



Art in Elkhart

Spend the day exploring the creative. See the works of some of America's greatest artists. Enjoy sweeping views lunching at a riverside café. Get a backstage look at a grand restored theatre. Revel in the majesty of a Beaux-Arts mansion. Top it all off viewing a lively collection of contemporary quilts and hearing the inside story on North America's only Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail.

NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

DAY TRIP ITINERARY OPTIONS ON NEXT PAGE

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AmishCountry.org
 NORTHERN INDIANA

'ART' IN ELKHART DAY TRIP SAMPLE ITINERARY

10 a.m.

Arrival in Amish Country



10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wellfield Botanic Garden [\$5 pp incl]

Wellfield Botanic Gardens provides a shared natural and man-made environment of unique beauty dedicated to the celebration of nature and art. Situated just north of downtown Elkhart on 36 acres including 18 acres of water, wide paths wind through charming themed gardens enhanced by sculpture by noted artists like the 8 foot tall bronze sculpture of Tethys, the aquatic goddess of fresh water, that welcomes visitors. The entrance of the Event Garden is enhanced by ten steel birch trees, an artistic expression which blends architecture with nature. And the wind sculptures throughout the gardens spellbind viewers. The Gardens are also home to a handsome collection of bronze wildlife. The mother and cubs frolicking in their idyllic setting invite touching. Standing in the Elk Garden, the majestic Roosevelt Elk represents the life and heart of the Elkhart community, and nearby the American Bald Eagle is a symbol of freedom. Be on the lookout to spot other delightful bronze creatures such as otter, turtles, kingfishers and herons that inhabit the Gardens too.

11:00 a.m. - Noon

Lunch at b on the River [\$15 pp incl]

Sit by the fireplace or take in the RiverWalk view from the patio at this delightful bakery café and gift store. Enjoy a beautifully prepared luncheon salad or sandwiches made on flaky croissants or artisan breads. The tempting desserts are pure bliss!



12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Midwest Museum of American Art [\$5 pp]

Located in a renovated neo-classical style bank building, downtown Elkhart's Midwest Museum of American Art is a showcase of 19th & 20th century American Art. The permanent collection of more than 2,500 works, with at least 600 on display at any time during the year, includes original paintings by Grant Woods, Grandma Moses and other noted artists plus Indiana's largest collection of signed Norman Rockwell lithographs.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Behind the Scenes Tour of the NEWLerner Theatre [\$8 pp incl]

In 1924 Elkhart businessman, Harry E. Lerner, constructed a modern "theatrical palace" in downtown Elkhart. The 2,000 seat theatre hosted a variety of vaudeville, big band and theatrical reviews including stars such as Bob Hope. Today, the newly renovated Lerner Theatre captures the grandeur of its original 1920s design while being equipped with the finest structural, acoustic, technical and theatrical requirements of today and tomorrow. Get a backstage look and more touring this theatre.



2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Ruthmere [\$7 pp]

"Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, Oh, what a relief it is" is the famous Alka Seltzer advertisement. Mr. Albert Beardsley helped to found the company that created Alka Seltzer in Elkhart, Indiana. His elaborate 1910 beaux-arts style house, Ruthmere, named after his deceased daughter Ruth, is available for your groups guided tour. You'll see a fine art collection including Tiffany leaded glass, Rodin sculptures, velvet window coverings, hand painted walls, and walnut woodwork.

(cont.)

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DAY TRIP (cont)

NOTE: Upgrade your Ruthmere experience to include one of these options:

Ruthmere Celebrates Downton Abbey Afternoon Tour & Tea [\$30 pp incl (25-50 persons)]

Step into the past and experience what life was like for the affluent at the turn of the previous century. Tour the opulent home built in 1910 by Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley, a prominent Elkhart couple. Admire the elaborate window treatments, silk wall coverings, carved mahogany woodwork, revival-style furnishings and fabulous art works that adorn the mansion. Peek into Elizabeth's boudoir where dresses still hang in the closet. Then enjoy a "Downton Abbey" style afternoon tea complete with hot tea, cold lemonade, tea sandwiches and fresh fruit served in the Game Room or on the covered Piazza if weather permits.

Ruthmere Jazz Club Cocktail Hour & Tour [\$40 pp incl]

Bring the early 20th century to life and create unforgettable memories for your group at Ruthmere's Jazz Club event. Take a late afternoon tour of the lavish Beaux Arts style home built in 1910 by Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley, a prominent Elkhart couple. Get glimpses of their affluent lifestyle admiring the exceptional collection of art works, elaborate furnishings and silk wall hangings that grace the home. Then step into the Game Room transformed to a swinging 1920s Jazz Club for an evening of lively musical entertainment, light hors d'oeuvres and a variety of vintage cocktails.



4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Elkhart County Visitors Center "Quilt Gardens Tour" video and Quilt display by Diana Bennett/Lina Zerkle [no admission fee]

Welcome to Amish Country. Begin with a stop at the Amish Country Visitors Center to view a brief overview/DVD about the one-of-a-kind Quilt Gardens Tour and get introduced to the area. Take time to view the array of stunning contemporary quilts on display throughout the Visitors Center that were created by award winning fiber artists Lina Zerkel and Diana Bennett.

5:00 p.m.

Depart for home

OPTIONS:

Shopping at Stephenson's of Elkhart [no admission fee]

Since 1931, Stephenson's of Elkhart has offered the very finest in women's fashions. The store has grown to include sports-wear, dress, coat, shoe and accessory departments. Stephenson's has steadfastly offered the epitome in personal service and ageless fashion direction.

Wine & Canvas "Artsy Party" [\$30 incl cookies & milk or coffee with event pp incl]

The world is your canvas at this "Artsy Party" where everyone has a great time expressing their inner Renoir. It's fun; it's easy. Enjoy cookies & coffee while a talented artist gives step by step instructions on how to complete the featured painting. All materials plus instructor are supplied - canvas, easels, paint, brushes and artist's smocks. And when the party is over, everyone takes home their own masterpiece. Alcohol and other beverages are available for individual purchase at their own expense.

Lace, Lunch & Linens at The Wood & Gage [\$15 pp incl]

Step into The Wood & Gage, a cozy neighborhood restaurant favorite filled with gifts, baked goods and home décor, for an afternoon that's "laced" with fun. Sit down to a house specialty luncheon of creamed chicken in a potato basket served by the friendly staff. After lunch spend a fascinating afternoon with Dot Hansen, an antique dealer specializing in vintage linens. Dot goes way beyond just putting grandma's doilies on the dresser and tells how to take treasured vintage linens out of hiding in the linen closet to enjoy and show them off. See and learn about the various kinds of handwork found in vintage linens including drawn work, embroidery, tatting and cut work. Hear the secrets to using and taking care of these treasures including safe techniques for stain removal and discover fun, new ways of repurposing linens and lace.

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