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Learn more about Indiana's group travel opportunities!

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**ON THE COVER:** Photo courtesy of Patoka Lake Marina





## INDIANA FACTS

**Population:** Statewide: 6.8 million

Statewide: 6.8 million Indianapolis: 901,082 (also the state capital) Fort Wayne: 265,926 Evansville: 117,272 South Bend: 103,909 Carmel: 103,871 Fishers: 101,171

#### **Getting Here by Air**

Indianapolis International Airport (IND): Served by Air Canada, Alaska, Allegiant, American, Contour, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, Spirit, United South Bend International Airport (SBN): Served by Allegiant, American, Delta, United Evansville Regional Airport (EVV): Served by Allegiant, American, Delta, United Fort Wayne International Airport: (FWA): Served by Allegiant, American, Delta

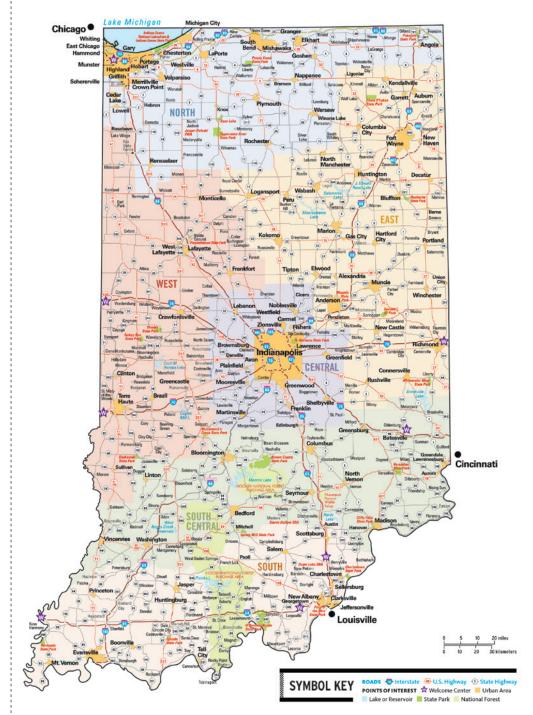
#### Getting Here by Rail Amtrak stations in Connersville (COI), Crawfordsville

Amtrak stations in Connersville (COI), Crawfordsville (CRF), Dyer (DYE), Elkhart (EKH), Hammond-Whiting (HMI), Indianapolis (IND), Lafayette (LAF), Michigan City (MCI), Rensselaer (REN), South Bend (SOB), Waterloo (WTI)

## Average Temperatures by Season:

North – Spring 71, Summer 81, Fall 63, Winter 31 Central – Spring 73 Summer 84, Fall 65, Winter 36 South – Spring 77, Summer 88, Fall 70, Winter 41 Schwabenblitz/Bigstock.com







# SAMPLING INDIANA'S WEALTH OF CULTURAL OFFERINGS

Win prizes while traversing the 12 art districts across Indiana with the Hoosier State's Arts & Culture Passport

**Explore Indiana's rich history** and buzzing arts districts with the Arts & Culture Passport. Dive into a variety of venues, including galleries, music festivals, theaters and museums. The passport is completely mobile, allowing you to check in at every location and earn prizes along the way. Whether it's a night out for live music at the Bluebird in B-Town or perusing the streets during a Carmel Porchfest event, you are bound to enjoy Indiana's colorful culture.

#### **Bloomington Entertainment** and Arts District

From morning to night, Bloomington offers a multitude of events year-round, from art gallery shows to international cuisine celebrations. Explore the diversity of Bloomington by starting out at Food Truck Friday in Switchyard Park and

walk through the community garden. Head out for live music at Bluebird or experience fall's Lotus World Music &

INDIANA

Arts Festival, a multicultural celebration of music and arts featuring food, dance and music. Hit up the Comedy Attic for a late-night show and grab dinner from over 90 downtown dining options. The Bloomington Creative Glass Center is a fabulous place to learn how to blow glass and have fun doing it. It is committed to bringing high-quality education about glass to any and all who have interest in the craft of glassblowing.

#### Carmel Arts and Design District

Carmel's Art and Design District, located in the heart of Old Town Carmel, is home to interior designers, art galleries and studios, plus specialty shops and restaurants. The galleries around Carmel make it known as the "City of the Arts." See the studios of glass artists featured on the Indiana Glass Trail and admire their hand-blown designs. Traverse the streets of Midtown during Carmel Porchfest, a series of events that showcase bands at different times of the year. While in Midtown, catch J. Seward Johnson Jr.'s "The-Man-on-the-Street" sculpture series that began in the 1980s. Often called the Norman Rockwell of American sculpture, the late artist Johnson captured everyday American life through life-sized pieces scattered throughout the city.

#### Lafayette Tippecanoe Arts and Cultural District

Based in Lafayette, the Tippecanoe Arts Federation partners with the Indiana Arts Commission. The district focuses on promoting access to literary, visual and performing arts and building experiences that fuel creativity. A great place to soak in some culture, it offers an abundance of options at both traditional and non-traditional performance spaces and art galleries. Casual and fine dining restaurants in the district showcase the ethnic diversity of greater Lafayette.

#### **Brown County Arts Scene**

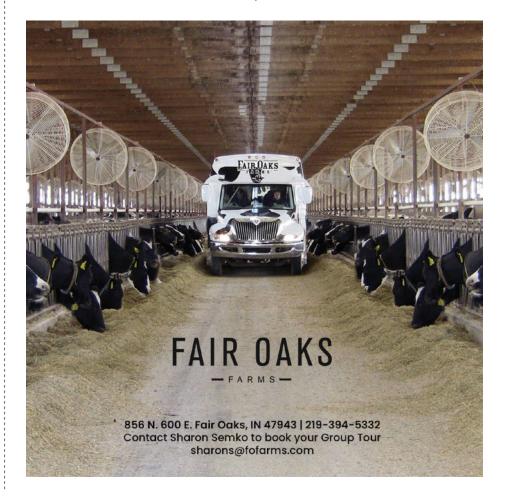
The arts scene in Nashville and environs flourishes with the visual and performing arts. Catch a show at the historic Brown County Playhouse or visit one of the dozens of Arts Village galleries and studios specializing in pottery, weaving, pastel and oil painting, and wood carving. Stop by the County Heritage Winery tasting room for live music every Friday and Saturday.

#### Columbus Arts and Entertainment District

Murals are a major piece of Columbus' culture and focus on celebrating the diversity of the community. Visit the colorfully electric asphalt art initiative that is a ground plane mural installed along 16th Street between intersections of Home Avenue and Union Street.



Studio 207 is an open space that functions as a collaborative workspace hosting artist residencies, pop-up exhibitions and public art projects.



#### **Nickel Plate District**

Fishers, Indiana's Nickel Plate District boasts art galleries, an award-winning performing arts venue, vivid public artworks, live music and community festivals. Visit the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater, one of Midwest's grandest outdoor music and event venues. Performances range from intimate acoustic shows to 6,000-person events, with acts from local to global. Watch the sun set behind the glowing stage after a day at the Fishers Farmer's Market, which offers live entertainment, kids' activities and art markets along with produce, fresh baked goods and other local treats from more than 50 vendors. The annual Spark! Fishers Festival, held at the end of June in the Nickel Plate District, celebrates Independence Day with a 5K walk/run, parade, evening concerts, street fairs and fireworks.



You're on the right trail to engage, inspire and create memories.

For exciting events and to plan you next visit go to VisitAndersonMadisonCounty.com





Photos, left to right Carol's Legacy Crystal The World's Largest Ball of Paint Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino Historic Paramount Theatre Uranus Indiana



## From Historic Performance Venues to State-of-the-Art Theaters, INDIANA HAS IT ALL

#### These classic theaters will entertain groups of all ages

**Known for agriculture,** the legendary Larry Bird and the invention of the gas pump, Indiana offers more than sprawling corn fields and a massive basketball fanbase. The Hoosier State features a myriad of performance venues with events ranging from holiday classics, orchestras and symphonies to rock-and-roll, jazz, blues, funk and everything in between.

The **Elliott Hall of Music** at Purdue University in West Lafayette was opened in 1940 to many performing artists. Today this prestigious venue showcases Broadway musicals, ballets, operas and symphonies for a classy experience. Groups can also see rock, country and pop music groups take center stage. For a great laugh or intriguing discussion, comedians and revered lecturers frequent the venue. Past performers include Maya Angelou, the Dalai Lama, Bob Hope and Robin Williams. With 6,005 seats comprising three levels and the main stage measuring 136 feet wide and 37 feet deep, this modern theater's proscenium is one of the largest in the country.

Upcoming 2023 performances include the 50th Anniversary Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the 25th Anniversary Show of *Riverdance* and the hit Broadway musical *CATS*.

Tucked away along the banks of Salt Creek in Nashville, Indiana, is the **Brown County Music Center** boasting 2,017 seats and an array of performances from legendary artists. Fans of country, jazz, blues, pop, oldies and more can witness their favorites on stage.

Indianapolis is home to a stunning theater inspired by the ancient Greek and Roman arts incorporating bright colors and symmetrical nuances. The Neo-Classical Revival architecture of the **Hilbert Circle Theatre** proudly showcases its 106-year history with several renovations to maintain its historical integrity inside and out. The venue is home to the beloved Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and, throughout the decades, welcomed big bands like the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Today, take your group for an unforgettable experience with special events like Andrea Bocelli in Concert with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra or Handel's *Messiah*. Groups can take advantage of 10% discounts on tickets and special accommodations with the minimum group number



between 10-30, depending on the concert. Student tickets are modestly priced at \$10 with proof of student ID.

In one of the nation's largest covered open-air venues, the **Lincoln Amphitheatre** at Lincoln State Park in Southern Indiana accommodates 1,500 spectators for a unique historical experience. Bring your group for a performance situated among the forests that Abraham Lincoln explored as a boy.



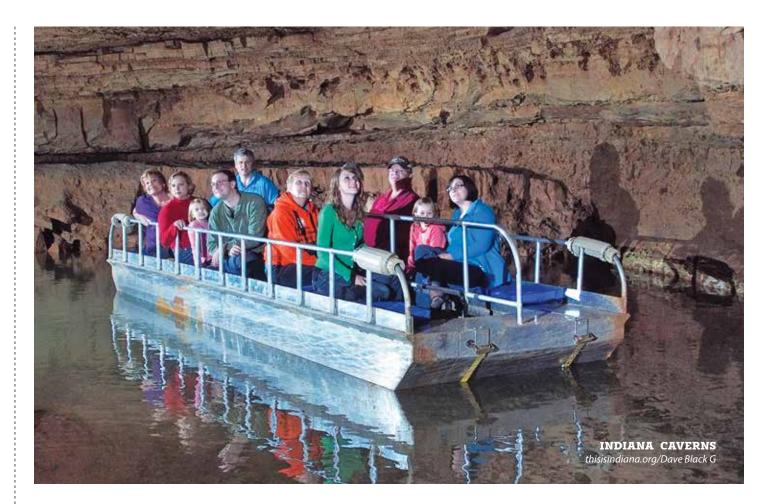
The Amphitheatre's 2022 performance series included artists like Garrison Keillor, Henry Lee Summer, and Ana Popovic, along with numerous tribute bands like Creedence Revived and Rumours (Fleetwood Mac Tribute).

Located in the historic Murphy Arts Center in Indianapolis, **HI-FI** offers live music performances, a full bar with 24 draft beers on tap and limited VIP seating. Catch the funkadelic soul of the Indy band Couch or absorb the catchy tunes of southern rock/country ensemble Lucero, the Memphis-born band formed in the late 1990s. With most shows offering standing room only, your group will have plenty of space to move and groove to the music.

The **Murat Theatre at Old National Centre** in downtown Indianapolis is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and serves the community and beyond with dynamic entertainment opportunities.

Dating back to 1909, the Murat Theatre is the oldest existing edifice like it in the city. The building also serves as one of America's largest Masonic Shrines and the world's only Shrine temple with a name of French origin.

Bring your group for holiday nostalgia with the Indianapolis Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Get ready to cheer on your favorites at Dancing With The Stars: Live! – 2023 Tour. Immerse in the otherworldly with Ancient *Aliens Live: Project Earth*, a one-of-a-kind History Channel experience.



# Splash into Aquatic Fun in

## With a multitude of lakes and waterways, the Hoosier State is filled with incredible aquatic experiences

#### Indiana touches Lake

**Michigan** and is the home of many lakes and historic tributaries. The Hoosier State has a rich water life perfect for traveling groups looking to enjoy river cruises, cave tours and lake days. Here are some of the many water destinations scattered throughout this great state.

On **Patoka Lake** (8,800 acres), the second-largest reservoir in Indiana, there are several ways to join the river otters for some on-the-water fun. Your group can rent a boat from Patoka Lake Marina & Lodging, which offers experiences like wildlife cruises and wine cruises. You can also rent a pontoon from any boat rental service and launch it from one of the 10 boat ramps.

Guided fishing charters are perfect for visiting anglers looking for local expertise.



Groups can expect to catch largemouth bass, channel catfish, white crappie, walleye, bluegill, redear sunfish, white bass, wipers, and striped bass. Patoka Lake's shorelines are made up of great swimming beaches. Make sure to pack a bathing suit (and maybe a few floaties). (in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes/ patoka-lake)

**Rockin Thunder River Tours** in Madison provides scenic waterway tours on the Ohio and Kentucky rivers. There are various types of tours including a 40-mile cruise down the Ohio River, a two-day Kentucky River Adventure, and a Lunch Excursion where you will enjoy a riverfront dining experience. Get ready to see historic locations and fantastic wildlife, and even learn about boating. Your captain operating the boat is US Coast Guard-licensed, which means you and your group will be in excellent hands. (rockinthunder.com) While today the Wabash and

Indiana's second-largest city offers unique, affordable excursions for your group!

Learn more at VisitFortWayne.com/GroupTours



**Erie Canal** is open for recreational cruises, during the mid-1800s, this canal played an important part as key transportation for trade. Hop on **The Delphi**, a replica 19th century canal boat, for a fun narrated tour of this canal's history. The cool thing about this experience is your boat has been authentically crafted to bring you back in time for a smooth 40-minute ride.

#### (wabashanderiecanal.org)

**Broad Ripple Boat Company** in Indianapolis is the jewel of Captain Michael McRee, who spent a large part of his life cruising on our nation's vast river system. His company gives guests a one-of-a-kind paddle wheel boat cruise down the White River. Hop on the esteemed boat Perseverance II, Central Indiana's only paddleboat, for a fourhour tour of the waters of Indianapolis. (broadrippleboatco.com)

The **Elkhart River Queen** showcases the environs of Elkhart from the water. Hop on the Elkhart River Queen for a tour of the St. Joseph River that includes a full-service bar. If you're looking for a

special group event, this on-the-water venue has catering options for your convenience. (savethequeen.org)

Located just southeast of Lake Syracuse, Lake Wawasee, the largest natural lake in the state, welcomes visitors to explore Johnson Bay, party coves, and alluring marinas. You can find boat rentals all along this natural lake's 25 miles of shoreline. Check out these boat rental services for deals and helpful boating guides: Main Channel Marina, Wawasee Boat Company Inc. and Dream Mobile Marina. Anglers flock to Johnson Bay and Conklin Bay to reel in pike and crappie, while all throughout you'll see people trying out water sports like water skiing. Relax on your boat rental and soak in the sun's rays or hop on with the Wawasee Tour Boat Co. for a leisurely

#### cruise. (wawascene.com)

Indiana Caverns in southern Indiana offers one of the most unique experiences in the nation. Their boat rides take you through ancient caves to see Ice Age rock formations. Learn more about the origins of these caves, say hello to underworld critters, and fall in love with its enchanting waterfalls and more. This adventure park offers specially priced packages for groups of 12 or more like the Platinum tour which includes the Cave Tour, Bat Chaser, and Gemstone Mining. Needless to say, you can't find this cruise anywhere else. (indianacaverns.com)

Indiana Dunes National Park hugs 15 miles of the southern shore of Lake Michigan. Explore Lake Michigan with this park's sandy dunes and unique

vegetation. A popular tourist attraction is Porter Beach. At this natural beach, you'll have a stripe of golden sand to lounge in and an endless view of blue waters. Keep in mind, while many go swimming here, there are no lifeguards on duty. (nps.

#### gov/indu/index.htm)

Indianapolis Canal Walk takes place on the Indiana Central Canal. Similar to the Erie Canal, it was dug in the early 1800s to facilitate interstate commerce. Today, the rejuvenated canal serves as a downtown waterside promenade. On the water, you have pedal boats, which may be rented west of the Indiana State Museum, and beautiful gondolas. Hop on a boat or take a short stroll by the water as you take Indianapolis' city views. (visitindy.com/listing/canalwalk/5925/)



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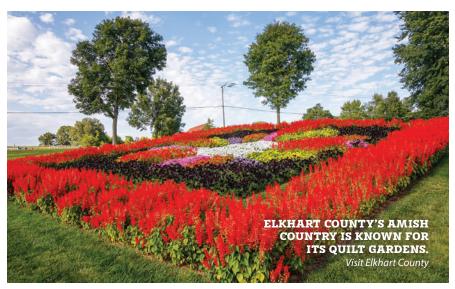
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#### NORTH INDIANA ITINERARY

# Botanical Gardens & Amish Experiences in Northern Indiana





#### **DAY ONE**

Begin your Indiana adventure at the **Mascot Hall of Fame** in Whiting, where famous figures like Brutus Buckeye and Mr. Met are honored in a state-of-the-art, 25,000-square-foot facility founded by the original Phillie Phanatic. Groups can explore exhibits such as "Department of the Furry Arts," "Science of Silliness Lab" and "Phuzzical Education Department."

Another popular South Shore attraction is **Friendship Botanical Gardens** in Michigan City. This greenspace is a collection of over a dozen "ethnic gardens" that represent their home nation with native plants and art installations.

This evening, explore downtown **South Bend**, a vibrant place for

dining and shopping. In season, catch a game at the South Bend Cubs stadium, located right downtown with a hint of Chicago's Wrigley Field, or visit the new **Four Winds Casino** South Bend. You can also visit the visit the **Basilica of the Sacred Heart** on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Built in the late 1800s, the church features one of the largest collections of 19th century French stained glass in the world.

#### **DAY TWO**

Your day begins at the **Studebaker National Museum**, which houses a priceless collection of vehicles and the largest presidential carriage collection in the world.

Journey through Amish Country with a tour of the region's **Quilt** 

**Gardens**. Totaling 19 in all, these colorful quilt-patterned gardens use over one million blooms. At **Das Dutchman Essenhaus**, groups can enjoy a hearty family-style meal, catch a live theater production at Heritage Hall or purchase hand-crafted Amish handicrafts at the Village Shops.

Continue to the **Shipshewana Flea Market**, which welcomes over 1,000 vendors and is the largest outdoor market in the Midwest. The nearby **Menno-Hof Amish-Mennonite Information Center** houses elaborate exhibits that document the Amish peoples' journey to America and the history of Amish faith and settlements. Your evening entertainment will take place at **Blue Gate Restaurant & Theatre**. Savor a country-style meal before watching a musical performance with Amish or Mennonite themes.

#### **DAY THREE**

Spend your day in Fort Wayne, Indiana's second-largest city. Devote your morning to **Sweetwater**, a campus that includes an instrument store, recording studios and performances spaces.

You will also want to explore the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, an immense glass structure influenced by turn-of-thecentury greenhouses. Conclude your day with a tour of DeBrand Fine Chocolates, where you can sample artisan-crafted creations.

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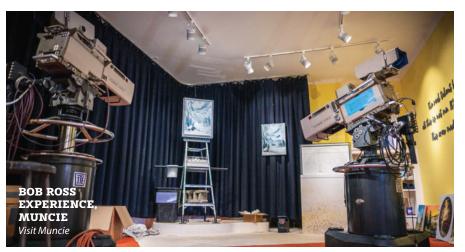
Shipshewana, Indiana is a beautiful town known for Amish culture rich in tradition. Awaken your senses to a deeper understanding of the uniqueness of this quaint town through cultural experiences and exploring the locally owned shops. Enjoy a guided tour of the countryside as you discover handcrafted treasures and feast on an Amish family-style meal. Experience exciting attractions such as musicals, the Midwest's third largest flea market, and live performances.

> EXPLORE AGrange County INDIANA

#### **CENTRAL** INDIANA ITINERARY

# Bob Ross and Dinner Theater in Central Indiana





#### DAY ONE

Begin in Muncie, where you can discover "The Joy of Painting" on the beautiful Minnetrista campus. The **Bob Ross Experience** explores the life and artistic philosophy of the famous American painter who broadcast *The Joy of Painting* from his unassuming Muncie studio and inspired millions of viewers to unlock their inner artist. Visitors can walk around the recreated television studio set and paint their own masterpiece with a certified instructor. Groups will also want to stop by the **National Model Aviation Museum**.

Spend the evening at **Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino** in the city of Anderson. One of the Midwest's premier harness racing facilities, the complex includes a 7/8-mile oval track, stables for groups to visit and stadium seating with excellent views of the action. After the races, head down the escalators for an evening of action on the easy-to-navigate casino floor. Awaiting guests are 2,000 slot machines and e-table games such as baccarat, craps and roulette plus video poker stations.

#### **DAY TWO**

Your morning begins at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. In addition to hosting the famous Indianapolis 500 race every May, the complex houses one of the world's largest collections of race cars and antique vehicles. After riding a bus for a 2.5-mile loop around the track and kissing the finish line, group members can explore facilities usually reserved for drivers and teams.

Spend your afternoon on a **Memorial Tour**, offered by Indiana

Landmarks or the Indiana War Museum. Only Washington, D.C. dedicates more acreage to honoring our nation's fallen, and your group will stop at the American Legion Mall, the Cenotaph (dedicated to the first American casualty of World War I) and the USS Indianapolis Memorial (which is shaped like the 1945 cruiser before it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in 1945). The tour's signature stop is the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, an impressive obelisk tower that rises 284 feet above downtown Indianapolis' Memorial Circle.

Conclude your day in Indianapolis with a performance at **Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre**. It stages Broadwaycaliber productions accompanied by a buffet that includes the signature beef. Upcoming 2023 shows will include *Footloose* and *Beauty & the Beast*.

#### **DAY THREE**

Continue north on I-65 to Lafayette/West Lafayette, home to Purdue University and the **Tippecanoe Battlefield & Museum**. It was here in 1811 that U.S. forces fought Chief Tecumseh's Native American confederation in a battle that launched Governor William Henry Harrison to national fame and eventually the presidency. Next, embark on a 90-minute tour of **Wolf Park**, an educational facility dedicated to improving public understanding of wolves.

Historic Madison, Indiana

# NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT



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Columbus, Ohio	.175
Dayton, Ohio	.130

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# Waterfalls and Mansions in Southern Indiana





#### 🕨 DAY ONE

Start your adventure in **Madison**, one of the Midwest's best-preserved towns. The city's National Historic District spans 133 blocks and includes more than 1,500 buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many landmarks date to the early and mid-1800s, when Madison was a major Ohio River port during the steamboat era. The crown jewel is Lanier Mansion State Historic Site, the 1844 Greek Revival home of wealthy financier James F.D. Lanier.

Spend your afternoon outside of Madison at **Clifty Falls State Park**. Deeply cut gorges and sheet rock walls, along with four major waterfalls and numerous minor ones, create a wonderland for hikers. Deer and wild turkey inhabit the uplands. After a vigorous workout, group members may relax on the sun porch of Clifty Falls Inn and take in views of the Ohio River Valley.

#### **DAY TWO**

Begin with a morning tour of Falls of the Ohio State Park, which features stunning views of the Louisville skyline and the Ohio River. The 390-million-year-old Devonian fossil beds are some of the oldest in the world, and your group will learn about the Lewis & Clark Expedition's stop here on its journey west. Continue to the Culbertson Mansion in New Albany. Named for William Culbertson—who became the richest man in Indiana after his dry goods business thrived along the Ohio River-the mansion is a masterpiece of Victorian artistry. Group tours will admire the handpainted ceilings, marble fireplaces and elaborate plasterwork, or they can participate in a Clue Party, which involves searching the mansion to solve a "crime."

Enjoy a hearty group lunch at Huber's Orchard and Winery before reaching Corydon—Indiana's original state capital. Your guided tour through the **Corydon State** Capitol Historic Site can include the original capitol building (in service from 1816 to 1825), Governor Hendricks' Headquarters and a brick house that served as the governor's mansion. Conclude your day at the Harrison Country Discovery Center, which houses interactive exhibits focused on the Battle of Corydon, the only Civil War battle that occurred in Indiana.

#### **DAY THREE**

Experience a day in French Lick, a city that flourished as a 19th century spa retreat and Prohibition hideout before becoming a group-friendly resort destination. Familiarize yourself with the area's history at the **French Lick West Baden Museum**, which tells the area's resort and circus history.

You can also tour the West Baden Springs Hotel, which includes an awe-inspiring atrium that spans 200 feet, a Roman-inspired garden and an Art Deco spa. The nearby Wilstem Ranch allows groups to register for an animal encounter with its resident giraffes and elephants.

# SOUTH SHORE INDIANA

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- Robotic dairy
- Pig adventure
- Farmhouse Restaurant
- Crop Adventure Center

Indiana Dunes National Park

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- Interactive sports
- mascot museum · Fun for all ages

## Bison Viewing Area • More than 90 bison

- Prairie of Kankakee Sands

#### Museum at Lassen's Resort

- Historical, imaginative exhibits
- Steamboat rides on Cedar Lake

## Shrine of Christ's Passion • New Our Lady of Guadalupe Plaza

- 40 life-size bronze sculptures
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## Plan your itinerary

To learn more about these attractions... call Candace Nowak at 219-301-7753 cnowak@southshorecva.com

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## **VISIT INDIANA'S TOP GROUP DESTINATION**

Step into a slower pace in the heart of **Northern Indiana Amish Country** and experience true Hoosier Hospitality at **Das Dutchman Essenhaus**, located in Middlebury, Indiana.

Das Dutchman Essenhaus' beautiful campus features the world-famous Restaurant with family-style dining, unique shopping experiences at the Village Shops, beautifully manicured walking paths, peaceful carriage rides, and more. Top off your *Well Crafted group experience* with a relaxing night's stay at the Essenhaus Inn complete with luggage handling upon request, generously-sized guest rooms with stunning Amish-crafted furniture, in-room coffee, indoor pool, fitness center and a deluxe hot breakfast.

See one-of-a-kind super-sized **Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail** annually between May30 - September 15 and experience quilt-inspired gardens and hand-painted, quilt-themed, super-sized murals. **Meet the Makers** along the backroads and in vibrant downtowns offering hand crafted baskets, noodles, buggies, pottery, soap and more. **Food lovers feast** on gourmet burgers, Victorian Teas, out-of-this-world ice cream, family style meals in Amish homes and inside a "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives" hotspot. Add a **local step-on guide** for themed backroads tours and customized activity planning.

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