



**Amish Experience  
Suggested Itinerary  
5 days/4 nights**

Take a journey to the past that's loaded with plenty of modern-day fun. Get a true look at the Amish lifestyle and learn about their history. Tour country roads more traveled by buggies than cars. Stop at shops filled with goods your grandma probably used. Savor hearty Amish style fare. Meet Amish business owners who make the products and craft the wares for their culture. Delight in scenic backroads, peaceful people and local products that make Amish Country so memorable. Laugh, sing and be entertained in local theatres on family friendly entertainment. You'll be busy all the time and loving every minute!

**Day One**

**Arrival in Amish Country of Northern Indiana—Shipshewana**

**2-4:30 p.m. Shopping at the Shipshewana Flea Market & Auction—no admission fee**

The Shipshewana Flea Market is a do-not-miss Hoosier tradition with nearly 900 booths in an open-air market covering 100 acres. Vendors offer a variety of products and truly have something for everyone - quirky novelties, fresh seasonal produce, crafts, home decor, dollar items, clothes, garden supplies, beauty essentials, paper goods, jewelry, books, toys, baked goods, t-shirts, pet supplies and everything in between. There are food courts, a sit-down restaurant and rest areas throughout the market. The antique auction barn, open Wednesdays year-round, has up to 10 rings simultaneously auctioning antiques and collectibles. The livestock barn features cattle auctions open to the public on Wednesday's and horse auctions open to the public on Friday's.

**Check-in at your host hotel**

**5:30-8 p.m. Evening fun on the Das Dutchman Essenhaus campus—enjoy the following anytime until 8 p.m.**

Welcome to Das Dutchman Essenhaus, a peaceful escape in the country which offers a unique combination of dining, lodging and shopping opportunities. The attractive Amish style restaurant seats 1,100 and is the largest restaurant in the state of Indiana. Manicured grounds invite a leisurely stroll or perhaps a carriage ride through a quaint covered bridge. Tonight, enjoy the following at your own pace:

**Horse Drawn Carriage Ride and Shopping inside the Village Shops—optional and on their own**

Enjoy the beautiful Essenhaus grounds! Relax on horse drawn carriage ride around the immaculate grounds, play a round of miniature golf, or go shopping in one of several Village Shops (coupons provided) all on the same facility grounds. Shop for quilts, baked goods, home décor, ladies' apparel, Vera Bradley, jewelry and more.

**Evening Entertainment in Heritage Hall—shows vary by date and season. \$42.25 pp incl for buffet & show including tax & tip**

Enjoy faith-based entertainment suitable for all audiences in this quaint theatrical setting. Laugh and enjoy family friendly productions with a message from the heart. Shows vary by date.

*NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.*

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**Buffet dinner at Das Dutchman Essenhaus & shopping (coupons provided)—\$24.73 pp with beverages, tax, tip, and pie included**

Dine on traditional family recipes passed down through generations in Indiana's largest restaurant now seating over 1,100 guests. Enjoy the all-you-can-eat Buffet Dinner which includes 2 soups, salad bar, 4 entrees, numerous sides and cobblers/puddings for dessert. Beverages are included with your meal. (Buffet on arrival, followed by shopping until departure for return to hotel)

**Return to your host hotel in the evening following shopping/theatre**

**Day Two**

**6:30-8:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast at your host hotel**

**8:45 a.m.**

**Meet your guide in the hotel lobby**

**9-5 p.m.**

**Great Life Tours "My Amish Life" — \$195 total for guide (tip optional) PLUS \$26 pp incl for Haystack lunch AND cinnamon roll make & take, PLUS \$10 pp incl for 2 authentic experiences (buggy & school) and gift.**

Have you ever wondered what it's like to run a household without electricity or live without owning a car? Hear the story of the Amish from the Amish themselves. Start off your day with a warm cinnamon roll and coffee while you learn how Elaine makes this yummy pastry. Visit a buggy maker and a family of baskets makers to learn how they earn a living with these self-taught skills. Enjoy a popular Amish fundraiser meal, the Haystack Meal. After lunch we'll go back to school, one room that is, where you'll visit with an Amish teacher. If you've been a good "scholar" you'll go home with a yummy treat for a sweet end to your day.

**5 p.m.**

**Say goodbye to your guide**

**6-8 p.m.**

**Meadow Brook Farm & Catered Dinner for a cause--\$7 pp incl for Farm & Tour PLUS Dinner based upon menu selected ranging from \$16-\$20.50 pp incl**

Constructed during the Civil War by a wealthy Chicago family, the home and barns at Meadow Brook Farm were built with oak, maple and poplar wood from the surrounding land. Guests enjoy seeing five original structures, including the home, two barns, a granary, and the smokehouse, all of which are certified on Indiana's Historical Registry. Hostess will greet and share on the bus followed by a self-guided tour the original 1860 historical home, barns and smokehouse including Amish built furniture, themed décor in each of five bedrooms & six baths, plus see antique farm implements and a "Jesus Donkey". Following your tour enjoy a catered buffet dinner by the Elkhart Community Schools Food Service Department. The Nutrition Services department is made up of a team of food and nutrition professionals that are dedicated to students' health, wellbeing and their ability to learn. They support learning by promoting healthy habits for lifelong nutrition and fitness practices. Proceeds from catering group tours assists students with access to a variety of affordable and appealing foods during school. Menu Options include: Two Meat BBQ & Chicken Buffet, the Beef & Chicken Buffet or the One Meat Buffet--\$16 pp incl

**Day Three**

**6:30-8:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast at your host hotel**

**8:45 a.m.**

**Meet your guide in the hotel lobby**

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**9-5 p.m. Embraceable Nappanee Backroads Tour--\$195 total for guide (tip optional) PLUS \$21 pp incl Two meat Thresher meal in an Amish home PLUS selected options**

The warmth of a hometown welcome awaits your group in beautiful Nappanee. Your Amish guide will share her faith, culture and knowledge of this very close-knit community. Hear the steady clip-clop of horses on peaceful country roads connecting groups to a simpler time. Your day will be filled with authentic experiences as you visit businesses necessary to Amish settlements. Loads of group friendly options, tasty treats and a hearty two meat Thresher meal will round out your experience. Together with your guide you will come to see why the town motto is “Embrace the Pace.”

**Standard stops for the Embraceable Tour**

- Amish clock maker demo & workshop tour
- Amish bulk food store
- Amish quilt & fabric shop demo & shopping time
- Amish Country Variety Store
- Nappanee Center historical site
- Coppes Commons Hoosier Cabinet Factory tour & shopping

**Options on the Embraceable Tour--\$5 per stop:**

- Amish Dairy Farm & Orchard and Cannery
- Amish Wood Carver demo & workshop tour
- Amish one-room school
- Amish Carriage Shop & hand-crafted diorama exhibit
- Pretzel Tasting at the Perfect Twist
- Ice Cream treat at Rocket Science
- Cooking lesson with Mary-Lou (pie or cinnamon roll demo)

**5 p.m. Say goodbye to your guide**

**6-8 p.m. Amish Wedding Feast--\$25 pp incl**

It's a once of a lifetime experience feasting on a traditional Amish wedding dinner in the charming setting of “The Carriage House”. Elaine and her son Seth explain what an Amish wedding day is like complete with this special meal that would be traditionally served by the Amish to their wedding guests. Groups see an Amish bride's wedding dress up close and hear the customary German Wedding song sung at an Amish wedding.

**Return to your host hotel following your evening**

**Day Four**

**6:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast at your host hotel**

**8:45 a.m. Meet your guide in the hotel lobby**

**9-5 p.m. Brown Bag Backroads Tour--\$195 total for guide (tip optional) PLUS \$16 pp incl for 4 bag stops PLUS \$13 pp incl for a yummy box lunch at an Amish Bakery**

Learn about the fascinating lifestyle of the Plain People known as the Ana-Baptists. Your knowledgeable guide shares the history, traditions, and customs of the Amish. You'll stop at a variety of welcoming country stores and

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quaint shops as you load up your Brown Bag with locally sourced goodies. Get to know local entrepreneurs and see first-hand how they operate their unique enterprises. Hear the backstory of friendly, hardworking people who use their special talents to build businesses that serve the local community and beyond. These stops are fun, authentic, appealing to every age and gender and sure to be a hit with your group.

**5 p.m. Say goodbye to your guide**

**5-9:30 p.m. Blue Gate Restaurant Dinner & Theatre—prices range by show, count, and date but range between \$48-54 pp incl (NOTE: some productions start at 4 p.m. with dinner served AFTER the show.)**

Enjoy some of the best Amish\Mennonite cooking around, outstanding entertainment, shop for locally crafted furniture and much more at the Blue Gate in downtown Shipshewana. Featuring 3 retail stores, a restaurant, bakery, theatre, hotel, event center, catering, backroad Amish tours and a carriage business this venue offers a variety of group friendly services and options for your itinerary. Tonight, you'll sit down inside the 1200 seat Blue Gate Restaurant enjoying buffet or family style dining before heading upstairs for the original Blue Gate Productions musical productions. These original musicals based upon popular Christian books with Amish themes are brought to life in the 300+ seat theatre. Specific shows vary by date/time. Choice of Chicken with either Meatloaf, Roast Beef or Ham with two meat family style meal.

**Return to your host hotel following your evening**

### Day Five

**6:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast at your host hotel  
Check-out**

**9-10 a.m. Menno-Hof Amish Mennonite Interpretive Center--\$6.50 pp incl**

Learn the religious history and background of the Amish, Mennonite and Huterite people from their beginnings in Europe through their arrival in North America. Several interactive exhibits and displays depict "real life" experiences and answer many questions.

**10 a.m. Depart Shipshewana for Nappanee**

**2 p.m. Depart for home**

### **OPTIONS:**

**Asking Amish--\$100 per group PLUS meal cost which varies by menu and ranges from \$15-\$21pp incl**

Did you ever wonder why the Amish dress as they do? Why do younger Amish girls wear brightly colored dresses while older women wear darker colors? Or how do the Amish live without electricity? Linda Miller and her Old Order Amish family invite you to their family farmstead where you'll get a chance to ask Linda all those questions and more in person. First, sit down for a delicious homecooked meal served in their banquet hall, Hoosier Banquets. Delight in a variety of menu options all served on floral dishes with fancy tablecloths. Afterward, you'll engage in lively conversation with Linda who is open to answering all your questions.

**Paint an Amish Buggy Piece--\$15 pp incl**

Sit down with local artist, Linda Pieri and be shown painting secrets developed throughout the ages. Linda has taught over 400 people in the art of acrylic painting encouraging them to "not just look at what you are drawing

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or painting, but to see what is really there.” This is not a paint by number situation. Linda helps each person discover the creative artist inside of each of them. Everything is provided and everyone leaves with a finished painting.

### **Personalize Your Own Birdhouse--\$16 pp incl**

Visit B&L Woodcraft Amish furniture shop and customize your own souvenir birdhouse. Each member of the group gets a box with their name on it and proceeds through lines to select colors, decorations and make customized sayings. The host Amish family assembles each birdhouse and places it back in the box, ready to load onto the coach. After selecting their birdhouses, groups have time to explore the wide selection of furniture, home accents, gift items and antiques on the farm.

### **Amish rug weaving demo & Cookie break—\$3 pp incl**

Leo & Lorene Miller welcome you to their Old Order Amish home where Leo has been handweaving rag rugs for years. Taught by his family, Leo will demonstrate how he weaves and creates his beautiful and functional rugs. Meanwhile Lorene, his wife, will serve you her fresh from the oven cookies and cold lemonade as both the Miller’s welcome your group and answer questions about their personal Amish lifestyle.

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