

# AMISH COUNTRY

ALONG *the* HERITAGE TRAIL

ELKHART GOSHEN MIDDLEBURY NAPPANEE BRISTOL WAKARUSA & SHIPSHEWANA



#INAmishCountry & #INElkhartCo

[VisitElkhartCounty.com/groups](http://VisitElkhartCounty.com/groups)



# WE LOVE GROUPS IN NORTHERN INDIANA AMISH COUNTRY!

Featuring the nationally recognized scenic *Heritage Trail* designated by *TIME* as one of the *Top 40 Scenic Drives in the Nation*, Amish Country is the perfect destination whether your group is looking for “all things Amish” or for history and art, for the greatest mystery tour, girls getaway or quirky and fun stop. Your group will love the authentic and engaging experiences and group friendly hotels, which will leave your people happy and smiling. Amish Country’s signature towns each offer cultural and creative experiences that groups enjoy.

**Nappanee**, home of the Best Kitchen Cabinet of the World, offers a glimpse back in time at the historic Hoosier Cabinet museum plus a free Amish kitchen cabinet maker factory tour to see cabinets of today.

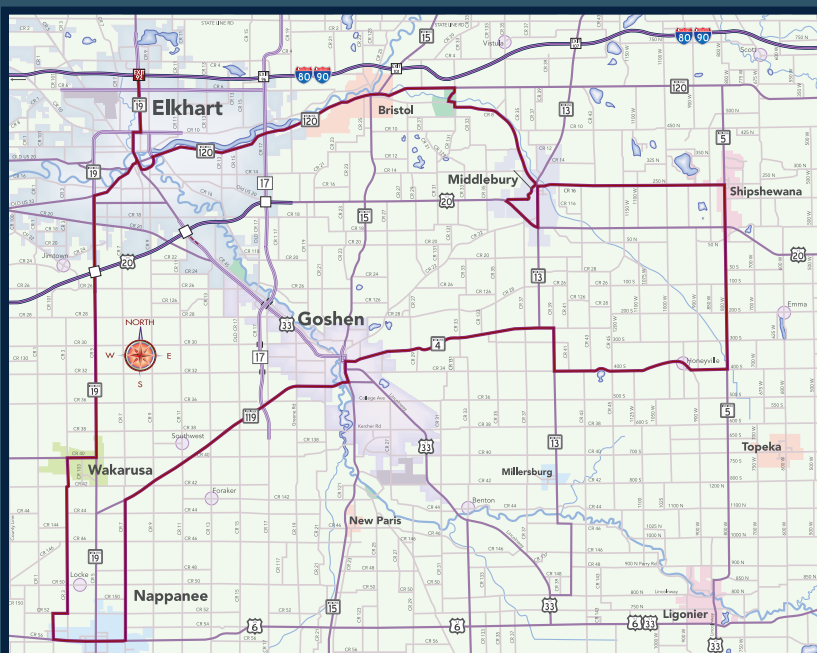
**Middlebury**, home of Indiana’s largest restaurant, offers free RV manufacturer plant tours combined with rural Amish maker stops and shops.

**Elkhart**, home of the creator of Alka Seltzer and Flintstone vitamins, offers historic mansions, botanic gardens and art.

**Goshen**, home of the South Side Soda Shop which was featured on the Food Network “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives,” offers easy walking access to multiple unique and fun boutique and art shops all within 3 blocks.

**Bristol** and **Wakarusa** each offer specialty group stops for jumbo jelly beans, stone ground flour and winery tours & tastings.

**Shipshewana**, home of the famous flea market, offers the Amish-Mennonite Interpretive Center and a variety of entertainment options at the Blue Gate Theatre and The MEC.



## TOP GROUP EVENTS in Amish Country

*Tour Operator FAM: August 2022*

### *Elkhart Jazz Festival*

June 16-19, 2022

June 15-18, 2023

### *Shipshewana Quilt Fest*

June 22-25, 2022

June 21-24, 2023

### *Midwest Quilt Fest Week*

August 17-20, 2022

September 13-16, 2023

*Find more events at*

*[VisitElkhartCounty.com/events](http://VisitElkhartCounty.com/events)*

Contact Sonya Nash, CTIS / CTP for reliable, creative and free tour planning assistance!  
[sonya@amishcountry.org](mailto:sonya@amishcountry.org) | 800.262.8161 (office) | 574.903.1148 (cell)



# AUTHENTIC AMISH

Enjoy the *picturesque backroads* of Northern Indiana as you meet the Amish people who live here featuring *authentic experiences* and products.

- Amish Country of Northern Indiana is home to the third largest Amish population in the nation and the largest in the Midwest.
- Learn about the Amish religion and history at the Amish Mennonite Interpretive Center and watch young Amish of today building RV's on a modern manufacturing plant tour.
- Experience a one-of-a-kind One-Room Schoolhouse plus watch Amish craftsmen at work making coffins, buggies, leather handbags, rag rugs, wooden baskets, toys and windchimes.
- Enjoy in-home Amish meals, baking and cooking demos, quilting bees and buggy rides.

## TOURS *by Local Step-On Guides*

- Your local expert step-on guide will help you wander scenic backroads while learning about the fascinating lifestyle of the Amish and get up-close-and personal with the Amish as you see their inventions and creativity.
- Bag some fun on the most popular *Brown Bag Tour*, learn about the *Day in the Life of Amish Women* or *Meet the Makers* in Nappanee.
- Engage with Amish cooks as they demonstrate tips, tricks and how-tos as they make cinnamon rolls, pies, cookies and baked chicken.
- Tour dairy farms and animal parks for a rural farm exploration and immerse in the culture with a program on an Amish wedding, church service, lifestyle or horse raising.

## HANDS-ON *Amish Country Adventures*

- Weave your own basket or build your own wooden quilt block inside Amish artisan workshops. You will custom design, watch, learn and take home an Amish Country original.
- Roll your own soft pretzel inspired by an old Amish recipe then delight in your tasty masterpiece.
- Paint an acrylic Amish buggy piece of art to take home as a fun memento.





# CREATIVE EXPERIENCES

Catch the excitement of all things *creative and artistic* in Amish Country. From rousing theatrical performances to historic mansions and museum tours, we're serving up a great time for groups with "non Amish" fun.

- Explore Goshen's vibrant downtown art & entrepreneur scene featuring 3 blocks filled with eclectic and fun boutique shops owned by local artisans, many women.
- Downtown Elkhart's Gateway Mile features four museums, a botanic garden and a restored historic Vaudeville Theatre all within a one mile stretch on Main Street.
- See historic trailers at the shrine to the RV in the "RV Capital."
- Tour the house that Alka Seltzer built in Elkhart at Ruthmere, a 1920's Beaux-Art Mansion filled with Tiffany lamps and Rodin sculptures and see Indiana's largest Norman Rockwell collection of prints at the Midwest Museum of American Art.
- Immerse in the beauty of waterfalls, sculpture and plants galore at Wellfield Botanic Gardens.

## ENTERTAINMENT *Encounters*

- Blue Gate Theatre features outstanding concert headliners and The Lerner Theatre guarantees goosebumps when a 1924 pipe organ thunders its accompaniment to classic silent films.
- Enjoy two full hours of non-stop Christmas excitement at The MEC as beauty and grace blend together with powerful music and the message of hope and everlasting life.

## HANDS-ON *Memories for Creatives by Creatives*

- Learn the art of glass blowing, paint your own acrylic art masterpiece, make your own gourmet coffee concoction and decorate your own cookies with local artisans and craftsman for fun!
- Get your group competing with popcorn olympics then continue the games with a Hell's Kitchen Interactive evening.
- Sip and learn during "Coffee with the Curator" and enjoy a delightful Afternoon Tea at a mansion.





# QUILTERS PARADISE

This FREE, nationally-recognized, award-winning *Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail* is an ABA Best of the Best winner for multiple years!

- The only experience of its kind in the world located throughout six cities and towns in Elkhart County with 17 super-sized Quilt Gardens and 21 hand-painted Quilt Murals located at group friendly attractions, shops, and gardens along the Heritage Trail.
- Quilt Gardens feature NEW pattern designs and plants each year offering over ONE MILLION blooms.
- Viewable annually from May 30 - September 15 with special events and interactive fun that can be added.
- Master Gardener step-on guides available to fully customize and enhance your experience.

## QUILTERS *Escapades*

- Enjoy an Amish Quilt Trunk show presented by noted Amish quilt historian Rebecca Haarer.
- Experience the beauty of live harp music surrounded by a backdrop of hand-stitched quilts as the story of music and fabric are woven together.
- Shop 'til you drop on the Pieces, Pies & Posies quilt shop hop tour.
- Located just two hours from the annual AQS Grand Rapids QuiltFest each August and home of the annual Shipshewana Quilt Festival each June.

## HANDS-ON MEMORIES *for Creatives by Creatives*

- Watch, learn and make your own wooden quilt block at Teaberry Wood Products.
- Create “quilty” notecards inside the Quilt Shop at Das Dutchman Essenhaus.
- Sit down at an Amish quilting bee and thread a needle with your new Amish friends.
- Paint an acrylic “barn quilt” scene to take home or give away.





# FUN-FILLED THEMES

We *love to customize group tours* with an art, history, holiday, girlfriends getaway or any other theme you would like to focus on - just ask!

## **AMISH COUNTRY** *Christmas*

- Stuff your stocking with treats and trinkets on the off-the-beaten-path Stocking Stuffer Tour.
- Enjoy Holiday cookie decorating and sampling on an Amish farmstead.
- Hunt and find at the Tour of Trees inside Linton's Enchanted Gardens or Essenhaus Village Shops then enjoy the Shipshewana Lights of Joy or Wellfield Botanic Garden Winter Wonderland.

## **GIRLS, GIGGLES** *and Gifts*

- Shop 'til you drop in the downtowns of Shipshewana and Goshen inside boutique, craft and gift shops.
- Take the Brown Bag Tour and fill your bags with local goodies, fun finds and locally made items.
- Dine inside Amish homes, enjoy "out of this world" ice cream, and collect recipes at Amish cooking demonstrations and cinnamon roll classes.
- Roll your own pretzel, paint a piece of art, make an ornament, blend your own essential oils, create your own perfume and watch quilting come to life.
- Delight in family friendly entertainment at the famous Das Dutchman Essenhaus buffet dinner.

## **FALL FOOD** *and Fun*

- Feast on locally made foods, candies, goodies and more in this culinary adventure filled with fall colors and fun plus dine in a restored diner featured on the Food Network "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives."
- Meet Mrs. Scarecrow at your hotel, Mrs. Apple on the orchard tour and our local church ladies serving their potluck basement lunch.
- Take a Fall Edibles Tour and feel the shakes as giant millstones rumble on the stone ground flour tour.
- Pet & feed bison on the farm wagon ride then enjoy a Chuckwagon BBQ lunch.



# REGIONAL ADVENTURES

Where else can you start in Amish Country then visit the newest National Park, test your luck at a Vegas-style casino and see the Golden Dome - all in the same day?

***In Indiana's Cool North, of course!***

- Indiana's Cool North group stops are located off of I-80/90, the Indiana Toll Road, the major east-west corridor in the Midwest.
- Bundle stops enroute to Amish Country or while passing through to your destination to provide breaks that are educational and inspirational. Extend your stay with a hub and spoke tour.
- Tour the beautiful and historic University of Notre Dame and see some of the world's most recognized campus landmarks – the Golden Dome, Touchdown Jesus, the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.
- The Indiana Dunes National Park hugs 15 miles of the southern shore of Lake Michigan and is home to the nation's newest National Park managed by the National Park Service.

## **“COOL NORTH” PLACES *You Must Visit***

- Enjoy the Ballpark Buffet during a South Bend Cubs baseball game, a Class A Affiliate of the World Champion Chicago Cubs.
- Dine in the historic Studebaker Mansion, Tippecanoe Place, surrounded by legend and folklore.
- Admire one-of-a-kind vehicles and timeless classics at the Studebaker National Museum.
- Take the Inside Scoop Tour, enjoy the historical chocolate museum and shop for chocolates at the South Bend Chocolate Company factory.
- Take the student led Notre Dame Stadium Tour for football legendary tales and experience the peaceful serenity of the art, relics and beauty of the Basilica of Sacred Heart.
- Have a Q&A session with a National Lakeshore Ranger complete with an introductory film and time to explore the Dunes visitors center collection.
- Try your luck at the South Bend Four Winds Casino.



# *Mileage to* **ELKHART COUNTY, IN**

Indianapolis 165m / 266km / 3hr  
Detroit 165m / 266km / 3hr  
Chicago 116m / 187km / 2hr

Milwaukee 200m / 322km / 4hr  
Louisville 270m / 436km / 4hr  
Cleveland 425m / 388km / 4hr

St. Louis 390m / 628km / 7hr  
Des Moines 425m / 692km / 7hr  
Minneapolis 530m / 853km / 9hr

## *Just passing through on* **I-80/90, THE INDIANA TOLL ROAD?**

Whether your group needs a quick stop-and-go or prefers a more leisurely meal, Exit 92 offers an expansive array of national brands that will satisfy any appetite. Choose from Arby's, Biggby Coffee, Buffalo Wild Wings, Burger King, Culver's, Dunkin', Jimmy John's, McAllister's Deli, Mod Pizza, Noodles & Company, Olive Garden, Panda Express, Penn Station, Perkin's, Popeye's, Qdoba, Red Lobster, and Texas Roadhouse. Yum!

With convenient and easy on/off access on the I-80/90 Indiana Toll Road, Exit 92 is the perfect stop for buses and motor coaches needing a stopover on a cross-country trip.

**LEARN MORE AT** *Exit92.org*



## **GROUP-FRIENDLY LODGING** *in Elkhart County, IN*

### **ELKHART AT I-80/90 EXIT 92**

Comfort Suites North - 574.206.1555  
Country Inn & Suites - 574.206.8488  
Courtyard by Marriott - 574.993.4993  
Fairfield Inn - 574.903.1688  
Four Points by Sheraton - 574.333.3707  
Hampton Inn - 574.264.2525  
Hilton Garden Inn - 574.970.4444  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites - 574.327.6494  
Home 2 Suites by Hilton - 574.993.3900  
Hotel Elkhart - 574.389-7900  
La Quinta Inns & Suites - 574.262.0014  
Staybridge Suites - 574.970.8488  
TRU by Hilton - 574.338.3300

*These hotels are all within minutes of I-80/90 Exit 92 and are perfect for your stopover or cross-country trip.*

### **ELKHART SOUTH**

Comfort Suites South - 574.293.9390  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites - 574.296.1110

### **GOSHEN**

Fairfield Inn - 574.538.2027  
Hampton Inn - 574.533.8800  
Holiday Inn Express - 574.535.9200

### **MIDDLEBURY**

Essenhaus Inn - 800.455.9471  
Hampton Inn & Suites - 574.822.0288

### **NAPPANEE**

Countryside Inn - 800.800.4942

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