



Hante Nature Lore

Itinerary Summer 2026

July 12-31, 2026



Days 1-4

Arriving at Camp and preparing for the trip! These first few days will be full of nerves and excitement: you will arrive on Opening Day along with the rest of camp, take part in similar communal activities as a Hante group while also busily organizing your gear, food, and crafts. You will learn about the trip ahead, the opportunities to cultivate your own project over the course of the trip, and leading in teaching lessons to others. You will wrap up your preparation in the comfort of the Sun Lodge, the original accommodations of Hante Adventures.

Days 5-9

Trekking and base camping throughout the mountains and forests of Nantahala National Forest. The journey begins! The group will begin their initial trek, challenged yet awed by your resilience and appreciation of the unique scenery. While some parts of the day will be spent working together to navigate creek, wet, and leafy terrain into the mountains, other parts of the day will be spent learning within your community about local ecology, plant identification, foraging, and crafting; much of it stemming from your time spent at Camp during the first few days. Evenings will be spent camping under the stars, preparing delicious food, debriefing the day's adventures, practicing leadership skills, and enjoying time together.



Day 10

Depart towards the Smoky Mountains and learn the history and craftsmanship of Indigenous peoples. As you travel further west and resupply, you will stop to visit the capital of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee in Cherokee NC, who are the original keepers of the land you will be traveling on. This intentional time spent learning within the community aims to develop an understanding about the importance of this area's history, ecology, and practices, as well as an appreciation for where you are and for those who came before you.



Days 11-13

Give back and transition to water-based teaching and learning. After about a week in the backcountry, your group will join a local organization for restoring and cleaning the trails you and others have been traveling. Lessons about land conservation will be enhanced with water-based activities like canoe paddling and fishing and discussions about lake and stream ecology.



Days 14-15

Travel to the most western part of the state to better understand local geology, topography, and craftsmanship. The area surrounding Murphy NC provides a haven for bouldering, additional exploration of protected landscapes, and continued education in artistic and ecological pursuits. As you begin to reflect on the overall movement of your trip, from the geographical to your own physical movement, these days will offer an opportunity to attend a local event like contra dancing and art fairs.

Days 16-17

Finalize learnings, reflections, and projects with solo time in Snowbird Wilderness Area, and a pit stop at the Highlands Biological Research Station. Your group will spend their last night in the field in one of the more remote, beautiful, lesser known pockets of the state at Snowbird Wilderness Area. When traveling back to Camp following this night, you will happen to pass the Biological Research Station in Highlands, NC, which boasts real examples and information on native species and resources for learning beyond the trip.

Days 18-20

Return to Camp to finish up projects and stories from your time together as a group. Along with debriefing the trip as a whole, there will be plenty of opportunities to share and discuss your experiences and hopes for the future with the rest of Camp, as well as attend Final Banquet!

