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Disclaimer: Offer valid for tour groups of 15 or more guests, providing all-inclusive group tour and lunch at \$30.00 per person on weekdays only. Specific day menus apply. Offer expires September 1, 2024. Subject to availability and management discretion. Contact Southfork Ranch for bookings. Terms subject to change without notice. Participation constitutes acceptance of terms. Southfork Ranch not liable for any damages or losses incurred.



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Southfork Ranch

Embark on an unforgettable journey to Southfork Ranch, the iconic setting of the legendary TV series "Dallas." Nestled in the heart of Texas, Southfork Ranch beckons you and your group to immerse yourselves in the allure of this historic estate. With our exclusive all-inclusive offer, your group of 15 or more guests can indulge in a remarkable experience like no other.

Step into the realm of the Ewings as you explore the sprawling grounds of Southfork Ranch. Our expert guides will lead you through the hallowed halls, sharing captivating tales of the ranch's storied past and its role in shaping television history. From the famous Ewing family feud to the lavish soirées that defined an era, every corner of Southfork holds a treasure trove of intrigue waiting to be discovered.

But the adventure doesn't end there. As part of our all-inclusive package, your group will be treated to a delectable lunch, crafted to perfection with Texas hospitality in mind. Feast on mouthwatering dishes inspired by the Lone Star State, each bite a symphony of flavors that pay homage to the rich culinary heritage of the region.

To sweeten the deal, we're offering an exclusive discount of \$30.00 per person for weekday tours, making this experience even more irresistible. Whether you're planning a corporate outing, a reunion with friends, or a special event for your organization, Southfork Ranch promises a day filled with excitement, laughter, and memories to last a lifetime.

Please note that this offer is valid for weekday tours only, with specific day-of-the-week menus in effect. Be sure to book in advance to secure your spot and guarantee an unforgettable adventure for your group.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to journey into the heart of Texas history and Hollywood glamour. Gather your group and join us at Southfork Ranch for an experience that's truly larger than life. Book now and let the adventure begin!

Offer expires September 1, 2024.



Bus Tours Magazine • www.bustourismagazine.com
Ph: (815) 946-2341 • Fx: (815) 946-2347

Volume XLVI, Number 6 • July/August 2024

BUS TOURS

Magazine

Rail & Sail
page 14

Gaming & Entertainment
page 24

Places To Go Next Year
page 6



A photograph of two women sitting at a poker table in a casino. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a dark blue top. The woman on the right has long dark hair and is wearing an orange and white patterned top. They are both smiling and looking towards the left. The table is covered with a blue felt and has several stacks of colorful chips and playing cards on it. The background is filled with colorful neon lights and the blurred shapes of other people and casino equipment.

**FEWER MEMOS.
MORE FUN.**

It's time to get away from your full house and look for a different one. Coastal Mississippi's premier casinos make for a one-shop stop for all the fun you can handle. Roll, call, bluff, and enjoy it all with relaxation at this vacation destination. Don't miss a chance to win big, so go all in for fun's sake. Get dealt in at coastalmississippi.com.

PLAY
Coastal
MISSISSIPPI

contents

JULY/AUGUST 2024

Volume XLVI, Number 6



Guides

6 PLACES TO GO NEXT YEAR
Summer has arrived. It is time to start planning your 2025 bus tours. Here are a few places that have proven to be popular with bus tour groups in the past and can be a great addition to your next itinerary.

14 RAIL & SAIL
Sometimes getting there is most of the fun. Who can resist the call of the train horn or the boat whistle followed by a delightful trip down the tracks or waterway? Here are some great ideas for your next bus tour.

24 GAMING & ENTERTAINMENT
When it is time to take a break, gaming and entertainment are both good ideas. Enjoy your luck at the casino or sit back and take in a relaxing and entertaining show. Here are a couple of places that could be added to your next bus tour.

Feature

21 MILITARY & SPACE
Military and space attractions are not just for the veterans on your bus. Many other bus tour passengers are awed by huge battleships and the impressive technology related to rocket ships and space travel.

And More

4 BUZZ ON THE BUS
News and notes of interest to the bus tour industry

30 TRIVIA QUESTION

30 ADVERTISERS INDEX



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COVER PHOTO

The Astronomy Center at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, one hour south of the Grand Canyon, is a science center that features a theater, all-age exhibits and a rooftop planetarium. ART BY GREG MORT.

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The editorial staff at BUS TOURS MAGAZINE are always looking for news items and editorial material on places that want bus tour groups to stop. Please phone (815) 946-2341 or send material to editorial@busmag.com.

Buzz on the Bus

News and notes for bus tour planners

SkyStar Observation Wheel at Fisherman's Wharf San Francisco, California

From SF Travel written by Tyler Cohn

Standing 15 stories tall, the state-of-the-art SkyStar Observation Wheel features 36 enclosed, well-ventilated gondolas, boasting unparalleled views that span the city. From its heights, you will be able to see the iconic Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz, the gleaming skyscrapers of downtown and the beautiful communities of Sausalito and Tiburon in the north bay.

Operational hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. The gondolas are fully accessible for guests in wheelchairs or needing assistance.

For more information on directions or ordering tickets, view sftravel.com.

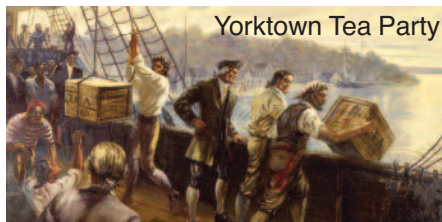


SkyStar Observation Wheel

Yorktown Tea Party Richmond, Virginia

As the 250th anniversary of the world-famous Boston Tea Party was December 16, 2023, plans are brewing in Virginia to commemorate another pivotal moment in American history. The Yorktown Tea Party, often overshadowed by its Boston counterpart, will be marked with a weeklong commemoration in November 2024.

Similar protests against British taxation and the lack of colonial representation in Parliament occurred throughout the colonies including Charleston, South Carolina; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Wilmington and Edenton, North Carolina; Annapolis, Maryland and Greenwich, New Jersey.



York residents learned that despite the passage of a resolution to boycott such English goods as tea, Williamsburg merchant John Prentis had ordered tea from London. In retaliation, members of the York County Committee of Safety, led by Thomas Nelson Jr., paraded from the Swan Tavern on Main Street in Yorktown to the waterfront docks on November 7, 1774. They climbed aboard the ship *Virginia* and emptied two half chests of tea into the York River. Facing searing condemnation from his colleagues and neighbors, Prentis printed a public apology.

The Yorktown Tea Party was a bold and defiant act that echoed the spirit of the Boston Tea Party 11 months earlier and sent a clear message to the British authorities that Virginians were united in their opposition to taxation without representation. This event, along with countless others, fueled the growing revolutionary spirit that ultimately led to the American Revolution.

Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Durango, Colorado

First told in the award-winning book by Chris Van Allsburg and later adapted for the big screen in 2004, this is the story of a child's Christmas Eve journey to the North Pole.

Each traveler receives a golden ticket as they step onto the train as well as being presented a silver bell by Santa. Anticipation builds as the train arrives at the North Pole, where Santa and his elves greet you and you witness a wondrous light show set to music.

Sip on hot chocolate and a delicious cookie served by the friendly chefs just like in the story. Join in a heartwarming sing-along of holiday classics with your fellow passengers and the lively crew.

Marvel at the picturesque winter landscape through the train's large windows as you journey alongside the Animas River to the North Pole.



Polar Express™ Train Ride

While the Polar Express™ Train Ride is roughly 65 minutes in duration, it is recommended to allow two hours for the entire adventure. The weather can be cold at the North Pole, so layering properly is recommended, even though all the train cabins are heated. As always, wearing pajamas is recommended to capture the Christmas spirit.

Dates for the 2024 rides are from November 22, 2024 to January 1, 2025. For more information phone (970) 872-4607.

New Happiness Officer – Bondi Dallas, Texas

Fairmont Dallas has welcomed Bondi as the “chief happiness officer” of the hotel located in the Dallas Arts District I

Bondi, a six-month-old puppy, adopted from Dallas-Fort Worth-based Operation Kindness, will serve as the hotel’s canine ambassador promoting positivity and happiness among colleagues and guests. The pet-friendly property welcomes cats and dogs of all sizes.

As “chief happiness officer,” Bondi will actively engage in events, be available to participate in various hotel activities and work with her colleagues to volunteer for organizations, including Operation Kindness.

Having graduated from a four-week intensive training program, Bondi looks forward to welcoming guests, interacting with colleagues and sharing joy throughout Fairmont Dallas’ hallways and common spaces, a news release states.



Bondi

While Bondi offices with her Fairmont Dallas colleagues, she can typically be found welcoming guests in the hotel’s lobby, romping on the rooftop terrace and can be invited to attend special meetings or events, offering a unique and delightful touch to gatherings.

Milwaukee Zoo Steam Engines Coming Home

After 63 years of service at the Milwaukee County Zoo, steam locomotive No. 1916 will come back home for good to the Riverside & Great Northern Railway in Wisconsin Dells. The Sandley Light Railway Equipment Works built No. 1916 in the R&GN shops in 1960-61 for the Zoo. On April 5, No. 1916 will return to the R&GN for service on the former Sandley Works’ 15-inch gauge railway now owned by the Riverside & Great Northern Preservation Society.

The Milwaukee County Zoo sold both of its steam locomotives No. 1916 and No. 1924 to the society as part of the zoo’s plan to go to all diesel locomotive power. No. 1924 will return to the R&GN after the end of the zoo’s operating season in October.

This is not the first time the Zoo has sold a steam locomotive to the R&GN Preservation Society. When the society organized in 1989, it purchased the zoo’s first steam

locomotive No. 82, an American Standard 4-4-0 built by the Sandley Works in 1958. No. 82 is still in service at the R&GN.

For more information, go to dellstrain.com. □



Milwaukee Zoo No. 1916



Lowell Observatory Astronomy Discovery Center

Places To Go Next Year

Lowell Observatory's Astronomy Discovery Center Flagstaff, Arizona

by Madison Mooney,
content writer | Lowell Observatory

Set to open in November, Lowell Observatory's Marley Foundation Astronomy Discovery Center (ADC) will be a 40,000-square-foot, multi-level facility designed to inspire awe and curiosity. This major tourism attraction will feature an outdoor planetarium, immersive theater, children's exhibit hall, café and more, each crafted to enhance the visitor experience and foster a love of science.

Visitors to the ADC will engage in free-choice learning, a self-motivated exploration of topics of interest. According to ADC Interpretive Content Manager Samantha Gorney, this type of learning is crucial for building scientific literacy and inquiry skills, particularly in children. The exhibits are designed to be accessible and inclusive, incorporating visual, tactile, auditory and olfactory elements to ensure a rich experience for all.

Highlights of the ADC include:

- Lowell Universe Theater: This state-of-the-art theater features a 160-degree curved LED screen, providing an immersive experience that can transport visitors across the cosmos. Seating up to 180 guests, it will host live presentations, continuing Lowell's tradition of interactive educational programs.

- Richard F. Caris Dark Sky Planetarium: Unique for its use of Flagstaff's dark skies as a backdrop, this rooftop planetarium offers an unparalleled stargazing experience from heated seats. Live presentations by Lowell educators, enhanced with custom audio-visual components, make this a standout feature.

- Orbits Curiosity Zone: Northern Arizona's first children's interactive science exhibit hall, the Orbits Curiosity Zone, combines fun with learning. Kids can engage with exhibits like the *Rocket Launcher* and *Cloud Simulator*, guided by characters Marzee and Pluie, to explore the cosmos hands-on.

- Astronomy Gallery: Stardust Lab: Featuring interactive exhibits that explore the origins of the universe, the Stardust Lab allows visitors to trace their "stardust" origins back to the Big Bang and send messages to the cosmos, deepening their understanding of their place in the universe.

The ADC's opening heralds a new era of experiences at Lowell Observatory, complementing existing attractions such as historical telescopes, artifact displays and campus tours. By fostering a spirit of free-choice learning, the ADC encourages visitors to cultivate a lifelong passion for science and the mysteries of the universe.

For more information, advance tickets or to contribute to Lowell Observatory's legacy, visit lowell.edu/adc.

Clinton, Iowa

Clinton, Iowa and Fulton, Illinois offer something for everyone. This unique bi-state community is large enough to offer a myriad of things to do, but small enough to guarantee personal attention.

OPENS
NOV 16
2024

Infinite WONDERS AWAIT

MARLEY FOUNDATION
ASTRONOMY DISCOVERY CENTER
AT LOWELL OBSERVATORY

New wonders await at Lowell Observatory, where Pluto, our expanding universe, Uranus' rings, and much more were discovered! The Astronomy Discovery Center is adding an all-new immersive experience to Lowell Observatory's famous campus.

Lowell Universe Theater
Immersive LED Screen

Dark Sky Planetarium
First-Ever Rooftop Open Sky Planetarium

Astronomy Gallery
High-Tech Immersive Exhibits

Orbits Curiosity Zone
Interactive Exhibits for Ages 0-8

Cafe & Gift Shop
Exciting New Visitor Experience



Learn more at
lowell.edu/adc



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CRES MORT



Clinton, Iowa

Delicious Destinations

Make dinner and drinks about more than simply food – make it an experience:

- Great Revivalist Brewery – Incredibly reimagined space, this brewery was originally a grand church. It has been lovingly and impeccably restored into the hottest new dining spot in Clinton. Want the ambiance but with privacy? The lower level can be reserved even large groups.

- Candlelight Inn – Fine dining on the riverfront. Every table has a view of the Mississippi River, or you can enjoy your dinner on the beautiful deck. Try the Chicken George.

- Rusty Barrel Lounge – Enjoy evening libations in this new downtown lounge. Full

bar plus cocktail slushies, means everyone can find something to drink.

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This program made possible in part through Hotel Tax Revenue funded from the city of College Station through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley.

Attractions and Activities

We have fun things to do for each type of tour group:

- Wild Rose Casino & Hotel – Gaming is always a fun pastime.
- The Showboat Theatre – Professional theater in a unique setting
- DeImmigrant Windmill–Authentic working Dutch windmill
- Personalized Experiences – Murder Mystery Dinners, wine and chocolate tastings, art talks. If you have an idea for it, we can probably make it happen!

Shop Til You Drop

Two distinct shopping districts in Clinton plus the Fulton downtown means you will find unique spots you will wish you could come back for:

- Jewelry Stores – Fine jewelry and gems are available at Albert’s Jewelry downtown or Don’s Jewelry in the north end Lyons District.
- Boutiques – Lulu Jo’s, Blessings, the Freckled Frog, and more offer great gifts and fun finds.
- Vintage Treasures – From music, to antiques, to high end consignment, it is here. Get your favorite classic candies plus hand-made truffles at Grandma’s Goody Jar.

Take a Tour

Get the full tour of any of the fantastic attractions. Here are only a few:

- George Curtis Mansion
- Martin House Museum
- St. Boniface Catholic Historical Center
- Windmill Cultural Center

We cannot wait to show you what Clinton and Fulton have to offer. Group rates for hotels and/or Showboat Theatre are available.

Book your bus tour through Grow Clinton CVB, and receive \$50 in River City Gold to be used at your choice of more than 70 area businesses, including restaurants, hotels, jewelry stores, gift shops and more.*

* Tour Operator Incentive Guidelines: Tours must be groups of 17+, originating from

a destination 30 or more miles away. \$50 River City Gold certificates will be given to one group tour operator and one driver per commercial bus.

Gallup, New Mexico

Gallup, New Mexico is America’s Most Patriotic Small Town. This designation was given to the community in 2013 through Rand McNally’s Best of the Road contest.

Gallup residents, known as Gallupians, have earned this well-deserved title long before the contest through patriotic acts in the armed forces and public service.

The rich history of patriotism in Gallup is a major point of pride for Gallupians. Many of the Navajo Code Talkers who bravely served in World War II are from the Gallup region. Korean War veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient

Explore THE River Cities
Where Mighty Memories are Made

Clinton, Iowa & Fulton, Illinois

Spend three hours or three days discovering everything our bi-state region has to offer! Live theatre on an actual showboat, a lively casino, an authentic Dutch windmill, an abandoned church renovated into a gorgeous brewery, historical museums, riverfront dining... we have it all and it's closer than you think!

Visit THE RIVER CITIES

Contact Lesley Webster
Email: lwebster@growclinton.com
563.242.5702
visitclintoniowa.com

Guide: Places To Go Next Year

Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura was also from Gallup and is memorialized on murals, installations and buildings across the community.

The Gallup Cultural Center, 201 E. Historic Route 66, is a great location to learn more about why Gallup is America's Most Patriotic Small Town. Even if you are not a history buff, the Navajo Code Talker exhibit should not be missed. It is joined by other artifacts, art and important pieces of Gallup's history from the development of the transcontinental railroad to Route 66 creating a new spirit of freedom across the country.

Be sure to also check out the Rex Museum, also on Historic Route 66, for a deeper dive into the past and how it has shaped modern life. This building also features an original neon sign illuminating its façade similar to the others dotting the historic Mother Road.



To learn more, plan your trip and book a hotel room, go to [VisitGallup.com](https://www.visitgallup.com).

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Guide: Places To Go Next Year

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Whether you are a visitor or a resident, there is no end to things to see, taste and tour. Visit one of two craft bourbon distilleries, MB Roland and Casey Jones, or hop down to our veteran-owned and operated local brewery, Hopkinsville Brewing Company, or visit our winery, Naimoli Estates, and allow those spirits, brews and wine to captivate you.

Take your taste buds to a whole new level. Enjoy fine dining at local restaurants and devour the sweet and tangy taste of Bar-B-Que venues that will surely please your palate.

Catch one of the many attractions, festivals and events while visiting or attending a Hoptown Hoppers ballgame at outstanding facilities. Visit the first weekend after Labor Day each year and witness the beauty, culture and spirituality of the Trail of Tears



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Plan your sweet trip to Hopkinsville, Kentucky today!



Guide: Places To Go Next Year

Intertribal Pow Wow. Take in the festivities of Nature Fest at Jeffers Bend Environmental Center and Hoptown Harvest Festival, and enjoy summer fun at the Western Kentucky State Fair.

Take a stroll downtown and take a picture with our “larger than life” wheat stalk public art display, view the remarkable architecture while experiencing the Edgar Cayce Cell Phone Tour and learn more about our turn-of-the-century sleeping prophet. Stop and discover the rich and sometimes bizarre history of southwestern Kentucky at the museums of Hopkinsville which includes the Pennyroyal Area Museum and Woody Winfree Fire-Transportation Museum.

Have you heard of trailblazing feminist icon bell hooks? Interested to learn the inspiration behind Steven Spielberg's blockbuster *E.T.*? Learn about the immense history of Hoptown. □

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As you revel in Wyoming's wonders along the Black to Yellow Route, be sure to stop off in Gillette. Located just an hour from Devils Tower, this town brims with group-friendly activities—from guided tours of Durham Bison Ranch and Eagle Butte Coal Mine to self-guided historic walking tours downtown.

Call us at **307-686-0040** to plan your stopover in Gillette, and scan the QR code to find more information.

Rail & Sail



Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad

Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad **Titusville, Pennsylvania**

What comes to mind when you hear vintage train cars, knowledgeable volunteers, exciting special events and the occasional mystery? We hope you think of the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad. In operation for 37 years, three-hour, round-trip train rides are provided through the “valley that changed the world” and the history of the original Oil Boom is shared.

The seasons generally begin with the Peter Cottontail run in spring and end with three Santa Trains shortly after Thanksgiving. In between are many regular excursions and special events, and each takes you through beautiful Oil Creek Valley as you hear the his-

tory of the Oil Boom and see how Mother Nature has reclaimed this once bustling area.

June and September rides are Saturdays and Sundays, departing at 11 a.m. In July and August, runs are Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. Fall Foliage Tours during October are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 11 am, and Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The ride through the park as the leaves are changing allows for some amazing sights. Many people ride just for outstanding photo opportunities.

Special events include Wine Tastings, WWII Re-enactment, Christmas in July, Brew Choo, Halloween Ride and Santa Trains. We are also partnering with Oil Creek State Park

for several Petroleum Centre Tours during the season.

Murder Mystery Dinners are very popular, sold-out events. Ten of these are hosted annually, from May to October. Performers are from In All Seriousness of Erie, Pennsylvania, and the meal is catered by Stewart’s Premier Catering of Titusville. There is limited seating and phoning early for reservations is recommended.

Across the parking lot from our station is The Caboose Motel, offering unique overnight stays in real caboose cars. Phone (814) 827-5730 for more information.

Train departs from Perry Street Station, 409 S Perry Street, Titusville, Pennsylvania. You will find the Museum & Gift Shop and

Guide: Rail & Sail

Concession Stand inside the station. Group rates, car rentals and box lunches are available. Phone (814) 676-1733 or go to octr.org for complete details on excursions "through the valley that changed the world."

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Chama, New Mexico

Looking for an adventure? Come to northern New Mexico or southern Colorado and climb aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. Witness the spectacular scenery and the beauty of the Rocky Mountain West. The steam locomotives and preserved cars have changed little since they were built in the early days of the 1800s and chug along the narrow-gauge rails at the top speed of 12 miles an hour along the 64-mile track from Chama, New Mexico to Antonito, Colorado. The C&T weaves in and out of the two states 11 times. Along the way you will experience the train cross-

ing over several trestles, climb the four percent grade up Windy Point to the highest elevation of 10,015 feet at Cumbres Pass, the highest point reached by any steam railroad in North America. You will also see the amazing Toltec Gorge, experience the trains burrowing through two tunnels, pass by rock formations and slither along the mountainside all while experiencing the breath-taking views from the open car gondola which is open to all passengers. The C&T is the longest, the highest and the most authentic steam railroad in North America and is owned and operated by the states of New Mexico and Colorado.

Midpoint through your adventure you will enjoy a delicious hot meal which is included in your ticket price. The train does operate six days a week from Tuesday through Sunday. The first train departed May 25 and will run through October 19, 2024. The train is located at 500 S Terrace



Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad Titusville, Pennsylvania



Hear the Whistle Call!
Step back in time to the era of black gold and iron horses! Immerse yourself in Pennsylvania's rich oil history. Board vintage Pullman cars and travel back in time, chugging through the scenic Oil Creek Valley. Group rates and box lunches available.

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Photo credit: Dave Crosby



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Avenue, Chama, New Mexico with parking available to all.

Groups of more than 20 will be offered a special group rate and will be greeted by the group sales representative or by the assigned reservationist upon arrival. Phone (877) 890-

2737 or visit at cumbrestoltec.com for more information. Climb aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad for an awe-inspiring ride of a lifetime.

Conway Scenic Railroad

by Brian Solomon

Conway Scenic Railroad operated its first public excursions on August 4, 1974. Since that time the railroad has grown to become one of the leading attractions in New Hampshire's White Mountains and one of America's leading tourist railroads. This August the railroad plans to celebrate a half century of operation with a special event at its North Conway Station on the weekend of August 3 and 4.

Conway Scenic began with operations over six-miles over the former Boston & Maine Conway branch between the iconic North Conway Station and the village of Conway, New Hampshire. In the early years, most excursions were led by the railroad's 1921-built steam locomotive, engine 7470. Since those formative days the railroad has grown.

In the 1990s, it restored a portion of the former Maine Central Mountain Division over Crawford Notch and developed this route as one of the region's premier scenic journeys.



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Today, this is the route of the railroad's *Mountaineer*, which runs from May through November and attracts riders from around the world.

In 2023, Conway Scenic expanded into the cruise ship shore excursion business. This led to the railroad to acquire Portland, Maine-based motorcoach company VIP Tour and Charter Bus Company to cement the relationship between the two companies.

The railroad envisions this union as a dynamic synergy for regional tourism. It ensures that Conway Scenic has ample motorcoaches to shuttle cruise passengers between the Portland waterfront and the railroad, while opening up myriad opportunities for expanding the tour business of both companies.

In 2024, the railroad expanded its fleet of first-class passenger cars to establish a dedicated train to be used for cruise ship and bus tour passengers as a means of expanding capacity and increasing the number of depar-

An advertisement for boat tours. At the top left is a red ship's wheel logo with "TOUR BOAT ASSOCIATION" written around it and "NEW YORK STATE" on a blue banner below. To the right of the logo, the text "Boat Tours on New York's Waterways" is written in large, white, bold letters. Below the text is a photograph of a large, multi-decked white boat with a red cabin, filled with people, moving across a body of water. In the background, a large, ornate stone building with multiple towers and windows is situated on a lush, green island. At the bottom left of the advertisement is a QR code. At the bottom right, the text "Check out our Members' Cruises at:" is written in white, followed by the website "www. CruiseNewYork.com" in large, white, bold letters.

tures. Further, Conway Scenic aims to develop its shoulder season by making the railroad more attractive to tour operators during May, June, July and late autumn, when there is ample hotel capacity in the White Mountain Region.

For details on VIP, bus tour options and shore excursions contact Tom@vipchartercoaches.com.

The Riverboat Twilight

Le Claire, Iowa

A Mississippi River journey is a quintessential American experience. In the 1800's, steamboats were the fastest, most elegant form of travel available. Mark Twain called them "Floating Palaces." The Victorian-styled *Riverboat Twilight* takes you back to experience the beauty, history and exhilaration of "Life on the Mississippi."

Two-Day Signature Cruise

This journey begins at LeClaire, Iowa, boyhood home of William F "Buffalo Bill" Cody. The captain is your expert guide to the valley landscapes, locks and dams, historic river towns, and wildlife including bald eagles, pelicans, great blue herons and more.

Enjoy live entertainment, games, two snacks, lunch and dinner before arriving in historic Dubuque, Iowa. Accommodations are at the riverfront Grand Harbor Resort, with your luggage waiting in your room. The evening is yours to enjoy and explore the city of five flags; France, Spain, Great Britain, Napoleon and USA.

Day two begins with breakfast and time to explore the architecture, shopping and history of Iowa's oldest city. Admission is included to Iowa's #1 attraction, the must-see National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium.

Re-board for the return journey and take in all the sites that you missed on the trip upriver. Enjoy lunch and dinner served at your table. Arrival back in LeClaire is at approximately 6:30 p.m. Cruising May

through October with departures on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, this is the most popular cruise and many dates sell out well in advance.

One-Day Cruise

This cruise heads north from Dubuque through one of the most beautiful areas of the Mississippi River. It includes continental breakfast, two snacks, full lunch, historical

narration, great scenery, eagles, live music and more relaxation than you have allowed yourself in years.

One and One-Half Hour Sightseeing Cruise

The cruise travels north taking in the wildlife and river towns of Pt Byron, Illinois; Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois. The Captain provides history and interesting

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facts about the river and its commerce. There is plenty of time to relax, enjoy a

complimentary glass of iced tea or lemonade or to purchase a beverage at the full-

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Military & Space



USS Alabama

USS Alabama Battleship Park Mobile, Alabama

The *USS Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park opened to the public on January 9, 1965. It is a must-see for any history buff. It is among Alabama's top 10 attractions for motorcoach tours and group travel. Located in Mobile, Alabama, it is minutes away from downtown Mobile, local restaurants and hotels.

The park has two National Historic Landmarks: the *USS Alabama* and the *USS Drum*. The centerpiece, of course, is the *USS Alabama* herself, earning nine battle stars during WWII. Across from the *Alabama* is the *USS Drum*, which earned 12 battle stars.

The *USS Alabama* and *USS Drum* are not the only exhibits visitors can explore. The Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion houses an array of aircraft, historic vehicles, war artifacts and a memorial wall that pays tribute to Alabama's Medal of Honor recipients. A B-25 Mitchell Bomber, an A-12 spy plane and a Grumman Goose are just three of the more

than 30 aircraft displayed in the pavilion and around the park.

The Battleship Memorial Park has memorials that honor men and women who wore this country's uniform in all conflicts. You will see, among others, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, complete with a standing POW bracelet, and the Fallen Guardian Memorial, honoring those whose lives were lost in service to the U.S. Coast Guard.

After touring, stop by the gift shop to bring memories home with you.

All tours are self-guided, allowing visitors to tour at their desired pace. Buses receive free parking.

Group rate discounts are available for parties larger than 10. Reservations are required for all group tour reservations. For more information on group tours contact Genavese Harris at gharris@ussalabama.com.

The park is open every day except Christmas Day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The ticket office and gift shop close at 4 p.m.

Visit ussalabama.com or contact (251) 433-2703 to learn more about *USS Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park.

Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum Chantilly, Virginia

Wow! That is what most people say when they first glimpse the exhibits at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia.

Located next to Washington Dulles International Airport, the Udvar-Hazy Center is a "must see" for anyone traveling to the DC/northern Virginia area. The center includes a massive aviation hangar (three football fields in length) and a space hangar that is large enough to hold a space shuttle and so much more.

The center displays more than 3,000 artifacts, including nearly 200 aircraft, sharing the story of human flight from 18th century ballooning to the cutting-edge James Webb

Feature: Military & Space

Space Telescope. This includes Space Shuttle *Discovery*, an SR-71 Blackbird, an Air France Concorde, a World War I-era Sopwith Camel, the B-29 Superfortress *Enola Gay* and more.

Every artifact on display has a unique story and the best way to hear it is by taking a free guided tour. The 90-minute public tours run throughout the day and may also be reserved for groups of 20 or more (10 or more for 60-minute student group tours). Volunteer docents take visitors on a guided journey through the museum's vast collection and share stories that will not be found on the artifact's label.

Each tour is unique, as is each docent. Many have had careers in the aviation and aerospace industry – some even have first-hand experience with some of our artifacts. The one thing they have in common is their passion for the museum. Their dedication is apparent when they share the stories that have fascinated us and fueled the desire to take to the skies and explore both this world and others.



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INDIANA

Feature: Military & Space

Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum



Museum admission is free and complimentary bus parking is available. Group discounts are available for films in the Airbus IMAX® Theater, simulator rides and Shake Shack restaurant to enhance your group's experience.

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It is closed on December 25. Reservations are not required to visit, although advance notice of your arrival is appreciated. For groups interested in a free guided tour, visit s.si.edu/nasm-group-visit. □

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Time flies when you visit the National Air and Space Museum's **Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center** in Northern Virginia. Explore the Museum's vast and iconic collection, and you'll feel like you've earned your wings. Free admission, parking \$15.



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Sky Ute Casino Resort

Gaming & Entertainment

Sky Ute Casino Resort Ignacio, South Dakota

Make the short drive south of the Durango-La Plata County Airport and you will discover the amazing Sky Ute Casino Resort. Owned and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Sky Ute Casino Resort is known by locals and visitors alike as the area's headquarters for fun, entertainment, great food and a Las Vegas-style gaming experience.

Sky Ute Casino Resort boasts a 45,000-square-foot casino hosting nearly 600 state-of-the-art slot machines, including high limit slots; thrilling table games including blackjack, 3-card poker and roulette; a VIP Player's Club; Seven Rivers Bingo Hall and more. Sky

Ute SportsBook offers all your sports betting needs with full-service retail, kiosk, mobile app options.

Family fun extends beyond the fabulous pool, lazy river and fitness facility, to the Rolling Thunder Bowling Center complete with exciting arcade games and a unique miniature golf course.

Sky Ute Casino Resort is the place to call home as you explore all that this corner of the nation has to offer. With a 140-room luxury hotel, complete with eight culturally-themed suites and a 24-site full hook-up RV Park, there are plenty of stay and play options to choose from. Sky Ute Casino is perfectly located for day trips to Mesa Verde, a trip on the Durango

& Silverton Narrow Gauge Railway, Purgatory Resort, the famous Four Corners Monument, Pagosa Hot Springs, Chimney Rock and so much more. Next door to the resort, you can step into history at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. Sky Ute Casino Resort itself boasts nearly \$1 million in Native American art and artifacts. Culturally significant architecture throughout the resort is also a showpiece of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Wake up to the Willows Café Bistro where you will find locally made, fresh baked goods, breakfast burritos and hearty Western breakfasts. Enjoy lunch and choose from a selection of soups, salads, sandwiches or the daily lunch special. You can also kick-start your

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Guide: Gaming & Entertainment

day with a delicious specialty coffee from one of the talented baristas.

For dinner, enjoy a culinary experience that is a cut above at Seven Rivers Steaks, Seafood, Spirits, the area's only authentic steakhouse. Fine wines, creative spirits, perfectly-crafted steak and seafood dishes, and decadent desserts will put you in "seventh heaven."

The Rolling Thunder Grill, located just off the casino floor, brings your dining experience full circle with classic lunch and dinner options including daily specials.

For more information phone (888) 842-4150 or visit on-line at SkyUteCasino.com.

Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center Oglesby, Illinois 61348

Starved Rock Lodge, located in Oglesby, Illinois, is nestled in the middle of scenic Starved Rock State Park (a National Historic Landmark) featuring sandstone canyons and seasonal waterfalls. Starved Rock Lodge is

the only lodging facility located within the park. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, the lodge is a unique, architec-

tural masterpiece with a massive Great Hall anchored by the largest, two-sided limestone fireplace in the Midwest. Guests remark that



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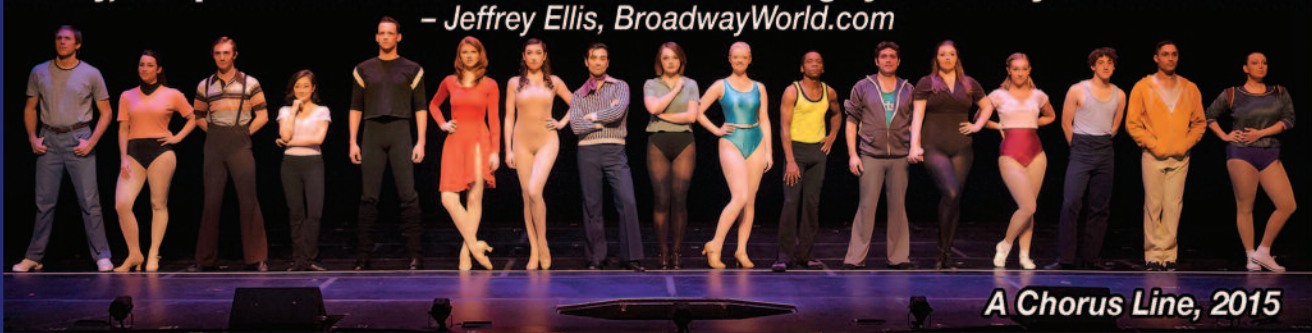
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An aerial photograph of the Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center, showing the large, multi-story log-cabin building complex nestled among dense green trees. A river is visible in the background.

Cumberland County PLAYHOUSE

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Atlantic City

the ambiance is much like that of lodges in National Parks.

The most popular group tours activities are the lodge's Tribute to the Stars series of musical performances. The talented singers and performers take guests on a walk down memory lane with their renditions of famous hits by Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline and others. A hot buffet lunch is included in the ticket price. The setting is the historic Great Hall.

Trolleys play an important role in the tours offered by Starved Rock Lodge, providing a comfortable way see the region. Land and water cruises aboard the *Eagle I* or the *Sainte Genevieve* Riverboat offer guests a slow-paced cruise around Starved Rock State Park offering a view of the forests, foliage and wildlife from the Illinois River. Tours of the Lodge and guided hikes are often added to enhance the guest's experience.

Starved Rock Lodge features comfy hotel rooms, cabins, an indoor pool complex, the Back Door Lounge, Main Dining Room and Café – all under one roof. In warm weather, outdoor dining on the Veranda offers a stunning view of scenic LaSalle County and the Illinois River Valley. Starved Rock Lodge is more than a day trip – it is a lasting memory.

View starvedrocklodge.com for more information.

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Nestled between the land and sea, experience Atlantic City's unique location. Located within one-third of the nation's population, Atlantic City's convenient location allows for visitors and attendees to travel in the comfort of a car or fly directly to the Atlantic City International Airport, which is within 12 miles of Atlantic City or the Philadelphia International Airport, which is within 60 miles of Atlantic City. Once arrived, hop on the Atlantic City Jitney. With a variety of transportation options, Atlantic City aims to make your next visit easily accessible.

With more than 17,500 first-class hotel rooms, Atlantic City is an exceptional place to lodge. Whether in the Marina District or situated on the world-famous Atlantic City Boardwalk, a stay at one of the nine casino resorts will guarantee a memorable experience. Along with precise guest services and waterside elegance, each casino resort showcases panoramic views of Atlantic City from every angle.

Enhance your Atlantic City experience with the support from the Atlantic City community. Throughout the eclectic 48 blocks, visitors can discover Atlantic City's diverse neighborhoods, each rich with art, culture and a history of its own. The Atlantic City locals continue to lead in the ever-changing destination with missions

to celebrate Atlantic City's authenticity, which is reflected in locally-owned businesses and culturally-filled events.

Known for its thriving culinary scene, Atlantic City welcomes all to explore the city's famous dining establishments. Ranging from celebrity chef restaurants to locally-owned eateries, Atlantic City's restaurants are well equipped to accommodate special events for large or small groups, served in unique spaces. When visiting Atlantic City, come hungry because the diverse cuisine selections will surely satisfy those tastebuds.

This vibrant city awaits your arrival as complete Atlantic City information and knowledgeable staff's available to assist you.

For more information, visit visitatlanticcity.com/group-travel.

4 Bears Casino & Lodge New Town, North Dakota

Discover an oasis of fun just a short ride away from Minot: 4 Bears Casino & Lodge, on the shore of Lake Sakakawea in New Town. For more than 30 years, this incredible MHA Nation-operated facility has been offering excitement for everyone, including gaming, sports betting, live entertainment, dining, lodging, riverboat excursions, a water park and more.

Get some fun on the water with the *River Willow*, North Dakota's first gaming riverboat. Enjoy slot machines, live blackjack tables, food and a full bar on every level. Daily cruises run Wednesdays to Sundays. Private event bookings are available – phone Jody Two Crow at (701) 627-7554.

Spend the night overlooking beautiful Lake Sakakawea, either in the luxurious RV park or in one of the lakeside cabins available for booking.

Keep the waterside fun going with the family-friendly water park complete with spacious splash feature, a lazy river, multiple water-slides, a toddler-friendly splash pad and a sun-bathing deck. Or hit Lake Sakakawea from the marina, at the swimming beach or by boat.

Play to win at nearly 800 slot machines and live table games. Enjoy North Dakota's first-ever sports book, with Vegas-style betting on virtually every sporting event. Place bets with staff or at the kiosks, then enjoy the action right on the flat-screen TVs.



4 Bears Casino & Lodge

Visit the 4 Bears Web site at 4bearscasino.com to check out a calendar chock-full of concerts, comedy shows, boxing, fights and rodeos all year long.

Check out the Cache Marketplace, with offerings to please everyone. Enjoy burgers

and shakes from the grill, brick oven pizza, a homestyle mini-buffet and a Caribou Coffee cafe.

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Trivia Question for This Issue

What popular presidential bus tour attraction has a portion of the Berlin Wall on display?

For the answer go to:

<https://bustoursmagazine.com/trivia-july-august-2024/>



Advertiser's Index

4 Bears Casino and Lodge	29	Grissom Air Museum	22
Alaska Railroad	19	Lowell Observatory	7
Atlantic City	32	New York State	
Bush Family Home	10	Tour Boat Association	18
Campbell County/Visit Gillette	13	Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad	15
City of Gallup	11	Sky Ute Casino Resort	25
Clinton Iowa CVB	9	Smithsonian National	
Coastal Mississippi	2	Air & Space Museum	23
Conway Scenic Railroad	17	Starved Rock Lodge	
Cumberland County Playhouse	27	& Conference Center	26
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad	16	Texas Ranger Hall of Fame	
Discover DeKalb Georgia	31	& Museum	23
Frederik Meijer Gardens		The Everett Railroad Company	15
& Sculpture Park	30	The Riverboat Twilight	20
George Bush Library & Museum	8	USS Alabama Battleship	
Georgetown Loop Railroad		Commission	22
& Mining Park	20	Visit Hopkinsville	12
Gladbrook Theater		York County Visitors Bureau	13
& Marvel Museum	8	Zoo Atlanta	10

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Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

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Broadway Grand Prix is the ultimate family attraction. Race to victory on the seven go kart tracks, become a legend on the two 18-hole mini golf courses or get the highest score in the Grand Prix arcade. Broadway Grand Prix offers

all the greatest Myrtle Beach attractions and games so there is plenty of fun for all ages. It is conveniently located across from Broadway at the Beach. The Place to Race – for all ages.

Myrtle Waves is South Carolina's largest water park with 22 slides and attractions for all ages and 1.2 million gallons of water. Myrtle Waves offers two kiddie areas, tube slides, body slides, thrill slides and an all-new mat slide. If you are looking for a more relaxing

day, there are plenty of cabana rentals, a Lazy River, Wave Pool and Beer Garden.

Catering is offered to group reservations including, but not limited to: Pig Pickin' BBQs, steak and potato dinners, grilled or BBQ chicken, burgers and hot dogs, chicken wings, Chicken Bog, pizza, beer, wine and liquor. A private venue can also be reserved.

Interested in booking a group outing with us? View BroadwayGrandPrix.com or MyrtleWaves.com for more information. □

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Railroad19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lowell Observatory7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic City32 | <input type="checkbox"/> New York State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bush Family Home10 | Tour Boat Association18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campbell County/Visit Gillette13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Gallup11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sky Ute Casino Resort25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Iowa CVB9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Smithsonian National |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Mississippi2 | Air & Space Museum23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conway Scenic Railroad17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Starved Rock Lodge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland County Playhouse27 | & Conference Center26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad . .16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Ranger Hall of Fame |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discover DeKalb Georgia31 | & Museum23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frederik Meijer Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> The Everett Railroad Company15 |
| & Sculpture Park30 | <input type="checkbox"/> The Riverboat Twilight20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George Bush Library & Museum8 | <input type="checkbox"/> USS Alabama Battleship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgetown Loop Railroad | Commission22 |
| & Mining Park20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit Hopkinsville12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gladbrook Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> York County Visitors Bureau13 |
| & Marvel Museum8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoo Atlanta10 |

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9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064
July/August 2024

- **Campbell County/Visit Gillette**
page 13
- **City of Gallup**
page 11
- **Cumberland County Playhouse**
page 27
- **George Bush Library & Museum**
page 8
- **Georgetown Loop Railroad & Mining Park**
page 20
- **Gladbrook Theater & Matchstick Marvels Museum**
page 8
- **Lowell Observatory**
page 7
- **Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad**
page 15
- **Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum**
page 23
- **Visit Hopkinsville**
page 12

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