

[INDIANA]

2021 GROUP TOUR PLANNER *Est. 1816*™

6

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Indiana 2021 Group Tour Planner

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IDNR/John Maxwell



DURING EVERY VISIT

to the Hoosier State you will discover new and exciting experiences that are unique to Indiana. Our communities offer travelers a refreshing sense of renewal. Come and relax on the beaches of the Indiana Dunes National Park. Enjoy the 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, award-winning restaurants, performing arts and sporting events.

There are many resources Indiana offers group tours. As the state's official tourism agency, we can help you build a memorable trip. Whether its vineyards, breweries, distilleries, shopping, hiking, heritage or historical sites that you seek, we want to help you 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.

Suzanne Crouch
LT. GOVERNOR
INDIANA

2021 Indiana Group Tour Planner

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ON THE COVER:

Gibson County Barn Quilt Trail

Photo courtesy of Gibson County VTB

INDIANA

Est. 1816



INDIANA FACTS

Population:

Statewide: 6.7 million

Indianapolis: 876,384 (also the state capital)

Fort Wayne: 270,402

Evansville: 117,979

South Bend: 102,026

Carmel: 101,068

Fishers: 95,310

Getting Here by Air

Indianapolis International Airport (IND):

Served by Air Canada, Alaska, Allegiant, American, Contour, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, Spirit, United

South Bend Regional Airport (SBN):

Served by Allegiant, American, Delta, United

Evansville Regional Airport (EVV):

Served by Allegiant, American, Delta, United

Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA):

Served by Allegiant, American, Delta, United

Getting Here by Rail

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

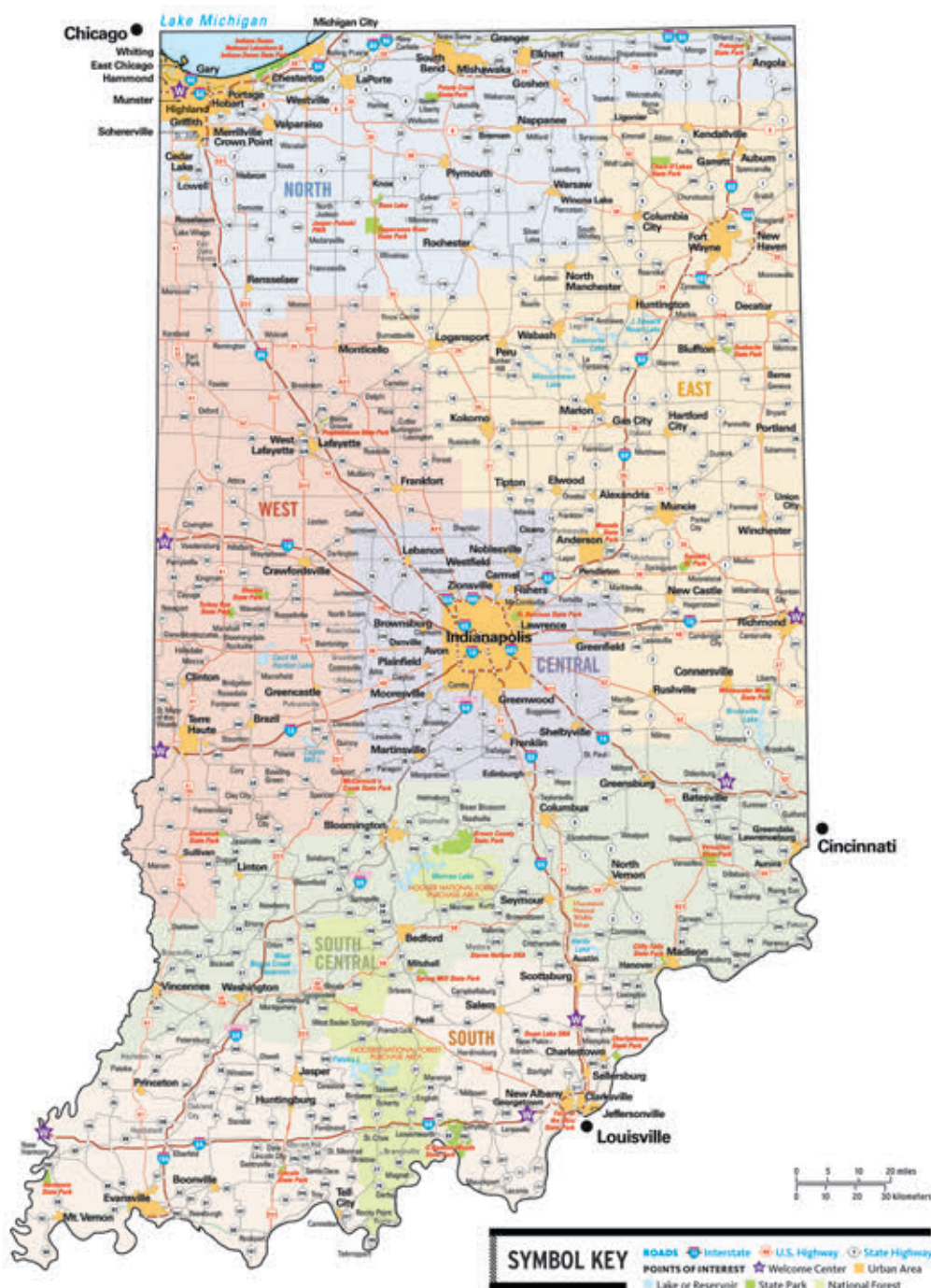
Average Temperatures by Season:

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

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**THE LANDING,
FORT WAYNE**
Visit Fort Wayne



**Barn quilts, murals
and sculptures reflect
Indiana's creative side
and mirror the heritage
of local communities**

Free Outdoor



Experiencing art in an outdoor setting is the perfect social distancing activity, and the cities, towns and rural areas of Indiana literally serve as open-air museum galleries showcasing artistic creativity on a large scale. Tour planners looking to craft a safe, healthy itinerary have a variety of art-themed driving and walking trails to consider. Their travelers will revel in the fun photo opportunities. And the viewing is free.

Barn quilts—murals of quilt-block patterns painted on plywood—adorn the sides of barns, homes, garages and commercial buildings in several Indiana counties, adding splashes of color to already beautiful landscapes. The patchwork pieces celebrate craftsmanship, agriculture and Hoosier hospitality. Just as traditionally sewn quilts are one-of-a-kind works of domestic art, no two barn quilts are alike. Maps for self-guided tours stitching the sites together are available from counties with organized trails.

In Southern Indiana, the **Gibson County Barn Quilt Trail** features more than 230 hand-painted quilt blocks in and around Princeton, Patoka, Wheeling, Oakland City, Fort Branch, Haubstadt and other communities. Works bear titles like *Corn & Beans*, *Mariner's Compass*, *Basket of Tulips*, *Black-Eyed Susan*, *Pizza Pie* and *Wheel of Fortune*. The trail provides an ideal backdrop for exploring area attractions such as Azalea Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens in Hazleton.

The **Marshall County Barn Quilt Trail** in Northern Indiana spotlights more than 75 patchwork murals,

INDIANA ART



including some in downtown Plymouth and Culver. The trail is divided into four geographic loops, each taking one to two hours to drive from the Marshall County CVB office in Plymouth.

Groups hitting the backroads of Northern Indiana's Amish Country will find more than 30 unique pieces of art along the **LaGrange County Barn Quilt Trail**, which connects seven communities. At Eash Sales in Shipshewana, a home decor store, travelers can buy their own barn quilt art to take home and hang up.

Emblazoning the sides of buildings in Shipshewana is yet more eye candy—a collection of 16 murals done in 2014 by the **Walldogs**, a group of mural artists from around the world that every year transforms a town with larger-than-life paintings depicting local history. The nostalgia-laced murals—showing influential townspeople and businesses of the past—can be seen on a walk or

drive around the town, which brims with shops for the tourist trade. Shipshewana is also the home of the Midwest's largest flea market.

Shipshewana was one of 11 towns where a new masterpiece of street art was unveiled in September of 2020 during **Make It Your Own Mural Fest**, a project between the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership and Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. In 11 days dotted with festivities, regional, national and international artists enhanced road trip opportunities in 11 northeastern Indiana counties, contributing one permanent mural to a building in each county. Besides Shipshewana, towns getting a mural included LaGrange, Fort Wayne, Geneva, Warsaw, Huntington, Garrett, Albion, Angola, Manchester and Bluffton.

Fort Wayne boasts its own collection of public art. Downtown, a dozen or so

colorful murals brighten streets and span whole alleyway walls, and another 15 are found in other parts of Indiana's second-largest city. In addition, Fort Wayne is always adding innovative new sculptures that represent its past and future, and even the sculptural bike racks are eye-catching.

Kokomo also boasts gussied-up alleyways. Thanks to the Greater Kokomo Downtown Association's **All Alleys Lead to Art Initiative**, the historic core sports pedestrian alleys brimming with art in a variety of mediums, including sculpture, video, light, sound and live performances. Each outdoor gallery has its own atmosphere. The revitalized city center, moreover, dazzles visitors with vibrant murals on the sides of buildings (even bridges). In addition, the city offers the self-guided Kokomo Sculpture Walk, which features nine large-scale sculptures, guiding visitors along trails and waterways.

Groups touring Eastern Indiana can feast on street art, from historical to whimsical, found along the **Richmond/Wayne County Murals Trail**. Most of the 80-some murals are in downtown Richmond and the Richmond Historic Depot District; a few beautify Main Street in Cambridge City, a mecca for antique hounds. One favorite, on the exterior wall of the Richmond fire station, depicts an early 1900s scene of firefighters making a dramatic rescue. Some murals, such as those showing music legends Hoagy Carmichael and Louis Armstrong, recall Richmond's place in jazz history as the home of Gennett Records studios, where the earliest jazz recordings were made from 1916-1934. In 2013, after an invasion by mural artists from as far away as Italy, Richmond was recognized by the Paint Quality Institute as one of America's Prettiest Painted Places.

Bloomington, a hotbed of art and culture and home of the University of Indiana, is another city that takes pride in its exterior-wall murals. The **Bloomington Mural Trail** shows off more than 40 of them, in locations ranging from the Maple Street Bridge to the Hyatt Place hotel,

which displays five murals, and the ever-changing collection at Artisan Alley.

Walking tours of the Ohio River town of Aurora are highlighted by exquisite 19th and 20th century architecture and the **Windows of Aurora** community art project. Painted vignettes of everyday activities in the early 1900s decorate more than 90 previously boarded-over windows and doors in the downtown area, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many paintings depict occupations—tailor, milliner, coffin maker, shipbuilder, brewer, distiller, butcher, blacksmith and leather tanner—while others show scenes like a ferry plying the river. The primary artists are members of the Southeast Indiana Art Guild. Tours led by a local artist/muralist can be arranged for groups.

Jeffersonville, another Ohio River city, bubbles with a burgeoning arts scene centered around the **NoCo Arts & Cultural District** (NoCo is short for “north of Court” avenue), part of a downtown redevelopment area. Creative crosswalks, sculptural bike racks and painted utility boxes have transformed the city into a beautiful canvas of color. Most impressive is the massive, color-splashed mural (*Perpetual Perception*, done by local artist Wilfred Sieg III in 2018) covering every surface of a decommissioned water tank. More murals can be found along the Jeffersonville Flood Wall and in nearby

downtown New Albany.

The Garfield Trail in east-central Indiana’s Grant County counts 14 statues of the comic strip cat in captivating costumes or funny situations. Glorifying parks, public buildings and restaurants, fiberglass figures (about five feet in height) of the orange, lasagna-eating cat can be found in Marion (with five), Fairmount, Gas City and six other towns in Grant County, where Garfield’s creator, Jim Davis, was born and raised. The cartoonist’s studio is a short drive from Fairmount, his hometown. Statues on the trail include *Bookworm Garfield* at the Marion Public Library, *Duffer Garfield* at Marion’s Arbor Trace Golf Club and *Scream for Ice Cream* at Ivanhoe’s Drive-In in Upland.

In Carmel, just outside of Indianapolis, the **Carmel Arts and Design District** displays life-size bronze statues by world-renowned sculptor J. Seward Johnson Jr., often referred to as the Norman Rockwell of American sculpture. His colorful “Man-in-the-Street” creations show people going about everyday life. Examples include a gray-haired businessman seated on a bench reading a newspaper, a father teaching his daughter to ride a bicycle and a big sister tying her younger sister’s shoes. Everyone likes the re-creation of an iconic 1945 photo that captures a sailor kissing a nurse in a euphoric moment celebrating the end of World War II. Just

south in Indianapolis is the **Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park**: a 152-acre cultural campus where you will find Joep Van Lieshout’s iconic *Funky Bones*.

Visitors to **Sculpture Trails Outdoor Museum**, tucked in the woods outside of Solsberry in Greene County, can admire artwork and commune with nature at the same time. A peaceful walk, guided or self-guided, reveals more than 100 sculptures by local and international artists. Some of the works are off the paths, nestled in the hillsides in harmony with their settings. Admission is free.

RESOURCES

CARMEL ARTS & DESIGN DISTRICT

317-571-2787, CarmelArtsandDesign.com

FORT WAYNE PUBLIC ART

800-767-7752

VisitFortWayne.com/Art/PublicArt

THE GARFIELD TRAIL

765-668-5435, FollowTheFatCat.com

GIBSON COUNTY BARN QUILT TRAIL

812-385-0999, GibsonCountyIN.org

JEFFERSONVILLE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

812-786-2307, JeffersonvilleArt.com

KOKOMO ALLEYWAYS

765-457-5301, GreaterKokomo.com

LAGRANGE COUNTY BARN QUILT TRAIL

800-254-8090, VisitShipsheWana.org

MARSHALL COUNTY BARN QUILT TRAIL

800-626-5353, VisitMarshallCounty.org

RICHMOND/WAYNE COUNTY MURALS TRAIL

800-828-8414, VisitRichmond.org

SCULPTURE TRAILS OUTDOOR MUSEUM

502-554-1788, SculptureTrails.com

SHIPSHEWANA WALLD OG MURALS

800-254-8090, VisitShipsheWana.org/Murals

VIRGINIA B. FAIRBANKS ART & NATURE PARK: 100 ACRES

317-923-1331, DiscoverNewfields.org

WINDOWS OF AURORA

812-926-1100

<https://Aurora.in.us/MainStreet.html>



Dunes and Quilt Gardens in Northern Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS



► DAY ONE

Spend your day at America's newest national park: **Indiana Dunes National Park**. Hugging Lake Michigan's shoreline for 15 pristine miles, these sand dunes were formed 10,000 years ago by receding glaciers and are considered some of the best examples of moraine topography on the planet. Orient yourself at the visitor center to watch a film about Indiana's geographic history before walking along the winding wooden boardwalks of West Beach. Ascend the dune Succession Trail stairs for views of the Chicago skyline on a clear day and rows of jack pines. Other sites to explore include Miller Woods (a rare black oak savanna environment), the Great Marsh and Mount Baldy (the park's tallest dune at 140 feet). Groups interested in



QUILT GARDENS
Visit Indiana

history tour the Bailly Homestead, a popular rendezvous for Canadian fur traders, and Chellberg Farm, a historic farmstead that grants a peek into Swedish immigrant life in the 19th century. You can view many of these sites from the water aboard a **Lake Michigan Boat Tour**, which sets sail from nearby Michigan City and provides narration from park rangers.

► DAY TWO

Begin this morning at the **Studebaker National Museum** in South Bend, which displays the first and last vehicles Studebaker manufactured and the world's largest presidential carriage collection. Continue to Elkhart County to see the **Quilt Gardens** on the Heritage Trail. Over 150,000 plants and one million blooms form immense gardens shaped like traditional Amish quilts, and visitors can step off to admire these arrangements while walking the charming downtowns of Elkhart, Goshen and Nappanee.

Enjoy an evening of entertainment

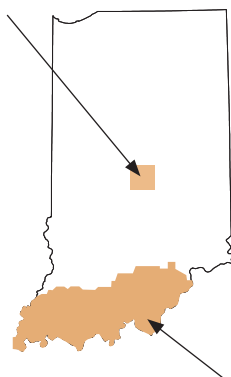
at **Blue Gate Restaurant & Theatre** in Shipshewana. This enormous complex houses a 1,200-seat theater, seven dining rooms and a bakery under one roof. Performances range from musicals with an Amish theme to country singers, and groups can register for a dinner and a show package that includes discounted rates and a delicious buffet or family-style dinner of fried chicken, mashed potatoes and fresh pie.

► DAY THREE

Browse the hundreds of stalls at the famous Shipshewana Flea Market and learn about local history at the **Menno-Hof Amish-Mennonite Information Center** before driving to **Pokagon State Park** in Steuben County, which has the most lakes of any Indiana county. Framed by Lake James and Snow Lake, the park offers plentiful opportunities for boating, swimming and hiking. Groups can stay at the rustic, 138-room lodge that overlooks Lake James while enjoying a gorgeous sunset.

Tranquil Forests & Historic Sites in Southern Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS



SOUTH REGION

► DAY ONE

Start your day at **Falls of the Ohio State Park**, a geological wonder on the banks of the Ohio River that offers beautiful views of downtown Louisville. Arrange a group tour to learn about the park's 390-million-year-old Devonian fossil beds, Lewis & Clark's meeting here in 1803 and the engineering genius of the river's dams. Continue to **Charlestown State Park**, where you can explore Rose Island Abandoned Amusement Park. Once a thriving tourist attraction in the 1920s, the park's finances were crippled by the Great Depression, but your group can walk through the ruins of the swimming pool, entranceway and ferry landing.

Enjoy a walk through rows of apple trees and a hearty lunch at **Huber's Orchard & Winery**, which can package group tours that include wine tastings, distillery tours and farm market browsing. Conclude your day at the **Corydon Capitol State Historic Site**, where you can tour Indiana's original capitol building (in service from 1816 to 1825) and governor's home. Also in Corydon is the **Harrison County Discovery Center**, where interactive exhibits depict the Battle of Corydon, (the only Civil War battle that took place in Indiana).

► DAY TWO

Spend your morning enjoying the trails and lush wilderness of

Hoosier National Forest. This rolling landscape of rocky cliffs and sycamore woods can be enjoyed on a bus route or with a beginner's trail hike. Notable sites include Hemlock Cliffs (a box canyon of "honeycombed" sandstone outcroppings that formed from weathering iron ore), Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest and Initial Point (the first surveyed location in Indiana). Head north to the twin towns of **French Lick and West Baden Springs**, which once thrived as 19th century spas and Prohibition hideouts and have been restored to their original grandeur. Walk the elegant gardens, admire the West Baden Springs Hotel's architecturally marvelous dome and enjoy craft cocktails at the new Valley Sports Bar.

 The collage includes three main images: a historic green and white building with a porch, a distillery interior with rows of wooden barrels, and a group of people standing in front of the barrels.

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Groups can tour the cities, homes and gymnasiums immortalized in Hollywood productions

Ever since the 1950 movie *To Please a Lady* filmed its climactic race scene at the Indianapolis 500 with Barbara Stanwyck and Clark Gable, Hollywood has utilized the Hoosier State for hundreds of productions. Indiana's authentic Midwestern main streets, iconic sporting venues and unaltered natural environments have been depicted in movies and television shows for generations, and many of these locations continue to welcome tour groups. If you want to add some Tinseltown glamor to your next motorcoach trip, consider a stop at some of these cities immortalized on film.

Daniel Ruettiger (nicknamed "Rudy") became a college football legend in 1975 when he walked onto the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team and recorded a sack despite being only 5 feet 6 inches tall. He became one of only two Notre Dame players to be carried off the field, and his story was made into the heartwarming 1993 family drama *Rudy*. Starring Sean Astin in the titular role, the production was granted the rare opportunity to film on the university's campus, and your group can tour sites such as Notre Dame Stadium, the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and Corby Hall. While on campus, groups should also visit the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, which was built in the 1870s and features stunning stained glass windows and Italian frescoes.

Few things define Indiana more than a passion for basketball, and Hollywood has shot several sports dramas in the state's gymnasiums and communities. *Blue Chips*, a 1994 film starring Nick Nolte and



INDIANA ON THE

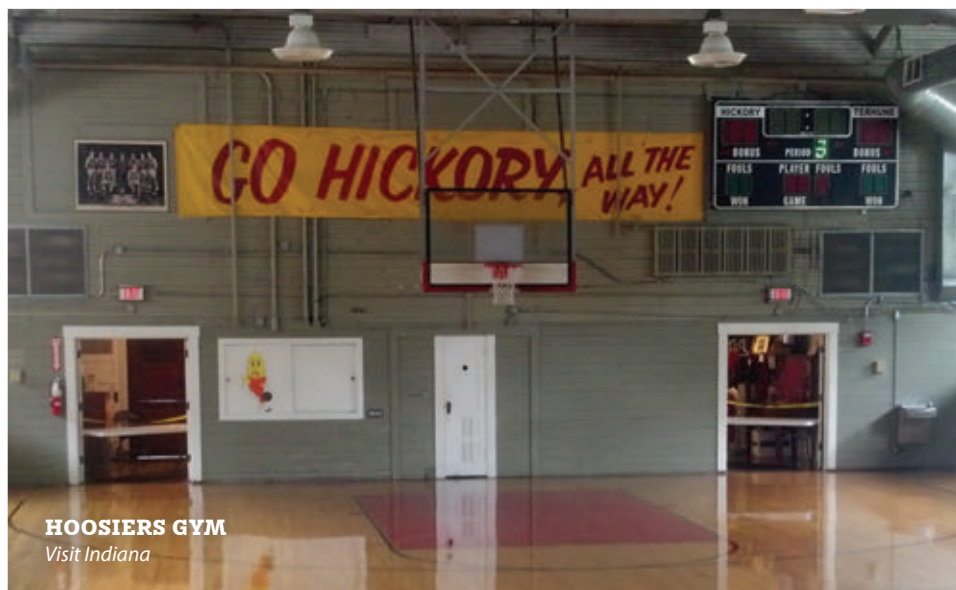
NOTRE DAME STADIUM
Visit South Bend Mishawaka



SILVER SCREEN

Mary McDonnell in addition to real-life basketball superstars Shaquille O'Neal and Penny Hardaway, used several Indiana locations as stand-ins for the fictional Western University. Interior shots of the basketball arena filmed at Frankfort High School's famous domed gymnasium, and French Lick (home of NBA legend Larry Bird) welcomed the film crew to shoot at Bird's home and College Street for a parade scene. In addition to these locations, French Lick visitors can stop by 33 Brick Street to admire Bird memorabilia and even try on his 1992 Dream Team jacket.

Often cited as the best basketball film of all time, the 1986 movie *Hoosiers* chronicles the season of the underdog Hickory High School Huskers and their ultimate state championship triumph. Starring Gene Hackman, Barbara Hershey and Oscar-nominated Dennis Hopper, the film is loosely



HOOSIERS GYM
Visit Indiana

based on the 1954 Milan High School state champions, and production shot the climactic game in Butler University's fieldhouse (where the real game was played) for authenticity.

The home court for Butler's men's basketball since 1928, "Indiana's Basketball Cathedral" is a National Historic Landmark open for tours and continues to attract college basketball fans with its groundbreaking truss system that allows for unobstructed views of the game. Now called Hinkle Fieldhouse, this Indianapolis landmark is an excellent addition to a Butler campus visit.

Fans of the film will also want to explore the "Hoosier Gym" in Knightstown, which stood in as the Huskers' home court in the 1986 film. Built in 1921 and largely unchanged for period authenticity, the gym's iconic raised wooden bleachers and the court's red-and-gold color scheme remain exactly as they did in *Hoosiers*, and high school teams from across the state continue to host games here.

Continue east to the city of Huntington, where your group can tour another important site of a sports movie classic: *A League of Their Own*. Starring Geena Davis, Tom Hanks, Rosie O'Donnell and Madonna, the 1992 Penny Marshall film tells the story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which was created when many MLB players were drafted into World War II. Home games for the film's



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Rockford Peaches team were filmed in League Stadium, which was built in 1894 and was restored to its former glory with fresh paint and additional seating. It later served as a primary shooting location for the 1996 HBO film *Soul of the Game*, which starred Blair Underwood and Delroy Lindo as Negro League players Jackie Robinson and Satchel Paige. League Stadium now hosts the Dubois County Bombers, a collegiate team that competes in the Ohio Valley League. Groups will enjoy an evening at the ballpark that includes vintage-inspired uniforms, Rockford Peach players who interact with the crowd and vintage refreshments.

Already internationally renowned for its numerous examples of modernist architecture, the city of Columbus received renewed publicity after the release of the 2017 film *Columbus*. A romantic drama created by film essayist-turned-director Kogonada, the movie creatively integrates the city's architecture into shots to

comment on the characters' isolation and eventual connection, and many of these buildings are available for group tours. Notable structures seen in the film include the Miller House (Eero Saarinen's modernist masterpiece that epitomizes the school of architecture with an open floor plan and flat roof), the Irwin Conference Center (which emphasizes radical banking transparency with large windows) and the Robert N. Stewart Bridge.

Filed entirely in Bloomington and starring Dennis Quaid, Jackie Earle Haley and Daniel Stern, the 1979 film *Breaking Away* won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and helped popularize street biking in the United States. A coming-of-age story that follows a group of recent high school graduates (or "cutters") who don't attend the local Indiana University, the film utilized multiple locations on the university's campus, Bloomington's downtown and nearby Brown County State Park for cycling scenes. Public

locations seen in the film that your group can visit include IU's Franklin Hall, the Monroe County Courthouse and the Rose Well House pavilion.

Another visually striking Indiana city that has welcomed Hollywood productions and visitors alike is Madison. Much of the town's architecture dates back to the early 1800s, when local merchants thrived along the Ohio River during the steamboat era. Today, groups can scour antique shops on Main Street, tour the Greek Revival home of famed financier James F.D. Lanier and tour Dr. William Hutchings' Office & Museum to learn about 19th century surgery techniques. MGM Studios chose Madison in 1958 to depict the fictional Indiana town of Parkman for *Some Came Running*, a drama starring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Shirley MacLaine. Several businesses in the downtown district were given new Parkman facades, and many businesses in town proudly display posters of the film.

For information about Indiana film history and a location directory for potential productions, visit www.filmindiana.com.



RESOURCES

COLUMBUS AREA VISITORS CENTER
812-378-2622, Columbus.IN.US

DUBOIS COUNTY BOMBERS
812-683-3700, DCBombers.com

HINKLE FIELDHOUSE
317-940-8000, ButlerSports.com

HOOSIER GYM
765-345-2100, TheHoosierGym.com

VISIT BLOOMINGTON
812-334-8900, VisitBloomington.com

VISITMADISON
800-559-2956, VisitMadison.org

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

Eagles and Engines in Central Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS



INDIANA STATE MUSEUM
Visit Indy

► DAY ONE

Only Washington, D.C. dedicates more acreage to honoring our nation's fallen than Indianapolis, so begin your itinerary with a morning **Memorial Tour** offered by Indiana Landmarks or the Indiana War Memorial Museum. The Soldiers & Sailors Monument is an impressive obelisk tower that rises 284 feet above Memorial Circle. Topped by a bronze statue of Victory and flanked

on each corner by sculptures that represent the infantry, cavalry, artillery and navy, the memorial honors veterans of every major American conflict through the Spanish-American War. Visitors can climb 331 steps or take the elevator for unparalleled views of downtown Indy. Other stops on your tour will be American Legion Mall, the Cenotaph (dedicated to the first American casualty of World

War I) and the USS Indianapolis Memorial (which is shaped like the cruiser before it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in 1945).

Continue along the Indiana Central Canal, a pedestrian-friendly waterway that passes by many of the city's cultural institutions. Spend your afternoon at the **Indiana State Museum**, a three-story complex of permanent and changing exhibits that honor the Hoosier State's past and future. Discover how the Potawatomi people used stars for navigation in "First Nations: The Story of Indiana's Founding People," engage with on-staff scientists at the R.B. Annis Naturalist's Lab and walk through a subglacial ice tunnel in "Frozen Reign: A State of Change."

Across the canal is the **NCAA Hall of Champions**, a multistory celebration of college athletics that represents all 24 sports with interactive exhibits, a trivia



INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY
Visit Indy

challenge and video highlights. Group members can throw a game-winning touchdown on an artificial field, recreate a downhill run in a ski simulator and participate in a virtual soccer shootout.

► DAY TWO

Your morning begins at the **Indianapolis Motor Speedway**. In addition to hosting the famous Indianapolis 500 race every May, the complex houses one of the world's largest collections of race cars and antique vehicles. After riding a bus for a 2.5-mile loop around the track and kissing the finish line, group members can explore facilities usually reserved for drivers and teams such as the Victory Podium, Pagoda scoring suite and Gasoline Alley garages.

Depart downtown and head northwest to **Eagle Creek Park**, a 3,900-acre protected area that surrounds the Eagle Creek Reservoir. Local outfitters supply a variety of kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards for group members seeking waterfront activities, while those who prefer dry land can hike up to 16 miles of gentle trails that offer views of the park's famous bald eagles. Stop by the Ornithology Center to learn about these magnificent creature and properly identify the great blue herons, double-crested cormorants and loons that populate the park. Conclude your day at **Rick's Café Boatyard**, a waterfront eatery that serves delicious seafood and presents live jazz performances.

► DAY THREE

Enjoy a morning browsing the galleries and studios of the **Carmel Arts & Design District**. This walkable neighborhood is dedicated to local artists who are enthusiastic about sharing their work, so sign up for a beginner pottery workshop, browse through priceless antiques and enjoy an artisan latte. Groups can also enjoy lunch in **Carmel City Center** before watching a show at the **Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts**, a 1,600-seat theater modeled after European concert halls.

Conclude your itinerary at **Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve** in the nearby city of Fishers. This 127-acre retreat boasts nine nature trails (including boardwalks that pass over marshland) and numerous bird watching stations.

Anderson Madison County Visitors Bureau

VisitAndersonMadisonCounty.com

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Unlock your inner zen or green thumb in these gorgeous floral retreats

Indiana's Botanical Gardens

Indiana's diverse botanical gardens range from meandering prairie paths to perfectly manicured rows of flowers, but they all offer brilliant colors, plentiful space to explore and a restful stop on your group itinerary.

An immense glass structure influenced by turn-of-the-20th-century urban greenhouses, **Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory** in Fort Wayne is populated with over 500 plant species from across three continents. The complex is divided into three themed indoor areas with a distinct layout and climate in addition to outdoor and seasonal displays. An arid environment containing Saguaro cacti, prickly pear trees and jojoba shrubs, the Desert Garden is filled with hundreds of species that are otherwise impossible to grow in the Midwest, while the Tropical Garden teems with diverse fruit orchards, cacao plants and 13 palm varieties.

Designed by famed German landscape architect George Kessler, **Garfield Park Conservatory** is the oldest city park in Indianapolis and welcomes group tours throughout the year. The park was inspired by the classical European greenspaces of Paris and Vienna, with elegant fountains and symmetrical flowerbeds accented by concrete urns decorated with the German symbol of prosperity: an oak leaf and acorn. The garden's most famous feature is the sunken gardens, which are populated with tulips, annuals or mums depending on the season. Groups can also tour the Victorian-style greenhouse, which contains carnivorous pitcher plants, sago palms and the Bodhi tree, the same species Gautama



SUTPHIN FOUNTAIN
Visit Indy





**FOELLINGER-FREIMANN
BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY**
Visit Fort Wayne



GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY
Visit Indiana



**VIRGINIA B. FAIRBANKS
ART & NATURE PARK**
Visit Indy

Buddha sat under when he achieved enlightenment.

Nearby are the **White River Gardens**, a three-acre retreat operated in conjunction with the Indianapolis Zoo. Groups will want to savor the property's Hilbert Conservatory, a 65-foot-tall greenhouse filled with aromatic tropical greenery and 40 butterfly species that flutter against the Indianapolis skyline. The greenhouse's mezzanine level is populated with ferns, orchids and palms, and guests will also want to admire the towering beech trees of the Ruth Lilly Shade Garden or eye-popping tulips of the water garden. Before leaving, stop by the Heritage Garden to see species native to Indiana (like purple coneflower and hollyhock) in addition to historic specimens transplanted from the Benjamin Harrison Home.

Follow the White River north to **Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park at Newfields**, a 100-acre retreat of flower beds, meditation trails and sculptures created by internationally renowned artists. Stop for a group photo next to the Sutphin Fountain—a modernist water feature surrounded by Grecian wildflowers, paperback maples and lavender. Groups can also reserve a tour of the property's Lilly House and Gardens, the restored country estate of famous Indiana industrialist Josiah Lilly. The grounds retain their 1940s landscaping, and docent-led tours include the Orchard (a postwar-style tract that grows sunflowers and vegetables), the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse (which offers horticultural programming for groups) and the quadrant-style Four Seasons Garden.

Indiana's Northern region also boasts several group-friendly gardens to explore. **Gabis Arboretum**, operated by Purdue University Northwest, oversees 330 acres of preserved wetlands and prairies that groups can hike through on a variety of trails. Themed areas include three visually distinct rose gardens, the Native Plant Garden (home to hundreds

of Indiana species and a monarch butterfly waystation) and the Railway Garden (where a G-gauge model trains pass through elaborate miniaturized pioneer villages). Birdwatchers will want to venture into the native prairie grass trails to spot warblers, bobolinks and purple finches.

The nearby **Friendship Botanical Gardens** in Michigan City is a collection of over a dozen “ethnic gardens” that represent their home nation with native plants and art installations. Developed in parallel with the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair to symbolize international unity, the property contains Dutch tulips and rare Persian roses overseen by England’s royal gardener. The gardens host nature walks and a variety of group-friendly concerts throughout warm-weather months.

Created to honor Mishawaka’s Japanese sister city, **Shiojiri Niwa** is a restful landscape of floral displays, bridges and serene waterways. The garden’s pruned pines, ornate teahouse and red bridges modeled after Matsumoto Castle exemplify the



SHIOJIRI NIWA
Visit South Bend Mishawaka

signature characteristics of Japanese landscaping: balance, tranquility and minimalism. This is also displayed in the gardens’ “Rule of Five” plant groupings (to symbolize the elements of fire, water, wind, earth and sky) and crooked paths (evil spirits can only move straight in Japanese folklore). Arrange a group tour to learn more about Japan’s rich horticultural tradition.

Continue to nearby Elkhart to tour **Wellfield Botanic Gardens**, a 36-acre living museum that features 25 themed

areas that border the meandering Christiana Creek. Commissioned to honor the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, the property includes reflective pools, sculptures and preserved wetlands. Themed areas include the Lotus Creek (a peaceful waterfront shaded by hickories), the Sensory Garden (which encourages guests to smell herbs and touch tactile sculptures) and the Japanese-inspired Island Garden. One-hour group tours are available for parties of 10 or more.



WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS
Visit Elkhart County

RESOURCES

FOELLINGER-FREIMANN BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

260-427-6440, BotanicalConservatory.org

FRIENDSHIP BOTANIC GARDENS

219-878-9885, FriendshipGardens.org

GABIS ARBORETUM

219-462-0025, PNW.edu/Gabis-Arboretum

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

317-327-7183, GarfieldGardensConservatory.org

SHIOJIRI NIWA

574-258-1664, MishawakaCity.com/ShiojiriNiwa

VIRGINIA B. FAIRBANKS ART & NATURE PARK

317-923-1331, DiscoverNewfields.org

WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS

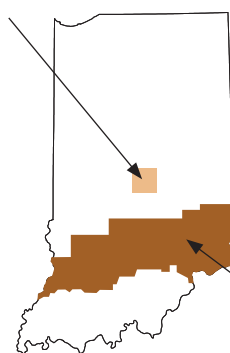
574-266-2006, WellfieldGardens.org

WHITE RIVER GARDENS

317-630-2001, IndianapolisZoo.com

State Parks and More in South-Central Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS



SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION

► DAY ONE

Start your explorations of the region's rolling hills at **Brown County State Park**, Indiana's largest state park. The tree-covered landscapes are magnificent, especially during fall foliage season. Some 20 miles of

scenic roads afford stunning vistas any time of the year.

Your group can spend the morning hiking or mountain biking on trails that wind through rugged ravines and across streams. One rugged foot trail leads to a historic fire tower that

is open for those wishing to climb up for breathtaking views. After lunch, your entourage might head to the saddle barn for a guided horseback ride or to one of two lakes for fishing or boating. The swimming pool is another option, and **Abe Martin Lodge** has an indoor water park. The less active may prefer to check out the Nature Center and learn about the park's flora and fauna.

Enjoy a home-style dinner amid rustic log decor at **The Little Gem Restaurant** in the lodge, whose original section was built in 1932 from hand-hewn native stone and oak timber cut in the park. Overnight accommodation choices include hotel-style lodge rooms and furnished cabins (some with full kitchens) that sleep as many as eight. Camping is available as well.



► DAY TWO

Don't leave Brown County without visiting **Nashville**, the county seat. Calling itself the "Art Colony of the Midwest," the quaint town, just north of the state park, abounds with galleries and studios, plus antique, craft and gift shops.

The rest of Day Two is all about fun on the water. Destination: **Monroe Lake**. A sprawling manmade lake just south of Brown County State Park, it is the largest body of water in Indiana (not counting Lake Michigan) and part of the state parks system. Monroe Lake has three public swimming beaches and many boat rental locations. Base your group at one of the lakeside lodges, cabin communities or campgrounds.

This afternoon your travelers may want to rent kayaks and look for bald eagles on Monroe Lake's wooded shores. Or they might opt to take out a speedboat or pontoon for tubing or waterskiing. Fishing yields catches of bluegill, crappie, bass and catfish. Landlubbers may prefer hitting the hiking and biking trails—those in Hardin Ridge State Recreation Area thread a section of Hoosier National Forest.

► DAY THREE

Head an hour south to **Spring Mill State Park**, set in an area of bluffs and caves known as Limestone Country. Your group can tackle one of the hiking trails, go boating on Spring Mill Lake or arrange a naturalist-led cave tour. The 20-minute Twin Caves boat tour travels 500 feet into a cave where the endangered blind cavefish is a common sighting.

In the afternoon, you'll have time to explore the park's **Pioneer Village**, a collection of restored log buildings centered on an 1817 limestone gristmill that still grinds corn. Tours of the mill are given, and

interpreters staff some of the cabins, which include a blacksmith shop, woodworking shop and weaving house with loom demonstrations. For more recent history, park visitors can check out the memorial and museum dedicated to the late astronaut **Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom**; America's second man in space, who hailed from nearby Mitchell, died in a 1967 launch pad fire.

► DAY FOUR

A two-hour drive southeast brings your group to **Clifty Falls State Park**, a pocket of scenic splendor just outside the historic Ohio River city of Madison. Deeply cut gorges and sheet rock walls, along with four major waterfalls and numerous minor ones, create a wonderland

for serious hikers. The trail system is one of Indiana's most rugged. On your group's morning hike, nature enthusiasts may spot marine fossils in the 425-million-year-old shale and limestone rocks, and take notice of songbirds, hawks and vultures. Deer and wild turkey inhabit the uplands.

After a vigorous workout, group members may choose to refresh at the Olympic-size swimming pool or relax on the sun porch of **Clifty Falls Inn** and take in views of the Ohio River Valley. The inn offers overnight accommodations and a restaurant known for its country cooking. In addition, the hostelry features an indoor pool, game arcade and lounging areas ideal for playing board games and cards or reading a book. The park has a campground as well.

INDIANA MILITARY MUSEUM

Vincennes Indiana boasts the **Indiana Military Museum**, which has one of the most comprehensive collections of military artifacts in the Midwest including Red Skelton's Army uniform. Swing over to the **Red Skelton Museum** to see more of his iconic memorabilia. Visit historic sites, antique stores, farm markets and more!

VisitVincennes.org
800.886.6443



Hoosier Roadside Attractions

Quirky slices of Americana worth a pit stop

Sometimes, it's the odd, oversized or just downright strange that generates the most vivid travel memories. The curiosity could be a larger-than-life statue, a freak of nature or another object of wonder that makes us pull over and take a selfie for posterity.

Indiana abounds with roadside marvels, and here are 10 that will intrigue your travelers:

Martini-Drinking Pink Elephant

What better mascot for your liquor store than a pink pachyderm holding a martini glass in its trunk? Standing on a flatbed trailer at the entrance to Elite Beverages in Fortville, the bespectacled elephant statue is a manifestation of the early 20th century expression "seeing pink elephants," used to describe someone who is intoxicated. The elephant, wearing black-framed glasses, appears in parades and can be rented out for other occasions.

Warm Glow Giant Candle

Created in 2006 next to the Warm Glow Candle Outlet store in Centerville, this giant candle has a wick that flickers at night, catching the eyes of motorists traveling along I-70. Dwarfing the store, the towering candle actually is part of the 22,000-square-foot building. Warm Glow is known for its fragrant, handmade, lumpy and bumpy candles; there are more than 75 scents to choose from. The store also sells home decor items, chocolates, gourmet foods and Indiana wines. Nestled in the center is the Stone Hearth Cafe.

FORTVILLE'S PINK ELEPHANT
Visit Indiana





**A CLASSIC
SCENE FROM
A CHRISTMAS
STORY,
HAMMOND**
Visit Indiana



**WARM GLOW CANDLE OUTLET,
CENTERVILLE**
Visit Indiana

Flick Statue: A Christmas Story

Fans of the classic 1983 holiday movie *A Christmas Story* take glee in posing with this bronze statue at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond, home of the South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority. The piece of art replicates the iconic scene in which the character Flick, bundled up for winter, gets his tongue stuck to a frozen flagpole on a triple-dog-dare. During the holidays, the visitor center celebrates the film's Northern Indiana setting with "A Christmas Story Comes Home," a program of activities and exhibitions.

Giant Peach

This oversized peach greets visitors to a family-owned roadside produce stand in Bruceville, a fruit-growing area north of Vincennes. As if the 20-foot-wide peach wasn't enough to attract customers, a yellow obelisk resembling the Washington Monument stands next to it. Besides selling fresh fruit, The Big Peach farm market (with indoor store) attracts customers with a pumpkin patch, corn maze and other seasonal attractions. Merchandise also includes jams, jellies, fudge, local honey and gift items. Try the peach cider or peach butter.

World's Largest Steer and Sycamore Stump

Housed in a glass-enclosed pavilion in Kokomo's Highland Park is a pair of oddities. Old Ben, a steer born in 1902 on an area farm, weighed 125 pounds at birth and gained 100 pounds a month, weighing two tons by the age of 4 and topping out at over 4,500 pounds by the time of his death in 1910. He was 16 feet long from nose to tail. Once exhibited by his owners at Indiana fairs and festivals, Old Ben is enshrined in all his taxidermied glory next to the World's Largest Sycamore Stump. Measuring 12 feet tall, 18 feet wide and over 50 feet in circumference, the stump at one point was used as a phone booth that could hold a dozen or so people. It is estimated to be 1,500 years old by ring count.

Orville Redenbacher

At Central Park Plaza in downtown Valparaiso, popcorn lovers can sit with a bronze likeness of Orville Redenbacher (1907-1995), the popcorn king. The Indiana native, who grew up on a corn farm and built a popcorn factory in Valparaiso, achieved celebrity status when his hayseed image—complete with bow tie and horn-rimmed glasses—appeared on

commercials and packages of the popcorn that bore his name. As he said on TV, "You'll like it better or my name isn't Orville Redenbacher."

World's Largest Paint Ball

This Alexandria curiosity started as an ordinary baseball in 1977 but has grown and grown over the years as thousands of coats of paint have been slapped on. Visitors who set up an appointment can roll up their sleeves and add a few more layers by contacting Mike and Glenda Carmichael, the creators and owners. Weighing more than 4,000 pounds, the ball of paint has appeared on television shows worldwide and has been recognized by Ripley's Believe It or Not and the Guinness Book of World Records. The painted sphere resides next to the Carmichaels' house in a barn built to display it.

Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower

Indulge in some Old World charm, enjoy the quilt-pattern garden and catch a glockenspiel presentation in the heart of Berne, a town founded in the mid-1800s by settlers from Switzerland. The plaza's 160-foot-tall clock tower, erected in 2010, is a salute to the landmark Zytglogge clock tower in Bern, Switzerland. The northeastern Indiana community, 35 miles south of Fort Wayne, has a large Amish population and is home to Swiss Heritage Village, a 22-acre outdoor museum.

Champ the Great Dane

The 800-pound fiberglass statue of a Great Dane dog overlooks U.S. 40 at the Great Dane trailer manufacturing plant in Brazil. Originally constructed in 1953 for a trailer dealership in Orlando, Florida, Champ made his way to Brazil in 2018 after having stood guard since 2002 at Great Dane's corporate office in Savannah, Georgia.



The 17-foot-tall statue rises from a three-foot-high base.

Saint Anne Shell Chapel

This tiny chapel is the oldest of several shrines on the leafy grounds of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a small Catholic school located 10 minutes from downtown Terre Haute. What makes the 1875 landmark unique are the shimmering walls embedded with iridescent shells gathered from the nearby Wabash River by the school's Sisters of Providence.

The backstory: In 1843, Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin, head of the Sisters of Providence, and another nun were sailing back to America after a visit to France when their ship hit rough weather. Fearing it would capsize, they prayed to Saint Anne, patroness of sailors and protector from storms. They made it safely to

port and, in the saint's honor, had a log chapel built the next year. But when the logs started rotting, a decision was made to build the stone chapel that exists today. Some of the

shell mosaics depict scenes of the stormy night at sea. Beside walls completely covered with shells, there are two stained-glass windows with shell and coral designs.

RESOURCES

CHAMP THE GREAT DANE

812-443-4711

FLICK STATUE: A CHRISTMAS STORY

219-989-7770, SouthShoreCVA.com

GIANT PEACH

812-324-2240

MARTINI-DRINKING PINK ELEPHANT

317-485-6282

MUENSTERBERG PLAZA AND CLOCK TOWER

260-589-8080, BernelN.com

ORVILLE REDENBACHER

219-548-4888

SAINT ANNE SHELL CHAPEL

812-535-3131, spsmw.org/visit/must-sees

WARM GLOW CANDLE OUTLET

888-253-7934, WarmGlow.com

WORLD'S LARGEST PAINTBALL

765-724-4088,
<http://BallofPaint.freehosting.net/index.html>

WORLD'S LARGEST STEER AND SYCAMORE STUMP

765-456-7275, VisitKokomo.org



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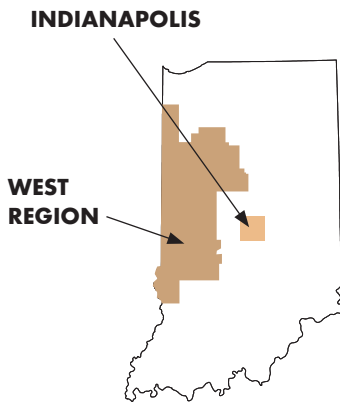


Dearborn County Convention, Visitor & Tourism Bureau
Lawrenceburg, Indiana 47025



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Covered Bridges and Lush Parks in Western Indiana



► DAY ONE

Your itinerary begins at **Fair Oaks Farms**, a 33,000-acre agritourism attraction where groups can ride tour buses that pass by the on-site cheese factory, calf barns and rotary turntable where 72 cows are

milked simultaneously. Themed barns include Dairy Adventure (where you can witness a live cow birth), Crop Adventure (which showcases the latest in farm technology) and Pig Adventure (where you can see newborn piglets up close). Afterwards, enjoy lunch at the award-winning Farmhouse Restaurant for a meal of vegetables, meat and cheese sourced from the on-site farms.

Continue south on I-65 to West Lafayette, where your next stop will

be the **Tippecanoe Battlefield and Museum**. It was here in 1811 that U.S. forces fought Chief Tecumseh's Native American confederation in a battle that launched William Henry Harrison to national fame and eventually the presidency. You can also embark on a 90-minute tour of **Wolf Park**, an education facility dedicated to improving the public understanding of wolves. Groups can watch staff enter enclosures and interact with resident wolves, foxes and coyotes. Architecture buffs will want to conclude their day at **Samara**, a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home designed for a Purdue University professor in 1956. Conceived in the Usonian style, the property is designed around the number four, with windows and showers forming perfect squares, and the adjoining Japanese garden continues the theme of harmony to the outside space.

► DAY TWO

Spend your second day enjoying the steep ravines, lush forests and



rocky bluffs of Western Indiana. After breakfast, head west to **Williamsport Falls**, Indiana's second-largest waterfall. Walk down a wide path to access the streambed for gorgeous views of this 90-foot cascade that forms from the ancient Fall Creek and descends over a sandstone ledge. After walking the 1.5-mile loop that surrounds the falls, continue west to **Portland Arch Nature Preserve** in Covington. This dramatic landscape of cliffs and wooded valleys is best experienced on the North Trail, which passes by the titular arch. Formed over 230 million years from slow erosion by Bear Creek, this is one of the few natural arches in the state and is perfect for a group photo opportunity. Conclude your day

at **Pine Hills Nature Preserve**, an old growth forest once explored by French *voyageurs* in the 18th century. Tall forest canopies cover an old pine plantation, an eerie rock sandstone called the Devil's Backbone and Honeycomb Rock (so named for its hive-like pock marks).

► DAY THREE

Your third day will be in **Parke County**—the “Covered Bridge Capital of the World.” Home to 31 preserved rustic bridges that dot the picturesque countryside, the county offers five color-coded touring loops that range from 24 to 33 miles. A hop-on guide can explain the region's Miami Nation history, advancement in bridge engineering and the architectural distinctions of the protected

landmarks. Highlights include the Bridgeton Covered Bridge (which is adjacent to a still-operational mill) and Sim Smith Covered Bridge (which is reportedly haunted).

Spend your afternoon exploring the extraordinary beautiful topography of **Turkey Run State Park**. A verdant landscape of mossy canyons, waterfalls and winding streams, this lush environment can be traversed by an interconnected network of ladders, bridges and hiking trails. Your park itinerary should include stops at the Colonel Richard Lieber Cabin (which commemorates the founder of Indiana's state parks system), the suspension footbridge above Sugar Creek and the saddle barns (for groups interested in guided horseback rides).

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Fall Mums, Farms & Markets, Mt. Tabor Alpaca Farm

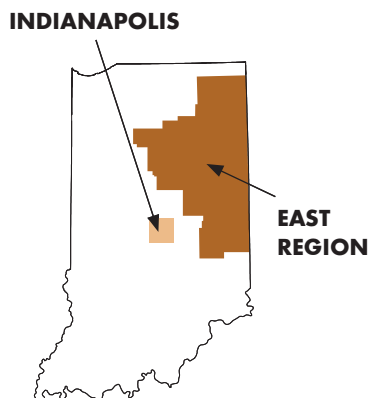


Hands-on Fun, Southeastern Indiana Art Guild



Bees, Birds & Butterflies, McCabe's Greenhouse

Waterfalls and Decadent Chocolate in Eastern Indiana



► DAY ONE

Begin your morning at Fort Wayne's Allen County Public Library and the **Genealogy Center**, the second-largest genealogy center in the United States.

There, your group can trace family history with over 350,000 books and 513,000 microfilm resources that trace generations of American and European ancestry. Continue to **Sweetwater**, an

enormous campus that includes performance venues, classrooms and a music store. Group tours will explain the company's origin as an instrument retailer and pass through the campus' innovative distribution center and recording studios. Conclude your day on a sweet note at **DeBrand Fine Chocolates**, where you can sample their artisan-crafted chocolates and tour the candy kitchen.

► DAY TWO

Depart from Fort Wayne and stop to explore **Limberlost Swamp**, a protected wetland teeming with wildflowers, waterfowl and bald eagles. A staff naturalist can escort groups on the marshland's wooden boardwalks and explain the region's literary legacy, as famed Hoosier author Gene Stratton-Porter set many of her novels here. Continue to the city of Richmond to browse through **Antique Alley**, an eclectic collection of emporiums and antique stores filled with rare goods. Snap group photos at roaring **Thistlethwaite Falls** before you leave. Created in 1854 when Timothy Thistlethwaite redirected the flow of the Fork River to fuel a sawmill, these falls have survived centuries of flooding and are surrounded by the hiking trails of Springwood Park.

► DAY THREE

Spend your final day enjoying the city of Muncie, where you can discover the "Joy of Painting" at the **Bob Ross Experience**, tour the **National Model Aviation Museum** and walk the Ball State University campus. Conclude your itinerary with an evening of high-stakes action at **Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino** outside of Anderson.

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Learn more at VisitElkhartCounty.com/groups

