



Amish Experience

IN NORTHERN INDIANA

Elkhart Goshen Middlebury Nappanee Bristol Wakarusa & Shipshewana



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 and Broadway musicals.

You'll be busy all the time and loving every minute!

NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

5 DAY / 4 NIGHT ITINERARY OPTIONS ON NEXT PAGE

Sonya Nash, CTIS, CTP | sonya@amishcountry.org
 Amish Country of Northern Indiana | Elkhart County, IN CVB
 p: 574.262.8161 | c: 574.903.1148 | AmishCountryTours.org

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THE AMISH EXPERIENCE 5 DAY / 4 NIGHT SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY ONE

Arrival in Amish Country, Shipshewana



2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Shopping at the Shipshewana Flea Market & Auction and in downtown Shipshewana [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. The vendors are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday, May through September. Also open Memorial Day, 4th of July & Labor Day! 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, cleaning supplies, beauty essentials, paper goods, jewelry, snacks, accessories, games, books, toys, furniture, baked goods, signs, silk flowers, t-shirts, pet supplies and everything in between. Open rain or shine. 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. Guests can also stroll the short couple of blocks into downtown Shipshewana to browse over 90+ retail stores for additional shopping.

Check-in at your host hotel

6:00 p.m.

Depart for dinner

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Amish Acres Threshers Dinner & Round Barn Theatre Broadway Show

[\$43.90 pp incl] NOTE: Wine & Beer is available to purchase at the table individually by guests

Enjoy Amish Acres famous family style Threshers Dinner in the century old barn restaurant. Start your dining experience with thick ham 'n bean soup served from cast iron kettles, baskets of homemade Hearth bread, sweet & sour cabbage salad and sweet & sour pickles. Then pass around heaping platters filled to the brim with your choice of two farm fresh meats served with brimming bowls of beefy egg noodles, fluffy mashed potatoes, flavorful sage dressing, and giblet gravy. Top it all off with tins of fresh baked pies and hot coffee. Your evening continues in the majestic 1911 Round Barn Theatre with a Broadway Musical production on the Joseph Stein stage. This professional theatre company offers a variety of shows in repertoire with both matinee and evening performances. Choose from 9 show times most weeks to fit in your itinerary. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Theatre at 8 p.m. Choose two meats from Broasted Chicken, Cider Baked Ham, Roasted Turkey or Tender Beef Roast

Return to your host hotel following your theatre production

(cont)

NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

DAY TWO

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

Breakfast at your host hotel

8:45 a.m.

Meet your guide at your host hotel



9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Great Life Tours "My Amish Life Tour"

[\$195 for guide plus lunch and stops]

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 cinnamon roll and learn how Elaine makes this delectable pastry. You'll visit a buggy maker then shop in Slab Town. See baskets made by a family of weavers and take home a gift to remember them by. Enjoy a popular Amish fundraiser meal, the Haystack, for lunch. Then go back to school, one room that is, to visit an Amish teacher and if you're a good "scholar" you'll leave with a yummy fried pie for a sweet reward.

5:00 p.m.

Say good bye to your guide

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Evening fun on the Das Dutchman Essenhaus campus

[enjoy the following anytime until 8 p.m.]

Welcome to Das Dutchman Essenhaus, home of Indiana's largest restaurant and 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. Pricing can be combined with buffet]

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.



Buffet dinner at Das Dutchman Essenhaus & shopping (coupons provided)

[\$24.73 pp incl]

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 entrées, numerous sides and cobblers/puddings plus pie for dessert.

Return to your host hotel in the evening following shopping and theatre

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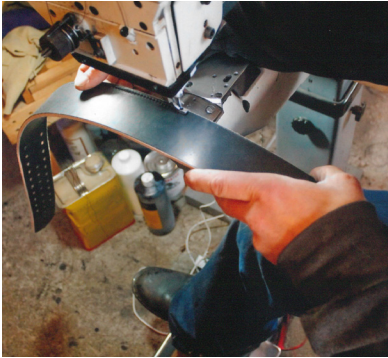
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DAY THREE

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

8:45 a.m. **Meet your guide at your host hotel**



9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Cathy's Countryside Tours "Countryside Makers Tour"** [\$50 pp incl for 8 hrs, \$42 pp incl for 4 hrs, minimum 25 people, includes venue, receptive operator services and guide (guide tip optional)]

Here in Northern Indiana we love company. And can hardly wait to introduce you to our local makers. From chimes to wooden baskets to noodles to quilts, this tour immerses you in the Amish culture, where life is natural, straightforward and easy to understand. Experience up-close-and-personal visits with the popcorn grower, RV builder and leatherworker to learn about their crafts. Welcome to a place of invention, creativity and resourcefulness.

5:00 p.m. **Say good bye to your guide**



6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Amish Wedding Feast** [\$24 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 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast at your host hotel**

8:45 a.m. **Meet your guide at your host hotel**

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NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

DAY FOUR (cont)



9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Brown Bag & Authentic Amish Backroads Tour

[\$195 total for guide (tip optional) PLUS \$16 pp incl for (4) brown bag stops PLUS \$3 pp incl for each Authentic Amish stop]

Travel scenic backroads passing horse-drawn buggies, tidy farm homes and white-washed barns. Learn about the fascinating lifestyle of the Amish as your knowledgeable guide tells all about the area and the history, traditions, and customs of the Amish. You'll stop at a variety of welcoming country stores and quaint shops as you load up your brown bag with goodies. Get to know local

Amish entrepreneurs and see first-hand how they operate their unique enterprises. Hear the stories of friendly, hardworking people who use their special talents to create products and build businesses that serve the local community and beyond. Get a behind the scenes look at how Amish buggies are made. Visit a one-room Amish Schoolhouse. These stops are fun, authentic, appealing to every age and gender and sure to be a hit with your group. Options for stops are available for customization.

5:00 p.m.

Say good bye to your guide



5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Blue Gate Restaurant Dinner & Theatre

[prices range by show, count, and date but range between \$48 and \$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 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at your host hotel - AND - Check-out

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NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

DAY FIVE (cont)



9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Menno-Hof Amish Mennonite Interpretive Center [\$6 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.

10:00 a.m.

Depart Shipshewana for Nappanee



10:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Amish Acres Historic Farm Tour, Wagon Ride, Documentary Films, and light lunch plate meal [\$12.95 pp incl for tour, films, and wagon ride PLUS lunch for \$8.95 pp incl]

Following your Candy Kitchen experience, step inside the historic farmhouse and learn about the heritage, culture and history of the “Plain People”. Afterwards take a wagon ride to the one-room Amish School for an old-fashioned spelling bee. A documentary film about the Amish completes the experience. Spend time shopping and browsing their shops, fudgery and bakery. Lunch includes: Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich on a Bakery Bun, Sweet & Sour Cabbage, Candied Sweet Pickle Mix, Potato Chips, Homemade Fudge piece, Lemonade, Iced Tea, Coffee.

Amish Acres Candy Kitchen [\$6 pp incl]

More sweets, anyone? Amish Acres is best known for their historic farm and education on Amish beliefs fostering a tolerance among different religions and cultures, but did you know the fudge shop makes over 50,000lbs of fudge and candy a year? Learn how to make your own delicious candies from one of their expert candy makers and have a treat to enjoy later.

2 p.m.

Depart for home or available options

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OPTIONS



Real Housewives of Amish Country Day Tour

[\$50 pp incl, full day tour, guide for 8 hours, lunch, snacks, gifts and demos]

Forget reality TV and meet the real housewives of Amish Country. Get a first-hand look at a day in the life of Amish women. Learn how these ladies do household chores without electrical appliances and run their businesses without modern technology. Enjoy a cinnamon roll demo with Elaine. Visit Carolyn's home for a haystack lunch in an Amish home and a peanut butter crumb pie making demo.

Chat with a basket weaver about her thriving business. Meet an Amish school teacher and find out how she manages her classes in a one-room school. Everyone gets an after school treat too to take home. At the end of the day, groups go home with a renewed respect for these women who live a simple life, yet their anything but simple.

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.