

Monday, January 5, 2026

Wilderness Wildlife Week Hikes

Mount Cammerer In-and-Out 11 Miles(Strenuous)

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM Limit: 25

Guide: Ranger Marty Silver 6-7 Hiking Hours

Join Marty on this adventurous hike to experience the Smokies at their best. We will discover new insights into winter wildlife, mountain geology, and park history. And of course, the amazing views from Lookout Tower! There are some steep and rocky places, and some long uphill grades. Be sure to pack your lunch and snacks, plenty of water, and foul weather gear. Bring a flashlight(just in case) and wear sturdy hiking footwear.

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Gatlinburg Trail/Cataract Falls/Fighting Creek Nature Trail 3.5 miles (Easy)

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM Limit: 16

Guide: Keith Garnes 3 Hours of Hiking

This hike begins on the edge of Gatlinburg starting on the Gatlinburg Trail and proceeding to Cataract Falls. After the falls, the group will take the Fighting Creek Nature Trail Loop to visit an historical cabin in the woods. The trail then continues on to the Sugarlands Visitor Center and its Museum for a short tour, then board the bus to return to the LeConte Center. Keith advises you to pack water, snacks and your camera!

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Sugarlands Cemetery 5.5 miles (Easy/Moderate)

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Limit: 12

Guide: Joey Holt 5 Hours of Hiking

You will start out at the Sugarlands Cemetery and follow Joey down this historic trail where you learn about the early settlers of the mountain area. You will pass by old home sites, the Civilian Conservation Corp camp and old cemeteries while learning their history and how they were a part of developing this area. Make sure to bring water, lunch/snacks, good hiking shoes/boots as the trail will be muddy in some parts with exposed roots in others.

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Grapeyard Ridge Trail 6.4 miles (Moderate)

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Limit: 12

Guide: Jim Plant 4 Hours of Hiking

Starting and ending at the Grapeyard Ridge Trailhead on Greenbrier Cove Road you will follow this historic trail through 19<sup>th</sup> century homesteads, old cemeteries and various other markers of the early life in the Smokies. This beautiful trail winds up, down and around through several creek crossings so make sure you wear your “creek-crossing” footwear Jim advises. Also bring water, lunch, snacks and your camera.

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Birding on Riverwalk Trail 1 mile (Easy)

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Limit: 7

Guide: Nathan Collie 2 Hours Walking and Spotting

Join wildlife photographer, Nathan, to wander along the Riverwalk Trail down from the LeConte Center to observe bird species for identification and photography. Walking shoes, water, binoculars and a camera are suggested to bring with you to amble along this paved, sidewalk trail. You might pick up some pointers for your next award-winning photo!

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Monday, January 5, 2026

Wilderness Wildlife Week Bus Trips

American Eagle Foundation Easy-Indoors

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM Limit: 24

Guide: Bart Brammer

There will be a meet and greet when you arrive at the American Eagle Foundation’s new headquarter location in Kodak. Classroom activities, time to explore the museum and hear more about the facility will be on the agenda for your trip. Donations are appreciated and cheerfully accepted at the American Eagle Foundation location.

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Appalachian Bear Rescue Easy

10:30 AM – 2:30 PM Limit:23

Guide: Darlene Kemp

You will be transported through the beautiful Wears Valley area to the Appalachian Bear Rescue’s Trillium Cove Visitor and Education Center in Townsend. There you will learn about the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured bear cubs and view videos of many of the ones who have been taken care of and released back into their natural habitat. There will also be a question and answer time after the program. Donations are greatly appreciated and accepted at the Visitor Center.

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Photo Safari in the Smokies Easy

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Limit: 24

Guide: Colby McLemore

Join photographer Colby for a photo-how-to in Cades Cove. There will be stops along the way to step out of the bus onto the gravel and dirt trails to learn how to set up your shots. Wear good walking shoes, bring water, and a snack to keep you going.

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Gatlinburg Trout Farm Tour Easy

1:30 PM – 4:00 PM Approximately 1 Hour at Trout Farm

Guide: Little River Chapter Host Limit: 22

You will learn the benefits of the restoration of native trout to local habitats. While enroute, a Little River Chapter member will speak to ongoing restoration and conservation efforts in support of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fisheries. At the facility, the purpose and process of trout stocking in the Little Pigeon River will be presented. Guests should be prepared for cold or rainy conditions as the Trout Facility is outdoors with a paved parking area.

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Pink Jeep Tour Rider Limit: 6 each Tour

10 AM Approximately 2-2.5 Hours

2 PM Approximately 2-2.5 Hours

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of Elkmont Historic District. Your experienced guide will show you many sights of beauty not found by the normal visitor to the area, including a short off-road experience!

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Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Wilderness Wildlife Week Hikes

Hen Wallow Falls 4.5 miles (Moderate/Strenuous)

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM Limit: 12

Guide: Keith Garnes 3.5 Hour Hike

Leaving from Cosby Campground and traveling through rhododendron and hemlock, passing the historical old home sites and grave markers and onto the 1000 foot elevation grind of a hike. You will be rewarded with the beautiful falls that descend to some 90 feet below. Let’s also talk about “Bat Caves”!! Keith recommends packing hiking poles, lunch, and water. But, Keith says rain gear/layers are also a must for this hike.

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Chestnut Top Trail 6.5 Miles (Strenuous)

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM 6 Hour Hike

Guides: Joel and Kathy Zachry Limit: 12

Starting out at the Chestnut Top Trail Head at Townsend WYE, you will continue along this challenging trail until you reach the School House Gap Trail Head. Winter conditions, terrain and length add together to test your meddle while you hear about the natural history, seasonal flora and fauna, and learn about hiking tips for safety on the trail. Winter synthetic clothing layers, gloves, hat; trekking poles or hiking stick; water/fluid and lunch/snacks; adequate seasonal hiking boots and rain gear are essential.

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Seven Islands State Birding Park 3 miles (Easy/Moderate)

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM Limit: 24

Guide: Stephanie Mueller 2 Hour Walk

Learn about the birds, wildlife, plants, and trees of Seven Islands, along with the history of the property and current habitat management and the programs happening at the park from Ranger Stephanie. She also recommends that participants should bring bottled water and good walking shoes. Mostly paved surface, also with flat grass/dirt trails. There is a slight sloped area on the paved surface in one spot.

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Little River/Cucumber Gap 6.5 Miles(Moderate)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM 4 Hour Hike

Guide: Charles Maynard Limit: 12

Starting at the Little River Trail Head and traveling through the Elkmont area, you will learn about the early community and the starting of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. There is an incline of about 800’ and several stream crossings on this historic and beautiful trail. Good waterproof hiking shoes/boots, water, snacks and lunch are recommended for you to bring along on this adventure.

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Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Wilderness Wildlife Week Bus Trips

Cades Cove Museum and Blount County Museum (Easy)  
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Approximately 2 Hours per Stop  
Guide: Richard Anderson Limit: 24

Museum lovers, this is the tour for you! The Cades Cove Museum is located in the Thompson-Brown cabin, located on its original foundation, and in its original location next to Maryville College. It is small, but has a lot of information and artifacts relating to Cades Cove and the many families who lived there. Some of the helpful volunteers are related to the original families of Cades Cove. Just a short walking distance away is the Blount County Museum. Opened in the 1920s and filled with artifacts from the first families in the area. There are items that have been collected and on loan from the families throughout the county. It might be a good idea to bring water, snacks/lunch with you on your journey.

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American Eagle Foundation Tour Easy-Indoors  
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM Limit: 24  
Guide: Darlene Kemp

There will be a meet and greet when you arrive at the American Eagle Foundation’s new headquarter location in Kodak. Classroom activities, time to explore the museum and hear more about the facility will be on the agenda for your trip. Donations are appreciated and cheerfully accepted at the American Eagle Foundation location.

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Appalachian Bear Rescue Easy  
10:30 AM – 2:30 PM Limit: 23  
Guide: Bart Brammer

You will be transported through the beautiful Wears Valley area to the Appalachian Bear Rescue’s Trillium Cove Visitor and Education Center in Townsend. There you will learn about the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured bear cubs and view videos of many of the ones who have been taken care of and released back into their natural habitat. There will also be a question and answer time after the program. Donations are greatly appreciated and accepted at the Visitor Center.

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Pink Jeep Tours Limit: 6 each Tour  
10 AM Approximately 2-2.5 Hours  
2 PM Approximately 2-2.5 Hours

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of Elkmont Historic District. Your experienced guide will show you many sights of beauty not found by the normal visitor to the area, including a short off-road experience!

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Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Wilderness Wildlife Week Hikes

<u>Ramsey Cascade</u>	<u>8 miles (Moderate/Strenuous)</u>
<u>8:00 AM – 4:30 PM</u>	<u>Limit:12</u>
<u>Guide: Jim Plant</u>	<u>6 Hour Hike</u>

Starting out from the Ramsey Cascade parking area you will follow an old jeep trail leading to the fire tower on Greenbrier Pinnacle on this steady uphill hike. Passing through old growth forests and seeing the rehabilitation work from Trails Forever Group 2022-2023 you will encounter rocky sections and may be icy near the waterfall. Jim says that hiking poles and foot traction are highly recommended. Make sure to pack plenty of water, snacks, and lunch.

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<u>Middle Prong Trail</u>	<u>6 miles (Easy/Moderate)</u>
<u>8:30 AM – 3:30 PM</u>	<u>Limit: 12</u>
<u>Guide: Joey Holt</u>	<u>5.5-6 Hour Hike</u>

Starting out at the Middle Prong Trail Head in the Tremont area you will be following the old railroad bed of the Little River Lumber Company. On this scenic route you will learn about the history of logging in the area and the Middle Prong Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. Good hiking shoes/boots are a must, there are exposed rock and muddy spots along the 800 foot rise over a 3 mile area. Bring water, snacks and lunch.

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<u>Birding on Riverwalk Trail</u>	<u>1 Mile (Easy)</u>
<u>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM</u>	<u>Limit: 7</u>
<u>Guide: Nathan Collie</u>	<u>2 Hour Walking and Spotting</u>

Join wildlife photographer Nathan, to wander along the Riverwalk Trail down from the LeConte Center to observe bird species for identification and photography. Walking shoes, water/fluid, binoculars and a camera are suggested to bring with you to amble along this paved, sidewalk trail. You might pick up some pointers for your next award-winning photo!

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## Wilderness Wildlife Bus Trips

Guide: Bart Brammer Limit: 24

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Guide: Don Lockett Limit: 24

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Guide: Little River Chapter Host Limit: 22

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2 PM Approximately 2-2.5 Hours

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Thursday, January 8, 2026

Wilderness Wildlife Week Hikes

Gatlinburg Trail/Cataract Falls/Fighting Creek

Nature Trail      3.5 miles (Easy)

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Limit: 16

Guide: Keith Garnes 3 Hours of Hiking

This hike begins on the edge of Gatlinburg starting on the Gatlinburg Trail and proceeding to Cataract Falls. After the falls, the group will take the Fighting Creek Nature Trail Loop to visit an historical cabin in the woods. The trail then continues on to the Sugarlands Visitor Center and its Museum for a short tour, then board the bus to return to the LeConte Center. Keith advises you to pack water, snacks and your camera!

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Woodpecker Walk on Hickory Ridge Trail 1 mile

8:00 AM – 11:30 AM 1.5 Hours Hiking(Moderate/Strenuous)

Guide: Clare Dattilo Limit: 15

Join Interpretive Ranger, Clare Dattilo to search for the seven species of woodpeckers that can be found at **Seven Islands State Park** during the winter. We will also search for signs of woodpeckers and learn about some of their interesting characteristics. The trail is a one mile loop that climbs to the highest point at Seven Islands to an overlook and come down a set of steep steps on the other side. This is a wooded trail with some exposed roots. Hikers will want to bring a set of binoculars and hiking poles along with water and snacks.

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Voices of the Forest- Activity Hike 1.9 miles(Easy/Moderate)

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM 1.5 – 2 Hours on the Trail w/Activities

Guide: Amber Brown, Barefoot University Limit: 20

Join us for a nature-filled adventure where trees are our teachers. This guided hike for kids and adults will connect us to trees of the Smokies. Along the hike, we will pause for tree stops and forest-school-style activities. Good walking/hiking shoes are recommended, and remember to bring water and snacks.

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Little River Trail-Out and Back 5 Miles (Moderate)

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM 4 Hour Hike

Guides: Joel and Kathy Zachry Limit: 12

Starting in the Little River Trail Head in the Elkmont area you will travel along the natural uneven terrain learning about the natural history, seasonal flora and fauna. During the hike Joel and Kathy will give you hiking safety tips for winter hiking using their own experiences and yours. They suggest winter synthetic clothing layers including gloves and hat; adequate seasonal hiking boots; trekking poles or hiking stick; water/fluid and lunch or snacks; sturdy rain gear is essential.

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Thursday, January 8, 2026

Wilderness Wildlife Bus Trips

Townsend/Cades Cove Loop Easy/Moderate

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM 5 – 6 Hours

Guide: Kathy Gwinn Limit: 23

Join Kathy to listen to her stories where you will learn about the history of Townsend and Cades Cove area, history of the Cherokee, geography, natural science of plants, trees, animals, Civil War history and much more! Some walking is involved to tour the church cemetery and the John Oliver cabin, there are exposed roots on the pathway. Bring water, snacks/lunch, and wear good walking shoes for your adventure.

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Cades Cove Museum and Blount County Museum (Easy)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Approximately 2 Hours per Stop

Guide: Richard Anderson Limit: 24

Museum lovers, this is the tour for you! The Cades Cove Museum is located in the Thompson-Brown cabin, located on its original foundation, and in its original location next to Maryville College. It is small, but it has a lot of information and artifacts relating to Cades Cove and the many families who lived there. Some of the helpful volunteers are related to the original families of Cades Cove. Just a short walking distance away is the Blount County Museum. Opened in the 1920s and filled with artifacts from the first families in the area. There are items that have been collected and on loan from the families throughout the county. It might be a good idea to bring water, snacks/lunch with you on your journey.

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