



Amish Country Christmas



The holiday season in Northern Indiana Amish Country is a joyous time filled with fun, food, family and festive traditions. Escape the hectic schedule of the holiday season and step into a slower pace where you'll breathe in the enticing aromas of pine trees and fresh baked pies and cookies. Feel the warmth from friendly Amish businesses as they invite you into their homes for a peak into the window of their unique world. Treasure memories of Christmas past and present as you delight in the magnificence of a beautifully decorated Christmas tree while you shop for unique gifts.

We promise you'll discover why the holiday season in Northern Indiana Amish Country is truly something special!

NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

**3 DAY / 2 NIGHT
ITINERARY ON NEXT PAGE**

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AmishCountry.org
 NORTHERN INDIANA

AMISH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS ITINERARY

SPECIAL DANIEL O'DONNELL "Christmas & More" Concerts December 7-14, 2019

The Blue Gate Hospitality team welcomes your group to Shipshewana! For the first time ever Irish fans will be treated to the popular Daniel O'Donnell Christmas and More show, which will see the star entertaining his audience with a nostalgic trip down memory lane as he performs hit after hit in the first part of the show. As the curtain rises on the second half the audience is transported to a Christmas wonderland with Daniel getting into festive mode singing the all-time great Christmas classics and favorites, as he is joined by special guest Mary Duff (Daniel's long-term singing partner). This event takes place at the Shipshewana Event Center on the following dates/times:

Sunday, December 8, 2019 7:30 pm EST
Monday, December 9, 2019 - 7:30 pm EST
Tuesday, December 10, 2019 - 7:30 pm EST
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 - 7:30 pm EST
Thursday, December 12, 2019 - 7:30 pm EST
Friday, December 13, 2019 - 7:30 pm EST
Saturday, December 14, 2019 - 7:30 pm EST

DAY ONE (Arrive in Elkhart)



1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Craft Elkhart Glass Blowing Demo [Demo only with time to shop = \$6 pp incl, Hands-on Glass blowing for guests with demo and shopping = \$20 pp incl. NOTE: group will be rotated thru hands-on portion due to limited number of blow torches]

Get ready to be amazed! From pottery, to jewelry, to paintings, to furniture, Craft Elkhart is the place to find unique handmade pieces of art from local and global craftsmen along with fine art pieces from a well-established dealer. This unique retail shop offers one-of-a-kind gifts you can't find anywhere else – all while supporting the art community! Craft Elkhart also offers an opportunity to expand your horizons, step out into the unknown, learn something new, and explore new passions. Featured glass blowing artist Beau Kyle will share his passion for glass blowing while bringing art to life in front of your eyes. An additional option is available to participate and make your own blown glass piece of art to take home under Beau's careful instruction and supervision.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Linton's Enchanted Gardens "Holiday Village" [no admission fee]

Walk through a winter wonderland at Linton's Enchanted Gardens Holiday Village where the scent of fresh pine and mulled cider fill the air. Linton's offers 50,000 square feet of spectacular seasonal displays including 100 themed trees that feature over 10,000 unique ornaments. There's something for everyone on your list including ladies apparel, jewelry, Vera Bradley handbags, garden tools, home décor, candies and various other holiday goodies make your holiday shopping easy at this one-stop-shop.

Check-in at your host hotel

(cont)

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DAY ONE (cont)



5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Wellfield Botanic Gardens Winter Wonderland Holiday

Lights [\$8 pp incl for 10 or more people. NOTE: Walking, self-guided]

Wellfield Botanic Gardens' Winter Wonderland Holiday Lights presented by Welch Packaging will transport you to a magical setting of lights, sound and beauty, perfect for families to enjoy during the holiday season. Featuring professional light displays accentuating the natural beauty of Wellfield, the ½-mile Promenade Pathway is aglow with color and texture, framing our Garden spaces as you've never seen them before! Experience this new tradition with family and friends as you sip on complimentary hot chocolate while enjoying the sounds of live music performed by local artists around the Promenade. Warm yourself around crackling fire pits stationed around the Garden trails and enjoy a boutique shopping experience in the

Visitors Cottage, a great place to pick up that perfect gift. Ticket pricing includes parking, admission to the Gardens, and this very special opportunity to enjoy Wellfield after hours in a wintery paradise.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Blue Gate Dinner & Theatre

Pricing with 30+ is as follows for the Blue Gate Daniel O'Donnell "Christmas & More" experience

- Blue (front section) \$104.95 all-inclusive pp with 2 meat Family Style meal and ticket; \$84.95 all-inclusive pp, ticket only.
- Orange (second section from stage) \$84.95 all-inclusive pp with 2 meat Family Style meal and ticket; \$64.95 all-inclusive pp, ticket only.
- Green (third section, starting on risers) \$69.95 all-inclusive pp with 2 meat Family Style meal and ticket. \$49.95 all-inclusive pp, ticket only.

- OR -



6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Amish Acres Family Style Threshers Dinner & Round Barn

Theatre production of "Beauty & the Beast" [\$54.90 pp incl]

Enjoy the Amish Acres famous family style Threshers Dinner all served to the table in the century old barn restaurant. Start your dining experience with thick ham 'n bean soup served from cast iron kettles, baskets of homemade Hearth bread, sweet & sour cabbage salad and sweet & sour pickles. Then pass around heaping platters filled to the brim with your choice of two farm fresh meats served with brimming bowls of beefy egg noodles, fluffy mashed potatoes, flavorful sage dressing, and giblet gravy. Top it all off with tins of fresh baked pies and hot coffee. Choose two meats from Broasted Chicken, Cider Baked Ham, Roasted Turkey or Tender Beef Roast.

The Round Barn Theatre stage tonight comes to life with the exceptional production of "Beauty & the Beast". The International phenomenon returns to Amish Acres in a brand new production. In this "tale as old as time" a prince must win the heart of the beauty, Belle in order to reverse the soon to be permanent curse placed on him. Now a hideous beast he lives as a recluse with the other blighted characters now living as previously inanimate objects. When circumstances lead Belle to the Beast's castle the famous saga unfolds. The candelabra, Lumiere leads the famous "Be Our Guest" spectacular and the title song is sung by the teapot! When the villainous and egomaniacal Gaston storms the Beast's castle, Belle must choose between life with the Beast or to return to her village. This ageless fable is the perfect holiday season treat for your whole family.

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DAY TWO

6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at your host hotel & meet your guide in the lobby



10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Stocking Stuffer Tour of Amish Country Backroads
[\$195 total for guide (tip optional) PLUS \$18 pp for items in bag]

Get ready to stuff your stocking with treats and trinkets from one-of-a-kind Amish businesses as your step-on guide takes you through the backroads to Amish businesses that are off-the-beaten-path. As part of this unique and customizable experience, choose stops from the suggested list below. We'll supply the Christmas Stocking before you set off on an adventure like no other, stuffing your stocking as you go from stop to stop with items perfect for gift giving or maybe just as a personal treat for yourself on the ride home.

Suggested stops include:

Rise 'n Roll Amish Bakery [stocking stuffer gift included in above pricing]

Welcome to the "out-of-this-world" bakery famous in Amish Country for melt-in-your-mouth cinnamon/caramel donuts. These soft and tender donuts, covered with mounds of powdery cinnamon sugar, literally melt in your mouth. These donuts are so addictive their known to locals as "Amish crack". You won't be able to stop at just the free sample! Stroll through the maze of the famous cashew crunch, the cheesy sausage loaf, fresh baked breads, pies and cakes plus jars of jams, jellies and condiments.

Lambright Chimes [stocking stuffer gift included in above pricing]

Discover the tranquility of this Amish chime shop as you experience this family's genuine warmth and knowledge while they demonstrate their chime making process. The sounds of the season come alive as you wander throughout their showroom and hear everything from deep mellow tones to light tinkling sounds from these striking melodic creations.

Great Life Tours Create a Wooden Quilt Block with a holiday theme [\$28 pp incl for hands-on crafting class, woodshop tour & shopping time]

Meet LaVern and Rachel, the Amish-Mennonite dynamic duo that has made Teaberry Wood Products. Groups enjoy one-on-one time with this artisan team creating a wall quilt pieced entirely with beautiful exotic hardwoods. The experience will include a woodshop tour, "weaving" demo, hands-on wood quilt kit with choice of materials and shopping time. Participants leave with an 8"x8" quilt block complete with engraved center tile and hanger. Highly collectible, a new pattern each season. This is endlessly customizable with two frames, optional holiday and decorative laser engraved tiles available to choose from.

Great Life Tours Authentic Visit at an Amish Toy Maker [\$4 pp with a \$100 min]

Step inside an Amish toymaker's workshop where an internet connection is not required to keep the kids entertained. Meet Owen a self-taught toy maker who crafts fine wooden toys and games for children of all ages. This experience includes a workshop tour, Q&A discussion and shopping time.

Included during your day is:

Holiday Cookie Baking Demo/Tasting plus Haystack Lunch on an Amish family farm [\$26 pp incl]

Welcome to the Yoder's home, filled with Hoosier hospitality, Amish style. Spend the afternoon in the company of friends enjoying food, laughter, fun and authentic experiences. Begin with a unique and interactive lunch, the Haystack. The Amish often host fund-raisers to help families pay for unexpected hospital bills or other immediate needs. The Haystack meal originated for these events as members of the Amish community come together and donate home-grown vegetables and beef raised on their farms for a meal purchased by area residents. Your goal is to create a tall haystack shape by layering the ingredients into a hearty blend of flavors and textures. Following your lunch, the aromas of an Amish kitchen will fill your senses as you enjoy cookie baking lessons with liberal tasting too!

4:00 p.m.

Say good-bye to your guide

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DAY TWO (cont)



5:00 p.m.

Das Dutchman Essenhaus Dinner & Theatre

[**\$39 pp incl with either buffet or family-style dinner, beverage, pie and theatre included**]

Dine on traditional family recipes passed down through generations in Indiana's largest restaurant now seating over 1,100 guests. Choose from the two all-you-can-eat menu options for your entire group. Enjoy crispy chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, tender noodles and ending with generous slices of fresh baked pie for a delicious meal.

7:00 p.m.

Heritage Hall at the Essenhaus presents a holiday themed production

"Flight 1225" [included in above price]

Following dinner take your seat in Heritage Hall for an evening of entertainment. The specific family friendly, faith based holiday production will delight and warm your heart this holiday season. Tonight's production is "Flight 1225". Experience the comic tale of five stranded airline passengers and one "sincerely helpful" airline employee who attempt to survive a severe snowstorm on Christmas Eve, destined to delay all departures from a quaint Midwestern airport. Like a good "mystery," audiences will soon discover that not all passengers are who they seem to be. This redemptive tale shares the hope of eternal joy and concedes that even a "tyrant" can become jolly when subject to a strong dose of Christmas cheer.

DAY THREE

Breakfast at your host hotel

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Tour of Trees & Christmas Shopping in the Essenhaus Village Shops

[coupons provided]

Relive childhood memories of Christmas past as you roam the exquisitely decorated grounds of the Essenhaus and delight in the bounty of beautifully decorated Christmas Trees. Shop-till-you drop at The Village Shops where you find holiday decorations, candles, ornaments, linens or that perfect serving dish or Christmas sweater for you or a loved one.



11:15 a.m. - Noon

Country Camel Farm, Shipshewana [**\$3 pp incl**]

Local Amish family, Glendon & Kathy Yoder, along with their three children, welcome you to come see their camels and other animal friends. Interact with "one humpers" by having facts shared with you and by feeding and petting them. Have you heard of camel's milk? The Yoder's milk the camels by hand and some of it is sold while the rest is used to manufacture lotions and soaps on the farm. This is a fun and unique experience for all ages.

12:15 - 2:15 p.m.

The Fiber Nest 6" Christmas Star Mandela Ornament Making Class PLUS catered lunch from Nelson's Catering at the Middlebury Library

[**\$20 pp incl for class PLUS \$15 pp incl for lunch**]

Using white, silver & gold yarn your group will learn how to make a "Christmas Star" Gods Eye Mandala ornament. Each one will be festive and fun to make, keep or give as gifts. You'll leave after an hour learning all about this technique, art form and having had a fun experience with your local art expert, Carrie Beachy.

Depart for home

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OPTIONS:

The Carriage House Christmas Card Upcycling [\$6pp incl]

Ever engaging Amish entrepreneur Elaine Jones demonstrates the simple task of gift giving, Amish style, with her Christmas Card Upcycling Project. After the holidays are over, most people simply discard their Christmas cards, but Elaine and her family will teach you how to get creative with their stylishly functional keepsake boxes, perfect for tree trims that hold little surprises when tied with colorful ribbons. You'll leave understanding and appreciating the simple way the Amish celebrate the holiday season.



Shipshewana Lights of Joy [\$5 pp incl]

Your group will board an open air trolley to experience the drive through light display occurring on the grounds of the famous Shipshewana Flea Market. Over 1 million lights and specialty displays will be viewed in a 25 minute period. Group attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and should be encouraged to dress warm for this fun experience.



Christmas Music by Harp [\$200 per group for a 1 hour performance with set up time included]

Experience the beauty Christmas music in a live harp concert. Local harpist Anna Hagen weaves together a variety of musical genres from favorite hymns to rock 'n' roll. Your group will be entranced by the combination of elegant music created by the world's oldest string instrument as they learn the intricacies of its workings while they laugh at Anna's home-spun anecdotes.

Olde World Christmas Market at the MEC with lunch on your own [Bus Parking fee PLUS \$8 pp incl admission]

The Olde World Christmas Market located inside the Michiana Event Center (MEC) brings the spirit of Christmas to life in this 100,000 square foot of exhibit space. Featuring hundreds of vendors offering traditional Antiques & Primitives, Vintage & Vintage-Inspired, Latest Home & Garden Interior Design Trends & DIY, Farmhouse, French Country, Industrial, Architectural Salvage and Mid Century Modern. Plus enjoy a fleet of fashion boutiques, repurposed & upcycled furnishings, handmade artisans goods & wares, folk art and holiday décor. A variety of food booths are available for lunch on your own while shopping.

Coppes Commons Living Nativity Experience [Friday, Dec 6, 2019 from 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec 7, 2019 from 10-4 p.m.; no admission fee]

Visitors can enjoy a variety of delicious free refreshments in the Mill Room from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., with a performance from country gospel singer from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Don't forget to enter to win one of several Coppes Commons gift certificates totaling \$300 (must be present to win). Then travel back in time to the holy city of Bethlehem through an interactive nativity walk from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. Live animals and actors will bring to life various scenes surrounding the birth of Christ. Tours will be free and last approximately thirty minutes. Make sure your visit to Coppes Commons includes a trip upstairs to "It's a Wonderful Market" on Friday from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Dozens of the area's finest artists, crafters and antique dealers will offer their wares at this artisan market in the Upper Room event center. Shop for jewelry, vintage items, framed art, home décor, baby gifts, handmade soap, mittens, woodworking and much more! Activities for kids, a photo op and door prizes will also be offered.

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