



PLAY

Jump and jam at the **Elkhart Jazz Festival**, June 19-21, 2015, in downtown Elkhart.

Top name entertainers such as **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**,

David Sanborn, **Davina and the Vagabonds** and **Dave Bennett** belt out toe-tapping rhythms, and Main Street swings with a huge outdoor stage plus food and beverage tents. Hail the hot rods and party up and down Goshen's Main Street during **First Friday's Cruisin' Reunion** celebration in July. Each month there's a new theme and a new party.



FINDS

Repurpose with purpose at **Birds Gotta Fly** or mix restyled with new at **The Black Crow on Main**, both in Elkhart. Find the unexpected at **Found**, a Goshen shop filled with fine hand-crafts and art from around the globe.

Down the street take a shopping time trip at the **Goshen Antique Mall**. Pick up a pair of broad-fall pants at **Gohn Brothers** in Middlebury - it's been supplying Amish shoppers goods from bonnets to buttons for more than 100 years.

EAT

Pass the platter and celebrate the carbs with silky mashed potatoes at **Amish Acres** and homemade noodles at **Das Dutchman**

Essenhaus. Snag a stool at the retro **South Side Soda Shop** in Goshen and order the Philly Chili along with a frothy Green River. Follow your nose to the **Nappanee Bakery & Sweet Shoppe** where cinnamon-laced rolls fill cooling racks. Stock up on jerky at **Old Hoosier Meats** in downtown Middlebury. And get cheesy at **Guggisberg Deutsch Kase Haus**.

EDN

Let the good times roll around the wood-floored roller skating rink at **Eby's Family Fun** in Bristol. Skaters have been "falling" for this place since 1954! Pop Rocks and Mary Janes rule at the

Wakarusa Dime Store packed with nostalgic candies. Visit Superman and hang with Batman in his Batcave at the **Hall of Heroes Superhero Museum** in Elkhart. Hop into the cab of an E8 Diesel Locomotive and let the inner engineer be in awe of the massive 4-8-2 L-3a Mohawk No. 3001 at Elkhart's **New York Central Railroad Museum**.



Quilt Gardens

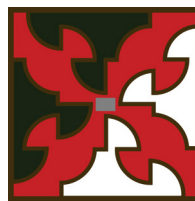
...along the Heritage Trail

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

- 1,000,000+ blooms
- 19 gigantic quilt gardens and 21 hand-painted quilt murals
- 7 unique and welcoming communities of Bristol, Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury, Nappanee, Shipshewana and Wakarusa
- Free, flexible, self-guided adventure joins quilting, gardening and art into a one-of-a-kind experience
- Maps (available at each site) guide the way
- Ever-changing greeting to quilt lovers, flower lovers, photographers and folks wanting a colorful getaway

A SECRET MAP TO FREEDOM

The vivid “Drunkard’s Path” Quilt Garden next door to The Lerner on Main Street in downtown Elkhart, is as dramatic as the story it represents. The story relates to the dark times of slavery in America’s history when quilt patterns were often used as an Underground Railroad “Quilt Code” acting as a secret map for slaves making their dangerous trek to freedom. Airing a quilt with this pattern out a window or on a porch signaled a warning to desperate fugitives to move in a staggering path to elude slave hunters.



This Quilt Garden pays homage to those brave souls and an original musical produced by Premier Arts that follows the story of Harriet Tubman, a former slave, and her amazing journey to freedom. “Matriarch,” a 6-foot bronze sculpture by noted sculptor Tuck Langland, depicts a majestic black woman.* She stands at the center of the garden as a powerful tribute to Ms. Tubman and her intrepid sisters and brothers.

*At the Midwest Museum of American Art, just across the street from the garden, its gift shop displays the 20” model for the “Matriarch” sculpture.

STORY IDEAS ... *along the Heritage Trail*



“LIFE CHANGING PIZZA” AND MORE

Head to **Venturi** in Goshen to eat local and go global. Here the tradition of Vera Pizza Napoletana wood-fired at 900° produces pizzas voted by *Esquire* readers as one the “top 15 most life changing pizzas in the nation.” Justin Venturi claims his freshly made fior di latta (mozzarella) is the key ingredient. Try the house made limoncello for a delicious “finire.” New to downtown Elkhart’s food scene, **Artisan** boasts service as impressive as its food. Slide into a stylish booth and order the pan roasted sea scallop with mushrooms, butternut squash, black garlic and grapefruit or the flavorful, locally-raised bison. **Iechyd Da Brewing Company**, also located in downtown Elkhart, is a lively, “hoppy” spot that takes its name from a Welsh toast meaning “good health.” Owners Chip and Summer Lewis pair creative, house-made sandwiches and pizza with creative, house-crafted beers. Be sure to ask what’s on the handpull.



HONEY - YOU'RE GONNA' LOVE IT!

Get the buzz on fresh-from-the-hive honey and follow horse-drawn buggies down country roads to “**B**” **Honey**. Step inside and the sweet fragrance of honey fills the air of this shop where jars of non-pasteurized honey, honey balms, beeswax candles, beekeeping supplies, and if you’re lucky freshly baked honey cookies, line shelves. Amish owners, Junior and Rosetta Bontrager, started their business with just two hives next to their garden. Today, they stay busy as bees tending 70 hives and producing many of the items displayed in their tidy store. Looking at Rosetta’s skin, it’s obvious her honey-infused balms work! Another must stop on your “honey-do” list – **Dutch Country Market**. Operated by Norm and Katie Lehman and their six children, it carries a wide assortment of their freshly harvested honey and products. In fact, Norm estimates they produce 36,000 pounds of honey products per year! He cheerily lauds the benefits of their unprocessed raw honey that draws folks from neighboring states to get it. Another plus, no drips!



TAKE THE AMISH HIGHWAY

Pedal with the Amish along the **Pumpkinvine Nature Trail**. Nearly 25 miles of trails connect Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury and Shipshewana through pastoral countryside delivering vistas of fertile Amish farmland and friendly towns with inviting Main Streets. The flat stretch of the trail between Middlebury and Shipshewana is a heavily used commuter route for the Amish. Locals observe, “It has become their interstate highway into town.” Be sure to bring a backpack for easy off-the-trail shops stops to pick up Amish made noodles, nut butters, cheese and unprocessed honey. The Dairy Queen at the Middlebury trailhead offers a fun summer respite. It’s not unusual to see 40-50 bikes in its parking lot on a sunny Saturday and bicyclists ordering mile-high cones. Amish residents flock to this spot too. BYO gear or rent bikes for every age and ability at the **Pumpkinvine Cyclery**.



DYNAMITE PLACES

Amish Country, *Destination-wide*

See it all driving the Heritage Trail chosen tops by *USA Today* readers. The free audio guided tour travels through downtown streets and along Amish Country back roads more frequented by buggies than cars.

Bonneville Mill, *Bristol*

Watch millstones grind grain into flour then grab a couple of bags to take home. The tasty flour at this 150-year old mill is the real deal and a real bargain.

Ruthmere, *Elkhart*

Peek into the closet of Elizabeth Beardsley and see how well-to-do ladies dressed in 1910. Elizabeth's dresses still hang on the rack and her hats and shoes line the shelves.

Wellfield Botanic Gardens, *Elkhart*

Vie for space on mama bear's lap with her chubby cub and leave room for the kids. The large bronze bear sculpture in the middle of the Gardens invites cuddling.

Midwest Museum of American Art, *Elkhart*

See Calder's "Pyramids" and Edward Moran's "Seacoast". It is strictly an American scenario here with lots of impressive viewing. Nifty finds in their gift shop too.

RV/MH Hall of Fame, *Elkhart*

Step into the "long, long" trailer that mirrors the one Lucy & Desi made famous in their hilarious road trip movie. Mae West's house car is parked just down the aisle.

Old Bag Factory, *Goshen*

Meet Mark Goertzen sitting at his potter's wheel. Find eye-popping quilts in a log cabin. Meet a sculptor in his boiler-house studio. This place has everything but old bags.

Goshen Farmer's Market, *Goshen*

Celebrate the edible with fresh-from-the-fields produce, free-range poultry and creamy cheeses. A stop at Rachel's Bread is rewarded with Belgian inspired pastries and melt-in-your-mouth croissants.

Ignition Music, *Goshen*

Rock on audiophiles! Vinyl is cool at this once garage now turned music store. Pop in for evening performances of popular Indie bands here too.

Olympia Candy Kitchen, *Goshen*

Get your sugar rush sampling hand-dipped chocolates filling wood and glass cases. Then chat over sundaes in original wooden booths or snag a stool at the old-fashioned soda fountain.

Amish Acres Round Barn Theatre, *Nappanee*

Sit under the rafters of an authentic 1911 round barn resurrected as a theatre to enjoy best of Broadway musicals and other popular stage productions performed by a professional repertory company.

Coppes Commons, *Nappanee*

Visit the birthplace of the famed "Hoosier" cabinet and shop for locally made finds. While there order up a treat at Rocket Science Ice Cream and enjoy the show as its flash frozen using liquid nitrogen.

For even more Dynamite Places, Must See Attractions and Story Ideas visit AmishCountryMedia.org

WHAT'S NEW



The Gateway Mile, *Elkhart*

It's packed with inviting sites and stops, just steps from Main Street's restaurants, shops and pubs. Along the way, discover outdoor art in urban settings, indoor places with storied pasts, gorgeous gardens and eclectic events, all connected by the unique Garden, RiverWalk and Arts & Entertainment Districts.



MILEAGE TO AMISH COUNTRY

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



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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.