



TMS Pre Tour in Fort Wayne, Indiana

PROPOSED ITINERARY

August 9-11

ARRIVAL: SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

- Writers **arrive** into Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA) or by car.
- **Overnight stay** in downtown Fort Wayne

DAY ONE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

- **Breakfast** – can be provided in room, or at a great local breakfast diner – writers' choice.
- Head to **Downtown Fort Wayne** for brief tour of Fort Wayne's tourism highlights – will include information and interview opportunities from Fort Wayne's major attractions including:
 - Parkview Field/TinCaps Baseball (*named #1 minor league experience*)
 - 50 new architectural bike racks – unique public art with purpose
 - Downtown arts campus and Embassy Theatre
 - Overview of 12 downtown museums and attractions
 - Can also include meet and greet with Fort Wayne Mayor
- **Lunch** at a Fort Wayne Locals' Favorite
- Tour and hands-on experience at **The Genealogy Center** in Downtown Fort Wayne. The Genealogy Center is the nation's largest public genealogy library! Upon arrival, each guest will have the opportunity to research their individual genealogy and meet with director Curt Witcher, a leader in the field.
- Dine-around dinner at Fort Wayne's finest restaurants
- **Overnight Stay**

**details about each of these attractions on following pages*

DAY TWO: MONDAY, AUGUST 10

- **Breakfast** – can be provided in room, or at a great local breakfast diner – writers' choice.
- Tour of **Vera Bradley's** Design Center and Distribution Center – includes photo, video and interview opportunities – and the opportunity to see new travel pieces for 2016 and 2017

Learn about the famous **Vera Bradley Outlet Sale** – bringing 60,000 people to Fort Wayne each April

- Lunch at **Joseph Decuis** in downtown Roanoke, followed by a tour of the restaurant and grounds
- Tour some of our **premiere family attractions**, including:

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo (one of the top ten zoos in the nation)

Science Central (Indiana's science center)

And more!

- Dinner at one of Fort Wayne's finest restaurants
- **Overnight stay** in one of Fort Wayne's 4-star hotels

DAY THREE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

- **A Taste of Fort Wayne** - we will treat the writers to a showcase of the many great foods made here in Fort Wayne, including:

DeBrand Fine Chocolates

Olive Twist

Vanilla Bean

Ginger Kitchen

And more!

- **Transportation** to Bloomington, Indiana for TMS 2015!!

SUMMARY

Everything listed is included at no cost to TMS or writers:

- Transportation from Fort Wayne International Airport at arrival
- Transportation from Fort Wayne to Bloomington
- Overnight accommodations
- Meals
- Activities

These events can be re-organized depending on the needs and timing of the group, but this is an overview of our pre-tour itinerary.

We have room for 15 writers on this tour.

We are certainly open to suggestions and alterations. For more information, please contact:

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS

Vera Bradley

Internationally known handbag, luggage, accessories and gift designer Vera Bradley offers TMS attendees a sneak peek inside its state of the art design center and distribution facility. Fort Wayne, Indiana-based Vera Bradley employs more than 1,800 people, and the company operates five buildings in Indiana, with a total of 600,000 square feet (and growing!) Learn about Vera Bradley's history and see how products come to life from concept to production.



About Vera Bradley: Friends Barbara Bradley Baekgaard and Patricia R. Miller founded Vera Bradley in 1982. Today, Vera Bradley is sold through 3,300 specialty stores and 54 Vera Bradley stores nationwide. Vera Bradley accessories, handbags and travel, and paper & gift items have recently been spotted on *Desperate Housewives*, *Brothers and Sisters*, *Entourage* and *Modern Family*, and in more than 20 feature-length films. Vera Bradley's fiscal 2011 sales were \$366 million.

Joseph Decuis

Located in Roanoke, a charming, historic rural community in northeast Indiana, award-winning Joseph Decuis is the showcase for local farm raised food, and is a gourmet experience to remember. The menu features seasonal dishes with ingredients raised on their farm, creatively and artfully prepared by our Chefs. The heart of the restaurant is housed in an old bank building (the vaults are now wine cellars) where you'll feel as though you've stepped back in time to a simpler way of life where time around the table meant something.



Joseph Decuis has earned high honors for outstanding cuisine, service and wines. A few honors include: AAA-distinguished as a Four Diamond restaurant; chosen by Wine Spectator Magazine as one of only three restaurants in Indiana with its Best of Excellence award. Learn more at www.josephdecuis.com.

[The Genealogy Center](#)

The Genealogy Center is home to the nation's largest public genealogy collection, and it is housed in a brand new, \$65 million facility that is second to none!

Open seven days a week, The Genealogy Center is world-renowned for its immense collection that is more accessible than any you'll find. The Genealogy Center is home to over 370,000 printed volumes, 590,000 microforms, military records that go back to the 1700's, city directories, census records, passenger lists, and so much more. In all, their collection totals over 961,726 items!



Even more impressive are the trained genealogists on staff, ready to help in every phase of your research. ***All attendees will receive custom consultation.***

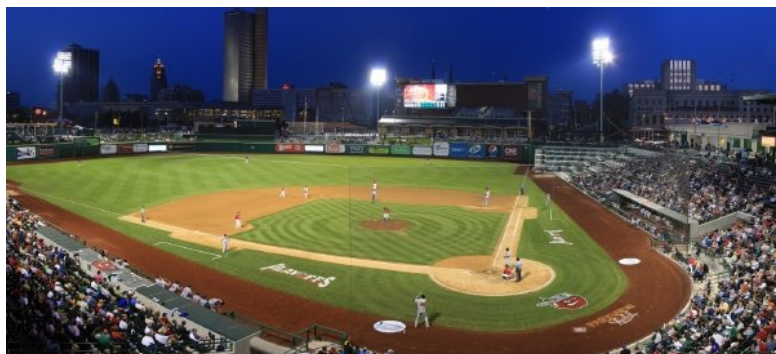
Learn more at www.genealogycenter.com

[Fort Wayne Children's Zoo](#)

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is consistently named as one of the "top ten zoos in the nation" and is a treasure of the Midwest. Dozens of opportunities to interact with animals, rides in every part of the zoo (a skyride on the African Journey, a log ride in the Australian Outback to name a few), and a commitment to the child's experience make this a top attraction! Learn more at www.kidszoo.org.

[TinCaps Baseball at Parkview Field](#)

This great American downtown ballpark was built in 2009 and has been named of the best minor league ballparks in the country. Parkview Field is a jewel of the downtown skyline and a "must see" for all Fort Wayne visitors. www.tincaps.com



Fort Wayne's Museums and Attractions

Other attractions, museums and facilities can easily be added to the itinerary, depending on the interests of the registrants.

Botanical Conservatory
Grand Wayne Convention Center
DeBrand Fine Chocolates

Museum of Art
Embassy Theatre
And many more

Learn more about Fort Wayne, Indiana at www.VisitFortWayne.com

For more information, please contact:



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