

2/4/2025

Bucket List Tours by Barb

bwbbarb@gmail.com

<https://bucketlisttoursbybarb.com>

497 Meadowlark Lane

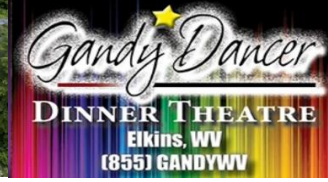
Manheim, PA 17545

717-201-7566

Bus Tour – Almost Heaven West Virginia, September 24-28, 2025

Bus Departs Willow Street, Lancaster, & Lebanon, PA

Approximate departure times, Willow Street 6:10, Lancaster 7:00, Lebanon, PA 7:40 AM



The mountains of West Virginia are rugged, diverse, and stunningly beautiful, forming the heart of the Appalachian Mountain Range. The state's terrain is characterized by steep ridges, deep valleys, and winding rivers that create a dramatic landscape. The peaks vary in height, with some reaching over 4,000 feet, like the prominent Spruce Knob, the highest point in the state. The mountains are often thickly forested, with dense trees like oak, maple, and spruce, and during the fall, the foliage bursts into vivid colors.

Day #1

Your day starts with a **SWEET TREAT** as we depart for the **GREENBRIAR RESORT**, West Virginia <https://www.greenbrier.com>. **LUNCH** is included at the resort before taking a tour of the **GREENBRIER BUNKER**, a most unusual history tour. You visit The Greenbrier's Cold War Bunker, built by the Eisenhower Administration. It was a Fall Out Shelter for Congress in the event of a Nuclear Attack. This secret facility existed for 30 years, in plain sight, yet hidden from both hotel employees and guests. It's a fascinating story and you will learn how the pantries were stocked and replenished with fresh produce and supplies. At any moment there was enough fresh water and food here to support the entire House & Senate for 60 days.

<https://www.greenbrier.com/activities/bunker-tours>

Our home for this evening is the **FAIRFIELD INN**, Lewisburg, West Virginia. After checking into our hotel we will have **DINNER** at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Fairfield Inn, 273 Coleman Drive, Lewisburg, West Virginia, USA, 24901. Phone 304-645-7999. <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/lbfi-fairfield-inn-and-suites-lewisburg>

Meals: ST, L, D

Day #2

BREAKFAST this morning at the hotel. Another day of great adventure begins as we motor north into the Alleghenies, your destination is the townsite of Cass. It looks as much today as it did in its heyday as a company logging town. Restored company houses line the hillside. The **HISTORICAL MUSEUM** and the **CASS SHOWCASE** with its diorama and film provide interpretation. And then it's an exciting moment as you board the **CASS SCENIC RAILROAD** a steam locomotive and pull out of the depot. This was a logging route with grades as steep as 11%, you'll climb through deep forest with a beauty as old as the hills and then suddenly you will break out above the timber and enjoy a view of West Virginia that is beyond words. You are at Bald Knob the third highest peak in West Virginia. There is a point on the climb that if you have been paying attention you will notice that you have entered a completely different ecosystem because of the change in the trees flowers and atmosphere. **LUNCH** is included on the train.

Returning to Cass, you board our motorcoach bound for Elkins, WV for a three-night stay. Welcome to the **HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS** in Elkins, West Virginia near the heart of the historic downtown, nestled in the western foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, Elkins is surrounded by the natural beauty of the Appalachian Plateau.

DINNER this evening is at Smoke on the Water <https://smokewaterbbq.com>.

Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Elkins, an IHG Hotel, 50 Martin St, Elkins, WV 26241. Phone 304-630-2266.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/elkins/eknwv>

Meals: B, L, D

Day #3

BREAKFAST this morning at the hotel. This morning, you ride West Virginia's newest train, the **GREENBRIER EXPRESS**. This train departs from 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, enjoy **LUNCH** served 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 Bears along with a wide variety of Eagles, Hawks, Ospreys, and other species of aquatic birds are common.

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The original 95-mile section of this railroad was first constructed in 1902 by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway with an eye toward timber resource development. It continued serving that purpose until rail traffic declined and most of the line was abandoned in 1978. Today's trip takes you on the northernmost 15-mile portion that was purchased by the West Virginia State Rail Authority. Unfortunately, a catastrophic flood in 1985 washed out major portions of this line. Thanks to a private/public initiative between the WV State Rail Authority and Durbin & Greenbrier Valley RR, the track has been reconstructed and now offers a new and different option to visitors at the iconic Cass Scenic Railroad State Park.

Leaving Cass, you cross into the next valley and find it filled with giant satellite dishes. This is the **GREEN BANK RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY** intentionally located in one of America's most quiet spots. Here our scientists are listening for sounds from space, and you will tour the facility. You then return to Elkins for the evening.

DINNER this evening is at a local mansion. Enjoy the elegant homes built in the 1890s at the height of the timber era.

Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Elkins, an IHG Hotel, 50 Martin St, Elkins, WV 26241. Phone 304-630-2266.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/elkins/eknvw>

Meals: B, L, D

Day #4

BREAKFAST this morning at the hotel. Today's wilderness excursion is the **NEW TYGART FLYER**, departing from the town of Elkins. This route features an "S" curve tunnel, a high bridge, and miles of unspoiled mountain views. The vintage diesel-powered locomotive climbs along the cascading Shavers Fork of the Cheat River to the High Falls which are accessible only by train. The closest road is five miles away. Enjoy the view relaxing aboard our comfortable climate-controlled passenger coaches. **LUNCH** is included on the train.

On return to Elkins, you find the **WEST VIRGINIA RAILROAD MUSEUM** is located in the historic Rail Yard by the old railway depot. Explore the history of one of the most beloved Railways, the C & O, or Chesapeake and Ohio. This historic tale begins with President George Washington and ends with the kitten that captured America's heart, Chessie!

Your evening entertainment begins with a **DINNER** at The **GANDY DANCER DINNER THEATRE**. In a beautiful dining room, you enjoy a very nice meal. The show has not been announced at this time. This will be an unforgettable evening at West Virginia's largest dinner theater.

Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Elkins, an IHG Hotel, 50 Martin St, Elkins, WV 26241. Phone 304-630-2266.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/elkins/eknvw>

MEALS: B, L, D

Day #5

BREAKFAST this morning at the hotel. Our Almost Heaven West Virginia bus tour has come to an end, and we must return to Pennsylvania. Our last stop is **BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK** one of West Virginia's most iconic natural wonders, for photo opportunities at various falls. **LUNCH** is included before we depart for home.

MEALS: B, L

Tour includes: Round Trip Deluxe Motorcoach, 4-Nights Lodging, Baggage Handling, 1 Sweet Treat, 4 Breakfasts, 3 Train Lunches, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners, Gandy Dancer Dinner Theater, 3 Scenic Train Rides (Cass, Greenbrier, Tygart), Greenbrier Bunker Tour, Cass Historical Museum & Showcase, Green Bank Astronomy Observatory, West Virginia Railroad Museum, BLT Tote Bag, Water and Snacks on the Motorcoach, Experienced and Knowledgeable Tour Representative, and all Taxes.

Cost Per Person: 1 person per room \$2,413.00, 2 people per room \$1,913.00

3 people per room \$1,788.00. 4 people per room \$1,701.00

Accepting - Checks, Credit Card, Money Order, Venmo, Or ACH Transfer.

\$400.00 Per person is due; to reserve your seat, the balance is due July 20, 2025. **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT \$50.00 per person if signed up before June 1, 2025.** Your reservation is guaranteed when the deposit is made.

Deposits are refundable prior to 60 days before the tour, minus any monies already paid by BLT. Cancellations 45-60 days are subject to a \$75.00 per person per day fee, plus any monies already paid by BLT. A \$30.00 per transaction refund fee will be applied. No refunds within 45 days of the tour.

Bucket List Tours is not responsible for schedule changes due to weather or any other reason out of our control.

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Travel insurance is highly recommended and available through Travel Insured. Click on the link to see Bucket List Tours on the top left. Create an account on the top right. If you purchase the Worldwide Trip Protector Edge plan, you will be fine for bus tours. There will be an option to add selected upgrades at an additional cost, within 14-days of your original payment. Customer Care 800-243-3174 inform them you are working with an agency Bucket List Tours by Barb, LLC #62132. <http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=62132>

Almost Heaven West Virginia, WV – September 24-28, 2025

Sign up online at <https://bucketlisttoursbybarb.com> OR mail payment along with this form to Bucket List Tours by Barb, 497 Meadowlark Lane, Manheim, PA 17545.

Please identify the pick-up location - Willow Street, Lancaster, & Lebanon, PA

Names Participating in the Tour _____

Number of people participating in the tour _____ @ \$_____.00 per person. Total amount due _____

Number of people participating in the tour _____ @ \$400.00 per person deposit. Balance due 7/20/2025.

Please list everyone's cell phone number _____

Email dresses _____

Mailing addresses _____

Allergies _____

Emergency Contact _____



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