

AmishCountry.org

NORTHERN INDIANA



NEW See a dazzling display free of charge when the cities of Elkhart and Nappanee host the nation's only **FALL FLOWER CARPETS**. Each Flower Carpet contains 7,000 pots of jewel-toned mums filling the downtown streets with a crescendo of color.

It happens October 1-12, 2013



DRIVE

Let the **Heritage Trail** driving tour be a personal guide to lively places, colorful interviews and great stories.

Find surprises at every turn and realize why *USA*

Today readers voted it their **top choice of driving trails** and editors of *LIFE*® consider it **"One of America's Most Scenic Drives."**

EAT

Get the scoop on **Indiana's best ice cream** and sample creamy delights voted tops in the state. Take comfort in platters of Amish

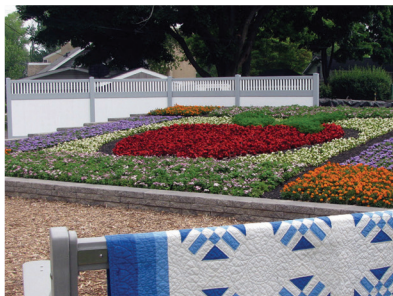
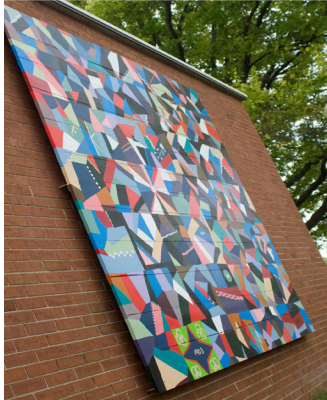
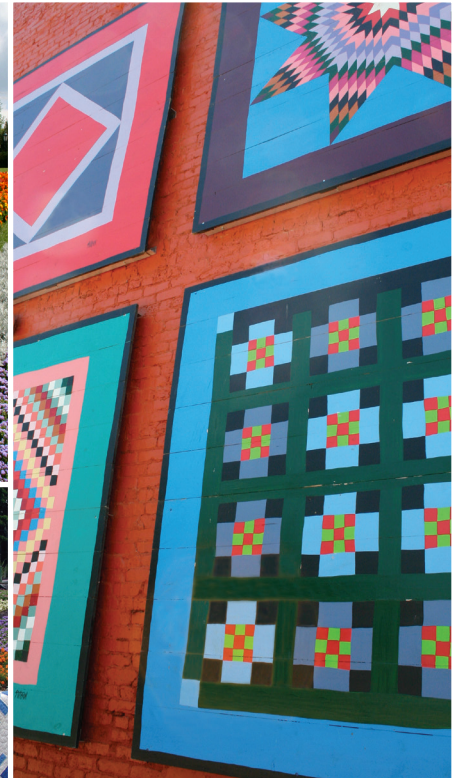
inspired favorites at popular **family-style restaurants**. Savor chef specialties at **downtown eateries**. Order up tasty daily specials at local diners where the food is served with a dash of local chatter. Find tangy mustards, sassy salsas, fresh-from-the-berry-patch jellies and other home-made fare filling shelves of **family-run food emporiums**.

EDU

Catch fun downtown happenings year-round. Each spring maple syrup flows and jelly beans roll at **Wakarusa's Maple Syrup Festival**.

Elkhart swings with cool jazz performed by artists such as Winton Marsalis during the annual **Elkhart Jazz Festival** held each June. On **First Fridays**, downtown Goshen hosts a party with music, entertainment and lively activities.

Come fall, **Nappanee's Apple Festival** bakes a 600 lb. apple pie. As a popular song promises, "Things will be great when you're downtown."



Quilt Gardens

... along the Heritage Trail

The **ONLY** experience of its kind in the world!
Annually May 30 - October 1

- 100,000+ blooms
- 19 gigantic quilt gardens and 20 hand-painted quilt murals
- 7 unique and welcoming communities of Bristol, Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury, Nappanee, Shipshewana and Wakarusa
- Joins quilting, gardening & art into a one-of-a-kind experience
- Maps guide the way
- Free, flexible, self-guided adventure
- Ever-changing greeting to quilt lovers, flower lovers, photographers and folks wanting a colorful getaway



FALL FLOWER CARPETS

North America's only **Fall Flower Carpets** themed to "Celebrate the Arts" share the spotlight in the downtowns of **Elkhart** and **Nappanee**.

Two Flower Carpets, each carpet loaded with **7,000 jewel-toned mums** replicating original patterns, fill city blocks with a crescendo of color.

Viewing platforms make photo taking easy.

This mum-spectacle is on view free of charge
October 1-12.

STORY IDEAS ... *along the Heritage Trail*



GO GREEN

Enjoy nature's showcase. Discover verdant gems tucked away in nearly every corner of Elkhart County. At Elkhart's **Wellfield Botanic Gardens**, winding walkways and charming footbridges lead to themed gardens reflected in tranquil ponds, charming pump houses and captivating sculpture by noted artists. Native plants and flowers, pavilions, stone pathways and full moons mark the yearly cycle of the seasons in **The Calendar Garden** in River Preserve County Park. And whimsical concrete toadstools shade woodland flowers in Middlebury's popular **Krider "World's Fair" Garden**. History and beauty blend at **Bonneyville Mill**, where the 160-year old gristmill is a backdrop for hundreds of dahlias, all one-of-a-kind hybrids that bloom in the **American Dahlia Society Test Garden**.



WHERE THE ART IS

Downtown is where the art is. The beautifully restored **Lerner Theatre** sets the stage for downtown Elkhart's A&E district, plus the city has a new focus on creativity with quarterly **Art Walks**, the **RiverWalk Culture Trail**, themed gardens, and outdoor sculpture. Then "listen to the music of the city" at the annual **Elkhart Jazz Festival** celebrating Elkhart's band instrument heritage. Goshen's visual and performing arts are anchored by **Goshen College** and its **Sauder Music Hall**, **New World Arts** hosting experimental theatre, artists' studios and galleries plus **First Friday's** downtown celebrations of music and art. Nappanee showcases its wood-crafting artistry and history at the **Nappanee Center** and **Coppes Commons**, a landmark cabinet factory transformed to feature goods of local artisans.



FOODIES CELEBRATE THE EDIBLE

Gather with the locals at the **Goshen Farmer's Market**. Vendor's booths are piled high with fresh-from the field produce, free-range poultry and creamy cheeses. Be sure to take time to enjoy a steaming cup of java accompanied by a heavenly Belgian inspired pastry at Rachel Shenk's eclectic bakery/café in the market, **Rachel's Bread**. For a taste of Napoli head to **Venturi** in downtown Goshen serving Indiana's only certified authentic Neapolitan pizza. It takes less than two minutes baking in an 800-degree wood-fired oven to get a perfect crust. Plus, Venturi makes its own fresh mozzarella daily. Or spend a casual evening with friends and a "Local Blonde" at **Ichyd Da Brewing Company**. This new hot spot in downtown Elkhart offers an impressive line-up of its own craft beers to pair with tasty sandwiches and homemade pretzels.



TRAIL TREKS

Take a leisurely hike or pedal along the **Pumpkinvine Nature Trail**. Travel between Goshen and Shipshewana passing woodlands, cow-filled pastures, tidy Amish farms and schoolhouses. On the stretch between Middlebury and Shipshewana it's common to share the path with local Amish. And don't be surprised to see camels peering through the fence of a nearby farm. For a trek with an urban flair, the new **RiverWalk Culture Trail** is a set your own pace walking tour that connects botanical gardens, riverside parks, performance venues and museums in downtown Elkhart. Of course, it's just steps away from Main Street restaurants, shops and pubs.

MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS



RV/MH Hall of Fame, Elkhart
Something out of the ordinary with numerous RV models dating as early as the 1920's.

Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart
A remarkable collection of works by noted American artists including Norman Rockwell, Grandma Moses, Grant Wood, Alexander Calder and Andy Warhol.

The Lerner, Elkhart
A cornerstone for downtown Elkhart's Arts & Entertainment District, this 1924 theatre is newly restored to its original grandeur with the bonus of state-of-the-art improvements.

Elkhart County Historical Museum, Bristol
Considered one of the top 10 local history museums in the state. The museum boasts over 20,000 artifacts arranged by theme and period.

Ruthmere, Elkhart
This elaborate Beaux-Arts house museum with its silk wall hangings, hand-painted ceilings, mahogany woodwork and fine art gives an intimate look of the life of a wealthy family in 1910.

Bonneyville Mill, Bristol
Massive millstones still grind flour daily at this 160 year old gristmill - Indiana's oldest. A lush county park forms the perfect backdrop for this picturesque mill.

Old Bag Factory, Goshen
A renovated factory now turned marketplace for artisans. Chat with an internationally known potter as he works. Visit the boiler-house studio /workshop of a noted metal sculptor. Browse galleries and talk with a renowned quilt fiber artist.

Menno-Hof Amish /Mennonite Interpretive Center, Shipshewana
Learn the religious beginnings and background of the Amish, Mennonite and Huterite people.

Wellfield Botanic Garden, Elkhart
Elkhart's historic well field that once powered the city and continues to be a fresh water source, today inspires as a place to relax, enjoy and learn. Paved paths wind through 36-acres of ponds and woodlands past charming pump houses, beautifully themed gardens, landscaped waterfalls and works of art by nationally acclaimed sculptors.

Amish Acres, Nappanee
Listed on the National Register, the 80-acre restored Old Order Amish farm offers visitors a chance to explore 18 historical buildings, take buggy rides, dine on Amish style fare served family-style and enjoy musical theatre in an original round barn.

For more Must See Attractions, visit
AmishCountryMedia.org

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WHAT'S NEW



Coppes Commons, Nappanee

Originally the factory for Coppes Cabinets and birthplace of the famed "Hoosier Cabinet," this renovated building now houses a collection of small Amish and locally owned retail businesses including artisans, bakers and ice cream makers plus a showcase of goods from the area's rural shops.

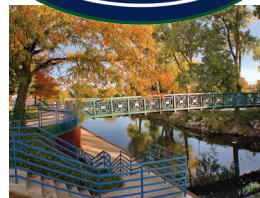
The fascinating history of Coppes is featured throughout the building.



RiverWalk Culture Trail, Elkhart

A set-your-own pace walking tour filled with inviting sites and stops that include gorgeous gardens, parks, outdoor art, historic homes, museums, performance venues, eclectic events and activities.

It's all connected by Elkhart's scenic RiverWalk and three distinctly different downtown neighborhoods - and all steps from Main Street's restaurants, shops and pubs.



MILEAGE TO AMISH COUNTRY

Indianapolis	165m/266km
Detroit	165m/266km
Chicago	140m/225km
Milwaukee	200m/322km
St. Louis	390m/628km
Toronto	440m/708km

I provide personalized media assistance including: itinerary planning; arranging interviews; obtaining photography; coordinating photo shoots; organizing destination overviews; etc.

Please feel free to contact me with your particular editorial needs.