

*Tour is limited to 100 vehicles
25 years and older.*

Arrive Early!

Check-in for the Secret City Tour opens at noon on **Sunday, April 30, 2023**, at the Doubletree by Hilton, Oak Ridge. AACA East Tennessee Region volunteers will be on hand to assist you as you settle in for the three-day event.

On Sunday evening there will be a drivers' meeting which will feature a preview of the tour presented by Oak Ridge Historian D. Ray Smith, as well as your East Tennessee Region friends.

Stay Late!

The hills and valleys of East Tennessee have so much to offer, you'll want to plan on spending additional days in the area before and/or after the tour. The Doubletree by Hilton, Hampton Inn, and Holiday Inn Express have all graciously agreed to honor the tour discount rate for early arrival or late stay.

You might want to visit the antique district in nearby Clinton or enjoy the lively shops and eateries in downtown Knoxville. You may also wish to drive the scenic Cherohala Skyway and take in Scenic Bald River Falls. And of course, the excitement, shows, and shops of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge are just a short drive away.

Optional tour suggestions and driving routes are available on the East Tennessee Region website: etr.aaca.com.



Host Hotel

Doubletree by Hilton
215 South Illinois Avenue
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-481-2468

Auxiliary Hotels

Holiday Inn Express 114 Tulsa Road Oak Ridge, TN 37830 865-298-1990	Hampton Inn 208 S Illinois Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830 865-482-7889
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Recommended Campground

Melton Hill Dam Campground
201 Campground Road
Lenoir City, TN 37771
865-361-0436

Contact Us

Tour Chairman

Roger Frazee
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Tour Registrar

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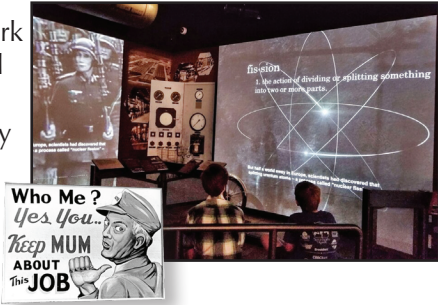
Oak Ridge, Norris TVA, Foothills of
the Great Smoky Mountains,
Brushy Mountain Prison



Hosted by the
East Tennessee Region, AACA

Tour Highlights

The 2023 Southeastern Divisional Tour will explore the rich history of a “secret” city that was constructed as a part of the Manhattan Project. There, scientist Robert Oppenheimer led the effort to produce enough enriched uranium to build the first atomic bomb. The work was performed under the strictest security in the area now known as Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

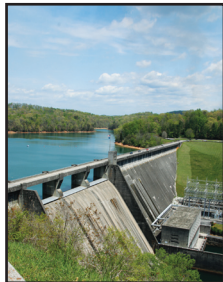


We will visit landmarks that define “The Secret City,” hear from historians who have extensive knowledge of the area, and enjoy the natural beauty of the East Tennessee countryside.



We will also enjoy morning coffee breaks along the shore of Melton Lake, at Fort Loudon State Park, and in Oak Ridge’s historic Jackson Square.

Each day of the tour will feature a stop at one of the three museums dedicated to the history of Oak Ridge, its role in ending World War II, and the cutting-edge nuclear technology that is still being developed in the region today.



Along the way, we will enjoy lunch at the Museum of Appalachia, followed by a visit to Norris Dam, the first dam built by the Tennessee Valley Authority.



During one of the tour days we will drive through the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains where we can enjoy breathtaking views along the way. We’ll have lunch at the Smoky Mountain Heritage Center, where we will also learn about the important work of the Appalachian Bear Rescue organization.

On another tour day we will visit the infamous Brushy Mountain State Prison, a foreboding fortress



surrounded by mountains, that once housed the country’s most dangerous criminals, including James Earl Ray, who assassinated Martin Luther King Jr.



The third afternoon of the tour will feature an ice cream social and car display in Oak Ridge’s Bissell Park, where guests will enjoy East Tennessee hospitality as well as an assortment of antique cars owned by area residents.

Visitors will have the opportunity to ring the 8,000-pound International Friendship Bell, a bronze memorial cast with images that symbolize the peace and friendship now shared between Japan and Oak Ridge. The park also features the Secret City Commemorative Walk, which chronicles the major events that occurred during the Second World War.



The Secret City Tour will conclude with a banquet featuring renown Tennessee author and humorist, Sam Venable.

The East Tennessee Region is looking forward to hosting AACA members from across the country as we explore East Tennessee and discover the secrets of The Secret City!

