

Appalachian Mountains & Music Motorcycle Tour

June 18-23, 2017



Questions or special requests? Contact Tamela Rich: tamela@TamelaRich.com

The Appalachian Mountains are the oldest mountain range in North America. People who have called them “home” have given us rich history, a fusion of musical genres and dances, a distinctive cuisine, and an oral storytelling heritage, all of which will be celebrated on this five-day tour.

TOUR OVERVIEW

Departing Front Royal, Virginia, at the conclusion of the [Mid-Atlantic Women’s Motorcycle Rally](#), we will travel some of the most scenic and satisfying roads of the Blue Ridge Mountain province in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

We will average six hours in the saddle each day with plenty of breaks and photo opportunities.

Sunday, June 18, 2017



Departing the [Mid-Atlantic Women’s Motorcycle Rally](#) in Front Royal, Virginia, we will spend a great deal of the day in the gorgeous [George Washington and Jefferson National Forest](#), ending in Pocahontas County, WV, home to the headwaters of seven rivers.

We’ll stay on a horse farm at [Mountain Quest Inn](#) in time to make the evening

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barn tour and feed carrots to the horses, llamas and sheep.

After dinner we will be serenaded by a [bluegrass trio in Mountain Quest's magnificent two-story library after dinner](#) (pictured above).

Traveling: Virginia and West Virginia.

Monday, June 19, 2017

Leaving Mountain Quest, we will head south, once again in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, going to elevation before descending into Virginia's Roanoke Valley, then to [Floyd, VA.](#)

Located in the southwest corner of the state just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, Floyd is a one-of-a-kind place. Home to funky shops, farm-to-table restaurants, and its own music festival, [FloydFest](#), Floyd is a little town you'll want to return to time and again.

After lunch and time to tour the little town, we'll ride "[America's Favorite Drive,](#)" [the Blue Ridge Parkway](#) as we head to the The Blue Ridge Music Center on the at the Virginia-North Carolina state line.

The [Blue Ridge Music Center](#) is administered by our National Parks Service. The Music Center is also the home for the free, state-of-the-art- award-winning, and interactive [Roots of American Music Museum Exhibit](#). During summer local Mid-Day Mountain Musicians play on the breezeway of the visitors center from Noon to 4 PM.



From here we'll end the afternoon at [River House](#), a full-service country inn on the North Fork of the New River, where walking trails wind through 170 acres. Its

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uniquely decorated guest rooms are converted farm buildings, including a milking parlor (pictured above), chicken coop, and carriage house. No two are the same. All have en suite bathrooms.

The restaurant offers exquisite regional cuisine, an international wine list, and a full-service bar with all ABC permits.



Wayne Henderson and **Helen White** (pictured left) will entertain us as we gather after dinner by the New River around a fire pit. The duo played for Queen Elizabeth when she visited Virginia in 2007.

Wayne has played guitar in Carnegie Hall and Wolf Trap—to name but two venues—and traveled the world representing the

US. He has been honored in the White House and Congress. In addition to being a world-renowned guitar builder (Eric Clapton is a client), he is a witty storyteller. Helen is a classically trained violinist, a composer, and an phenomenal fiddler.

Traveling: West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina.

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

From River House we'll saddle up for the [Cherokee National Forest](#) and stage a photo at the shortest tunnel in the world, located five miles outside of Damascus, VA.

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We ratchet up the fun quotient on "The Snake," a delightfully twisty and scenic road that begins in Shady Valley, TN. After riding it for 33 miles west, we'll return east to Shady Valley, enjoying a total of 66 miles and 978 curves.

Our destination is Little Switzerland, NC, so named for its sweeping panoramas of deep valleys and distant ranges that resemble those of the foothills of the Swiss Alps.

We'll stay at the Switzerland Inn, located at exit 334 off the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Pisgah National Forest.



After a welcome reception on the terrace that overlooks the ridge line (and perhaps a round or two of corn hole) we'll enjoy dinner together.

Switzerland Inn will be our "base camp" for three nights and two days as we explore the region.

Traveling: North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee.

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Wednesday, June 21

After breakfast we'll tour Grandfather Mountain and, among other things, walk its famous Mile High Swinging Bridge, the highest in America. The 228-foot suspension bridge (pictured left) spans an 80-foot chasm and was built to give visitors easy access to the

breathtaking view from Grandfather Mountain's Linville Peak.

After lunch we'll ride through more twisty regional roads, including "The Diamondback," with plenty of opportunities to stop for photos and with time to drink in the scenery. Dinner once again at Switzerland Inn.

Traveling: North Carolina.

Thursday, June 22

After breakfast you'll have your choice of destinations.

Option One: Wheels Through Time transportation museum presents a collection of rare American motorcycles, memorabilia and a distinct array of unique "one off" American automobiles. It is now home to a very popular TV show, What's in the Barn? Our tour will be hosted by the Museum owner and TV host himself, Dale Walksler.



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After touring the museum, we'll take the scenic view back to Switzerland Inn, with time for perhaps a drink on the veranda, a massage, a dip in the pool, or doze in a lawn chair before our farewell dinner.

Option Two: Biltmore House, Gardens, Village and Winery. America's largest private residence was built by railroad scion George Vanderbilt on over 8,000 acres. It will take a full day to appreciate all that this property has to offer.

That evening is our farewell dinner, also at the Inn.

Traveling: North Carolina.



Friday, June 23

After breakfast, check out and head home, or extend your stay. Our tour is concluded.

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TOUR PRICING

Single Occupancy: \$1,600

Double Occupancy:

- \$1,400 per motorcyclist (Shared Queen or King¹)
- \$1200 per person on shared motorcycle (Shared Queen or King²)

Included:

- 5 Nights Hotel Accommodations
- 5 Dinners
- 5 Breakfasts
- 2 private musical performances on Sunday and Monday evenings
- 1 Tour Guide per 10 guests

Excluded:

- Motorcycle and riding gear
- Transportation to Front Royal, VA
- Transportation after the tour's conclusion in Little Switzerland, NC
- Lunches



¹ Other accommodations might be available by request and if so, will be priced separately. If you want more than one bed please book early.

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- Snacks
- Alcoholic beverages
- Admission to attractions
- Souvenirs and other “personal expenditures”
- Travel and health insurance



Reservations and Payments:

[Use this link to pay your \\$300 deposit for single occupancy.](#)

[Use this link to pay a double-occupancy deposit of \\$500.](#)

The entire balance must be paid by May 1, 2017

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Cancellation Policy: Please try to replace your seat on the tour if you can't join us. If you cannot find someone to take your place, our terms are as follows:

- Cancellations before May 18, 2017 lose 50% of their deposit
- Cancellations May 18 to June 8, 2017 will be refunded 50%
- Cancellations after June 8, 2017 will receive no refund

INCENTIVES

Save \$100 on single occupancy or \$200 on double-occupancy by registering before 3/31 and paying in full at the time you register.

Party of 4 or more? I will customize pricing.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY: Since we are staying in two historical properties with unique accommodations, the number of rooms we can offer for the tour is limited. Book early to get the accommodations that best suit you.

YOUR GUIDES



I'm Tamela Rich, award-winning author and avid motorcyclist. I have traveled Appalachia extensively all of my life, exploring the rich history, culture, and beauty of the region. Find me at www.TamelaRich.com

My great friend Bill Kniegge has been in the motorcycle industry for 40 years, and leading tours in the Smoky Mountains for 12 of them. His website is www.BlueStradaTours.com



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