Mid-Atlantic Air Museum, World War II Weekend

AID ATLANTIC AN

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2020 Group Tours Reading, Berks County, PA

at the States of

Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center

Reading Area Firefighters Museum

Boyertown Museum of

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PENNSYLVANIA'S MERICANA REGION

New in 2020

There are lots of new places to visit in Pennsylvania's Americana Region as well as many award-winning attractions.

Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine – Learn about Pennsylvania's anthracite coal mining heritage with a visit to Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine. Take a guided tour of the mine in open mine cars. The adventure is safe, educational and entertaining. Following the tour, board the Henry Clay, a narrow gauge steam locomotive for a ride around the side of Mahanoy Mountain.

The Gables at Stirling Guest Hotel – This breathtaking mansion turned guest hotel is sure to impress with its original parlors, beautifully carved woodwork, hand painted ceilings and other architectural details. Include The Gables as a meal stop and tour of the guest hotel on your next trip to our region.

New Itineraries – Look for details of our two new itineraries, Keepin' it Kutztown and Wheels of Time on page 5.

CONTACT: Margo DeRouchie National Sales Director Pennsylvania's Americana Region

margo@VisitPaAmericana.com

800.443.6610 610.375.4085 ext.1104 Fax 610.375.9606

Find the Best in Berks!

ABA Best of the Best Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton Reading - 2019

ABA Best of the Best Attractions Colebrookdale Railroad - 2018 Kutztown Folk Festival - 2018 Koziar's Christmas Village - 2018

USA Today 10 Best Air Shows #8 Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's World War II Weekend - 2018

USA Today 10 Best Cultural Festivals #2 Kutztown Folk Festival

USA Today 10 Best Oktoberfest #1 Reading Liederkranz Oktoberfest - 2015 & 2017

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Gletting here is easy!

Located between Lancaster and Philadelphia, and easily accessible from the PA Turnpike, I-78, and Routes 222 & 422, Pennsylvania's Americana Region makes a quick connect to and from New York, Baltimore, Washington DC, and the Poconos.

Start your visit to Berks County by choosing from over 2,500 attractively priced hotel rooms. Build tours around our seasonal events and festivals, fascinating arts and cultural sites, or choose one of our itineraries on VisitPaAmericana.com. Plus, a diverse selection of local eateries can't wait to welcome your group!

As a hub-and-spoke destination, mix and match our wonderful itineraries and attractions with visits to amusement parks, casinos, and events in neighboring locales for great packages at affordable rates.



Atlantic City - 115 miles • Baltimore - 107 miles • New York City - 125 miles • Philadelphia - 60 miles • Washington, DC - 148 miles

Gireat Tours Happen Here!



Cultivating Culture

Agriculture is an integral part of the economy and heritage of Pennsylvania's Americana Region. It helps to sustain many local businesses like farmers markets, wineries, even festivals.

- Visit the world-famous Rodale Institute, the pioneer in organic farming. Tour the grounds, take a workshop, and browse their bookstore.
- Stop at a local farmers market, like Renninger's Antique & Farmers Market and Leesport Farmers Market, to sample and purchase fresh foods and area delicacies. You never know what you'll find!
- Make a day of touring, tasting and enjoying the wines along the Berks County Wine Trail including Clover Hill Vineyards & Winery, Deerfoot Vineyards and Winery, Folino Estate Vineyard & Winery and Pinnacle Ridge Winery.

Depending on the time of year, include the **Kutztown Folk Festival**, Oley Valley Community Fair, or the Chile Pepper Food Festival in your itinerary.



Arts & Antiquities

Greater Reading is home to over 30 museums, historic sites, and renowned antique shops.

- Attend **Renninger's Antique and Collector's Extravaganza** held every April, June, and September on the last full Thursday, Friday & Saturday of the month.
- **GoggleWorks Center for the Arts** is the largest integrated art center in America. Tour the galleries, visit the artist studios, and watch a hot glass demonstration.
- Include a show at the Miller Center for the Arts, which offers an array of disciplines including dance, music, and theatre.
- Explore the treasures of Reading Public Museum, **Reading Area Firefighters Museum** and Berks History Center to learn about the fascinating history of our region and beyond.

Related activities include the semi-annual Berks Guild of Craftsmen Craft Shows, Boscov's Berks Jazz Fest, and performances by area theatre groups.



Tour our region's most haunted places with Charles J. Adams III, paranormal researcher, author of more than 35 books on ghosts and hauntings, and storyteller extraordinaire.

- Berks County Heritage Center Tour *approx. 3 hours* Venture inside a haunted covered bridge, then follow the former towpath of the Union Canal to the site of an 1875 murder-suicide of three children and their mother. Afterwards, walk to an eerie graveyard to hear stories of its hauntings and search for unmarked graves with copper divining rods hand-crafted by your host.
- Centre Park Historic District Tour approx. 2.5 hours Stroll through Charles Evans Cemetery, to see or sense the resident spirits. The tour of the city's premier historic district will also include a visit to The Gables at Stirling Guest Hotel, other ominous Victorian beauties, and the Berks History Center.

Related activities include a lantern tour of Crystal Cave, or a tea luncheon at The Gables at Stirling Guest Hotel.



Train & Treasure Tour

Visitors will marvel at this nostalgia filled itinerary.

- Enjoy an excursion on the **Colebrookdale Railroad** and discover the treasures of Southeastern PA in beautifully restored, Edwardian-era coaches. Seasonal themes are offered throughout the year.
- The Carousel at Pottstown is sure to put a smile on the faces of all who visit. Built in 1905, the carousel and its menagerie of hand-carved animals have been brought back to life!
- Located in a former auto body factory, Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles houses and preserves vehicles manufactured in Pennsylvania, like the Duryea.

Related activities include trips to **Reading Area Firefighters Museum**, **Reading Railroad Heritage Museum**, and the Allentown and Auburn Railroad.

Download complete itineraries at VisitPaAmericana.com!



Planes, Trains and Automobiles

Many of our museums are dedicated to trains, planes and automobiles. We enjoy sharing our contributions to transportation. Buckle up and enjoy the ride!

- Visit Mid-Atlantic Air Museum, home of World War II Weekend, and learn about our region's contribution to flight, as well as a general history of aviation.
- Tour the Gruber Wagon Works, maker of farm-use wagons. The museum is one of the most complete examples of a rural manufactory of its kind in the nation.
- Ride the Colebrookdale Railroad and discover the treasures of Southeastern Pennsylvania in beautifully restored, Edwardian-era coaches.
- When in Reading, stop at the **Reading Railroad Heritage Museum**. Dedicated to preserving the history of our legendary railroad, the museum features locomotives, passenger cars, and other freight equipment.



Charming, Country Christmas

Celebrate Christmas in Pennsylvania's Americana Region. Our traditions, events, and attractions are sure to put you in the holiday spirit.

- Christmas would not be complete without a visit to Koziar's Christmas Village. Celebrating over 70 years, the village comes to life each year with lights, animated displays, and holiday gift shops.
- Visit Murdough's Christmas Barn for an outstanding selection of glass ornaments, nutcrackers, smokers, and all things Christmas.

Related activities include holiday tea at the **The Gables at Stirling Guest Hotel, PA German Cultural Heritage Center's** Christmas on the Farm, a visit to the **Reading Liederkranz** Christkindlmarkt, or a stroll through the **Holiday Lights at Gring's Mill**.



Keepin' It Kutztown

Kutztown offers so much to see and do; it's easy to spend all of your time in this lovely college town.

- Start your visit at the PA German Cultural Heritage Center to learn about our PA Dutch roots, or follow our Barn Star Art Tour for a close-up look at this unique PA German art form.
- Hungry? Folino Estate Vineyard & Winery offers wine tastings and excellent Italian cuisine. Saucony Creek Craft Brewery & Gastropub is the perfect stop for a cold flight of beers and pub food.
- Following lunch, revive at **Crystal Cave**, always a cool 54 degrees. Or, relax with a post-lunch excursion on the Allentown & Auburn Railroad.
- Take a shopping break at Paisley & Company Bath & Boutique Bar. Purchase wonderful goods on hand or allow time for your guests to create items to take home.
- The Kutztown Folk Festival is the oldest folk festival in the country the centerpiece of an overnight visit to the region in early July.



Wheels of Time

Pick and choose from our many attractions dedicated to one of man's earliest inventions to build the perfect itinerary.

- **Reading Railroad Heritage Museum** is dedicated to preserving the history of the legendary railroad. The museum features locomotives, passenger cars, and freight equipment.
- Wanamaker, Kempton and Southern Railroad runs on track that was part of the Schuylkill & Lehigh branch of the Reading Company. The railroad is unmatched in terms of authenticity and scenic diversity. After your ride, head to Deitsch Eck Restaurant for delicious PA Dutch fare.
- Tour the **Gruber Wagon Works at Berks County Heritage Center.** This maker of farm-use wagons is one of the best examples of a rural manufactory in the nation.
- Visit Mid Atlantic Air Museum, home of World War II Weekend to about our region's contribution to flight, as well as the general history of aviation.

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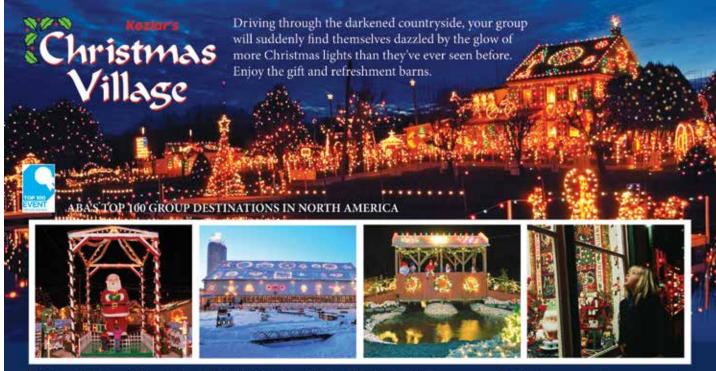
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The Mid Atlantic Air Museum 11 Museum Drive, Reading, PA 19605 610-372-7333 www.maam.org



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Renninger's Antiques & Farmers Market

There's something for everyone at Renninger's Kutztown Antiques & Farmers Market. Renninger's Farmers Market offers 40 friendly merchants selling local produce, fresh and smoked meats, poultry, seafood, deli items, prepared foods, baked goods, snacks, candy, novelties, jewelry, crafts, folk art, and much more.

The indoor Antiques and Collectors Market has 200 booths full of art and vintage items. Saturdays beginning at 7am the outdoor and pavilion flea market is where most anything can be found. Special Events throughout the year.

Farmers Market: Fridays 10am to 7pm and Saturdays 8am to 4pm Antiques Market: Saturdays 8am to 4pm Visit our website. www.renningers.net



Renninger's Kutztown located at 740 Noble St. Kutztown, Pa 19530 610-683-6848 Corp. office 570-385-0104







Group Tours Available



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Step Back in Time at the Berks County Heritage Center

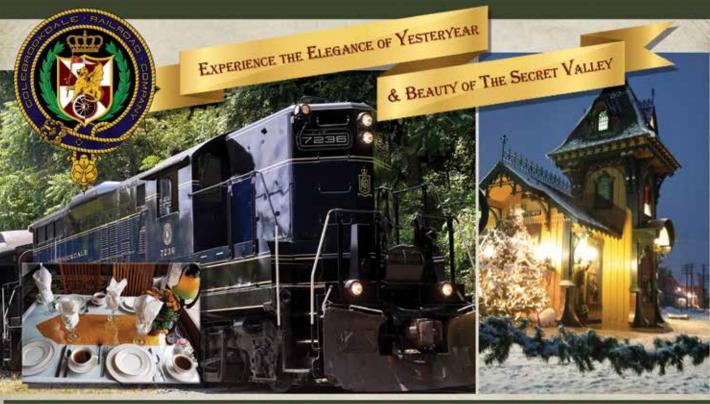
The Berks County Heritage Center, located in a picturesque setting, is operated as part of the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department. This historic park highlights 19th century transportation history of Berks County on local and regional levels. Guided group tours are available for the Gruber Wagon Works, a National Historic Landmark, and the C. Howard Hiester Canal Center.

Visitors to the restored 1882 Gruber Wagon Works are immersed in the history of this family owned and operated wagon factory. More than 19,000 original tools, machines, and artifacts, ranging from the late 1800s to mid-1900s, along with Gruber wagons are displayed within the Wagon Works.

At the C. Howard Hiester Canal Center, visitors discover the stories of the Union and Schuylkill Canals, both having a lasting impact on the United States' canal period. Exhibits and displays at the museum feature one of the largest collections of canal era artifacts in the nation.

Located at the Heritage Center are several historic structures and features including the 1867 Wertz's Red Bridge, the 1885 Melcher's Grist Mill, and Union Canal Towpath Trail. Self-guided brochures available. Onsite amenities include motor coach parking, restrooms, outdoor picnic tables, County Store gift shop, Snack Bar, and limited indoor eating space with advanced reservations. Group tours are available May-October, Tuesday-Sunday. Call for group tour rates, to schedule, or for more information.

Berks County Heritage Center Physical Location: 1102 Red Bridge Road, Reading, PA 19605 610-374-8839 • www.countyofberks.com/parks



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FOR INFORMATION ON TICKETS, SCHEDULES, SPECIAL EVENTS & HOLIDAY TRAINS, VISIT COLEBROOKDALERAILROAD.COM 610.367.0200



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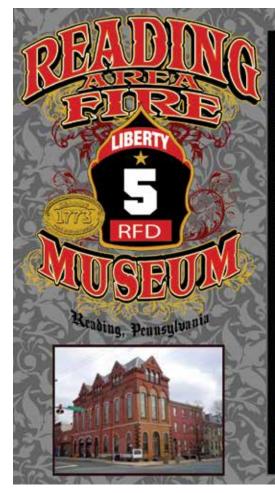
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The firehouse, located at the southeast corner of South Fifth and Laurel Streets in the Callowhill Historic District, is one of the most important architectural and historic landmarks in the City of Reading and Berks County. The Liberty Fire Company that occupied this building was first established on this site in 1854. The current building was constructed in 1876 with part of it being furnished by the well known Philadelphia Merchant, John Wanamaker. Three floors of exhibits tell the story of firefighting from bucket brigade to modern day.

The unusual combination of utilitarian purpose and architectural quality of the structure and its intact original character makes it one of the best preserved historical landmarks in the city and county. Feedback from tours that have been conducted through this building always result in genuine surprise mixed with respect and appreciation for the elegance and beauty of the rooms, and displays regardless of the age, background or experience of the participants. We offer both self-guided and guided tours.

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EXPLORE THE FOLK CULTURE of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country!

Join us at the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University - an open-air folklife museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the Pennsylvania German culture and its traditions. The Heritage Center offers tours for individuals, groups, and classes, as well as family-friendly seasonal events, workshops, and educational programs. As an integral part of Kutztown University's Pennsylvania German Studies program, the Heritage Center is a venue for unique educational experiences and cultural research. Tours by appointment only - please call in advance to ensure tour availability.

Guided Bus Tours of Decorated Barns Step-on-Tour of the Region's Hex Signs and Barn Stars

Heritage Center Museum Site Tours **Explore a Classic Pennsylvania Dutch Farmstead**

Ride through the Northern Berks countryside with step-on guide Patrick Donmoyer, author of Hex Signs: Myth and Meaning in Pennsylvania

Dutch Barn Stars, and discover Pennsylvania's largest concentration of historic decorated barns. Call for scheduling options. Admission \$10 per person (maximum of 50 people, minimum 25).



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Experience a walking tour of the grounds of the 19th-century Sharadin farmstead, including a visit to the 1871 one-room schoolhouse, the

classic 1855 decorated Pennsylvania Barn, and the 1814 stone Sharadin farmhouse and gardens. Admission: \$5 per person. Can be combined with the Step-On Barn Star Bus Tour.



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ATTRACTIONS

Reading Railroad Heritage Museum

The Reading Railroad influenced the life and landscape of Pennsylvania and the nation for 138 years. Learn about this important transporter of coal, commodities, and commuters at the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum. Imagine the life of a railroad worker on a guided tour of the rail yard, which displays over 75 giants of industry—real Reading Railroad locomotives, passenger and freight cars—and go inside a historic caboose. In summer, children may ride the "Munchkin Railway," a handpowered miniature railroad. Indoors, watch a fifteen-minute video which highlights the history of the railroad. Visit exhibits interpreting the myriad ways the Reading changed the families, communities, technology, and ecology of the areas it served.

Open Saturdays 10 AM to 4 PM Sundays noon to 4 PM Closed mid-January through February Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Children 5-12 years \$3 Under 5 and active military free Group tours available weekdays or weekends by reservation.







Reading Railroad Heritage Museum 500 South 3rd Street, Hamburg PA 19526 Mailing address: PO Box 15143, Reading PA 19612 www.readingrailroad.org 610-562-5513

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Bed & Breakfast - Set in a restored 1892 mansion with a quaint annex, our refined B&B is 3 miles from the Reading Public Museum and the landmark Japanese-style pagoda. The elegant suites feature flat-screens TVs and ensuite bathrooms. Some come with mini-fridges and pull-out couches; others have dining areas and whirlpool tubs. Several quarters offer fireplaces, furnished terrances and/or 4-poster beds. There's a landscaped garden and an outdoor pool.

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The Pagoda is proudly owned by the citizens and City of Reading since 1911. It is managed and preserved by the Foundation for the Reading Pagoda. DIRECTORY

	Amenilies Rey. IN = NO	Y = Yes U = Unlimited			L = Limited WD = Walking Distance V = Varies		
ATTRACTIONS	Group Capacity	Minimum	Hours of Operation	Bus parking	Comp Policy	Length of Tour/Show	of Special Note
Berks County Heritage Center	150	15	Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12-5pm, Open summer & holidays	Y	Y	2 hrs.	Gift shop, snack bar, and picnic tables. Restrooms, Canal Center, and Wagon Works tour are ADA accessible.
Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles	125	10	Daily 9:30am-4pm, except holidays		Y	1+ hrs.	Over 90 cars, trucks, carriages, bicycles, sleighs, and roadside architecture from the 18th through 21st century.
Colebrookdale Railroad	147	20	Upon request 7 days a week, 365 days a year	Y	Y Y 2 hrs.		Group discounts.
GoggleWorks Center for the Arts	V	-	9am-9pm daily, except major holidays	Y	Y	1.5 hrs.	Galleries, art classes, summer camps, film theatre, open air retail space, The Den by Sly Fox, rental space for events and conferences, and studios in ceramics, glass, metals, photography, printmaking, woodworking and virtual reality.
Koziar's Christmas Village	U	25	<u>Nov. 7-Thanksgiving:</u> Fri 6-9pm, Sat 5:30-9:30pm; Sun 5-9pm <u>Thanksgiving - 1/1</u> : Mon-Fri 6-9pm, Sat 5-9:30pm; Sun 5-9pm	U	Y	1.5-2 hrs.	Greatest Christmas Display in the USA. ABA's 2015 Top 100 Events of North America, 2018 Best of the Best.
Kutztown Folk Festival	U	20	June 27 – July 5 9:00am – 6:00pm		Y	V	Named 2019 USA Today 2nd Top Cultural Festival in the country. ABA's 2015 Top 100 Events of North America, 2018 Best of the Best.
Mid-Atlantic Air Museum WWII Weekend	U	-	June 5 & 6: 8:30am-10pm; June 7: 8:30am-5pm		Y	3 days	Largest WWII Commemoration in the United States. ABA's 2016 Top 100 Event, Mid-Atlantic Air Museum ABA's 2017 Best of the Best
Muhlenberg Parks and Recreation	V	-	Spring Fiesta – June 13, 11am - 9pm; RiverFest – Aug. 28, 4 to 10pm near the farmhouse only, Aug. 29, 10am-10pm and Aug. 30, 10am-7pm.		V	V	Plus other seasonal events that make for great entertainment.
Pagoda	50	20	Saturday-Sunday 12-4pm; otherwise by reservation		Y	15min- 1 hr.	Reading's unique landmark and a registered historic site.
Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center	75	10	By Appointment Only		Y	1.5 hr.	Groups less than 10 and individuals should schedule individual tours. Capacity subject to availability, and should be verified with staff when scheduling tours. Please contact us for any special needs regarding accessibility.
Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine	300	25	Open April 1–October 31 Memorial Day–Labor Day 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. April, May, September & October – Call for Hours	Y	Y	1.5 hr.	Coal mine tours, steam train rides, lunch & snack bar, souvenir & Gift shop, free parking, community park with picnic & playground, group discounts.
Reading Area Firefighter's Museum	50	10	Thursdays 9am-12pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm other hours by appointment	Y	Y	1 hr.	One of the best preserved historical landmarks in the city and county. Large firefighting artifact collection on display.
Reading Liederkranz	150- 900	-	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 5-11pm; Special events vary	Y	Y	V	Fully ADA compliant. Alex Meixner @ Maifest on May 2, 2020. Biergarten opens at 5 with music 6-10. Oktoberfest September 30 -October 4; Christkindlmarkt is Sunday, December 6th. Only service dogs permitted on the property. All are welcome.

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ATTRACTIONS	Group Capacity	Minimum	Hours of Operation		Comp Policy	Length of Tour/Show	of Special Note
Reading Railroad Heritage Museum	70	15	Sat 10am-4pm; Sun 12-4pm		Y	1.5-2 hrs.	Over 75 Reading Railroad locos & cars on display. Reservations required for groups; may be scheduled for weekdays. Indoor exhibits change seasonally.
Renninger's Antiques & Farmers Market	U	V	Fri 10am-7pm; Sat 8am-4pm; Special shows vary		Y	V	Antiques Extravaganza - April, June, Sept. Weekly Farmers Market/Antiques Market
Wind Creek Bethlehem	U	15	24-Hours		Y	V	Free on-site motor coach parking. Luxury outlet shopping; 9 dining options, free entertainment daily
Santander Arena & Santander Performing Arts Center	V	10	Varies		V	V	We offer opportunities for groups to experience our concerts, family shows, sporting events and many other diverse performances. Discounts and minimums vary per event.

LODGING	Lodging Capacity	Minimum Group	Banquet Capacity	Courtesy Shuttle	Fridge/Coffee	Room Service	Check In/Out	Internet	Restaurant	Bar/Lounge	Pool	Fitness Center	Memberships	of Special Note
Best Western Plus Reading Inn & Suites	140	10	64	N	Y	N	Check In: 3pm; Check Out 11am	WiFi	WD	Ν	Y	Y	aaa Aarp	
The Gables at the Stirling Guest Hotel	14	20	140	N	Y	Y	Varies based on reservation	WiFi	Ν	Y	Y	Ν		Enjoy dining in the elegant surroundings of a 1890s mansion located in Centre Park Historic District.
Holiday Inn Morgantown	187	10	300	Ν	Y	Y	Check In: 3pm; Check Out 12pm	WiFi	Y	Y	Y	Y	AAA, ABA, AARP, IHG Rewards	Discounts and minimums vary per event.
Inn At Reading	170	10	600	N	Y	Y	Check In: 3pm; Check Out 11am	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	aaa, aarp	

DINING	Group Capacity	Minimum	2020 Season	Hours of Operation		Hours of Operation Bus parking		Comp Policy	
The Gables at the Stirling Guest Hotel	140	20	Year round	Varies based on reservation	Y	Ν	Enjoy dining in the elegant surroundings of a 1890s mansion located in Centre Park Historic District.		

SERVICES / TOURS	Group Capacity	Minimum	2020 Season	Hours of Operation	Bus parking	Comp Policy	
White Star Tours & Travel Center	V	0	Year Round	Mon-Fri 8am-5pm	-	Y	Best travel packages in the industry. Group leader incentives and comp trips.

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