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. Here you'll wile away your days in Southern style with a private tour of the grounds and creek-side evening campfire and dinner with a local storyteller. In addition, this exclusive property offers a fantastic location for riding and a host of other activities.

LOOKING FOR OUR 6-DAY TRIP INSTEAD? LEARN MORE.

TRIP WOWS

Dine on the regional favorites of “Foothills Cuisine,” a unique and extraordinary culinary experience that captures the tastes, history and culture of the region.

Delight in an evening with an authentic Southern Appalachian historian around a campfire on the banks of Hesse Creek.

Drink in the views as you explore the shoreline of beautiful Tellico Lake from your canoe or kayak.

There’s no riding anywhere quite like the picturesque foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Wind down from your adventures with a morning massage on the final day of your trip.
**2018**

**TODAY'S RIDE:**
*Maryville to Blackberry Farm*
Approximately 17 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 luxury accommodations before joining the group for a farm tour, 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.

**HOTEL:**
Blackberry Farm

**INCLUDED MEALS:**
Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

**VIEW MEETING AND DEPARTING INFORMATION»**
**Day 2**

**TODAY’S RIDE:** Foothills Parkway Return
Approximately 41 miles with 4,480 feet of climbing

**SHORT OPTION:** Chilhowee Lake to Foothills Parkway with shuttle
Approximately 21 miles with 2,400 feet of climbing

**TODAY’S ACTIVITY:** Hiking at the Farm

**DESCRIPTION:**
This morning you’ll enjoy your first Farm breakfast in the Main House dining room. Afterward, board your bike for a fantastic ride over the Foothills Parkway. This road traverses Chilhowee Mountain and offers epic views of the Great Smoky Mountains to the south and the Tennessee Valley to the north. Mid-ride you will break for a snack and to enjoy stunning views at Look Rock, located at the crest of the Parkway. 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 surrounding landscape by foot. 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. Dinner this evening will be a private and intimate affair served at The Dogwood.

**HOTEL:** Blackberry Farm
**INCLUDED MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**Day 3**

**TODAY’S RIDE:** Tellico Lake to Blackberry Farm
Approximately 30 miles with 2,000 feet of climbing

**TODAY’S ACTIVITY:** Guided Canoe or Kayak Outing to Tellico Lake

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**
Horseback Riding | Fly Fishing | Spa Treatments | Garden Tours

**DESCRIPTION:**
After rising to the irresistible smells and tastes of a farm-fresh breakfast, you are off to discover the area from an entirely different perspective: the water. With local guides from the Farm, you will explore Tellico Lake from a canoe or kayak, enjoying your guides’ extensive knowledge of the local flora and fauna. Enjoy a packed lunch on the shores of this mountain lake, then shuttle back to the Farm for a free afternoon to enjoy the extensive amenities, or bike back if you want more cycling. Roam the grounds, take a nap or find a quiet place to enjoy a book and soak up the tranquil peace of this special valley. Alternatively, take advantage of the abundant activities available (these are not included in the trip price and we recommend making reservations well in advance). On your final evening, enjoy drinks and appetizers around a campfire as a Southern Appalachian historian recounts tales of local lore, history and legend, then enjoy a family style dinner in the Yallahammer Pavilion on the banks of Hesse Creek.

**HOTEL:** Blackberry Farm
**INCLUDED MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

**Day 4**

**TODAY’S ACTIVITY:** Spa visit for one-hour massage

**DESCRIPTION:**
Savor your last morning on the Farm first with breakfast in the dining hall, followed by some time in the magical gardens before indulging yourself with a trip to the Spa for an hour 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 | Lunch

**WHAT’S INCLUDED**

We Include More
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. See more
Activities

• Gratuities for all scheduled special events, restaurants, hotels, local guides and transportation during your trip.
• Private tours
• Entrance fees to all group events/activities
• All luggage transfers
• All transportation during the trip, including private coaches

Lodging

• 3 nights of accommodation
• In every region we travel, we uncover the area’s best, and most delightful accommodations. On our Blackberry Farm trip, you will stay in one of the Estate Rooms, where each luxurious space is uniquely appointed with fine art and antiques. The Estate Rooms are conveniently located in the Main House, which has a common area and an outdoor veranda for relaxing.

Dining

• Daily breakfast, 4 lunches, 2 social hours, 3 dinners, and all snacks and drinks for each day
• On our Blackberry Farm trip, all meals are included and are prepared by Blackberry Farm except for the first day’s lunch, which is hosted by a delightful restaurant in downtown Maryville. The Farm’s chefs, gardeners, baker, cheese maker, butcher, brewer, sommelier, and chocolatier all combine their award-winning skills to bring you their renowned “Foothills Cuisine.” These meals will be enjoyed in a variety of settings, including a private dinner in The Dogwood and an outdoor affair at the Yallarhammer Pavilion. Gentlemen are required to wear a jacket (no tie) to the first night’s dinner in The Barn.

Support

• The knowledge, support, and camaraderie of experienced guides
• Daily route support
• Paper route guides also available upon request
• Comprehensive trip literature

Gear

• The use of a Trek Domane SL 7 carbon road bike with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting, or Trek 7.6 FX Hybrid bicycle
• Trek Electric Assist XM700+ also available in a limited quantity
• The use of GPS cycling computer
• The use of Bontrager bike helmets and other gear and equipment to make your ride comfortable
• Trek Travel water bottles
• Coupon valued up to $500 off a new Trek Bicycle. Contact us for details.
• Trek Travel Bontrager RL jersey and cycling socks

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.

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
• Gratuities for your Trek Travel Guides may be given at your discretion in response to their professionalism and leadership. Industry standard is for each individual guest to tip the guide team 7.5-10% of the trip price.

HOTELS
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.

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.

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.

Meeting Time And Location

Oliver Hotel | Knoxville, Tennessee

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 or readily accessible, to avoid having to unpack your luggage.

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

McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) | Knoxville, Tennessee

You will say farewell to your guides at Blackberry Farm at 12:00 PM and will board a private shuttle to the McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS), which should arrive around 12:45 PM. 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 shuttle driver 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.

Before & After: Knoxville, Tennessee

THE OLIVER HOTEL

The Oliver Hotel is downtown Knoxville's only boutique hotel, 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...
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**: This historic 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 Peter Kern Library, where you can kick back with a hand-crafted cocktail possibly invented by the server who made it for you. 407 Union Avenue | 865 521 0050 | www.theoliverhotel.com | ~$300

- **Four Points by Sheraton Knoxville**: This conveniently located hotel is within walking distance of Market Square and the University of Tennessee campus. The Sheraton is adjacent to World’s Fair Park (home of the famous Sunsphere that defines the Knoxville skyline) and offers an on-site restaurant and bar, lobby-level parking deck, and free passes to the nearby downtown YMCA. 1109 White Avenue | 865 971 4663 | www.FourPointsKnoxville.com | ~$150

- **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. 401 W. Summit Hill Dr. | 865 522 2600 | www.CrowneKnox.com | ~$175

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

### Trip Changes

Our itineraries are an approximation of our trips. Trek Travel strives to offer each and 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.

### What are the daily rides like?

- Rider Type | 2/3
- Average Daily Mileage | 30
- Terrain | Hilly
- Average Daily Elevation | 2,500

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. 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 the avid route options offer. The terrain is varied, with flatter roads along the Little River but with longer climbs on the Foothills Parkway. See itinerary for specific daily ride distance and elevation options.

### What is the weather going to be like?

Fall generally brings the lowest chance of precipitation of all the seasons in eastern Tennessee, but wet weather is always a possibility. After all, portions of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are actually temperate rainforest. Temperatures in autumn range from the upper 70s to low 60s during the day and from the upper 40s to upper 30s at night.

### 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. See Included In The Trip Price for more information. 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 canoe or kayak outing to Tellico Lake
• Hike the trails on the Farm property
• Explore the trails of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with the group
• Schedule one of the many optional activities at the Farm including horseback riding, fly fishing, and yoga classes

Do you have upgrade options available?

For an additional fee you may request to upgrade to the brand new Trek Emonda SLR with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting or Bontrager Aeolus carbon wheels for the ultimate riding experience. Contact our trip consultants for more details.

What kind of information is provided?

When a trip is booked, a guest confirmation letter is immediately sent out. One week prior to the trip start you will receive an email containing a trip start meeting location reminder and any last minute information that you will need to know before your trip. Once you arrive at your destination Trek Travel staff will brief you on the day-to-day plan for the trip and provide you with daily route guides and a detailed map allowing you to ride with complete confidence and independence.

What if I have to change or cancel my trip?

We understand things happen in life and sometimes you have to cancel or change your bike tour. We want to make it as easy as possible to do so and below you will find our timeline. If you ever have a question, just give us a call, 866 464 8735. Read our cancellation policy.

What should I pack?

We want you to be prepared and as comfortable as possible throughout each day of your vacation. See our Packing List for more details on what to pack for your trip.

General FAQs

Didn't find what you were looking for? Check out our General FAQs section. You will find answers to all the most common questions that don't necessarily pertain to a specific trip.