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INDIANA AMISH ADVENTURE & MORE!!

Also Includes: Gospel Week @ Blue Gate Theatre

June 2 - 9, 2024

There's no doubt about it – visitors to Indiana's Cool North love everything Amish. The scrumptious food, intricate hand-stitched quilts, finely crafted furniture, the ever-present horse-drawn buggies, and the quiet farmsteads are truly captivating. There are many ways to get to know the Amish people, who live a lifestyle of simplicity, foregoing modern amenities such as electricity, cars and telephones. Join us (and our local Northern Indiana Step-On Guide) as we immerse ourselves in all things Amish in Northern Indiana. Although our adventure has a huge focus on the AMISH COMMUNITY of NORTHERN INDIANA, we have timed this trip to coincide with GOSPEL WEEK at BLUE GATE THEATER. We will take time to enjoy performances by LEGACY 5, GREATER VISION, THE NELONS, RONNIE & KIM BOOTH, just to name a few.

Day 1 – June 2, 2024: Tyler to Cape Girardeau (IL)

Our NORTHERN INDIAN AMISH ADVENTURE begins with new friends as we travel to CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO for the night. After our stretch and lunch break, we will arrive at our hotel in time for dinner. After you freshen up a bit, tonight would be an excellent night to play some cards or dominoes at the hotel!

HOTEL: Drury Inn & Suites, Cape Girardeau (MO)

MEALS INCLUDED: Lunch & Dinner

Day 2 – June 3, 2024: Cape Girardeau to Middlebury (IN)

Today, we continue our journey north into INDIANA and settle into MIDDLEBURY (IN), which will be our home for the next FOUR NIGHTS. We will arrive in time to check-in to our hotel and freshen up before enjoying a FAMILY STYLE DINNER at DAS DUTCHMAN ESSENHAUS RESTAURANT!

HOTEL: Essenhau Inn & Conference Center, Middlebury (IN)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 3 – June 4, 2024: Cape Girardeau to Middlebury (IN)

Today, is a BAG OF FUN with a twist of AMISH COUNTRY. Sit back, relax, and observe the Amish lifestyle as you travel picturesque back roads of NORTHERN INDIANA. Step back in time and learn of the fascinating lifestyle of these "plain people." With a knowledgeable STEP-ON GUIDE, hear about the area and the history, traditions, and customs of the Amish. We will stop at several Amish backroads shops as we fill our brown bags with goodies. Meet the LEHMAN FAMILY and their six children at this noodle making shop and Country Store. See how Katie's homemade noodles take shape right before your eyes. Watch honeybees at work in a glass hive. Shop for organic honey and other beehive products along with jams, salsa, popcorn and more. We will visit TEABERRY WOOD PRODUCTS, makers of handcrafted vertical puzzles and beautiful wooden Monroe Dutcher baskets that must be seen to be believed. This year they have added charcuterie and customized cutting boards made of the finest native and exotic woods. This devoted Amish Mennonite family shares their craftsmanship and faith as they welcome you into their shop. Also, enjoy the RISE & ROLL BAKERY. This "out of this world" bakery is famous in Amish Country for their melt-in-your-mouth cinnamon caramel donuts. This afternoon, we enjoy performances at the BLUE GATE THEATER. Today's performances include RONNIE &

KIM BOOTH, LEGACY 5, GREATER VISION, and THE NELONS. Before we call it a day, we get to enjoy a genuine Amish Country experience of a lifetime. Meet the **YODER FAMILY**, including grandma, dad, and the kids. Sit down to a traditional Amish family-style dinner with a view of beautiful **CASS LAKE**. A fun and tasty experience! Following dinner, ride in the Yoder's personal buggies down the gravel lanes and around the countryside for a brief glimpse into this mode of transportation. Leave your **BROWN BAG** on the bus. You are going to need it again tomorrow. *** *Blue Gate Performances - Subject To Change.* ***

HOTEL: Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center, Middlebury (IN)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Day 4 – June 5, 2024: Middlebury Area Activities

Today is another fun filled **AMISH ADVENTURE** combined with great **GOSPEL MUSIC** at the **BLUE GATE THEATER**. To begin the day, we will enjoy the **NAPPANEE HERITAGE CENTER**. Explore Nappanee's history through the Evelyn Lehman Culp Heritage Collection exhibits and permanent displays, including Hoosier cabinets, a tribute to Nappanee's cartoonists, the Hartman House, and the Doug Grant Family Gallery, featuring paintings by Emma Schrock. Next, we visit **MINT CITY MILLWORK CLOCKS**, where old world craftsmanship is the hallmark of every clock they build. This family owned and operated manufacturing facility specializes in building one kind of product: beautiful heirloom timepieces. They craft clocks out of locally grown, milled and kiln-dried wood. Triple Chime Grandfather clocks, Mantle clocks, and exclusive Precious Melodies Clocks are produced on site. The Precious Melodies line of clocks has become a favorite in Amish communities. Next, we visit the **RENTOWN BULK FOODS & VARIETY STORE**. Affectionately known as "The Cheese Place" experience any time of the year. The cheeses are abundant, with over 80 varieties on hand. But cheese is not the only thing you will find here--from deli meats and bulk foods to housewares, gifts, and toys there is so much to see and sample too! After lunch, we visit **MARTIN BUGGY SHOP**. Many do not realize there are horse & buggy Mennonite churches as well as Amish. While similar, there are many differences including the design of their buggies and churches that set them apart. You will enjoy an informative seated presentation of their customs and a peek at this private collection of toy buggies and wagons, followed by a walking tour of their impressive inventory of the real thing. A workshop tour winds up this exclusive experience. We then return to our hotel to freshen up before setting out to enjoy dinner and tonight's gospel performances. Tonight, dinner is a **THRESHER MEAL** inside an Amish Home at **TASTE OF SHIPSHEWANA**. Welcome to Brenda's banquet room newly added to her nice Amish home. Brenda offers a variety of fun and hands-on make and take programs to enhance your pre or post dining experience. Each program includes Brenda's recipes and plenty to taste and take home. You will get your own hands into the fun after hearing Brenda's tips and tricks, too! Start your visit with a two meat Thresher meal to round out your tasty time in Brenda's home. Your meal includes the favorite Colorific Salad which includes greens, peppers, onions, almonds, and raisins in a light sauce, meatloaf with sweet sauce on top, baked chicken tenders rolled in crackers, mashed potatoes and gravy, noodles, hot vegetable, homemade bread with peanut butter spread and jam, pickles, cherry pie, peanut butter pie, coconut cream pie, coffee, and water. After dinner, Brenda will demonstrate her recipe for Amish Church peanut butter. You will enjoy her tips and tricks while also getting a copy of the recipe and a bonus take home container. With a full tummy, we will now relax at the **BLUE GATE THEATER** as we listen to **ROCKLAND ROAD** (Duane Allen) and **WILLIAM LEE GOLDEN & THE GOLDENS**. *** *Blue Gate Performances - Subject To Change.* ***

HOTEL: Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center, Middlebury (IN)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 5 – June 6, 2024: Middlebury Area Activities

Today is another fun filled **AMISH ADVENTURE** combined with great **GOSPEL MUSIC** at the **BLUE GATE THEATER**. Our first stop this morning is **LAMBRIGHT COUNTRY CHIMES**. Discover the tranquility of this Amish chime shop as you experience this family's genuine warmth and knowledge. With any luck they will be producing chimes when you arrive so you may have a chance to see their workers in process. The sounds of

the season come alive as you wander throughout their showroom and hear everything from deep mellow tones to light tinkling sounds from these striking melodic creations. Our second stop this morning is for a belt making demo at **SILVER STAR LEATHER**. Step into the rustic rural shop of Loren and Dorcas Yoder and the first thing that greets you is the irresistible aroma of finely cured leather. This is no assembly line. Hides hang from the walls; exotic skins drape Loren's workbench alongside tools for cutting, stamping, and sewing. This Old Order Amish couple work with expertly tanned cowhides to rare skins like shark, python, eel, and alligator. All are designed with expert craftsmanship, making each piece a unique work of art and a durable testament to fine workmanship. Watch as custom belts are hand cut. Learn how the Yoder's seek out the best materials to fashion belts, purses, wallets, and other leather goods. You will leave with great memories and (we promise!) at least one piece of handcrafted perfection. Our final stop of the morning is at an **AMISH JAM MAKER** known as **CAROLYN'S KITCHEN** for a private tasting. You will smell the goodness as you come through the door. Meet Amish jam makers Orly & Carolyn and see how they make their all-natural sugar free jam with no corn syrup or unnecessary additives. Enjoy a private tasting to savor the all-natural goodness of these yummy fruit spreads. You will also find a fine selection of salsa, apple butter, granola, and gift baskets all freshly made just for you. After lunch (which was an experience like no other), we pop into the new **YODER POPCORN & FIVE LAKES COFFEE**. In 1936, Rufus Yoder started growing popcorn on his family farm and now his family has a brand-new Yoder Popcorn shop on the corner of 5 & 20. In the Amish custom, he shared his excess crop with his neighbors and friends and soon after a business was born. Sample their tiny tender white popcorn and an array of seasoning salts as well as flavorings. They carry a fine assortment of poppers, too! Be sure to also visit Five Lakes Coffee. Small batch coffee roasters and brothers, Jared and Paul, created Five Lakes Coffee to bring carefully roasted flavorful coffee to their community. From one coffee house in their hometown of Sturgis, Michigan to 8 locations throughout Michigan and Indiana, they still hold true to their main mission, the freshest coffee in town. Unlike other commercial coffee shops that can take 30+ days to get their coffee from the roastery to your cup, Five Lakes can be as fresh as 48 hours later. From their Coffee with a Purpose Chris' Blend to our highly caffeinated Angry Brew, Five Lakes never stops trying to bring you the freshest coffee, friendliest service, and fastest roastery to cup delivery. Plus, for every bag you buy, \$1 is donated to support Forgotten Children's Ministries of Honduras. Next, is an early evening performance at the **BLUE GATE THEATER** as we listen to **JOSEPH HABEDANK, LINDA RANDLE, and GUY PENROD**. This evening's dinner and activities will be on your own and at your leisure around the hotel grounds. You will have ample time to take in the **CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN**. Whether you are a classic car owner or a car enthusiast this event is for you! Enjoy strolling through the vintage vehicles and comparing makes, models, and memories at this free event! *** Blue Gate Performances - Subject To Change. ***

HOTEL: Essenhau Inn & Conference Center, Middlebury (IN)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Lunch

Day 6 – June 7, 2024: Middlebury to St. Louis (MO)

We are overflowing with knowledge of the **NORTHERN INDIANA AMISH** and have filled our hearts with **SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC**. Although we are departing this morning to slowly make our way home, we still have more!! Along with lunch and a few leg-stretches, we will arrive in St Louis in time for you to enjoy some **FREE-TIME** around the **ST LOUIS GATEWAY ARCH** area. Use your time to take a tram ride 630 feet to the top of the tallest monument in the United States, take a St. Louis Riverfront Dinner Cruise, or simply relax in your hotel where dinner is included.

HOTEL: Drury Plaza Hotel, St. Louis @ The Arch

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 7 – June 8, 2024: St. Louis to Branson (MO)

Today, we take one more step back towards East Texas. However, we have one more stop along the way. Along with lunch and a few more leg-stretches, we will find ourselves in **BRANSON** where we will arrive in time for a mid-afternoon matinee of **QUEEN ESTHER** by *Sight & Sound*. After this amazing performance, we

will check into tonight's hotel. You will then have more **FREE-TIME** to enjoy shopping and dinner nearby on your own at **BRANSON LANDING**. This scenic boardwalk has over 100 specialty stores and restaurants. You will be amazed by the dazzling interplay of water fountains shooting 120-foot geysers and fire cannon blasting, all choreographed to light and music.

HOTEL: Hilton Convention Center, Branson (M)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Lunch

Day 8 – June 9, 2024: Branson to Tyler (TX)

Well, we'll be back in **TEXAS** before you know it! But WOW, there is so much to discuss as you laugh, giggle, and remember all of the fun you have had over the past week's adventures on our **INDIANA AMISH ADVENTURE & MORE!** On this last day of the tour, we are positive you will want to share phone numbers and addresses with your newly made friends and be making plans to see them again soon on another tour with **AMERICAN TOURS.**

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Lunch