

Something in the Water: Footsteps of the Coal Miner's Daughter

Day One: Exploring Ashland, KY and Country Music Heritage

This is an example itinerary based on a previously successful trip. Pricing subject to change.



10:00 AM – Historic Paramount Arts Center Tour

Step back in time at the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland, Kentucky, an iconic venue where native Loretta Lynn showcased her singer-songwriter style of country music throughout her career. Born in Butcher Hollow, Kentucky, Loretta Lynn has spent around five decades at the forefront of the country music scene. Her latest album, "Van Lear Rose," was produced by Jack White, a renowned rock vocalist and guitarist. Lynn is celebrated for singles such as "You Ain't Woman Enough (To Take My Man)," "The Pill," and "When the Tingle Becomes A Chill." According to her official biography, she has achieved 52 top 10 hits and 16 number one singles.

10:35 AM – Highlands Museum & Discovery Center Visit

History and heritage merge with energy and excitement along the Country Music Highway at the Highlands Museum & Discovery Center. Catering to visitors of all ages, the museum offers a variety of activities and information that reflect both past and present. Experience a nineteenth-century classroom, explore a medical world where house calls were made on horseback, and immerse yourself in the culture of Eastern Kentucky music with exhibits featuring Loretta Lynn, Billy Ray Cyrus, and the Judd families. Visitors can also enjoy interactive experiences such as Karaoke Korner and Music Quilt, salute veterans, and view Hitler's last telephone. The Discovery Center includes areas for toddlers and a flight simulation station, and allows guests to walk into the Ohio River town of Poage's Landing and navigate Little Joe, a real towboat.

12:00 PM – Lunch and Entertainment on Winchester Avenue

Enjoy a delicious lunch on Winchester Avenue, featuring Loretta's chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes, fresh green beans, and a summer salad of cucumber, tomatoes, and onions. For dessert, indulge in The Judd's peach cobbler, accompanied by coffee and iced tea.

12:30 PM – Performance by Rob McNurlin

Delight in entertainment from Rob McNurlin, an Eastern Kentucky native and Nashville artist.

1:15 PM – Restroom Break

A scheduled restroom break for guests.

1:30 PM – Central Park Visit

After lunch, visit Central Park, the largest and most esteemed park in the county system. Purchased by the City of Ashland in 1900, this forty-seven-acre park was previously a horseracing track until 1923. Situated between 17th and 22nd Streets and Central and Lexington Avenues, Central Park boasts more than 1,100 trees.

The Legacy of Eastern Kentucky Artists

The footsteps of the coal miner's daughter, Loretta Lynn, have inspired countless artists from Eastern Kentucky, leading them from front porch pickin' sessions to performances on grand arena stages. Among these artists are Naomi and Wynonna Judd. Following lunch, guests will board a coach for an educational drive by the Judd family home place, belonging to Ms. Polly Judd, the mother of Naomi Judd and grandmother to Ashley and Wynonna Judd.



The Judds

ASHLAND

When The Judds burst onto the country music scene in the early 1980's with their unique sound—part bluegrass and part traditional Appalachian music, part rockabilly and blues—some looked at them as overnight successes. But the road to Nashville fame began for Naomi—born Diana Elena Judd in 1946 in Ashland, Kentucky—with childhood dreams of a glamourous life far away from her Kentucky home. An unexpected pregnancy, early marriage and the birth of her first daughter, Christine, in 1964, propelled her into a life as wife and mother.

A divorce in 1971, three years after the birth of her second daughter, Ashley, left her to begin again. She became a nurse, changed her name to Naomi, and discovered that Christine—what would become Wynonna shortly after her

mother's name change—shared more than a name and a life. They also shared a love of singing and the talent to go with it.

Following an appearance on Ralph Emery's show, their musical career skyrocketed. As a mother-daughter duo, The Judds sold over 20 million albums during eight years together. They won five Grammys and were named the CMA's Duo of the Year eight times. They had fifteen number one hits.

Their work as a duo ended for Naomi when she contracted a life-threatening form of hepatitis. Their Farewell Tour was the last touring tour of 1997.

Wynonna continued in solo career achieving even greater success. She demonstrates a wide range of singing styles, from country-pop to rock, blues, gospel, adult contemporary, folk and southern R&B. She has authored a book and continues to expand her performance possibilities.

Naomi moved in new directions, too, as an author, inspirational speaker and continuing superstar of churches in her native Kentucky and throughout the nation. She and Wynonna recorded for a 2000 sold-out release; tour and occasionally perform together for special events.

1:45 PM – Departure from Ashland

The group departs Ashland, Kentucky.

2:30 PM – Keith Whitley Statue Visit

Travel to the Eliot County Memory Garden to view the statue of country singer Keith Whitley (1954–1989), a Sandy Hook, Kentucky native. Whitley performed with Ricky Skaggs, Carl Jackson, and J.D. Crowe before launching his solo career. He recorded two albums and had 12 singles chart on the Billboard Country charts, with seven more released posthumously. Born in Ashland and raised in Sandy Hook, Whitley began his career in Ralph Stanley's band in 1970 and moved to Nashville in 1983. His first Top 20 hit, "Miami, My Amy," was released in 1986. Notable number one singles from

his album "Don't Close Your Eyes" include the title track, "When You Say Nothing at All," and "I'm No Stranger to the Rain." He died at 34 from alcohol intoxication in Goodlettsville, Tennessee, in 1989. Later singles such as "I Wonder Do You Think of Me," "It Ain't Nothin'," and "I'm Over You" were released after his passing.



3:00 PM – Journey to Pikeville, Kentucky

The group departs south on the U.S. 23 Country Music Highway, heading towards Pikeville for lodging.

Arrive at the Hampton Inn of Pikeville at 4:45 PM.

6:30 PM – Dinner and Evening Entertainment



Dinner at the Pikeville Garfield House features a buffet of Kentucky lasagna, baked spaghetti, salad, breadsticks, iced tea, and bottled water. Live entertainment follows at The Front Porch Pickin' along the U.S. 23 Country Music Highway. Admission is \$3 per person.

Return to the hotel at 8:30 PM.

Day Two: Exploring the Country Music Highway

6:30–7:30 AM – Breakfast

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel with Kentucky biscuits and gravy, bacon, scrambled eggs, yogurt, fruit, morning waffles, oatmeal, juices, and coffee.

8:15 AM – Departure for US 23 Country Music Highway Museum

Travel to Paintsville, Kentucky to visit the US 23 Country Music Highway Museum.



9:00 AM – Museum Tour

The US 23 Country Music Highway Museum features 14 exhibits with memorabilia from country music stars hailing from Eastern Kentucky, including Loretta Lynn, Chris Stapleton, Dwight Yoakam, Billy Ray Cyrus, Tom T. Hall, Keith Whitley, Larry Cordle, Rebecca Lynn Howard, Gary Stewart, Hylo Brown, Crystal Gayle, Ricky Skaggs, Patty Loveless, and The Judds.

10:00 AM – Mayo Memorial United Methodist Church



Depart for the Mayo Memorial United Methodist Church in Paintsville. Construction of the church began in 1908, championed by local millionaire John C.C. Mayo. The church was built from native sandstone, transported by aerial tram from Mayo's father's farm. The roof is composed of over 12,000 glazed green tiles, and the pipe organ was donated by Andrew Carnegie. The church features large stained glass windows crafted in Italy, depicting key events from the life of Christ. The first service was held on September 19, 1909. An organist will be present to demonstrate the organ's sound and mechanics.

11:00 AM – Coal Miners Museum Tour



Depart for Van Lear to tour the Coal Miners Historic Museum and the original Coal Town. Established in the former CONSOL office building from 1913, the museum showcases coal mining tools, a Veteran's Wall of Fame, a documentary about Van Lear in the 1930s, a model of Van Lear, displays highlighting the community during the coal boom, Icky's 1950s soda fountain, and replicas of the old post office and doctor's office.

12:30 PM – Coal Miners Lunch

Savor a homemade lunch featuring beef veggie soup, seven-layer salad, chicken and bologna salad sandwiches, cake, and beverages.

1:15 PM – Butcher Holler Tour



Depart for Butcher Holler, the childhood home of Loretta Lynn. Arrive at Webb's General Store, a century-old establishment owned by Lynn's niece, Connie Webb. The store, formerly known as the Number 5 Store, has appeared in films such as "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Let It Be War," and "Fifth Holler." Guests can shop, enjoy snacks, or relax on the front porch while waiting for a shuttle

to the Webb Family cabin and property. Butcher Holler, located in Johnson County, Kentucky, is nestled between fog-shrouded mountains and is famously recognized as Loretta Lynn's birthplace. Loretta and her sisters, Peggy and Crystal Gayle, brought pride to coal miners through their music. The shuttle transports twelve guests at a time from the general store to the Webb cabin, ensuring all have the opportunity to tour.

3:00 PM – Loretta Lynn's Schoolhouse and Van Lear Mine #25



Drive by and discuss Loretta Lynn's one-room schoolhouse, which she attended until age thirteen, and the entrance to the old Van Lear Mine #25.

Pikeville Cut-Through Project Visit

Arrive at the Pikeville Cut-Through Project, an engineering marvel completed to alleviate flooding in Pikeville and provide space for development. The project relocated the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, easing congestion caused by the railroad and major highways. Visit the original river sites, the WPA-constructed Pauley Bridge, Cassady Blvd, swinging bridge, and Pikeville Lake before returning to the hotel.



4:30 PM – Group Photo and Hotel Downtime

Take a group photo at the Cut-Through before enjoying 45 minutes of free time at the Hampton Inn Hotel. Guests may stroll through the historic district or relax in the hotel lobby.

6:30 PM – Dinner and Live Entertainment

Dine at the Pikeville Overlook Event Center, enjoying a catered meal of boneless fried chicken, Salisbury steak, potatoes, vegetable medley, salad, dessert, iced tea, coffee, and water. Following dinner, Coal Town Dixie will perform live entertainment.

Return to the hotel at 8:30 PM.

Day Three: Life and Culture Along the Country Music Highway

6:00–7:30 AM – Breakfast

Breakfast at the hotel includes omelets, sausage, morning potatoes, fruit, waffles, oatmeal, bagels, juices, and coffee. Guests are encouraged to have their bags ready by 7:00 AM.

8:30 AM – Big Sandy Heritage Museum Center

Depart for the Big Sandy Heritage Museum Center, located four blocks from the hotel. Exhibits cover local Civil War history, Country Music Highway artists, Native American life in Eastern Kentucky, coal mining, and moonshining, offering insights into the region's diverse heritage.

9:15 AM – Pike County Historic Court House

Visit the historic Pike County Court House, renowned for its connection to the Hatfield and McCoy feud. The courthouse features a Veterans Hall and the courtroom where the Hatfield trial was held in 1891.

9:45 AM – Mountain Home Place 1850 Working Homestead

Depart for the Mountain Home Place, an 1850s working farm and living history site. Guided tours feature buildings such as the McKenzie double-pen family cabin, one-room schoolhouse, double crib barn, and the Fish Trap United Baptist Church. The original Lemaster house operates as a blacksmith shop, and the farm's gardens are encircled by split-rail fencing with views of the Appalachian Mountains. Interpreters in period costumes demonstrate early farming life and daily chores. The administrative building includes a gift shop offering Appalachian crafts, seasonal produce, and handmade quilts. Visitors may view an award-winning video narrated by Johnson County native Richard Thomas, detailing early Appalachian settlers' lives. A bathroom break and time to visit the 1850s Home Place gift shop is included before departure.



11:45 AM – Restrooms and Lunch Overlooking Paintsville Lake

Restrooms and wash-up at 11:45 AM precede a scenic lunch at 11:55 AM in a covered pavilion overlooking Paintsville Lake. The meal features Kentucky's best—pulled pork and pulled chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, dessert, sodas, and bottled water.

1:15 PM – Restrooms

Restroom break at 1:15 PM.