

BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN CYCLING VACATION

WORLD-RENOWNED HOSPITALITY IN THE SMOKIES

Escape. Relax. Evolve. Framed by vast, panoramic vistas of Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains, Blackberry Mountain is an immersive experience that seamlessly blends outdoor activity, wellness, and thoughtful indulgence. Since opening its doors in 2018, the Relais & Châteaux designated property has amassed an impressive list of accolades including, most recently, being named the 2020 Hideaway of the Year by Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report. Outfitted for adventure and designed for comfort, Blackberry Mountain continues the Blackberry Farm legacy of world-renowned hospitality and unwavering appreciation for the land. Spanning 5,200 total acres, the Mountain offers the feeling of a private national park and breathtaking views from a variety of vantage points. Enjoy meals featuring seasonal menus that pay homage to locally sourced, fresh ingredients, and the bounty of the southern Appalachian foothills. Included activities on your Trek Travel trip range from a relaxing spa treatment to a unique foraging experience, cooking demonstration, mountain biking, craft classes, fitness classes, and more. Combine all this with beautiful road riding throughout the week, specially curated group experiences, and the special touches you expect from a Trek Travel cycling vacation, and you have all the ingredients for an unforgettable week of relaxation and rejuvenation at this exceptional property. [Book your trip with](#)

From
\$6899

Rider Type
Active / Recreational

Hotel Style
Luxury

Duration
5 days | 4 nights

Start | End
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dates
2021/Sep/Oct



confidence »

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

TRIP WOWS

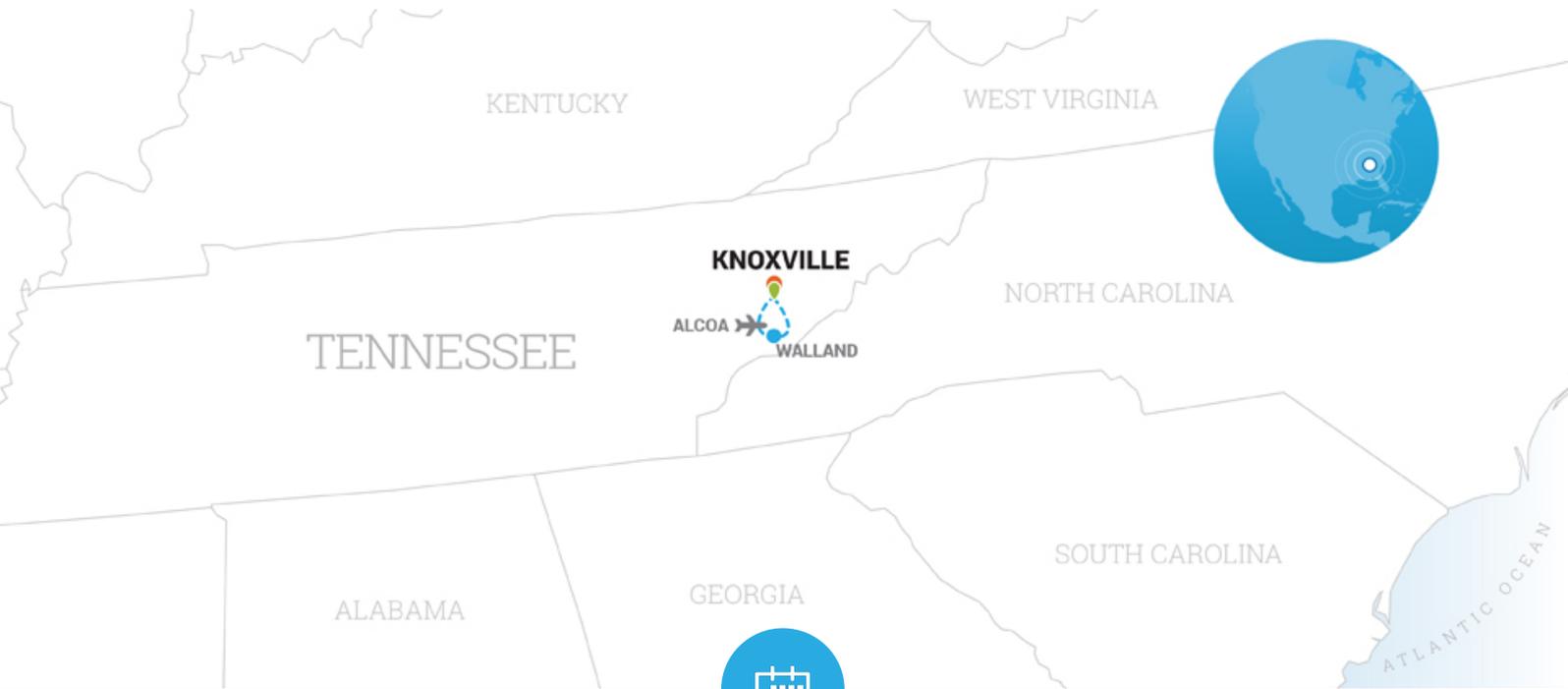
Discover Blackberry Mountain's dynamic menus and curated beverage collection as you enjoy creative, fresh, and healthy ingredients and take in gorgeous views from both Three Sisters Restaurant and the Firetower Restaurant

Explore the Mountain's stunning forests in a new way during a foraging experience and cooking demonstration with a Blackberry Mountain chef

Choose your own adventure with an afternoon fly-fishing lesson, guided mountain bike ride, or pottery throwing class led by guides from the Mountain

An intimate maximum trip size of just 12 guests ensures a chance to really get to know your fellow travelers and guides on this all-inclusive vacation of a lifetime

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



DAILY ITINERARY

2021

Day

1

TODAY'S RIDE:

Maryville to Blackberry Mountain

Approximately 16 miles with 1,100 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you at the Oliver Hotel at 11:00 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. Here you'll gather at the Blackberry Farm Brewery taproom for a delicious picnic prepared by your guides. After a short round of introductions your Trek Travel guides will then discuss the rules of bike safety and ensure a comfortable fit to your Trek 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 expansive Blackberry Mountain property. At the base of the mountain your guides will take your bike and a shuttle will take you to The Lodge at Blackberry Mountain, two miles away and halfway up the mountain. Here you will check in before being shuttled all the way to the top of the mountain where you will find your ridge top Watchman Cabin. Get settled inside the walls of beautiful reclaimed wood with floor-to-ceiling windows and check out your private deck and modern wood burning stove before joining the group for a reception at the Firetower Restaurant. Take in the jaw-dropping 360-degree views from this restored 1940s lookout tower and listen as your Trek Travel guides fill you in on the exciting details of the days to come. Afterward you'll enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers over an unforgettable meal of creative, healthy fare at the Three Sisters Restaurant at The Lodge.

HOTEL:

Blackberry Mountain

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

Day

2

TODAY'S RIDE:

Townsend Coffee Loop

Approximately 28 miles with 1,730 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Townsend Coffee Loop with Rich Mountain Climb

Approximately 38 miles with 2,870 feet of climbing

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Hiking | Fitness Classes | Spa Treatments | Cooking Demos | Craft Classes | Clay Shooting | Horseback Riding

DESCRIPTION:

This morning you'll enjoy your first Blackberry breakfast at the Three Sisters Restaurant. After breakfast, you will convene at the base of the Mountain to board your bike and ride further along the banks of the Little River. You will 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 Mountain or you may choose to add the beautiful out-and-back climb up Rich Mountain Road on your way. Prepare to be delighted by your first indulgent Blackberry lunch on the back deck of the Firetower Restaurant followed by some time to explore the 5,200-acre Mountain property on your own. You can strike out to explore some of the 20 miles of hiking trails accessible directly from your cabin or simply relax by the infinity pool or in the tranquility lounge, sauna, or steam showers in the subterranean spa, The Nest. Alternatively, this is a good time to take advantage of the abundant activities available such as clay shooting, horseback riding, or craft classes (these are not included in the trip price and we recommend making reservations well in advance). Dinner this evening will be at your leisure in the Firetower Restaurant, just steps from your cabin.

HOTEL:

Blackberry Mountain

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day

3

TODAY'S RIDE:

Chilhowee Mountain Loop

Approximately 40 miles with 2,600 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Chilhowee Mountain Loop with Keener Road

Approximately 46 miles with 2,820 feet of climbing

TODAY'S ACTIVITY:

Guest Choice of Fly-Fishing Lesson, Guided Mountain Bike Ride, or Pottery Throwing Class

DESCRIPTION:

After rising to enjoy another fresh, delicious, and healthy 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 Mountain you will join your fellow cyclists for a Blackberry packed lunch beside the pool in The Valley before choosing your own adventure for the afternoon. With local guides from the Mountain, you will either take a fly-fishing lesson in the renowned streams of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (this option involves about an hour of shuttling each way to and from the Park); a guided mountain bike ride on the private trails on-property; or a pottery throwing class in the HUB Building near the Lodge (please let your trip consultant know which activity you choose at time of booking). No prior experience is necessary for any option. This evening spend some time with your fellow travelers over drinks and appetizers on the beautiful Tasting Patio of the Three Sisters Restaurant before enjoying dinner together. Breathe in deeply as you take in the views of the crest of the Great Smoky Mountains as the twilight gathers around you.

HOTEL:

Blackberry Mountain

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

Day

4

TODAY'S RIDE:

Boling Road Loop

Approximately 34 miles with 1,850 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Jeffries Hollow Loop

Approximately 46 miles with 2,440 feet of climbing

TODAY'S ACTIVITY:

Foraging Experience and Cooking Demonstration with Blackberry chef

DESCRIPTION:

Today will be spent cycling through more quiet back roads of eastern Tennessee. Choose from two loop options that take you to the east side of the Mountain on roads popular with local cyclists and enjoy a late lunch post-ride at the Firetower at your leisure. This afternoon you will cap off the week's adventures with an active culinary experience to remember. Join one of Blackberry Farm's renowned chefs for a foraging hike during which you will walk the Mountain property and discover edible native plants. The experience will finish at the Mountain's HUB building where you will learn to craft a simple seasonal dish utilizing the plants foraged on your hike. After some time at your cabin to prepare for dinner, you'll celebrate this evening with a final, fantastic, wine-paired tasting menu in the private dining room of the Three Sisters Restaurant. Taste for yourself the unique cuisine of Blackberry Mountain, which combines a deep love of the area and local ingredients with flavors, foods, and techniques from around the world. The cuisine is fresh, unexpected, and fulfilling. Take this time to raise a glass with your companions to toast an unforgettable week!

HOTEL:

Blackberry Mountain

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

Day

5

TODAY'S ACTIVITY:

Spa visit for massage

DESCRIPTION:

Savor your last morning on the Mountain first with a final breakfast as you overlook the surrounding valleys, followed by some time wandering the beautiful trails before indulging yourself with a trip to The Nest Spa for a massage —the perfect way to wind down after an unforgettable week in the mountains. With a carefully packed Blackberry Mountain 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

- Four 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, five lunches and four dinners
- Three social hours of drinks and hors d'oeuvres
- Ride a Trek Domane SL 7 disc or Trek Electric-Assist Verve+
- Up to three daily route options on riding days
- Snacks and drinks for each day's ride
- Trek Travel Bontrager cycling jersey and socks to keep
- Trek Travel water bottles to keep
- Bontrager WaveCel helmets
- Each bike is equipped with a Garmin Edge 1030 GPS computer, flat pack, front and rear Bontrager Flare R lights, a Bontrager saddle, and pedals (Shimano clipless road pedals, Shimano clipless mountain pedals, caged, or flat pedals)
- Cinch sack day bag to keep
- All gratuities for drivers, local experts and hospitality staff
- All luggage transfers and transportation during your trip
- A personalized digital 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 Electric-Assist Verve+, available in a limited quantity
- Trek Travel Bontrager cycling jersey and socks to keep
- Trek Travel water bottles to keep
- Shimano clipless road pedals, Shimano clipless mountain pedals, caged, or flat pedals
- Bontrager WaveCel helmet
- Bontrager men's and women's specific saddles
- Bontrager 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 Mountain 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
- Please note that an automatic 20% service charge will be added to any activity, spa treatment, food, or beverage purchased at Blackberry Mountain, per the property's policy.

HOTELS



BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN

WALLAND, TENNESSEE

Blackberry Mountain is a



multigenerational story. The Beall family, known for their visionary success and excellence in

hospitality at the award-winning Blackberry Farm, expanded their commitment to the Great Smoky Mountains region and continued their tradition of elevated hospitality with the addition of Blackberry Mountain. Located on the opposite end of Millers Cove from Blackberry Farm, Blackberry Mountain is 5,200 acres with 2,800 acres set permanently aside for land conversation. Here you will find incredible views, hiking and mountain biking trails, a subterranean spa, extensive fitness space, and outdoor yoga space, craft classes, a restored 1940s fire lookout tower, amazing culinary experiences, and an infinity pool overlooking the Great Smoky Mountains. You will find spaces to relax and spaces to have adventures, with a focus on health, mindfulness, and sustainability woven into every piece of the experience. During your Trek Travel trip, you will stay in one of the six private Watchman Cabins, located at the crest of the Mountain. Relax within walls of reclaimed wood and floor to ceiling windows, enjoy a scenic outlook deck, and a modern twist to the wood burning stove. The cabins are each 675 square feet with the option for either one king or two queen beds. Watch the sun rise in one state and set in another, as you will be located just steps away from both the restored fire tower and a 20 foot outdoor heated soaking tub. The cabins are located near the Library as well, which features a collection of books, games, and a porch overlooking the valley to the west.



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

Meeting Time And Location

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you at the Oliver Hotel (407 Union Ave, Knoxville, TN 37902) at 11:00 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 picnic 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 Mountain from the Oliver Hotel and you will not have access to it during lunch or the bike fit.

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 (this must be done day-of).

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 Mountain directly, please pull up to The Lodge (which is about two miles up the Mountain, after you enter the property) for a valet to 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 Blackberry Farm Brewery Taproom in Maryville by 11:15am 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 (on Fridays the show moves to Barley's Taproom, also easy walking distance from downtown). It's free and the

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 Mountain (800-993-7824) 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 2:00 PM.

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 quite possibly invented by the server who made it for you.

www.theoliverhotel.com

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

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 a convenient parking deck.

www.CrowneKnox.com

music will knock your socks off! We recommend the following accommodations for your pre- and post-trip hotel (please note that on home game weekends for the University of Tennessee football team that downtown hotels may require a two-night minimum stay):

* 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 | 30
- Terrain | Hilly
- Average Daily Elevation | 1,820 feet
- Total Miles | 118
- Total Elevation | 7,280 feet

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

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. The approach to the Blackberry Mountain property on East Millers Cove Road has some short climbs and you will ride this road most days of the trip. Please note that the property does not allow cycling on the four-mile road leading to The Lodge and the Firetower Restaurant, so you will be shuttled to and from the bike staging area at the base of the Mountain to your accommodations at the top, as needed, by your Trek Travel guides or Blackberry Mountain staff. Blackberry Mountain 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 uphill, 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.

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 spa, heated infinity-edge pool, fitness classes, and other amenities at the Mountain
- Join the group for a fly fishing lesson or pottery throwing class
- Hike on the many miles of trails on the Mountain property
- Join the group for an afternoon foraging experience and cooking demo
- Schedule one of the many available off-property activities including kayaking, clay shooting, and horseback riding

Trip Changes

See itinerary for specific daily ride distances and elevation options. On all of our vacations, Trek Travel seeks 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.