



The Southern & Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association (SEKTDA) can assist groups with reservations, scheduling, hospitality, boxed lunches, or special entertainment if needed. SEKTDA can also put you in touch with other local contacts.

Call toll free 1 888-733-7359 or visit us at [www.tourseky.com](http://www.tourseky.com)

## Along the Wilderness Road and the Kingdom Come Parkway

### Day One

Depart Lexington via I-75 and US 25E—or Knoxville via US 11W and US 25E—for Cumberland Gap at the intersection of three states—Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. Begin the tour of Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. View the new award winning 23-minute long high definition film “Daniel Boone and the Westward Movement.” Visit the newly renovated museum and gift shop, the newest outlet for the Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild, presenting high quality traditional crafts from Kentucky and eight other states. Then, drive up to Pinnacle Overlook for a view of the Gap, accompanied by a National Park Service Ranger (by request). On the way up (or down) stop at Fort McCook and learn about the importance of the Gap in the Civil War.

Break for lunch at the Avenue Café in Middlesboro, and then visit the Lost Squadron Museum, a living tribute to some of the ‘Best Generation,’ P-38 pilots in World War II. Learn about the fascinating recovery of a vintage P-38 from under 300 feet of ice in Greenland and follow the emotional saga of its restoration. Then, tour the Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum on the campus of Lincoln Memorial University. This unique museum reflects Lincoln’s gratitude to Kentucky and portions of Tennessee for supporting the Union in the Civil War.

An option for the more adventurous is a return to Cumberland Gap for a guided hike (moderately strenuous) on the newly restored Wilderness Road, the original route that Daniel Boone and the early settlers followed through the Gap. Hike up to Gap Cave, a familiar landmark to the early pioneers. The National Park Service offers guided hikes through cave, lasting about 1 hour (moderately strenuous).

Drive to Pine Mountain State Resort Park for check-in. Dine at the buffet in the park’s full-service restaurant. After dinner, relax and enjoy the views of the Cumberland Mountains or enjoy the park’s facilities, including a large swimming pool and beautiful hiking trails. The park also offers a number of drive-to scenic overlooks. Options include overnight at motels in Middlesboro along US 25E.

Alternative stops for the day include the Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site and Kentucky Communities Crafts near Barbourville. The Harland Sanders Café and Museum in Corbin is the original 1940s Col. Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken Restaurant and international headquarters of Kentucky Fried Chicken. The museum chronicles the stages of the restaurant chain, and the restaurant is a convenient place to stop for lunch.

### Day Two

After breakfast, drive the Kingdom Come Parkway (US 119) to Benham in the heart of the Cumberland Mountains. Tour the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum featuring exhibits on the history of coal mining, daily life in a coal ‘camp,’ a coal mine for kids, and memorabilia from the career of the Coal Miner’s Daughter, Loretta Lynn. Have lunch at the 1926 Benham School House Inn.

*Note: A former coal ‘company town,’ Benham was founded in 1911 by Wisconsin Steel Corp., a subsidiary of International Harvester. Benham and nearby Lynch (Portal 31) were the ‘cream of the crop’ among coal camps in Kentucky. The Kentucky Coal Mining Museum will provides a good overview of life in the coal towns and the importance of coal in Kentucky’s history.*

After lunch, drive to Kingdom Come State Park for spectacular views of the Cumberland Mountains. Then, drive to the nearby town of Lynch, the former company town of U.S. Steel and the premier coal ‘camp’ in Kentucky. Put on a miner’s helmet and clothes and ride a coal car into Portal 31, a former coalmine that is now a museum, and learn about this important part of Kentucky mountain history. An additional option is to take a short driving tour of the National Register of Historic Places district in Lynch. Italian stonemasons brought to America by U.S. Steel to create an impressive new town constructed the public buildings.

Return to Benham for check-in at the Benham School House Inn. Dinner and overnight at the historic School House Inn, an old school reborn as an inn. For dinner, choose farm-fresh trout raised at the hatchery in Lynch across from Portal 31 (if you like). Options for other activities include a visit to the Back Porch Gallery behind the Coal Museum, and Poor Fork Arts and Crafts in Cumberland. The Godbey Appalachian Center at Southeast Community College (the owner of the School House Inn and the fish hatchery in Lynch) in Cumberland has the only ‘black box’ theater in eastern Kentucky. Check their schedule of performances.



### Options & Extensions

Multiple days can be added to your itinerary. From Benham, drive over Pine Mountain to Whitesburg to visit Appalshop and the Cozy Corner, one of the best craft stores in eastern Kentucky. At Appalshop, you can purchase original audio recordings of mountain country music and video documentaries of Appalachian lifeways and mountain country music personalities. Have lunch at the Courthouse Café. After lunch visit the Kentucky Appalachian Artisan Center, the Hindman Settlement School, and the Marie Stewart Craft Shop in Hindman, or the Challenger Learning Center and the new science museum at Hazard Community College in Hazard. Overnight at Buckhorn State Resort Park or motels on the Hal Rogers Parkway in Hazard. Whitesburg, Hazard and Buckhorn are all connected by SR 15. Return to Lexington via the scenic Hal Rogers Parkway. Both US 119 and the Hal Rogers Parkway are very scenic drives—the fall foliage is some of the best in the East.

Alternatively, follow US 119 east to Breaks Interstate Park, then head north on US 23, the Country Music Highway, to Jenny Wiley State Resort Park and return to Lexington via the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway, also very scenic.

En route from Lexington, Fort Boonesborough State Historic Site is a short distance off I-75. It is a living history museum and a reconstruction of the original wilderness settlement founded by Daniel Boone on the Kentucky River in 1775. Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park interprets another section of the Wilderness Road, the original way west for the early settlers who came through Cumberland Gap. Take a guided tour of the museum, early settlers’ buildings, McHargue’s Mill, and portions of the original Boone’s Trace and original Wilderness Road.