



♡ Romantic Road Trip ♡

Love is in the air along the Heritage Trail. So make a stay of it with a leisurely weekend based from a cozy bed & breakfast. These amenity-packed settings lend themselves to total relaxation and pampering – a great place from which to launch your romantic wanderings.

DAY ONE (Nappanee)

After breakfast, take a romantic leisurely drive through the back-roads of Nappanee and explore the Countryside Shops. You can pick up a map at the **Nappanee Heritage Center** (302 W Market). This mix of Amish-owned and family-run shops is as far from the big box as it gets.



Back in town, head over to **Coppes Commons** (401 E Market), a *really* rustic take on an urban mall. The former furniture factory and site of the manufacturer of the famous “Hoosier Cabinet,” a 1950s housewife staple and a favorite of first lady Jackie Kennedy, is now home to locally owned businesses including the **Nappanee Bakery & Treat Shoppe**. Try their traditional Amish “Haystack” or a classic Reuben. You could follow it with a pillowy-soft whoopie pie (we like the red velvet / vanilla combo). Just a few steps away at **Rocket Science Ice Cream**, you can watch while the ingredients you choose are flash frozen (using liquid nitrogen) into awesome ice cream.

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DAY ONE *(cont.)*



Enjoy an intimate stroll through downtown Nappanee. Be sure to indulge in hand-made elegant dark or milk chocolate truffles at **Veni's Sweet Shop** (101 W Market). It's like visiting a 19th century candy store with its tin ceilings and glass cases packed with chocolate perfection. Downtown sidewalks are laced with historic ads turned into murals and apple-themed sculptures. Stop back at the **Nappanee Heritage Center** (302 W Market) for the quirky exhibits, historic Haman House and outsized "Crossroads of Nappanee" Quilt Garden.

A favorite attraction along the Heritage Trail is the tour at **Amish Acres** (1600 W Market). Learn the whys and ways of the Amish as your tour guides leads you from the kitchen garden, to the original smokehouse and on to the Amish farm kitchen. This should wet your appetite for the goodies at the on-site **Meat & Cheese Shop** (housed in an 1860 log cabin) and the **Soda Shop & Fudgery** serving tasty treats including hand-dipped ice cream and over 20 varieties of hand-made fudge. You and your loved one will savor the flavors of a traditional Amish "**Threshers**" meal served in the century-old barn **Restaurant**. This feast of hickory smoked ham, country broasted chicken and bowls brimming with sage dressing and whipped potatoes is served under massive hand-hewn beams with pastoral views (and the occasional peacock strutting along the window sills). Snuggle up to your sweetie as you enjoy a live musical performance in the 1911 **Round Barn Theatre**, home to the longest running musical, *Plain and Fancy*.



DAY TWO (Middlebury, Shipshewana & Goshen)



After breakfast, enjoy a hand-holding hike along the **Pumpkinvine Nature Trail** (Pumpkinvine.org), the 12-mile trek that connects Middlebury to Shipshewana. The paved path skirts Amish farms, dense canopies of trees and wetlands. Access the trail at **Krider Garden** (302 W Bristol). The shaded setting features statuary once displayed at the Chicago 1933 World's Fair and is a great place to relax and have a leisurely picnic for two.

From Middlebury, take a dreamy drive along the Heritage Trail to Shipshewana. Any season invites scenic stops with breathtaking views. The Amish presence is strong here, and family owned businesses specializing in hand crafted items and regional food favorites thrive. What's better than shop hopping with your honey and how can you not be tempted by **Aunt Millie's Candy** (more sweets for your sweetie) or **Simple Sounds** (purveyors of dulcimers, banjos and mandolins). These unique boutiques join 18 others and a historic carousel (perfect for a cozy ride for two) at the **Davis Mercantile** (Corner of Main & Harrison).

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DAY TWO *(cont.)*



Continue on the Heritage Trail to Goshen, a passionate city that fuses urban edge and historic charm. The downtown and restaurants reflect this vibe. Check out the **Old Bag Factory** (1100 N Chicago). It's home to artisan galleries and specialty boutiques. Every gorgeous piece at **Goertzen Pottery** is wood-fired, richly colored and fully functional. Turkish jewelry designer **Gamze Neer** crafts beautiful baubles from Victorian cameos to Art Nouveau bracelets.

Ready for some amorous edibles? The wood-fired pizza at **Venturi** (123 E Lincoln) is faithful to the Neapolitan tradition and made with imported Caputo flour, fresh basil and house-made mozzarella. If your tastes are trending more toward Asian, Kelly Graff's recipes have appeared in Bon Appetit and Better Homes and Gardens. Dates stuffed with duck sausage, goat cheese and bacon and the always-hard-to-resist corn and crab beignets. You can taste her Asian-inspired small plates at **Kelly Jae's Café** (133 S Main).



*Highly recommended: We can't let you leave Goshen without a trip to **The Chief Ice Cream** (502 W Lincoln) recently ranked the best in Indiana.*

DAY THREE (Elkhart)

After breakfast, take a drive to Elkhart. The City with a Heart has plenty to offer. Kick back at an outdoor café, tour one (or all five!) museums, check out the **NIBCO Water & Ice Park**. They're all close and connected by the Garden, RiverWalk and A&E districts along Downtown Elkhart's **Gateway Mile**.



Explore on foot the quirky backstories of history in downtown Elkhart. Experienced local guides lead you to the landmarks and share amazing stories of rivalry, bravery and intrigue. What could be more romantic than a tour of an opulent historic mansion? Check-out **Ruthmere Mansion** (302 E Beardsley) and the **Havilah Beardsley House** (102 W. Beardsley). Just a short drive south on Main Street is the serene setting (perfect for a romantic stroll) of the **Wellfield Botanic Gardens** (1011 S Main) popular for its whimsical sculptures and water-themes. Wellfield marks the north entrance to Elkhart's **Gateway Mile**.

Continue south on Main Street to the **Midwest Museum of American Art** (429 S. Main St.) to view the largest Norman Rockwell lithograph collection along with the largest Overbeck Art Pottery collection in the state. Enjoy a short walk to Elkhart's **Central Park** (Waterfall Drive and High Street). Here you'll discover a beautiful super-sized **Quilt Garden** along with great places for a picnic if you desire.

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DAY THREE *(cont.)*

The Gateway Mile is filled with fantastic romantic restaurants to satisfy any appetite. Experience **Artisan**, (505 S Main) a AAA 4-Diamond delight or **The Vine**, (214 S Main) a charming bistro with a warm friendly atmosphere.

*Highly recommended: If your schedule allows and meshes with the theatre's schedule, we suggest a concert or musical at **The Lerner Theatre** (410 S Main). This 1920s-era movie palace turned performing arts complex hosts year-round performances.*

SUGGESTED ROMANTIC RESIDENCES



Scottish Bed and Breakfast (2180 Miami Trail, Bremen)

574.220.6672 // ScottishBB.com

The countryside views are beyond compare and the King Suite, with its private patio overlooking the pond, is a great way to enjoy them. It's beautifully appointed with lush linens, mahogany wood floors, a whirlpool tub and a four-season fireplace. In winter, when conditions are right, Innkeepers Brenda and Homer Miller will arrange your moon-lit sleigh ride. Ask for the Romance Package.



McKenzie House Bed and Breakfast (52215 SR 13, Middlebury)

574.825.9787 // McKenzieHouseBnB.com

Innkeepers Bruce and Sherry McKenzie suggest the second floor Carriage House Suite. This romantic charmer features a king sized 4-poster bed, a candlelit Jacuzzi and even a sprinkling of rose petals at turn-down should you so desire. They'll even arrange a massage or special occasion cake and florals to help you ramp up the romance factor.



Country Victorian Bed and Breakfast (435 S Main, Middlebury)

574.612.3997 // CountryVictorian.com

This century-old clapboard Inn sits in the heart of Middlebury. It's an easy walk to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Krider Garden and locally owned, one-of-a-kind eateries and shops. Amorous add-ons might include handcrafted chocolate truffles or an in-room fruit tray. Start a day of your stay with a candle-lit breakfast and one of Innkeeper Lori Schumacher's signature dishes: Bananas Foster French Toast with a side of raspberry sauce. Request the English room.



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