

## **North Carolina and Kentucky Field Trip August 6<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> of August**

Gem mining in North Carolina is different than most field trips. Here the norm is to purchase salted buckets of natural gemstones. You may find Aquamarine, Garnet, Emerald, Ruby, Topaz and many more varieties. The higher the cost of the bucket, the better the material you will find. Most \$80.00 buckets will give you several stones that can be faceted. A free faceted stone will be sent to your address in about six weeks.

Also, on this ten-day trip, we will be panning gold. A side trip to a mine dump, a blasted mountaintop mine for Aquamarine and Garnets, or a tour of the famous Biltmore Estate can be arranged. A two-day creek check for Kentucky agates should be memorable.

This trip is designed for those who are working. By using two weekends you will be able to keep this trip to five vacation days.

**AUGUST 6, 2011 (SATURDAY)** - Leave Michigan – 560 miles to London, Ky. – 9-hour drive Using 96, 23, 475, and 75

DAY'S INN – 207 Hwy 80 West, London, KY. - Motel Number 606-864-2222  
Direct Reservations are \$59.95 - Best rate is on line reservations at \$49.96 plus Tax.  
Dbl bed – Pool – Continental Breakfast - Pets \$10.00 ea

**AUGUST 7, 2011 (SUNDAY)** - Leave London, KY. 249 miles to Spruce Pine, North Carolina on 75, 40 East passed Asheville, NC, 70, and 226 North

PINE VALLEY MOTEL – 11827 Hwy 266 South, Spruce Pine, NC - Motel Number 866-671-2246 - \$70.00 plus tax - Call direct for Reservations and confirmation number.

**Note:** The dates for the North Carolina Mineral & Gem Festival in Spruce Pine are Aug. 4 – 7, 2011. We will try to arrive in Spruce Pine, NC by 1 pm. The dealers Sunday show time is 12:30 until 5 pm. After tour of the show we will check into the motel. We will stay two nights in Spruce Pine, NC – Campground: 260 Spruce Pine Campground Rd. Phone 828-765-7007

**AUGUST 8, 2011 (MONDAY)** - Gem Mountain – Salted Buckets 9 – 7 pm,  
Gem Mountain Brushy Creek Mine 10 – 2 pm - \$70.00 per person – Aquamarine & Garnets,  
Rio Doce Mine – Salted Buckets 9 – 6 pm, Spruce Pine Gem Stone Mine, The Museum of North Carolina Minerals – Admission Free -- 2<sup>nd</sup> night in Spruce Pine, NC

**AUGUST 9, 2011 (TUESDAY)** - Emerald Village 9 am – 6 pm, Salted Buckets – Rock Shop – Mining Museum, The Crabtree Mine – work mine dumps for \$20.00 per day, Drive to the Lucky Strike Gold Mine. (Stay three nights)

**AUGUST 10, 2011 (WEDNESDAY)** - The Lucky Strike Gold Mine - Located 6.6 miles south of I 40 at Marion, NC on Hwy 221, Phone 828-738-4893, Prospectors Cabins – Queen Bed, Microwave, Fridge, Toaster, Coffee Pot, Sitting Porch, \$85.00/night includes Breakfast at the miner's diner, Heat and A/C, No Pets, Primitive camping Available, Gold Panning in the River - \$5.00 per day – buy buckets – nugget bags or Highbankers and material. Gem buckets are available -- 2<sup>nd</sup> night at the Lucky Strike Mine

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**AUGUST 11, 2011 (THURSDAY)** - Continue to Gold pan for the day or take a side trip to Asheville. The world famous Biltmore Estate is a site to see. Free wine samples before purchase. -- 3<sup>rd</sup> night at the Lucky Strike Mine

**AUGUST 12, 2011 (FRIDAY)** - Leave the Lucky Strike Mine – 313 miles to Irvine, KY on 221, 40 West, 75 North to Richmond, KY, Exit 87 Richmond Rd to Irving, KY  
OAK TREE INN – Irvine, KY - Phone 866-538-0187 - Queen Bed, Micro, Refrigerator, Coffee Maker, A/C, Cable TV - Two floors – Pets \$10.00 - On line Reservation – hotelguides.com - \$50.40 plus tax -- 1<sup>st</sup> night

For those returning to work stay 2 nights – Leave Sunday morning – 8 – 9 hour return home. All others stay 3 nights.

**AUGUST 13, 2011 (SATURDAY)** - Kentucky Agate hunting all day -- 2<sup>nd</sup> night

**AUGUST 14, 2011 (SUNDAY)** - Kentucky Agate hunting all day -- 3<sup>rd</sup> night

**AUGUST 15, 2011 (MONDAY)** - The Monday morning blues - The long 8 – 9 hour trip back home. For those who would like to prolong the agony you may follow Anne & me to the Geode Beds in Indiana before returning home.

**Recommended Equipment:** Rock pick, shovel, screwdriver, screening devise, gloves, knee pads, safety glasses, spray bottle, Ziploc Bags, first aid kit, folding chairs, binoculars, camera, toilet paper, paper towel, Hipsters, waders, rock bags, 5 gal buckets, case of bottled water, sunscreen, maps, field trip reference articles and last be sure to have enough empty vials for all your gold.

A List of all cell phones will be available.

**Any Questions** - Contact Rance and Anne Westover at [rance\\_anne@yahoo.com](mailto:rance_anne@yahoo.com)  
or by phone at **616-754-7093**