

At The Heart of Indiana Amish Country

We love Groups, and Groups love us! Plan Your Visit Now to The Heart of Amish Country!

Shipshevana, Indiana is home to the **Third-Largest Amish Community** in the U.S. and is visited by **hundreds of groups and millions of people every year**. Shipshevana is like nowhere else and is the perfect charming spot to **immerse yourself in the Amish lifestyle**, because the population is small, but the opportunities and experiences are large.

There's a little something for everyone here, from the **Midwest's Largest Flea Market** to **World-Class concerts** at the Blue Gate Performing Arts Center. From **handmade fudge and noodles** to **historic antique carousels** and from roadside produce stands to backroads **Amish cottage shops**, there's no shortage of tour options and activities! Walkability and the motorcoach-friendly ease of access and free parking make group travel in Shipshevana a breeze, and actual **Amish Step-on Guides** make sure you get the real (home-made ice cream) scoop! Custom Group Itineraries are available to make sure you don't miss a thing! Plan day trips or multi-day stays!

In Shipshevana, **kindness and hospitality** are a way of life, as are home-grown comfort foods and the slower pace. Quilters, crafters, and artisans thrive when the culture rewards hard work and craftsmanship, and in **Amish Country**, they will also invite you in to see how they do it! You can even make something yourself to remember your visit with one of our popular **Make & Take tour stops!**

The **Off-the-Beaten-Path Tour** will introduce you to our scenic countryside, farms, crafters, Amish homes and schoolhouses, barn quilts and more! **Flea Bag Trails** through the Flea market help you navigate all the amazing artists, food stalls, and vendors. The Downtown Shopping District offers **Scavenger Hunts** as well as amazing products, gifts, and local art. **Baggie Tours** are popular because of the great little surprises you're given at each stop, and the **Step-On Tours** are curated and narrated by an **Amish local**, guaranteeing an immersive, engaging, hands-on experience! **Priceless!**

AUTHENTIC AMISH EXPERIENCE

- Tour the **Stutzman Dairy Farm** to pet calves and milk cows.
- Visit Amish craftsmen at work and create your own handmade **Make & Take** item.
- Hear the Amish auctioneers in action and find the perfect antique at the weekly **Shipshevana Trading Place** auctions.
- Enjoy a Haystack Dinner, a Wedding Feast, or a Thresher's meal at an **Amish home**.
- Take an **Amish buggy tour** or carriage ride.
- **Tour** the scenic 'Off the Beaten Path' country roads and view all the local Barn Quilts.
- **Watch** noodles, cheese, jams, pretzels, and candy being made by hand, and try it yourself.
- **Shop** handmade items at Amish cottage shops: honey, jams, baskets, leather goods, wooden toys, quilts, candles, baked goods, home décor, and so much more.



Shipshevana Group Entertainment & Experiences

The Blue Gate

- **Family Style, Buffet or off the menu** group dining
- **Two theaters** featuring family friendly original musicals and 150+ national touring concerts and performers including the Oak Ridge Boys, the Texas Tenors and Daniel O'Donnell
- **Backroads guided tours** and horse-drawn carriage rides
- **Homestyle bakery, gift shops** and Amish furniture store
- **153 room independent boutique hotel** complete with made-to-order omelet breakfast bar

Shipshevana Auction & Flea Market

- **Midwest's Largest Flea Market** with 700+ booths
- **Free admission and bus parking**
- **Free shuttle service** to mobility scooters
- Convenient **drop-off and pick-up** for groups
- Food Courts, food trucks, restaurant **on site**
- **Vendor directories** for each entrance
- **Flea Bag Trail Scavenger Hunt** themed shopping experience
- **1 block to Downtown Shopping District**

Menno-Hof

- Recommended **first stop** in the destination.
- **6 programmed multi-media presentations** take your group into the world of the Amish and Mennonites.
- **Multiple hands-on exhibits** and display areas including a European courtyard, a dungeon, a 17th century sailing ship, a print shop and the most popular simulated "Tornado Room."
- Answers many questions about the **Amish faith, culture, beliefs and lifestyle**.

Discover Downtown Shipshevana

- Over **50 unique boutique shops** and eateries are within a two block, walkable area
- Antiques, artisans, makers, ice cream, cupcakes, Amish buggy rides and more can all be found in the **Downtown District**.
- **NEW Downtown District Discovery Tour** is a self-guided, self-paced tour offering experiences including a ride on the 1906 hand-carved Carousel located inside the 4-story Davis Mercantile.
- **16 hand-painted art murals** found in niches and on buildings depict historical legends while offering selfie fun!
- **NEW Scavenger Hunt** offers "clue cards" with small prizes for those who successfully uncover the UNTOLD stories of Shipshevana's history.

A Shipshevana Christmas

Small Town Charm meets Big City Lights for a Christmas extravaganza that groups love!

- Guests report "looks like something straight out of a **Hallmark Christmas movie**"!
- Starts **November 9 thru December 31**.
- **Stocking Stuffer backroads tours** transform the Brown Bag Experience
- Decorate Christmas Cookies, make Christmas Cards and enjoy special candlelight dinners in **Amish homes**.
- Basket makers feature **wooden Nativity scenes** and Christmas ornaments.
- Drive thru light display featuring **2 million LED lights over 2 miles** over a 45 minute time frame.
- **NEW Shipshevana Walkway of Lights** features 125 lit arches over a .8 of a mile length perfect for strolling in the crisp night air.



Unique Hands-On Experiences

Make & Takes Plus Special Exclusive Demos

Engage, immerse, and get "crafty" with hands-on fun in Shipshevana!

- **Roll a Pretzel** at Ben's, make a wooden quilt block at Teaberry
- **NEW make your own cloth Amish doll**, build your own basket, make a wooden heart, and paint your own miniature barn quilt
- **NEW unexpected in Amish Country** - include wine tasting flights with **make your own charcuterie boards**.
- Decorate cookies, make your own Amish peanut butter, dip caramel apples and take a cooking class in **Amish homes**.



Off The Beaten Path

Travel gravel roads, past working farms and enjoy the local scenery filled with horses, cows, and even a goat or two.

- **Customizable stops** include Amish cottage industry businesses such as the Amish leather maker, windchime maker, noodle shop, cheese factory, basket maker, rug weaver, and more
- **NEW stops** include **30+ Barn Quilts and Art Murals** offering history through art, stories of quilting heritage and locations in 6 small towns throughout the destination. Expand this component with an **"I spy" or "Scavenger" game** complete with prizes!
- Immerse in **Amish stops** that offer group exclusive information sessions including an Amish one-room school, buggy maker, leather maker and the inside of an Amish home.



Quilt, Fabric & Fiber

Fiber and fabric abound in Shipshevana Amish Country which offers quilters and crafters a fun "Shop Hop" opportunity to feed their passion while being group exclusive.

- **Yoder's Department Store** offers 12,000 bolts of fabric offering quilt groups meet & greets, surprise gifts, demo's and specials.
- **Lolly's Fabrics** offers 5,000 bolts of fabric including the special story of a local second grade class wallhanging featuring 17,000 pieces crafted of the Lord's Supper.
- **Over 10 other quilt, fabric, and fiber shops** available for additional shopping stops.
- **Amish Quilt Trunk** shows offered in Amish homes after meals feature historical quilts from the 1800's to today.
- **NEW Amish rug weavers** in Topeka offer demos in their home with locally made crafts.



Shipshevana Amish Country CVB Group Services

The official Shipshevana Visitors Center CVB offers an experienced staff located in the heart of the Amish Country.

- **FREE customized itinerary** planning and information saving you staff time.
- Run by locals developing **new experiences, tips and suggestions** for the best route, time, and tour possible making you shine as a tour planner.
- Offering the **latest information on destination information** including road closures, parking and logistics to assist your driver, including where to go when you get a flat tire or need diesel fuel!
- **FREE welcome bags, coupon books, meet & greets** and cookie receptions at the Shipshevana Visitors Center.



Gain The Most From Your Group Travel Experience

Official Shipshewana Amish Country Indiana CVB helps groups have fun and successful tours

- Numerous tour options and suggested itineraries offer mix-and-match experience
- Customizable, detailed, friendly service
- Expand your visit with nearby stops including the University of Notre Dame, South Bend Chocolate Factory, NEW Dinosaur Museum, RV factory tours, Victorian mansions, and perfume makers for the perfect Hub & Spoke itinerary

Step-On-Guide Tours

Locals who share insights and local lore and elevates your group tour experience to memory making fun!

Shipshewana Amish Country step-on guide:

- Help your driver for easy parking, directions, wayfinding and scenic routes
- Save you staff time and money by coordinating on your behalf last minute confirmations, counts, ticket arrangements, timing, payment procedures, and menu selections
- Bring the local scenery to life by sharing cultural insights, history, stories, and information about what your group is seeing for an immersive learning tour while in the area
- Offer multi, full or half-day tours, many themed by community or by activity to reduce your drive time.
- Suggest new tour ideas, hands-on experiences, attractions and different things to do with insider group exclusive access while in the area to keep your itinerary fresh and relevant for repeat visits
- Know local people and work CLOSELY with the Visit Shipshewana CVB to make sure your tour is as seamless as possible

The "Baggie" Tours

"Bag some fun" in Shipshewana Amish Country with multiple themed "bag" tours where your guests get "free" stuff that is built into your tour package price. You pick the "bag", you pick the "freebies" and they have fun taking it home!

- Stocking Stuffer tours bring Christmas and Holiday magic to life with actual "stockings" and holiday gifts featuring cinnamon, peppermint, ginger and more
- Brown Bag tours are cultural-immersive tours featuring traditional Amish and local goods such as homemade bread, Amish peanut butter, whoopie pies, local made jam, Amish crack, noodles, donut holes and more
- Flea Bag tours bring scavenger hunt fun to the Midwest's Largest Flea Market each Tuesday and Wednesday, May-September. Find the fleas and get a bag!

Fun-Filled Theme Itineraries

Three day-Two Night - Shipshewana Amish Country Tour

Day 1

- Arrive in Shipshewana
- Attend Menno-Hof Amish Mennonite Museum
- Discover Downtown Shipshewana & Enjoy Lunch
- Explore the NEW Shipshe Scavenger Hunt
- Check into Hotel
- Enjoy dinner and show at the Blue Gate

Day 3

- Breakfast at Hotel & Check out of Hotel
- Shop in Amish country store
- Roll your own pretzel
- Milk a Cow and Tour a farm
- Arrive at Yoder's Homestyle Cooking

Day 2 - Off the Beaten Path & Barn Quilt Tour

- Meet your guide in the lobby of hotel
- Create a make & take wooden Heart and visit an Amish Wooden Toy Maker
- Watch Amish Rug Weavers
- Eat a whoopie pie
- Enjoy a famous Haystack Lunch Meal in an Amish home and make your own Amish Peanut Butter
- Learn about "A Day in the Life of a one-room Amish School"
- BBQ Chuckwagon Dinner and Bison Ranch Tour

All Itineraries are fully customizable!

*We Are OPEN All Year!
Group Rates at locally-owned
hotels available!*

✕✕ VISIT ✕✕ Shipshewana

AT THE  OF AMISH COUNTRY, INDIANA
2024



AMISH DINING | HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES | ENTERTAINMENT | GUIDED TOURS | STEP-ON GUIDES



#VisitShipshewana
#ShipsheGroups

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SPECIAL EVENT DATES

The Blue Gate Theater

- Josiah for President March 15 - July 27, 2024
- NEW When Calls the Heart Musical Aug 8-9, 2024 - January 4, 2025
- NEW Holly Jolly Hits of Christmas November 8 - December 30, 2024

Blue Gate Performing Arts Center

- Texas Tenors April 25, 2024
- Happy Together Tour August 23, 2024
- Daniel O'Donnell October 24 - 29, 2024
- Oak Ridge Boys Farewell Tour June 26 & 27, 2024

Flea Market Grounds

- Flea Market - April 30 - Sept. 25, 2024 (every Tues. & Wed.)
- Lights of Joy: Drive Thru Holiday Light Display - Mid November to December 31st

Michiana Event Center

- Ranch Rodeo - November 2024
- Shipshewana Fall Crafters Fair - October 2024
- Noel Majestic Christmas - Dec. 13-21, 2024

Other Seasonal Events

- Elkhart County Quilt & Fiber Expo. - June 6-8, 2024
- Pajama Day Sales - February 3, 2024
- Ice Festival/Chili Cookoff - January 17-18, 2025

Group Friendly Lodging

Shipshewana (EXIT 107)

- Blue Gate Garden Inn.....260.768.4725
- Farmstead Inn & Conference Center.....260.768.4595
- Shipshewana Super 8.....260.768.4004
- Van Buren Hotel.....260.768.7780

Howe (EXIT 121)

- Holiday Inn Express.....260.562.3660
- Super 8.....260.562.2828
- Best Western Plus.....260.562.2880

Trip Tips...

- Located in Eastern Time Zone
- Exit 107 & 121 on 80/90
- Ask us what to do for groups on Sunday
- Many Amish stores take cash only. Please tell guest ahead of time!
- Many groups pack coolers for their guests to shop more for home later.

