



AmishCountry.org
NORTHERN INDIANA

**Amish Country ... along the Heritage Trail
5 Day / 4 Night Suggested Itinerary**

Take a journey to the past that's loaded with plenty of modern-day fun. Get a true look at the Amish lifestyle and learn about their history. Tour country roads more traveled by buggies than cars. Stop at shops filled with goods your grandma probably used. Step into an Amish kitchen and learn cooking secrets. Savor hearty Amish style fare, including a traditional Amish "Haystack". Meet Amish business owners who make the products and craft the wares for their culture. Delight in scenic backroads, peaceful people and local products that make Amish Country so memorable. You'll be busy all the time and loving every minute!

Day One

Arrival in Amish Country, Shipshewana

2-4:30 p.m. Visit the world famous Shipshewana Flea Market & Auction or downtown Shipshewana shopping

Known as "the trading place of America", the Shipshewana Flea Market is the Midwest's largest outdoor market with over 1,000 vendors covering 60 acres (open Tuesday's and Wednesday's only May-October). The antique auction barn, open Wednesdays year-round, has 11 rings simultaneously auctioning antiques and collectibles. The horse and cattle barn features cattle auctions open to the public on Wednesday's and horse auctions open to the public on Friday's. Guests can also stroll the short couple of blocks into downtown Shipshewana to browse over 90+ retail stores for additional shopping.

Check-in at your host hotel

6 p.m. Depart for dinner

6:30-8:30 p.m. Amish Wedding Feast—\$23 pp incl

It's a once of a lifetime experience feasting on a traditional Amish wedding dinner in the charming setting of "Miller's Country Kitchen." Levi and Esther explain what an Amish wedding day is like. Groups see an Amish bride's wedding dress up close, and hear the customary German Wedding song sung at an Amish wedding. The family has even compiled a cookbook of favorite recipes available to purchase and take home as a memento.

NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

Day Two

7:30-8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast at your host hotel

Meet your guide at your host hotel

9-5 p.m. Brown Bag Backroads Tour of Amish Country--\$165 total for guide (tip optional for guide) PLUS \$12 pp incl for bag items. Brown bag is provided with goodies at each stop including 4 items from Amish stores.

Travel scenic backroads passing horse-drawn buggies, tidy farm homes and white-washed barns. Learn about the fascinating lifestyle of the Amish as your knowledgeable guide tells all about the area and the history, traditions, and customs of the Amish. You'll stop at a variety of welcoming country stores and quaint shops as you load up your brown bag with goodies. Choose your specific 4 stops from a variety of options.

Guide to determine timing and routing for the following stop:

Four Authentic Experiences on the Backroads Tour --\$12 pp incl for all 4 stops

Get to know local Amish entrepreneurs and see first-hand how they operate their unique enterprises. Hear the stories of friendly, hardworking people who use their special talents to create products and build businesses that serve the local community and beyond. Get a behind the scenes look at how Amish buggies are made. Go back to school as you visit an Amish one-room-schoolhouse. Peek inside an Amish coffin, empty of course, and learn the differences between coffins and caskets. Visit, pet and feed Camels at an Old Order Amish farm. These stops are fun, authentic, appealing to every age and gender and sure to be a hit with your group.

Zesty Condiments Lunch, How To's & Tastings--\$16 pp incl

Groups are in for a tangy surprise at M&L Acres as LeAnna Yoder invites them into her Amish home to hear secrets to making flavorful condiments and fun ways to use them. LeAnna shares some insider tips then invites groups to sample her specialty mustards including the popular sweet pepper and hot pepper. It's hard to pick a favorite! A tasty soup or salad and sandwich lunch (using LeAnna's condiments of course) complete with fresh-baked pie and beverage makes an afternoon with LeAnna flavor filled

Sonshine Baskets—no admission fee

Weave some fun into your tour with a stop at Sonshine Baskets in Millersburg, an authentic Amish Country handcraft experience. Lovely hand-woven baskets of every shape and for every purpose fill this Old Order Amish owned and operated country shop located on the family farm of Calvin & Anna Yoder. Watch as family members demonstrate and talk about the processes of turning plain reed into something of beauty and function. And it seems every family member is involved from weaving to making the fabric liners, from hand-staining to adding the leather handles that adorn many of the baskets. As Anna says, "We weave our way through life one day at a time!" After learning first hand, take time to shop for your own piece of authentic "made in Amish Country" basket.

5:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner with cooking class inside an Amish family home and buggy rides--\$30 pp including tax but not tip

Enjoy a genuine Amish Country experience of a lifetime. Meet the Yoder family, including grandma, dad, and the kids and learn the secrets to making mouth-watering home-cooked food. No more lumps in your

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homemade mashed potatoes after this demonstration! Then sit down to a traditional Amish family-style dinner. A fun and tasty experience!

Day Three

8-8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast at your host hotel

9-10:30 a.m. Menno-Hof Amish Mennonite Interpretive Center--\$5.50 pp incl

Learn the religious history and background of the Amish, Mennonite and Hutterite people from their beginnings in Europe through their arrival in North America. Several interactive exhibits and displays depict "real life" experiences and answer many questions.

10:45-Noon Personalize Your Own Birdhouse--\$12 pp incl

Visit B&L Woodcraft Amish furniture shop and customize your own souvenir birdhouse. Each member of the group gets a box with their name on it and proceeds through lines to select colors, decorations and make customized sayings. The host Amish family assembles each birdhouse and places it back in the box, ready to load onto the coach. After selecting their birdhouses, groups have time to explore the wide selection of furniture, home accents, gift items and antiques on the farm.

Depart for Nappanee

12:45 p.m. Amish Acres Plate Lunch, House & Farm Tour, Documentary Films, Wagon Ride and Shopping--\$8.95 pp incl for lunch PLUS \$53.95 pp incl for tour, films, wagon ride, and dinner/theatre below

Begin with the Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich luncheon plate on arrival at the nation's only Old Order Amish farmstead listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Then step inside the historic farmhouse and learn about the heritage, culture and history of the "Plain People". Afterwards take a wagon ride to the one-room Amish School for an old-fashioned spelling bee. A documentary film about the Amish completes the experience. Spend time shopping and browsing their shops, fudgery and bakery.

Afternoon--Make-Bake-n-Take Shoofly Pie at Amish Acres--\$7 pp incl

Following your tours, groups learn first-hand the secrets to baking "The Best" Shoofly pie, as picked by the *Chicago Tribune*. Old Order Amish Bakery Manager, Frieda Miller, demonstrates her baking techniques in Amish Acres' 8,000 square foot kitchen. Each participant gets their own mini molasses filled pie and a souvenir recipe card.

Amish Acres Candy Kitchen--\$6 pp incl

More sweets, anyone? Amish Acres is best known for their historic farm and education on Amish beliefs fostering a tolerance among different religions and cultures, but did you know the fudge shop makes over 50,000 lbs of fudge and candy a year? Learn how to make your own delicious candies from one of their expert candy makers and have a treat to enjoy later.

6:30 p.m. Family-style dinner at Amish Acres--incl in above price

After all of that touring, baking, learning, shopping and fun, your group will sit under the hand-hewn beams of the restaurant barn to dine on a hearty, multi-course Threshers Meal, beginning with soup and ending with pie of course. Perhaps your own fresh baked shoo-fly pie hot out of the oven too!

8-10:30 p.m. "Plain & Fancy" in the Round Barn Theatre at Amish Acres

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incl in above price

Enjoy the delightful musical production about Amish life and love in a historic round barn now turned lovely theatre. Depending on your arrival date, other Broadway favorites are performed in this beautiful state-of-the-art theatre facility.

Day Four

7:30-8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast at your host hotel

Meet your guide in the hotel lobby

9-5 p.m. Real Housewives of Amish Country Day Tour--\$45 pp incl, full day tour, guide for 8 hours, lunch, snacks, gifts and demos.

Forget reality TV and meet the real housewives of Amish Country. Get a first-hand look at a day in the life of Amish women. Learn how these ladies do household chores without electrical appliances and run their businesses without modern technology. Enjoy a cinnamon roll demo with Elaine or Mary Lou. Visit Carolyn's home for a haystack lunch and a peanut butter crumb pie making demo. Chat with a basket weaver about her thriving business. Meet an Amish school teacher and find out how she manages her classes in a one-room school. Everyone gets an after school treat too—a whoopie pie to take home. At the end of the day, groups go home with a renewed respect for these women who live a simple life, yet they're anything but simple.

5-8 p.m. Evening fun on the Das Dutchman Essenhaus campus—

Welcome to Das Dutchman Essenhaus, home of Indiana's largest restaurant and a peaceful escape in the country! Tonight enjoy the following at your own pace:

Classic Car Cruise-In—no admission fee

Get a “blast from the past” as you enjoy this weekly event on the Essenhaus grounds. Compare makes, models, motors and memories as you explore on your own the numerous vehicles. Not interested? Take part in the numerous recreational activities found on the grounds that you didn't complete earlier in the day. Most Thursday evenings over 200 and sometimes 300 classic cars are found on the grounds.

Dinner at Das Dutchman Essenhaus – on your own, 3 options available

Dine tonight on your own at your leisure inside Indiana's largest restaurant on the popular dinner buffet, menu dining or family-style featuring country dishes and family tested favorites.

Horse Drawn Carriage Ride, Miniature Golf, and go Shopping inside the Village Shops—

Carriage=\$5 pp, Mini golf=\$5 pp

Enjoy the beautiful Essenhaus grounds! Relax on horse drawn carriage ride around the immaculate grounds, play a round of miniature golf, or go shopping in one of several Village Shops (coupons provided) all on the same facility grounds. Shop for quilts, baked goods, home décor, ladies apparel, Vera Bradley, jewelry and more.

Day Five

Continental Breakfast and check-out of your host hotel

9-10 a.m. RV Manufacturing Plant Tour, Various--Free

Welcome to the “RV Capital of the World”! Over 50% of the world's inventory of Travel Trailers,

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5th Wheels, Class C & A Motorhomes, Truck Campers and Fold-Downs are all manufactured in this area. Your group will enjoy a plant tour through one of the numerous RV manufacturing facilities, including watching Amish creating handcrafted furniture and sewing processes.

10:15-11 a.m. Homemade Cinnamon Roll Making Demonstration & Tasting at an Amish family farm--\$6 pp incl

Take a "breakfast break" at an Amish home. Enjoy a homemade cinnamon roll, just out of the oven, plus coffee or tea as you watch Elaine, our Amish baker, demonstrate how she makes her special delicacy. Take home some of the rolls to share with your family or friends. Cost includes a cinnamon roll, beverage, demonstration and rolls for taking home.

Depart for home or available options

Option:

RV/MH Hall of Fame Museum, Elkhart--\$7 pp

This shrine to the RV in the "RV Capital" traces the history of RVing from early 1913 travel-trailers to today's state-of-the-art motor homes. The 80,000 sq. ft. museum showcase a fascinating collection of one-of-a-kind camping cars, house trailers, and house cars including a gem custom built for Hollywood screen siren Mae West. Follow the time trail of vintage RVs arrayed among murals of scenic America. A knowledgeable guide shares RV folklore and the industry's remarkable stories with groups.

Ayr Kitchen Cabinet Factory Tour—no admission fee

The Ayr story began in 1965, in the heart of the Amish community, in a small intersection called "Ayr" near Nappanee, Indiana. Founder David Miller Jr.'s dream was to build truly custom cabinetry to the highest standards possible. From those modest beginnings and with the same vision, Ayr Cabinet Company has established itself as a leader in the Custom Cabinet marketplace. Today Ayr Cabinet Company's showroom and production facility is located on a portion of the 60-acre homestead that once was the Miller family farm, just 4 miles west of Nappanee, Indiana. As you tour the facility, you will see that the vision and passion remain the same. You will see seasoned craftsmen, with years of experience, pouring their heart into every piece they build. David Jr.'s only son, is now the owner and CEO. Like his father, he is adamant that Ayr builds nothing but a quality cabinet in the same tradition of integrity and craftsmanship.

Visit the Quilt Garden in Wakarusa & Shopping at the Wakarusa Dime Store for old-fashioned candy treats. The Wakarusa Dime Store Jumbo Jellybean has become ""World Famous"" shipping over 35 tons per year throughout the world. Free samples of their most popular treats are offered. Which is your favorite? Firey hot cinnamon? Black Licorice? Orange? Grape? Or is it the new annual flavor? In addition to the Jumbo Jellybeans groups love the huge variety of nostalgia candy including Necco wafers, Chuckles, Buns, and Boston Baked Beans just to name a few. SEE THE GIANT JUMBO JELLY BEAN QUILT

Shopping & History at Coppes Commons—no admission fee

Nappanee's colorful history comes alive when touring Coppes Commons. Originally the factory for Coppes Cabinets that once produced the famous "Hoosier Cabinet," the 100,000 s.f. renovated factory now houses a variety of small businesses perfect for shopping for locally made, hand crafted and fresh baked. Groups are given a fascinating historical glimpse into the Coppes Kitchens, once ordered by Frank Sinatra and President John F. Kennedy, while touring this rustic and rambling brick structure. Following your tour, watch creative ice-cream concoctions come to life using liquid nitrogen, taste made-from-scratch baked goods, sample cheeses, look for a good book or have a group tea party luncheon. That's just a sample of

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what's in store – inside Coppes Commons.

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