

Shipshewana

AT THE  OF AMISH COUNTRY, INDIANA

Group Itineraries

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

NEW - Off the Beaten Path Hands-On Tour

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. End your day with a hearty meal in an Amish home to complete this fun filled day. Make memories by embracing the simpler lifestyle found along the scattered pastoral farms and backroads.

As you learn the story behind each experience, there are several to choose from for your hands-on experience:

8:45 am Meet your guide in the hotel lobby

9:00 am Depart on tour

Hear the story of Shipshewana and the culture in the area that makes it a popular visitor destination. Today you will stop at Amish family operated and owned businesses. As we drive the countryside we will discuss what you see that is unique to the area including the Amish schools, farms, household gardens, duck and chicken barns and many more things.

9:30-10:45 am Woodworking Demo at Heart Project at Teaberry Wood Products

LaVern and his wife Rachel, will demonstrate how they make wooden baskets starting from a flat piece of wood. Afterward you will try your hand at making your own wooden "take home project". Since you are in the "heart" of Amish country you will make your own wooden heart.

11:00-Noon Milk a Cow and Tour Stutzman's Dairy Farm

Did you ever want to spend time on a farm and milk a cow? This is your chance. They have not only cows but other farm animals. Learn about the dairy processing at this farm that now provides a variety of flavored milk to local stores.

12:15-1:30 pm Lunch on your own and shopping at the Davis Mercantile

2:45-3:30 pm Visit an Amish Rag Rug Weaver

Watch Leo demonstrate how he weaves his rugs as he explains where he gets his material and how the loom operates. His wife Lorene has made her special family cakes that make the area famous whoopie pie. Fill your own with your choice of flavored cream. Eat them or take with for a later treat.

1:45 -2:30 pm 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.

4:00-4:45 pm Arrive Hoosier Buggy Shop

While you won't be building an Amish buggy yourself, you will watch and see how Maynard the Amish man builds them to order from the ground up. One of 14 children, Maynard learned his work ethics while growing up in his father's buggy shop. He has carried on this craft of building carrying on that family tradition.

5:00-8:00 pm Arrive Carriage House for Thrasher dinner

Upon arrival you will learn how to make a special treat which is an important part of the Amish church luncheon as well as a treat for any meal or snack, Amish Peanut Butter. Each family has their own recipe for this tasty treat that has become a "group fav" from near and far. You will make your own using the Joneses family recipe. It is not as easy as it looks. Be prepared to use a little arm muscle. This will be followed by dinner and after dinner a presentation by Seth Jones of Amish life from age 8-18. This insightful presentation will give you insights to life growing up Amish in a modern world

Return to your host hotel and say goodbye to your guide after a fun filled day "off the beaten path" in Shipshewana!



OPTIONS:

- Make a Pretzel at Ben's
- Feed the wildlife at Dutch Creek Farm & Animal Park
- Cookie decorating (seasonal)
- Dip Caramel apples
- Make a Birdseed Feeder Ball
- Build an Amish Doll

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