

# AmishCountry

NORTHERN INDIANA

BRISTOL ELKHART GOSHEN MIDDLEBURY NAPPANEE SHIPSHEWANA WAKARUSA

## What's New... for Groups in 2012

Take a look. We have plenty of fresh, fun experiences sure to make your group tour a stand-out!



### Elkhart County Visitor Center Quilt Exhibit and Quilt Garden DVD, *Elkhart*

Welcome to Amish Country by beginning your experience with a stop at the Amish Country / Elkhart County Visitor Center. You'll begin with a brief overview and DVD about the unique, one-of-a-kind Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail to orientate you to the area. Then you'll be given an opportunity to explore beautiful, handmade works of art by local fiber artists Diana Bennett and Lina Zerkle on your own.



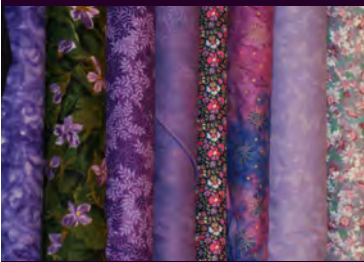
### Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer Quilt Raffle and Donation, *Elkhart*

Groups can enter their clients to win an exclusive quilt designed with Vera Bradley fabric (\$2pp). You'll love to see the quilt on display throughout the destination and also see it brought to life in living plants at Wellfield Botanic Gardens.



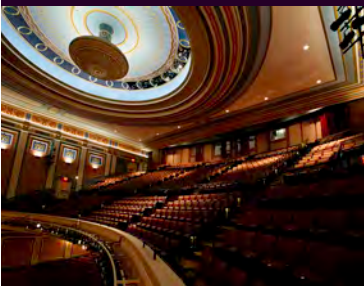
### Delicious Stitches, *Destination-wide*

A delectable new tour with a generous dash of fun. Participants hop to four fabulous fabric shops to fill their special container with sweet fabric "cinnamon rolls" and get favorite roll recipes as a bonus. Blend in Quilt Gardens and this tour is a recipe for success.



### Pieces, Pies & Posies, *Destination-wide*

Combine a shop hop to four fantastic fabric stores with the excitement of getting a charming pattern to create a yummy "Pie" quilt then gathering "fat quarters" to make the filling. Add a big slice of fun with pie recipes and a Lang recipe card box to store them. Top it all off with Quilt Gardens to make this tour irresistible.



### The Lerner, *Elkhart*

Backstage tours of this magnificently restored theatre tell the story of the building's original opulence and more. Today, thousands of crystals sparkle on chandeliers, leaded glass windows copy the building's historic design elements, appointments shimmer with gold leaf and wallpaper replicates what hung on the walls in 1924. Plus this lavish theatre hosts a wide variety of performances throughout the year.

*More new and exciting group activities ...*



### **Three New Backroads Tour Stops**, *Destination-wide*

Groups get to know local Amish entrepreneurs and see first-hand how they operate their unique enterprises and use their special talents to create products that serve the local community and beyond. Get a behind the scenes look at how horse collars are made from start to finish. See Amish women busily cutting, sewing and finishing horse blankets and gain a new appreciation of their uses. Peek inside an Amish coffin, empty of course, and learn the differences between coffins and caskets in the shop and showroom of an Amish woodcrafter. These fun, authentic stops are sure to be a hit and appeal to every age and gender in your group.



### **Cooking Class with Chef Adam at Concord Mall**, *Elkhart*

Chef Adam Williams completed his culinary classes in Mississippi and interned in Europe. His cuisine covers everything from Thai to Cajun, Southern to Chocolate Lovers. And every class, recipe and accompanying meal comes with a story.



### **"Toothbrush" Rag Rug Making**, *Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen*

Learn all about the frugal, Scandinavian art of "toothbrush" rug making that involves using scraps of fabric and a special technique that gives it such an unusual name. Rug maker, Jill Cohen, shares the fascinating story about this time-honored skill as she leads participants through all the steps to create a "toothbrush" rug. Group members complete a small trivet using a "starter kit" that includes the appropriate tool and 100% cotton quilting fabrics.



### **New Fun for Quilt Lovers, The Quilt Shop at Essenhaus**, *Middlebury*

Beginning quilters soon feel like experts, and those who would rather own quilts than make them develop a discerning eye after Quilt Appreciation 101. Groups even learn about the care, storage and appraisal of treasured quilts during this enjoyable class. For quilt lovers in the know, Tips & Techniques for Experienced Quilters is watch and learn fun. They'll find out about the latest techniques, get tips on great ways to enhance their craft, and take away lots of new ideas. Plus they get the behind-the-scenes stories of quilts on display. This class delivers plenty of inspiration without all the perspiration!



### **Hampton Inn**, *Middlebury*

This new hotel delivers the quality service and accommodations that groups have come to know and trust with the Hampton name. Spacious, modern rooms provide all the amenities and helpful staff look out for everyone's needs. Come morning, nothing beats a hot breakfast and fresh brewed coffee to start the day.



### **Amish Wedding Feast**, *Shipshewana*

Step into the tidy, charming setting of "Miller's Country Kitchen" for a once-in-a-lifetime experience feasting on a traditional Amish wedding dinner.

*More new and exciting group activities ...*



**Zesty Condiments How To's & Tastings with Lunch in an Amish Kitchen**, *Shipshewana*  
Groups are in for a tangy surprise at M&L Acres as LeAnna Yoder invites them into her Amish home to hear secrets to making flavorful condiments and fun ways to use them. LeAnna shares some insider tips then invites groups to sample her specialty mustards including the popular sweet pepper and hot pepper. It's hard to pick a favorite! A tasty soup or salad and sandwich lunch (using LeAnna's condiments of course) complete with fresh-baked pie and beverage makes an afternoon with LeAnna flavor filled.



**Lavender Patch Class - "What's In Your Tool Shed?"**, *Shipshewana*  
New quilters and veteran quilters increase your piecing skills and proficiency in quilting with this workshop that covers the use of quilting rulers and several other tools all designed to get great results. Select your fabric and try cutting a block of your very own.



**Lavender Patch Class - "Coloring Happiness"**, *Shipshewana*  
Get a fresh view of looking at color & design that gives us joy. We'll talk about it all during this trunk show featuring colorful fabrics, wall hangings, quilts & gifts.



**Lavender Patch Class - "The Richness of Chocolate & Fabric"**, *Shipshewana*  
This yummy class is all about brown. You'll see and learn about some great applications for this rich color during a trunk show featuring fabrics and quilts, wall hangings, table runners and gifts all made with brown fabrics. To satisfy any cravings, everyone gets a cup of coffee and a piece of chocolate to go!



**Lavender Patch Class - "Origami Fabric Folding"**, *Shipshewana*  
Learn an ancient Japanese art and open your eyes to the world of embellishment of quilts and wall hangings. Watch fascinating demonstrations on various folded fabric techniques and embellishment options. Each class member is given the necessary fabric and instruction to make their very own origami embellishment.

**For personalized service, please contact:**



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*For over 20 years, Sonya L. Nash and Amish Country have valued group gatherings and tours. The Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau is a full service bureau offering expert advice, customized itineraries, experienced insight and special tips.*

*Call today for tour planning customization.*