



**Early 1900's ... along the Heritage Trail
2012 Suggested Itinerary**

AmishCountry
... along the Heritage Trail

**2 days / 1 night - \$94 pp incl
based upon 30 people PLUS Lodging, Options Available**

Learning the history of Elkhart is as fun as the people you'll meet and the places you'll visit. Peek into the 1930s house car of screen siren Mae West and see what life on the road was like in the early days of RV travel at an RV museum. Hear entertaining stories of Elkhart's history told by a colorful local resident. Tour an opulent mansion and get a glimpse of the privileged lifestyle of a prominent Midwestern family at Ruthmere. Take time to view the largest Norman Rockwell print collection in Indiana and learn about the man behind the work. Relax aboard a 65-foot riverboat cruising the St. Joseph River. Add plenty of great food and entertainment and you have a tour certain to make history with your groups.

DAY ONE

10:00 a.m. Arrival in Elkhart

10:15-11:15 a.m. RV/MH Hall of Fame Museum - \$6 pp incl

This shrine to the RV in the "RV Capital" traces the history of RVing from early 1913 travel-trailers to today's state-of-the-art motor homes. The 80,000 sq. ft. exhibit space showcase a fascinating collection of one-of-a-kind camping cars, house trailers, and house cars including a gem custom built for Hollywood screen siren Mae West. Follow the time trail of vintage RVs arrayed among murals of scenic America. A knowledgeable guide shares RV folklore and the industry's remarkable stories with groups.



11:30-12:30 p.m. Ruthmere House Museum - \$7 pp incl

Touring this elaborate 1910 Beaux-Arts style mansion you'll witness the privileged lifestyle of a prominent family in the early 1900's. The home was built by Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley and named after their only daughter Ruth. Albert was one of the founders of Miles Laboratories, the company that created Miles Nervine and later Alka-Seltzer. Meticulously restored, Ruthmere's richly appointed rooms are filled with fine art, elaborate window treatments, carved and hand-painted plaster ceilings, French silk wall hangings, and Cuban mahogany paneling. Elizabeth's dresses still hang in the closet and presidential china fills cupboards.

(cont.)

NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.

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DAY ONE - CONT



12:45-2:45 p.m. Lunch & an afternoon cruise on the River Queen - \$540 total for cruise plus \$12 per box lunch incl

Enjoy a leisurely afternoon aboard the Elkhart River Queen, a 65-foot riverboat cruising the Saint Joseph River. Hear a bit of area history while gliding past some of the area's most beautiful riverside homes. For added fun, local musical entertainment can be arranged for an additional fee. The boat has two decks, one enclosed and air-conditioned, and one outdoors with a covered canopy--perfect for catching summer breezes. A tasty catered box lunch is included to enjoy during the cruise and additional snacks are available on board for purchase.

3:00-4:00 p.m. Norman Rockwell Art Exhibit, Midwest Museum of American Art --\$5 pp incl

Connect with an American icon and bring his celebrated works of art to life. The "Norman Rockwell: The Making of an American Legend" presentation gives groups a chance to explore both the myth and the reality behind this beloved artist while viewing the largest Rockwell print collection in Indiana.

4:15 p.m. Check into your host hotel

Depart for Bristol

6:00-8:30 p.m. Dinner, Storytelling and admission to the Elkhart County Historical Museum, Bristol - \$3 pp incl for museum PLUS \$150 total for storytellers PLUS \$20 pp incl for catered buffet dinner

For pure nostalgia, begin your evening with a delicious catered buffet dinner served in a restored high-school gymnasium in the building that originally served as the county's first consolidated school. Then, sit back, relax, and enjoy the old-time, yet timely art of storytelling. Bob and Kathie Myers, a husband and wife tandem professional storytelling team entertain and delight groups with a patchwork of stories from other times and places. The 30-45 minute programs are planned for your needs. Take time to explore the museum considered to be one of the top ten history museums in the state and contains an abundance of exhibits highlighting life in the early 1900's of this region.

Return to the hotel following your entertainment

DAY TWO

TIME TBD Continental Breakfast at your host hotel & Check-out

9:00-10 a.m. Step-on Guided Elkhart City Tour - \$90 total (tip optional for guide)

An interesting local resident and expert on Elkhart's early days as the world's band instrument and RV capital meets you at your host hotel and boards your coach to share colorful secrets about the city and its famous people. Hear about fiery Colonel Charles Gerard Conn who played the cornet, cut and scarred his lip so badly during a fist fight that he created the first rubber cushion for his mouthpiece and revolutionized the band instrument industry even to this day.

10:15-11:15 a.m. Linton's Enchanted Gardens - no admission fee

Explore this huge garden center with a the variety of themed gardens including a Japanese Tea House, Southwestern garden with Mine Shaft, Victorian House, Dutch Gardens and Grist Mill. Shop in their 25,000 square foot gift emporium.

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DAY TWO - CONT

11:45-1:15 p.m. Homemade Italian Pizza Party Lunch at DaVinci's - \$10 pp incl

This family owned/operated Italian restaurant is popular for its tasty hand-tossed pizzas and home-made pasta dishes.

1:30-2:30 p.m. Behind the Scenes tour of the new Lerner Theatre - \$5 pp incl

In 1924 Elkhart businessman, Harry E. Lerner, constructed a modern "theatrical palace" in downtown Elkhart. The 2,000 seat theatre hosted a variety of vaudeville, big band and theatrical reviews including stars such as Bob Hope. Today, the newly renovated Lerner Theatre captures the grandeur of its original 1920s design while being equipped with the finest structural, acoustic, technical and theatrical requirements of today and tomorrow. You get a backstage look and more touring this impressive theatre.

Depart for home

OPTIONAL ADD-ON:

Barns and Centennial Farms Step-on Guided Tour, Bristol - \$100 total

From Swiss barns elements to double-gambrel barns, from hay-slings to hay-mows, view some of the area's most unique architecture found in barns. Many of the farms on the tour have been in the same family for over 100 years. Your guide explains the differences between hay and straw plus why barns are so important to a successful farm.