

# *Religious* **TRAVEL** **PLANNING GUIDE**

2020 EDITION

## **Spiritual Getaways**

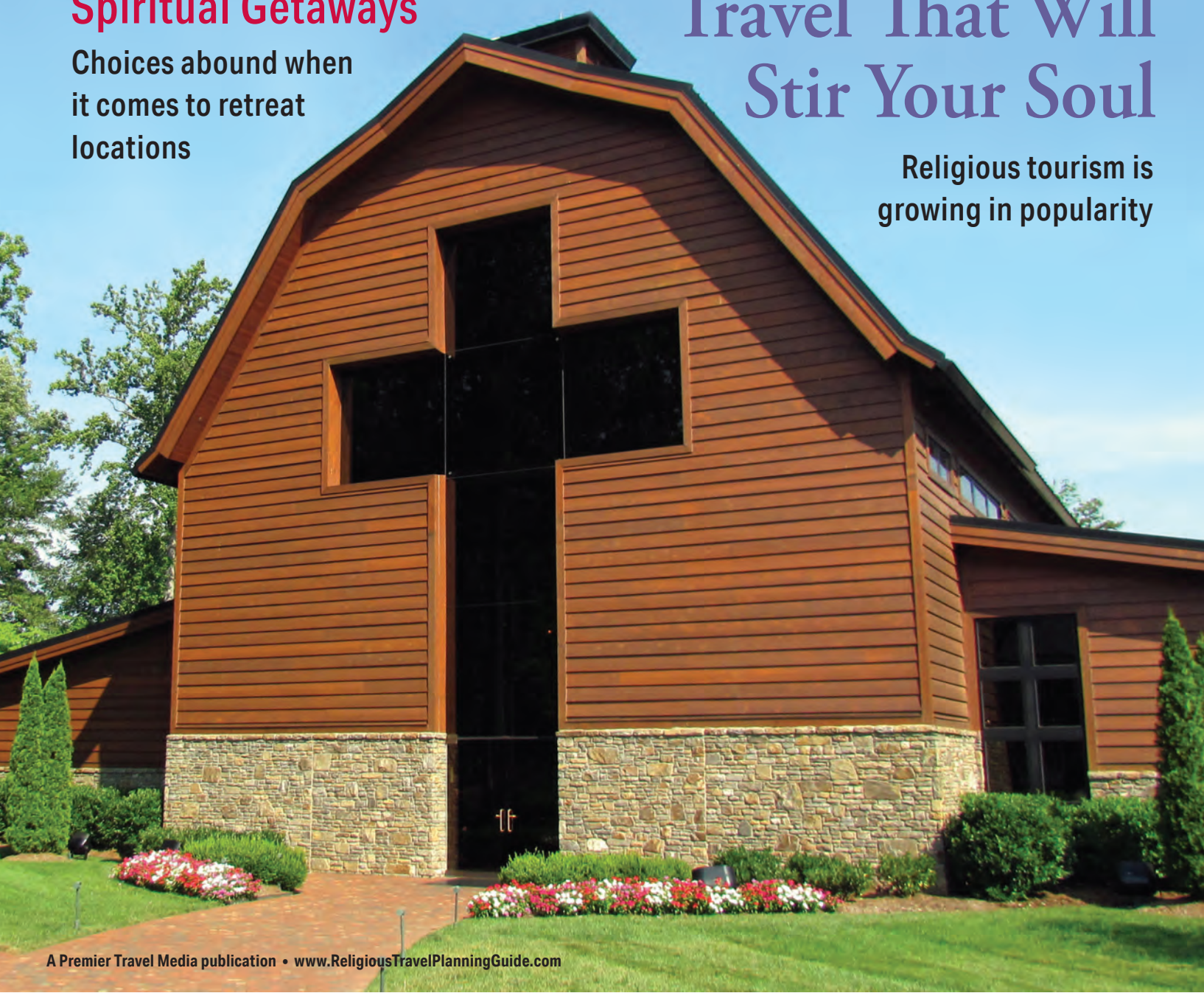
Choices abound when  
it comes to retreat  
locations

## **Spiritual Transformation Through Travel**

Religious trips offer  
life-changing experiences

## **Faith-based Travel That Will Stir Your Soul**

Religious tourism is  
growing in popularity





Martin & Clark's

# ANNO DOMINI

"THE MUST-SEE OF 2020!"

INFO AND TICKETS  
CALL TODAY  
803.802.2300

## THE STORY OF STEPHEN AND THE APOSTLES

LIVE THEATRE AND DINNER • JUST OUTSIDE OF CHARLOTTE • I-77 EXIT 90 • FORT MILL SC

GREAT FOOD • GREAT SHOWS • A GREAT TIME!

*NarrowWay*  
THEATRE

PLAYING ONLY AT THE NARROWAY THEATRE • THE BROADWAY OF CHRISTIAN ENTERTAINMENT • FIND OUT MORE AT [NARROWAY.NET](http://NARROWAY.NET)

WE DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IN  
Tourists

*We believe in explorers.*

### TOP 5 REASONS TO TOUR COLORADO SPRINGS

Tour a year-round destination with mild temperatures and spectacular scenery. Create tours at unforgettable destinations like Garden of the Gods Park and Pikes Peak - America's Mountain.

- 01 55+** - With more than 55 attractions and activities, plan to stay more than one day.
- 02 Olympic City USA** - See where Team USA dreams are born at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center.
- 03 All Seasons** - The region shines with a year-round mild climate.
- 04 The Great Outdoors** - Enjoy thousands of miles of trails and endless outdoor adventures.
- 05 Exciting Events** - From races to rodeos, concerts to culinary festivals, attend unique events year-round.

**PLAN YOUR TOUR**  
[VisitCOS.com/tours](http://VisitCOS.com/tours)



# Religious TRAVEL PLANNING GUIDE

VOL. 10 • 2020 EDITION

## Renew Your Spirit Through Travel

**W**elcome to the 2020 edition of Religious Travel Planning Guide.

With religious tourism continuing to be one of the fastest-growing travel markets, more planners than ever are working with churches and other groups to develop programs with a spiritual element.



Whether you're organizing a once-in-a-lifetime retreat or an outing to a local shrine, this issue of Religious Travel Planning Guide will be a trusted resource. Full of ideas that will help you chart your course, the guide is a valuable research tool for anyone forming tour groups from churches, synagogues and other religious organizations.

In this guide, we examine why faith-based tourism is important to both the travel industry and travelers alike; spotlight some of the country's finest religious attractions; focus on some of the best religious retreat locations in America and discover how groups experience spiritual transformation through travel.

We hope this 10th edition of Religious Travel Planning Guide, along with our online resources at [religioustravelplanningguide.com](http://religioustravelplanningguide.com), will inspire you to create meaningful travel programs for your community of faith.

Happy Traveling,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Paha'.

Jason Paha  
Managing Editor



Photo courtesy of the Angeles Crest  
Christian Camp

### FEATURES

#### 4 Faith-based Travel is Good for the Soul

BY JASON PAHA

Religious tourism continues to grow as more travelers embark on pilgrimages

#### 6 Spiritual Getaways

BY RANDY MINK

Choices abound when it comes to retreat locations

#### 8 Groups Experience Spiritual Transformation Through Travel

BY VANESSA DAY

Religious trips offer some of the most life-changing experiences around

#### 12 Take a Retreat to these Faith-Based Attractions

BY DEVIKA HOSLA

Explore the United States' religious heritage and follow the path of Jesus Christ

### SITE INSPECTIONS

#### 11 Explore South Bend's Religious Attractions

South Bend, Indiana is home to a variety of churches and museums

#### 14 Religious History Comes Alive in Williamsburg

Journey back to the past with a visit to Colonial Williamsburg, America's living-history museum

COVER IMAGE: The Billy Graham Library, photo courtesy of David Berkowitz



# Faith-based Travel is *Good* for the *Soul*





# Religious tourism **continues to grow in popularity** as more travelers embark on pilgrimages

By Jason Paha

**W**ith an estimated 2.4 billion people (almost 30 percent of the world's population) claiming to be Christian and another 3.5 billion subscribing to Islamic, Hindu or Buddhist faith, the majority of the planet identifies with a religious group.

Which is good news for the faith-based travel industry.

Religious tourism is one of the fastest-growing travel segments and according to recent studies an estimated 25 percent of U.S. travelers are interested in taking a spiritual vacation. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimates tourists take 600 million national and international religious trips per year. It also says 300 million travelers visit the world's major religious sites each year, which is a fourth of all international tourist arrivals. The UNWTO says faith-based tourism contributes \$50 billion to \$100 billion to the global economy each year.

Clearly, faith-based tourism is important to the travel industry. It's also beneficial to excursionists who utilize religious pilgrimages for a myriad of reasons including an opportunity to contemplate one's faith, the life of Jesus (or whatever religious figure they follow) and to better understand and appreciate a religion. Research promoted by the CBI Ministry of Foreign Affairs (an agency in the Netherlands) says tourists are increasingly looking for spiritual meaning and are searching for worthwhile events, spiritual and mindful relaxation and ways of slowing down.

"Faith-based tourism connects people to their faith by visiting places pertaining to specific church events," said Nick Mancino of Regina Tours. "We know that (religious tourism) is growing by the number of people traveling and new companies adding the faith-based aspect to their product."

In many cases, these travelers prefer to do so in large numbers. According to CBI, religious tourists prefer traveling in groups rather than as individuals. These tourists tend to be committed travelers who save up for religious experiences, meaning the religious tourism segment is less sensitive to economic ups and downs than the overall tourism market. A growing trend in the faith-based market is travelers are increasingly searching for

authentic experiences. A popular way for them to enjoy such experiences is by connecting to spiritual and cultural traditions. Tourists are clamoring to know more about the background of the location they are visiting in an effort to be more involved in the site's spiritual aspects.

"Faith-based travel puts you with like-minded people also looking to strengthen their faith through travel, where they can see historic religious sights and experience once-in-a-lifetime events," said Kathleen Writer, president of Celtic Tours World Vacations.

Perhaps the most notable religious event taking place in 2020 is the Oberammergau Passion Play, which has transpired every decade since 1634 in Oberammergau, Germany.

The play will unfold May 16-October 4 this year and will feature 103 performances at the 4,500-seat Passion Play Theater. The play is expected to attract 450,000 visitors to the village of 5,500, an impressive tourism boon for the modest hamlet. While Oberammergau will attract a hefty crowd in 2020, numerous other religious locales will also draw their fair share of travelers.

"The Vatican continues to be a draw for travelers," Writer said. "Portugal has also been moving up as a desired destination for faith-based travel, with many churches and sights for the faith-based. Medjugorje (a town in Bosnia and Herzegovina) is another spot that often is requested by groups."

Regardless of where religious travelers set their sights, tourism dollars not only flow to those locations, but also to nearby destinations. A considerable trend among religious travelers is they enjoy blending the spiritual and secular elements of the destinations they visit. Thus, groups that visit Paris because they want to experience the majesty of Saint-Germain-des-Pres, the oldest church in Paris, will also venture to other famous landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the Palace of Versailles. And, of course, those travelers will also visit many of the city's restaurants and cafes, further boosting its coffers. The beauty of the faith-based market is its strength rarely wavers. Even when traditional travel staggers because of an uncertain economy, the religious market is resilient and less affected by negative news or safety fears. Which means faith-based traveling will likely continue to grow in ensuing years. ✚



Jerusalem



# Spiritual Getaways

## Choices abound when it comes to retreat locations

By Randy Mink

**T**he foundation of a successful Christian retreat rests on a combination of lodging, meals, meeting spaces and a staff willing to address your group's specific needs. And let's not forget recreational options and the natural setting—many retreat centers are situated in some of the most beautiful places on God's green earth.

Planning a retreat that will make a difference in your church members' lives calls for homework, and choosing the camp, conference center or school campus is certainly a key part of the process. Ideally, you will make a site visit and meet with the staff before making a commitment. If it's a youth group, rustic cabins with bunk beds or dormitory-style lodging will suffice. For adults, you probably will want to elevate it a notch or two.

Some retreat/conference centers and educational institutions have staff members who will help plan every aspect of your retreat. Others will just rent facilities and provide meals, leaving program development to you.

On 206 waterfront acres overlooking the top of Chesapeake Bay, **Sandy Cove Ministries** in North East, Maryland, offers the ultimate setting for a seaside Christian retreat. Groups of all sizes have been coming to Sandy Cove for more than 70 years to reflect and renew their relationship with God. The hotel-style Chesapeake Lodge & Conference Center, built in the 1980s, has 150 guest rooms and suites providing space for up to 600 overnight guests. There also are amenity-filled log cabins with full bathrooms, plus rustic cabins and a campground with both RV and tent sites.

*Photo courtesy of the Angeles Crest Christian Camp*



In surveys asking guests how they describe Sandy Cove to their friends, the No. 1 response has been it is “the most soothing, relaxing, breathtaking place to retreat on Chesapeake Bay,” said Mark P. Fisher, Inspiring Growth CEO and former president of Sandy Cove Ministries.

Meeting spaces at Sandy Cove include the Chapel, built in 1948 and updated in 2013; an auditorium seating up to 550; and meeting rooms for 20 to 100 guests. The Prayer Room, a quiet place to come and pray 24/7, has private prayer stations that guide you through a time of prayer and reflection, starting with adoration, then moving to confession and thanksgiving, and ending with supplication. Guests are invited to put their prayers to God on paper in “The Book of Remembrance.”

Sandy Cove’s marina offers canoeing, kayaking and paddle boating. Other facilities include two outdoor swimming pools, an enclosed sports pool with hot tub, a fitness center with treadmills and other exercise machines, softball and soccer fields, indoor and outdoor basketball and volleyball courts, tennis courts and a climbing wall, not to mention shuffleboard, mini golf and disc golf. ([sandycove.org](http://sandycove.org))

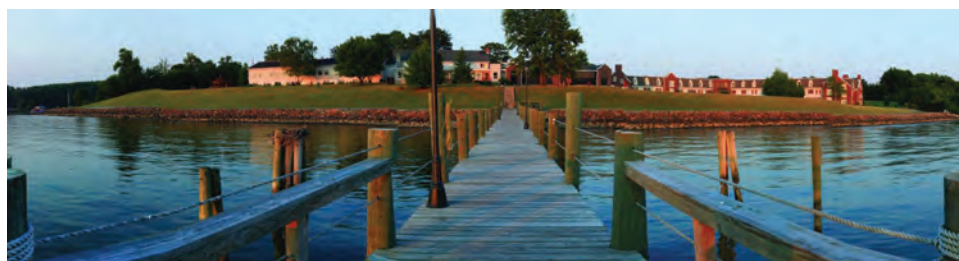
In western Pennsylvania, **Laurelville** is the perfect Christian retreat center for communing with nature while connecting with God and fellow church members. Situated 45 minutes southeast of Pittsburgh, the woodland sanctuary lies in the foothills of the Laurel Highlands, which this year is enjoying notoriety as one of the Top 5 Emerging Destinations for 2020, as voted by readers of the website Travel Lemming. Founded by the Mennonite Church but open to all, it’s within driving distance of cities like Columbus, Cleveland and Harrisburg. Sprawling across 600 acres, Laurelville offers hiking trails, a swimming pool, ball fields, mini golf, and a gym for volleyball and basketball.

Accommodations range from cottages, cabins and campsites to hotel and motel rooms with private bath. ([laurelville.org](http://laurelville.org))

In the Blue Ridge Mountains near Hendersonville, North Carolina, the Episcopal Church’s **Kanuga** covers 1,400 acres, with a lake for swimming, fishing, canoeing and paddle boarding. Other recreational options: a gymnasium, climbing

and climbing wall. A chapel across from the pool seats 250 and is the largest indoor meeting space. The amphitheater is equipped with fiberglass benches, a campfire pit, and a stage with a movie screen and sound and lighting systems. ([angelescrest.com](http://angelescrest.com))

In western Indiana, the leafy campus of **Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College**



Sandy Cove retreat center overlooks Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay.

Photo courtesy of Sandy Cove Ministries

wall, archery range, tennis courts and hiking trails. Groups can stay at the newly renovated, 61-room Kanuga Lake Inn or in cottages, guesthouses and dormitory-style buildings. Among the many gathering places are 18 meeting spaces, a historic chapel that seats 250 and three outdoor chapels. Kanuga has a labyrinth and meditation garden as well. ([kanuga.org](http://kanuga.org))

Mountain views also provide inspiration at **Angeles Crest Christian Camp**, a 1½-hour drive from Los Angeles. Sitting at the pinnacle of the San Gabriel range, the campus spreads across 100 acres of Angeles National Forest. Promoted as “Southern California’s 5-Star Christian Camp,” Angeles Crest can handle groups of up to 250, with accommodations in two cabin areas. Each of the 19 cabins sleeps 14-16 persons in wood-frame bunk beds. The dining room offers all-you-can-eat meals, and a large deck allows for outdoor dining in summer. Camp guests enjoy hiking trails, a swimming pool, and paddle boating and canoeing on the lake. Other recreational options include a paintball course, laser tag, sand volleyball, an archery range, zip line, trampoline

provides a peaceful setting 10 minutes from downtown Terre Haute. Founded in the mid-1800s under the leadership of Mother Theodore Guerin, a French nun who became Indiana’s first saint, the small Catholic school is awash in history. Retreat-goers, who stay in the cottage-like hermitages or nearby hotels, will find many points of interest, including a shrine and statue to Saint Mother Theodore, the exquisite Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the French-inspired Church of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

A herd of alpacas, raised for their soft fleece, highlight a walk through the organic farm and gardens, a project of the school’s White Violet Center for Eco-Justice. The outdoor Cosmic Walk, a spiral trail posted with 23 signs, takes you on a reflective journey through significant moments of the unfolding of life in the universe. The Sisters of Providence and other staff members at St. Mary-of-the-Woods will work with you to develop a retreat program on topics such as prayer, spirituality, contemplative living, Scripture and eco-justice. ([sistersofprovidence.org](http://sistersofprovidence.org)) ☩





# Groups Experience Spiritual Transformation Through Travel



# Religious trips offer groups some of the most **life-changing experiences** around

By Vanessa Day

**T**he big travel buzzword these days is “transformation.” It’s hard to search a tour company or destination website without stumbling across this concept. Whether it’s used to describe a once-in-a-lifetime activity or a can’t-miss attraction, transformation is what people are looking for when they travel. Religious trips arguably offer some of the most life-altering adventures, as spiritual enlightenment and discovery lay at the heart of these tours.

## What is Transformational Travel?

The idea of transformational travel only emerged in the last couple of years as travelers continued to seek out more meaningful experiences on their trips. Much of the trend has roots in the experiential travel movement, which encouraged people to connect with destinations and people through hands-on, educational experiences. However, the idea of personal improvement and self-growth has many people wanting trips that do more, creating a deeper impact on them internally. Since spirituality, prayer and self-reflection are some of the core concepts of religious travel, tour operators in this field have a head start on transformative travel. In fact, they don’t have to change much—if anything—when it comes to their travel offerings.

## How Religious Travel Can Change You

Religion and travel are both inherently cathartic. The combination of the two results in genuine, meaningful

experiences that go beyond traditional vacations. Faith-based tours focus on sacred places, practices, and people, allowing travelers the opportunity to explore something otherworldly that could lead to more personal development. Through powerful destinations, cultural immersion and concentrated learning, religious travel opens the door to inner change through outward adventures.

## Transformative Religious Destinations Vatican City, Italy

Considered one of the most sacred places in the Christian religion, Vatican City is an independent state located in the heart of Rome in Italy. At the center of the city is St. Peter’s Basilica,



Vatican City

built over the tomb of the Apostle Saint Peter, the first of the Roman Pontiffs. Vatican City is also the permanent seat of the Popes. As a result, it has become a major spot for Christian pilgrimages.

While the Vatican is directly linked to religious history, it also played a significant role in the Renaissance and artistic innovation, making it a cultural reference point for non-Christians, too. In fact, millions venture to Vatican City every year to gaze in wonder at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Painted by Michelangelo, the ceiling is filled with intricate frescoes depicting moments of religious importance. The most famous piece is The Last Judgement that covers the altar wall, showing the Second Coming of Christ and the eternal judgment of God.

The immaculate Basilica, the largest religious building in the world, combined with the Vatican Palaces, chapels, and tombs, provides visitors with a powerful place for reflection, prayer, and appreciation.

## Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Located in the Sirat Mountains of Saudi Arabia, Mecca is the holiest Muslim city. The prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam, was born in Mecca, and it is where Muslims turn five times a day in prayer. Most—if not all—devout and able-bodied Muslims try to make a hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca once in their lives. While entrance to the city is restricted to Muslims, non-Muslims can stay in nearby Medina, considered among the holiest cities in Islam. This is the location of The Prophet’s Mosque, the burial place of Muhammad, as well as two other prominent mosques. The



sanctity of Mecca, and the surrounding regions, opens people to a completely different perspective and way of life.

### Western Wall, Jerusalem

Arguably the most important site for people of the Jewish faith, the Western Wall, or “Wailing Wall,” draws thousands of people every year. The wall, located in Jerusalem’s Old City, is one of the support walls of the Temple Mount.

Every day, visitors gather in from of the wall to pray, either through spoken or written words. Those who choose to write their prayers place them in the cracks of the walls. The sheer volume of prayers stuffed into the stones sends a transformative message, regardless of religious affiliation. It’s a testament to the power of prayer and how one sacred place can bring together people from all backgrounds to worship as they want.

### Wittenberg, Germany

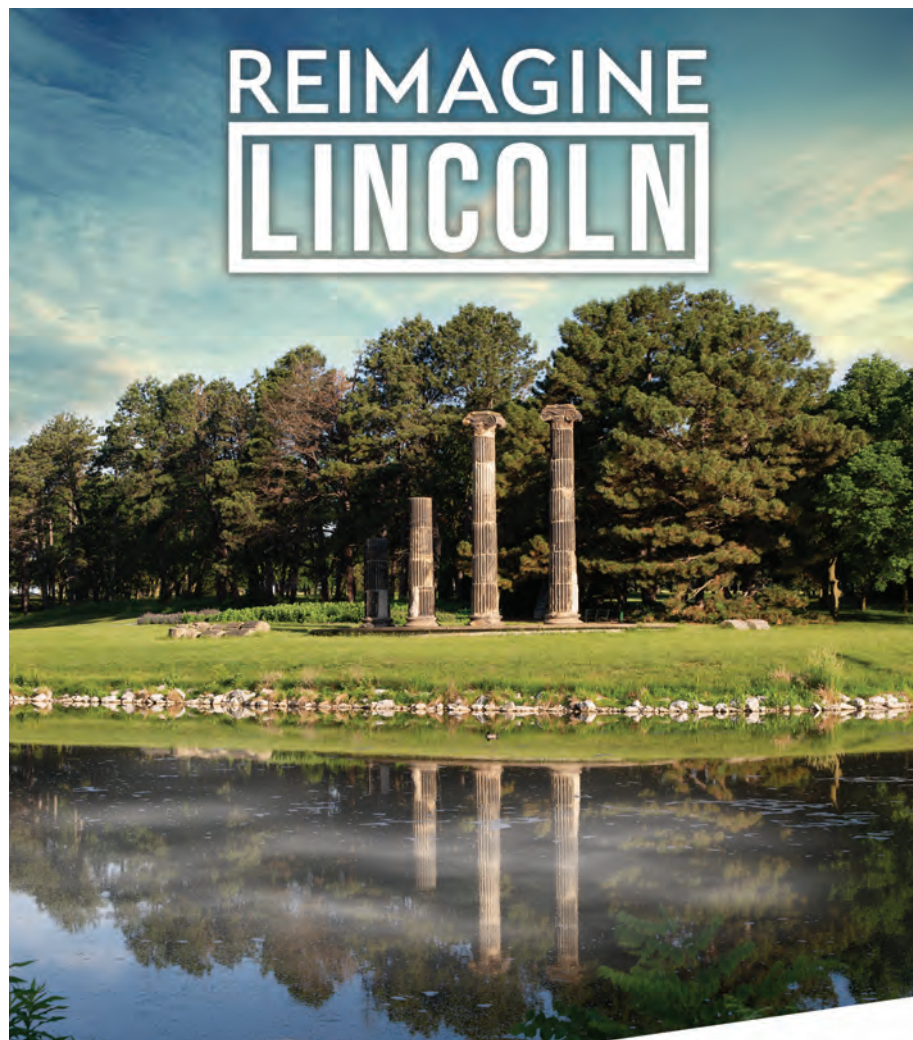
A quaint town in Eastern Germany, Wittenberg was the site of a major Christian revolution. This is the town where, in 1517, Martin Luther hung his 95 Theses on the door of Castle Church, kick-starting the Protestant Reformation. Luther’s grave lies inside the church where he began the movements centuries ago. Thousands of religious groups visit the town every year to recognize the importance of Luther’s actions, and what it meant for the great Christian population.

### Golden Temple, India

Located in Amritsar, Punjab, the Golden Temple is the holiest gurdwara—or place of gathering and worship—for the Sikhs. Known as Harmandir Sahib, which means “abode of God,” the temple is one of the most important pilgrimage sites of the Sikh religion. It is a place of spiritual reckoning, meditation, and self-reflection. Over 100,000 people visit the shrine every day to worship within its sacred walls. Entry is open to people of all backgrounds and faiths, reinforcing its original purpose of providing people a safe place to gather and pray in their own way.

### Ashrams, India

Spirituality has always been a part of the Indian culture, which has drawn millions of people there over the years. The beauty of the country is that spirituality here doesn’t necessarily apply to religion. It can also be about awakening the soul through physical or mental practices. Ashrams are some of the most common places people visit to accomplish a feeling of self growth and evolution. Ashrams are spiritual hermitages where people gather and strive towards a specific goal. There are all kinds of ashrams people can visit and stay at, from yogic to puritan to meditation. These places strive to help people with their self-development goals, whatever they may be, through disciplined courses and practice. ✚



**REIMAGINE  
LINCOLN**

**CELEBRATE FAITH  
IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

Reconnect with nature and heighten your spiritual connections with a walk through one of our many parks. We have many beautiful vistas and sunsets to enlighten your soul and know that you are not alone in this world.

**PIONEERS PARK**

**LINCOLN**  
CONVENTION  
AND VISITORS  
BUREAU

**LINCOLN.ORG/VISIT**





# Explore South Bend's Religious Attractions

South Bend, Indiana is home to a variety of churches and museums

**A** religious holiday can be a rewarding one in many ways. Whether you are a family that prays together, a spiritual group of friends or a church congregation, follow the path of the Lord in South Bend, Indiana.

## Cathedral of Saint James

Founded in 1868, the Cathedral of Saint James has the distinction of being the oldest Episcopal congregation in South Bend. Dedicated to James, a disciple of Jesus, he preached in Samaria, Judea, and Spain. The cathedral church and the adjoining parish hall were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

## Notre Dame campus

Built in the neo-Gothic style in 1888, the Roman Catholic church, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, is one of the 57 chapels located on the campus of University of Notre Dame. A masterpiece in more ways than one, the church affords the status of being a minor basilica given to it by Pope John Paul II in 1992. A popular spot with the students of Notre Dame, the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes is where many Masses are celebrated and the Rosary is prayed every day at 6:45 p.m.

## St. Augustine Catholic Church

In 1916, several African American Catholic families moved to South Bend from Pascagoula, Mississippi. Seeking a place to worship, the families found a black parish that was established in 1928 by Father George Connor. By the 1930s, the number of parishioners jumped to 60 and they sought a new home.

## Saint Patrick Church and St. Hedwig Parish

Dating back to the late 1800s, Saint Patrick Church is an iconic landmark. Boasting beautiful interiors, the main altar is made of Italian marble. Depicted in the stained-glass windows above the altar are popular Catholic saints – Ambrose, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Patrick, Joseph and Brigid. As part of the National West Washington Historic District and across the street from historic St. Patrick Church, St. Hedwig Parish was founded in 1877.

## St. Paul's Memorial United Methodist Church

Clem Studebaker laid the first stone for what would later become St. Paul's, which was dedicated in 1903. The church is notable for its stunning stained-glass windows and

the largest pipe organ in Indiana. St. Paul's is also home to an ancient baptismal font, the oldest in the country and made from the marble ruins found in Rome. You can tour by appointment.

## Recommended Lodging

Recommended lodging includes The Inn at Saint Mary's, Hilton Garden Inn and Gillespie Conference Center.

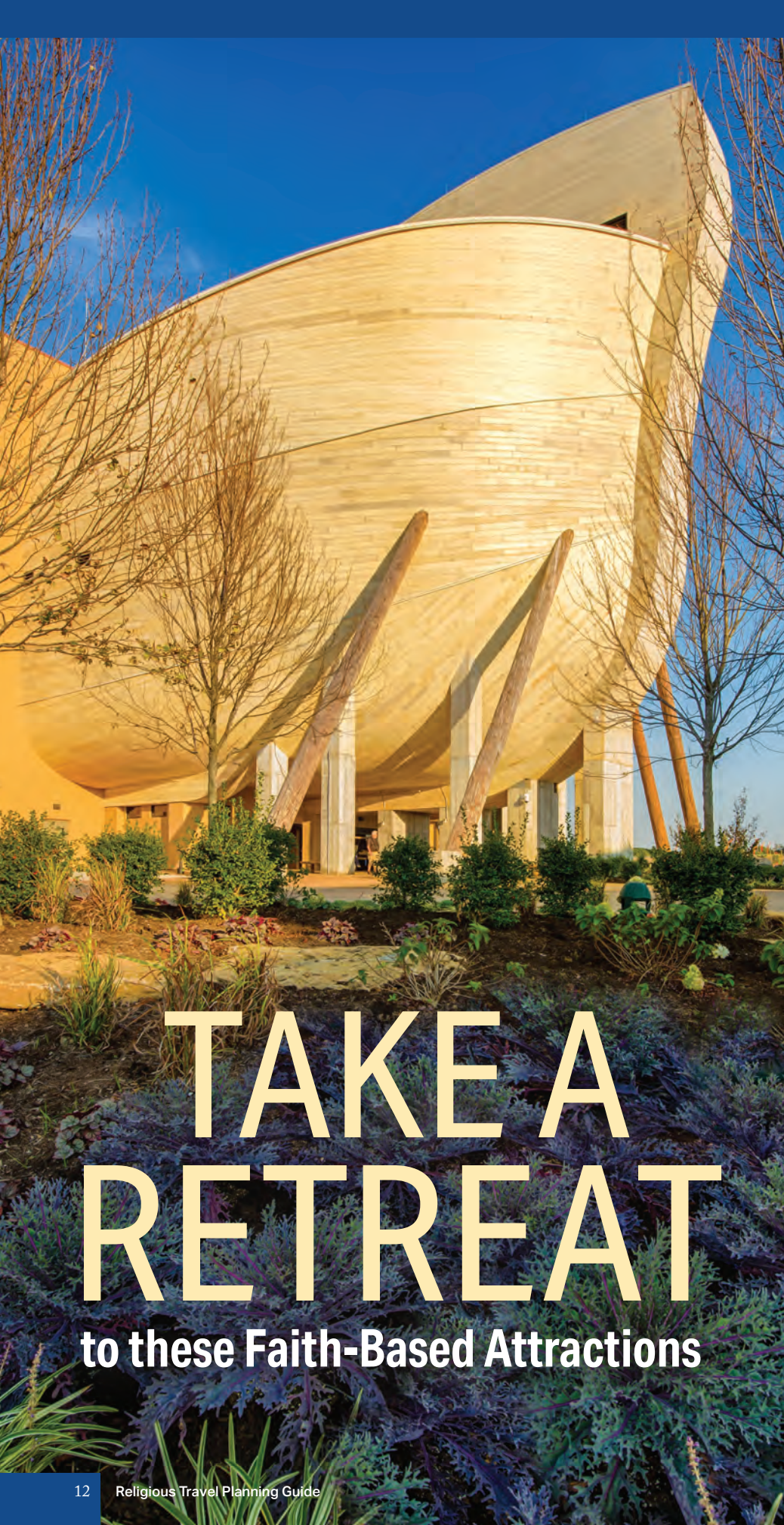
The Hilton Garden Inn at South Bend has a variety of amenities any group would need when on a trip. It houses a full-service restaurant (Bistro 933) that serves breakfast and dinner. The hotel also has a pool, provides free Wi-Fi, a full business center and a fitness center.

The nearby Inn at Saint Mary's offers free airport shuttle service among its amenities. You'll also find free breakfast, a cocktail lounge and a café that proudly serves Starbucks at this hotel across from the University of Notre Dame.

## HILTON GARDEN INN, INN AT SAINT MARY'S AND GILLESPIE CONFERENCE CENTER

LeAnn Allen, Regional Director of Sales and Marketing  
574-323-2461  
Leann.allen@hilton.com  
www.gillespieconferencecenter.com





## Explore the United States' religious heritage and **follow the path** of Jesus Christ

By Devika Hosla

**D**iscover the impact of the Christian faith with visits to iconic museums, institutes and centers that showcase the best of religious heritage in the United States. Follow the path of Jesus Christ and be thankful for all the blessings and miracles in your life as you learn about biblical history. Pray to and praise the Lord with like-minded travelers while on your faith-based journey.

### **Ark Encounter, Williamstown, KY**

Ark Encounter is a modern engineering marvel as it features a full-size Noah's Ark built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 51 feet high, this incredible creation amazes visitors young and old. Ark Encounter opened in 2016 and contains 132 bays, each standing about 18 feet high arranged into three decks. Bays on the first deck contain models of animals believed to be on the ark. The second deck features additional animal models along with dioramas of Noah's workshop. Bays on the third deck contain displays presenting what many believe may have happened inside and outside the ark during the flood.

### **BibleWalk, Mansfield, OH**

Affiliated with Diamond Hill Cathedral, BibleWalk features life-size figures and scenes from the Bible made out of wax, fiberglass and vinyl. A walk through the museum showcases a wax tableau of The Last Supper along with Jesus and the Children and The Women at the Well. Along with housing a collection of rare Bibles, religious

*Photo courtesy of Ark Encounter*

# TAKE A RETREAT

to these Faith-Based Attractions



artifacts and folk art, popular exhibits at the museum are the Christian Art Gallery and The Walk of the Parables featuring 39 original oil paintings by noted religious artist Mark Pedro. The museum also has dinner shows throughout the year like the King's Christmas Story and the Inn Keeper.

### **Billy Graham Library, Charlotte, NC**

Learn about the legacy of Christian evangelist Billy Graham through presentations, pictures, music and artifacts at the Billy Graham Library. Styled like a dairy barn, the library showcases themes like "The Man," "The Message," "The Ministry" and "The Mission" with the Gospel of Jesus Christ being at the forefront. Offered daily at the library is the Journey of Faith tour that chronicles the journey of the evangelist to the world.

### **Creation Museum, Petersburg, KY**

The 75,000-square-foot Creation Museum showcases a literal interpretation of the creation narrative from the Book of Genesis in the Bible. Starting from Creation and ending with the return of Christ, some notable exhibits at the museum include the realistic Garden of Eden, dioramas of the Flood and full-size dinosaur skeleton replica of an Allosaurus. Other attractions are Dr. Crawley's Insectorium with interactive displays of a world-class insect collection and



Allosaurus exhibition at the Creation Museum

picturesque Botanical Gardens with over 550 varieties of plants, a three-acre lake, fountains and a koi pond. The museum also houses a planetarium and a 4D theater with daily shows and offers fun family activities like outdoor zip lining and a free fall experience.

### **Boston Theological Institute, Boston, MA**

A consortium of 10 theological schools and seminaries encompassing Orthodox, Jewish, Protestant and Catholic schools in the Boston area, the Boston Theological Institute focuses on the enrichment and advancement of theological education. In addition to offering certificates and courses in theology, the institute hosts conferences to promote interreligious learning and has an extensive collection of theological material in its on-site library.

### **Holy Land Experience, Orlando, FL**

The Holy Land Experience is a Christian-based theme park with shows and exhibits that brings the world of the Bible to life. Attractions at the park are educational, inspirational and historic and include the Holy Land Experience Scriptorium museum with the Van Kampen Collection of biblically related artifacts and an exact replica of the Garden Tomb where the body of the Lord Jesus Christ was buried. There is also the largest indoor replica of Jerusalem dating to 66 A.D. and the 2,000-seat Church of All Nations where worship concerts, church services and live productions are held.

### **Museum of the Bible, Washington D.C.**

The sprawling eight-floor, 430,000-square-foot Museum of the Bible showcases rare artifacts related to biblical history and Christian culture. With its impressive entrance comprising glass panes with engraved translations of Psalm 19 in 16 languages, the museum affords a 140-foot-long Grand Hall Ceiling with illuminated manuscripts, nature and art and the 40-foot-high bronze Gutenberg Gates



Museum of the Bible

inscribed with the first lines from the Book of Genesis in Latin. Other attractions in the museum include manuscripts and treasures from the Vatican Museums and the Vatican Library and over 40,000 objects and antiquities from the time of Abraham through the New Testament period.

### **Museum of Biblical Art, Dallas, TX**

Housing 11 galleries including the National Center for Jewish Art and European Art Treasury, the Museum of Biblical Art showcases over 2,500 works that include paintings, sculptures, rare books and lithographs. Along with works by famous artists like Andy Warhol, Marc Chagall and Max Webber, other prominent galleries at the museum are an on-site Art Conservation Lab and the Via Dolorosa Sculpture Garden.

### **Temple Square, Salt Lake City, UT**

Owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Temple Square is a complex comprising attractions like the Salt Lake Temple, Salt Lake Tabernacle and Seagull Monument. The North Visitors' Center at the square features a replica statue of Jesus Christ, Christus housed in a domed room with painted with clouds, stars, planets and other heavenly bodies. There are free 45-minute guided walking tours offered at the square every day along with activities like orchestra, choir and organ recitals. ✚





## History Comes Alive at Colonial Williamsburg

Journey back to the past with a visit to Colonial Williamsburg, America's living-history museum

Groups seeking a spiritually enlightening, historical journey will savor a visit to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, where they will experience the wonders of America's largest living-history museum.

Sitting on 301 acres with 500 public buildings, homes, stores and taverns reconstructed and restored to their original appearances, Colonial Williamsburg revives the spirit of life from the 18th century. More than just a city, Colonial Williamsburg is a recreation of life as it was during some of the most formative years of our nation's history. With more than 50 sites to visit within the city that include merchant shops, government buildings, religious sites, public gathering spots, there are countless opportunities for learning.

Among Colonial Williamsburg's many attractions is the **Bruton Parish Church**, an Episcopal church that was established in 1674, making it one of the oldest Episcopal churches in America. The building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970 and is a well-preserved early example of colonial religious architecture.

During colonial times, the Anglican Church served as the only official religion. Although Catholics and other non-Protestants were denied religious freedom, the government allowed many non-Protestants to worship in meeting houses like Williamsburg's **Presbyterian Meeting House**. Explore the inside as it would have been hundreds of years ago to all those who entered. African-American religion played an important role during life in colonial times and visitors can pay a visit to a local home where a self-guided tour will allow for greater insight into the religious heritage of Africans and their Virginia descendants.

And just across the street from the home is a plaque that marks the original site where African-American Baptists met. During a visit to Colonial Williamsburg, guests will have the chance to meet costumed interpreters who get into character to tell the story of incredible Americans who helped shape our country as we know it today. Step into the past with **Gowan Pamphlet**, a revolutionary Baptist preacher whose story of perseverance and drive will serve as an example for generations to come.

Pamphlet was once an enslaved tavern worker but went on to found an all-black Baptist church.

**Ann Wager** is another individual whose story comes to life in Colonial Williamsburg, and it is a story that exemplifies the spirit of nation-building. Wager was the teacher of the first official school for African Americans in Virginia. Wager taught between 20 and 30 boys and girls each year, with most being enslaved African-Americans.

Every day there are interactive events that allow visitors to take part in experiences that are otherwise rarely a part of our modern world. Stroll through the quaint car-free streets, take a carriage ride, shoot a musket, participate in a local court session, or visit the local silversmith shop. Colonial Williamsburg is a place for all interests and for all ages, and there is no shortage of learning and fun to be had at any time of year.

### COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

Group Sales  
groupsales@cwfb.org  
800-228-8878  
colonialwilliamsburg.com/GroupTours



# WHERE history NEVER GETS OLD



**DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS OF 15 OR MORE**

Meet America's founders, dine on world-class fare, and step through lush gardens during a customized tour of Colonial Williamsburg.  
Don't let a historically good time pass you by!

*Colonial Williamsburg*

Book your group trip today: call **1-800-228-8878**, email [groupsales@cwf.org](mailto:groupsales@cwf.org), visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org/groupstours](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org/groupstours)





The **BILLY GRAHAM**  
Library

There's  
**JUST SOMETHING ABOUT**  
*this place.*



There's nowhere else quite like the Billy Graham Library. The interactive *Journey of Faith* tour is a virtual trip through history for the whole family. See how God's love changed millions as you experience inspiring videos, photo galleries, and memorabilia. Explore Billy Graham's childhood home, stroll the peaceful **Memorial Prayer Garden**, relax over **lunch and specialty coffees**, or shop the **Christian bookstore**. An extraordinary journey starts here.

"#1 thing  
to do in  
Charlotte"

— tripadvisor

**FREE**  
ADMISSION



EXHIBITS &  
MEMORABILIA



ACTIVITIES FOR  
THE WHOLE FAMILY



CHRISTIAN  
BOOKSTORE

"They were all amazed at the majesty of God." —LUKE 9:43, NKJV

Monday to Saturday, 9:30–5:00 • [BillyGrahamLibrary.org](http://BillyGrahamLibrary.org) • 704-401-3200 • Reservations required for groups of 10 or more; email [LibraryTours@bgea.org](mailto:LibraryTours@bgea.org) or call 704-401-3270. • 4330 Westmont Drive • Charlotte, North Carolina

A ministry of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Franklin Graham, President



©2019 BGEA