



HIDDEN MOUNTAIN TREASURES

September 10-12, 2010

Explore beautiful West Virginia from its depths to its heights! See majestic mountains and the breathtaking New River Gorge. Dine well, and delight in regional crafts at Tamarack. Explore Lost Worlds Caverns, go deep into a coal mine, and tour an astounding nuclear bunker under The Greenbrier. It's a terrific tour!

DAY 1: Traveling to the scenic Greenbrier Valley in the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia, head first to the new Fairfield Inn (304-645-7999) in Lewisburg, WV, which will be our home for two nights. Here we will meet our local guide and continue on to the Lost World Caverns, where we will descend 120 feet below the surface to



General Lewis Inn

explore a vast wonderland of stalactites and stalagmites. Follow a self-guided tour around a half-mile loop to see many different formations in this magical place, which stays a cool and constant 52°. (Comfortable walking shoes and sweatshirt or light jacket are recommended; there are 200-300 stair steps along the way.) Reemerging into daylight, return to the Fairfield Inn to relax a little before dinner this evening at the General Lewis Inn, a historic hostelry located on a Civil War battle site. Take time to walk through the charming inn and to stroll in the pretty gardens. Also enjoy entertainment this evening. (dinner)



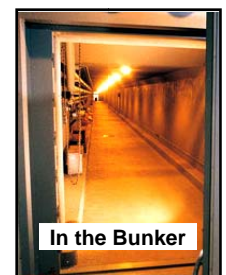
Tamarack

DAY 2: Enjoy the continental breakfast at the hotel before heading with our guide to Canyon Rim Visitors Center near the New River Gorge Bridge. Get a stunning view of the world's second-longest single-arch steel bridge spanning the dramatic gorge. Learn the story of the river, the bridge, and the annual October BASE jumping event when parachutists fling themselves off the bridge to float safely down to the river 876 feet below. (That's what they hope anyway!) Late in the morning, motor to Tamarack, a unique cultural center, where you will find a cornucopia



of West Virginia handmade crafts, art, and foods representing every county in the state. (Enjoy lunch on your own here.) This afternoon, visit the nearby Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine to get a realistic look at coal mining at the beginning of the last century. Travel 1500 feet underground in authentic mining cars, and tour an historic coal camp with veteran miners as guides. Then delight in a ghost tour of Beckley, visiting old homes, mansions, and other sites reputed to be haunted. Dine this evening at The Char, enjoying delicious food in a relaxing woodland setting. (breakfast, dinner)

DAY 3: Enjoy the continental breakfast before checking out of the hotel and departing for White Sulphur Springs, where we will head under the famous Greenbrier Resort for a tour of the amazing Greenbrier Bunker. Built as a top-secret Government Relocation Facility during the height of the Cold War, this enormous bunker was dug 720 feet under the west wing of the hotel. Maintained for 30 years in a state of constant readiness in the event of nuclear war, the bunker covers 112,000 square feet and features decontamination chambers, dormitories, a power plant, a hospital clinic, a pharmacy, a cafeteria, a laboratory, and more. Wear comfortable shoes for our walking tour of the bunker, which takes approximately 90 minutes. Return home after this fascinating tour with lasting memories of majestic mountain scenery and hidden wonders underground. Expected arrival in Hunt Valley is 5:50 PM, Shrewsbury 6:10 PM, York 6:30 PM, Red Lion 7:00 PM.



In the Bunker

(breakfast)

