



ACORN RIDGE · WEARS VALLEY, SEVIER COUNTY

# Ten things to do, nearest first

Everything here is **within 90 minutes of the cabin door**, and every drive time was measured door to door rather than taken from a brochure. Prices are 2026 adult admission. The number on each is its place in the drive, not a ranking — the best thing on this page is eighth.

## BOOK AHEAD

**Titanic Museum requires timed tickets** and regularly sells out in season. **Dollywood** runs a day-by-day calendar and closes some winter weekdays — check the date before you drive. **Tuckaleechee Caverns closes entirely from December to February.**

ORDERED BY DRIVE TIME FROM 3216 EMERALD SPRINGS LOOP



01

## The Island

PIGEON FORGE · FREE TO WALK IN

22 MIN · 8.7 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.5

FREE ENTRY

Ranked **#1 of 93 things to do in Pigeon Forge** and the closest attraction to the cabin. Fountain shows, shops and about twenty restaurants cost nothing; the 200-ft wheel is \$18.99 adult, \$13.99 child. **Best after dark.**



02

## Titanic Museum

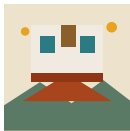
PIGEON FORGE · INDOOR · ~2 HRS

24 MIN · 9.4 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.6

TIMED TICKET

The **highest-rated indoor attraction in the county** across 11,000 reviews. Real artifacts and a full-scale recreation of the Grand Staircase. Around \$39 adult, \$25 child. **Reserve a slot — it sells out.**



03

## WonderWorks

PIGEON FORGE · INDOOR · THE RAINY DAY

24 MIN · 9.6 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.1

\$35 ADULT

The upside-down building on the Parkway. A hands-on science center with an indoor ropes course and laser tag, open 9am–9pm. **The one to keep in your back pocket for the afternoon it rains**, which it will.



04

## Dollywood

PIGEON FORGE · FULL DAY · \$\$\$

27 MIN · 12.2 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.3

FROM \$95

19,000 reviews and a Travelers' Choice Best of the Best award. Beyond the coasters it runs a working craft village — glassblowing, blacksmithing, a wood carver — which is the part people remember. **Check the calendar first.**



05

## Dolly Parton's Stampede

PIGEON FORGE · DINNER SHOW · ~2 HRS

27 MIN · 12.2 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.5

RESERVE

Thirty-two horses, a four-course dinner you eat with your hands, and no cutlery on the table. \$69.99 adult, \$34.99 child. **Corny and completely committed to it** — 11,000 reviews say it lands.



06

## Ripley's Aquarium

GATLINBURG · INDOOR · ~2-3 HRS

36 MIN · 16.9 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.5

\$33-40

15,000 reviews and the **best all-weather, all-ages option anywhere near the cabin**. A 340-ft glass tunnel on a moving walkway takes you under the sharks. Open until 11pm, so it works as an evening.



07

## Gatlinburg SkyLift Park

GATLINBURG · OUTDOOR · ~1-2 HRS

38 MIN · 17.2 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.3

\$41 ADULT

**North America's longest pedestrian suspension bridge**, with glass floor panels in the middle span. The single best photograph you will take on this trip. **Tickets are non-refundable if weather closes it** — go on a clear day.



08

## Tuckaleechee Caverns

TOWNSEND · UNDERGROUND · ~1.5 HRS

42 MIN · 21.4 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.8

MAR-NOV ONLY

The **highest-rated attraction in this entire guide**, and #1 of everything in Townsend. A cave room the size of a football pitch and a 210-ft underground waterfall. \$28 adult, \$15 child. **Constant 58°F — bring a layer.**



09

## Smoky Mountain Deer Farm

SEVIERVILLE · OUTDOOR · BEST FOR SMALL CHILDREN

43 MIN · 19.6 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.7

\$16 ADULT

Tame deer eat out of a cup in your hand. **The cheapest ticket here and the one under-fives remember**; toddlers are 99 cents. Open year-round 10am–5.30pm. Pony rides \$9.99, horseback from \$39.99 by reservation.



10

## Zoo Knoxville

KNOXVILLE · FULL DAY · FURTHEST ON THIS LIST

1 HR 1 MIN · 39 MI

TRIPADVISOR 4.1

\$27 ADULT

The only proper city zoo inside 90 minutes, known internationally for **breeding red pandas**. Worth it as a whole Knoxville day rather than a detour — add the Museum of Art, which is free. **Buy online to skip the \$2 walk-up fee.**

AND THREE THE OWNERS SEND PEOPLE TO THEMSELVES

### Goats on the Roof

16 MIN · 5.8 MI

**Closer than anything above** — it is on Wears Valley Road, on your way down. An alpine coaster you drive yourself, \$15 adult and \$12 child, and goats living on the roof that cost nothing to watch. Open year-round.

### Hillbilly Golf

33 MIN · 16.4 MI

Two 18-hole courses reached by an incline railcar that climbs about 300 feet up the mountainside, with stills and outhouses for hazards. **Call first on (865) 436-7470** — the season and price move.

### Ober Gatlinburg

36 MIN · 17.5 MI

Tennessee's only ski area, and it runs all year: coaster, zipline and downhill biking in summer, skiing and ice skating in winter. Tram \$29, Fun Pass from \$39. **Briefly called Ober Mountain — same place.**

TWO WE LEFT OFF, AND WHY

**Anakeesta** in Gatlinburg is heavily advertised and sits at 4.1 with a recurring complaint — lots of photographs, not much to do — and it duplicates the SkyLift trip. **The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad** in Bryson City is genuinely good, but we measured it at **1 hour 50 minutes each way**, which puts it outside this list rather than outside consideration. If you want it, give it a whole day and book the excursion in advance.

PRICES & RATINGS  
SEPTEMBER 2026  
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