

Shipshewana

AT THE  OF AMISH COUNTRY, INDIANA

Group Itineraries

XX VISIT XX



Give your group the experience of immersing them into in the quiet, simple, picturesque splendor and quiet tranquility of the Amish countryside as you take them Off the Beaten Path where they can unplug, unwind, and embrace a slower pace. Here, they can meet the Amish people who live here and offer authentic experiences and products.

Curated Experiences

Amish Farms & Country Roads of Shipshewana

Travel buggy-lined country backroads and enjoy a slower pace that beckons you to unplug and unwind in the third largest Amish community in the US. As you traverse through the tranquil farmland, learn about the history and culture of the Amish while shopping for the finest homemade goods, amazing handicrafts, and culinary feasts. Visit Amish-owned business and enjoy conversations with the makers who are eager to share their stories and Amish lifestyle. Visit a bison ranch and step into Amish farm homes for family style dining, hands-on food experiences complete with recipes and wrap up the evening with delightful musical theatre.

DAY ONE

2:30-4:30 pm Davis Mercantile, roll your own pretzel at Jo Jo's Pretzels, Ride the Carousel

Hear the story behind the pretzel shape! Roll your own soft pretzel made from the King family secret pretzel dough recipe perfected by generations over the years. Some say they are the "world's greatest soft pretzels"! In a flash, your pretzel will be hot out of the oven and will be served with your beverage of choice. Following your pretzel break, take a ride back in time on the full-size Carousel which is home to multiple hand-carved and hand-painted farm animals. Guaranteed fun! Complete your afternoon by shopping in the multiple floor complex of the Davis Mercantile filled with home décor, apparel, fabrics, candles, and even furniture and shoes.



4:45 pm Check-in at your Shipshewana host hotel

5:30 pm Depart for the evening

6-8 pm Farm Fun & Dinner at Meadow Brook Farm - Includes complete meal with hands-on felt donkey craft with Jesus Donkey origination story, live mini donkey photo op, local author and fall storytelling, self-guided tours of historic home, barns, farm and tractors, wagon driven hayride (weather permitting).

Includes complete meal with hands-on felt donkey craft with Jesus Donkey origination story, live mini donkey photo op, local author and fall storytelling, self-guided tours of historic home, barns, farm and tractors, wagon driven hayride (weather permitting). Do you enjoy the sight of a tractor harvesting stalks of corn, the touch of a furry donkey nose, or the smell of warm apple cider? These are all things that can be found at Meadow Brook Farm and Historic Home in Northern Indiana. Come take a tour of the 1860 vintage home that was constructed during the Civil War. Hear documented stories from the farm's Author and Storyteller from visitors that traveled the nearby Pumpkinvine Railway, while sipping on some cider and munching on a homemade donut. The carefully restored barns are places of gathering and fellowship and is your host location for a delicious lunch or dinner. Enjoy hands-on fun with a make-take homespun donkey craft followed by the story of the Jesus Donkey with opportunities to pet and take a fun fall photo op which is just irresistible! Your afternoon or evening experience at Meadow Brook will be filled with memorable experiences and one you won't forget!



DAY TWO

7-8:20 am Breakfast at your host hotel

8:30 am Meet your local step-on guide in the hotel lobby

8:45-4:30 pm Country Roads Off the Beaten Path Tour with guide

Have a memorable journey into the Heart of Amish Country as you meander 'Off the Beaten Path' for an authentic look into today's Amish culture and lifestyle. Meet local business owners in their small cottage shops as they demonstrate what they make and then craft your own souvenir to take home with your local step-on guide sharing insights and interesting bits of information. Choose from a variety of fun farm experiences.

The following options can be routed, timed and selected for your customized day:

Carolyn's Jams and Jellies

Walk through the kitchen where Carolyn and her grandchildren help her make the No Sugar Added Jams and Jellies. This popular condiment has been enjoyed by locals for several years. Carolyn sells a large variety of flavors in their shop.

Authentic Visit at an Amish Toy Maker

Step inside an Amish toymaker's workshop where an internet connection is not required to keep the kids entertained. Meet Owen a self-taught toy maker who crafts fine wooden toys and games for children of all ages. This experience includes a workshop tour, Q&A discussion, and shopping time.

Authentic Meet an Amish Harness Maker

Horses and buggies are part of the Old Order Amish identity requiring specialized equipment and craftsmanship to provide their transportation needs. A skilled saddle and harness maker could earn an excellent living in colonial America but how does this work for a 21st century Amishman? Meet Owen and see how he makes harnesses and horseshoes to meet the needs of his community without power from the grid. This experience includes a workshop tour and ample time for Q&A.



Ben's Pretzels Make your own Pretzel demo & tasting

Bens Pretzels was founded in 2004 by Ben and Elizabeth Miller an Amish family from Shipshewana Indiana, needing to provide for their family. Ben and his wife, 3rd generation Amish bakers, spent years perfecting the Amish/Dutch dough recipe that makes a perfect soft pretzel. Bens has grown to over 71 locations nationwide as well as a mobile/concession program. Today your group will enjoy a short presentation highlighting Ben's story and history of the company followed by an opportunity to roll your own pretzel, watch it being baked before your eyes. Beverages are included for your tasty handmade afternoon snack.

Menno-Hof Amish Mennonite Interpretive Center

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.

Visit an Amish school or Workshop for special needs Amish Adults.

One of the highlights of the day will be interacting with some Amish school children. See firsthand how 8 grades learn at the same time in one room while asking the Amish teacher about curriculum, standards, and general school day insights. If school is not in session, you will have a unique experience of visiting one of the 3 workshops in the area that is totally financed by the local Amish community. Meet the special needs teachers and volunteers while hearing how everyone can contribute to the local economy.

Dutch Country Market

This Amish business started 20 years ago with the entire Lehman family, including 6 children, making noodles after their day at school. Today, you can see their Amish friends helping make noodles, meet Norm's son oftentimes behind the cash register, and frequently meet Norm as he shares his passion and love of beekeeping and harvesting honey for his numerous products. You won't want to leave without a bag of Norm's wife Katie's famous homemade noodles!



Lunch: Cook's Bison Ranch Wagon Farm Tour & Chuckwagon BBQ Lunch Buffet

Take a hay-wagon ride with your local expert guide into the pasture to hand feed the great American Bison in its own habitat. Learn the intricacies of raising, feeding, and managing this wild animal. A unique experience for all ages. Dinner tonight is an old fashioned chuck-wagon bar-b-que featuring bison and pulled pork plus all the fixings and sides including a dessert & beverages that groups love.

4:30 pm Say goodbye to your guide at your host hotel

5:15-9:30 pm Blue Gate Restaurant Dinner & Theatre—prices range by show, count, and date

Enjoy some of the best Amish\Mennonite cooking around, outstanding entertainment, shop for locally crafted furniture and much more at the Blue Gate in downtown Shipshewana. Featuring 3 retail stores, a restaurant, bakery, theatre, hotel, event center, catering, backroad Amish tours and a carriage business this venue offers a variety of group friendly services and options for your itinerary. Tonight, you'll sit down inside the 1200 seat Blue Gate Restaurant enjoying buffet or family style dining before heading upstairs for the original Blue Gate Productions musical productions. These original musicals based upon popular Christian books with Amish themes are brought to life in the 300+ seat theatre. Specific shows vary by date/time. (Dinner on arrival, either buffet or family-style, Theatre after depending on schedule)



DAY THREE

7-8:20 am Breakfast at your host hotel

8:30 am Meet your local step-on guide in the hotel lobby

8:45-10 am The Flea Bag Scavenger Trail at the Shipshewana Flea Market

Who does not like a Scavenger Hunt! Enjoy shopping and enjoy a fun, unique one-of-a-kind experience as you hunt for “THE FLEAS” at the largest Flea Markets in the Midwest. With 700 open-air booths on 40 acres. There is something for everyone- bargains, gifts, home décor, produce, etc. For the Flea Bag Trail you will have a handy map and booth numbers to find in only a quarter of the large space. This is not a race just complete the 4 out of 6 finds for a special gift for only those that complete the hunt. Shop, eat, or just people watch you will enjoy scouting for the pictures of “The Fleas” in specified locations. You will be given a card upon arrival with the instructions to each destination and after completing the hunt turn in your card at the Flea Market Office before you depart. HAVE FUN



10:30-11:45 a.m. Dutch Creek Animal Farm

Tour the farm on a horse drawn wagon ride or on foot, but only the guided wagon ride allows you to feed the animals! Fun for all ages! You'll want to see this alternative farm where cows, llamas, monkeys, camels, deer, ostriches, kangaroos, porcupine make their home. Be sure to bring your camera as you will be close to the animals!



12:15-1:30 p.m. Amish Wedding Feast

It's a once of a lifetime experience feasting on a traditional Amish wedding dinner in the charming setting of “The Carriage House”. Elaine and her son Seth explain what an Amish wedding day is like complete with this special meal that would be traditionally served by the Amish to their wedding guests. Groups see an Amish bride's wedding dress up close and hear the customary German Wedding song sung at an Amish wedding.

OR

12:15-1:30 p.m. Cooking Class Demo with family style dinner at Yoder's

Have no more lumpy mashed potatoes after taking Carolyn Yoder's cooking class inside her Amish home. She'll give you recipes, tips and tricks not only for those potatoes but also for the famous Amish Peanut Butter, and a few other tasty treats. Following your class, you'll enjoy Carolyn's home cooking as she serves you large bowls and heaping platters from her personal kitchen.



1:45-2:15 p.m. Amish rug weaving demo & Whoopie Pie Break

Leo & Lorene Miller welcome you to their Old Order Amish home where Leo has been handweaving rag rugs for years. Taught by his family, Leo will demonstrate how he weaves and creates his beautiful and functional rugs. Meanwhile Lorene, his wife, will serve you her fresh from the oven whoopie pies and cold lemonade as both the Miller's welcome your group and answer questions about their personal Amish lifestyle.

Depart the area or extend your stay with additional options



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