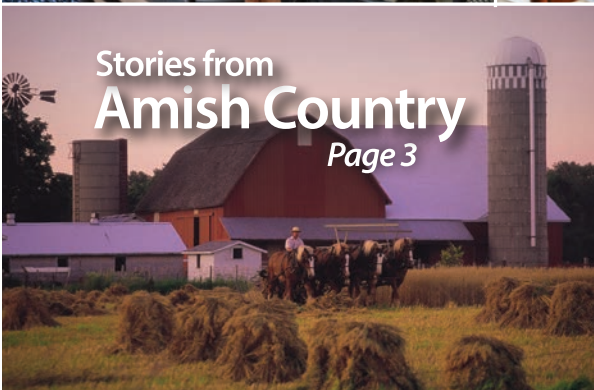
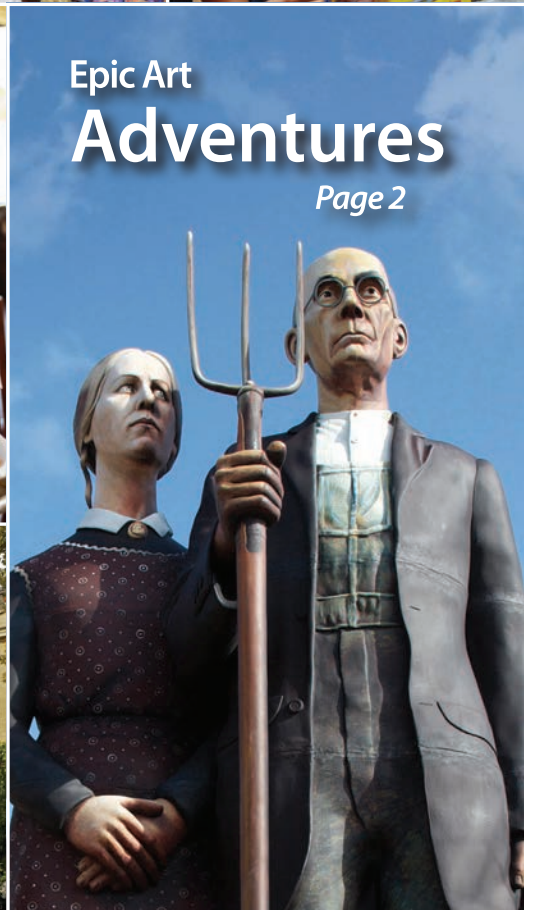


Heritage Trail adventures





Embark on an epic art adventure ...

Reaching 10 amazing years of Quilt Gardens calls for a massive celebration. So what can match a one-of-a-kind attraction that brings together 19 quilt-themed flower gardens and 22 meticulously painted quilt murals over the welcoming communities on the Heritage Trail?

For 2017 only, the communities of Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury, Nappanee, Bristol and Wakarusa will be the site of the world's largest and most significant exhibit of famed sculptor Seward Johnson's work - outside of his personal retrospective.

More than 50 of Johnson's bronze sculptures, depicting everything from everyday life to scenes from classic paintings to iconic American images, will be positioned throughout our eclectic downtowns and at Quilt Garden locations.

It will all be topped off - literally - by the monumental-scaled sculpture titled *God Bless America*. Johnson's interpretation of the well-known Grant Wood painting, *American Gothic* - at 25-feet-tall - will tower over downtown Elkhart's Central Park.

Visit EpicArtAdventures.com for details, including maps, specific sculptures, artist bio, pictures and more.

Art by the numbers

May 30 - October 1

19

Number of Quilt Gardens

22

Number of Quilt Murals

1 million

Approximate number of blooms located in the 19 Quilt Gardens

50+

Seward Johnson sculptures on exhibition

25 feet

Height of *God Bless America* sculpture on exhibit at Elkhart's Central Park

30,000 pounds

Approximate weight of the *God Bless America* sculpture

57,000 pounds

Approximate weight of all Seward Johnson sculptures on exhibition

Here's our story ...

The Heritage Trail is more than our nationally recognized audio driving tour of Elkhart County's communities. This scenic loop connects vibrant downtowns, stunning natural and man-made beauty in a fusion of urban and rural experiences - attractions for young and old, and exciting stories that breathe life into every nook and cranny of your visit.



Get a move on

Start with the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, connecting Goshen, Middlebury and Shipshewana through rolling farmland and Hoosier woodlands, and then explore other trails, spurs and even country roads, taking you to river trails and wetlands, a restored raceway and stately homes. Parks are perfect respites to a trail adventure, with Ox Bow, Bonneyville Mill and Krider World's Fair Garden offering an engaging break. Our blueways present many opportunities for kayaking, canoeing and fishing.



Out on the town

Art galleries, festivals, live music and sports are all getting a big boost from new and expanding activities in the downtowns of Elkhart, Goshen, Nappanee, Middlebury, Bristol and Wakarusa. This year, construction is beginning on a massive world-class aquatics center that can host everything from regional swim meets to community pool hours. Art takes center stage in a variety of ways, from live music, theater and visual arts, and particularly at the monthly ArtWalk Wednesday in Elkhart and First Fridays in Goshen.



Moments in time

The rich history of the Heritage Trail's communities come alive via the 90-mile loop through our distinctive communities and in rich historical experiences ranging from a wealthy industrialist mansion turned museum at Ruthmere to a working 19th century grist mill at Bonneyville Mill to a former school that now houses the Elkhart County Historical Museum. The past is preserved in a kaleidoscope of ways from Nappanee's industrial roots to the Hall of Heroes, the only superhero museum in the world. New this year are guided walking tours of Elkhart and Middlebury's most intimate neighborhoods.



It's simple, really

On the backroads of Amish Country, you'll feel nostalgic for simpler days, whether you're behind the wheel or on a guided bus tour through lush farmland, past Amish men, women and children working the fields, going to the store and walking home from school. The renowned Shipshewana Flea Market and authentic shops with fresh-from-the-oven pastries, handcrafted solid wood furniture, hand-woven baskets and home décor let you take a piece of Amish Country home. Indulge in comfort foods with a sumptuous dinner of chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes and fresh bread (and pie) at Amish Acres in Nappanee or Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury.

We'll do the planning ...

Wakarusa Maple Syrup Festival

April 28-30

Pumpkinvine Bike Ride

June 17

Elkhart Jazz Festival

June 23-25

Elkhart County 4-H Fair

July 21-29

Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival

August 3-6

Bike Elkhart Quilt Gardens Ride

August 19

Nappanee Apple Festival

September 14-17

Gathering at Five Medals

October 20-22

For more Festivals and Events, visit HTadventures.com/events



Be your own guide. Pick up the Heritage Trail audio driving tour CD at the Elkhart County Visitor Center or at many local hotels and attractions and enjoy a 90-mile audio tour filled with fascinating facts, folklore and fun stops. You set the pace - find your own diversions! Most Quilt Gardens and Seward Johnson sculptures are on the route.



History at your feet. You don't have to wonder "if these walls could talk ..." with guided walking tours of Elkhart and Middlebury, new this year to the Heritage Trail. Each town has its own stories of intrigue, ambition and inspiration shared by local experts who might have even been a part of some of the stories. Tours are only 60 minutes long and call for only moderate walking.

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

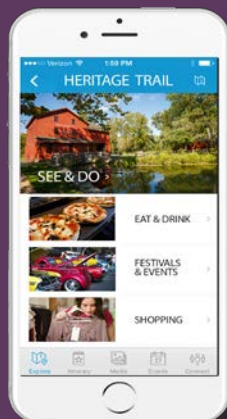


For even more Story Ideas, Interesting Facts and Must-See Attractions visit AmishCountryMedia.org

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.