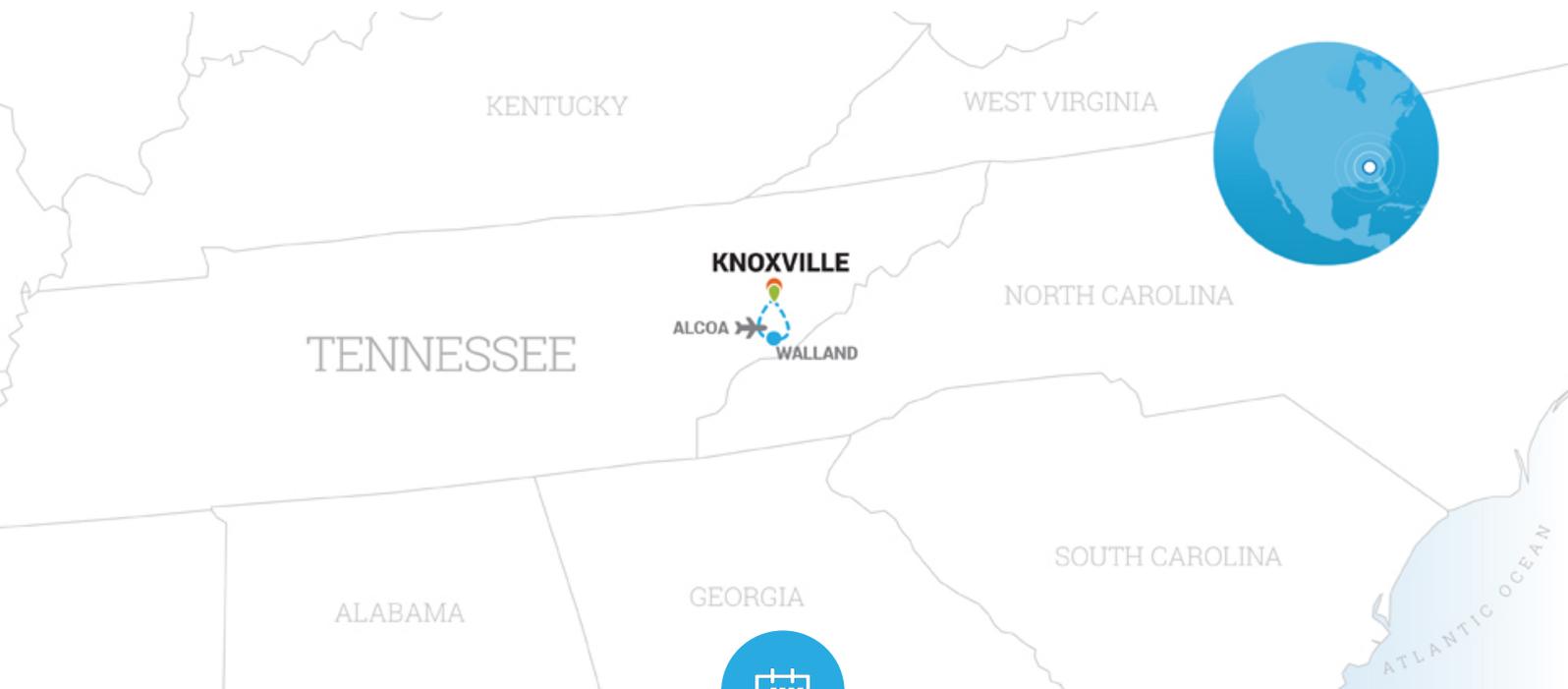
Choose your adventure with an afternoon fly-fishing lesson or a guided horseback ride, led by guides from the Farm

The picturesque foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains offer beautiful roads for cycling

Toast the week in style during a private wine-paired dinner in the Cellar of The Barn

An intimate maximum trip size of just 12 guests ensures a chance to really get to know your fellow travelers and guides, as well as the Farm staff

Wind down from your adventures with a morning massage on the final day of your trip



## DAILY ITINERARY

2019

Day

1

### TODAY'S RIDE:

#### Maryville to Blackberry Farm

Approximately 18 miles with 1,030 feet of climbing

### DESCRIPTION:

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you at the Oliver Hotel at 10:00 AM on the first day of the trip. After a half hour shuttle, you'll arrive in the college town of Maryville, located in the western foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. You'll gather for a delicious brunch and, after a short round of introductions, your Trek Travel guides will discuss the rules of bike safety and ensure a comfortable fit to your bike. The day is then yours to enjoy as you head out on your first ride of the week. You will follow the Little River along a route popular with local cyclists, through the community of Walland, and onto the stunning 4,200-acre Blackberry Farm. Settle into your accommodations for the week before joining the group for a tour of the grounds, followed by a reception including wine, beer and cheese produced on the Farm. Your Trek Travel guides will fill you in on the exciting details of the week to come, and afterward you'll enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers over an unforgettable meal of signature "Foothills Cuisine" in the acclaimed on-site restaurant, The Barn. (Please note that gentlemen are required to wear a jacket (a tie is not required) to dinners in The Barn.)

### HOTEL:

Blackberry Farm

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

### INCLUDED MEALS:

Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

# Day

## 2

### TODAY'S RIDE:

#### Townsend Coffee Loop

Approximately 29 miles with 1,475 feet of climbing

### AVID OPTION:

#### Townsend Coffee Loop with Rich Mountain Climb

Approximately 39 miles with 2,570 feet of climbing

### TODAY'S ACTIVITY:

**Guest Choice of Fly-Fishing Lesson or Horseback Ride**

### DESCRIPTION:

This morning you'll enjoy your first Farm breakfast in the Main House dining room. Afterward, you will again ride along the banks of the Little River as you pedal to the small community of Townsend, one of the western gateways to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Enjoy a cappuccino or espresso mid-ride before heading back to the Farm or you may choose to add the beautiful out-and-back climb up Rich Mountain Road on your way back. Prepare to be delighted by your first Blackberry Farm lunch on the Main House lawn before choosing your own adventure for the afternoon. With local guides from the Farm, you will either take a fly-fishing lesson (Blackberry Farm has been an Orvis-endorsed fishing lodge since 2001) or the field and stream horseback trail ride (please let your trip consultant know which activity you choose at time of booking). No prior experience is necessary for either option. Dinner this evening will be a private and intimate affair served at The Dogwood.

### HOTEL:

Blackberry Farm

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

### INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

# Day

## 3

### TODAY'S RIDE:

#### Chilhowee Mountain Loop

Approximately 46 miles with 2,865 feet of climbing

### SHORT OPTION:

#### Chilhowee Mountain Loop to Goose Gap Road with shuttle

Approximately 23 miles with 1,425 feet of climbing

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

**Hiking | Clay Shooting | Spa Treatments | Garden Tour | Whiskey or Wine Tasting**

### DESCRIPTION:

After rising to the irresistible smells and tastes of a farm-fresh breakfast, board your bike for a fantastic ride around Chilhowee Mountain. Enjoy some of the best backroads east Tennessee has to offer as you take in views of rolling farms and ride alongside the shady banks of Waldens and Reed Creeks. Upon your return to the Farm you will join your fellow cyclists for lunch on the Main House lawn followed by some time to explore the Farm on your own. You can strike out on the 9 miles of hiking trails accessible directly from your room, or simply relax by the saltwater pool or in the steam rooms at the Wellhouse Spa. Alternatively, this is a good time to take advantage of the abundant activities available at the Farm such as clay shooting or a spa treatment (these are not included in the trip price and we recommend making reservations well in advance). This evening spend some time with your fellow travelers over drinks, appetizers and lawn games around a crackling campfire. Then gather around the table for a family-style dinner in the Yallarhammer Pavilion on the banks of Hesse Creek.

### HOTEL:

Blackberry Farm

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

### INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

# Day

## 4

### TODAY'S HIKE:

#### Middle Prong Trail to Indian Flats Falls

Approximately 8 miles with 1,100 feet of climbing

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

**Hiking | Clay Shooting | Spa Treatments | Garden Tour | Whiskey or Wine Tasting**

### DESCRIPTION:

Today will be spent exploring the trails of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. After breakfast you will shuttle about 45 minutes into the Park, just past the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont to begin hiking. During the hike you'll walk alongside Lynn Camp Prong, past numerous waterfalls. At the midway point of the hike you'll break for a Blackberry-packed lunch on the trail. This afternoon offers another chance to enjoy the extensive amenities at the Farm or simply relax (you should plan to arrive back at the Farm around 3:00 PM). This evening you will enjoy dinner at your leisure in The Dogwood or The Barn, whichever you choose.

### HOTEL:

Blackberry Farm

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

### INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

# Day

## TODAY'S RIDE:

### Boling Road Loop

Approximately 35 miles with 1,680 feet of climbing

## AVID OPTION:

### Jeffries Hollow Loop

Approximately 46 miles with 2,285 feet of climbing

## TODAY'S ACTIVITY:

**Farmstead Tour**

# 5

## DESCRIPTION:

Today will be spent cycling through quiet back roads of eastern Tennessee. Choose from two loop options that take you to the northeast of the Farm on roads popular with local cyclists and enjoy a late lunch post-ride at the Farm at your leisure. This afternoon you will cap off the week's adventures with a culinary experience to remember. Join one of Blackberry Farm's renowned artisans on a tour of the farm that will include their heirloom gardens, heritage livestock pastures, and the Larder which houses the cheese and food preservation efforts. You'll celebrate this evening with a final, fantastic, private wine-paired tasting menu in The Barn Cellar. Taste for yourself the fruits of the Farm, savoring the ingredients from the bakery, butchery, creamery, gardens, brewery and 8,000-square-foot wine cellar. Take this time to raise a glass with your companions to toast an unforgettable week!

## HOTEL:

Blackberry Farm

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

## INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

# Day

## TODAY'S ACTIVITY:

**Spa visit for massage**

## DESCRIPTION:

Savor your last morning on the Farm first with breakfast, followed by some time wandering the beautiful grounds before indulging yourself with a trip to the Wellhouse Spa for a massage —the perfect way to wind down after an unforgettable week in the mountains. With a carefully packed Blackberry Farm lunch as a parting gift, you will say your goodbyes and board a shuttle to the Knoxville McGhee-Tyson Airport at 12:00 PM, arriving at the airport around 12:45 PM and in downtown Knoxville around 1:30 PM.

## INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### For us, the details matter most

Every moment of a Trek Travel bike trip has more than you could have ever dreamed. More romance. More scenery. More choice. It's the little additions to every Trek Travel cycling vacation that make it truly special. And that's how we help you create more memories.

### What's Included

- 5 nights of accommodation at a handpicked hotel
- Two experienced guides to provide local knowledge, support, and camaraderie
- Daily route support with both guides and our support van
- Daily breakfast, 6 lunches and 5 dinners
- 3 social hours of drinks and hors d'oeuvres
- Ride a Trek Domane SL 7 disc, Trek's newest Electric-Assist, or a Trek 7.6 FX Hybrid
- Up to three daily route options on riding days
- Snacks and drinks for each day's ride
- Trek Travel Bont rager cycling jersey and socks to keep
- Trek Travel water bottles to keep
- Cinch sack day bag to keep
- Each bike is equipped with a Garmin Edge 1030 GPS computer, flat pack, front and rear Bont rager Flare R lights, a Bont rager saddle and pedals (Shimano clipless road pedals, Shimano clipless mountain pedals, caged or flat pedals)
- Bont rager WaveCel helmets
- All gratuities for drivers, local experts and hospitality staff
- All luggage transfers and transportation during your trip
- A personalized photobook of your trip
- Entrance fees for all activities, private tours and events

### Gear

- Trek Domane SL 7 disc carbon road bike with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting or Trek 7.6 FX Hybrid bike

- Trek Electric Assist XM700+ also available in a limited quantity
- Trek Travel Bont rager cycling jersey and socks to keep
- Trek Travel water bottles to keep
- Shimano clipless road pedals, Shimano clipless mountain pedals, caged or flat pedals
- Bont rager WaveCel helmet
- Bont rager men's and women's specific saddles
- Bont rager front and rear Flare R lights and a flat pack
- Garmin Edge 1030 GPS computer
- Cinch sack day bag to keep
- Upgrade your bike to include carbon wheels (+\$200)
- Coupon valued up to \$500 off a new Trek Bicycle. Your coupon will be delivered via email.
- *For the most comfortable ride, you may choose to bring your own pedals, saddle, and helmet on the trip. Your guides will install your gear on the first day during your bike fit.*

#### THANK YOUR GUIDES, BY TIPPING

Gratuities for your Trek Travel guides are not included in your trip price. We recommend tipping 7.5-10% of your trip price for the guide team. Local currency is preferred and unless you want to tip separately, guides will divide tips amongst themselves. Please tip your guides at your discretion, based on their level of professionalism, guest care and service. Please note there are no ATMs on the Blackberry Farm property.

## What's Not Included

- Airfare and transportation to and from the trip pick-up/drop-off locations
- Lodging before and after the trip
- Personal items purchased during the trip
- Optional activities not scheduled by Trek Travel
- On select trips some meals are not included. On these trips, Trek Travel invites you to explore the local cuisine at your leisure.

## HOTELS



### BLACKBERRY FARM

#### WALLAND, TENNESSEE



In 1939, Mrs. Florida Lasier of Chicago snagged her silk stockings on a wild blackberry bramble while exploring the

idyllic Smoky Mountain foothills, and the name Blackberry Farm was born. Thirty-nine years later, the Beall family invested their hearts and souls in the same romantic site that has become their family home and lifelong passion. Today, one of America's most celebrated intimate luxury hotels beckons discerning guests who aspire to escape modern-day frenzy and slip into a Blackberry state of mind. Situated on a pastoral 4,200-acre estate in the Great Smoky Mountains, Blackberry will show you the many reasons why it is one of the top rated properties in the world. On your Trek Travel trip you will stay in one of the Farm's Historic Rooms, which are the original rooms dating back to the Farm's beginning. These small, intimate

rooms are individually decorated with period antiques and represent the true essence of country-house style. Historic rooms offer a king, queen or two twin-sized beds and vary in architectural layout and size. Giving a sense of "coming home" to Blackberry Farm, guests enjoy the convenience of staying in the Main House, where all breakfasts and lunches are served during your trip. Expect a feeling of warmth and coziness as if enjoying a private bedroom at a great country estate. Please note that the King rooms are larger than the Queen rooms and are allocated to guests on a first-come, first-served basis.



## MEETING & DEPARTING

### How To Get There

We suggest that you arrive at least one day prior to the trip start, which will enable you to adjust to the time zone and minimize the risk of missing the trip start due to flight-related delays. We recommend that you fly into the McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) in Knoxville, Tennessee. This regional airport is serviced by most major US domestic carriers. From the airport, you may hail a taxi outside baggage claim to take you to downtown Knoxville. The trip will take about 20 minutes and will cost around \$30. If you plan to arrive outside of regular business hours we suggest that you schedule your taxi pickup ahead of time. You may call Paradise Taxi (865 577 6330) to plan a pickup.

For guests driving to the trip, we suggest leaving your personal vehicle in one of the parking decks in downtown Knoxville near the Oliver Hotel. The front desk at The Oliver can make recommendations for long-term parking options. If you plan to drive to Blackberry Farm directly, please pull up to the Oak Cottage (front reception) for valet to help take your luggage and park your car on property. Please specify to the Blackberry Staff that you are with the Trek Travel Group. You will need to make your own arrangements through Chariots of Hire (865-522-8108) to be taken to meet the group in Maryville. You should bring your biking gear and plan to arrive at the Vienna Coffee House in Maryville

### Meeting Time And Location

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you at the Oliver Hotel (407 Union Ave, Knoxville, TN 37902) at 10:00 AM on the first day of the trip. Once everyone has arrived, the group will shuttle approximately 30 minutes to the town of Maryville. Here you will enjoy a delicious lunch while your Trek Travel guides ensure a comfortable fit to your bicycle for the week. Afterwards you'll begin riding with a route that follows the Little River to the community of Walland. Please have your riding gear in a separate bag, since your luggage will be transported directly to Blackberry Farm from the Oliver Hotel and you will not have access to it during lunch or the bike fit.

If you will be late for the pick-up or are going to miss it altogether, please inform your guides. You will receive an email a week before the trip start with their names and contact details. If you cannot reach them, please call Blackberry Farm (865 984 8166) and leave a message with your expected arrival time and contact details. A taxi from downtown Knoxville to Maryville to meet the group will cost about \$50 and take about 30 minutes.

### Departing Time And Location

You will say farewell to your guides at 12:45 PM at the McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS). From the airport you may catch a flight to your next destination or pick up a rental car. If you need to go back to the Oliver Hotel your guides can drop you off there after stopping at the airport. If you are flying out today, please do not book a flight before 2:30 PM.

between 10:45-11:00am on the first day of the trip. If you plan to do this please notify your trip consultant, so your guides will be aware of your arrival plans.

## Before & After: Knoxville, Tennessee

Located on the banks of the Tennessee River and next to the University of Tennessee's flagship campus, Knoxville is a Southern city with an Appalachian heart. A vibrant folk art and music scene, along with a deep respect for the historic, drives the vibe in the city. The heart of downtown Knoxville is Market Square, which features bustling shops, cafes, and pubs. In the winter the Square plays host to an outdoor ice skating rink and in the spring and summer you'll find it packed with music fans attending free concerts. One block over are the restaurants, shops and theaters of Gay Street, home to the historic Tennessee and Bijou Theaters. If you are lucky you might catch a show while you are in town, or check out the WDVX Blue Plate Special - a live performance radio show held at noon, Monday through Saturday, at the Knoxville Visitor Center on the corner of Gay Street and Summit Hill Drive. It's free and the music will knock your socks off! We recommend the following accommodations for your pre and post trip hotel:

### THE OLIVER HOTEL

The Oliver Hotel is one of downtown Knoxville's only boutique hotels, and is located on Market Square for easy access to the best that downtown has to offer. It is located in the historic Peter Kern Bakery building, which was built in 1876 and converted to a guest house for the World's Fair, held in Knoxville in 1982. Completely remodeled in 2011, this hotel now offers modern luxury while retaining the feeling of a historic building. The on-site restaurant, Tupelo Honey, offers delightful southern favorites with a modern twist and is immensely popular. Save time to visit the speakeasy-inspired Peter Kern Library, where you can kick back with a hand-crafted cocktail possibly invented by the server who made it for you.

[www.theoliverhotel.com](http://www.theoliverhotel.com) | ~\$300

### THE TENNESSEAN HOTEL

This recently renovated and conveniently located hotel is within walking distance of Market Square and the University of Tennessee campus. The Tennessean Hotel is adjacent to World's Fair Park (home of the famous Sunsphere that defines the Knoxville skyline) and offers on-site restaurant The Drawing Room which features breakfast in the morning and small plates and craft cocktails in the evening.

[www.thetennesseanhotel.com](http://www.thetennesseanhotel.com) | ~\$300

### CROWNE PLAZA DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE

The Crowne Plaza is one and a half blocks from Market Square and offers a very walkable location for exploring both downtown Knoxville and the eclectic section of town known as The Old City. It features a large fitness center, indoor pool, on-site dining and lounge area and convenient parking deck.

[www.CrowneKnox.com](http://www.CrowneKnox.com) | ~\$200

\* Hotels listed above are local properties we love. We do not have special rates available.



## FAQS

### What Are The Daily Rides Like?

- Rider Type | 2/3 - Recreational/Active
- Average Daily Mileage | 32
- Terrain | Hilly
- Average Daily Elevation | 1,512 feet
- Total Miles | 128
- Total Elevation | 6,050 feet

Averages and totals are calculated from our "Today's Ride" options.

### What are the options for a non-rider travel companion?

On most Trek Travel trips, we offer non-riding options for riders who want to take the afternoon off, or travel companions who want to spend little or no time in the saddle. Some of these options may need to be scheduled before your trip - please contact one of our Trip Consultants for more information. Expenses and/or related transportation to these activities may not be included in the trip price. Some non-riding options on this trip are:

- Enjoy the heated spa, pool, gardens, and other amenities at the Farm
- Join the group for a fly fishing lesson or horseback ride
- Hike the trails on the Farm property
- Schedule one of the many optional activities at the Farm including kayaking, clay shooting, and yoga classes

The terrain is varied, with gentler climbing along the Little River but with short, punchy climbs throughout the rest of the week and a longer climb up Rich Mountain. Blackberry Farm is best suited for our Type 2/3 Riders. Our Trek Travel guides can also easily accommodate Type 2 Riders, who seek less mileage or fewer uphills, with a boost in the van. Those who wish to ride every mile but are concerned about their physical ability may want to try our electric bike option—you still get a workout but can climb alongside even the strongest rider. Type 3 Riders will enjoy the extra mileage and climbing the avid route options offer.

## Trip Changes

See itinerary for specific daily ride distances and elevation options. On all of our vacations, Trek Travel strives to find quiet, paved secondary roads or bike paths to experience a region; busy roads are avoided as much as possible. Our itineraries are an approximation of our trips. Trek Travel strives to offer every guest a vacation of a lifetime on every trip. At times routes, hotels, activities, etc. listed here may change at the discretion of the trip designer or guides to improve the trip experience.