Happy Birthday America

D&S Travel Tours

2026

Catalog

Happy Birthday America

250 years old!

2026 Travel Adventure Catalog

704-864-0348

P. O. Box 2375

Gastonia, North Carolina 28053

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9am-6pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

Closed Sunday

Insure Your Tours for Your Protection

We are excited to announce that we now offer travelers insurance for each of our trips.

Travel Guard

To sign up for insurance contact Travel Guard at the following number or visit the website listed below for rates.

800-826-1300

www.travelguard.com

When calling, please reference account number 335176.

If you have any questions, call 704-864-0348

General Travel Information

Reservations: When you see a tour, you should make your reservations as soon as possible. Many tours fill up very fast and we can only accommodate so many travelers for each tour. We recommend booking trips as soon as possible.

How To Make a Reservation: Call our office at 704-864-0348. If you get our answering system, please leave a message with your name and phone number, which tour you are interested in, and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Securing Your Reservation: Mail your deposits with your name, address, phone number and which tour you are interested in and make checks out to D&S Travel Tours and mail your payments to PO Box 2375, Gastonia, NC 28053. You can also make reservations by Debit and Credit Cards by calling 704-864-0348. You can also view our catalog by visiting our website WWW.DSTRAVELTOURS.COM.

Tour deposits are required 21 days of making a reservation and deposit amounts vary from trip to trip. See tour information page for deposits and final payments. If a deposit is not received within 21 days, your seat will be canceled. One-day tours are also to be paid for in full 21 days after making a reservation.

Refund Policy: Our cancellation and refund policy varies from tour to tour. Please refer to the tour information page for specific refund information.

If you cancel a tour after the cutoff date, that money cannot be moved to another tour or refunded.

All Tours Include: Transportation by late model, wide body motor coaches equipped with restrooms, reclining seats, air conditioning, and video entertainment systems. Accommodation at first-class hotels, and all sightseeing tours and admissions as listed in the itinerary of each tour. Insure your tours to protect your investment.

What's Not Included:

- **Gratuities to Motor Coach Driver are $4 per person per day.**
- **Gratuities for any step on guides are not included in the tour price.**
- **Meals except for the ones listed in each tour itinerary.**
- **Personal expenses such as room or valet service and any other items of a personal nature.**

We are not responsible for itinerary changes that are outside our control.

Note: The use of alcoholic beverages and smoking, including electronic smoking devices are strictly prohibited on any of our motor coaches.

Luggage: Luggage is limited to (1) large sturdy bag and one carry-on bag per person. Your large piece of luggage should weigh no more than 46 pounds. Each passenger is responsible for all carry-on luggage. When available, we provide luggage handling for one large bag stowed under the bus.

Liability: D&S Travel Tours does not assume responsibility for loss of/or damaged luggage or any personal property. We are not responsible for any items you may leave on a motor coach. We are also not responsible for any injuries, expenses, or damage incurred or claimed by a tour member.

Cars Parked at Pickup Points: If you leave your vehicle parked at any of the pickup points while on a tour, please note D&S Travel or Above All Charters are NOT RESPONSIBLE for any damage that could occur while the vehicle is left in any of these lots.

Motor Coach Seating: Seats are not assigned and are on a first-come basis. Seats are not reserved for tour members unless there is a medical issue we know about in advance. We only have (4) rows of seats on each side of the bus we can reserve. The first rows on each side are for D&S Staff members only. Rows 2-4 can be reserved for travelers with medical issues only and must be reserved at sign up in advance NO EXCEPTIONS. We do have stops for restroom breaks and WE DO NOT ROTATE SEATS at D&S Travel.

If you require assistance on a tour,

YOU MUST HAVE A TRAVEL COMPANION

*with you that can assist you with all your needs. The staff of D&S Travel Tours or the motor coach drivers are **NOT** allowed to assist once you are off the bus.*

D&S Travel Tours

Please take a moment to read this special message from the owner of D&S Travel Tours!

What a wonderful year we have had in 2025, and we thank all of our wonderful customers for making it possible and we are anticipating a great 2026 as we celebrate our country's 250th anniversary. It is exciting to live in this wonderful country and that we have been a part of its many years of existence. We pray that we will continue to be the most admired country in the world. Let's pray God's blessing on our Nation and we are excited to offer some tours celebrating our country's birthday.

We want to thank all of our great customers that travel with us year after year, and we have welcomed hundreds of new customers in 2025. Please know how much we appreciate each of you, not only for your business, but for your friendship. We always try to treat you like family and not just a customer. Please know you are loved by our entire staff.

I also want to thank my entire staff that have made this past year possible. Thanks to Tina, Chris, Ellen, Dot, Ann, and Lesa who make all things possible. None of this could have been done without you.

Also, a great thank you to our driver Dale Hanson with Above All Charter who gets us to all our wonderful destinations.

Welcome all to our 2026 tour year.

Sincerely,

Doug Ritch – owner of D&S Travel Tours

D & S Travel Show

Saturday, January 17, 2026

First Assembly of God Church

777 Myrtle School Road

Gastonia, North Carolina 28052

DOORS WILL NOT OPEN UNTIL 9:30AM!!

The show will be held in the Family Life Center in the back parking lot of the church from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Come, bring your friends, and spend the day.

Sign up for the 2026 tours and receive a 2% discount on all tours when you sign up that day excluding International Tours. Discounts do not apply if you are not at the travel show.

A free lunch will be served, and we will have some entertainment as well. No need to make reservations.

We will be drawing for prizes off and on all day and you must be present to win.

Please bring your own 2026 catalog to the show since catalogs will be scarce at the show.

If you have any questions, please call Doug Ritch at 704-864-0348. See you at the show!

The Florida Circle Tour & Key West
February 22 – March 1, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

February 22 – This morning, we will head for Sunny Florida. We will travel through South Carolina and Georgia arriving in the St. Augustine area for the night.

February 23 – Breakfast at the hotel is included this morning. We will visit the Historic Fountain of Youth, known as the place, where Ponce DeLeon discovered the healing water that could help maintain a youthful appearance. Next, we visit the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum. Late in the afternoon we check into our hotel in Fort Lauderdale. Here, we will board the Jungle Queen Riverboat. We have a 45-minute sightseeing experience and then we hop off the boat and enjoy a tropical island experience and featuring the "Ignite the Night" Polynesian show including a wonderful all-you-can-eat BBQ dinner. After all this excitement, we will return to the marina.

February 24 – Breakfast is included at the hotel and then we will head to Miami. On arrival, we will visit the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. This is an elaborate 72-room Italian style villa with a collection of European furnishings and art. After our visit here, we leave Miami and enjoy a spectacular drive across the Florida Keys. We will spend 2 nights in Key West.

February 25 – We will begin our day with an included breakfast at the hotel and then board the Conch Tour Train for a tour of this incredible place. Our next event is a glass bottom boat tour over the coral reef. There will be free time for shopping and dinner tonight is included. After dinner, we take our place at Mallory Square to watch the sunset.

February 26 – Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we must return to the mainland of Florida. We will go through a portion of the Everglades. We will visit Gator Park in the heart of the Everglades National Park. We will see a wildlife show and see the power of these gators. We will also take an exciting Airboat Swamp Tour spotting alligators along the way. Tonight, we will stay overnight in Fort Myers.

February 27 – We will have an included breakfast at the hotel and this morning we visit the home of Thomas Eddison. This is a museum with a great collection of exhibits telling the history of electric light. Our next stop is Sarasota. Here, we will visit the Ringling Museum of the Circus. This is a collection of the circus wagons, costumes, and so much circus history from Roman Times to present. From here, we travel to Tampa for the night and dinner will be included at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City.

February 28 – This morning, we enjoy our included breakfast at the hotel, and we depart Tampa. In route, we will make a stop at the Stetson Mansion in DeLand, Florida. This beautiful mansion was built in 1886 by George T. Pearson. It's a blend of Cottage, Gothic, Tudor, Moorish, and Polynesian design and the gardens are beautiful. Our next stop is Box Tower Gardens. The gardens are amazing, and we visit the majestic Bell Tower. From here, we will travel to Daytona Beach for our last night. A farewell dinner will be included here.

March 1 – Enjoy your included breakfast at the hotel and then we must board our motor coach. We should arrive home early in the evening.

Total cost of this tour per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$2,229.00	$2,012.00	$1,799.00	$2,992.00

A $200.00 deposit is due when you sign up and there are no refunds or cancellations after January 5, 2026.

Broadway is back in Charlotte at the Belk Theater!

Activity Level 1-6 is a 2

The Belk Theater in Charlotte has announced its 2026 season and D&S Travel is going to take you there to see the best Broadway—we have the best seats in the house!

Riverdance 30: The New Generation

Ovens Auditorium
Saturday, February 14, 2026
2:00pm Show

Riverdance is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a special "Riverdance 30 – The New Generation Tour. The tour features a reimagining of the original show with new choreography, costumes, and state-of-the-art lighting, projection, and motion graphics. A new generation of performers, many of whom were not born when the show premiered, are also part of the production. For theater fans, this show is not to be missed!

Cost of this tour is $212.00 per person and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after December 14, 2025.

<u>This tour includes the following:</u>

- Motor coach transportation
- Reserved seats for the show
- Dinner after the show

<u>Departure Times:</u>
11:30am Hickory Big Lots parking lot
11:50am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware upper parking lot
12:30pm Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

MJ The Musical

The Michael Jackson Musical

The Belk Theater
Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:00pm Show

MJ, the Tony Award winning musical, brings music, moves, and the story of Michael Jackson to the stage. The musical delves into Jackson's preparation for the Dangerous World Tour offering a glimpse into his process, rehearsals and pressures he faced. The show incorporates many of Jackson's iconic hits, including songs from his Jackson 5 days, his early career, and albums like, Bad, Dangerous, and Thriller.

Total cost of this trip is $229.00 per person and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after December 28, 2025.

<u>This trip includes the following:</u>

- Motor coach transportation
- Reserved seats for the show
- Dinner after the show

<u>Departure Times:</u>
11:30am Hickory in Big Lots parking lot
11:50am Lincolnton in Lowes Hardware upper parking lot
12:30pm Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Mamma Mia

The Belk Theater
Saturday, April 4, 2026
2:00pm Show

Mama Mia! is a Juke Box musical written by Catherine Johnson, featuring the music of Abba. The story revolves around Sophie, a young woman on a Greek island who, on the eve of her wedding, invites three men from her mother Donna's past back to the island, hoping to discover which one is her father.

The show features iconic songs of Abba, including "Dancing Queen," "The Winner Takes All", and "Mama Mia". This show will have you dancing in the aisles.

Total cost of this trip is $219.00 per person when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after February 4, 2026.

<u>This trip includes the following:</u>

- Motor coach transportation
- Reserved seats for the show
- Dinner after the show

<u>Departure Times:</u>
11:30am Hickory in Big Lots parking lot
11:50am Lincolnton in Lowes Hardware upper parking lot
12:30pm Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

The Great Gatsby

The Belk Theater
Saturday, October 17, 2026
2:00pm Show

The party is roaring on at the Great Gatsby, the Tony-winning musical that brings the classic novel to the stage. Party like it's the 1920's at this fun, glorious musical. It tells the story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan who is a wealthy young woman whom he loved in his youth, so pop the bottles, put on your flapper dresses and pinstripe suits and lets party, party, party. We will live the roaring 20's all over again.

Total cost of this trip is $222.00 per person and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after August 17, 2026.

<u>This trip includes the following:</u>

- Motor coach transportation
- Reserved seats for the show
- Dinner after the show

<u>Departure Times:</u>
11:30am Hickory in Big Lots parking lot
11:50am Lincolnton in Lowes Hardware upper parking lot
12:30pm Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Notes

Brand New Tour
The Maggie Valley Ice Festival
Maggie Valley, North Carolina
Saturday, January 31, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

Late in the morning we will head to Maggie Valley for a new tour with D&S Travel. After our pickups, we will travel to Asheville where we will have lunch included at J&S Cafeteria. After our lunch, we will visit Biltmore Village for some shopping, and our next stop is Maggie Valley. Join us at the Maggie Valley Ice Extravaganza, part of the Visit Haywood Ice Fest Weekend! Marvel at the mesmerizing live ice carving demos as talented artists transform frozen blocks into jaw-dropping works of art. Feel the rush as you slide down the ice slide and test your skills in ice games like ice cornhole and ice ping pong. Your favorite Frozen characters will also be making a return appearance, adding an extra touch of magic to the festivities. As night falls, be dazzled by our incredible fire dancers lighting up the winter sky with their fiery performances. Looking for a souvenir to take home? Shop at local vendor tents while indulging in delicious bites from food trucks. And when you need a break, enjoy the warming tents or s'mores by the fire. What a new experience this will be.

Price per person is $99.00 and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations will be accepted after January 15, 2026.

<u>Departure Times</u>

9:00 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
9:20 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
10:00 and Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
10:40 am Shelby at Ingles grocery store

The Greenville Theatre in
Greenville, South Carolina
Presents
The incredible Broadway musical
"Fiddler on the Roof"
March 21, 2026, 2:00 pm Show
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

Fiddler on the Roof is a musical with music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and book by Joseph Stein, set in the Pale of Settlement of Imperial Russia in or around 1995. It is based on "Tevye the Dairyman" and other short stories by Sholem Aleichem. The story centers on Tevye, a milkman in the village of Anatevka, who attempts to maintain his Jewish traditions as outside influences encroach upon his family's lives. He must cope with the strong-willed actions of his three older daughters who wish to marry for love; their choices of husbands are successively less palatable for Tevye. An edict of the tsar eventually evicts the Jews from their village. With great musical numbers as "If I Were a Rich Man," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," "Sunrise, Sunset," and "Do You Love Me?" This show is sure to please any theatre clients.

Don't miss this incredible show!

Total cost per person is $149.00 and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after March 1, 2026.

<u>Departure Times</u>

8:30 am Hickory in Big Lots Parking lot
8:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
9:30 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Centre Stage Theatre
Greenville, South Carolina
Saturday, March 28, 2026
7:30pm Show
Activity Level 1-6 is a 2
A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder the Broadway Musical

Get ready for a murderous good time in A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder, the uproarious Tony Award-winning musical that will have you laughing from start to finish! When Monty Navarro learns he is the heir to a vast fortune, there's just one problem-there are eight relatives standing in his way. With wit, charm, and a bit of dark humor, Monty embarks on a devious plan to eliminate the competition, all while navigating a tangled web of romance, betrayal, and comedy.

Featuring memorable songs like "I've Decided to Marry You" and "The Last One You'd Expect," this show offers a delightful mix of clever lyrics, high energy performances, and over-the-top comedy. Winner of four Tony Awards, including best musical, it's a perfect blend of wit, whimsy and a dash of murder.

Total cost of this trip is $139.00 per person, and full payment is due when you sign up and there are no refunds or cancellations after March 1, 2026.

<u>This trip includes the following:</u>
1. Motor coach transportation
2. Dinner before the show
3. Reserve seats at the theater

<u>Departure Times:</u>
2:30pm Hickory at Big Lots Parking Lot off Hwy 70
2:50pm Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware in the upper parking lot
3:30pm Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Parade of Nations
&
The Virginia International Tattoo
April 17 – 19, 2026
Norfolk, Virginia
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 5

Every year the city of Norfolk welcomes guests from all over the world to HONOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION. (NATO) This is a week-long celebration.

We will check into our hotel for a (2) night stay and tonight we head to the Scope Arena and take our seats for the Virginia International Tattoo. This is an event you will never forget. This musical extravaganza with precision marching bands, massed pipe and drums, dancers, singers, and so much more. You come out of the arena saying WOW!

Day two, we will have breakfast at the hotel that is included and then we take our reserved seats for the "Parade of Nations" featuring international floats, marching bands, etc. and after the parade, we will visit the international village. You will visit the different nations and stroll the streets and shop with the venders and merchants. Hold on, this afternoon we visit the beautiful Norfolk Botanical Gardens where we take a tram tour of this beautiful place. Tonight, a wonderful dinner is included.

Day three, we will enjoy our breakfast included at the hotel and this morning we will visit the Military Aviation Museum which is home to the largest collection of WWI and WWII Military Aircraft. Lunch is included on the beach before we depart home.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$699.00	$649.00	$629.00	$829.00

A $100.00 deposit is required when you sign up, and the balance is due March 17, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times:

- 6:30am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot off Hwy 70
- 6:50am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware in the upper lot
- 7:30am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
Columbia, South Carolina
Saturday, May 2, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

This morning, we depart, headed to the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, South Carolina. Riverbanks Zoo and Garden is home to nearly 3,000 animals that represent more than 350 species from around the world. A visit to the Zoo will play host to an array of wild adventures from a diving expedition on a Pacific coral reef to a safari through the plains of Africa to an interactive Outback encounter with a flock of sociable lorikeets. The Botanical Garden boasts 70-acres of unparalleled beauty and is considered one of America's best public gardens. Dramatic and themed gardens showcase more than 4,300 species of native and exotic plants, providing a living classroom for gardeners and non-gardeners alike. The Garden also is the gateway to natural river views and spectacular valley over looks. In addition, guests can view structural remains dating back to the early 1800's with South Carolina's textile industry and the Civil War. Dinner is included in the area after our visit.

The cost of this tour is $129.00 per person per adult and $109.00 per child 12 and under. Full payment is due when you sign up and there are no refunds or cancellations after April 15, 2026.

<u>Departure Times:</u>

- 7:30am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
- 7:50am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
- 8:30am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical
Saturday, May 9, 2026
Spartanburg, South Carolina
2:30pm Show
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 2

Her journey was extraordinary as her music, at eighteen, Carole King wrote number one songs for Aretha Franklin and the Drifters. At twenty-nine, she was the voice of a generation. The road along the way was full of love, heartbreak, and self-discovery. It wasn't always perfect, but it was real and that's what made it beautiful. A smash hit on Broadway and London's West End, this soaring and inspiring musical features two decades of King's hits, including "You've Got a Friend," (You make me feel like) "A Natural Woman," and "I Feel the Earth Move."

Total cost of this trip per person is $139.00. Full payment is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after April 9, 2026.

Trip includes:

- Motorcoach transportation
- Lunch before the show
- Reserved seats at the theatre

Departure Times:

10:15am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
10:40am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
11:15am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Spirit of Knoxville Riverboat
Gospel Cruise

Knoxville, Tennessee
Thursday, May 14, 2026
The Inspirations and The Chuck Wagon Gang in concert!
Activity Level 1 - 6 is a 3

This morning, we will head to Knoxville, Tennessee via I-40 through the beautiful mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. On arrival, we will board the Spirit of Knoxville Riverboat for a cruise along the river. Lunch will be included on the tour and the gospel concert.

The Chuck Wagon Gang was formed in 1935 as a country gospel music group and continue as one of the most popular gospel groups still bring gospel music to millions of fans.

The Inspirations are one of the best award-winning gospel quartets touring today. They won every major award at the 2025 National Quartet Convention, such as Favorite Artist & Favorite Quartet. You wouldn't want to miss this seeing this extraordinary group.

The concert on the boat is from 3:00pm – 5:00pm and we will return home late in the evening.

Total cost per person is $149.00 and full payment is due when you sign up and there are no refunds or cancellations after April 20, 2026.

<u>Trip includes the following:</u>

- Motor coach transportation
- Lunch on the Riverboat
- Gospel music concert

<u>Departure Times</u>
9:00am Hickory at Big Lots
8:30am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
8:00am Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Springtime in Charleston

May 18 – 20, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

Day One: This morning, we will board our coach to beautiful Charleston, South Carolina. We will arrive in town early in the afternoon and plan to visit the Magnolia Plantation and Gardens which give us a beautiful look back in history. After our visit here, we will check into our hotel and then dinner is included at one of Charleston's famous restaurants.

Day Two: Breakfast at the hotel is included this morning. We will pick up our step on guide for a tour of this historic city. After lunch (on your own), we will visit Boone Hall Plantation and Gardens. Many movies and TV shows have been filmed here just because of its beauty. Tonight, we will board the Spirit of Carolina Cruise Ship for a multi-course dinner. We will experience a beautiful sunset as we cruise Charleston Harbor, pass Fort Sumpter, and go beneath the Ravenel Bridge. What an evening this will be. We will return to our hotel after the cruise.

Day Three: We will have breakfast included at the hotel and then we will visit the city market to shop and then you will have lunch on your own. This afternoon, we will visit Middleton Place. After our visit here, we will head home arriving in the early evening.

Price per person is as follows:

Double	Triple	Quad	Single
$799.00	$749.00	$719.00	$899.00

A $100.00 deposit is due when you sign up, and final payment is due by April 16, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times

7:30 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
7:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
8:30 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Thomas Wolfe Memorial
The Gardens at the North Carolina Arboretum
Asheville, North Carolina
Thursday, May 21, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

This morning, we will depart our area and head to Asheville. On our arrival, we will visit the Thomas Wolfe Memorial. Thomas Wolfe left an indelible mark on American letters. His mother's boardinghouse in Asheville, North Carolina, now the Thomas Wolfe Memorial, has become one of literature's most famous landmarks. Named "Old Kentucky Home" by a previous owner, Wolfe immortalized the rambling Victorian structure as "Dixieland" in his epic autobiographical novel, Look Homeward, Angel. A classic of American literature book. After our visit here we will have an included lunch at Moose Café and then visit the famous market. Our next stop is the Gardens at The North Carolina Arboretum. Nestled in one of the most botanically diverse and beautiful natural settings in America, the North Carolina Arboretum contains 65 acres of cultivated gardens that delight the senses, pay tribute to the region's rich cultural heritage and reinforce the importance of plants to our world. Strolling through the Arboretum's gardens is a perfect way to reconnect with nature in a peaceful setting. Visit the information desk at the Baker Exhibit Center upon your arrival to learn more about the beauty and history that awaits. Visitors from across the world enjoy exploring the Arboretum's exhibits and gardens, including one of the finest, most unique bonsai collections in the United States.

Total cost per person is $119.00 and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after April 30, 2026.

<u>Departure Times</u>

7:00 am Hickory at Big Lots
7:20 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
8:00 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
8:40 am Shelby at Ingles grocery store on the far end of Shelby

Lockapalooza Cruise / Coal Mine Experience
Blennerhassett Island
June 19 – 21, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

Day One: This morning, we will travel North via I-77 enjoying the beautiful scenery as we travel. Early afternoon, we arrive in Beckley, West Virginia where we visit the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. You'll take a mine car into the mountain, riding on a track through a "drift" mine. Retired miners lead the tours, sharing their knowledge and personal experience about mining. After our visit here, we will head to Marietta, Ohio for a (2) night stay. Dinner is included tonight.

Day Two: This morning, we will head to the river and board the Valley Gem's Lockapalooza Cruise and travel through two different types of locks on two different rivers. Breakfast and lunch are included on board as we travel. Dinner will also be included tonight.

Day Three: Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we will board our coach and head home. First, we will visit Blennerhassett Island. We will board a riverboat to the island, and this is the scene of the Burr-Blennerhassett plot. You will find out the outcome of this shocking deed as we tour the mansion. We will also take a horse-drawn trolly to see the beauty of this Island. After our visit here, we will head home for a late evening arrival.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$659.00	$599.00	$569.00	$799.00

A $100.00 deposit is required when you sign up, and final payment is due by May 19, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Trip includes the following:

- Motorcoach transportation
- (2) nights lodging
- (2) Breakfast, (1) Lunch, (2) Dinner
- All attractions listed

Departure Times:

7:00am Hickory – Big Lots parking lot
7:20am Lincolnton – Lowes Hardware
8:10am Gastonia – Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Williamsburg, Virginia
June 23 – 25, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 5

This morning, we will travel towards Virginia as we head to Williamsburg. As we arrive in the area, we will visit Yorktown, which is a famous historic town and is the site of decisive American Revolutionary War victory in 1781. This is where General Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington. We will visit the museum to learn the history of the war. We will have a meal included before checking into our hotel for a (2) night stay.

Day Two: Breakfast is included at the hotel and then we will visit Colonial Williamsburg. This is the spot that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and others helped shape the foundations of the American Republic. You will visit many of the original buildings, shops, and homes that have been preserved to their formal appearance. We will also visit the Governor's Palace and dinner will be included this evening.

Day Three: We will enjoy our included breakfast at the hotel and then we will be off to visit Jamestown which was the first permanent English settlement in North America. We have the chance to board replicas of the ships these men braved the open seas. Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery and find what it was like to live in this time. We then visit the wonderful exhibits and learn our history from a film. We depart Jamestown and take the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry and then we will head home arriving late in the evening.

Total cost per person:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$629.00	$589.00	$569.00	$775.00

A $100.00 deposit is due when you sign up, and final payment is due by May 23, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Trip includes the following:

- Motor coach transportation
- (2) night lodging
- All attractions listed
- (2) B and (2) D

Departure Times:

6:30 am Hickory in Big Lots parking lot
6:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:30 am Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary

With

The Broadway Musical 1776

The Alliance Theatre in Winston-Salem, NC
Saturday, June 27, 2026
7:30pm Show
Activity Level 1 - 6 is a 2

Come with us as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth as the founding fathers come alive in 1776, the classic award-winning Broadway musical. Join John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson as they fight for independence against a deadlock Continental Congress in a retelling filled with humor, romance, pathos, and nail-biting tension. 1776 is not just a revolutionary musical, it's a captivating journey of what happened in Philadelphia. This show has great musical production numbers that will make us so proud to be born in America. Don't miss this great musical. We will have dinner included in the area before the show.

Total cost if this trip is $139.00 per person, and full payment is due when you sign up and no cancellations or refunds after May 27, 2026.

<u>Trip includes the following:</u>

- Motor coach transportation
- Dinner before the show
- Reserved seats at the theatre

<u>Departure Times:</u>

- 2:30pm Hickory at Big Lots parking lot off Hwy 70
- 2:50pm Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware in the upper lot
- 3:30pm Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

The Happy Birthday America Tour
250th America Celebration
June 30 – July 5, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 5

Day One: This morning, we begin our salute to America tour headed to Charlottesville, Virginia to visit Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. He was the 3rd President of the United States. We will have a guided tour of the home, visit the gardens and always have time to shop. From here, we will drive to Mount Jackson, Virginia for the night.

Day Two: Breakfast is included at the hotel this morning. We will visit Route 11 Potato Chip Factory. Here we will see how their chips are made. We just might get an amazing fry-viewing experience. Our next stop is the American Celebration on Parade. You will not believe this museum! This is a 40,000 square foot parade float museum from Thanksgiving Day parades, Presidential Inaugural parades, Rose parade, and many more. Our guide will share the history of these incredible floats. After our visit here, we will head for Gettysburg, PA. On arrival, we will take a guided tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield where we hear about the battle that took place. After our tour, we visit the Eisenhower National Historic Site and the home of Dwight Eisenhower who was our 34th President and his wife Mamie. After our visit here, we will check into our hotel in Gettysburg.

Day Three: We will enjoy our included breakfast at the hotel and get ready to visit the Gettysburg Museum, see the film and experience Cyclorama. Lunch is included here and then we head to Washington D.C. arriving early in the afternoon. This afternoon we will visit Arlington Cemetery and the Iwo Jima, US Airforce Memorial and the 911 Pentagon Memorial. Dinner is included tonight before we check into our hotel.

Day Four: After we have our breakfast included at the hotel, we will visit the White House, Capital Building, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, WWII Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Korean Memorial, Martin Luther King Memorial and FDR Memorial. Dinner is included at another great restaurant.

Day Five: Breakfast is included at the hotel and today is your free day. We will let you off in the National Mall area at the Smithsonian Institute. You can visit the American History, Natural History, National Air and Space, American Indian, National Gallery of Art, plus the Spy Museum and the Museum on the Bible which are all in walking distance. Tonight, there will be a huge firework celebration at the National Mall.

Day Six: After we have our breakfast included at the hotel, we must depart the hotel, but we have one more stop and that is Mount Vernon that is the home of George Washington. We will return home late in the evening.

Total cost of this trip per person is the following:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$1,659.00	$1,489.00	$1,379.00	$1,999.00

A $300.00 deposit is due when you sign up, and the final payment is due by May 15, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

ONLY ONCE IN A LIFETIME WILL WE CELEBRATE THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF OUR COUNTRY!

Departure Times
6:30 am Hickory at Big Lots
6:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:30 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Beehive The Broadway Musical

Centre Stage in Greenville, SC
Saturday, July 11, 2026
7:30pm Show
Activity Level 1 - 6 is a 2

Step back in time and relive the unforgettable sounds of the 1960's with Beehive: The 60's musical, a high-energy celebration of the iconic women who defined the era's music. From Aretha Franklin to The Supremes, this toe-tapping, hand-clapping musical brings you the unforgettable hits like "Baby," and "Downtown."

With a dynamic ensemble of powerhouse voices and live music, Beehive takes you on a journey through the social and cultural revolution of the 60's, as these incredible songs chart the rise of female empowerment, love, and freedom. Featuring vibrant costumes, dazzling choreography, and some of the most recognizable tunes of the era, this show is a joyous celebration of music that defined a generation. Audiences will be swept away by the energy and uplifting performances, live band, and timeless music. Whether you're a die-hard fan of the 60's or discovering these classic songs for the first time, you'll find yourself dancing and singing along to the sounds that still resonate today.

Total cost of this trip is $139.00 per person, and full payment is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after June 12, 2026.

<u>Trip includes the following:</u>

- Motor coach transportation
- Dinner before the show
- Reserved seats at the theatre

<u>Departure Times:</u>
2:30pm Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
2:50pm Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware in the upper parking lot
3:30pm Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Virginia Creeper Trail
Damascus, Virginia
July 14, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 6

In the heart of Damascus, you will find the Virginia Creeper Trail. This is one of the most famous biking trails in the United States. We will take a shuttle to the top enjoying the beautiful scenic side back down through the forest from Whitetop Station. It's a bicycle ride down the trail for 16 miles. You go at your own speed and enjoy the site. **Pack you a picnic lunch and put it into a backpack and stop along the way to enjoy.** Halfway down there is a welcome center for restrooms and food. What a great way to spend a summer day. Late in the afternoon we will have an included dinner at the Old Mill Inn in Damascus. We will return home late in the evening.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST BE ABLE TO RIDE A BIKE TO COME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN.

Total cost of this tour is $159.00 per person and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after July 1, 2026.

<u>Departure Times</u>

7:30 am Hickory at Big Lots
7:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
8:30 am at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Mystery Tour

Friday, July 17, 2026
The Whistle While You Can Tour
$129.00 Per Person
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

- We will not leave North Carolina
- You will enter a rural area
- View an outstanding display
- Shop in a beautiful historic town
- Good for all ages 4 to 104
- Dinner is included this afternoon

Full payment is due when you sign up and there are no refunds or cancellations after July 1, 2026.

<u>Departure Times:</u>
6:00am Hickory at Big Lots
6:20am LincoInton at Lowes Hardware
7:00am Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

A Day in West Jefferson, North Carolina
Saturday, July 18, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

This morning, we will head to the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. You will experience beautiful scenery, cool mountain breezes and be a part of history. We will visit Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to see the famous Fresco Paintings. These paintings were done by Ben Long who studied under a Florentine Master. We then will visit downtown West Jefferson where you will have time to shop, have some lunch on your own and visit the Ashe County Cheese, the best cheese in North Carolina. After our visit here, we will stop at Welch's Produce to shop for fruits and vegetables that are grown in the area. We will return home early in the evening.

Total cost of this trip is $79.00 per person and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after July 10, 2026.

<u>Departure Times</u>

8:30 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
9:00 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
9:30 am Hickory at Big Lots

The Georgia Aquarium and Safari
July 20 - 21, 2026
Activity Level 1 - 6 is a 4

Day One: Today we will head to Atlanta, Georgia for a wonderful adventure at the world's largest aquarium. The aquarium has 10 million gallons of water and over 100,000 animals and you will see things like never before. You must take in the Dolphin Tales Show. This is a performance with dolphins and human actors like you have never seen before. You will see animals here you cannot see anywhere else. Our next stop is the World of Coca-Cola. Here we will learn the history of Coke, and you will be able to sample different kinds of Coke from around the world. A buffet dinner is included tonight at Mary Mac's Tea Room. We will check into our hotel for the night.

Day Two: Breakfast will be included at the hotel and then we head to Madison, Georgia for a lifetime experience at the Georgia Safari Conservation Park. Prepare for a journey you will never forget as we board our Safari Trucks for a guided tour of this animal farm. You will come face to face with giraffes, antelopes, zebras, and all kinds of animals roaming around. This place is a real treat for all ages. After our visit here, we will head home arriving late evening.

Total cost per person:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$459.00	$439.00	$419.00	$569.00

Children 12 and under are ½ price when rooming with (2) full paying adults.

A $100.00 deposit per person is due when you sign up and final payment is due by June 19, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times

6:30 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
6:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:30 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Love Me Tender Tour

Memphis, Tennessee
Down Memory Lane Tour with Elvis
July 29 – August 2, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

WELCOME ABOARD THE ELVIS EXPRESS!

Day One: This morning, we begin our day heading to beautiful Tennessee. Arriving in the Knoxville area, we will visit the Museum of Appalachia, a living history museum that teaches about pioneers and how they lived in the early 20th century. A wonderful lunch is included here and after we visit here, we will travel to Jackson, Tennessee for the night.

Day Two: We will enjoy our breakfast included at the hotel and then we will board our coach and head to Memphis. On arrival, our first stop is in Graceland where we will visit and tour Elvis' mansion. We will see thousands of artifacts including Gold and Platinum albums, see his dazzling costumes, cars, motorcycles, awards, and so much more. Step aboard his private jet, The Lisa Marie. You will have all afternoon to enjoy this incredible site. After our visit here, we will check into the Guest House Hotel for a (2) night stay. A buffet dinner is included tonight. You are on your own tonight to enjoy this beautiful hotel.

Day Three: Come down to enjoy our included breakfast buffet at the hotel and this morning we visit the Rock N' Soul Museum about the birth of Rock and Soul music. Next, we visit and tour Sun Studios, the birthplace of Rock N' Roll and home to the "Million Dollar Quartet". This afternoon we will pick up our tour guide for a personal tour of Memphis. We will visit the famous Peabody Hotel. Tonight, dinner is included at one of the Jazz Clubs on Beale Street. We return to our hotel for the night.

Day Four: A great breakfast is included at the hotel this morning and then we must board our coach and head to Nashville. On arrival – HOLD ON NOW – we will check into Dolly Parton's "Song Teller Hotel" in downtown Nashville. The hotel is as unique as the global icon herself. It is in the heart of it all. It's not just a hotel; it's an experience you will never forget.

Day Five: We will enjoy our breakfast included at the hotel and then we will tour some sites in Nashville before heading home.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$1,139.00	$1,070.00	$996.00	$1,599.00

A $200.00 deposit is required when you sign up, and final payment is due by July 15, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

The trip includes the following:

- Motor coach transportation
- (4) nights' lodgings
- All attractions listed
- (4) B, (1) L, (3) D

Departure Times:

6:00am Hickory at Big Lots
6:20am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:00am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
7:40am Shelby at Ingles Grocery Store on the far side of Shelby

Mission Trip to Chimney Rock
Wednesday, August 5, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

If you grew up in this area, you have known about Lake Lure and Chimney Rock your whole life and it has been a part of our lives for many years and now they need our help!

In 2023, we know what happened when Hurricane Helene came through and destroyed this area and they are trying to get back on their feet.

We are taking a bus, and we will visit and go up to the Rock itself and experience the beautiful scenery. After the Rock, we will have lunch included at one of the restaurants. After lunch, we will visit the downtown area to shop and just buy some mountain products and let these people know we care. What a way to spend the day helping others in need.

Total cost per person is $79.00 and is due when you sign up. This will take care of the admission tickets to the Rock and lunch and then help with fuel for the bus. Once you pay, there are no refunds or cancellations (7) days prior to departure. (56) Seats are waiting to be filled!

<u>Departure Times</u>

8:00 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
8:20 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
9:00 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Guys and Dolls
The Broadway Musical

Saturday, August 8, 2026
3:00pm Show
Mill Town Players in Pelzer, SC
Activity Level 1 - 6 is a 2

“Guys and Dolls” is a classic Broadway musical about New York City gamblers and the women who love them. The story centers on two main couples, Nathan Detroit, a craps game organizer, and his long-suffering fiancée Adelaide, and the suave gambler Sky Masterson, who makes a bet that he can take a prim Salvation Army missionary, Sarah Brown, to Havana. The musical explores themes of love, redemption and the clash between vice and virtue.

The musical features iconic songs like “Luck Be a Lady,” “Sit Down”, “You’re Rockin’ the Boat,” and “I’ve Never Been in Love Before,” and many more incredible numbers.

Total cost of this trip is $139.00 per person, and full payment is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after July 9, 2026.

Trip includes the following:

- Motor coach transportation
- Lunch before the show
- Reserved seats at the theatre

Departure Times:
8:30am Hickory in Big Lots parking lot
8:50am Lincolnton in Lowes Hardware upper lot
9:30am Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili’s Restaurant

Salute to America Tour
Iowa State Fair
August 15 – 24, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

Day One: We will depart our area and travel to Knoxville, Tennessee to visit the Museum of Appalachian, a living history museum that teaches us how the pioneers lived back in the 20th century. Lunch is included here and then we head to southern Kentucky for the night.

Day Two: Breakfast will be included at the hotel, and our first stop is the Abe Lincoln birthplace in Hodgenville, Kentucky. Here you will visit the birthplace and boyhood home of our 16th President of the United States. From here, we will travel to Louisville, Kentucky where we will visit Churchill Downs and the Slugger Museum where baseball bats are made. Tonight, we then check into the beautiful Galt House Hotel in downtown Louisville. Dinner is included here tonight.

Day Three: This morning, we will enjoy our breakfast included at the hotel and then we will depart for Louisville and head to Santa Claus, Indiana. On arrival we will visit the Santa Claus Christmas Store, one of the largest in the country, plus visit the Santa Museum and Village, the Santa Church, and Post Office. After our visit here, we head to St. Louis, Missouri. Tonight, we board the Skyline Dinner Cruise Ship for a cruise through downtown St. Louis. The scenery is just wonderful, and we will overnight in St. Louis.

Day Four: Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we leave St. Louis but first, we visit the Ulysses S. Grant Natural Historic Site. Here, we will learn about this famous General and how he became our 18th President of the United States. Our next stop is the Mark Twain boyhood home and museum. Here we tour the entire campus, offering an unforgettable journey through the life, stories, and legacy of one of America's most celebrated authors. After our visit here, we head to Des Moines, Iowa, and check into our hotel for a (2) night stay.

Day Five: Breakfast at the hotel is included and today, we visit the largest state fair in the country. As the nation approaches a landmark milestone, the Iowa State Fair is poised to play a part in the 250th anniversary—or semi quincentennial—of our Nation's founding. Get ready to show you "Fair Spirit" with a theme fit for a once-in-a-generation celebration. Reflecting on "The Spirit if Iowa "76," the 1976 Fair which marked America's bicentennial, the 2026 celebration will highlight our heritage, honor earlier generations and dream about the innovations that will shape our future. The Iowa State Fair is a tradition that unites Iowans from each corner of the state, as well as attracting visitors from around the world. Each year, Fairgoers come together to honor Iowa's tradition of state's celebration of America's semi quincentennial.

Day Six: We will have breakfast included at the hotel and we must check out of the hotel. We will be on our way to Minneapolis and stop at the Surf Ballroom and Museum. This ballroom holds a place in music history and is the site of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and JP the Big Bopper Richardson's last concert. We will have a guided tour here and lunch will be included. Later today we visit the crash site of the plane where they died. This afternoon, we will visit the Spam Museum. It's a cool and immersive experience! The museum offers many interactive ways to explore the history of Spam, with lots of engaging stories throughout. The gift shop is adorable—you might easily find yourself tempted to buy more souvenirs than you planned. Sometimes, the staff even brings out samples of Spam for visitors to try. After our visit here, we will travel to Bloomington, Minnesota. We will check into our hotel at the Mall of America for a (2) night stay.

Day Seven: Today you are on your own all-day shopping with over 500 stores and all kinds of entertainment. You can choose from over 50 restaurants plus the amusement rides and even an aquarium.

Day Eight: Breakfast is on your own at the hotel or at the mall and we must depart and start to head for home. Our journey today takes us to Roscoe, Illinois to the Historic Auto Attraction. Tucked away you will find a place called Historic Auto Attractions, and it is far from your ordinary roadside tourist stop. Wayne Lensing, best known for Lefthander Chassis race cars, has amassed what is probably the most incredible private collection of famous cars and artifacts in the entire world outside of the Smithsonian Institute. He started with a Cadillac once owned by Howard Hughes that fueled an unstoppable snowfall that includes obscure cars like Miss Belvedere, the 1957-time capsule car from Tulsa! Wayne has under one roof a vehicle owned or used by almost every US President since cars were invented (like Ronald Regan's Cadillac limousine and even Ulysses S. Grant's Carriage). He has cars of Soviet Union leaders like Josef Stalin, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Nikolai Khruschev. You can also find one of Elvis Presley's cars alongside pieces of James Dean's Porsche. He also has John F. Kennedy's Security Service Cadilliac "Queen Mary" that was directly behind his 1963 Lincoln Continental in the final motorcade with an entire section of the massive facility dedicated to Kennedy's personal items and artifacts relating to some of the most significant events in modern world history. We will stay overnight in Merryville, Indiana.

Day Nine: Breakfast will be included at the hotel and then we will travel to Indianapolis where we will tour the Indianapolis Racetrack. Our next stop is the Benjamin Harrison Presidential site the 23rd President of the United States. After our visit here we will travel to Georgetown, Kentucky for the night.

Day Ten: Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we will head home arriving early in the evening.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$2,199.00	$1,989.00	$1,829.00	$2,999.00

A $300.00 deposit is required when you sign up, and final payment is due by July 1, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times

6:00 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
6:20 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:00 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
7:40 am Shelby at Ingles grocery store on the far side of Shelby

Trapp Family Lodge Vermont Adventure

September 12 – 19, 2026

Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 5

Day One: This morning, we begin our fall tour to New England. We will travel north today, and we will spend the night in upper Maryland.

Day Two: Breakfast will be included at the hotel and mid-morning finds us approaching Liberty State Park. We will take a boat ride to the Statue of Liberty. You will visit the Statue and Ellis Island. We will depart from New York City and overnight in Albany.

Day Three: We will enjoy an included breakfast at the hotel and our first stop is the Robert Todd Lincoln's mansion in Manchester, Vermont. Our next stop is the Vermont Country Store where you can find those hard-to-find items. We will arrive in Stowe for a 3-night stay.

Day Four: Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we will then begin our day at Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. We will tour the plant, get some samples, and enjoy the gift shop. Next, we will visit the Mores Farm Maple Sugar Works, sample maple syrup being made in a beautiful setting. We then visit Cabot Creamery and see cheese being made and really enjoy some samples. Our last stop is the Rock of Ages Quarries Factory and gift shop. Dinner is included tonight.

Day Five: Breakfast at the hotel is included and we will begin with a gondola ride to the top of the Stowe Mountain and then we visit the Trapp Family Lodge and enjoy lunch here. "The Sound of Music" is the most popular movie musical ever made, and it was about the Von Trapp Family singers and when they were on tour in 1939, they discovered Stowe, Vermont and just stayed in the area. It reminded them of their home in Austria they had left behind. We hope we can meet the granddaughter of Maria Von Trapp for a sit down as she tells us what Maria was really like. After our visit here, we discover downtown Stowe, and dinner is included tonight.

Day Six: We will enjoy our breakfast included at the hotel and then begin our day in Burlington, Vermont where we visit the Shelburne Museum with 25 buildings and even include a 3,500-piece miniature circus. This is a museum like no other. We will also visit an incredible Christmas store and have time to visit downtown Burlington. Tonight, we will enjoy a dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen on Lake Champagne. A full dinner is served as we cruise the beautiful lake. We return to the hotel for the night.

Day Seven: Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we must depart Vermont headed for home. We will spend our last night in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Day Eight: We will enjoy our breakfast included at the hotel and before departing, we must visit Hershey's Chocolate World. After our visit here, we depart and head home arriving late in the evening.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$1,999.00	$1,889.00	$1,799.00	$2,389.00

A $200.00 deposit is required when you sign up, and final payment is due by July 29, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times:

7:00am Hickory at Big Lots
7:20am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware in the upper parking lot
8:00am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Joshua at the Sight and Sound Theater

Lancaster, Pennsylvania
October 2 – 4, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

Day One: We will enjoy a beautiful drive up into the Shenandoah Valley today arriving late afternoon in Lancaster, PA. We will check into our hotel, and a wonderful dinner buffet is included tonight.

Day Two: After our breakfast buffet included at the hotel, we will begin our day with a guided tour of the Amish countryside. Our local tour guide will share some personal stories of the Amish community, and we will have time to shop at some local markets and sample some of their local treats. We will have time for lunch (on your own) and shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village, and we will visit some other markets as time allows. This afternoon, we will have an Amish meal and then tonight we will take our seats at Sight and Sound Theatre for a production of Joshua. From the banks of the Jordan River to the towering walls of Jericho, JOSHUA is a miraculous adventure for the whole family. Journey alongside the people of Israel as they navigate their new-found freedom in an unforgiving wilderness. When Joshua is called to replace Moses as their faithful leader, tensions mount during dwindling supplies and approaching armies. With one last fortified city standing between the Israelites and the Promised Land, unexpected help emerges from behind enemy lines and Joshua's trust in God's plan is put to the ultimate test. Experience one if the most redemptive stories of the Bible as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theater. After the show we will return to the hotel.

Day Three: We will enjoy our breakfast included at the hotel and we must board our coach and head home, but we must stop at Chocolate World in Hershey. We will experience the chocolate tour ride and shop in the great store. We arrive home late in the evening.

Total cost per person:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$659.00	$639.00	$609.00	$844.00

A $100.00 deposit is due when you sign up and final payment is due by August 18, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times

6:15 am Hickory at Big Lots
6:40 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:15 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Amish Village Tour
Hamptonville, NC
Thursday, October 8, 2026
$98.00 per person
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 2

There is an Amish Village in North Carolina, and we are going. Our first stop is at the Moravian Cookie Company. Try some samples and then bring some home with you. Next, arriving in Hamptonville, we will visit the Amish Store (lunch is included here) and then time to shop for all their wonderful products. We will then visit the Amish Furniture Company, the Creamery where you are treated to ice cream, and visit the Nursery to buy some beautiful flowers. This is a great one-day trip.

The total cost of this trip is $98.00 per person and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations 15 days prior to departure.

<u>Departure Times</u>

7:30 am Hickory at Big Lots
7:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
8:30 am at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Autumn Leaves Festival

Mount Airy, North Carolina
Celebrating 60 wonderful years
Saturday, October 10, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

Join us as we travel to Mayberry for the 2026 Autumn Leaves Festival located in the heart of downtown Mount Airy. Here, there is something for every traveler. You will experience great music, arts, crafts, and great food. There will be plenty of vendors showcasing their great crafts for you to buy and bring home. There will be great blue grass and gospel music performed by local talent on the great stage.

A yearly event not to be missed!

Total cost per person is $99.00 and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after September 30, 2026.

<u>Departure Times:</u>

7:30am Hickory Big Lots parking lot
7:50am Lincolnton Lowes Hardware in the upper parking lot
8:30am Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Rock Hard Mystery Tour

October 15 - 16, 2026

Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

- We celebrate the birthplace of something great
- Overnight in a LARGE hotel
- You will see a famous sign
- You will visit a famous downtown
- A famous attraction will be waiting
- A full dinner is included
- Breakfast is included on day 2

NO NEED TO SAY MORE!

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	Triple	Quad	Single
$439.00	$417.00	$406.00	$499.00

A $100.00 deposit is due when you sign up, and final payment is due by April 10, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times:

7:00am Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
7:30am Lincolnton Lowes Hardware upper parking lot
8:00am Hickory Big Lots parking lot

Grandfather Mountain
Lunch at the Dan'l Boone Inn
Monday, October 19, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

This morning, we will depart and our first stop is near Blowing Rock at the Black Bear General Store. On arrival in Boone, we will visit Mast General Store and then lunch is included at the Dan'l Boone Inn. After this wonderful meal, we must make our way to Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina's top scenic attraction. We will be transported to the top where you can visit the Nature Museum, see the animals and it would not be a visit without a visit to the Mile High Swinging Bridge where the views are breathtaking. After our visit here we head home early in the evening.

Total cost per person is $139.00 and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after October 1, 2026.

Departure Times

8:00 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
8:45 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
9:00 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot

Mountain Music, Rails, and More

Elkin, West Virginia
October 22 – 24, 2026
The Gandy Dancer Theatre
Tygart Flyer Luncheon Train
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

Day One: This morning, we will head north to the beautiful West Virginia enjoying the incredible views along the way. We will stop for breakfast as we travel. On arrival in Elkin, we will check into our hotel for a (2) night stay. Tonight, we will take our seats at the Gandy Dancer Dinner Theatre. For the premier show, this show features music from the 50's to present day country, gospel, and patriotic music with family friendly comedy.

Day Two: Breakfast at the hotel is included and then we will board the New Tygart Flyer for an exciting ride through the beautiful West Virginia Mountain side with a scenic layover stop at the High Fall of Cheat. Lunch will be served on board the train. After this adventure, we will return to the hotel. Tonight, we will return to the Dinner Theatre for the Tribute to Musical Legends Show. This cast brings back memories from today and yesterday's favorite artist.

Day Three: We will enjoy our breakfast at the hotel that is included, and we will then board our motor coach for our return home.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$669.00	$649.00	$629.00	$859.00

A $100.00 deposit per person is due when you sign up and final payment is due by September 22, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

The Trip includes the following:

- Motor coach transportation
- (2) night hotels stay
- All attractions listed
- (2) B, (2) L, (2) D

Departure Times:

6:30am Hickory Big Lots parking lot
6:50am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:30am Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Christmas at the Opryland Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee
November 17 – 20, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

Day One: We depart this morning on our motor coach heading to Nashville, Tennessee. On arrival, we check into the beautiful Opryland Hotel. The hotel and grounds are decorated with over 5 million lights, 15,000 poinsettias, and hundreds of Christmas characters inside and outside the hotel. On arrival, we plan to have a staff member to have a meeting telling us about the hotel and what we all should see. A wonderful dinner is included tonight.

Day Two: Breakfast is included at the hotel and today you are free to discover this incredible place. We will take a tour on the Delta Riverboat through the hotel, and we have a set time to experience the Ice Attraction where (2) million pounds of ice is carved into Christmas characters. A Christmas dinner is scheduled tonight along with a great Christmas show. Tonight, we will explore outside and see the beautiful nativity plus there is time for some great shopping.

Day Three: We will enjoy our breakfast included at the hotel and then we board our bus for a visit to the Belle Meade Historic House. This is where we have a guided tour of the mansion and free time to explore the grounds. After our visit here, we visit the Parthenon in Athens. We also will take a tour of Nashville to see some famous sites. Dinner and a show tonight at the Ray Stevens Cabaret Show Room seeing Ray Stevens in person. After the show, we will return to the hotel.

Day Four: Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we must board our coach after experiencing one of the greatest Christmas tours around. We should return home late in the evening.

Cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$1,599.00	$1,429.00	$1,339.00	$1,999.00

A $200.00 deposit is due when you sign up, and final payment is due by October 1, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times
7:00 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
7:20 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
8:00 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
8:40 am Shelby at Ingles Grocery Store on the far side of Shelby

Tanglewood Festival of Lights

Saturday, November 21, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

Come with us to experience the **Tanglewood Festival of Lights**, the region's premiere holiday light shows with over two dozen lighted displays – many of them animated! As one of the nation's largest light shows, the Tanglewood Festival of Lights brings together holidays and park themes in a show of breathtaking proportions. You will travel a 2-mile track by seeing more than 150,000 lights. You will see a 15-foot Santa, elegant swans, a lighted train, toy soldiers, and much more. Halfway through we will stop at the Christmas market for refreshments and gifts. Tanglewood is one of North Carolina's favorite Christmas attractions.

Total cost per person:

- Adults - $89.00
- Children under 12 - $59.00

Payment is due when you sign up and there are no refunds or cancellations after November 10, 2026.

<u>Departure Times</u>
2:00 pm Hickory at Big Lots
2:20 pm Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
3:00 pm Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Christmas at the Grove Park Inn

In Asheville, North Carolina

National Gingerbread House Competition and Display

Monday, November 23, 2026

And

Monday, December 14, 2026

$154.00 per person

Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 5

Welcome aboard the Christmas Express as we travel to Asheville to the incredible Grove Park Inn. We will experience the greatest holiday buffet you can imagine and afterwards, you can enjoy the beautiful holiday displays and see the National Gingerbread House Competition and display. After all this, you just might want to relax by the high stone fireplace.

After our visit here, we will do some shopping in Biltmore Village before returning home. We will arrive home early in the evening.

Total price is due when you sign up and there are no refunds or cancellations 30 days prior to each trip.

Departure times for these tours will be advised 60 days prior to each tour.

Departure Times

To Be Determined

Christmas at Biltmore
Monday, November 30, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

Known as Asheville's #1 attraction, The Biltmore House celebrates Christmas in a grand style. The house is decorated in all its magic of the seasons. Beautiful trees, garlands of all kinds, bows, wreaths, poinsettias, and other kinds of beautiful decorations. This is simply a life-changing event!

On arrival at the house, lunch is included at the Stable Café and plenty of time to shop in the gift shops. We will also visit Antler Hill Village and the Winery.

Total cost per person is $229.00 and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after October 30, 2026.

Trip includes the following:

- Motor coach transportation
- Admission to the house and property
- Lunch at the Biltmore

<u>Departure Times</u>
8:00 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
8:20 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
9:00 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Christmas Mystery Tour

December 1 – 3, 2026

Christmas Magic is in the Air!

Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

- We will leave North Carolina
- You will experience Christmas Magic in a historic city
- You will experience decorated streets and store fronts
- A display with millions of lights
- A guided tour you will not forget
- Beautiful hotel and great meals
- You will experience an unusual display

Trust us, a mystery tour you will never forget!

Cost per person

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$599.00	$529.00	$509.00	$798.00

A $100.00 deposit is due when you sign up and final payment is due by November 1, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times
6:30 am Hickory at Big Lots
6:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:30 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

P.S. Santa doesn't even know where we are going!

Brand New Tour!
Christmas in Augusta, Georgia
December 4 – 5, 2026
Part of our 250th Birthday of America
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

Day One: This morning, we will board our coach as we head to Augusta. On our arrival, we visit the boyhood home of President Woodrow Wilson. He lived here from 1860 – 1870 which is the longest period spent in one residence. This afternoon we have a tour of the historic area of Augusta. Dinner is included tonight. Then we are in for a real Christmas experience, A Candlelight Tour of Beautiful Meadow Gardens. This was the home of George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. Hear live music, stroll through the period rooms, explore the historic cellar, delight in natural decorations and learn about the holiday traditions of the 18th century. Tonight, we will walk along the beautiful downtown all decorated for Christmas. After a full day here, we will return to the hotel.

Day Two: Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we have a guided tour about the life of James Brown who was from Augusta and known as the Godfather of Soul. This tour takes us on a journey of his life stopping at his childhood home, school, the local radio station, and the museum, most likely his daughter Deanna Brown will be our guide. After our tour, lunch is on your own and you will have time to shop in the downtown area. We depart late in the afternoon and arrive in our area late in the evening.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$299.00	$279.00	$269.00	$389.00

A $100.00 deposit is due when you sign up, and final payment is due by November 4, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Trip includes the following:

- Motor coach transportation
- Hotel for (1) night
- All attractions listed
- (1) D and (1) B

Departure Times

8:00 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
8:20 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
9:00 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

A Smoky Mountain Christmas in Pigeon Forge

December 9-11, 2026
The Inn at Christmas Place Hotel
Activity Level 1 - 6 is a 3

What an experience we will have on this Christmas Adventure to Pigeon Forge! We will check into the beautiful Christmas Place Hotel for a 2-night stay. This hotel is decorated for Christmas all year and so are all the rooms. It is ranked the #1 family friendly hotel in the US, ranked #4 worldwide, and has been voted the winner of Trip Advisor's Travelers Choice Award 10 times.

This trip includes the following:

- 2 new shows: The Array Variety Show and Ole! (A dance sensation from Argentina) Plus, the Laugh Out Loud Christmas Show at the Comedy Barn
- 2 full breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- 2 nights at the hotel
- A tour of the light displays at Winterfest
- Shopping at Tanger Outlet and of course, Buc-ee's
- Motor coach transportation

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	Triple	Quad	Single
$799.00	$739.00	$689.00	$1,142.00

A deposit of $100.00 is due when you sign up and final payment is due on or by November 1, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

Departure Times:
6:30am Hickory in Big Lots Parking lot
6:50am Lincolnton at Lowes parking lot in upper parking lot
7:30am Gastonia Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
8:15am Shelby Ingle's grocery store

A Night of Christmas Magic with
The Trans - Siberian Orchestra
Spectrum Arena – Downtown Charlotte, NC
Saturday, December 12, 2026
2:30 pm Show
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

You simply will not believe it until you see it for yourself! The Trans – Siberian Orchestra with their full Christmas concert. The Trans – Siberian Orchestra is an American progressive rock group known for elaborate rock operas, blending classical, symphonic, and hard rock with spectacular holiday-themed live shows featuring lights, lasers, and pyrotechnics, creating unique music and theatrical experience, especially popular during Christmas. Again, there is simply nothing like this anywhere in the world.

Total cost of this tour is $239.00 per person and is due when you sign up. No refunds or cancellations after October 28, 2026.

The trip includes the following:

- Motor coach transportation
- Reserved seats for the show
- Dinner after the show

We only have 50 reserved seats for the show!

<u>Departure Times</u>

12:00 pm Hickory at Big Lots
12:20 pm Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
1:00 pm Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

Great Smokey Mountain Railroad
The Polar Express Train Ride
Bryson City, North Carolina
December 18 – 19, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 3

Experience the magic of the holiday with a ride on "The Polar Express". Climb aboard and take your seat in the premium crown car for a Christmas journey to the North Pole to pick up Santa. You will be immersed in the story of the Polat Express as our chefs serve us hot chocolate and sweet treats with singing and dancing all the way to the North Pole. Santa will visit each coach and hand out the first gift of Christmas to each child. This 1 ¼ hour trip will depart Bryson City at 6:40 pm.

On our way to Bryson City, we will stop for an included lunch at Moose's Café in Asheville. Arriving in the Bryson City area we will check into our hotel before the train ride.

Day Two: Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we then board our coach to depart the area. On our way home, we will stop in Asheville at Biltmore Village for some shopping and lunch is on your own. We will return home late afternoon.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	Triple	Quad	Single
$329.00	$309.00	$289.00	$389.00

Children 10 and under is ½ price when staying in a room with (2) full paying adults. A $100.00 deposit is due when you sign up, and final payment is due November 10, 2026. No refunds or cancellations after this date.

PS Did we mention you can wear your pajamas on the train? What fun is that?

Departure Times

8:30 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
8:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
9:30 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant
10:10 am Shelby at Ingles grocery store on the far side of Shelby

New Tour for 2026

Fireflies Holiday Lights
Segra Park in Columbia, South Carolina
Monday, December 21, 2026
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 5

Today we have an early afternoon departure headed to Columbia, South Carolina. Dinner is included on our arrival in the area. After dinner, we will head to Segra Park for the Fireflies Holiday Lights. Over 1.7 million LED lights will be shining for Christmas. Visit and experience the themed area, do holiday shopping, enjoy some great food and see Santa. You will have 10 themed areas to explore. What an experience right before Christmas!

Please note that once you are in the park, there is a walking tour!!!

Total cost per person is as follows:

$99.00 for adults
$79.00 for children 12 and under

Full payment is due when you sign up and no refunds or cancellations after November 30, 2026.

<u>Departure Times</u>

1:30 pm Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
1:50 pm Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
2:30 pm Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's restaurant

New Year's Tour
December 29, 2026 – January 1, 2027
St. Augustine, Florida
Our Nation's Oldest City
Activity Level 1 – 6 is a 4

Day One: This morning, we will depart our area headed to Florida. On our way, we stop in Georgia for an incredible included lunch at the Georgia's Comfort Kitchen. You will not come away hungry after you enjoy this amazing buffet. After lunch, we then continue to Amelia Island. We will check into our hotel and dinner is included tonight. After dinner, we board our private trolly for a Christmas tour of this beautiful town. You will be amazed at these beautiful homes and how this city is decorated for Christmas. Thousands of Christmas lights and gorgeous decorations will thrill you on this tour. After the tour, we will return to the hotel.

Day Two: Breakfast at the hotel is included and then we board our coach. This morning, we will arrive in Jacksonville where we will visit Kingsley Plantation where we get a glimpse into modest rice farming life in the early years. Kingsley's house is the oldest plantation house still standing in Florida and it's the oldest serving Spanish Colonial plantation in the United States. This afternoon we will arrive in St. Augustine, and we will visit the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum. You can climb (if you can) the 219 steps for a breathtaking view of both St. Augustine and the beautiful beaches or go below to discover a 1782 British shipwreck. After our visit here, we check into our hotel for a (2) night stay. Dinner is included tonight. We will board the trolly for the Night of Loghts Tour through St. Augustine. You will ride through the city experiencing over 3 million holiday lights through 26 blocks of Historic streets. After the tour, you will have free time to discover the area. We will have a late return to the hotel.

Day Three: Breakfast will be included at the hotel and today we board our hop on and off trolly. You may get off and visit so many as 22 attractions including the old Jail Museum, Wax Museum, Pirate Museum, Lightner Museum and the Fountain of Youth plus many more. Midafternoon, we will return to the hotel to get ready for New Year's Eve. Tonight, we head to the Alhambra Dinner Theater for a big Broadway musical and a full dinner buffet. After the show, the floor is cleaned, and the bands start playing and we can swing and dance the night away. At midnight, we bring in the New Year, and a full breakfast is served. We will return to the hotel late.

Day Four: Sleep in late and breakfast will be available and then we will have a late departure headed for home.

Total cost per person is as follows:

Double	**Triple**	**Quad**	**Single**
$1,289.00	$1,129.00	$1,019.00	$1,599.00

A $200.00 deposit is due when you sign up, and final payment is due 45 days prior to the trip. No refunds or cancellations after the date.

Departure Times
6:30 am Hickory at Big Lots parking lot
6:50 am Lincolnton at Lowes Hardware
7:30 am Gastonia at Franklin Square behind Chili's Restaurant

D&S TRAVEL TOURS

P.O. BOX 2376 GASTONIA, NC 28053
704-864-0348

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ **Phone**_____
Street Address _____
City_____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Email Address _____
Tour Name _____
Tour Date _____
Single _____ **Double** _____ **Triple** _____ **Quad** _____
Roommate _____

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ **Phone**_____
Street Address _____
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Single _____ **Double** _____ **Triple** _____ **Quad** _____
Roommate _____

REGISTRATION FORM

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Street Address _____
City_____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Email Address _____
Tour Name _____
Tour Date _____
Single _____ **Double** _____ **Triple** _____ **Quad** _____
Roommate _____

STARS ON ICE 2026 TOUR
TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2026
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
7:00 P.M. SHOW
" A Once In a Lifetime Experience"

This afternoon we board our motor coach headed to Greenville, South Carolina we have supper included then we take our seats For the show of a Lifetime the Stars On Ice Tour at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena. This show is Headlined by Illa Malinin, the "Quad God" and two-time World Champion, Alysa Liu, reigning world Champion , and Olympic Team Gold Medalists Madison Chock & Evan Bates, the tour also stars National Champions Isabeau Levito, Amber Glenn, Jason Brown and many more.

Get ready to celebrate Americas skating superstars! Fresh off record-Breaking World Championship performances and bound for Olympic Glory, the 2026 Stars On Tour brings the thrill of the Games to To fans nationwide.

D & S Travel is thrilled to offer this incredible show to our travelers. Don't miss this once in a lifetime adventure. We only have 52 seats For this show.

Total cost of this tour is $199.00 per person and includes:
A. Motor Coach Transporation
B. Reserved seats at the Arena
C. Dinner before the show
Full payment is due at sign up and no refunds after March 15, 2026
Pick up points:
1:30 P.M. Hickory 1:50 P.M. Lincolnton 2:30 P.M. Gastonia

D & S Travel Tours-P.O. Box 2375-Gastonia, N.C. 28053
704-864-0348