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Almost Heaven West Virginia Trains

Tuesday – Friday, October 14 - 17, 2025

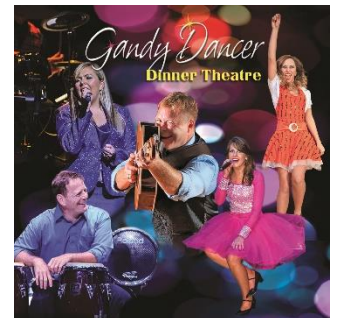
Tuesday, October 14th

- 7:45 – 8:30 am Approximate time to depart depending upon pickup locations. Pickups will be in Celina, St Marys and Wapakoneta. Exact pickup times and locations will be determined approximately 30 days prior to trip departure.
- Noon Arrive at Valley Gem Sternwheeler in Marietta OH for lunch and a relaxing cruise on the beautiful Ohio River. The fall foliage should be beautiful along the riverbanks. A bountiful lunch will be served on board.
- Mid afternoon Depart for Elkins WV
- Early evening Check into the Tygart Hotel for a 3-night stay. Dinner included this evening at the hotel



Wednesday, October 15

- Breakfast included at the hotel
- Morning Depart for the Cass Scenic Railroad
- Late Morning Enjoy a “sack lunch” and a ride the Cass Scenic Railroad. (**OPEN AIR train - dress accordingly.**) This two hour train ride passes the water tower and machine shop and begins to climb lower slopes of Cheat Mountain along Leatherbark Creek. The train then zigzags through two switchbacks, the engines alternately push then pull passenger cars because the grade is so steep. After passing the entrance to Cass Cave, the railroad levels off for the stop at Whittaker Station, surrounded by green meadows and fine views of the countryside. There is a cool, shady picnic grove with tables where excursionists may rest and enjoy the scenery. Whittaker Station is the location of an authentic logging camp recreated by volunteers of the Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association, passengers will have a 30-minute layover to enjoy the views.
- Mid afternoon Depart Cass & return to Elkins
- This evening you will enjoy a Dinner Show at the Gandy Dancer Theater. After a wonderful plated dinner, sit back and listen to the fabulous Mountain Memories Show Band as they serve up 2 hours of Branson-style entertainment with music from the 40's to the present day. The show includes country, gospel and patriotic selections along with family-friendly comedy and amazing dancers.



Thursday, October 16th

- Breakfast included at the hotel
- Morning Visit the Green Bank Radio Astronomy Observatory intentionally located in one of America's most quiet spots. Learn about a variety of giant satellite dishes and how our scientists are listening to the sounds of space and how much our modern life convenience can interfere with their findings.
- Late Morning Ride West Virginia's newest train, The Greenbrier Express. The Greenbrier Express departs the restored, historically important town of Cass and closely follows the clear, free-flowing Greenbrier River to the small mountain village of Durbin. On arrival in Durbin, all ticket holders will be served lunch at a pre-determined location either on your train car, in the depot, or at one of the restaurants on Main Street adjacent to the depot. The ride upriver to Durbin passes through a secluded wilderness portion of the 950,000-acre Monongahela National Forest featuring beautiful scenes of forested



mountains at each turn of the river. Sightings of Deer, River Otters, and Black Bear along with a wide variety of Eagles, Hawks, Ospreys, and other different species of aquatic birds are common.

Mid-Afternoon Depart and return to Elkins
 Evening Dinner at Graceland Inn. Poised on the hillside of the beautiful campus of Davis & Elkins College sits Graceland Inn, a beautifully restored Victorian mansion with a scenic view of the mountains.



Friday, October 17th

Morning Breakfast at the hotel
 Explore the West Virginia Railroad Museum located in the historic Darden Mill. Learn how the city of Elkins was built by the railroads
 Mid-morning Ride the New Tygart Flyer with Box Lunch. It's not an accident that West Virginia is known as the Mountain State and after riding and having lunch on the New Tygart Flyer of the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad scenic excursion trains, you will definitely understand why. You will enjoy stunning scenery, free flowing rivers, historic sites, and a serene waterfall only accessible by hiking or train riding. The four-hour, 46-mile round trip has been called one of the most relaxing mountain wilderness train rides in the United States.
 Mid Afternoon Depart for Home
 Late Evening Approximate time to return home depending upon your pickup location



Cost includes motorcoach transportation, admission to attractions, 10 meals, and 3 nights lodging.

Deposit - \$200 per person

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – 8/14/25

	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Cost per person:	\$1515.00	\$1220.00	\$1170.00	\$1120.00
Optional Peace of Mind Travel Protection	\$ 120.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00

- **Make checks payable to MCCoA (Mercer County Council on Aging) and mail to 217 Riley Street, Celina, OH 45822.**
- Deposit required within 14 days of making your reservation to confirm your reservation.
- Balance due 8/14/25. Additional trip information and billing will be sent at that time.
- List of passenger names will be included in final itinerary.
- **Cancellation Policy - Deposit fully refundable up to 30 days prior to trip departure; 30-14 days prior to departure– 50% of your trip cost is non-refundable; 14 days prior to departure – 100% of trip cost is non-refundable. If replacement is found, you will be refunded all your money except for a \$25.00 per person cancellation fee.**
- If less than 30 passengers sign up for this trip, MCCoA reserves the right to cancel the trip or make any necessary changes to conduct the trip with a reduced number of passengers.
- Parking will be available in the parking lots at all locations. **Please plan to arrive approximately 15 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time.**
- The dress for attractions is casual.
- You may bring snacks and drinks on the bus.

Buses are not wheelchair accessible. You must be able to enter and exit the bus without assistance. In the event I would need any type of medical treatment, I hereby consent to treatment by any licensed physician or dentist, and I am responsible for any expenses incurred due to any change in the tour. I further understand that I, and any heirs or persons acting on my behalf do waive, release and discharge MCCoA (Mercer County Council on Aging) and its representatives, employees, and volunteers from any and all responsibility or liability from injuries, loss, damages, diseases, or deaths resulting from my participation in any programs or activities sponsored by MCCoA. I understand that this waiver means I and any heirs or persons acting on my behalf give up the rights to bring any claims for personal injury, death, disease, property damage or any other loss including but not limited to claims of negligence and give up any claim I or my heirs may have to seek damages, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen. MCCoA and its representatives accept no responsibility for the services of any company, personnel or any other conveyance used in connection with any tour or for any loss or additional expenses incurred due to additional or changed fees, delay, changes in schedule, restrictions, requirements or acts or omissions of any carrier or supplier. You are responsible for understanding all trip and activity requirements and must not rely on MCCoA to provide this information. MCCoA and its representatives reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, amend the itinerary for any reason, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of any tour if his/her actions impose a risk or disturb other members of the tour.