

A GARDEN PARTY

...along the heritage trail



Go green and spend the day visiting some of the most eye-popping, charming and unusual gardens and gardening centers in the Midwest. Meet interesting gardening experts and earth-keepers committed to flora and fauna. Blend in fresh foods and fun shopping to make this day with "Mother Nature" a guaranteed "natural" hit.

**Groups go home with plenty to talk about.
And when gardening friends hear all about it
... they'll be "green" with envy!**

NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

DAY TRIP ITINERARY OPTIONS ON NEXT PAGE

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AmishCountry.org
NORTHERN INDIANA

A GARDEN PARTY DAY TRIP SAMPLE ITINERARY

10:00 a.m.

Arrival in Amish Country, Elkhart

10:00 - 10:45 a.m. Linton's Enchanted Gardens [no admission fee]

Explore this 50,000 s.f. garden center boasting a variety of themed gardens that include a Japanese Tea House, Southwestern garden with Mine Shaft, Victorian House, Dutch Gardens, and more. Shop indoors in the Garden center and enjoy a beverage or treat from The Garden Café.



10:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Master Gardener Guide for the Day

[**\$195 per bus for the day, tip optional for guide**]

Join your local expert gardener on a guided tour of the delightful locations noted below. Guide to determine stop timing and route for below:

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College [**\$6.50 pp incl**]

Hear how they are bringing renewal and vitality to ecosystems. Unique geological features such as peat bogs, a marl pit, and glacial gravel formations are present.

Observable management practices include wetland, prairie, and savanna restorations,

as well as sustainable agriculture. A vigorous educational program interprets the significant biological and geological features. Management of the center is guided by a Christian theology of earthkeeping.

Catered Garden Party Luncheon at Krider "World's Fair" Garden, [**\$15 pp incl**]

Enjoy a catered box lunch under the covered pavilion at historic Krider "World's Fair" Garden and take in the colorful view of their Quilt Garden. Be sure to allow time to stroll the grounds of this unusual garden that blends a wide variety of plants, shrubs, trees and waterfalls with area history. The gardens were originally designed by Krider Nurseries for display at the 1933/34 Chicago World's Fair. The community restored those original gardens elements for future generations to enjoy.



Elkhart County Parks Calendar Garden Self-Guided Walking Tour

[no admission fee]

The Calendar Garden nestled within River Preserve County Park is an enchanting showpiece filled with blooming colors and full moons. Walk under the wisteria filled arbor onto circular paths that leading through the garden where bricks mark the days of the month, plants show the cycle of the seasons and charming gazebos symbolize the solstice and equinox. Blooms progress in a clockwise pattern, and tucked in between plants are elements of time. The garden's centerpiece is a pond filled with lush water lilies. And just like the seasons, the views in the garden are ever-changing.

Wellfield Botanic Garden [**\$5 pp incl**]

Wellfield Botanic Gardens accepts as truth that mankind is inseparable from nature. Wellfield is situated on 36 acres including 18 acres of water, six blocks north of downtown Elkhart on a historical piece of property known as the North Main Street well field. This site has been a source of hydraulic energy and drinking water for the City of Elkhart since the middle 1800s. Currently the City's Department of Public Works operates 13 wells on the site and Wellfield Gardens is the City's largest source of drinking water.

(cont)

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Benedict's Nursery Alpine Plant Guided Tour [no admission fee, class optional at extra fee]

Stepping into Benedict's Nursery is a bit like stepping into a scene from a fairytale – tiny, remarkable plants that make ordinary plants seem huge in comparison fill garden racks and specially made containers. That's because Esther Benedict specializes in alpiners and other unusual species that are seldom seen in a garden shop. It may seem curious that an Old German Baptist woman living in Nappanee is knowledgeable about species that manage to survive in high altitude and harsh desert terrain, but it's her hobby. Esther can tell you all about these amazing little plants. She also makes and sells rugged, rock-like hyper-tufa pots ideally suited for these hearty miniatures and gives classes on making your own.



Enjoy the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail as you travel during the day [quantity of gardens to visit will vary depending on route/time]

See up to 150,000 plus blooms planted in 19 eye-popping quilt patterned gardens and 22 outdoor hand-painted quilt art murals viewable from May 30 to October 1.

5:30 p.m.

Say good-bye to your guide and depart for home

- OR - Family-style dinner in an Amish home [\$19 pp incl]

OPTIONS:



Bonneyville Mill Dahlia Garden & Blooming Acres, Fields of Love [\$3 pp incl]

Mac Boyer loves Dahlias and considers them "the most diverse flower in God's kingdom". Each summer from late July through September groups can witness that diversity in all its glory at the gorgeous American Dahlia Society Test Garden at Bonneyville Mill County Park. It's just a short jaunt from Bonneyville Mill to Mac's "Blooming Acres" farm in Bristol, where nearly 600 magnificent Dahlias, some as tall as 5 ft., create a breathtaking sea of color. Mac's enthusiasm is contagious as he welcomes groups to the wonderful world of dahlias and shares secrets to growing prize winning flowers. Groups go home ready to start planting and dreaming of Dahlias as big as dinner plates!



Elkhart County Visitors Center "Quilt Gardens Tour" video and Quilt display by Diana Bennett/Lina Zerkle [no admission fee]

Stop at the Amish Country Visitors Center. Begin with a brief overview/DVD about the unique, one-of-a-kind Quilt Gardens Tour to get to know the people behind the gardens. Then you'll be given an opportunity to browse beautiful, handmade works of art by fiber artists Diana Bennett and Lina Zerkle on your own.

- OR - Add on an interactive or hands-on gardening class, seminar, lecture or program to add to your fun day!

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