

Seven States at Once, a Waterfall 1,120 Feet Down — A 2-Day Chattanooga Road Trip

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DURATION

2 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

**April–May &
September–November**

Spring and fall bring mild temperatures and (in autumn) ridge-top foliage; summer is hot and humid, and winter can close some overlook trails in ice.

FROM

\$290 USD / person

for 2 people, incl. a 2-day economy rental car, 1 night downtown, Ruby Falls, Rock City, and Tennessee Aquarium admission (excl. flights and most meals)

Chattanooga sits where the Tennessee River cuts through the Cumberland Plateau, with Lookout Mountain rising straight out of downtown on the Georgia state line. This two-day loop covers the mountain's two signature attractions — an underground waterfall and a boulder garden with a claimed seven-state view — a night at a riverfront boutique hotel, and a Civil War battlefield overlook on the way out of town. Real hotels, a real driving route, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DAY 1

Ruby Falls, Rock City & Lookout Mountain

Fly into Chattanooga, pick up a rental car, and spend the day on Lookout Mountain before settling into a riverfront hotel downtown.

Ruby Falls Cave Tour

~1.5 hrs, guided · from \$21.95 USD/person

An elevator descent followed by a half-mile cave walk to a 145-foot waterfall more than 1,100 feet underground — discovered by cave explorer Leo Lambert in 1928 and still one of the deepest commercial cave attractions in the country.

Ruby Falls | (423) 821-2544 | [rubyfalls.com](https://www.rubyfalls.com)

Rock City Gardens — Lover's Leap & Fairyland Caverns

~2 hrs, self-guided · from \$21 USD/person (online)

A boulder-strewn garden trail just across the Georgia state line, built around the Lover's Leap overlook that claims a view of seven states on a clear day, plus a swinging bridge and the blacklit gnome dioramas of Fairyland Caverns.

Rock City Gardens | (706) 820-2531 | [seerockcity.com](https://www.seerockcity.com)

Hotel Check-In — The Edwin Hotel, Autograph Collection

from \$289 USD/night, for 2 people

A glass-walled boutique hotel on the Riverwalk near the Tennessee Aquarium, with a rooftop bar looking out over the Tennessee River and the downtown skyline.

The Edwin Hotel, Autograph Collection | +1 423-713-5900 | marriott.com/CHAAK

Dinner on Your Own — Easy Bistro & Bar

~1.5 hrs • ~\$35–55 USD/person

A longtime Chattanooga favorite for New American cooking in a converted warehouse downtown — reservations are worth making ahead on weekends.

Easy Bistro & Bar | (423) 266-1121 | easybistro.com

DAY 2

Riverfront, Battlefield & Departure

A morning along the Tennessee River, an afternoon at the Civil War battlefield atop Lookout Mountain, then the drive back to the airport.

Tennessee Aquarium — River Journey & Ocean Journey

~3 hrs, self-guided • ~\$45 USD/person (both buildings)

Two connected buildings on the downtown riverfront: river otters and freshwater fish on the River Journey side, sharks, penguins, and an open ocean exhibit on the Ocean Journey side.

Tennessee Aquarium | (800) 262-0695 | tnaqua.org

Walnut Street Bridge

~30 min, self-guided • free

A 2,376-foot former car bridge over the Tennessee River, now the world's longest pedestrian bridge, linking downtown to the North Shore with views back toward Lookout Mountain.

Point Park — Lookout Mountain Battlefield

~1.5 hrs, self-guided • \$10 USD/person (16+; NPS pass accepted)

The summit battlefield from the 1863 Battle of Lookout Mountain, part of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, with cannon emplacements and an overlook across the Moccasin Bend of the Tennessee River.

Point Park, National Park Service | (706) 866-9241 | nps.gov/chch

Self-Drive & Car Return — Lookout Mountain to Chattanooga Airport

~9 miles, ~20 min • self-drive

A short run back down the mountain and across town to return the rental ahead of an afternoon flight.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car — Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport | +1 833-886-0852 | enterprise.com

Prices and hours are indicative for 2026 and subject to change — confirm directly with each business before you travel. Published by I-Journey ·
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