

EXPERIENCE THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

Photo courtesy of Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism

A wholesome destination for church group trips and family vacations • May 12, 2011 • an advertising supplement

Great Smoky Mountains offer fun outdoor activities for all ages

For a memorable getaway full of outdoor excursions, there are numerous sites to visit in the Smoky Mountain region of Tennessee. Church groups, families and couples alike can take in the beauty of God's creation while enjoying the great outdoors.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

With more than 500,000

acres of forests, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is teeming with exploration opportunities at every turn. Whether it's camping, hiking, fishing or horseback riding, the park offers a multitude of outdoor experiences for visitors.

Go camping underneath the stars.

For campers, there are several types of campsites to

choose from at the park: back-country camping for backpackers, developed campgrounds with restrooms and group campgrounds suitable for groups of eight or more campers. Visit www.nps.gov/grsm for camping rules and regulations, including information about permits.

Go fishing in the streams.

For the fisherman, the park encompasses approximately 2,115 miles of streams within its boundaries. Visitors can participate in a variety of angling experiences including remote, headwater trout streams and large, cool water smallmouth bass streams. Be sure to check www.nps.gov/grsm regarding fishing license requirements and other rules.



Photo courtesy of Gatlinburg Department of Tourism

Fishing in streams



Escape from your daily stresses and enjoy traditional Southern favorites like you used to have at your grandmother's house. Join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner seven days a week all year long.



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Cades Cove

Part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cades Cove is a world of its own providing 6,800 acres of breathtaking scenery. With the

majestic Smoky Mountains serving as a dramatic backdrop, Cades Cove is a popular destination for both returning and first-time visitors. With so many different things to do and see within this magnificent val-


ley, visitors should set aside a full day for this trip. Suggested activities include:

Rent bicycles to sightsee.


Breathe in the fresh mountain breezes while taking a
(continued on page 14)

Christ


in the Smokies Museum & Gardens



Relive the GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD



In the center of Gatlinburg, Tenn., at Christ in the Smokies Museum & Gardens (located on the former Christus Gardens property) you will have the remarkable experience of walking through a Biblical world of 2,000 years ago, seeing life-size, life-like representations of important scenes from the life of Jesus Christ.



Adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and only minutes from Pigeon Forge and Dollywood, while you visit the mountains of East Tennessee, you will enjoy an inspirational and educational time for your church group or family of all ages.

For tickets, visit www.christinthesmokies.com • 865-436-5155



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Located in the Pigeon Forge area of the Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee. For group sales, contact James F. Asher, Director of Sales & Marketing, at 865-680-2936 or 800-448-3040.
www.pigeonforgelodginggroup.com

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PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE

Where every visit creates new memories

Pigeon Forge, Tenn., tucked cozily into the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, has a little something for everyone. Hard to believe that a town of about 6,000 residents has the ability to entertain more than 10 million people a year, but when a destination is this good...well, maybe it's not so hard to believe after all.

Even with so much to see and so, Pigeon Forge keeps its small-town appeal and is a place where people feel comfortable.

In fact, Pigeon Forge is much like its visitors—family focused and faith based—which could be why people get that “coming home” feeling when they travel to the East Tennessee town. That feeling extends from



one attraction to the next and starts with the outstanding theater community in Pigeon Forge.

With more than a dozen theaters, including a number that offer dinner and a show, visitors find a variety of live entertainment from which to choose. Many shows include gospel music segments,

in addition to bluegrass, rock ‘n’ roll, country and Broadway tunes.

Two shows are in their final year of production. “The Miracle” and “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” will close their successful runs in October. Both currently are performed at The Miracle Theater and have been fan favorites for several years.

Along the Parkway, Pigeon Forge’s main street, visitors will find dozens of attractions, restaurants, outlet stores and specialty shops. In addition to a number of churches and chapels, opportunities for Sunday worship also are available at some theaters and lodging venues.

Speaking of lodging, there’s a seemingly endless selection—from hotels and motels, to cabins, condos and campgrounds. In all, there are more than 12,000 rooms available in Pigeon Forge, and 16 hotels with meeting space to accommodate church groups and family reunions.

Pigeon Forge is home to Dollywood, one of the world’s top theme parks. There are memories of Dolly Parton’s life integrated into every area of the park, keeping it true to the country superstar’s mountain heritage.

The Titanic Museum Attraction, which opened in 2010, is filled with stories, photographs, artifacts from and re-creations of the magnificent, but doomed,



ship. The 100-year anniversary of the Titanic’s fateful journey will be noted in 2012, with a number of special events planned at the Pigeon Forge museum.

Keeping things fresh can be a challenge, but the folks in Pigeon Forge seem to have it down to an art. In 2011 alone, visitors will have three new, major shows from which to choose: Hatfield & McCoy Dinner Show, Smoky Mountain Lumberjack Feud and Christmas at the Smoky Mountain Opry, the precursor to Smoky Mountain Opry, which opens in early 2012.

Pigeon Forge is just south of Knoxville off I-40 at exit 407. Visitor information is available at MyPigeonForge.com and 1-800-251-9100. Resources for meeting planners are available at PigeonForgeMeeting.com and 1-800-285-7557.

Where time flies
but memories last forever.

Have faith that you'll have fun

You can have faith that your church groups will have fun here in Pigeon Forge. Whether it's the shopping, attractions, shows or Dollywood®, you'll find wholesome entertainment at every turn. And the majestic beauty of the Smoky Mountains is always an inspiring sight. Pigeon Forge is filled with variety and dedicated to creating a family friendly atmosphere that everyone can enjoy.

PigeonForgeMeeting.com
 1-800-285-7557

Where time is not
measured with a clock.



Cades Cove, golf, fireworks popular attractions during summer



Fourth of July Fireworks Show

(continued from page 11)
bicycle excursion around the area. This activity provides an excellent chance to be directly in the great outdoors while viewing wildlife and the pioneer homesteads preserved throughout the area. According to Cades Cove's website, visitors can rent bicycles and helmets from the Cades Cove Campground Store. For those interested in commit-

ting to a long bike excursion, there are 11 miles on Cades Cove Loop Road. For a less rigorous bike ride, shortcuts are provided. Bicycles can only be used on the Cades Cove Loop Road or other paved areas of the tour.

Take a drive.

Some visitors may prefer to tour Cades Cove from the comfort of their automobile, particularly during the warm-

est summer months. Be sure to check with the park before you visit about the certain days and times Cades Cove Loop Road is closed for driving. It's worth mentioning that the area boasts many vivid wildflower varieties, and if the flowers are in bloom, then you may spot Queen Ann's Lace, daisies and yellow fringed orchids.



Photos courtesy of Gatlinburg Department of Tourism

Smoky Mountains

Gatlinburg

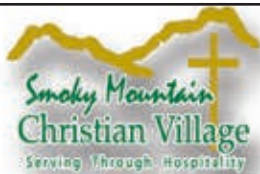
Gatlinburg, Tenn., is widely known for the abundant shops, restaurants and tourist attractions that line its bustling streets, but the city also offers outdoor activities perfect for the summer months.

Play a round of golf.

Gatlinburg Golf Course is located five miles from downtown Gatlinburg and lies adjacent to Dollywood. The 18-hole course underwent major renovations in 2007. According to its website, the course is open year-round with a fully equipped pro shop and food services area.

Watch the fireworks.

If you plan to be in Gatlinburg during the July Fourth weekend, then don't miss the Fourth of July Fireworks Show. This patriotic celebration lights up the mountain skyline downtown at 10 p.m. with a magnificent fireworks display.



Smoky Mountain Christian Village: Ideal setting for your vacation, camp or retreat

Paid advertising

Whether it's a family vacation, a senior-adult group, a weekend marriage encounter, or accommodations and activities for a week long summer camp for 100 rambunctious youth, Smoky Mountain Christian Village (SMCV) is the ideal solution.



Nestled in a secluded mountain cove in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, the Village's Chalets and Lodges are set in the serenity of old growth trees and nature across the street from Dollywood/Dollywood's Splash Country, and only a few minutes away from the shopping and excitement of Pigeon Forge. The world famous Smoky Mountain National park is only 3 miles away.



This beautiful 44-acre property features accommodations that provide a perfect setting for Christian retreats, vacations, camps, and meetings.

Designed with flexibility in mind, it is ideal for almost any type of event – large or small. From a Large family reunion or a single-family weekend getaway to association retreats or meetings with 200



guests, the facilities can handle it all with grace filled Southern hospitality. The Village boasts modern

meeting spaces that are flexible for large or small groups. Amenities include a year-round swimming pool; gas grills; a children's playground; walking trails; picnic pavilion; horseshoes; basketball; volleyball; and even a bon-fire pit.

The units feature fireplaces with ping pong or foosball tables, fully equipped kitchens, dining rooms and living rooms with entertainment centers. For guests with physical disabilities, there are



limited handicap-accessible Chalets and accommodations.

The beautiful outdoor setting provides a nurturing environment where

nature can be appreciated and God's presence can be felt. Whether enjoying the colorful fall foliage, the beauty of the spring blooms, the crisp white glory of a winter's day or the lush foliage of the



of the summer, you will be rejuvenated body and soul at this Christian retreat site. The mission of SMCV is to serve the needs of Christian churches, ministries and families by providing a family-friendly atmosphere conducive to ministry.



For More Information: www.tsmev.org ~

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