



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Johnson City Tours Offer Visitors A Historical Perspective**

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.— When visiting an unknown destination, it is often hard to dive into an unfamiliar culture, history and tourist attractions and know what you should see and do to make the most of your experience. If you are an avid and eager traveler, looking into discovering all that Johnson City has to offer, there are many tour packages that will lead you through the region.

“More and more travelers are looking for authentic destinations—places that are unique and that showcase their heritage and culture. The Johnson City area is rich on history, and various organizations and groups are working to showcase all the region has to offer,” said Brenda Whitson, executive director of the Johnson City Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Through various tours in the region, visitors can explore the affluent culture, relive historical moments or enjoy the beautiful scenic landscapes of Northeast Tennessee.”

There are four tours for visitors to choose from, each highlighting its own piece of the area’s widespread list of historical attractions.

### **Tipton-Haynes Historical Site Tours**

Consisting of 11 different buildings, this historic site displays the history of Tennessee from the colonial settlement to the early Civil War era. This site, purchased in 1784 by Colonel

John Tipton, is a state-owned site maintained by the nonprofit Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, open to the public since the early 1970s.

Tour visitors can explore the restored clapboard house and property buildings, as well as John Tipton's memorial site and the home of George Haynes, a Haynes family slave. The Tipton-Haynes tour presents an interactive history lesson by allowing visitors to explore through the 11 on site buildings, including Tipton's original log cabin, the smokehouse, pigsty, loom house, still house, springhouse, log barn and corncrib. Tour guests will also be able to examine three distinct architectural styles the buildings feature, due to the time period that site covers. Guests can take a self-guided tour, or choose to have a tour guide, who can also provide additional information about the property, family and time period.

For adventurous visitors, the Tipton-Haynes tour also offers a 30-foot long cave, located just beneath the main house, and according to tradition, Daniel Boone allegedly camped there. The cave is open to the public for self-guided tours.

For visitors eager to explore the outdoors and the beautiful scenery surrounding the estate, the Buffalo Trail, the Andre Michaux Trail and various wooded areas enriched with flowers and plants from the earlier period are also open for self-guided tours.

The Tipton-Haynes Museum and Education Center is another addition to the site, offering a variety of educational exhibit areas, libraries and archives that provide further details on the time period, as well as on the Tipton and Haynes families.

For more information, please visit [www.tipton-haynes.org](http://www.tipton-haynes.org), or call (423) 926-3631.

### **Rocky Mount Living History Guided Tours**

Rocky Mount Museum and Living History Site, located in Piney Flats, Tenn., at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains, takes visitors back to 1791 when George Washington was president. Through first person interpretation, the tours truly give visitors an insight on the daily lifestyles, food, clothing, furnishings and games during this time period. The tour begins with a visit to the Massengill Overmountain Museum, which provides artifacts from on-site digs, ranging from pots and pans to weapons. An orientation video is also available to offer additional information about the site.

During the tours, costumed interpreters take visitors through the historic buildings and give them an up close and personal look at colonial living. These interpreters portray Cobb family members, neighbors or servants, and invite tourists to join them as a guest in the Cobb house where they share first-person stories about the Cobb family, Governor Blount and Indian affairs, as well as showcasing antique treasures such as the Richard Midgley clock and other antique treasures.

The historic kitchen is another part of the average one-hour tour, where interpreters demonstrate how people in the eighteenth century cooked and explain the different tools available to them. Visitors often get to taste fine dishes such as gingerbread or sausage muffins, which are cooked over an authentic open fire.

Other parts of the tour include the gardens with medicinal, culinary and dye plants, as well as the weaving cabin where visitors learn about flax and wool processing.

After the tour, visitors can explore the different areas of the site freely and learn about the blacksmith shop or the barn.

For more information, please visit [www.rockymountmuseum.com](http://www.rockymountmuseum.com), or call (423) 538-7396.

### **The Quilt Trail**

Johnson City visitors can take a self-guided tour along the Quilt Trail, which consists of 17 different sites, featuring 18 barn side quilts in the Johnson City region. Visitors can travel along the scenic countryside paths to explore the different farms and barns located on this trail, where traditional quilt patterns are reproduced by painting the design on a historic barn. A traditional quilt is displayed at the backdrop of each barn to take visitors back in time, and draw a connection to the specific family that used to reside in the different barns.

“Most quilt patterns come from a quilt that has been in the family, some more than 100 years, and tell a story about that specific family, barn and farm,” said Roy Settle, coordinator with the Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council. “Not only has the Quilt Trail created an appreciation for farmland, but it has also caused people to restore barns and document family history, and also allows people to experience unique areas within the region.”

Visitors can also explore the produce stands, shops and galleries that are included along the Quilt Trail, such as the St. John Mill at the St. John Barn. St. John Mill offers visitors a step back into history with a variety of handmade items, including quilts, blankets, handmade birdhouses and feeders, as well as handmade soap, molasses, honey and apple butter.

For more information, please visit [www.quilttrail.org](http://www.quilttrail.org) or call (423) 753-4441, extension four.

### **Positive Solutions Tours**

With year-round tours, Positive Solutions (PST), located in Jonesborough, offers visitors a unique experience to enhance the educational value of historical tour sites. Positive Solutions Tours offers numerous packages, including storytelling tours, package tours, step-on guides, day tours and day guides that create an interactive experience, along with making learning about history exciting and interesting.

“Most people know us because of our one-of-a-kind storytelling tours of Jonesborough. But we are much more than a tour company. As a receptive tour operator, we can offer your corporation a full range of services including Spousal Tours, motivational speakers, musicians and storytellers. Positive Solutions can also assist you with business conferences by arranging meeting space, accommodations, transportation, meals and entertainment,” said Linda Poland, president of Positive Solution Tours.

PST creates a variety of tour packages that will accommodate any group’s needs by providing tour guides to accompany groups to any of the area’s historic sites or for special occasions. For single day group tours, visitors can choose from a variety of options, including “Discover Jonesborough Times and Tales,” a tour that circles through Jonesborough’s historic district and covers the sites and history or “Fools and Tall Tales,” which includes a high jacking and home tour, accompanied by a professional storyteller and musician. “Walk the Line,” at the *Carter Family Fold*, includes music, dancing and clogging.

Tours can also take place over the course of several days, such as “Elegant Shivers,” a multiple night tour for the adventurous tour seeker who wants to experience “legends, whispers and mysteries,” and partake in the murder mystery on a barge ride through a mountaintop lake.

Often called the ghost walk, guides share the legends, stories and unusual happenings of Jonesborough's past and present.

PST also has the "Traveling Mind Benders Troup," which includes professional storytellers, musicians and folk dancers to enhance any group's tour visit. Other specialized tours include an Old-Fashioned Christmas Tour, the Christmas Wassail Tour or the Greetings of the Season tour.

For more information, please visit [www.positivesolutionstours.com](http://www.positivesolutionstours.com) or call (423) 753-9882.

Johnson City is located in Northeast Tennessee and is the fourth largest metropolitan city in the state. Set in a region known as America's First Frontier, Johnson City is "Where the Pioneer Spirit Began"—a historically significant and culturally rich community surrounded by an abundance of unspoiled natural beauty. Johnson City has a history, which dates back more than 200 years, and its culture embraces individual creativity and encourages innovation through expression. The area is world-renowned for its modern and traditional Appalachian and bluegrass music, art and cuisine, and outdoor recreation for the whole family throughout all four seasons. For more information on Johnson City, please visit [www.visitjohnsoncitytn.com](http://www.visitjohnsoncitytn.com) or call (423) 461-8000 or (800) 852-3392.

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