

TRAVEL

Smokin' Hot Fun in the Tennessee Smoky Mountains

The Cherokee's got it right when they saw the "blue, like smoke" rising from the mountains and called them "The Smokies." The Great Smoky Mountains National Park boasts vast, natural beauty and a rich, historical heritage as well as free admission (the only national park to do so). Some 800 square miles of rolling hills, winding trails, and waterfalls



Mira Temkin

abound in America's most visited national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park offers a wealth of recreational activities – hiking, fishing, biking, horseback riding. But it remains an outdoor museum of living history with weathered log structures, showcasing remnants of South Appalachian mountain culture.

Flapjacks, fudge, and fun. Bordering the Smokies is the town of Sevierville, named after John Sevier, the first governor of Tennessee. Sevierville is, literally, overflowing with things to do for the whole family. Great restaurants, entertainment, go-carting, helicopter rides, hometown baseball, hiking, shopping, and tons more will provide lots of memorable experiences.

From down home to fine dining. The historic Apple Barn is a wonderful complex of a winery, bakery, creamery, and restaurant with plentiful down-home cooking and the best fried chicken, east of the Mississippi River. Every meal at Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant starts with warm apple fritters and an Applewood Julep, an example of fine

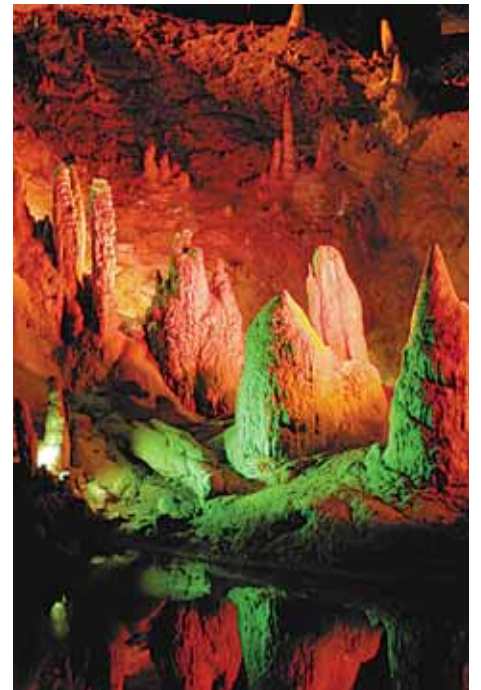
Southern hospitality at its best. After your meal, be sure to peruse the General Store and bring home some farm fresh goodies like homemade jams, jellies, and pies. Sample the apple fruit wines and try my favorite, the apple pomegranate wine. Applebarncidermill.com.

Got a taste for steak? The Chop House serves USDA Choice beef in a range of cuts, grilled to your liking. For lighter appetites, try the tasty sandwiches and salads. Top it off with caramel fudge cake or key lime pie. Thechophouse.com.

Set in a two-story farmhouse, The Tin Roof Café is known for their huge Paninis, Italian sodas, and homemade desserts. The Snowcream Freeze is a great refresher on a hot summer's day. Thetinroofcafe.com.

Wonder Works, an upside-down fantasy world. You can't miss Wonder Works, standing in an upside-down house. On the inside, it offers the ultimate family-fun venue, filled with hundreds of interactive exhibits. You'll explore your way through the hands-on activities, guaranteed to fascinate kids and adults alike. The Hoot 'N Holler Dinner Show, with its delicious Italian feast and an audience participation show, had me in stitches. And Merlin-winner Terry Eastwood's "Wonders of Magic" kept everyone amazed. Showcasing one of Harry Houdini's famous tricks, you'll scratch your head thinking ... how did he do that? Wonderworkstn.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



CLOCKWISE: ONE OF THE MANY STREAMS LOCATED IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS; THE FORBIDDEN CAVERNS FORMED OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS; AND THE HISTORIC APPLE BARN.



4FantasticEvents.com & Edgar "Mambo" Marroquin Presents:

Salsa Thursdays

Live Salsa Bands Every Thursday
Salsa Bachata Cha Cha Cha

Doors Open at 7:30 PM

Music by DJ Prieto • DJ Edgar Marroquin



Free Salsa Lessons from 8PM - 9PM by: Dora Baroti www.studioviva.com



577 Waukegan Road • Northbrook, IL • 847.715.9445

Dress to Impress

RSVP for Reduced Admission @ www.4fantasticevents.com