

A stylized map background with a grid of white lines on a light yellow background. A thick blue line representing a river or road curves across the map. Several colorful location pins (green, purple, orange, blue) are scattered across the map. The title 'Pin for TN' is written in a blue, cursive font across the center.

Pin for TN

**Insiders Guide for a Tennessee
Family Vacation on a Budget**

Some of the best memories are made during family vacations.

It's a time to de-stress, have some fun, and spend quality time with your loved ones. However, for a lot of families a vacation can really set them back financially. You shouldn't have to compromise when it comes to a great vacation and that's why we put this guide together. All activities are budget friendly and sure to make for an awesome trip with great memories.

Don't let your finances hold you back!

This guide is loaded with freebies and budget friendly activities, but the price for hotels, food, and gas can really add up. Advance Financial is here to help when money is tight. Come into one of our 70+ stores open 24/7 or [Click Here](#) to get the cash needed to start making great memories.

Click a city below to start planning your trip!



Nashville

*Click an activity for
↓ more information.*



**Country Music Hall
of Fame and Museum**



Adventure Science Center



**Opryland Hotel
Gardens**



Nashville Sounds Baseball



Centennial Park



Nashville Shores

[Back to Map](#)

Nashville



Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

If you have a love for country music then this is a must see. The Museum starts from the origins of country to modern day artists. From the rhinestone costumes to the tear-stained lyric sheets, you can easily spend hours here with lots to see and do.

Hours of Operation

9:00am to 5:00pm

Price

Adult (Ages 13+) \$24.95 Youth

(Ages 6-12) \$14.95 Child

(Ages 5 and under) FREE

Discounts or coupons

Discounted tickets can be purchased for up to \$10 off through [Groupon.com](https://www.groupon.com)

Back to
Nashville

Nashville



Opryland Hotel and Gardens

Upon walking into the hotel you will be greeted with breathtaking waterfalls and greenery. The rooms are somewhat pricey, but it's free to walk through the hotel gardens and shops. The hotel is set up like a small city inside and you can take a short boat ride through the gardens. There is also a water and lights show that is put on throughout the day.

Hours of Operation

Open 24 hours

Price

Free



[Back to Nashville](#)

Nashville



Centennial Park

Grab a Frisbee and a blanket; this is the perfect spot for a family picnic. The park is clean and safe with wide-open spaces and has a very nice playground area. Not only does the park have a beautiful pond and garden, it is also home to the only full-size replica of the Parthenon (in Greece) in the world.

Hours of Operation

Park - 24/7

Parthenon - Tuesday-Saturday 9:00am-4:30pm

Sunday -12:30 -4:30 pm

Price

Park – Free

Parthenon – (Adults) \$6.00

(Ages 4-17) \$4.00

[Back to Nashville](#)

Nashville



Adventure Science Center

A perfect mixture of education and fun, the Adventure Science Center is sure to provoke curiosity and learning while being wildly entertaining. The Center was founded in 1945 and is filled with 44,000 square feet of exhibit space featuring nearly 200 hands-on activities. If you have kids this should definitely be added to your list of things to do while in Nashville.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Price

Adult (Ages 13+) \$14

(Ages 6-12) \$11

(Ages 2 and under) FREE

Discounts or coupons

TN Teachers w/ ID* - Free

Find seasonal promotion discounts on Promopro.com

[Back to Nashville](#)

Nashville



Nashville Sounds Baseball

Batter up! If you're in Nashville during the spring/summer, you're crazy not to make a trip to the First Tennessee Park to cheer on Nashville's own minor league baseball team, the Nashville Sounds. The park is new with tons of good views. There isn't a bad seat in the house. In addition to the game, there are lots of other activities for kids and adults at the park along with tons of great food choices.

Hours of Operation

Check schedule for game times.

Price

Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$35 depending on the seats.

Discounts or coupons

You can find discounted tickets at Ticketdown.com

[Back to Nashville](#)

Nashville



Nashville Shores

For those hot summer days, a water park is the perfect solution. Nashville Shores Water Park offers slides for big and little kids, splash zones for the tiniest member of the family, large open pools, fountains, and food! For additional fun, on select nights they offer splash-in movie night. Check the special events webpage for movie nights.

Hours of Operation

Check schedule for park times.

Price

Adult (52 inches and taller) \$36.99

Junior (Shorter than 52 inches) \$28.99

Senior (62 years old and older) \$28.99

Discounts or coupons

Buy online and get all tickets at junior price of \$28.99

Get discounted tickets using coupon codes from the following sites:

Retailmenot.com, PromoPro.com

[Back to Nashville](#)

Knoxville

*Click an activity for
↓ more information.*



Ljams Nature Center



Clarence Brown Theatre



Knoxville Zoo



**McClung Museum of
Natural History and Culture**



**Knoxville Museum
of Art**



The Muse Knoxville



[Back to Map](#)

Knoxville



Ijams Nature Center

Established in 1910 by the Ijams family for bird-watchers and nature-lovers, Ijams is a great place for outdoor family fun. Ijams Nature Center has been ranked one of Knoxville's top three attractions by Trip Advisor and won the 2013 Certificate of Excellence. Hike, swim, and site see for free. At the center, there is the option for zip lines and rope courses as well as canoes to rent for the river. If in the Knoxville area, Ijams is a great day of outdoor fun.

Hours of Operation

Sun 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Mon - Tue 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wed - Sat 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Price

Hiking swimming and walking through the Nature Center is FREE!

Rentals for bikes and canoes - Check site for pricing.

[Back to Knoxville](#)

Knoxville



Knoxville Zoo

Home to over 800 animals from around the world, the Knoxville Zoo is a great day of fun for the family. The zoo is situated on 53 acres and has year round attractions. In addition to the children's zoo, where you can pet and brush the animals, there is a play area with slides, tunnels, and climbing ropes, as well as a huge sand box area.

Hours of Operation

Mon - Fri 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Sat - Sun 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Price

Adults \$19.95

Children ages 4-12 \$16.95

Seniors ages 65+ \$16.95

Children under 4 FREE

Discounts or coupons

Get discounted tickets and coupons at PromoPro.com

[Back to Knoxville](#)

Knoxville



Knoxville Museum of Art

The Knoxville Museum of Art is a definite place to add to your list of stops. The museum has ever-changing art exhibits, blues and jazz music on Friday nights, and a very nice gift shop. This isn't your old school, strict art museum. The exhibits are very kid friendly and there is a section for children to draw and do other crafts. Best part is its completely FREE!

Hours of Operation

Sun 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tue - Thu 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Fri 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Price

FREE

[Back to Knoxville](#)

Knoxville



Clarence Brown Theatre

Looking for some drama? You can find it at the Clarence Brown Theatre. The theater uses professional talent as well as students so their productions are always top-notch. The musicals are lively, and the drama is spectacular. This is a wonderful venue with very comfortable seating. You're sure to be entertained when seeing a production at this theatre.

Hours of Operation

Check website for scheduled shows.

Price

Prices vary from \$15 to \$35 depending on your section

[Back to Knoxville](#)

Knoxville



McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture

If you want to add some education into your trip to Knoxville, the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture is a great stop. The museum is filled with collections in anthropology, archaeology, decorative arts, local history, and natural history. There is a small theater in one sections that plays short informational videos on historical topics. The museum has a small shop and bookstore and on certain dates offers family-focused events.

Hours of Operation

Sun 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Mon - Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Price

FREE

[Back to Knoxville](#)

Knoxville



The Muse Knoxville

Kids of any age from 1 to 100 will enjoy visiting the Muse Knoxville. Muse is an interactive science and art center. There is 4,000 square feet of exhibit and play space designed to be fun and hands on. It's a great day of family fun, and both adults and kids will have a blast.

Hours of Operation

Monday: 9am - 12pm
Tuesday- Friday: 9am - 5pm
Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

Price

Adults: \$6
Seniors (65+): \$5
Children 2 and older: \$5
Children Under 2: FREE

[Back to Knoxville](#)

Gatlinburg

*Click an activity for
↓ more information.*



**Ripley's Aquarium
of the Smokies**



Gatlinburg Trail



Gatlinburg Sky Lift



**Ober Gatlinburg
Wildlife Encounter**



**Ripley's Believe
It or Not Odditorium**



Dollywood



[Back to Map](#)

Gatlinburg



Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies

Explore the wonders of the sea while vacationing in the mountains. Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies is home to 10,000 exotic sea creatures in 350 individual species. There are actually more fish in the aquarium than there are people in Gatlinburg. All of the exhibits are beautifully built and very well laid out. The aquarium is known for having an excellent staff that is very knowledgeable and ready to answer any questions you may have.

Hours of Operation

Mon - Thu 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Fri - Sun 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$28

Children 2-5: \$6

Children 6-11: \$16

Children Under 2: FREE

[Back to
Gatlinburg](#)

Gatlinburg



Gatlinburg Sky Lift

You can't go to Gatlinburg without riding the Sky Lift. Gaze upon the beautiful mountain scenery at an impressive height of 1,800 feet at the top of Crockett Mountain. And if you have a fear of heights you need not to worry because the lift is an extremely smooth ride. Don't forget to smile! Along the ride up will be a camera to take a snapshot. Once you reach the top you will be able to purchase the image as well as other memorabilia from the gift shop.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$15.50

Children 3-11: \$12

Discounts or coupons

Stop into one of the visitor centers to get coupons on Gatlinburg activities.

[Back to
Gatlinburg](#)

Gatlinburg



Gatlinburg Trail

Some fresh air does everyone a little good. The Gatlinburg trail is the best place to go for quality time with the outdoors. It's an easy hike that also gives much for the eye to see. Take one of the trails near the mountain stream for a peaceful and serene stroll. Though you may feel as if your miles deep into the park, the trailhead is only a few blocks away from most restaurants, shops and hotels.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

Price

FREE



[Back to
Gatlinburg](#)

Gatlinburg



Ober Gatlinburg's Wildlife Encounter

A privately funded, municipally sponsored zoo, The Wildlife Encounter at Ober Gatlinburg is home to otters, owls, bears and more. The habitat is comprised of rescued animals and allows you to get an up close view of native TN wildlife. Along with the outdoor exhibits there is a nocturnal house with nocturnal birds of prey, raccoons, skunks and flying squirrels as well as a reptile house with a variety of small reptiles, amphibians, fish and a red squirrel.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$7

Children 5-11: \$5

[Back to
Gatlinburg](#)

Gatlinburg



Dollywood

If you're up for roller coasters, then Dollywood needs to be pinned as a destination. Recognized as a 2010 Applause Award winner, Dollywood is one of the world's best theme parks. The Park is 150 acres of rides and attractions located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. This is a fun filled day for the entire family. With more than 40 rides and attractions, adults and kids alike will have a blast.

Hours of Operation

See Dollywood calendar for dates and times.

Price

Adults: \$48

Children 4-11: \$43

Discounts or coupons

Stop into on of the visitor centers to get coupons on Gatlinburg activities.

Buy tickets online and get \$4 off each ticket.

[Back to
Gatlinburg](#)

Gatlinburg



Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium

It's the only place you'll find shrunken heads in Gatlinburg. The Odditorium is filled with unusual displays that will leave you wondering. Between the 12ft tall Transformer sculpture made of scrap car parts to the authentic vampire killing kit, every exhibit will definitely grab your attention. There are also tons of hands-on activities so the kids will love it.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$16

Children 3-11: \$10

Discounts or coupons

Stop into one of the visitor centers to get coupons on Gatlinburg activities.

Buy tickets online and get \$4 off each ticket.

[Back to
Gatlinburg](#)

Chattanooga

*Click an activity for
↓ more information.*



Tennessee Aquarium



Raccoon Mountain Caverns



Lookout Mountain



Ruby Falls



**Creative Discovery
Museum**



High Point Climbing



[Back to Map](#)

Chattanooga



Tennessee Aquarium

Filled with 9,000 animals that swim, fly and crawl, this aquarium is dedicated to educating visitors about freshwater and ocean ecosystems. The facility is separated into two exhibits, the Ocean Journey and the River Journey. Plan on spending a little over 3 hours at the aquarium to go through both exhibits. There is also an Imax theater that lets you experience the underwater world close up. Kids and adults alike will love this experience so make sure and add it to your list!

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$30

Children 3-12: \$19

Discounts or coupons

Find seasonal promotion discounts on Promopro.com

[Back to Chattanooga](#)

Chattanooga



Lookout Mountain

Take a hike to experience breathtaking scenery! The views are outstanding and its super easy to get there from the downtown area. This is an all day exploration so plan to spend the entire day outdoors. The hike to the top can be done at leisure walking pace and there are plenty of places to rest or even have a picnic.

Hours of Operation

24/7

Price

Free



[Back to Chattanooga](#)

Chattanooga



Creative Discovery Museum

Rated as the #7 children's museum in the U.S., the Creative Discovery Museum is a hands-on children's museum right in the middle of downtown Chattanooga. The museum's goal is to inspire children to innovate, create, explore, and play. All the exhibits are designed to be both entertaining and educational. Kids can discover the worlds of music, art, archeology, water ecosystems, and much more.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$13.95

Children 3-12: \$13.95

[Back to Chattanooga](#)

Chattanooga



Raccoon Mountain Caverns

Home to the tallest underground, natural flowing waterfall, Raccoon Mountain Caverns is only 10 minutes from downtown Chattanooga. Take the 45-minute Crystal Palace walking tour and gaze upon a cave in its natural state filled with diverse formations and columns. This is a great activity for those who love to explore. There is also the option to do the wild cave “spelunking” expeditions where visitors get to take a tour through parts of the caverns that are off the lighted pathway.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Fri 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sat 9:00 am - 5:00

Price

Adults: \$14.95

Children 5-12: \$7.95

[Back to Chattanooga](#)

Chattanooga



Ruby Falls

Named one of the ten most incredible cave waterfalls on Earth, you don't want to miss this attraction if you're in Chattanooga. Ruby Falls is America's deepest commercial cave filled with unique rock formations. The highlight of the cave is the 145-foot sparkling underground waterfall. When visiting the falls a tour guide will lead you through the magnificent cavern giving facts about all the formations and structures. It's a educational and engaging experience that the entire family will love.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$19.95

Children 5-12: \$11.95

[Back to Chattanooga](#)

Chattanooga



High Point Climbing

Rock climbing for all levels of experience, High Point Climbing is sure to fill your entire day with fun. Not only will everyone in your family have a blast, but you'll also get some great exercise. The facility is huge with a variety of auto belay and two-person belay walls, as well as bouldering walls. The Kids Zone is comprised of multiple themed walls varying in size. If you have kids this will definitely be their favorite part of the trip.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$15

Children 0-10: \$13

[Back to Chattanooga](#)

Memphis

*Click an activity for
↓ more information.*



Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum



Children's Museum of Memphis



AutoZone Ballpark



Mud Island River Park



Graceland



Go Ape TreeTop Adventure Course



[Back to Map](#)

Memphis



Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum

Highlighting the artists and music that shaped the Memphis sound, the Rock 'n' Soul Museum needs to be on your list of places to go while in Memphis. The Museum puts you back in time to see the progression of rock 'n' roll through the years and the artists that helped shape the sound. The staff are very informative and are ready to give you in-depth details about the exhibits.

Hours of Operation:

Sun - Sat 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Price:

Adults: \$12

Children 5-17: \$9

Discounts or coupons:

Find seasonal promotion discounts on [Groupon.com](https://www.groupon.com)

[Back to Memphis](#)

Memphis



AutoZone Park

Take a trip downtown and catch a game at the AutoZone Ball park to cheer on the Memphis Redbirds, Memphis' own minor league baseball team. The park is structured as an open concourse so ticket holders will never lose sight of the game. There is a great picnic area and lawn seating area that is perfect for families and groups. If you're in Memphis during the Spring/Summer season you want to make sure and catch a game.

Hours of Operation

Check schedule for game times.

Price

Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$35 depending on the seats.

Discounts or coupons

You can find discounted tickets at Ticketdown.com

[Back to Memphis](#)

Memphis



Graceland

Home to The King of Rock 'n' Roll himself, Elvis Presley's Graceland is open daily with tours of the Graceland Mansion, the Elvis Presley Car Museum, Elvis custom jets and other limited time exhibits. The tour of Graceland also includes an interactive tour with additional enhancements including photos, video and more. If you're an Elvis fan then you don't want to miss out on this attraction.

Hours of Operation

Sun 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mon - Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Price

Adults: \$38.75

Children 7-12: \$17

[Back to Memphis](#)

Memphis



Children's Museum of Memphis

Parents take note. If you want your kids to be entertained for an entire day with the least amount of effort from you, take them to the Children's Museum of Memphis. The museum is filled with tons of activities and games that are sure to keep them engaged all day long. A popular exhibit is the mini supermarket that lets kids pretend to shop and work a cash register. Both educational and entertaining this is a must for your family trip to Memphis.

Hours of Operation

Sun - Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Price

All ages: \$12

[Back to Memphis](#)

Memphis



Mud Island River Park

Mud Island River Park is 52-acre park home to the River Walk, an exact scale model of the Lower Mississippi River flowing from the Ohio River at Cairo, Illinois 954 miles south to the Gulf of Mexico. The River Walk is one of the most unique representations of the Mississippi River in the world, allowing visitors to actually dip their feet into the water and walk around. On the island there is also the Mississippi River Museum, accessible only by a footbridge.

Hours of Operation

April 9 – October 31
Tues - Sun 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Price

Free

[Back to Memphis](#)

Memphis



Go Ape Treetop Adventure Course

Swing, climb, and zip through Memphis forest! Go Ape Treetop Adventure is an interactive outdoor course featuring zip lines, Tarzan swings, and awesome obstacles at heights of 40-50 feet in the trees. This place is a great adventure for the entire family. The courses are part of the Shelby Farms Park, which is set within a beautiful pine forest bordering Pine Lake. This is the place to go in Memphis if you're looking for a day spent outdoors. And make sure to pack a picnic. There are numerous spots to eat and relax.

Hours of Operation

Check website for available times

Price

Adults: \$49

Children 10-15: \$29

[Back to Memphis](#)