



“Ask the Guide in Amish Country” FAQ

Great Life Tours

Consider Great Life Tours your group travel partners in the Northern Indiana Amish Country. We'll be your concierge connection welcoming buses with expert guides and an unparalleled level of group services. Our guests return home filled with smiles and heartwarming memories to share with friends and family. We know that happy people are the best advertisers for your company. Our reliable fast communication promise makes planning your group visit a simple and time saving experience. No more relentless phone messages and unanswered emails. We enthusiastically partner with group leaders to customize an itinerary that meets both your entertainment goals and pricing needs.

Do you define yourself as a “step-on guide” or a “receptive tour operator”?

We define our company as a Full Service Receptive Tour Operator

How long have you been giving group tours?

This will be my 10th year sharing the area with visitors from around the world. I love my profession!

How would you describe the experience you provide for groups?

From the moment I step on a coach I am brimming with excitement to welcome groups and share an invitation to listen, laugh and gain a greater appreciation for the Amish Mennonite way of life. I help guests experience a new culture without traveling to a new continent. Every one of our tours is authentic, packed with great experiences, hands-on activities and opportunities to get to know the Amish craftsmen, artisans and cooks who delight in sharing personal insights with their English visitors.

If your interests go beyond the Amish theme we have many tour options designed for arts and history seekers, the culinary curious and adventurous mystery tour enthusiasts. Have an idea? Let us bring it to

NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

Sonya Nash, CTIS | sonya@amishcountry.org
Amish Country of Northern Indiana | 219 Caravan Drive | Elkhart, IN 46514
574.262.8161 | 800.262.8161 | AmishCountryTours.org

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fruition from concept to completion we'll keep your group intrigued and excited about traveling with YOU.

What services do you provide groups?

Our group services include:

- Customized Itineraries
- Themed Group Tour Packages
- Reservations & Confirmations
- Hotel Bidding Services
- Group Discounts
- Driver & Escort COMP
- FAM Tours & Site Visits
- Expert step-on guides entertain, educate & help your group appreciate the Amish Mennonite culture & people
- Authentic homestyle meals served in an Amish home
- Behind-the-scenes Programs, Hands-on-activities, Authentic Amish Experiences
- Web Links
- Digital Photos
- One stop payment – We accept your company check or credit card

What do you specialize in?

We specialize in authentic Amish Cultural Tours, but are also experts in local and regional attractions. Growing up in an Amish Mennonite family we feel this is our strength being able to give guests personal insights. We offer custom authentic experiences for the group travel market. We specialize in motorcoach groups but also accommodate travel clubs, RV Rallies, Senior Centers and Recreation Districts, Church Groups and Educational Groups. We offer exclusive stops and program opportunities and have long standing relationships with local business partners assuring your guests an inside view of life among the Plain People.

Do you accept payment and make reservations for ALL group components (including lodging, dining, attraction admissions etc) or just for your guide services?

We accept payment for all group components associated with our tour including dining, attraction admissions, fees, supplies and step-on guide. Gratuity is at client discretion. We provide hotel bidding services and theater reservations but do not include these charges in our billing. These fees will be paid directly to the vendor.

Do you take credit cards?

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Yes we accept credit card payment via PayPal.

Do you request an advance deposit and if so when and what are your cancellation-final payment policy?

New clients are asked to place a \$100 deposit which will be credited to final invoice. Group cancellations should be made as soon as possible but no later than 30 days prior to arrival to receive a full refund. Final payment is due 10 days prior to arrival.

What is your comp policy for drivers and escorts?

Driver & Escort are complimentary with 20 paid passengers

What is your minimum group size?

We offer private and van tours upon guide availability with advance notice. Bus groups of 20 or more will qualify for group discount (COMPS)

Will you offer your tours for small groups in cars or vans? If so, is there a different price for small groups?

Yes we will offer select tours to small groups in their car or van. Pricing will depend on length and area of tour. Guide fee will be \$125 for up to 3 hours and \$45 per hour thereafter.

How many guides do you have working for you?

Currently we have 4 guides but seeking a 5th guide.

How many tours can you give on any one day?

Currently we can give 4 tours on any one day.

What specific cities/towns do you take/will you take groups to in Northern Indiana or Southern Michigan?

Northern Indiana: Elkhart, Bristol, Middlebury, Wakarusa, Nappanee, Goshen, Shipshewana, Topeka, Millersburg, Wolcottville, Syracuse, and South Bend / Mishawaka

Southern Michigan: Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and wine country upon request

What do you like the most about working with groups?

I most enjoy being able to enrich and enhance the visitor experience. I find working with groups personally and professionally fulfilling because I'm able to share my family heritage (Amish/Mennonite) and faith with those who may only have a mainstream media understanding of this unique and peaceful community. I especially appreciate the opportunity to provide a fun-filled joyful day to senior and grandparent/grandchild groups. Their smiles are contagious!

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What is your most popular tour that you offer to groups that they love the most?

I would say our most popular tour is our Grab Bag Tour because people love to fill their bags with locally made goodies at each stop. This tour is always a repeat request for our senior centers and park district clients. The tour seems to sellout with a waiting list for most group planners.

Why do groups bring you repeat business?

Groups request our guides by name owing to their level of expertise in regional history, culture and ability to manage large groups with humor and patience all while keeping groups on schedule. We provide a level of service and communication that is unsurpassed by our competition. Group planners also know they can trust Great Life Tours to honor their brand and provide entertainment options in keeping with their standards to assure their guests get the travel experience they expect from their company.

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