



INSPIRING TRAVEL
THROUGH RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM

Welcome SATW to Shipshewana!

On behalf of the Central States Chapter, I'm excited to work with Visit Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB, and their partners to bring our group of travel journalists and creators to Northern Indiana. There's an abundance of simple beauty, unique shopping, local traditions, and so much delicious food in this area - it's stories just waiting to be told.

- Jill Robbins, Chair, Central States Chapter

Please use #VisitShipshewana & #SATWShipshe when posting!

Tuesday, April 28

» **10:00 until 2:00pm - Complimentary Shuttle Transportation (pre-reserved) from SBN Airport to Shipshewana**

» **10:00 until 3:00pm - OPTIONAL: Pre-Conference Complimentary Admission to: Menno-Hof Amish Mennonite Interpretive Center**

NOTE: Tours are the top of each hour and are on a first come, first reserved basis.

****Tickets must be picked up from the Visit Shipshewana table located inside the Blue Gate Garden Inn lobby prior to tour admission. Advance reservations requested.*

Menno-Hof is an important and delightful first stop before taking in the rich landscape and gentle charm of the Shipshewana area. Menno-Hof offers visitors accurate information through immersive multimedia presentations and hands-on displays about the faith and life of the Amish and Mennonites part of the 500- year lifestyle and religious tradition. It's an excellent location to learn more about this culture and lifestyle. The gift shop features handcrafted items made by local crafters.

» **Noon-4:00pm - Conference Registration & Visitors Center Information Table**

Location: Blue Gate Performing Arts Center, Lobby

Meet your local hosts, check-in and get all of your questions answered from the local experts for a fun filled week in Amish Country!

» **4:00-5:15pm - Opening Welcome Reception**

Location: Blue Gate Performing Arts Center, Lobby

Sponsored by Visit Shipshewana and the Indiana Dunes CVB

Welcome to Shipshewana with this light bite and hosted reception. Enjoy a cocktail, beer, wine, or soft drink with more available for purchase.

» **5:30pm - Dine around bus arrives at the Blue Gate Performing Arts Center and departure**

Location: Blue Gate Performing Arts Center, Lobby

» **6:00-7:45pm - Graze LaGrange Dine Around Night**

Receive a meal voucher valid toward your personally ordered meal off the menu at either one of three pre-selected grub hubs: Linders Tavern on Main, Fireside Craft Burgers & Brews or Destination 814. Vouchers will be distributed as you board the free shuttle bus (or from the hotel lobby for those wishing to drive on their own).

» **7:45pm - Bus departs for return to hotel in Shipshewana**

» **8:00-10:00pm - Sip, Snack, Smile – Explore with Lafayette-West Lafayette!**

Hosted Complimentary Hospitality Room

Location: Blue Gate Garden Inn / Hydrangea Room | **Sponsored by:** Lafayette-West Lafayette

Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette is bringing the best of local flavors right to you. Stop by and meet Sara Erickson to explore delicious bites, refreshing Triple XXX Root Beer, and all the reasons to visit Greater Lafayette. Say hello, grab a treat, and learn more about what makes Lafayette-West Lafayette such a special place to explore. See you there.

Wednesday, April 29

» **6:30-8:00am - Bountiful Breakfast Buffet complimentary with overnight stays at the Blue Gate Garden Inn**

TOUR OPTION #1 -Bidding & Bargains Tour full day tour, lunch and transportation included, complimentary for all

» **7:45am - Tour buses arrive**

Location: Blue Gate Garden Inn Lobby

» **8:00am - Depart for the Bidding & Bargains Tour---full day tour, transportation and sponsored lunch by Visit Indy included, complimentary for all**

Shipshewana is known for great deals, discounts, bargains and fun. This tour starts with an Auction 101 class to teach you insider secrets to bidding direct from the Amish Auctioneer. You will have an opportunity to put your new skills to the test at the 6-9-ring Antique Auction located at Shipshewana Trading Place. Then you'll get to see the Buggy Boneyard and "shop where the Amish shop" at the famous E&S Bulk Food Store. Some free time for lunch will include options for tasty treats while exploring the popular Davis Mercantile plus dozens of additional small shops in downtown before you learn about repurposing and upcycling from the Cherry Pickers team.

» **3:30pm - Return to your host hotel**

TOUR OPTION #2 -Makers & Tasty Treats of Amish Country Tour

» **8:00am - Tour buses arrive**

Location: Blue Gate Garden Inn Lobby

» **8:00am - Depart for the Makers & Tasty Treats of Amish Country---full day tour, transportation and sponsored lunch by Visit Indy included, complimentary for all**

Calling all Foodies and Handcrafted Lovers! Put your stretchy pants on, indulge your sweet tooth as you check out some tasty local eats that will melt in your mouth while indulging in the sights, sounds and craftsmanship of the Amish. This tour is designed with you in mind as you sample, shop, learn and enjoy the scrumptious foods and locally made handcrafts of this culture. You will visit an Amish Fried Pie maker, then meet Carolyn in her Amish canning kitchen. You'll learn about Amish buggy making after driving the scenic countryside. Lunch is at Ben's Pretzels where you practice "the twist" and enjoy a tasty lunch. You'll end the day with the local leather goods maker and basket weaver. It's a day filled with fun, surprises, treats, and compelling information that will last a lifetime.

» **4:00pm - Return to your host hotel**

» **5:00pm - Bus arrives to depart for the INIndiana Night in an Amish home**

» **5:30pm - INIndiana Makers Night and Dinner inside an Amish home**

Sponsored by: Visit Indiana, Steuben County CVB and many other Indiana CVB's

Meet the Makers INIndiana! Numerous Indiana destinations welcome you to a fun-filled evening of hospitality, food, and fun. There are so many unique things to see and do INIndiana and tonight's dinner experience will offer attendees over a dozen interactive opportunities to hear some of our destinations' stories and highlights. Hosted wine during dinner is included with a chance-of-a-lifetime to dine inside an Amish home complete with Amish servers and a live "Buggy Buck" Auction. Gather your "bucks" at destination tables (negotiate and talk your way to earning more from your Indiana friends) then bid high and often to earn Indiana prize packages and gift baskets of local swag. You will have loads of fun, learn new things, and taste local cuisine all in one great evening.

» **7:30pm - Depart for hotel**

» **8:00pm - Tastes and Libations – with Visit Kosciusko County**

Hosted Complimentary Hospitality Room

Location: Blue Gate Garden Inn / Hydrangea Room | Sponsored by Visit Kosciusko County, Indiana CVB

Looking for inspiration for fun things to do and places to eat? Meet the team from Clearly Kosciusko CVB who will share tasty snacks and beverages for a fun filled evening as you learn about this perfect place for family fun, couples and girls' trips, and quiet alone rejuvenating moments. They welcome the opportunity to help you find your next great travel story or blog material with dynamic storytelling and experiences to share.

Thursday, April 30

» **6:30-8:00am - Bountiful Breakfast Buffet complimentary with overnight stays at the Blue Gate Garden Inn**

TOUR OPTION #1 -Rollin' on the River half day tour, and transportation included, complimentary for all

» **8:00am - Tour buses arrive**

Location: Blue Gate Garden Inn Lobby

» **8:15am - Depart for the Rollin' on the River---half day tour, transportation, complimentary for all**

Since 1971, Trading Post Outfitters in Mongo, IN has offered scenic paddling trips and camping in the Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area. Enjoy lush views, wildlife, and fresh air—perfect for a peaceful float or weekend escape into Indiana's great outdoors. Attendees pre-select the type of canoe/kayak they prefer: Single Kayak, Double Kayak for 2 people or Canoe for 2 people. Waivers will be signed on arrival in Mongo.

» **Noon - Return to your host hotel**

TOUR OPTION #2 -Farm Animal Fun ---half day tour, transportation, complimentary for all

» **8:00am - Tour buses arrive**

Location: Blue Gate Garden Inn Lobby

» **8:00am - Depart for the Farm Animal Half Day Tour**

Shipshewana and LaGrange County has a rich agriculture heritage with over 2,100 farms making this area the largest number of farms still operating today in the entire state of Indiana. On your journey this morning you will meet with Mervin Yoder, a successful Amish businessman, who is proud to show you his fully restored vast collection of antique tractors and other original pieces of farm equipment. Old Teddy, his faithful dog, may meander up to show us how he can churn butter. Then you'll step inside the famous Polygonal shaped Barn listed on the National Register of Historic Places before taking a tour of a working Amish Dairy Farm which has won international awards for their famous flavored whole milk.

» **Noon - Return to your host hotel**

» **12:30-1:45pm - Hosted Baked Potato Deluxe Buffet Lunch**

Location: Blue Gate Garden Inn / Empress Room | Sponsored by Visit Wayne County, OH CVB

Discover over lunch, a destination where the charm of rural life meets the vibrancy of city living. Wayne County, Ohio is your agritourism escape—rich with rolling farmland, family-owned orchards, and hands-on farm experiences—but it's also a place where culture thrives, and community pulses with energy. Explore scenic trails, pick fresh produce, or visit Amish farms, while enjoying art galleries, boutique shopping, live music, and locally inspired cuisine in bustling downtowns.

» **2:30-4:00pm - ALL: Media Market Place**

Location: Blue Gate Garden Inn / Empress Room

Refreshments Sponsored by: the Indiana Foodways Alliance

In between meetings, Indiana eats and treats along with coffee and beverages from all over Indiana.

» **5:00pm - Buses Arrives at Hotel and depart for dinner**

» **5:30pm - Blue Gate Restaurant Buffet Dinner & Evening Entertainment Options**

Wear your "stretchy pants" for dinner tonight in the famous Blue Gate Restaurant! This cozy atmosphere and delicious, home-style Amish food combined with friendly service will be the highlight of your visit to Shipshewana. After dinner enjoy one of two evening entertainment options (Advanced registrations required).

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS:

Choose from either one of these evening live theatrical or concert performances:

» **7:00pm - A Simple Sanctuary, A Blue Gate Theatre Original Production, performed inside the Blue Gate Music Hall**

She prayed the day would never come, but when her past comes calling, Melissa James has no choice but to flee. Pursued and living on the run, she finds desperate sanctuary and surprising friendship in Amish country. Part suspense, part romance, A Simple Sanctuary is a compelling story of love tested, the cost of freedom, and the solace found in true community.

*Based on the best-selling books by Beverly Lewis, **A Simple Sanctuary** is infused with Blue Gate Musicals' signature blend of humor, heart, and harmonies that make for an uplifting and entertaining evening at the theatre.*

OR

» **7:30pm - Blue Gate Performing Arts Center Concert featuring “The Isaacs”**

The Blue Gate Performing Arts Center is your gateway to unforgettable entertainment in one of the Midwest's most charming destinations. The PAC brings the spirit of Amish Country to life with uplifting musicals, family-friendly comedy, and concerts by some of the biggest names in music. Tonight's top-name artist is the 2021 Grand Ole Opry inductees and Gospel Music Hall of Famers, “The Isaacs”. These masterful vocalists, instrumentalists and songwriters are known for their ability to bridge and blend genres, and their sound has led to invites from high-profile contemporaries including Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Vince Gill, Alison Krauss, Paul Simon and many more to sing on over 50 albums and share many stages across the country.

Friday, May 1

- » **6:30-8:00am - Bountiful Breakfast Buffet complimentary with overnight stays at the Blue Gate Garden Inn**
- Departure for home or POST FAMS
- » **4:00-7:00am - Airport Shuttle Transportation, if reserved (one departure time TBD).**

OPTIONAL:

- » **10:00-11:00am - OPTIONAL: Post-conference Complimentary Admission (choose either tour time)**

» **Menno-Hof Amish Mennonite Interpretive Center**

NOTE: Two tour times are offered on this day at either 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. departure and are on a first come, first reserved basis. Tickets must be picked up from the Visit Shipshewana table located inside the Blue Gate Garden Inn lobby prior to tour admission. Advance reservations requested.

Menno-Hof is an important and delightful first stop before taking in the rich landscape and gentle charm of the Shipshewana area. Menno-Hof offers visitors accurate information through immersive multimedia presentations and hands-on displays about the faith and life of the Amish and Mennonites-part of the 500- year lifestyle and religious tradition. It's an excellent location to learn more about this culture and lifestyle. The gift shop features handcrafted items made by local crafters.