

Grand Ridge Crossing

(Extreme Wilderness Adventure)

[Fri. - Sun. June 29 – July 1, 2012]

A 12 Hour overnight wilderness hike in the Blue Mountains - from Bangor Ridge Portland to Cinchona Gardens, St. Andrew - pick up Silver Hill Gap (St. Andrew). Category: Exploratory Tour.



Grand Ridge Crossing



The Grand Ridge of the Blue Mountains

Degree of Difficulty 8.5/10 (Medical Advice needed on any disabilities/medical condition)

Once in a lifetime adventure!

Crossing the Grand Ridge of the Blue Mountains is a serious adventure and very few Jamaicans have ever been through these forests. These were the war grounds, the natural fortresses and sanctuaries for the windward Maroons... Greenvale Great House and Trafalgar ... mountain place names carved into the history of coffee, slavery and resistance that characterize the hills and valleys on our path across the backbone of the Blue Mountains..

Panoramic, breathtaking and awesome are the views from the trails along the Grand Ridge. The forest fascinates, while the mist mystifies the already extraordinary encounter of this wild kind.... Nightfall brings to life a new world of sound and calls as crickets and frogs orchestrate a stereophonic symphony. Fire flies like luminous balls occasionally rush through forest; dashing and sometimes crashing into trees. So unlike peniwallies that glide slowly between the canopy and the forest floor, gently stopping here there, with flicker on and off like pepper lights at Christmas, as if checking to see that all the day flowers are closed up and fast asleep.

At dawn the silence is broken only by nature's noise, the incessant whistle of solitaires, the husky calls of Robin Redbreasts (Jamaican Tody) and sweet tweet of the John Tweet (Blue Mountain Vireo) that rise and fall with the wind's ebb and flow. Foot prints of wild boars serve as reminders that other mammals share this neck of the woods.

Between the John Crow and Bellevue Peaks and through Wild Ginger lilies, the trail descends towards Cinchona Gardens. Situated 5,000 ft. above sea-level Cinchona is a 19th century English botanical and tea garden surrounded by plantations of world famous Blue Mountain Coffee. This garden of exotics is our final rest stop before descending to Silver Hill Gap and the end of our journey.

‘Fare ye well all who venture’

Itinerary

Friday

- 7:30 pm Meet Russell Heights.
- 8:00 pm Departure – Bus/Jeep
- 10:00 pm Arrive Bangor Ridge and hike to base camp
- 11:00 pm Arrive and check in Camp Site

Saturday

- 4:00 am Wake up –
- 5:00 am Breakfast (Included)
- 5:30 am Gear check and briefing
- 6:00 am Briefing & Departure
- 11:00 am Arrive Clifton Hill (1,300 ft.) & meet local guide(s)
- 12:00 pm Lunch (Carry your own food)
- 1:00 pm Begin Hike to Cinchona - enter the forest -
- 4:30 pm Set up Camp
- CAMP FIRE
- 6:00 pm Supper – (Carry your own food)

Sunday

- 5:00 am Breakfast – (Carry your own food)
- 6:30 am Departure for Cinchona Gardens – continue hike across the Grand Ridge
- 10:00 am Arrive Cinchona Gardens (5, 000 ft.) – Rest & Sightseeing
- 10:30 am Depart for Silver Hill Gap
- 12:00 pm Arrive & Board Bus
- 2:00 pm Arrive Russell Hgts. – End of Trip

WHAT TO CARRY**WHAT TO WEAR**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hat (gloves optional but recommended) ➤ <u>Two</u> sweaters or sweater and windbreaker ➤ Camera, binoculars (optional) ➤ Extra T-shirts (2) & Pants/shorts ➤ <u>Toiletries</u> ➤ Water bottle and flashlight (and spare batteries) ➤ Any prescribed medication
 ➤ Meals (Hiking meals – not included in cover charge) ➤ Large garbage bag (or rain gear) ➤ Large Garbage Bag (for water-proofing knapsack) ➤ Sleeping Bag (or Blanket) ➤ Knapsack ➤ Eating Utensils ➤ Insect Repellent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hiking <u>Boots</u> - sturdy and roomy or <u>comfortable</u> walking shoes ➤ Thick socks ➤ Jeans pants and T-shirt |
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ONLY CARRY THE ESSENTIALS

Recommended Physical Preparation

- (a) 1.5 hour exercise at least three (3) days per week (indoors or outdoors) for two weeks before the trip.
- (b) **Cut all toe nails before departure**
- (c) **Empty bowels on day of tour**
- (d) Have a substantial **lunch and breakfast** on the day of the tour
- (e) Persons with **health problems** should consult with their physician before going on the trip.

COVER COST: US\$120.00/person

Includes:

- Guide Service
- Transportation - Kingston to the base camp & Silver Hill Gap to Kingston
- Breakfast (base Camp)
- Accommodation (Base Camp – dorm style)
- Insurance

PAYMENT: Before departure - Cash (US or JA), Credit Card (**Visa/Master Card**) and Debit Cards (**Local**)

Rate of Exchange (R.O.E) US\$1:J\$86.00

CONFIRMATION:

- ☀ ***Bookings are confirmed only by a US\$40.00 or J\$3,500.00 deposit by Friday February 15, 2011***
- ☀ ***Final payment must be made one week before tour date.***

BOOKINGS: SUN VENTURE TOURS LTD.
30 Balmoral Avenue, Kingston 10. Telefax: 960-6685 After 5pm and weekends 876-469-4444

E-mail sunventure@hotmail.com Web site: www.sunventuretours.com

SUMMARY

Tour Departs (4/03/11) - Kingston	7:30 pm
Returns (6/03/11) - Kingston	2:00 pm
Cover: Includes – Breakfast at the Camp site, transportation, guide service, accommodation and insurance Discounts: 10% <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groups 3 and over• SVT Club Members	US\$100.00/person Confirmation: US\$30 or J\$2500 Deposit Deadline: Friday June 8, 2012

CANCELLATION POLICY

All deposits or payments are fully refundable on cancellation prior to confirmation date. **Any cancellations after the confirmation date will attract a fifty percent (50%) service charge on the deposit.**

~~Any cancellation after the agreed on price and group size, will result in an increase in the per person cost for the tour as the price quoted is a Package Rate which is based on group size.~~

“No shows” – There will be **absolutely no refund** if clients fail to turn up on day of tour.

CONSERVATION POLICY: **Take nothing but photographs and memories and leave nothing but foot prints** “let’s protect the places we visit”