GATLINBURG · FIRST VISIT

THINGS TO DO IN GATLINBURG

A short first-visit list near the park, downtown and the Arts and Crafts loop, with drive times from the Gatlinburg cabins.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

1. **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**
   America's most visited national park sits at the edge of town, with no entrance fee. Parking for more than 15 minutes needs a park parking tag ($5 daily). **About a 24-min drive from Cowboy Way, Summit Sanctuary or Barrel Top Lodge.**
2. **Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail**
   A 5.5-mile one-way scenic drive with streams, historic buildings and trailheads. Open April 17 through November 29, 2026; closed in winter. No buses, trailers or motor homes. Enter from traffic light #8 in Gatlinburg.
3. **Cataract Falls**
   A 0.7-mile round-trip walk from Sugarlands Visitor Center to a small 40-foot falls. An easy first stop in the park.

For longer hikes, see the Four Smoky Mountain Hikes graphic on **bluehauscabins.com/guides**.

VIEWS ABOVE TOWN

1. **Gatlinburg SkyPark / SkyBridge**
   A chairlift up the mountain and a long pedestrian suspension bridge with glass floor panels over the valley. **About a 22-min drive from the Gatlinburg cabins.**
2. **Anakeesta**
   A gondola or Ridge Rambler ride to a mountaintop park with skywalks, gardens and views. **About a 20-min drive from the Gatlinburg cabins.**
3. **Ober Gatlinburg**
   An aerial tram from downtown to a mountain park; ski and snowboard in winter when conditions allow. **About a 28-min drive from the Gatlinburg cabins.**

QUIETER STOPS

1. **Greenbrier**
   A quieter park entrance about 20 minutes east of Gatlinburg, with a riverside picnic area, streams and trailheads. Open year-round, weather permitting.
2. **Emert's Cove Covered Bridge**
   A small wooden covered bridge in Pittman Center, a short drive east of town. A quick photo stop, not a long visit.

• DOWNTOWN GATLINBURG •

1 The Parkway
About 2.5 miles of shops, restaurants and craft distilleries you can cover on foot. Evenings are busier; mornings are calmer. **About a 20-min drive from the Gatlinburg cabins.**

2 Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies
An indoor stop on the strip with sharks, stingrays and a long underwater tunnel. Useful on wet or cold days. **About an 18-min drive from the Gatlinburg cabins.**

For a full wet-day plan at the cabin, see **bluehauscabins.com/guides/rainy-day-indoor-pool**.

ARTS AND CRAFTS COMMUNITY

Great Smoky Arts and Crafts Community. An 8-mile loop of working studios and galleries east of downtown, about a 5-min drive from Cowboy Way, Summit Sanctuary and Barrel Top Lodge. Potters, woodcarvers and other makers work in view at many shops.

A TASTING STOP

Ole Smoky Distillery (The Holler). Moonshine and whiskey tastings on the Parkway for ages 21 and up with ID. No reservation needed for the basic tasting. **About a 19-min drive from the Gatlinburg cabins.**

EAT NEAR THE CABINS

Split Rail Eats
849 Glades Rd, Suite 1B1

A neighborhood bar and restaurant in the Arts and Crafts Community. Close to the three Gatlinburg cabins.

Check current hours at splitraileats.com.

Jimmy's Smokehouse and Pizza Joint
1359 East Parkway, Suite F, Gatlinburg

BBQ, pizza and other plates.

Check current hours at jimmysgatlinburg.com.

• THIS SEASON •

From early November into early January the cabins are dressed for Christmas. Gatlinburg Winter Magic is on now through February 15. Town lights are on for the winter season.

- **Gatlinburg Winter Magic:** November 5, 2026 through February 15, 2027 (downtown lights).
- **Pigeon Forge Winterfest:** November 6, 2026 through January 31, 2027 (Parkway lights).
- **Winterfest at The Island:** November 21, 2026 through January 31, 2027.

For an evening lights loop and cabin picks, see **bluehauscabins.com/guides/winterfest-lights**. *Current dates also sit on* **bluehauscabins.com/events**.

Roaring Fork closes for the season on November 29, 2026. After that, use year-round park roads such as Newfound Gap Road.

• WHERE TO SLEEP •

Cowboy Way, Summit Sanctuary and Barrel Top Lodge sit at Elk Springs Resort in Gatlinburg, near Split Rail Eats and the Arts and Crafts loop. Downtown is about a 20-min drive. Rocky Top Retreat is the Pigeon Forge cabin, useful when the day is on that side of the valley.

FOUR CABINS AFTER A DAY IN GATLINBURG



Barrel Top Lodge

Gatlinburg cabin with a private indoor pool.

Private indoor pool

CABIN PAGE



Cowboy Way

Dog-friendly Gatlinburg log cabin.

Log cabin · Dogs welcome

CABIN PAGE



Summit Sanctuary

Gatlinburg cabin with sauna, arcade and theater. Dogs allowed.

Sauna + arcade · Dogs welcome

CABIN PAGE



Rocky Top Retreat

Pigeon Forge cabin near Dollywood.

Pigeon Forge · Near Dollywood

CABIN PAGE

Compare all four cabins at **bluehauscabins.com/cabins**

CABINS