

HONEST-to-GOODNESS INDIANATM

2018 GROUP TOUR PLANNER *Est. 1816*

**Hoosier
Horticulture**
Stunning
botanic gardens
and welcoming
conservatories



Agritourism Adventures

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behind-the-scenes tours

6

Enticing
itinerary
options your
group can
customize



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History, wineries,
underground adventures,
glassblowing demonstrations
and more.

For a sample itinerary, contact
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or stacyp@thisisindiana.org.



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See the world's tallest chocolate fountain while you taste-test delicious gummies and chocolates.



Chicago Land Popcorn
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Dairy & pig adventures, crop adventure center, farm-to-table restaurant and new hotel coming soon.



Bison Viewing Area
Visit the viewing area at Kankakee Sands or see a herd of bison up close at Broken Wagon Bison.



Sandhill Crane Migration
Experience the breathtaking spectacle as thousands of sandhill cranes visit during their fall migration.

To learn more about these attractions and *Plan your itinerary* call Heather Becerra at 219-554-2224 or visit **ALONGTHESOUTHSHORE.COM**

LOCATED
25 MILES
FROM CHICAGO





Indiana 2018 Group Tour Planner

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ON THE COVER: Traders Point Creamery, Zionsville
Photo Courtesy of Josh Marshall and AIM Media Indiana



AUTOS AND ART GLASS TOUR

Your group is invited to experience the history, beauty, and charm of Kokomo, Indiana with our *Autos and Art Glass Tour*. Discover Kokomo Opalescent Glass, America's oldest art glass company, to experience art glass hand-ladled and rolled from a 2,500 degree furnace and stunning hand-blown glass demonstrations. Explore vintage Indiana-built cars and tour the beautiful Seiberling Mansion, offering spectacular holiday tours and dining packages for groups. We are ready to share our story with your group!



For customized tour itinerary planning:
Contact Sherry Matlock at
smatlock@visitkokomo.org
or 800-837-0971

VisitKokomo.org





GENUINE EXPERIENCES

are found during a visit to the Hoosier state, in a way that is uniquely Indiana. Our diverse geography, eclectic foods, natural attractions and unique 200-year history are just some of what make Indiana so memorable to visit.

Indiana's communities offer travelers a refreshing sense of renewal. Relax on the beaches of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Hike scenic trails to discover wooded gorges, rock cliffs and plunging waterfalls at one of the many Indiana state parks. Enjoy rolling hills on the Ohio River Scenic Byway or return to simpler times in Amish country. Stop at one of Indiana's wineries, farmers markets or creameries to experience the fantastic tastes of small-town Indiana. Our cities offer world-class museums, performing arts and sporting events.

There are many resources Indiana offers group tours. Whether it is vineyards, breweries and distilleries, shopping, hiking, heritage or historical sites that you seek, start your planning at VisitIndiana.com.

I hope you will consider Indiana as the place for your next trip so we can share a little Hoosier Hospitality with you.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Suzanne Crouch in black ink.

Suzanne Crouch
LT. GOVERNOR
INDIANA



HONEST-to-GOODNESS INDIANATM

Est. 1816



INDIANA FACTS

Population:

Statewide: 6.597 million

Indianapolis: 852,866 (also the state capital) Fort

Wayne: 256,496

Evansville: 120,310

South Bend: 100,886

Carmel: 85,927

Hammond: 78,967

Getting Here by Air

Indianapolis International Airport (IND):

Served by Air Canada, Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, OneJet, United, Vacation Express

South Bend Regional Airport (SBN):

Served by Allegiant, Delta, United

Evansville Regional Airport (EVV):

Served by Allegiant, American, Delta, United

Getting Here by Rail

Amtrak stations in Connersville (COI), Crawfordsville (CRF), Dyer (DYE), Elkhart (EKH), Evansville- Bus Station (EVN), Hammond-Whiting (HMI), Indianapolis (IND), Lafayette (LAF), Michigan City (MCI), Rensselaer (REN), South Bend (SOB), Waterloo (WTI)

Average Temperatures by Season:

North – Spring 71, Summer 81, Fall 63, Winter 31

Central – Spring 73 Summer 84, Fall 65, Winter 36

South – Spring 77, Summer 88, Fall 70, Winter 41

Schwabenblitz/Bigstock.com





**AZALEA PATH ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS**



VISIT INDIANA

HOOSIER HORTICULTURE

These botanical gardens and conservatories can expose your group to local plants or transport them across the globe

WHETHER YOUR GROUP wants to stroll through manicured rows of flowers on a brilliant spring morning or escape into a tropical rainforest in the dead of winter, Indiana boasts a bountiful variety of botanical gardens throughout the state.

A 330-acre oasis in Valparaiso, **Taltree Arboretum and Gardens** is a tranquil collection of wetlands and prairies intersected with hiking and garden paths. Brimming with native grasses and wildflowers, the trails are a haven for birdwatchers; warblers, bobolinks, purple finches and bluebirds nest here throughout the year, and your group can also spot native beavers, frogs and turtles. Themed gardens include the Oak Islands, a collection of nearly 40 different oak species from across the globe; the Native Plant Garden, home to hundreds of Indiana species and a monarch butterfly waystation; and the Railway Garden, which features model trains and elaborate miniaturized pioneer villages.

Tucked in a forested valley along the banks of Lake Michigan, **Friendship**

Botanic Gardens in Michigan City is a collection of over a dozen “ethnic gardens” that represent their country with native plant species and art installations. Developed alongside the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair to showcase unity in the international community, the gardens were gifted tulips from the Netherlands and welcomed England’s royal gardener to oversee the rare Persian roses. Today, your group can stroll through areas that represent Italy, Romania and Norway and admire the wildflowers in the Native American Garden. The facility also hosts group-friendly nature walks and concerts on its stage throughout the year.

Farther east in Mishawaka, groups will embrace their zen by strolling the gardens of **Shiojiri Niwa**, a peaceful collection of bridges, waterways and floral displays that honor Mishawaka’s Japanese sister city. The signature qualities of Japanese landscaping—balance, tranquility and minimalism—are on full display in the garden’s perfectly pruned pines, an ornate teahouse and red bridges modeled after Matsumoto Castle. Paths here wind and bridges zig-zag (evil spirits can only move in straight lines in

Japanese folklore), and rock gardens are arranged in groupings of five to represent fire, water, wind, earth and sky. Groups looking to learn more about Japanese history and culture can arrange a private tour and further explore the area's beauty.

Scattered throughout public parks in North-Central Indiana, the **Quilt Gardens** are 19 supersized floral arrangements inspired by the region's homesteading

QUILT GARDENS: *Horticulturists, landscapers and professional quilters collaborate to create the unique designs of these Amish Country classics.*



and Amish heritage. Your group can travel the 90-mile Heritage Trail through Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury, Nappanee, Bristol, Wakarusa and Shipshewana to see these colorful patterns and the welcoming downtowns they enhance. Teams of horticulturists, landscapers and professional quilters collaborate every year to create the final designs, which range from simple geometric patterns to elaborate depictions of farmsteads. Quilt Gardens historians can accompany your group and discuss the centuries-old evolution of quilting.

Groups who want to further combine a garden tour with history should stop by **Warsaw Biblical Gardens**, which consists of six microclimates that represent the different environments

depicted in the Bible. In the Orchard, you'll find pomegranates, grapes and other fruits mentioned in the New Testament, while the Desert includes the palm trees that shaded Abraham and Moses.

Groups visiting the University of Notre Dame campus in South Bend will discover the **Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes**, a miniature replica of the famed shrine in Lourdes, France that traces its history back over 150 years. In 1858, the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to Saint Bernadette, a poor miller's daughter in the French countryside who received holy

maintain their wetland heritage while integrating art installations, pagodas and reflective pools. Highlights include the Sensory Garden, which encourages guests to smell herbs and touch tactile sculptures, the Asian-influenced Island Garden and the Lotus Creek, a tranquil waterfront shaded by hickories and bordered by blooming rhododendron. One-hour tours are available for groups, and discounts are available for parties of 10 or more.

Five hundred species from three continents thrive under the domes of **Foellinger-Freimann Botanical**



TALTREE ARBORETUM: *The property's railway garden features dozens of miniature locomotives that pass through vignettes depicting America's history with the steam engine.*

visits when she retrieved firewood from a nearby grotto. Notre Dame founder Father Sorin was so touched by the shrine during a European trip that he vowed to recreate it in America, and the one-seventh-sized replica was completed in 1896 after two-ton boulders were imported from nearby farms. The shrine remains open to the public over a century later, and your group members can light a candle, pray and admire the landscaping.

Commissioned to honor the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, **The Wellfield Botanic Gardens** are a 36-acre "living museum" that feature 25 themed areas. Intersected by the meandering Christian Creek, which still provides Elkhart's water supply and powered the area's 19th century mills, the gardens

Conservatory in downtown Fort Wayne. Inspired by turn-of-the-20th-century urban greenhouses, the complex is divided into four themed areas, each with a separate climate and layout. The Desert Garden populates its arid space with cacti and mesquite trees native to the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, while the Tropical Garden is filled with palms, vivid orchids and cacao trees from the Amazon Rainforest. Other rooms include the Seasonal Garden, which rotates its design quarterly to feature everything from German landscaping to butterfly gardens, and the Exploration Garden, which is populated with perennials and shady trees.

Located near Hazleton and the White River, **Azalea Path Arboretum and Botanical Gardens** reward visitors with a

stunning display of more than 4,000 azaleas that bloom each spring. Blossoms of red, pink and purple will dazzle your group as it explores the 60-acre property that also includes two spring-fed lakes, waterfalls and a koi pond stocked with colorful fish. Three miles of hiking trails pass by mature magnolias, dogwoods and chainsaw sculptures created by local artists after the trees were damaged in a thunderstorm.

An 1833 dairy barn converted into an interpretive center welcomes groups about to explore the 355 acres of **Hayes Arboretum** in Richmond. The property was established when railroad official Stanley W. Hayes in 1915 purchased a historic homestead and the surrounding old growth forest to preserve the pristine Indiana landscape. Today, the estate encompasses miles of unblemished woodlands, meadows and swamps that will transport your party to the 19th century. These woods host bird-watching hikes, mountain bike excursions and conservation seminars, so be sure to check on upcoming programming before you visit.

Escape the urban bustle in the heart of Indianapolis with a visit to **White River Gardens** along the White River Trail. Operated in conjunction with the Indianapolis Zoo, the complex's iconic area is the DeHaan Tiergarten (German for "animal garden"). This sprawling three-acre outdoor space is populated with whimsical animal sculptures that stand alongside the shasta daisies of the Heritage Garden, tulips of the Water Garden and beech trees of the Ruth Lilly Shade Garden. Next, venture indoors to the Hilbert Conservatory, a 65-foot-tall greenhouse filled with aromatic tropical greenery. Over 40 butterfly species will flit past your group members as they admire the Indianapolis skyline, and the greenhouse's mezzanine level is populated with ferns, orchids and palms. For a dive into Indiana's past, be sure to stop by the Heritage Garden, which blends traditional Hoosier species, like purple coneflower and hollyhock, with historic specimens transplanted from the President Benjamin Harrison Home.

Continue to the city's southeast side to find **Garfield Park Conservatory**, the oldest city park in Indianapolis and creation of famed German landscape architect George Kessler. The designer modeled the area after classical European greenspaces, and the three acres feature

boast thousands of brilliant tulip blooms in the spring, while autumn visitors can admire the mum arrangements. The adjoining Victorian-style greenhouse is accessible year-round and features carnivorous pitcher plants, sago palms and a Bodhi tree, the same species Gautama Buddha sat under when he achieved enlightenment.

Sprawling over 100 acres and bordered by the White River, **Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park** is one of the largest museum art parks in the nation. Part of the Indianapolis Art Museum, the grounds' 152 acres consist of flower beds and meditation trails dotted with sculptures by international artists. The garden's signature installation is the Sutphin Fountain, a modernist water feature surrounded by Grecian wildflowers, paperbark maples and lavender. Next door is the Lilly House and Gardens, once home to famous industrialist Josiah Lilly and now a restored country estate with gardens that retain the look of 1940s landscaping. Docents can lead you through the Four Seasons Gardens, which features a quadrant design; the Orchard, a postwar-style tract that grows sunflowers and vegetables, and the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse, which offers horticultural programming for groups.

A combination of nursery, garden and amusement park, **Linton's Enchanted Gardens** in Elkhart is a family-friendly option for groups that include children. Whimsical miniature fairy houses, windmills and pagodas dot a landscape of shrubs and evergreens available for purchase, and attractions like go-karts, bumper boats and a petting zoo will occupy younger guests as you admire the hundreds of species.

Running a spectrum of color and size, the botanical gardens of Indiana will surely plant seeds of horticultural interest in your group. Whether you prefer a free-form meander through a tranquil space or an interactive exploration of the state's natural beauty, you're sure to find a garden experience perfect for any party.

RESOURCES

AZALEA PATH ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

812-640-9133, AzaleaPathArboretum.org

FOELLINGER-FREIMANN BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

260-427-6440, BotanicalConservatory.org

FRIENDSHIP BOTANIC GARDENS

219-878-9885, FriendshipGardens.org

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

317-327-7220,
GarfieldGardensConservatory.org

HAYES ARBORETUM

765-962-3745, HayesArboretum.org

LINTON'S ENCHANTED GARDENS

574-293-9699, Lintons.com

QUILT GARDENS

800-262-8161, AmishCountry.org

SHIOJIRI NIWA

574-258-1664, MishawakaCity.com/ShiojiriNiwa

TALTREE ARBORETUM AND GARDENS

219-462-0025, Taltree.org

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

574-631-7505, Tour.ND.edu

VIRGINIA B. FAIRBANKS ART & NATURE PARK

317-923-1331, DiscoverNewfields.org

WARSAW BIBLICAL GARDENS

574-267-6218, WarsawBiblicalGardens.org

WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS

574-266-2006, WellfieldGardens.org

WHITE RIVER GARDENS

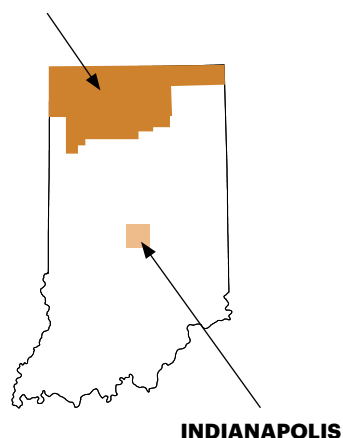
317-630-2001, IndianapolisZoo.com

symmetrical flower beds, elegant fountains and concrete urns decorated with an oak leaf and acorn—the German symbol for prosperity. The sunken gardens

Indiana Amish Country

SHIPSHEWANA, MIDDLEBURY,
NAPPANEE, ELKHART,
SOUTH BEND

NORTHERN REGION



► DAY ONE

Today you won't want to miss a visit to the **Shipshewana Flea Market**, the largest outdoor market in the Midwest and home to over 1,000 vendors. Next, visit **Menno-Hof Amish-Mennonite Information Center** for a lesson about the origins of the Amish. You will be able to make your own souvenir by painting a birdhouse in an Amish furniture shop. In the Amish countryside, make stops at local markets like **Dutch Country Market**, which offers homemade jams, fresh produce and noodles made onsite. On your way to Nappanee visit **Lera's Rugs**. See the weaving process firsthand and shop for Amish rugs, placemats and other woven items.

Stay two nights at **Amish Acres**



Historic Farm and Heritage Resort, which offers craft demonstrations, wagon rides, meal options and a musical theater. After checking in, learn how to make shoofly pie in the Amish Acres kitchen bakery. Before dinner this evening, the fruits of the Round Barn Winery are presented to you in the loft tasting room.



SHIPSHEWANA FLEA MARKET: *The largest outdoor flea market in the Midwest hosts hundreds of vendors that sell clothing, furniture and produce.*

MENNO-HOF AMISH-MENNONITE INFORMATION CENTER: *Learn about Amish, Mennonite and Hutterite culture in this refurbished barn that houses audiovisual presentations and historic exhibits.*

► DAY TWO

This morning travel the scenic backroads of Amish Country, passing horse-drawn buggies, tidy farmhouses and whitewashed barns. Learn about the fascinating Amish lifestyle as your guide tells you about the history and traditions of the "plain people." Enjoy a family-style Thresher's Dinner in the old barn restaurant at Amish Acres. From hearth-baked bread to platters of steaming fried chicken, cider-baked ham and beef; the menu elicits "oohs" and "aahs" from hungry "threshers" of all ages.

Top off the day with a Broadway-style musical production in the **Round Barn Theater**, which is housed in a 1911 round barn that was dismantled



STUDEBAKER NATIONAL MUSEUM

and resurrected at Amish Acres. The professional repertory theater company is assembled from auditions across the country.

► DAY THREE

Start the day at two excellent transportation museums in Elkhart. Recapture the glory days of American railroading at the **National New York Central Railroad Museum**. Then tour the **RV/MH Hall of Fame**, which is dedicated to preserving the history of the RV and manufactured housing industries.

Stop at the Elkhart County Visitors Center, a great place to begin a **Quilt Gardens Tour**. More than 20 quilt-inspired gardens and hand-painted quilt murals are available for viewing in the area. One quilt garden is at **Ruthmere**, the home that Alka-Seltzer built. This elaborate 1910 Beaux Arts-style mansion is a multi-faceted museum with stunning architecture and a vast selection of art. After your tour, step onto the covered piazza or into the historic game room for a swinging 1920s speakeasy filled with musical entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and vintage cocktails.

► DAY FOUR

This morning visit South Bend's **Studebaker National Museum**, which is home to a priceless collection of vehicles, artwork, archival material and artifacts spanning

nearly 200 years. The museum displays the first and last cars the Studebaker corporation ever made and boasts the largest presidential carriage collection in the world. Allow your group to explore downtown South Bend, which in recent

years has been transformed into a vibrant place for dining and shopping. Don't miss the world's largest chocolate store, showplace of the South Bend Chocolate Company. Before departing the area, visit the **Basilica of the**

Sacred Heart

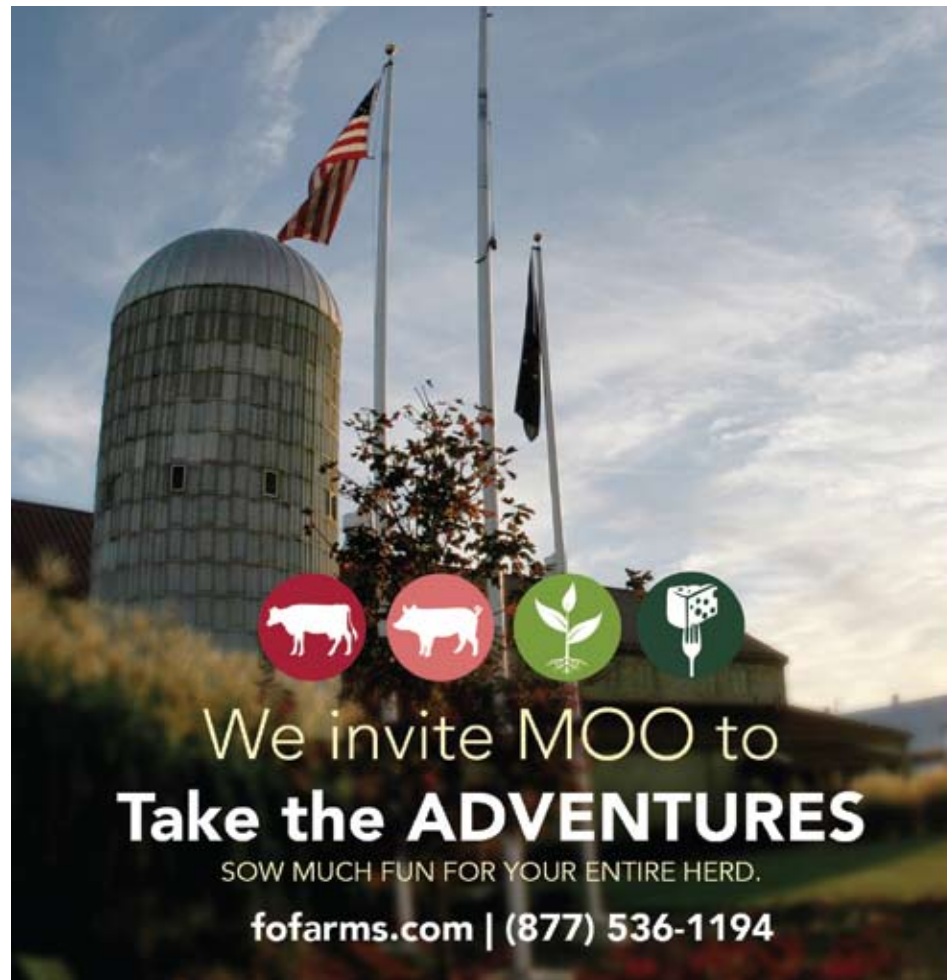
on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Built in the late 1800s, the church features one of the largest collections of 19th century French stained glass in the world.

RESOURCES

NORTHERN INDIANA
AMISH COUNTRY
(Elkhart County CVB)
800-262-8161
AmishCountry.org

VISIT SOUTH BEND
MISHAWAKA
800-519-0577
VisitSouthBend.com

VISIT SHIPSHEWANA
800-254-8090
VisitShipshewana.org



POKAGON STATE PARK

GROUPS WITH a taste for outdoor adventure and pioneer history will love **Pokagon State Park**, a nature-lover's dream in the far northeast corner of the state. Natural lakes created by melted glaciers define Steuben County, which has more lakes than any other Indiana county. The park is framed by Lake James and Snow Lake, which offer abundant opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing and scenic sunsets. Prime hunting ground for the Potawatomi and Miami tribes for centuries, this wetland is one of the most

UNIQUELY *Indiana*

biologically diverse ecosystems in the state and continues to draw naturalists from across the globe. Groups can stay at the Potawatomi Inn, a rustic 138-room lodge that



overlooks the tranquil Lake James. From there, you can explore the park by foot on 10 miles of hiking trail or relax on the sandy shoreline next to the Beach House.

Fishing fanatics have the opportunity to catch perch, bass and pike throughout the year, while groups can rent pontoons or paddleboats for a water view. In the winter months, be sure to experience Indiana's

only refrigerated toboggan run. You'll whoosh down twin quarter-mile tracks at speeds of 35-40 miles per hour and have the opportunity to snowshoe and cross-country ski through acres of preserved maple and birch.


WAGON WHEEL
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2515 E. Center St, Warsaw, IN 46580
574-267-8041 • 866-823-2618
wagonwheelcenter.org



seussical
May 30-June 9, 2018

Saturday Night Fever
June 13-June 23, 2018

My Fair Lady
June 27-July 7, 2018

ALL SHOOK UP
July 11-21, 2018

ONE MAN TWO GOV'NORS
July 25-August 4, 2018

Freaky Friday
August 8-18, 2018

The BRIDGES of MADISON COUNTY
August 19-September 2, 2018



GROUP EXPERIENCES from SHORES to WAVES

Kosciusko County is located in Central Northern Indiana.

A great hub and spoke destination, with multiple stop options. Your group will enjoy itineraries with lake country flair and land excursions tailor made.

Allow us to assist you in planning that perfect road trip for your group.



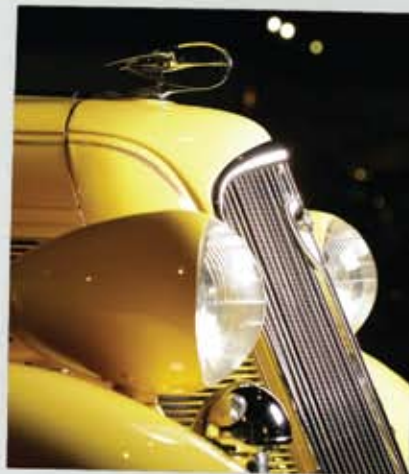
VisitKosciuskoCounty.org
800-800-6090



The sights,



the sounds,



the story...



Memories



are



waiting



to be



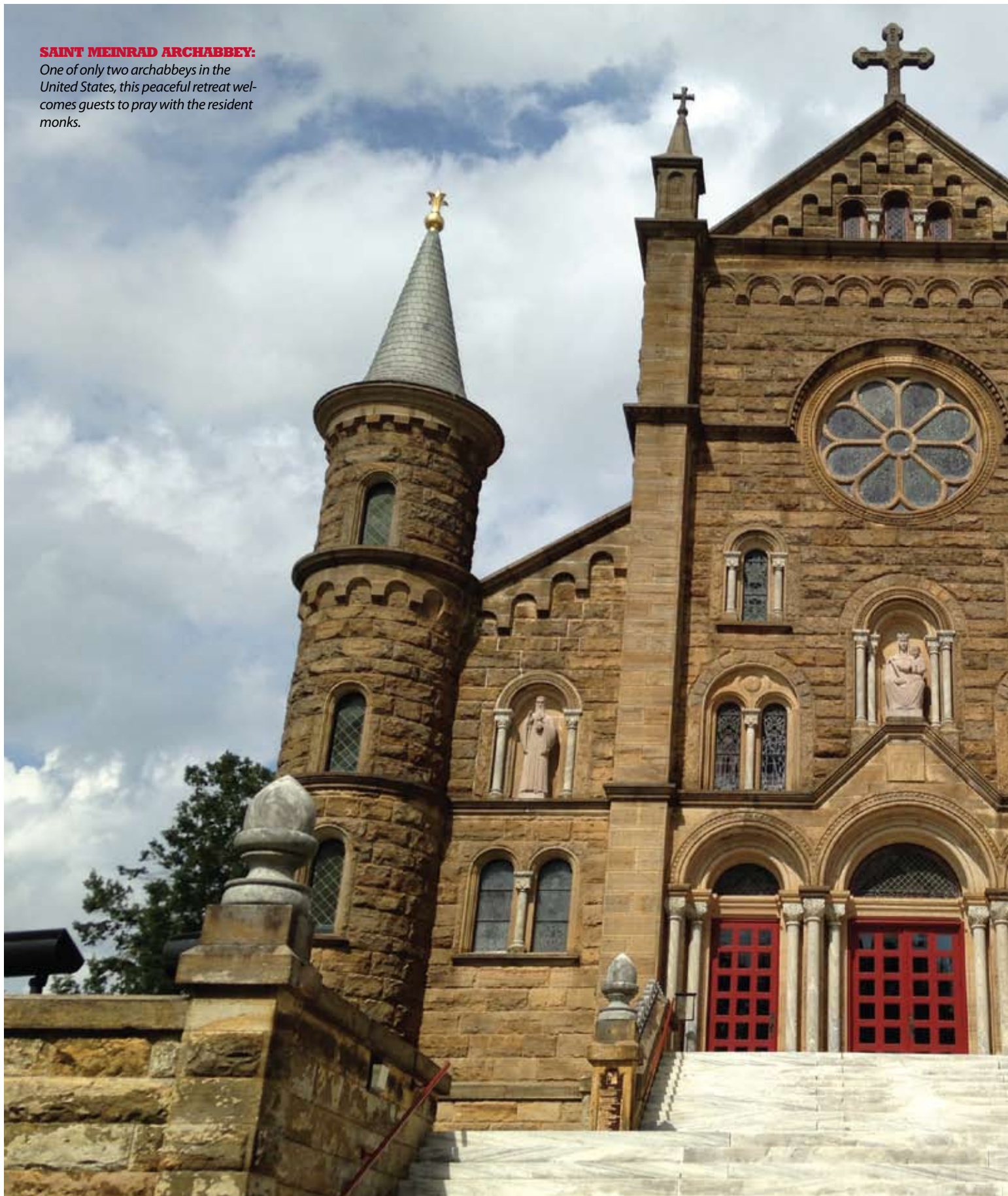
made in



The Bend.

SAINT MEINRAD ARCHABBEY:

One of only two archabbey in the United States, this peaceful retreat welcomes guests to pray with the resident monks.





RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS HAVE been a rock-solid foundation of Indiana life since the state's founding, and today you can't travel far without finding a shrine, temple, church or museum that shines a light on this faith-based heritage. Including such an attraction adds a touch of spirituality to your group itinerary and gives tour members a chance to reflect in peaceful surroundings a bit removed from the secular world.



On the leafy campus of **Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College**, a small Catholic school located 10 minutes from downtown

Terre Haute, visitors learn about Indiana's first saint and how she helped early pioneers as they struggled to establish communities in the wilderness. Saint

Mother Theodore Guerin, born Anne-Therese Guerin in 1798 in France, and a group of Sisters of Providence

were asked by the bishop of Vincennes to come to the American frontier to educate settlers and care for the sick. In 1841, under

Mother Theodore's leadership, they established the nation's first Catholic academy for girls, now coeducational Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College, and would go on to open other schools and to staff orphanages. Mother Theodore also set up two pharmacies, dispensing remedies based on her knowledge of herbal medicine.

FAITH JOURNEYS

Churches, monasteries and other attractions reflect Indiana's religious roots



telling the story of two distinctive religious communities through museum exhibits and multi-media presentations, provides a good introduction to Northern Indiana Amish Country. Visitors learn how the Anabaptist movement got its start in 16th century Europe at a time when Mennonites, Amish and Hutterites were persecuted for their beliefs by Catholic and Protestant authorities (the word "Anabaptist," meaning "to rebaptize," was attached to a group of believers that called for voluntary adult baptisms at a time when the state allowed only infant

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE: Visit beautiful churches and an on-campus organic farm at one of the oldest religious colleges in the nation.

baptisms). One exhibit shows a dungeon where Anabaptists were tortured and executed.

The story

continues with emigration to America, how the Mennonites and Amish live today, and the groups' humanitarian efforts. In the Tornado Theater, experience the destructive power of a tornado and the work of Mennonite and Amish cleanup crews in natural disasters.

One of Indiana's architectural jewels is the **Basilica of the Sacred Heart** at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend. With a 218-foot tower containing a 23-bell carillon, the Neo-Gothic church, built in the 1870s, is the nation's tallest university chapel and boasts the largest collection of 19th century French stained-glass windows in the world. Adorning the ceilings and walls are frescoes painted by Vatican artist Luigi Gregori, and there is a free-admission museum. A one-seventh-size reproduction of the Grotto of Lourdes in France lies just northwest of the church.

In St. John, the story of Jesus' death is told at **The Shrine of Christ's Passion**, a half-mile outdoor walking trail with 40 life-size bronze statues set on 30 acres made to look like the Holy Land. The journey along the rock-lined road to Calvary starts at the Last Supper and Garden of Gethsemane exhibits and ends with a sculpture of Jesus ascending into heaven. Each biblical scene, such as



frame on the wall. Proceed to Blessed Sacrament Chapel, which features an exquisite altar carved from one piece of pure white Carrara marble weighing 8,000 pounds. The indoor tour continues down the hall to the stately Church of the Immaculate Conception, patterned after a church in France to honor Mother Theodore's wish for a chapel similar to one she left behind in her homeland. Two-hour guided tours include a

Mother Theodore movie.

A walking-tour map of the peaceful campus describes outdoor attractions like the life-sized bronze statue of Mother Theodore, a replica of an early log chapel, Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Stations of the Cross and Saint Anne Shell Chapel, whose walls are embedded with iridescent shells from the nearby Wabash River. A herd of alpacas, raised for their softer-than-cashmere fleece, highlight a walk through the organic farm and gardens, a project of the school's White Violet Center for Eco-Justice ministry.

Menno-Hof Amish-Mennonite Information Center in Shipshewana,

The college's Providence Spirituality and Conference Center has a walk-through timeline exhibit and dioramas that tell the story of the Sisters of Providence from their days in post-Revolution France to Mother Theodore's canonization by Pope Benedikt XVI in 2006. The Diorama Hallway leads to the Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, where galleries chronicle her life and showcase personal effects such as her garden shoes, pocket watch and rosary beads. The centerpiece of the shrine's chapel is the walnut casket containing Mother Theodore's remains; three of her finger bones are displayed in a wood



BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

the hometown of famed gospel singers Bill and Gloria Gaither. Groups can tour the studios where the Gaither Gospel Series has been recorded for over three decades and a museum displaying memorabilia, photos and awards. The Pure & Simple Restaurant serves breakfast,



SHRINE OF CHRIST'S PASSION:

Life-sized bronze statues that depict the Stations of the Cross populate this 30-acre property designed to resemble the Holy Land.

by the People's Republic of China.

Also on the grounds are a meditation trail, two stupas (domed monuments)

and a prayer wheel pavilion with drum-like wheels containing prayers written on small strips of paper. The Happy Yak Gift Shop sells jewelry, clothing, prayer beads, Buddhas, wall hangings and other products from around the world, including Nepal, India and Mongolia. Some items were made by Tibetan refugees.

Two Benedictine monasteries—one inhabited by monks, the other by nuns—welcome visitors touring the rolling hills of southernmost Indiana. About 90 monks live at **Saint Meinrad Archabbey**, a peaceful retreat nestled above the little town of St. Meinrad (population 840). The public may join the monks for prayers and Mass in the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln, which was completed in 1907. Built of thick sandstone blocks in the Romanesque style and distinguished by twin bell towers, it houses a replica of the Black Madonna statue found in Einsiedeln Abbey, the mother house in Switzerland (the original statue has been darkened by the soot of centuries of lit candles). Eight tiered rows of choir stalls, made of white oak, serve as the seats for monks at prayer. Unlike a parish church, there are no pews. The first two monks

Pontius Pilate condemning Jesus to death, Jesus bearing the Cross in the presence of a Roman soldier and the Crucifixion, has a listening station with a short meditation. In the shrine's newest addition, a passageway leads to a pile of huge limestone boulders crowned by the figure of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The Shrine of Christ's Passion also inspires with Our Lady of the New Millennium, a 33-foot-tall stainless steel statue of Mary. The large gift shop abounds with stunning displays, offering a vast selection of art, jewelry, candles, books and Nativity sets.

Christian music fans will want to visit **Gaither Family Resources** in Alexandria,

lunch and dinner, and the Common Place meeting room accommodates group meals. The large gift shop has inspirational books and music, including Gaither Homecoming videos and music CDs. Step-on guides are provided for the Hometown Bus Tour, which includes the house where Bill grew up and the school where he and Gloria met.

Tucked away on 108 wooded acres on the southeastern edge of Bloomington, the **Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center** spotlights a religion and two Asian cultures unfamiliar to most Americans. Its focal point is the Kumbum Chamtse Ling Interfaith

came from Einsiedeln at the urging of a local immigrant priest who sought German-speaking priests to help minister to southern Indiana's growing German Catholic community and to open a school to prepare men as priests.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey is home to a seminary, school of theology and a guest house/retreat center with 31 single- and double-occupancy guest rooms, a dining room, chapel, and conference and reading rooms. Adjacent to the gift shop is the showroom for Abbey Caskets, which offers locally handcrafted caskets made of cherry, poplar, oak or walnut. Other works of Saint Meinrad include Abbey Press, which markets Christian books, gifts and cards.

On a wooded hilltop a mile away from Saint Meinrad Archabbey, a small sandstone chapel honoring Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been welcoming pilgrims since 1870. Maintained by the archabbey and fresh from a renovation, **Monte Cassino Shrine** is named for Italy's Monte Cassino Abbey, where St. Benedict originated European monasticism in the 6th century. New landscaping includes the addition of a prayer garden and a sandstone front patio with benches, which will be especially convenient for the rosary pilgrimages held each Sunday in May and October.

The Sisters of St. Benedict, about 150 strong, invite visitors to tour **Monastery Immaculate Conception** in Ferdinand, another hilltop religious landmark in the southern part of the state (only 10 minutes from Saint Meinrad). Known as the "Castle on the Hill," the red-brick, Romanesque-style building with red-tile roofs is capped by an 87-foot-high dome that can be seen from far and wide. Built between 1915 and 1924, the church has a barrel-vaulted ceiling, two rose windows, Italian marble floors and white oak woodwork hand-carved in Oberammergau, Germany. There are

89 depictions of angels and cherubs. The first four Benedictine sisters came from Kentucky in 1867 at the request of the local pastor, who needed German-speaking nuns to teach the children of German immigrants.

Grotto Hill, across from the church, has a replica of the Lourdes shrine, Stations of the Cross, and statues of

MONTE CASSINO SHRINE: *This shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary is located on a hill near Saint Meinrad Archabbey.*



TIBETAN MONGOLIAN BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTER: *Jangchub Chorten Stupa is dedicated to the memory of Tibetan refugees.*



Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Down the hill is St. Benedict's Brew Works, the only U.S. craft brewery believed to be located on the grounds of a women's religious community; revenues are shared with the sisters. The taproom serves pizza, pretzels and beers with playful, abbey-themed names like The Witty Nun, Sanctimonious Stout, Friar

RESOURCES

BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART
574-631-7329, Basilica.ND.edu

GAITHER FAMILY RESOURCES
800-520-4664, GaitherFamilyResources.net

MENNO-HOF AMISH-MENNONITE INFORMATION CENTER
260-768-4117, Mennohof.org

MONASTERY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
812-367-1411, TheDome.org

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE
812-535-2945, SistersofProvidence.org

SAINT MEINRAD ARCHABBEY
812-357-6611, SaintMeinrad.org

THE SHRINE OF CHRIST'S PASSION
219-365-6010, ShrineofChristsPassion.org

TIBETAN MONGOLIAN BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTER
812-336-6807, TMBCC.org

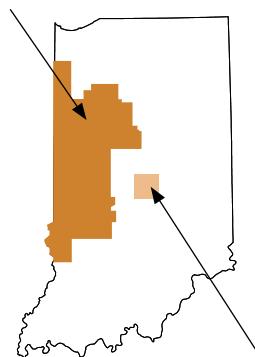
Brown and Monktoberfest. The brewery works with the sisters in offering weekend retreats that combine spirituality with beer history and hands-on brewing. The monastery's Kordes Center offers lodging for overnight guests.

Touring Indiana, a state blessed with a wealth of religious attractions, can be a truly inspirational experience.

Arts, Culture & Covered Bridges

TERRE HAUTE, ROCKVILLE, LAFAYETTE, WEST LAFAYETTE

WESTERN REGION



INDIANAPOLIS

► DAY ONE

Visit **CANDLES Holocaust Museum** in Terre Haute. CANDLES is an acronym for “Children of Auschwitz Nazi Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors.” The organization was founded by Eva Kor in 1984 to locate twins who survived the experi-



ments of Nazi doctor Joseph Mengele. Learn the story of this Holocaust survivor and “Mengele twin,” from before the war and through the rise of Nazism to her time in the Auschwitz concentration camp and journey of forgiveness.

Take an arts & culture tour beginning at the **Swope Art Museum**. Tours offer insight into the history of American art and the artistic process and may be tailored to suit a variety of ages and interests. Be a part of a glassblowing workshop, a hands-on pottery demonstration and a Mardi Gras-themed dinner with live music and entertainment.

CANDLES HOLOCAUST

MUSEUM: Pass through sobering exhibits that chronicle the tragedy of the Holocaust and encourage forgiveness and reconciliation in our modern lives.



COVERED BRIDGE TOUR: Thirty-one rustic bridges, some dating back as far as the mid-1800s, populate the rivers and streams of Parke County, the “Covered Bridge Capital of the World.”

► DAY TWO

Meet a local guide this morning for a **Covered Bridge Tour** in Parke County. The “Covered Bridge Capital of the World” has 31 historic bridges, many built in the 1800s and still in use today. They’re especially charming framed by fall foliage.



SWOPE ART MUSEUM

The Covered Bridge Festival takes place in October.

Head north to the Lafayette-West Lafayette area and visit **Wolf Park**, an educational facility dedicated to improving public understanding of wolves. Tour participants have the opportunity to see wolves, foxes, coyotes and bison as well as hear a lecture on the animals. Then stop by **Tippecanoe Battlefield & Museum** and learn about the famous 1811 battle between William Henry Harrison's U.S. forces and Chief Tecumseh's Native American confederation.

Tonight in Lafayette, dine at **O'Bryan's Nine Irish Brothers**, which was recently named by BuzzFeed as the best Irish pub in Indiana. The restaurant serves premium Irish food and spirits, with items ranging from salads to steak to Irish favorites such as Guinness stew, shepherd's pie and fish & chips. Live entertainment on most weekend nights.

SAMARA: Frank Lloyd Wright designed this iconic Usonian residence that uses symmetry and repeated use of the number four to maximize space.



► DAY THREE

In West Lafayette, tour the John and Catherine Christian House, commonly known as **Samara**, one of the most complete Frank Lloyd Wright-designed homes in the United States. Named for the winged seeds found in pinecones, Samara was completed in 1956 near the end of Wright's career and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2015.

Take some Hoosier goodies home with you from the **Inspired Fire Glass Studio and Gallery** in Lafayette. One-of-a-kind Friendship Balls are created by area artists.

RESOURCES

TERRE HAUTE CVB
812-234-555
TerreHaute.com

PARKE COUNTY
CONVENTION & VISITORS
COMMISSION
765-569-5226
CoveredBridges.com

VISIT LAFAYETTE-WEST
LAFAYETTE
800-872-6648
HomeofPurdue.com

FEAST OF THE HUNTER'S MOON

I **S YOUR GROUP** itching to detach from the urban bustle and venture 300 years into the past? Every October, the fields surrounding **Fort Ouiatenon** in West Lafayette are populated with soldiers, settlers and craftspeople ready to welcome you to the pioneer days of the Indiana Territory. The Wabash River, which bisects Lafayette and West Lafayette, was one of busiest arteries of 18th century America trade, shuttling French voyageurs, English settlers and Native American

scouts throughout the region. Every autumn, locals gathered for the **Feast of the Hunter's Moon**, a celebration of the year's bounty before winter descended. Today, your group can experience the same feast when hundreds of historic reenactors populate Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park.

Organized by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association, the contemporary Feast of the Hunters' Moon recreates

18th century life with period-accurate food and art. Volunteers dressed in traditional garb can demonstrate traditional candle-making, blacksmithing and weaving for your group, while you can sample deep-fried apple dumplings or rabbit stew prepared in cauldrons over hot coals.



Throughout the day, historical reenactors dressed as military officers and missionaries float down the Wabash on canoes and perform flag-raising ceremonies that commemorate every Fort Ouiatenon occupier since 1717.

If your group is visiting during other seasons, the fort is open year-round and receptive to groups interested in Indiana pioneer life.

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Prophetstown State Park

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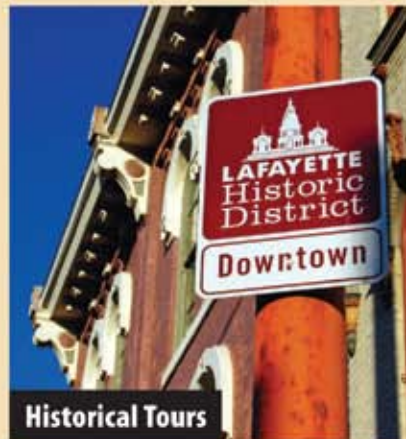
SAMARA House

Enjoy a wide variety of attractions and events to suit your group's needs; educational, historical, agritourism, clean energy, artistic, factory tours and more! Purdue University also provides endless options for special interest groups.

Visit Lafayette - West Lafayette offers complimentary customized itineraries, step on guide service, welcome bags, brochures and more!

Contact Ashley Gregory and start planning today!
agregory@HomeOfPurdue.com

HomeOfPurdue.com/group-tours.html



Historical Tours



Clean Energy Tours



Artistic Tours

800-872-6648 HomeOfPurdue.com



AGRITOURISM—a travel approach that combines farm visits, outdoor fun and dining—is an emerging trend and an ideal method to acquaint your group with Indiana’s culinary bounty. These attractions offer behind-the-scenes looks at the Midwest’s food industry with the growers and chefs themselves acting as guides.

One of the nation’s largest dairy producers, **Fair Oaks Farms** in northwest Indiana is a 36,000-acre complex that includes interactive agricultural exhibits, children’s playgrounds and an award-winning restaurant. Visitors can choose three “adventures” housed in themed barns: Crop Adventure (where guests can catch virtual raindrops and learn about cutting-edge farm technology), Dairy Adventure (which includes a birthing barn and exhibits on cow nutrition) and Pig

Adventure (home to piglets and a challenging ropes course). Groups can also ride tour buses that pass by the on-site cheese factory, calf barns and rotary turntable where 72 cows are milked simultaneously. If you have time for a meal, stop by the property’s Farmhouse Restaurant, which integrates meat, vegetables and cheese from the farm into the menu.

A happy herd of Brown Swiss cows provides **Traders Point Creamery** with its ice cream, yogurt and signature chocolate milk. Located in Zionsville, 20 minutes north of Indianapolis, this agritourism destination offers grassfed dairy products for sale in the downstairs Farm Store and upstairs farm-to-table Loft Restaurant. Whether your group prefers a hearty Sunday brunch or elegant candlelit dinner, the Loft has menu items to satisfy every taste, from omelets to premium steaks. Those



FAIR OAKS FARMS: This 36,000-acre complex includes activity barns, animal encounters and farm-to-table cuisine that highlights Indiana agriculture.

looking to indulge their inner gourmand can register for the restaurant’s six-course wine-tasting dinner, which pairs French reserve bottles with farm-fresh entrees like dry-aged duck. Other highlights include a guided tour of the cows’ grazing

FROM TOP: TRADERS POINT CREAMERY;
FAIR OAKS FARMS



INDIANA AGRITOURISM

FOOD AND FARMING IN AMERICA'S CROSSROADS

Expose your group
to farm life and fresh-from-the-field
cuisine

fields,
artisanal
cheese samplers
on the patio and
decadent ice cream sundaes
at the dairy bar.

A big hit with families, **Tuttle Orchards** in Greenfield offers agricultural adventures throughout the year. This pumpkin patch and apple orchard features over 200 locally grown produce

options
and gourmet
food products, so
your group members
can purchase honey, candy
and tea for loved ones back home. The
Tuttle greenhouses offer perennials and
herbs for purchase, while the free beehive
observatory grants visitors behind-the-
scenes glimpses at beekeeping. Tuttle
Orchard is best experienced with children

Tour
SOUTHEAST INDIANA

Bees, Birds & Butterflies

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centers, artists,
farms, wetlands
area, brewery and feed
mill offer one-of-a-kind
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hands-on fun.



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Finger paint a garden



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in the autumn, when they can roam free in the Tractor Town playground, wander the Agrimaze and travel the farm on a hayride. Everyone can enjoy seasonal treats like caramel apples, apple cider slushies and handmade fudge.

Apple connoisseurs in your group will want to sample the ciders and pies of **Beasley's Orchard** in Danville. A multi-year winner of the Indiana State Cider Contest, the drink is made in-house and without additives, and your group can tour the property's fruit press and bottling machinery. Next, venture to the main sales floor in the Barn Market, where you can sample other apple varieties like Gala (crisp and spicy), Jonalicious (tart and tangy) and Cortland (juicy and sweet). Bakers in your group will want to stock up on locally sourced fruit preserves and cookie dough, while pastry fans should sample the freshly baked pies. Outside, explore the u-pick orchard, get lost in the corn maze and launch some fruit with new air-compressed apple cannons.

Located in the heart of downtown Bloomington, **FARMbloomington** is the creation of head chef Daniel Orr, who emphasizes simple recipes made from sustainable ingredients. Meals are prepared with locally sourced sorghums, vegetables and meat, which you can enjoy in a dining room decorated with old stoves, washing machines and other antiques. Servers (or FARMhands) are happy to discuss the kitchen's recipes, which rotate based on seasonal availability. Groups looking to extend their evening should descend to the Root Cellar, the speakeasy-style lounge in the restaurant's basement that hosts local musicians and serves local craft beer.

To walk through the fields of **Huber's Orchard and Winery** is to walk into 1843, when German immigrant Simon Huber arrived in the southeast Indiana town of Borden and used his years of fruit-growing expertise to establish a farm now in its seventh generation of family ownership. A

far cry from its humble origins, the property houses an award-winning distillery, farmers market and winery that grows over 30 grape varietals. The farm offers numerous tasting packages such as the "Vine to Wine," where groups tour the production facility and sample signature blends, and "Grain and Grape," which shows how hard liquor is harvested, distilled and aged. Most tours come with appetizers, local cheeses and a souvenir wine glass.

Including a restored 1920s farmhouse and barn, **Farm at Prophetstown** recreates an agricultural era that predates tractors and milking machines. The 125 acres of leased land in the heart of Prophetstown State Park offer workshops and tours throughout the year to recreate early 20th century rural living. The farm remains fully operational, so you can feed the livestock, collect eggs and pick vegetables in the garden with fellow volunteers. Groups can register for classes to learn period-accurate cooking, sewing and canning techniques, and visiting agriculture experts can provide guided tours of the property to explain farming methods.

Originally land-granted by President Martin Van Buren in 1837, **Kelsay Farms** in Whiteland is now in its sixth generation of ownership and welcoming to groups.

equipment room. Children in your group will love the Moo Choo Express train ride and Bale Mountain play structure, while adults can sing at "dairyoke."

The early settlers of Switzerland County were the first Americans to cultivate wine grapes, and the tradition remains strong at wineries along the Ohio River Valley in southeastern Indiana. Together, they constitute the **Indiana Wine Trail**—seven unique vineyards that welcome groups for tastings and cellar tours. The region's soil is especially

TRADERS POINT CREAMERY: *Locally sourced and aged cheese is integrated into the creative dishes served at The Loft restaurant at Traders Point.*



This fully operational dairy barn offers tours that pass through the milking parlor, freestall barn where the cows live and farm

receptive to Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay varietals, and you can sample a sweet Vidal Blanc at Thomas Family

Winery, Native American Blush fruit wine at Lanthier and aromatic Chambourcin at Ertel Cellars. Several of the wineries partner with nearby bed and breakfasts, where groups receive weekend accommodations along with souvenir bottles to bring home. For groups interested in beer or spirits, numerous itineraries like the **South Shore Brewery Trail**, **Bloomington Ale Trail** and **Indiana Distillery Trail** showcase the state's best creations.

Planning your group tour can be incredibly stressful, so recapture some serenity with a visit to **The Lavender Lane** in Rome City. This secluded farm harvests the purple plant known for its therapeutic qualities, and employees will discuss its use



INDIANA WINE TRAIL: Taste home-grown blends or sample locally sourced cheeses on this culinary path through the Ohio River Valley.

as a sleeping aid, anti-depressant and stress reliever. While June is peak bloom season, friendly guides throughout warm weather months offer tours through the field and discuss lavender harvesting and its many medicinal uses. Tours conclude at the farm store, where you can purchase candles, potpourri and lavender honey created from on-site hives.

If your group wishes to make agritourism the focus of its entire trip, consider following an itinerary designed by **Indiana Foodways Alliance**. These 19 "trails" intersect the entire state and suggest stores and restaurants that fit a particular culinary theme, such as chocolate, Italian and barbecue.

Of particular interest for agritourism groups is the Farm to Table Trail, which includes orchards and bakeries among its nearly two dozen stops. Along the way, your group will sample locally sourced sandwich meat at Rail Epicurean Market in Westfield, hearty Amish cuisine at Blue Gate Restaurant and innovative beer on tap at South Bend Brew Werks.

This is only a small batch of options you can consider for your Indiana tour. Hundreds of farms, orchards and restaurants featuring locally sourced ingredients populate the state, so you'll be certain to find the perfect agritourism attraction for your group.

RESOURCES

BEASLEY'S ORCHARD

317-745-4876, Beasleys-Orchard.com

FAIR OAKS FARMS

219-394-2025, FoFarms.com

FARM AT PROPHETSTOWN

765-567-4700, Prophetstown.org

FARMBloomington

812-323-0002, Farm-Bloomington.com

HUBER'S ORCHARD AND WINERY

812-923-9813, HuberWinery.com

INDIANA FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

812-592-0163, IndianaFoodways.com

INDIANA WINE TRAIL

IndianaWineTrail.com

KELSAY FARMS

317-535-9150, KelsayFarms.com

THE LAVENDER LANE

260-854-4494, TheLavenderLane.com

TRADERS POINT CREAMERY

317-733-1700, TradersPointCreamery.com

TUTTLE ORCHARDS

317-326-2278, IndianapolisOrchard.com

SOUTH SHORE CVA

219-989-7770, SouthshoreCVA.com

VISIT BLOOMINGTON

800-800-0037, VisitBloomington.com

Tour SOUTHEAST INDIANA

Dine With History

Twilight Tour Progressive Mansions Dinner

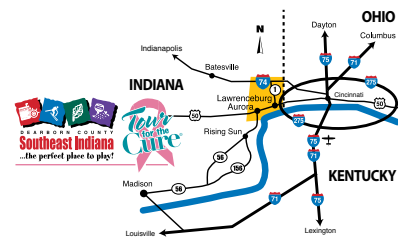


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Bloomington
INDIANA

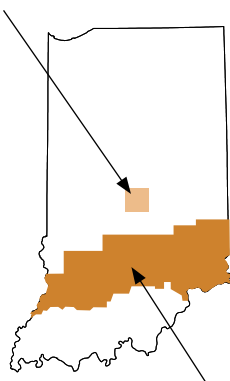
VISITBLOOMINGTON.COM

SOUTH CENTRAL INDIANA ITINERARY

Steamboats & Arty Party

NEW ALBANY, JEFFERSONVILLE,
CLARKSVILLE,
LAWRENCEBURG, DILLSBORO

INDIANAPOLIS



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

► DAY ONE

Start your tour at New Albany's **Culbertson Mansion**. With its hand-painted ceilings, carved staircase, marble fireplaces and elaborate plasterwork, the home reflects the affluence of a man once considered to be the wealthiest in Indiana. The three-story, Second Empire mansion encompasses more than 20,000 square feet and contains 25 rooms. Then admire the artworks and learn about the creative process at the **Carnegie Center for Art & History**. View the permanent



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exhibitions *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage: Men and Women of the Underground Railroad* and *Remembered: The Life of Lucy Higgs Nichols*.

Huber's Orchard & Winery has an award-winning distillery, farmers' market and vineyards that grow over 30 grape varieties. Tour the production facility and sample signature blends.



This afternoon visit the **Howard Steamboat Museum** in Jeffersonville. During its three-generation, 107-year history, Howard Shipyard would put over 3,000 vessels on the Ohio River and establish the largest inland shipyard in America. Among the artifacts on display are items from the legendary *Robert E. Lee*, the *Natchez* and the Howard-built *J. M. White*.

DERBY DINNER PLAYHOUSE: Enjoy classic musicals such as *Singin' in the Rain* and *Oklahoma!* in one of the oldest dinner theaters in the country.

The largest single artifact is the shaft of the Delta Queen's original paddlewheel.

Tonight, enjoy a steamboat dinner cruise on the Ohio River or dinner and a show at Clarksville's **Derby Dinner Playhouse**, noted for its professional productions of Broadway musicals and lighthearted comedies.

► DAY TWO

Start your day with a tour of the candy kitchen and candy museum at **Schimpff's Confectionery** in Jeffersonville. Watch candy being made on century-old equipment and enjoy browsing amidst thousands of pieces of American candy memorabilia.

Take part in a hands-on gardening and decor class at **McCabe's Greenhouse and Floral** in Lawrenceburg. Enjoy afternoon tea at **Hill Forest Victorian House Museum** in Aurora. The house sits on a bluff above the Ohio River.

CARNEGIE CENTER; DERBY DINNER PLAYHOUSE

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CULINARY CAPER

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Tonight visit **The Framery Gallery and Studio** in Lawrenceburg's historic district. Enjoy appetizers and sandwiches at the Arty Party. Walk to nearby quilt and vintage shops for more refreshment samples. Then try your luck at the newest slots and the best variety of table games at **Hollywood Casino**.

RESOURCES

DEARBORN COUNTY
CONVENTION VISITORS
& TOURISM BUREAU
812-537-0814
VisitSoutheastIndiana.com

CLARK-FLOYD COUNTIES
CONVENTION-TOURISM
BUREAU
812-282-6654
GoSoln.com

DAY THREE

After a leisurely morning, travel to Dillsboro for a tour and lunch at **Knigga Haypress Barn**, an 1853 barn where groups will learn about 19th century farming practices. This 450-acre property sits in a park-like setting with century-old trees, moss-covered stone walls and the soothing sounds of Willow and Wolf Den creeks.

BROWN COUNTY ART COLONY

OVER 250 restaurants, art galleries and studios welcome groups to Nashville—the home to the **Brown County Art Colony.** The winding streams and rolling hills of this beautiful region have inspired artists for over a century, and you'll be able to walk the same trails that inspired these American masters. Painters began to converge in Brown County around the turn of the 20th century and dubbed it the "Beautiful Valley" for its natural features ideal for landscape depictions. The town's most famous resident was T.C. Steele, a key member of the Hoosier Group of painters. His Midwestern landscapes are considered innovative approaches to depicting light and texture, and he became one of America's most famous artists during the first decades of the 20th century. The combination of Steele's fame and construction of more studios quickly made Nashville the arts destination it remains for groups today.

Your group can pass through the studios to see craftspeople at work and explore the same

nature trails as those pioneering painters. Also open is the **T.C. Steele Historic Site**, where visitors can walk through the artist's own studio, see over 50 Hoosier Group paintings and walk through the grounds that inspired much of Steele's own work. The Colony offers classes led by resident artists themselves, so your group can learn the basics of watercolors and woodcarving in workshops.

Consider lodging at the **Artists Colony Inn**, a charming Shaker-style bed and breakfast that services groups with hearty meals and quaint furnishings. The area is particularly popular in the fall, when the autumn colors make for beautiful backdrops for the many antique stores and galleries, and the county's biking and hiking trails are recognized as some of the best in the country.

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INDIANA STATE PARKS

Filled with scenic beauty and recreational activities, these inviting escape hatches provide travelers a welcome breath of fresh air

BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK: Over 20 miles of roads take travelers through picturesque forests and to peaceful bodies of water like Strahl Lake

WHAT BETTER WAY to get away from it all than hiking beside a creek in a ferny canyon where the only sounds are birds, rustling leaves and gurgling water. Your destination at trail's

end might be a cave or waterfall, but as you stop to enjoy the vegetation, the wildlife and the views, you appreciate that getting there is half the fun. Under leafy canopies of towering hardwoods, everyday distractions and worries seem worlds away. At Indiana state parks, nature rules.

In some parks, your travelers can admire Mother Nature's majesty from a rocking chair on the porch of a rustic inn. Perfect for group getaways, these cozy hostels come with restaurants and other modern hotel amenities. Ranger-led talks and hikes, not to mention nature centers that spotlight local flora and fauna, also appeal to group tour planners. Many parks boast lakes, swimming pools and horseback riding, while several parks have historical sites. All of these refuges offer large grassy areas to play and picnic.

From the sandy shores of Lake Michigan to the wooded bluffs on the Ohio River, Indiana is blessed with state parks rich in natural treasures. Though some out-of-staters picture Indiana as flat farmland stretching to the horizon, much of it actually is hilly, especially the southern half. Indeed, the most scenic parks are nestled in southern Indiana, where pastures and cornfields give way to thick forests, rocky ridges and rugged canyons.

Brown County State Park, with more than 20 miles of roads, is by far Indiana's largest state park—and its most visited. Located near the artsy town of Nashville, an hour south of Indianapolis, the park is nationally known as a fall foliage mecca. For many visitors, it's all about the vistas—tree-covered landscapes as far as the eye can see.

Abe Martin Lodge, whose original section was built in 1932 of hand-hewn native stone and oak timber cut in the park, has a family-friendly aquatic center and a quaint, time-honored restaurant with log furniture. There are 84 lodge rooms (each

with two beds) in addition to furnished cabins that sleep as many as eight.

Other offerings at Brown County include a saddle barn with guided horseback rides, a swimming pool, and two lakes for fishing and boating (canoes, kayaks, rowboats). Hiking and mountain biking trails wind through ravines and across streams, with one rugged foot trail leading to a historic fire tower on the highest ridge in southern Indiana. At the Nature Center, groups can study everything



from ferns and wildflowers to snakes and butterflies. To give tour members their shopping fix, group planners may schedule a trip to Nashville for a morning or afternoon of perusing downtown's many craft and gift shops.

An hour or so south of Brown County, tucked in an area of bluffs, caves and rolling hills known as Limestone Country, lies **Spring Mill State Park**, just outside of Mitchell. Its star attraction is Pioneer Village, a re-creation of an early 1800s settlement. Centered around an 1817 limestone gristmill powered by an idyllic creek that provides soothing "background music," the village consists of 20 log buildings original to the site or transplanted from nearby locations. After the mill closed in 1892, the settlement was soon abandoned, but the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) started restoring it in 1933. Interpreters staff some of the cabins, which include a woodworking shop, blacksmith shop and weaving house with loom demonstrations.



Visitors can tour the gristmill and see hourly demonstrations as the massive wooden wheel sends the gears into motion; bags of stone-ground corn are for sale. Exhibits on the creaky upper floors showcase pioneer tools, farm equipment and household items.

At Spring Mill Inn, a 74-room limestone building with charming country decor, guests can relax on rockers on the patio, enjoy the indoor/outdoor pool, sit before the lobby fireplace and play in the lower-level games arcade. The wood-

paneled Millstone Dining Room serves a bountiful dinner buffet featuring entrees like meatloaf, fried chicken and chicken-fried steak with cream gravy. A specialty is the persimmon pudding. With a taste similar to pumpkin, the dessert is made from the plum-sized fruit celebrated every September during the Mitchell Persimmon Festival.

Mitchell's hometown hero, astronaut Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, is remembered at Spring Mill with a memorial and museum. America's second man in space, he died in a launch pad fire in 1967. Sightseeing at Spring Mill also might include the Twin Caves boat tour, a ride that goes about 500 feet into a cave. Groups can arrange naturalist-led cave tours, hikes and history talks. Spring Mill Lake has boat rentals.

Lincoln State Park, like Spring Mill, has a lake with boats for hire and some historical attractions. Its Lake Lincoln even has a sand beach. Deep in southernmost Indiana, the park is aptly named, as Abraham Lincoln roamed these woods, cut down trees and worked the fields of the family farm from ages 7 to 21. Mr. Lincoln's Neighborhood Walk, one of the park's six hiking trails, passes by Little Pigeon Primitive Baptist Church (the third building on the site) and the gravesite of Abe's sister Sarah, plus the site of the mill frequented

(clockwise from top) **LINCOLN STATE PARK AMPHITHEATER, MCCORMICK'S CREEK STATE PARK, BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK BIKE TRAIL**



INDIANA DUNES: *These beaches, formed by glaciers in the last ice age, feature majestic hills of sand for hiking and sunbathing.*

FOR INFORMATION
ON INDIANA STATE PARKS:
call 877-463-6367
or Visit DNR.IN.gov

FOR STATE PARK INNS:
call 877-503-4371
or Visit IndianalInns.com

by the future president. On select summer dates the park's 1,500-seat Lincoln Amphitheatre, one of the largest covered amphitheatres in the country, presents the drama *Young Abe Lincoln*. The venue also features country and pop singers in concert and last year hosted Billy Joel, The Beatles and Jimmy Buffett tribute acts.

Near the park entrance, Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza has a bronze bust of the 16th president set on a limestone base inscribed with milestones of his life in Indiana. Just across the road from the state park is the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, which includes a museum and living history farm.

Lincoln State Park has no inn but does offer family cabins that sleep up to six. Its Pine Hills Group Camp accommodates 157 people with sleeping cabins, a dining hall, kitchen and restrooms with showers.

McCormick's Creek State Park, dedicated in 1916 as part of the state's centennial celebrations, is Indiana's oldest state park. Located northwest of Bloomington, it is a land of canyons and ravines. Hikers make a beeline for Canyon

Falls, where the boulder-strewn creek tumbles past walls of limestone. Another trail leads to a 1930s fire tower that was used for spotting forest fires until 1967; a trek to the top of

the 86-foot steel structure is not for the height-challenged. The 76-room, red-brick Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek was a sanitarium built by an Indianapolis doctor as a restful place for wealthy patients to recuperate. Amenities today include an outdoor swimming pool, the Hickory Room restaurant, and a comfy lounge with log and leather accents. The park also has two group camps with four sleeping barracks (25 people each) and a large dining hall with kitchen.

Seven of Indiana's 24 state parks have inns, all with full-service dining rooms. The 57-room Turkey Run Inn, the centerpiece of canyon-laced **Turkey Run State Park** in west-central Indiana, features an indoor pool, as do the 126-room Potawatomi Inn at northeast Indiana's **Pokagon State Park** and the 71-room Clifty Inn at **Clifty Falls State Park**, a park best known for its captivating cascades and lofty perch high above the Ohio River. Pokagon is a

water lover's paradise commanding the shores of Lake James and Snow Lake, and its lakefront inn has a beach. The Clifty Inn offers spectacular views of the mighty Ohio, and one wing overlooks historic Madison, a tourist favorite in southeast Indiana.

For outdoor pleasures in an urban setting, consider Indianapolis' **Fort Harrison State Park**, a green oasis that includes a golf course and 28-room lodge, plus accommodations in four officers' homes. Old Fort Harrison was a military training camp and on site is the Museum of 20th Century Warfare.

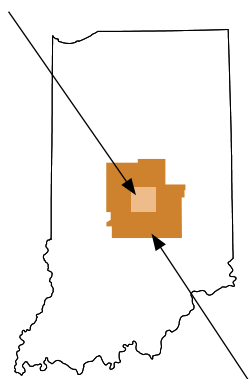
Within close proximity of another metropolitan area is **Indiana Dunes State Park**, where visitors build sandcastles on Lake Michigan beaches and climb the massive mounds of sand. More than 16 miles of trails traverse the dunes. Located near Chesterton in northwest Indiana, the state park includes three miles of shoreline and is surrounded by a larger national park—Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

From majestic hills of sand to woodland trails threading craggy canyons, from lakefront beaches to indoor pools, the state parks of Indiana offer a tempting variety of settings for active group getaways.

Historical Places & Fast Cars

INDIANAPOLIS, DANVILLE

INDIANAPOLIS



CENTRAL REGION

► DAY ONE

Sit back and let your imagination take you to Venice, Italy as a gondolier serenades you on a **gondola ride** in downtown Indianapolis. Then take in **The Mind Tripping Show**, the longest-running theatrical show in Indianapolis. It combines mind reading, psychological illusions and comedy into a night of delightful fun. Be prepared to have your perceptions challenged and your expectations turned upside down.

► DAY TWO

Start the day at the **Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument**, a towering downtown landmark completed in 1902, and go inside to see the Civil War museum. For more military memorabilia, visit the museum at the nearby **Indiana World War Memorial**.

The **Indiana Medical History Museum**, the oldest freestanding pathology



MONUMENT CIRCLE:

Dozens of restaurants and specialty stores welcome groups in downtown Indianapolis.



CANAL WALK: Rent a gondola or paddleboat and pass by Indianapolis' world-class museums and architecture.

Harrison Presidential Site. Experience an unforgettable dinner as guests of General Benjamin Harrison and his aide-de-camp as they share remarkable stories of service to the Union during the Civil War. The evening begins with conversation, hors d'oeuvres and wine. Then enter the Harrison family home, take a brief tour of the first floor and assemble in the library, where the general invites you to join him for a gourmet dinner inspired by Harrison family recipes.

facility in the nation, intrigues visitors with its anatomical museum. Spend some time at **City Market**, where all types of fresh goods are sold by vendors inside a restored brick building. Just a short walk away is **Massachusetts Avenue**, where you have free time for shopping and dining. Mass Avenue is also known for its bustling nightlife.

Enjoy an evening at the **Benjamin**





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▶ DAY THREE

This morning start at the **Exit 76 Antique Mall**, a great place to browse and shop for hard-to-find items and unique gifts. It features 600 booths and lighted cases full of everything from antiques and collectibles to modern artisan creations. It is truly a collector's dream.

This afternoon take a tour of the **Indianapolis Speedway and Museum**. A narrated bus ride around the famed 2.5-mile track in one of the speedway's tour buses culminates in a photo stop at the Yard of Bricks. This is your opportunity to soak in the atmosphere of the racetrack from the perspective of a driver, though at an entirely different speed, and kiss the bricks or get your picture taken in the middle of the track. The tour visits places normally open only to officials, drivers and teams during race events. Those typically include the timing-and-scoring suite in the Pa-

goda, the Media Center, Victory Podium, Gasoline Alley garages and one of the hospitality suites.

Tour the **Dallara IndyCar Factory**, the USA headquarters of Italy's Dallara Automobili. The factory showcases the technology, science and engineering used in manufacturing IndyCars. In addition to learning about fast machines, you can sit in a car for a simulated drive or hop into a street-legal two-seater car for a trip around the facility.

Dinner and a show at **Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre** tops off the day. Enjoy a buffet dinner before the Broadway-style show begins. The intimate setting offers great views of the stage from all tables.

▶ DAY FOUR

This morning tour the **NCAA Hall of Champions**, which boasts two levels of interactive exhibits that explain what

it takes to make the grade. All 24 NCAA sports are represented. The museum offers a trivia challenge, current team rankings, video highlights and artifacts donated by colleges around the nation. Stop at **Beasley's Orchard** in Danville and shop at the market inside a Civil War-era barn. Cap your tour with lunch at Danville's **Mayberry Cafe**, based on TV's *Andy Griffith Show*.

NCAA HALL OF CHAMPIONS: Two floors of exhibits feature memorabilia from all 24 collegiate sports and courts that simulate a college athletics experience.



RESOURCES

VISIT INDY
317-262-3000
VisitIndy.com

VISIT HENDRICKS COUNTY
317-718-8750
VisitHendricksCounty.com

Anderson Madison County Visitors Bureau

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VisitAndersonMadisonCounty.com

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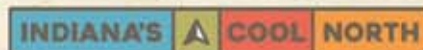


We pride ourselves in crafting itineraries that offer insider tips, off-the-beaten path suggestions and customized tour planning for group planners from around the country. Let us help you discover the Scents & Senses of Shipshewana, whether you are planning a quick stopover, Day Trip or a Multi-night stay we can help!

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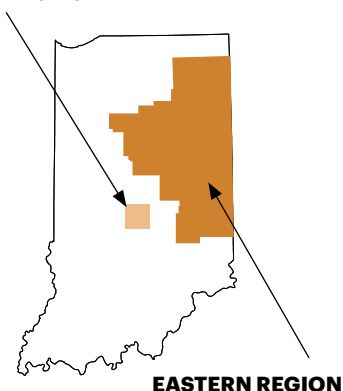
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Wine, Roses & Music

KOKOMO, ALEXANDRIA,
MUNCIE, FORT WAYNE,
WOLCOTTVILLE, RICHMOND

INDIANAPOLIS



DAY ONE

Upon arrival in Kokomo, tour America's oldest art glass company, **Kokomo Opalescent Glass**, which dates back to 1888. Skilled ladlers quickly scoop molten glass from the furnace and carefully mix the glass to the exact color and texture. Over 22,000 variations of sheet glass are produced in the facility, which ships all over the world. You can also see a glass-blowing demonstration and pick up a colorful souvenir in the gift shop.

Upon arrival in Alexandria, visit **Gaither Family Resources**. Christian music fans will know the famed gospel singers Bill and Gloria Gaither. A guided tour includes the studio where the Gaither Gospel Series has been recorded for over three decades and the house where Bill grew up. It also includes the school where Bill and Gloria met. Visit the



museum displaying Gaither memorabilia, photos and awards. Enjoy a catered lunch while there.

Tour the **National Model Aviation Museum** in Muncie. Gain insider knowledge about the artifacts and learn about the role aeromodeling has played in scientific innovation and development.

Dinner tonight is in Anderson at **Hoosier Park Racing & Casino**, where your group can try the slots or watch harness racing.

DAY TWO

Start your day in Fort Wayne at the **Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory**, a downtown oasis with four outdoor gardens in addition to the Tropical Garden with orchids and palms and the Sonoran Desert Garden. Then tour **DeBrand Fine Chocolates** and enjoy a few samples along the way.

Explore the shops and enjoy scenes of picturesque farms and horse-drawn vehicles at the Amish community in Gra-

bill. Shop the general store for antiques and crafts, and sample the local cuisine by sinking your teeth into hearty home cooking.

Later in the day, see where the buffalo roam at **Cook's Bison Ranch** in Wolcottville. The one-hour tour includes a short video, brief lecture on bison, wagon ride to feed the bison herd, and a

COUNTRY HERITAGE WINERY: Enjoy delicious chardonnay or pinot grigio while sampling house-made fudge at this award-winning winery.



FROM TOP: FOELLINGER-FREIMANN BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY; VISIT FORT WAYNE

chuckwagon BBQ lunch or dinner served in a barn setting. On your way back to Fort Wayne, stop at the **Country Heritage Winery & Vineyard**. Enjoy up to five tastings in its gazebo or while rocking on the front porch.

► DAY THREE

Travel to Richmond, the "Rose Capital of the World." You will smell the roses before you see them at the **All-American Rose Garden**. Take part in a hands-on bouquet-making class.

At noon board the **Whitewater Valley**

Railroad with your box lunch for a ride to Metamora, a restored canal town. Visit the grist mill and canal lock. Tonight a Western-style hootenanny dinner and square dance await.

RESOURCES

ANDERSON/MADISON
COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU
800-533-6569
VisitAndersonMadison-County.com

GREATER KOKOMO
VISITORS BUREAU
765-457-6802
VisitKokomo.org

VISIT FORT WAYNE
800-767-7752
VisitFortWayne.com

VISIT MUNCIE
765-935-8687
VisitMuncie.org

VISIT RICHMOND INDIANA
765-935-8687
VisitRichmond.org

► DAY FOUR

Begin the day at the **Model T Ford Museum** in Richmond's Historic Depot District. The collection of vehicles and T-related memorabilia is ever growing and changing. Among the stars are a 1909 touring (one of the very first Ts), a 1923 English-built town car, a 1925 fire truck, a 1927 coupe (one of the last Ts) and a 1931 Pietyenpol airplane with a Model T engine. The Historic Depot District, a transportation mecca in the 19th century, is now a must-see destination filled with notable architecture, unique shops, stunning murals, fun restaurants, a chocolatier and a microbrewery.

MODEL T FORD MUSEUM: Over 100 years of automobile history greet visitors in an institution that houses rare Ford vehicles and engines.



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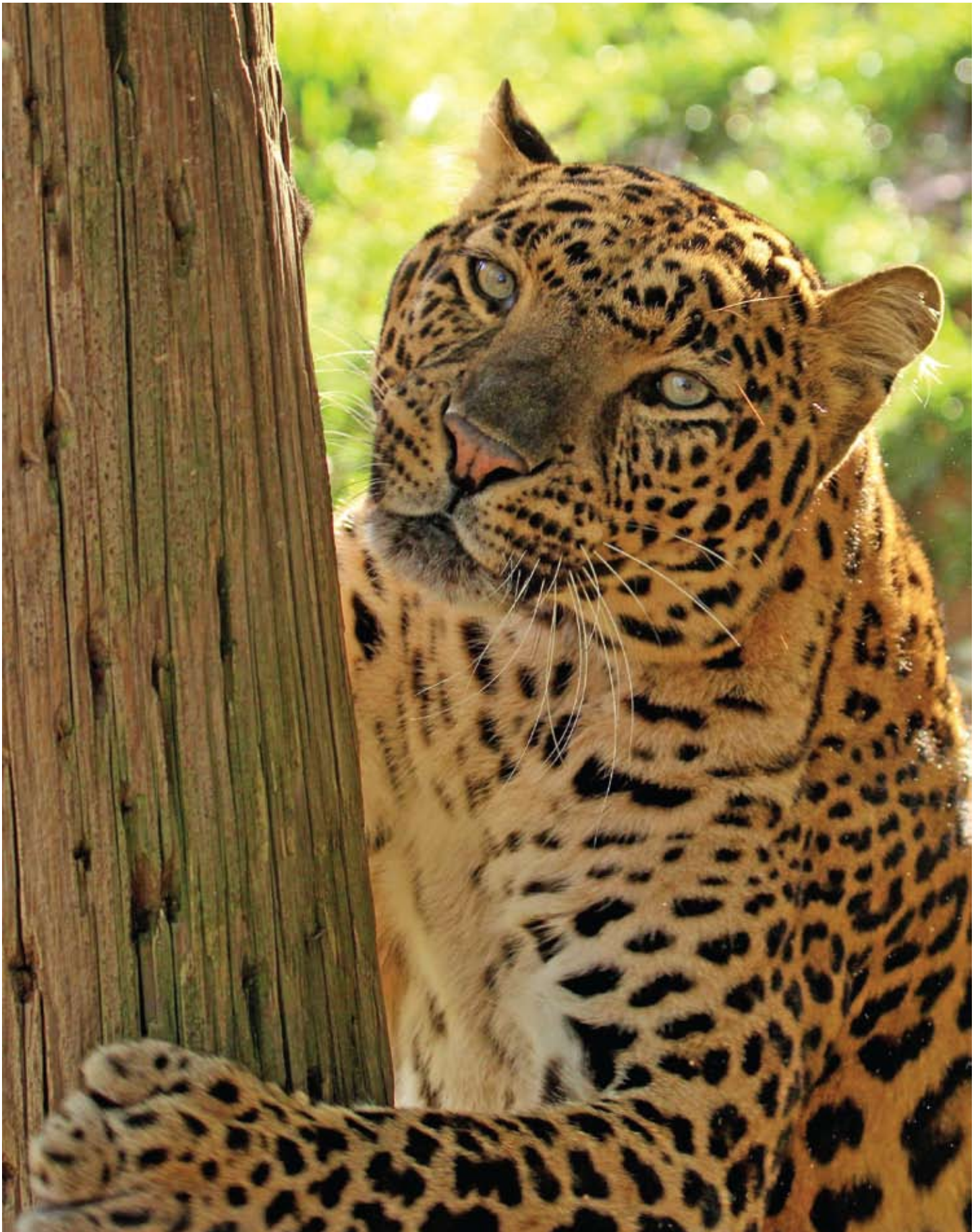
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VisitRichmond.org

Richmondin.event.planning



DICK CROSS/BLACK PINE ANIMAL SANCTUARY

BLACK PINE ANIMAL SANCTUARY: *This Asian leopard is one of nearly 100 rescued and adopted exotic animals housed in this Albion property.*

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Zoos and other attractions across the state feature creatures of many stripes

I F YOU'VE EVER THOUGHT OF HAVING A CUTE TIGER CUB AS A PET, YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

And if you did go through with the unwise act of owning a big cat, there likely would come a time when you could no longer care for the critter as he got bigger and bigger and BIGGER. That's where the Exotic Feline Rescue Center comes to the, well, rescue. Tucked away down a gravel road outside the town of Center Point, the home for unwanted cats is one of many animal sanctuaries that can be incorporated into an Indiana group itinerary. The state also has several outstanding zoos, plus some crowd-pleasers that focus on a particular species.

The **Indianapolis Zoo**, located in downtown's White River State Park, is home to more than 1,600 animals exhibited in five habitats, or biomes, representing ecological groups of animals and plants based on climate and geography. Roaming the Plains area, for example, are African lions, elephants, zebras, rhinos, cheetahs, giraffes, wildebeests and ostriches. In the

Oceans biome, dolphin presentations take place in one of the world's largest dolphin pavilions, which boasts the nation's only underwater dolphin-viewing dome. Flights of Fancy, with bird-feeding opportunities and a 4-D theater, features walk-through aviaries teeming with hundreds of exotic birds, from cockatiels and parrots to flamingos and guinea fowl.



Skyline, a slow-moving, gondola-style ride taking guests up to 50 feet off the ground, offers great views of the zoo, especially occupants of the famous Simon Skjodt International Orangutan Center, and downtown Indianapolis. The zoo has one of America's largest groups of orangutans, an endangered species on the verge of extinction in the wild.

In Evansville, the big news at **Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden** is the recently unveiled Engelbrecht Carousel, whose hand-painted animals range from the traditional carousel horse to more exotic species like the red panda and Magellanic penguin. To keep guests further amused between animal encounters, the park also has bumper boats and a central lake with paddleboat rentals. Visitors to Mesker Park make a loop around the world, following a path over rolling hills that takes them past spacious, naturalistic enclosures populated by creatures from Africa, Australia, Asia and North America. A zoo



highlight is the glass-enclosed Amazonia rainforest exhibit, a “greenhouse” for mammals, reptiles, birds and fish from South America; see jaguars, black howler monkeys, toucans, boas, giant cockroaches and red-bellied piranhas as you stroll past waterfalls, palms, bamboo and other tropical vegetation in this jungle setting.

The highly rated **Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo** really appeals to all ages, but lower barriers and a number of interactive features make it especially kid-friendly. Besides looking at animals, visitors can pose with an orangutan statue, lie on a hammock and hit an Indonesian gong. Other activities include taking the Skyride over the African Journey grounds, hand-feeding giraffes and watching the daily sea lion feeding. The recently remodeled Australian Adventure features a shark aquarium, three new aviaries, and habitats for dingoes and kangaroos. Come nose-to-nose with Sumatran orangutans, a python and Komodo dragon under the geodesic dome at Indonesian Rain Forest.

Wilstem Ranch, between Paoli and French Lick, offers a chance to get acquainted with two African favorites in

the Elephant Encounter and Giraffe Encounter. The hour-long “Educational Seminar” with the three female pachyderms—43-year-old Makia, Lovie (age 33) and Lou (32)—features a question- and-answer session and a chance to touch the girls and pose for photos with them. In the two-hour “Spa Appointment” experience, guests can take part in bathing the elephants and polishing their toenails before the seminar. The new 30- to 45-minute Giraffe Encounter, introduced last year, includes an opportunity to feed the long-necked animals. Private sessions with the elephants and/or giraffes can be arranged for groups.

On a tour of the **Exotic Feline Rescue Center** (EFRC) in Center Point, groups will see 50 to 60 big cats, mostly tigers. Other species in the outdoor enclosures include lions, cougars, servals, lynx and leopards. EFRC is the second-largest big cat sanctuary in the U.S. and the largest open to the public. The cats come from zoos, circuses, magic shows and individuals who could no longer keep them as pets; many were malnourished or otherwise abused. Devoted guides are emotionally

attached to the animals and tell all about their habits and idiosyncrasies, along with the stories of how they ended up at the sanctuary. You’ll learn that local farmers and other residents donate dead cows, horses and roadkill to help feed the cats. Dental procedures like tooth extractions and root canals are part of the veterinary care provided.

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary in Albion also provides a new home for

FORT WAYNE’S CHILDREN’S ZOO: *Journey to Australia, Africa and Asia through interactive exhibits and with the assistance of friendly conservationists.*



displaced, captive-raised exotic animals—but not just big cats. Its nearly 100 residents count bears, monkeys, reptiles and parrots as well. Groups can arrange behind-the-scenes tours that include places not seen on the general tours, and there are special tours that feature keepers feeding the carnivores.

Wolf Park, near Lafayette, is an educational and research facility dedicated to improving public understanding of wolves. Private tours give groups a chance to see the resident wolves, foxes, coyotes and bison, plus hear a lecture and ask questions. The 90-minute program also includes a handling demonstration in which the staff goes inside the enclosure and interacts with the socialized wolves. Tour members can howl along with the wolves on Howl Night programs, which include a 30-minute lecture on wolf vocalizations.

In Northern Indiana Amish Country, **Cook’s Bison Ranch** in Wolcottville

invites motorcoach groups to see where the buffalo roam. The one-hour ranch tour includes a short video, a brief lecture on bison, a Q&A session and a covered wagon ride to feed the bison herd, which is raised for its meat. Add to the package a chuckwagon BBQ lunch or dinner, served in a barn setting, with bison roast, baked beans or baked potato, coleslaw,

applesauce, corn muffins and dessert. There's also a bison burger/brat meal option. The gift shop has bison souvenirs and products.

A small herd of bison was introduced in 2016 to the Nature Conservancy's **Kankakee Sands** prairie restoration project in northwestern Indiana, near Morocco. Visitors can see the bison grazing from a viewing area at one of the highest points in the pasture, and there's an interpretive area that provides information on America's largest land mammal and the role it plays in

maintaining the prairie's ecosystem. The herd numbers 23 and may grow to anywhere from 40 to 70 in the future. Historically, bison roamed freely in Indiana, though not in the numbers found in the Great Plains. Explorers reported seeing bison in the state as far back as the 1600s.

From wolves and bison to the mighty lords of the African plains, Indiana offers a menagerie of animal attractions sure to bring a roar of approval from your tour group.



RESOURCES

BLACK PINE ANIMAL SANCTUARY
260-636-7383, BPSanctuary.org

COOK'S BISON RANCH
866-382-2356, CooksBisonRanch.com

EXOTIC FELINE RESCUE CENTER
812-835-1130
ExoticFelineRescueCenter.org

FORT WAYNE CHILDREN'S ZOO
260-427-6800, KidsZoo.org

INDIANAPOLIS ZOO
317-630-2001, IndianapolisZoo.com

KANKAKEE SANDS
219-285-2184, Nature.org/KankakeeSands

MESKER PARK ZOO & BOTANIC GARDEN
812-435-6143, MeskerParkZoo.com

WILSTEM RANCH
812-936-4484, WilstemRanch.com

WOLF PARK
765-567-2265, WolfPark.org



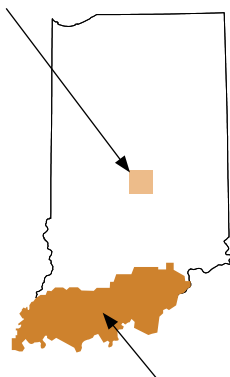
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Indiana Treasures

EVANSVILLE, HAZLETON,
SANTA CLAUS,
SAINT MEINRAD,
FRENCH LICK, WEST BADEN,
PATOKA LAKE

INDIANAPOLIS



SOUTHERN REGION

► DAY ONE

Your first stop is the **Pagoda Visitors Center** in Evansville, a thriving city situated in Indiana's southwestern corner. From the banks of the Ohio River, you will have views of one of the most productive and scenic rivers in the country. Next, take a guided tour of the **USS LST 325**. This operational World War II ship landed on Normandy's Omaha Beach on D-Day and went on to serve in the Pacific theater and Korean War. In Hazleton, see stunning displays at the **Azalea Path Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, where more than 4,000 azaleas bloom each spring. Blossoms of red, pink and purple will dazzle your group on this 60-acre property.

Tonight enjoy dinner at one of the



HAYNIE'S CORNER ARTS DISTRICT

many restaurants in **Haynie's Corner Arts District**. With locally owned restaurants in historic homes, night spots and

outdoor areas for public enjoyment, the district is alive with events that encourage people to walk the tree-lined streets and appreciate the architecture of the neighborhood.

LST 325 GUIDED TOUR: Groups can board and explore this WWII vessel that landed on Normandy Beach on D-Day and later served during the Korean War.

► DAY TWO



Continue this morning in Evansville with a stop at the **Dream Car Museum**, which offers one of the Midwest's most extensive collections of exotic and vintage cars. Next visit the **Evansville African American Museum**, the last remaining building of the former Lincoln Gardens, the second federal



DREAM CAR MUSEUM: Over 60 vehicles, from classic cruisers to powerful muscle cars, are on display in one of the largest auto collections in the Midwest.

housing project created under Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal in 1938. The museum showcases local artists, traveling and permanent exhibits, and contributing citizens past and present. Enjoy lunch in the Carriage House at the **Reitz Home Museum** before a tour of the mansion, a restored Victorian-era home. It is considered to be one of the best examples of French Second Empire architecture in the United States.

Next, visit the small town of Santa Claus. You will discover the magic in the **Santa Claus Christmas Store**, which contains beautiful gifts, collectibles and Christmas tree ornaments. Take a trip down memory lane at **Santa's Candy Castle**, where you will find many of your childhood favorites such as Necco Wafers, Candy Buttons and candy canes. **Dr. Ted's Musical Marvels** impresses groups with its collection of restored mechanical musical instruments, including nickelodeons and player pianos.

At **Saint Meinrad Archabbey**, a Benedictine monastery nestled amid the rolling countryside of southern Indiana, the group may join the monks for prayers and Mass in the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln, which is distinguished by twin bell towers. The church displays a replica of the Black Madonna statue in Einsiedeln Abbey, the mother house in Switzerland.

In the hills of the Hoosier National Forest resides a classic American resort destination. The towns of French Lick and West Baden are home to two AAA Four-Diamond historic hotels, three challenging golf courses, two rejuvenating spas and a Vegas-style casino. Spend the



WEST BADEN SPRINGS HOTEL



REITZ HOME MUSEUM



SANTA'S CANDY CASTLE: Witness candy corn and saltwater taffy being created and meet Santa himself in this Christmas-themed confectionery.

night and enjoy free time in a 51,000-square-foot gaming facility with soaring 27-foot ceilings. Try your luck with the slot machines or table games.

▶ DAY THREE

This morning meet your guide at the Visitors Center for a historical tour of downtown French Lick. Then tour **West Baden Springs Hotel**, a luxury resort built more than a century ago and once called the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Its focal point is the awe-inspiring atrium that spans 200 feet. After the hotel tour, visit **Wilstem Ranch** for an encounter with its resident giraffes or elephants.

Cruise **Patoka Lake** on the new Patoka Pride, a 60-foot tour boat. Enjoy a catered lunch while watching for eagles, osprey, herons, loons and other wildlife. Round out your southern Indiana adventure with a tour and tasting at **Patoka Lake Winery**.

RESOURCES

SPENCER COUNTY
VISITORS BUREAU
888-444-9252
SantaClausInd.org

VISIT EVANSVILLE
812-421-2200
VisitEvansville.com

VISIT FRENCH LICK
WEST BADEN
866-306-3814
Vflwb.com

NEW HARMONY

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UNIQUELY *Indiana*

an extension of the New Harmony Society in Germany, which believed in a communal, Christian utopia. The settlement initially thrived, constructing 150 buildings and shipping handmade products across the nation. However, different philosophical factions would emerge, and the experiment was deemed a failure in 1827.



While the society didn't last, many of the houses and public spaces remain as they did two centuries ago, and your group can tour the cabins, barns and shops of the Historic District that was once the settlement's central hub. A walking tour offered at the Antheneum visitor center will guide your party through the preserved streets of the New Harmony settlement and explain communal life in what was then Indiana Territory.

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AmishCountry Experiences

IN NORTHERN INDIANA



Das Dutchman Essenhaus \$98, 2-Day, 1-Night package combines a peaceful night's stay at the Essenhaus Inn complete with luggage handling, generously-sized guest rooms with Amish-crafted furniture, in-room coffee, indoor pool, fitness center, all taxes and a deluxe hot breakfast. Take in a live theatre production at Heritage Hall and dine at the world-famous Restaurant with a family-style dinner.

Shipshewana Flea Market, the Midwest's Largest, invites you to experience shopping like you've never seen. Vendors offer everything from fresh fruit to handcrafted furniture! Open for groups to enjoy Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 8am - 5pm, May thru September. Free bus parking & admission. Groups will also delight in weekly auctions and special events while taking retreat at the beautiful Farmstead Inn across the street.

Amish Acres in Nappanee beckons the curious traveler with authentic experiences on the 1874 National Register farmstead with guided tours and horse drawn buggy rides as well as the famous family-style Threshers Dinner complete with shoo-fly pie. Hands-on experiences, wine tasting, and quaint shopping extend visits and professional Broadway musical theatre in the majestic Round Barn completes the experience. The neighboring Inn offers inviting lodging with a continental breakfast featuring Starbucks coffee, free Wi-Fi, and rocking chairs on the front porch.

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For itinerary recommendations contact Kristal Painter at kristal@visitfrenchlickwestbaden.com or 812-936-3418