

Shipshewana

Group Itineraries

AT THE  OF AMISH COUNTRY, INDIANA

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

Shipshewana Amish Country Christmas

The holiday season in Shipshewana is a joyous time filled with fun, food, family, and festive traditions! Step into a slower pace where you will breathe in the enticing aromas of fresh baked pies and cookies while listening to the sounds of your favorite carols. Feel the warmth from friendly Amish businesses as they invite you into their homes for a peak into the window of their unique world at this special time of year. Treasure memories of Christmas past and present as you delight in the magnificence of two million twinkling lights. Delight in the sounds of Christmas music and see the splendor of equestrian feats of excellend. We promise you will discover why the holiday season in Shipshewana Amish Country is truly something special, some would say, like the Hallmark Channel brought to life!

NOTE: All times below are EST

Thursday, December 14, 2023

1 p.m. Arrival in Downtown Shipshewana

1-4 p.m. Christmas Shopping at the Davis Mercantile with Carousel Ride & Pretzel Break—\$5 pp incl for pretzel/soft drink/cheese PLUS \$2 pp incl for Carousel ride

Explore the downtown Shipshewana area for handmade pottery, reclaimed wood pieces, art, fashion, décor, quilts, puzzles and more. Start at the Davis Mercantile which is filled with 4 floors of a variety of boutique shops filled to the rafters. Take time to ride back in time on the hand-carved wooden full-size Carousel. Feast on the warm fresh-out-of-the oven pretzel. Wander down the street to find more treats for everyone on Santa's list!

4:15 p.m. Check-in at your host hotel

5:30-9 p.m. Shipshewana Majestic presents "Noel" at the Michiana Event Center, Shipshewana--\$34.95 pp incl for groups of 20 or more for show only, \$54.95 pp for buffet/show, \$74.95 pp incl for buffet/show/VIP Experience

Come enjoy our Christmas feast and experience true warm winter comfort where Shipshewana Majestic presents "Noel" a fun filled, holiday evening that is both amazing and uplifting! Your dinner buffet features traditional warm winter comfort food and a 30-minute Comedy, Juggling and Magic Entertainment show. Then enjoy "Noel" which is two full hours of nonstop Christmas excitement! Complete with equestrian adventures of all kinds, lovely aerialists with high in the air routines, world class vocalists singing traditional favorite songs of the season, festive lights, Yuletide dancers, and even a cow who thinks he's a reindeer! "Noel" shares with you the real Reason we celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ and features one of the largest living nativities anywhere, complete with a re-creation of the stable and manger in Bethlehem where the savior was born. Glorious Angels herald the Lord's coming as wise men from the East with real life camels come to witness the blessed miracle, as well as the townspeople with their sheep, goats, donkeys, and cows. The powerful music and narration of the nativity scene, and the message of hope and everlasting life that it brings will change your life! Upgrade your group to the VIP Experience and get a close look at what goes on behind the scenes with a backstage tour, meet cast members, take pictures on the back of the horses, and get up close and personal with the animal stars including the camels!

After your show, enjoy the 2 million twinkle light drive thru at: Shipshewana Lights of Joy--\$250 per bus load for permit

Your group will drive through this light display occurring on the grounds of the famous Shipshewana Flea Market. More than 2 million LED lights and specialty displays will be viewed in a 25-minute period in an almost mile and a half long symphony of colorful light scenes.

Return to your host hotel after the twinkle light drive



Friday, December 15, 2023

6:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast at your host hotel
Meet your guide in the hotel lobby

8:45-4 p.m. “Stocking” Stuffer Off the Beaten Path Tour--\$230 total for guide (tip optional)
PLUS \$18 pp for items in bag

Get ready to stuff your stocking with treats and trinkets from one-of-a-kind Amish businesses as your step-on guide takes you off the beaten path on gravel roads and country lanes to Amish business. As part of this unique and customizable experience, choose stops from the suggested list below. We will supply the Christmas “Stocking” Bag before you set off on an adventure like no other, stuffing your stocking as you go from stop to stop with items perfect for gift giving or maybe just as a personal treat for yourself on the ride home.



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)

OPTIONS: Guide to determine timing and routing for the following highlighted requested stops:

• --Choose 4 Stocking Stuffer Stops for \$18 total pp incl, additional stops can be included for no fee or for extra gifts

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Amish bakery | • Amish noodle maker | • Amish wind chime maker |
| • Amish sugar free jelly maker | • Popcorn Shop | • Amish Toy Maker |
| • Amish leather shop | • Amish Cheese factory | • E&S Bulk Food Store |

• --Authentic Experiences on the Backroads Tour Options--\$3 per stop/\$100 minimum

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.

One room Amish school
Amish buggy maker

• --Amish rug weaving demo & Whoppie Pie break—\$3 pp incl

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 famous whoppie pies and cold lemonade as both the Miller's welcome your group and answer questions about their personal Amish lifestyle.

Lunch on their own at a location determined by the guide

4 p.m. Say Good-bye to your guide

5-9 p.m. Blue Gate Buffet Dinner & “Glory & Majesty” Christmas Theatre show at the new PAC--\$41.95 pp incl for groups 12-29, \$38.95 pp incl for groups 30+ OR show only for \$22.95 pp incl for groups 12-29 and \$19.95 pp incl for groups 30+

Welcome to the Blue Gate! Begin at the new Blue Gate Performing Arts Center for the wonderful production of “Glory & Majesty”. “Glory & Majesty” is a live-action telling of the Christmas (biblical) story with a 28-member cast. The Rick Webb Family interject wonderful Christmas music throughout the narration, and the show is an almost progressive style, in which cast members are added to stage throughout the show, then “freeze” for the duration. It's a must-see and is a Blue Gate tradition with this being the 9th year! Following the show, travel the short distance to the Blue Gate Restaurant for the delicious buffet dinner.

Return to your host hotel following your evening dinner experience



Saturday, December 16, 2023

6:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast at your host hotel
Meet your guide in the hotel lobby

9-11 a.m. An Amish Woodworking Christmas experience at Teaberry Woodproducts--\$10 pp incl
Laverne & Rachel Miller welcome you to their rural family workshop nestled in the heart of Amish Country to watch their handcrafted décor, puzzles, baskets and cutting boards come to life. Today you'll be treated to a personal authentic discussion sharing Christmas traditions, holiday experiences, and memories from the Miller family. You'll watch a wooden nativity come to life before your eyes and then take one home to treasure for years to come!



11:15-12:15 p.m. Riverwood Pottery Demonstration—no admission fee

Welcome to Morton Street and the workshop of Jesse Woodworth. Jesse specializes in creating functional handcrafted nature-inspired pottery. You'll meet Jesse at his potter's wheel as he demonstrates his skill and craft come to life before it gets fired in the working kiln.

12:30-2 p.m. Make-Take Christmas Cookie Fun inside the Amish home at "Taste of Shipshewana"—\$5 pp incl for Cookie Decorating PLUS \$25 pp incl for Two Meat Thresher's Meal

Welcome to Brenda's banquet room insider her Amish home. Enjoy Brenda's festive and fun Christmas Cookie Decorating demonstration as she rolls, cuts and shares her families favorite cookie recipe right before your eyes. You'll get your own hands into the fun as you group will ice and decorate your own cookie plates perfect to take home or munch in on the bus. Finish your evening with the delicious Two Meat Thresher's Meal to round out your tasty time in Brenda's home.

Two Meat Thresher's Meal includes:

Served with: Mashed potatoes and gravy, noodles, hot vegetable, homemade bread with peanut butter spread and jam, pickles, coffee, and water

--Choose TWO meats from: Meatloaf with sweet sauce on top, BBQ Meatballs in their own homemade BBQ sauce, Grilled Chicken Thighs, Baked Chicken Tenders rolled in crackers, Salisbury Steak in a mushroom sauce, Tender Baked Roast Beef, Traditional Baked Chicken

--Choose ONE salad from: Favorite Colorific Salad which includes Greens, peppers, onions, almonds, and raisins in a light sauce, Broccoli Cauliflower Salad complete with cheese, bacon and sauce, Traditional tossed salad with homemade French dressing

--Choose THREE pies from: Cherry, Pecan, Peanut Butter, Dutch Apple, Coconut Cream, Red Raspberry Cream, Black Raspberry, Butter Pecan Cream, Caramel Custard, Chocolate Cream or Homemade Cheesecake

Depart for home after lunch or consider various other Shipshewana hands-on or tour experiences to extend your stay.

OPTIONS: Guide to determine timing and routing for the following highlighted requested stops:

- *Jesus Donkey, Homespun Holiday Hands-On Experience & Meal at Meadow Brook Farm--\$30 pp incl meal complete with dessert and beverages, hands-on felt donkey craft with Jesus Donkey origination story, live mini donkey photo op, local author and Christmas storytelling, self-guided tours of historic home, barns, farm, and tractors.*

Do you enjoy the sight of twinkling holiday lights on a snowy old tractor or the touch of a furry donkey nose? 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. The carefully restored barns are places of gathering and fellowship and is your host location for a delicious lunch. 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 photo op which is just irresistible! You will create memorable experiences in this beautiful country setting! Enjoy a delicious catered dinner in the farmhouse chic barn to complete your evening.



CONTACT: Judy McConnell
vcmanager@lagrangecountycvb.org
or call at 260.768.4008