

Heritage Trail adventures






Quilt Gardens

... along the Heritage Trail

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

- 19 gigantic quilt gardens and 21 hand-painted quilt murals
- 7 unique and welcoming communities of Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury, Nappanee, Bristol, Wakarusa and Shipshewana
- Free, flexible, self-guided adventure joins quilting, gardening and art into a one-of-a-kind experience
- Ever-changing greeting to quilt lovers, flower lovers, photographers and folks wanting a colorful getaway
- An Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project - Quilt Gardens all inspired by historic quilt patterns

Alive with Color

Morning Star. Duck Paddle. Friendship Circle. Indian Star.

From 1884 to 1975, the 19 Quilt Gardens weave a story of Elkhart County's and Indiana's colorful past. Reflecting popular quilt patterns of their era, the Quilt Gardens offer a peek into what life was like for Hoosiers from pioneer settlers, growing families, farmsteads and industrialists.

The Duck Paddle pattern quite appropriately is located at the Elkhart County Historical Museum in Bristol, near the banks of the St. Joseph River and the many ducks that flock there.

The Morning Star pattern in downtown Elkhart's Central Park calls to mind the former site of the city's municipal Christmas tree and the famous arch that once graced a nearby intersection.

Friendship Circle, at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds in Goshen, pays homage to the camaraderie that helped Goshen and the rest of Elkhart County endure the Great Depression.

Indian Star, which can be seen at Das Dutchman Essenhaus, is a reminder of Middlebury's position near one-time Native American trails as well as the town's centennial in 1936.

STORY IDEAS ... along the Heritage Trail

The Heritage Trail is more than our nationally recognized audio driving tour of Elkhart County's communities. This scenic loop explores welcoming communities, area attractions and Amish life in Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury, Nappanee, Bristol, Wakarusa and Shipshewana.



Let the good times ride

Families can choose to start their adventure from three starting points along the Heritage Trail. The **Pumpkinvine Nature Trail** offers scenic vistas through unspoiled prairie, farmland and wetlands for bicyclists, walkers and runners. Whether you are in Goshen, Middlebury or Shipshewana, you'll find delightful breaks for all ages from mouth-watering eats to unspoiled landscapes. Your FitBit won't know what hit it. Hiking and biking trails, woodlands and breath-taking waterways lace the region. Adventure awaits around every corner.



Live the Amish life

Slow down and get away when you visit **Amish Country** on the Heritage Trail. Immerse yourself in the Amish lifestyle through a working Amish farm, nestled amid lush farmland, and try your hand at milking a cow or feeding newborn calves. Indulge in comfort foods that will remind you of your childhood - bite into a piece of crunchy fried chicken at family-style favorites such as **Das Dutchman Essenhaus** or **Amish Acres**. More mashed potatoes, anyone? Quaint shops will wow you with the craftsmanship - from fine woodworking and quilts to scrumptious baked goods - of Amish artisans.



Ignite your senses

History comes alive along the Heritage Trail in repurposed factories, historic mansions, even a wellfield, that visitors can see up close. At **The Old Bag Factory's** campus in Goshen, shoppers can browse under the roof of the former Chase Bag Co. Venture downtown and stop at **Ignition Music Garage**, a dealer of record albums and also a concert stage located in a one-time car repair shop. In Nappanee, **Coppes Commons** houses shops, eateries and a museum in the former Coppes Kitchen Cabinets factory. The lives of the rich and famous are on full display at the **Ruthmere Museum** and the nearby **Havilah Beardsley House**.

Vacation planning ... made easy

Tours help any traveler make the best use of their time. Experience the best the Heritage Trail has to offer, with no fuss, because we've done the planning for you.



Guided driving tours of the Heritage Trail and Quilt Gardens offer couples and families an unforgettable experience. Local guides who know the ins and outs and the area's secrets will share their favorite stories while showing you the best of Elkhart County.



Take the Heritage Trail CD with you and **follow at your own pace**, so you can stop and smell the roses wherever you like. Stroll the shaded paths of a lovely park or dig into a sumptuous meal - it's all up to you.



Guided walking tours of Elkhart and Goshen bring these cities to life with their rich history of wealthy industrialists, political power and hungry artists.

Need to shop till you drop? Is it guys weekend? Need kid-friendly escapes? Try one of our many itineraries and top 10 lists, available at HTadventures.com



For even more Story Ideas, Interesting Facts and Must-See Attractions visit AmishCountryMedia.org

What's New

Download our newest app, **Heritage Trail Adventures**, for up-to-the-minute guides, suggestions and digital exclusives.

Wherever you are in Elkhart County, the best shops, restaurants, attractions and experiences along the Heritage Trail are only a few clicks away.



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'm a lifelong resident of Elkhart County and a journalism veteran, so I'm well prepared to assist you with your story ideas and reporting. Give me a call or email and let's work together on meeting your editorial needs.