

Mountaintop Hospitality...

in a natural haven nestled among the highest peaks of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

hen night descends, you can wrap the silence V around vou like a cloak at LeConte Lodge. The only noises disturbing the stillness are the sounds of nature... nocturnal creatures going their way, the rumble of thunder or breezes rustling through treetops. It's a place where the visitor easily bonds with the environment.

At 6.593 feet elevation. Mt. LeConte is one of the Park's highest peaks. When the movement to establish a National Park in the Smokies was in full sway, a tent camp was erected where LeConte Lodge now stands to entertain visiting dignitaries from Washington. Although LeConte Lodge is now under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, it predates the creation of the Park in 1930. Jack Huff, a Gatlinburg mountaineer and founder of the rustic lodge, began building the retreat in 1926. Eight years later, Jack and Pauline Huff were married at a sunrise service at LeConte's now-famous Myrtle Point, the traditional place to watch spectacular performances of daybreak. Jack, Pauline and their family continued to operate the Lodge until 1960. It is presently operated under the auspices of Stokely Hospitality Enterprises, supervised by General Managers Tim and Lisa Line.

Overnight guests at LeConte Lodge are very special people. The only way to reach the destination is by hiking moderately strenuous trails up and back. There are five trails to the Lodge, the shortest and steepest being Alum Cave Trail at 5 1/2 miles, which a hiker in good condition can do in approximately four hours. None of these trails can be considered a stroll, and you occasionally encounter ice and snow as late as May or as

early as October. The other trails are Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap, each 6.7 miles, a hike of about five hours: Bullhead, 7.2 miles and about five hours; and Boulevard. 8 miles and about 5 1/2 hours. Parking is available at the start of each trail.

Allow ample hiking time so that you can enjoy the opulent and incredibly diverse flora and fauna, yet still arrive in time to explore the Lodge area before the

> 6 p.m. dinner hour. Regardless of the trail you choose, it's as if the height and climate of the mountain had compressed hundreds of miles of geographical scenery into a single day's hike, providing a rewarding adventure. A high percentage of the guests each year are people who return time and again to accept the challenge of the hike and bask in the serenity and solitude of majestic Mt. LeConte.

An occasional hiker's bonus on Trillium Gap Trail Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays can be overtaking a llama pack train carrying fresh supplies to the Lodge, weather permitting. Since the only way in or out is on foot, supplies are delivered that way as well. Once the hauling was done by horses, but the damage to the trails from their shod feet caused the management to seek alternatives. The most environmentally compatible creatures for packing purposes are llamas, which have very little impact on the trails with their padded feet, and are a delight to all hikers of any age with their humming sounds and gentle features.

Whether feasting your eyes on a sunset from Cliff Tops, watching a tame boomer squirrel nose around at your feet, enjoying a concert of birds warbling in the bushes, or making way for a meandering black bear, a night spent at LeConte Lodge is naturally quality time.



LeConte Lodge represents down home hospitality in one of the world's most beautiful. unspoiled wilderness areas. Plentiful meals. pleasant companionship and comfortable accommodations are LeConte passwords.

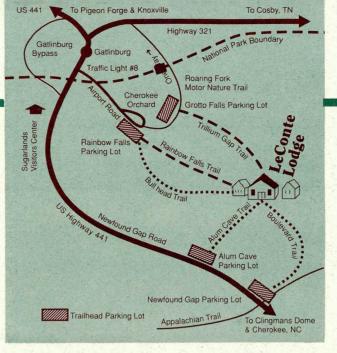
ocated in the middle of the half-million acre Great Smoky Mountains National Park, LeConte Lodge is the only place where a visitor can sleep overnight on a mountaintop, in a snug, permanent structure, with hot and hearty meals on tap. It has a capacity of fifty guests per night, housed in either rough-hewn cabins or group sleeping lodges. The cozy cabins are furnished with upper and lower double bunk beds, making them ideal for two couples or a family of four to five persons. The lodges sleep from ten to thirteen each. Appropriately for a getaway from the high tech world a mile below, there is no electricity. The mellow glow of kerosene lamps lights your accommodations, and it is recommended that you pack flashlights in your gear. Lodges and cabins are warmed by kerosene heaters. Not too long ago, an up-to-date privy building with flush toilets was a welcome innovation to the mountaintop life, but there are no showers. Basins are standard in all lodging for sponge baths, and truthfully, since the temperature has never reached the 80-degree mark atop LeConte, no one is really anxious to get wet all over, especially since nighttime temperatures take a radical dip even at the height of summer. Those fleecy virgin wool blankets on the beds rate far higher with Lodge guests than icy showers ever could!

Outdoor activity creates healthy appetites, and the hosts at LeConte Lodge recognize this. From the coffee or hot chocolate that awaits you upon arrival to the family-style meals served in the lodge dining room, you will be able to eat your fill of tasty and nourishing dishes which appease hunger and restore energy. Lunch is also served to guests staving for more than one night.

You live by the sun on Mt. LeConte, early to bed, relaxed by your climb, and early to rise to enjoy a renowned Myrtle Point sunrise. TVs aren't missed. For leisure activities, the Lodge office provides reading materials, games and comfortable chairs. Then there's always the most popular activity of all, sitting on the deck in rocking chairs, soaking up the view of mountain tops and distant valleys.

For your LeConte adventure, choose sturdy shoes already

LeConte Lodge is an authorized National Park Service Concession.



broken in. Include more than one change of socks in case of wet feet. Lavered, lightweight clothing gives you the flexibility to add or subtract as temperatures fluctuate. A warm sweater or jacket is advisable anytime, and a lightweight raincoat or poncho is a must. Nature shows no mercy for those unprepared for her whimsical changes in weather. Summer nights can dip to forty degree readings, and in spring and fall, nights can drop into the teens with snow. A light knapsack should be adequate for your necessities, since everything but personal articles are provided at the Lodge. Remember to include a snack for along the trail and a canteen of water (drinking from streams is discouraged for health reasons), your own handtowel and wash cloth and that flashlight.

eConte Lodge is a Stokely Hospitality Enterprises property, they also operate Charit Creek Lodge in Big South Fork National

River and Recreation Area, another National Park. on the Tennessee/Kentucky border. Since careful advance planning is necessary to properly run a wilderness lodge, 30 days notice is required to cancel a reservation and receive a full refund. If you need to cancel with less than 30 days notice, still notify us as soon as possible. While we can't guarantee a refund, if we can rent your spot, we'll gladly return your payment.

LeConte Lodge is open from late March to mid November. Reservations can be made by contacting us at our new location behind the Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant.

Write LeConte Lodge, 250 Apple Valley Road, Sevierville, TN 37862, or call 423/429-5704.



Other Stokely Hospitality Properties: Charit Creek Lodge • Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant • Applewood Farmhouse Grill • Burning Bush Restaurant • Brass Lantern Restaurant • Great Smokies Catering Affiliated Property • Edgewater Hotel-Gatlinburg