



Rarity Bay Women's Club Welcomes you to East Tennessee!

East Tennessee is known for its beauty, lakes, waterfalls, caves, mountains and bluegrass music! A unique place with all of nature to experience, from waterfalls to mountain trails and you can't beat the Great Smoky Mountains – the most visited National Park in the U.S. which is free and at our back door! This is a very small “taste” of some of the exceptional activities and information you can find in East TN!

Road Trips

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP)

Please note, while entrance to the Park is free, effective March 1, 2023 a parking tag program is being implemented. For information on this program go to: [Fees & Passes - Great Smoky Mountains National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Cade's Cove – Townsend – It is the most popular, historical and wildlife viewing destination within the Great Smoky Mountains. It is an 11-mile loop which you can drive, bike, hike or horseback ride. Stop by Smokin' Joes in Townsend, TN to eat on the way there. Cade's Cove is closed on Wednesday's to cars to allow bikers or walkers only.

Clingman's Dome – Mountain in the Great Smoky Mountains of TN and NC at an elevation of 6,643. It is the highest mountain in the park. There is an observation tower that allows spectators a 360 degree view. Depending of the visibility, you can see from 20 to 100 miles. Half mile paved, fairly easy trail from the parking lot to the observation deck.

Mount Le Conte – There are five moderate to difficult trails up to Mount Le Conte and the Lodge. The lodge can accommodate 50 guests per night; however, there is no transportation to the lodge. Visitors can stay overnight at the lodge which is open March through November. The trails range from 4.9 miles to 8.9 miles in length. The Alum Cave trail and Rainbow Falls trails are two of the most popular trails.

Townsend – Known as “The Peaceful Side of the Smokies”. A gateway community to the GSMNP. Visitor Center, Dancing Bear Lodge, campground and RV Parks, Bed & Breakfasts, river raft tubing, shops, bike trail, and restaurants.

Tuckaleechee Caverns – Townsend – Near Cade's Cove and GSMNP. Underground caverns. Tours offered.

Additional Road Trips

Bald River Falls and Cherohala Skyway - (Monroe County/Tellico Plains) – No hiking involved (Unless you want to) but you can drive right up to the falls! Stop by Tellico Grains Bakery or Iron Works Grille along the Tellico River (outdoor dining) to eat!

Tail of the Dragon - It is 318 curves in 11 miles and it will finish up in N.C. Eat by the river at the historical Tapoco Lodge and Tavern at the end of your adventure in the Nantahala National Forest and Cheoah River! You can also stay overnight at the Lodge.

(Cherohala Skyway and Tail of the Dragon make one LONG loop.)

Indian Boundary Lake – (Monroe County/Tellico Plains) in the Cherokee National Forest, home to 20,000 species of plants and animals. Fish, camp, hike, swim, bird watch, boat, picnic.

Foothills Parkway - Maryville - Beautiful scenic drive that runs parallel to the TN boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It offers unobstructed views of the Smokies to the south and The Tennessee Valley to the north with overlook areas. This loop takes visitors to some of the best spots the mountains have to offer!

Ocoee River – World famous as it was the sight for the 1996 Olympic kayaking course, you can have a professional teach you and take you whitewater rafting down the river! Watch, hike or just take a drive there!

Ozone Falls - State Park in Cumberland county, a little over an hours drive, you can see the falls from a short jaunt partially off the road or you can hike all the way down!

Dollywood – Ranked as one of the Best Family Amusement Parks! Nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. Year-round festivals. An annual park pass may be worth your while.

Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge – Too many activities here to name them all but some must see's are: Anakeesta, Skybridge, Ober Gatlinburg (Tennessee's only ski resort), Ripley's Aquarium, Christmas Place (the South's largest Christmas store)

Asheville, NC – Biltmore Estate/Vineyard/Botanical Gardens, Blue Ridge Mountains, LaZoom Comedy Bus Tour, Brewery and Food Tours, Ghost Tours, Asheville Urban Trail, Art Museums, Off The Wagon Dueling Piano Bar.

Knoxville – 50-60 minutes north of Rarity Bay

University of TN - Neyland Stadium (holds over 102,000!), Women's Basketball Museum

Zoo Knoxville

World's Fair Park and the Sunsphere

Market Square

Ijams Nature Center

Tennessee Theater – first Monday each month free Wurlitzer Organ concert, can purchase Chick-fil-A lunch on the way in

Knoxville Museum of Art

Historic Homes and Churches

Welcome Center – Noon every day, one hour free country music concert

Maple Hall Bowling Lanes

McClung Museum of Natural History

Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum

Sweetwater – quaint little town 17 miles from Rarity Bay

The Lost Sea Adventure - largest underground lake in the U.S., tours

Tsali Notch - vineyard and winery

Sweetwater Valley Farms – Dairy, Café, Cheese shop and gifts, tours

Sweetwater Creamery – Homemade ice cream – downtown

Hunter's Café

Vittorino's – Italian

(Stop at Hall's for breakfast or lunch on the way there)—in an old gas station

Tellico Plains – another quaint town a little further, 25 miles, from Rarity Bay

Tellico Grains Bakery – delicious pastries, quiches, and artisan breads

Everhart Lumber Company – wood specialty and furniture store

Chattanooga – 1.5 hours south from Rarity Bay

Lookout Mountain

Rock City

Ruby Falls

Incline Railroad

Chattahoochee Choo Choo (Historic Holiday Inn Hotel)

The Tennessee Aquarium – home to 10,000 animals

Amazon Distribution Center, tours

Riverwalk – 16.1 mile trail along the southern banks of the Tennessee River; great for bicycling

Blackberry Farm – Luxury hotel and resort on a 4200 acre estate, spa, horseback riding, fly fishing, wine and culinary tastings, hiking, clays course & more. Rated #1 Bed and Breakfast in the nation.

Whitestone Country Inn – Bed and breakfast on 600 acres, southern dining on Watts Barr lake. They offer concerts, cooking classes, lunch buffets and a great wedding venue! (45 minutes from Rarity Bay!)

Museum of Appalachia - A fascinating, living history museum shown through artifacts and stories. It is a Smithsonian affiliate in Clinton, TN. 35 acres with log cabins, animals, schools and gardens. Over 250,000 artifacts in 3 buildings, a gift shop and restaurant. Special events are not to be missed! Also in Clinton, Lulu's Tea Room, Antiques and Farmhouse Furniture store.

Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary – Maximum-security prison in Petros in Morgan County, TN. Operated from 1896 through 2009. Most notable inmate was James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr. Tours, concerts, and overnight paranormal tours.

Mayfield Dairy – Athens – Tour for \$5 and then you get a cup or cone of ice cream at the end of the tour.

Scenic Route/Non-highway route to Lenoir City/Turkey Creek – You can skip the interstate using these directions; it is a beautiful drive. Take Hwy 72 (right out of the neighborhood) to State Rt. 444 - turning right (entering Tellico Village.) Follow sign to 321 South. When you come to the light at the intersection, going straight will take you on to Lenoir City. Turn right onto Hwy. 11 and you will head to Turkey Creek. When you come to the dead-end, make another right onto Kingston Pike then left onto Campbell Station Rd and right onto Parkside Dr. into Turkey Creek Shopping Area. This has approximately two miles of shopping and restaurants on each side of the road.

Tellico Lake

Swimming, boating, floating, skiing, etc., safety and drowning prevention:

Always use a floatation device when enjoying our lake as it can reach 80 feet in depth. Drownings happen every year. Unfortunately, even trained, professional swimmers have met their demise.

See links below for two very important organizations in the Tellico area. They both provide a number of essential services to our boating community, including boating / boater education classes, that focus on lake orientation and safety. T-Bart also provides a rescue service.

www.t-bart.org

www.tellicolife.org/us-coast-guard-auxiliary

Also, we are lucky not to have a problem with mosquitos on Tellico Lake! If you have ever lived near any other body of water, you know how amazing this is!!

So many other lakes:

Watauga Lake and Boone Lake – Upper East Tennessee (near Johnson City, another fun place to visit!)
Douglas Lake, Cherokee Lake, Fort Loudoun Lake, Watts Barr Lake, Chilhowee Lake, Melton Hill Lake

Allergies

Your seasonal allergies may act up or begin while living in Eastern Tennessee. Our abundance of trees, grass and flowers put out a lot of pollen and our geography, light wind, humidity and warmth also contribute. The mountains trap the pollen instead of blowing it away. So if you feel congested, you may have allergies, rather than a cold or flu and it is usually treatable with over the counter remedies.

East TN State Parks – See link below for information on the 57 state parks, plus campgrounds, waterfalls, etc. that span the beautiful Eastern Tennessee countryside.

[Welcome — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://tnstateparks.com)

Nearby Services

Closest grocery stores

Food Lion – 72 & 444 (Entrance to Tellico Village)

Food City – Vonore (72 & 411)

Kroger (Maryville)

Ingles (Lenoir City, Farragut)

Fresh Market (Farragut)

Aldi's (Lenoir City, Farragut)

Publix (Turkey Creek)

Trader Joes (Knoxville)

Whole Foods (Knoxville)

Tellico Village Farmer's Market behind Chamber of Commerce (Seasonal)

Furniture Shopping

Knoxville - O.P. Jenkins (old city) downtown

Knoxville Wholesale Warehouse

Braden's, Ashley, At Home (Turkey Creek)

Clayton's Wholesale Furniture, Knoxville

Everhart Lumber Company, Tellico Plains

Roost, Maryville

Hair and Nail Salons:

M Salon – Vonore – 423 884-3285

Voted Number one Salon the last five years – 1613 Hwy 411. A full service salon featuring Hair and skin care, Pedicures and manicures, waxing and massage. Also a Merle Norman distributor.

Kahite Nails – Vonore – 423-442-7020. Next to Food City on Hwy 411. Manicures, Fill ins and Pedicures by appointment or walk in.

Village Salon – 865-458-9332 – Tellico Village near the Marathon gas station

Salon Anew – 865-458-3960 next to Food Lion

Cuttin' Loose – 865-458-4588 next door to Sloan's Hardware, across the street from Food Lion