



# AmishCountry

*... along the Heritage Trail*

Early 1900's ... along the Heritage Trail

2012 Suggested Daytrip Itinerary  
\$44 pp incl , minimum of 30, options available

Learning the history of Elkhart is as fun as the people you'll meet and the places you'll visit. Hear entertaining stories about Elkhart's history told by a colorful local resident. Be amazed by the evolution of the RV from its early 1913 tiny travel-trailers to today's luxury models at a museum dedicated to the RV. See the mark mogul Albert Beardsley made on Elkhart touring his opulent beaux-arts mansion. Take a relaxing lunch break aboard a 65-foot riverboat cruising the waters of the St. Joseph River and hear some river history along the way. Treat your group to this pleasure-filled, memory-filled daytrip.

## **DAY ONE**

**10:30 a.m. Arrival in Elkhart**

**10:30-11:00 a.m. City of Elkhart Historical Video at Elkhart County Visitors Center – No charge**  
Relax and watch a short and entertaining video about Elkhart's early days, its people and the innovations that put this city on the worldwide map. Take time to enjoy the extensive contemporary quilt exhibit at the Visitors Center.

**11:00-11:45 a.m. Step-on Guided Elkhart City Tour - \$95 total (tip optional for guide)**  
This city tour is fun and interesting as a local resident and expert on Elkhart's early days as the world's band instrument and RV capital boards your coach and shares colorful secrets about the city and its famous people. Learn 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 that revolutionized the band instrument industry even to this day.



**Noon-2:00 p.m. Lunch & an afternoon cruise on the River Queen - \$540 total for cruise plus \$10 incl per box lunch**

Enjoy a leisurely afternoon aboard the Elkhart River Queen, a 65-foot riverboat plying the waters of the Saint Joseph River. Hear a bit of area history and learn how the river impacted Elkhart while taking in the scenery gliding by some of the area's most beautiful riverside homes. For added fun, folk and mountain music entertainment can be arranged. 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.

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*NOTE: Prices subject to change without advance notice.*

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NORTHERN INDIANA

## **DAY ONE** - CONT



**2:15-3:30 p.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. museum houses a sometimes quirky, always 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 destinations. An enjoyable guide shares RV folklore and the industry's remarkable stories with groups.

**3:45-4:45 p.m. Ruthmere House Museum - \$7 pp incl**

Glimpse the privileged lifestyle of a prominent Midwest family in the early 1900's. This elaborate 1910 Beaux-Arts style mansion 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 Alka-Seltzer. Meticulously restored, Ruthmere's richly appointed rooms are filled with decorative and 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.

**Depart for home**

### **OPTIONS:**

**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.

**Norman Rockwell Collection Art Exhibit, Midwest Museum of American Art - \$5 pp incl**

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

**Barns and Centennial Farms Step-on Guided Tour, Bristol - \$3 pp incl**

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 and tells why barns are so important to a successful farm.

**Elkhart County Historical Museum - \$3 pp incl for museum (2 comps with 20 pd. per bus) PLUS \$150 total for storytellers**

Take time to explore a museum considered to be one of the top ten history museums in the State of Indiana. The museum is housed in the building that originally served as the county's first consolidated school and boasts thirteen display areas arranged by theme and period plus special exhibits highlighting life in Elkhart County's early days. 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.

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