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**Seasonal Experiences**

**Spring**

**Berry Farm**

Just outside of Richwood along U.S. Route 4, sits The Berry Farm, owned by the Converse family. Berries have been their passion for going back generations. They are open seasonally from May through September. The Berry Farm offers U-pick experiences brimming with strawberry and blackberry treats, including fresh berries, pies, jams, and more! It's the perfect summer retreat to for a fun day of berry picking.

**Option #1- Let’s Learn about Strawberries**

Discover the pleasure of picking your own strawberries, ripe and bursting with flavor, straight from the vine. Learn about the different varieties of strawberries we use and the best techniques for growing and picking them to ensure they remain fresh and delicious. You will go home with one of our homemade strawberry jams.

**Cost:** $12

**Length:**

**Season:** Available Late May – Early June

**Dine on a Covered Bridge**

Participate in a truly unique experience of dining on a covered bridge, complete with delicious cuisine, folk music, storytelling, lively conversation, and a setting sure to celebrate a slower era. Picturesque Pottersburg Bridge, built in 1873, has become the venue for our signature covered bridge lunches and dinners, which are always a delight for the senses.

**Note:** Special dietary meals are available on request. Meals are served on the Pottersburg Covered Bridge with padded white chairs, tables with linens, and seasonal table scape.

**Eda's Italian Ice**

It feels like a homecoming the moment you walk in the door, as Lisa and Jack (the owners) and their friendly staff greet you. Their story is as lovely as their gelato and ices, which are both handmade in small batches. The location, which has been in the family as a variety of businesses for many years, is cheery, sunny, and memorable – from both hospitality and deliciousness standpoints. The most challenging part of a visit to Eda’s is the decision making, as it’s tough to choose from 14 ices, 12 gelatos and any combination of the two.

**Cost:** $5 for a “Smidge” (8 oz.) or “Middie” size serving (10 oz.)

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour/Varies, as groups often sit outside on their lovely patio or take it to go on the motorcoach.

**Fresh Harvest Farm**

Fresh Harvest Farm grows 100% organic produce using Aquaponic systems. Aquaponics combines aquaculture (raising fish in a contained environment) and hydroponics (growing in a soilless, recirculating water system). Meet the visionary couple, Jeni and Doug Blackbern, who is partnering with the Ohio State University to conduct research, not only in raising perch in this manner but their innovative approach to hatching perch eggs. Marvel at how this sustainable closed-looped system works to produce various crops from specialty salad greens to tomatoes and more. This farm tour will walk you through the whole process and provide the opportunity to pet some furry friends!

**Season:** May - October

**Cost:** $5 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**Mitchell’s Berries & Blooms**

When visitors see the nostalgic 1954 Chevy truck at the entrance of **Mitchell’s Berries & Blooms**, they are reminded of a simpler time when friends and neighbors shared the bounty of the growing season. It speaks to the spirit of hospitality and the endearing homey style of the Mitchell family that has been passed down for 200+ years. With more than 25,000 berry plants and countless floral seeds and bulbs, the harvests and memories are plentiful. Groups enjoy a variety of experiences from berry samplings and overviews to petals and pollinators, an agricultural education on the importance of bees set amongst the backdrop of a colorful meadow of flowers.

**Options:**

* **Strawberry Overview and Berry Sampling**

Includes an overview and taste of fresh-picked strawberries. Take home a gift pack of favorite Mitchell family berry recipes.

**Season:** Late May to mid-June

**Cost:** $6 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**NEW! Ohio Caverns**

Ohio Caverns is often recognized as “America’s most colorful caverns.” The caverns are the largest in the state, with approximately 1 mile of surveyed passage ranging in depth from 30 feet to 103 feet. Ohio Caverns is an all-weather attraction and is open all year. Each tour is guided and is an easy walk through the cavern. All tours take approximately one hour. The temperature remains at a constant 54 degrees throughout the year. The tours are educational and provide the public with an opportunity to see the wonderful world of underground beauty. Photography is welcome!

**Options:**

* **Natural Wonder Tour (May-September)**

Guests follow a winding path overlooking the beautiful valley and enter the cavern through a sinkhole entrance opened in 2012. The tour covers an area discovered in the 1920’s. Guides provide information about the geology of the cavern along with describing the variety of formations.

**Cost:** $20 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

* **Historic Tour (May-September)**

Take the Historic Tour! The tour includes parts of the caverns viewed by visitors from 1897-1925. It was re-opened for tours in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of its discovery. The historical tour begins aboard a shuttle bus to the original entrance. Guests descend 44 steps into the cavern at the site of discovery. Guides provide information about the discovery and development of the caverns.

**Cost:** $20 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

* **Combo Tour (May-September)**

Experience both the Historic and Natural Wonder Tours in the same day for a discount!

**Cost:** $30 per person

**Length of Experience:** 2 hours

**The Whimsy Bus - Kokedama Moss Ball Planting and More!**

Your instructor, Pam, guides your group through an unusual way to plant. Known as Kokedama in Japan, the art of moss ball planting inspires rookie and master gardeners alike to think outside the garden pot. Visitors are encouraged to use their imagination working with natural materials while practicing mindfulness. Enjoy creating something truly unique and take home a special creation of your own!

**Season:** May - October

**Cost:** $15 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**Option 2: Holy Snack.** During Bible times the three main foods were grapes, olives and bread. They used what they had and what they could store for long periods. Learn about the plants of the Bible and then enjoy a snack utilizing these foods.

**Cost:** $10/person

**Length of experience:** 45 minutes

**Summer**

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**Option #2- Let’s Learn about Blackberries**

Venture into our 3-acre blackberry patch, where the bushes are laden with plump, juicy berries. Learn about the different domestic varieties of blackberries, all of which are thornless and less seedy than your traditional Ohio Blackberries. We will share tips on how to select the ripest blackberries and the best ways to store and use them. You will go home with one of our homemade blackberry jams

**Cost:** $12

**Length:**

**Season** : Available late July – Early August

**Option #3- Enjoying Beautiful Flowers**

Stroll through our vibrant flower gardens and handpick a beautiful bouquet to take home. Our gardens are full of colorful blooms that will brighten your day and your home. We have cups for you to use as vases that will fit right in the cupholder.

**Cost:** $12

**Length:**

**Season:** Available July & August

**Dine on a Covered Bridge**

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**Options:**

* **Raspberry Overview and Berry Sampling**

Includes an overview and a taste of different varieties of freshly picked raspberries. Take home a gift pack of favorite Mitchell family berry recipes.

**Season:** Mid-June – Early July

**Cost:** $6 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

* **Petals and Pollinators**

Includes an overview tour and agricultural education on the importance of bees to our farmers. Set amongst the backdrop of a colorful meadow full of zinnias, cosmos, and sunflowers, learn how bees are helpful pollinators for flowers and berries alike! Take home a wildflower seed packet to begin your own pollinator garden).

**Season:** Late July – Early August

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

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**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

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**Cost:** $10/person

**Length of experience:** 45 minutes

**Fall**

**The Maize at Little Darby Creek**

Located along Little Darby Creek in Union County, The MAiZE at Little Darby Creek is owned and operated by the Rausch family. Known for their unique 8-acre corn maze designs, The MAiZE has become a tradition for fall fun on the farm in central Ohio. Learn how the Rausch family designs and creates their original corn maze each year. Enjoy a hayride out to the pumpkin patch where you can choose a pie pumpkin to take home. Delight in the fun of watching the pumpkin blaster launch pumpkins across the field.

**Option 1:** Overview of maze design, hayride, pumpkin blaster, and shopping opportunity in gift shop.

Cost: $10 per person \*minimum payment of 25\*

**Option 2:** Overview of maze design, hayride, pumpkin blaster, shopping, plus the opportunity to pick your own pie pumpkin **OR** enjoy an 8 oz. apple cider slushy and bag of kettle corn.

Cost: $15 per person\*minimum payment of 25\*

**Option 3:** Overview of maze design, hayride, pick your own pie pumpkin, pumpkin blaster, shopping, apple cider slushie and bag of kettle corn.

Cost: $20 per person \*minimum payment of 25\*

**Length of experience**: 1 – 1 ½ hours, depending on option choice

**Season:** Mid-September through end of October

**Minimum**: 25

Driver and escort are comped.

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**Winter**

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**Options:**

* **Winter Tour (October-April)**

This tour includes highlights of the Natural Wonder Tour and Historic Tour plus a section that is not toured during the summer session.

**Cost:** $20 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour