

Southfork Ranch

Welcome to the legendary Southfork Ranch, made famous by the Ewing Family in the television series Dallas! Southfork Ranch is a premier special events venue and meeting destination in the Dallas Metro Area. With 63,000 square feet of event space, we host hundreds of events annually, including weddings, reunions, holiday parties, corporate meetings, concerts, company picnics, and more. Whether you are hosting a group of just 10 or 10,000, Southfork Ranch provides a beautiful backdrop for any occasion. Often called "The World's Most Famous Ranch," the setting, facilities, and service will make your next event truly unforgettable.



EVENTS



TOURS



EXPERIENCES



Scan For More Info!



(972) 442-7800 | SOUTHFORKRANCH.COM

Thank you to our sponsor of this digital issue

Southfork Ranch

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the iconic Southfork Ranch, where the legacy of the Ewing family comes to life in a captivating tour experience. Our adventure begins at the Ranch Round-Up Visitors Center, a bustling hub of excitement, where a tram eagerly awaits to transport you to the legendary Ewing Mansion.

As you cruise towards the mansion, our expert tour guides will regale you with fascinating tales of the Ranch's rich history, providing a backdrop to the glamour and drama that unfolded within its storied walls. Along the way, marvel at the majestic Texas Longhorns and graceful American Quarter Horses, immersing yourself in the true spirit of the Lone Star State.

Arriving at the Ewing Mansion, you'll step into the "most famous White House west of D.C.," guided by a storyteller who will unveil the secrets of decades of filming history. Dive into the captivating world of the Ewing television characters, with behind-the-scenes insights that will deepen your appreciation for this cultural phenomenon.

As you bid farewell to the Mansion, the sprawling ranch grounds await your explo-



ration. Wander freely amidst the beauty of Southfork, making a special stop at Lincoln's and Longhorns, home to Jock Ewing's original 1978 Lincoln Continental—a nostalgic relic frozen in time.

Before concluding your adventure, make your way back to the Southfork Ranch Round-Up Visitors Center, a treasure trove of Dallas-inspired memorabilia.

Immerse yourself in the allure of Southfork Ranch, where every step is a brush with television history and Texan charm. Unearth the magic of the Ewing legacy, creating memories that will linger long after your visit. For more information visit us online at: <https://bit.ly/sfr-tours>

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

Volume XLIVI, Number 4 • March/April 2024

BUS TOURS

Magazine



Rail & Sail
page 6

Gaming & Entertainment
page 11

Zoos, Aquariums & Wildlife
page 14

70% of Native American Art
comes from the Gallup region.



Visit
GALLUP
NEW MEXICO

VISITGALLUP.COM

contents

MARCH/APRIL 2024

Volume XLVI, Number 4



Guides

- 6 RAIL & SAIL**
Half of the fun is getting there. Bus tour passengers, both young and old, enjoy taking a ride on a train or boat as part of their tour. Here are some locations that welcome groups.
- 11 GAMING & ENTERTAINMENT**
Give your group a break and let them enjoy some time gaming or enjoying some entertainment. Here are two locations that have been traditional favorites with bus tours.
- 18 PRESIDENTIAL LOCATIONS**
Some of the more popular bus tour locations are based around past presidents. They typically are very accommodating for groups and can be both educating and interesting.
- 20 NEW, IMPROVED & DIFFERENT**
Bus tour planners are always looking for something new, improved and different that they can add to their next itinerary. Here are a few locations that would make a good addition to your next tour.

Features

- 14 ZOOS, AQUARIUMS & WILDLIFE**
Everyone enjoys a visit to a zoo or aquarium to spend some time looking at the animals or fish. For most people this is both enjoyable and fun. Here are some good locations for bus tours.

And More

- 4 BUZZ ON THE BUS**
News and notes of interest to the bus tour industry
- 26 20 TIPS FOR TOUR PLANNERS**
20 Tips for Student Trips
by Dr. Charleen Jaeb
- 30 ADVERTISERS INDEX**

STAFF

Editor & Publisher Larry Plachno
Business Manager . . . Nancy Ann Plachno
Typesetting/Page Layout . . Sherry Mekeel
Web site Jake Ron Pararas
Advertising Charles Hinkle

Bus Tours Magazine
9698 W. Judson Road
Polo, Illinois 61064-9015
Phone: (815) 946-2341
Fax: (815) 946-2347

Web site: bustoursmagazine.com

Advertising

Central/West

central@busmag.com – (815) 946-2341

Midwest

midwest@busmag.com – (815) 946-2341

Northeast

bustoursmag@gmail.com – (815) 946-2341

[tourgroups@busmag.com](mailto:tourgrouops@busmag.com) – (815) 946-2341

Southeast/International

southeast@busmag.com – (815) 946-2341

COVER PHOTO

Featured on the cover is male Sumatran tiger Rakan in the brand-new Predators of Asia and Africa habitat at the award-winning Fort Worth Zoo, a global leader in animal conservation and education. NEIL JONES, FORT WORTH ZOO.

BUS TOURS MAGAZINE (ISSN 0199-6096) is published six times annually by National Bus Trader, Inc., 9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064. Subscriptions, \$15 (in US funds) annually, Canadian & International \$20 (in US funds). Printed in U.S.A. Periodicals postage paid at Polo, Illinois 61064 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BUS TOURS MAGAZINE, 9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064.

Change of Address: Please send old mailing label (or old address and computer number) as well as new address.

Advertising: Display advertising rates sent on request. Advertising deadline is the last day of the second month preceding publication.

Founded in 1979, BUS TOURS MAGAZINE is the oldest independent magazine in the bus and group tour market. Circulation includes bus and group tour planners in the United States and Canada regardless of affiliation or whether commercial, private or corporate or group leader.

The contents of this publication may not be reproduced either in whole or in part without the written consent of the publisher. The name BUS TOURS MAGAZINE and the logo incorporating the passengers, bus and destinations are trade marks of National Bus Trader, Inc.

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



Six Flags Great America **Chicago, Illinois**

Prepare to achieve new altitudes on Sky Striker, a high-flying, soaring adventure. Sky Striker will send you into the clouds as you swing back and forth on its massive pendulum, creating the ultimate stomach-drop feeling as you touch the sky.

Sky Striker is perfect for your student groups; however, going to Six Flags Great America is like going to a big fair. Try it with your senior adults.

New Yadkin Valley Winery **Elkin, North Carolina**

Step up to the bar at Christian Paul Vineyards and embark on an international excursion. The tasting menu at Elkin's newest winery, which held its grand opening in early November, leads customers through Italy, France, Australia and California using grape varieties and winemaking techniques representative of each region.

Owners Christian Ercolani and Andrew Weyl had two requirements when looking for a location: excellent soil and proximity to an interstate. They found this 25-acre property a mile east of Interstate 77. During their initial visit, Ercolani, a geologist, took soil samples and tested them in his lab.

His results confirmed a mineral-rich, 18-inch cap of red clay topsoil, and sandy, silty loam below — an ideal structure for growing grapes in the heart of Yadkin Valley wine country. Christian Paul is the Yadkin Valley's 44th winery and 18th along the Surry County Wine Trail.



Christian Paul Vineyard owners

Ercolani, who will be the winemaker for future Christian Paul vintages, draws inspiration from his Italian heritage. His family has owned and operated a vineyard in Montepulciano, Italy, for 125 years. He broadened his wine knowledge and palate working in restaurants to pay his way through college. Ercolani attended graduate school in Australia, which directly influenced Christian Paul's shiraz, the Australian spelling of syrah.

The tasting room is family- and pet-friendly. It has a warm, welcoming atmosphere with a yellow color palette, stone accents, natural wood finishes and exposed rafters. Outdoor areas include both covered and uncovered patios, with a fire table and fire pit overlooking the vineyards.

Christian Paul Vineyards is located at 156 Tuscan Way, Elkin. Tasting room hours are Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, noon-6 p.m. To learn more visit ChristianPaulVineyards.com, or phone (336) 909-2723.

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens **Columbus, Ohio**

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens will offer additional viewings of Chihuly Nights on May 4, September 14, and October 5 from 7-10 p.m.

Chihuly Nights allows guests to see the glass artwork of Dale Chihuly in an entirely new light. All 18 installations are professionally lit to create breathtaking views within the setting of the botanical gardens. During these evenings, guests can also view the historic John F. Wolfe Palm House illuminated by James Turrell's Light Raiment II.



Chihuly Nights

The Conservatory's pieces represent the largest private collection of Chihuly artwork in a botanical garden. The 2003 exhibition, Chihuly at the Conservatory, was record-shattering and helped secure the Conservatory's place as a cultural institution in central Ohio.

To enhance the visitor's connection to glass art, watch as artists create blown-glass works of art during daily demonstrations in the Conservatory's Hot Shop, open from April through December. Glass art and Chihuly merchandise can be purchased at Botanica Gift Shop & Greenhouse. Beer, wine and a limited food menu will be available for purchase from the Conservatory's Garden Café.

Guests will need to reserve tickets in advance online.

For more information on Chihuly Nights and other happenings at the Conservatory, visit fpconservatory.org or follow the Conservatory on Facebook, TikTok or Instagram.

Canada Launches New Tourism Growth Program

Tourism is a cornerstone of Canada's economy. The tourism sector creates opportunities in communities across this country, supporting almost two million jobs and contributing some \$38 billion to Canada's GDP in 2022. After suffering some of its worst years in history, Canadian tourism is poised to grow significantly; experts predict that its contribution to the economy will continue to increase substantially. The ambitious Federal Tourism Growth Strategy targets a 40 percent increase of tourism sector's contribution to Canada's GDP by the end of the decade. That is why the Government of Canada is working to help Canadian tourism grow and bring more visitors to our shores.

The Honourable Soraya Martinez Ferrada, minister of Tourism and minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, recently launched the new Tourism Growth Program (TGP). With \$108 million in federal funding, this program will invest in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, small businesses and not-for-profits, helping them grow and positioning Canada as a destination of choice.

Canada's seven regional development agencies will deliver the program's funding directly to businesses and other organizations over the next three years, supporting projects to help more domestic and international visitors discover all that Canada has to offer. The projects will also align with the new Federal Tourism Growth Strategy – supporting sustainable tourism, outdoor experiences, Indigenous tourism, seasonal expansion and tourism in rural and remote areas – with the goal of diversifying regional economies and spurring economic growth.

Minister Ferrada announced the launch of the Indigenous Tourism Fund's Micro and Small Business Stream, which will provide \$10 million in direct support for Indigenous tourism operators. Additional supports for the industry include the \$500 million Tourism Relief Fund established during the pandemic, increases in funding to Destination Canada, support for major international events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup, investments in the Trans Canada Trail, and partnerships with other governments and the private sector to help enhance tourism offerings and welcome more visitors to our country.

Lion County Safari West Palm Beach, Florida

Not one, but two Southern white rhinoceros calves have made their public debut in the main habitat at Lion Country Safari, joining the 13 other members of the herd in the Hwange National Park section of the safari. Guests driving through the safari can now see the calves exploring the approximately 30-acre section with their moms.

Alissa, born on August 19, 2023, and Tabitha, born September 26, 2023, have previously been spending quality time bonding with their moms in maternity areas, before being introduced to each other and then additional members of the herd in small groups. Both calves are significant contributions to the White Rhinoceros Species Survival Plan, a national collaboration to save the imperiled species from extinction.

Lion Country Safari is home to 15 white rhinos – 13 females and two males and is a proud participant of the White Rhinoceros Species Survival Plan (SSP), a program of the Associations of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

For more information view lioncountysafari.com. □



Lion County Safari

Rail & Sail



The Alaska Railroad

The Alaska Railroad

The Alaska Railroad provides year-round rail transportation throughout southcentral and Interior Alaska, traversing along dramatic coastlines, pristine river valleys, expansive alpine forests and the Chugach Mountains and Alaska Range. Explore some of Alaska's most loved destinations including Kenai Fjords National Park, Denali National Park, Spencer Glacier (only accessible by rail), Seward, Anchorage (including a depot at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport), Talkeetna and Fairbanks. Attractions are plentiful and some include wildlife viewing by land, air or sea all upon the backdrop of glacier and mountain scenery.

The Alaska Railroad's onboard environment is perfect for group members to relax

and interact with one another. The tour packages and itineraries keep groups together and ensure the trip is positively memorable. Onboard dining, outdoor viewing platforms to take in the fresh air and narration by local guides provide a unique and comfortable travel experience. Each year Alaska Railroad transports 500,000 passengers in style and comfort, where passengers can choose between GoldStar service or Adventure Class and guests can expect world-class customer service on every ride.

The Alaska Railroad offers commissions to pre-qualified Travel Trade Partners on all regularly-priced rail, hotels and tours booked with them. Visit alaskarailroad.com/travel-trade for information about the Alaska Railroad, becoming a partner or education opportunities.

Crawford County, Pennsylvania

Beautiful Crawford County is home to endless activities and diverse amenities. Crawford County, part of the Great Lakes Region, borders Ohio and is conveniently located right off PA I-79, 30 minutes north of Interstate 80, or 30 minutes south of I-90. Enjoy a great multiday trip, approved by the locals.

Day 1

Start your day off in Linesville "Where Ducks Walk on the Fish" at Pymatuning State Park's "The Spillway." Throw bread and watch the frenzy of thousands of carp and ducks fight for the bread. Enjoy the picturesque State Park, and swing into town for Twin Pies. Who does not love pie and coffee for breakfast?

Guide: Rail & Sail

The nearby town of Conneaut Lake showcases Conneaut Cellars Winery and Distillery. Enjoy a free tasting and a tour. This winery has a large variety of high-quality, award-winning wines and spirits. Take your favorite bottle and board historic *Barbara J. Stern-wheeler* paddle boat. The boat has an open upper deck and a lower enclosed room to view Pennsylvania's largest glacial lake.

Enjoy lakefront dining at Silver Shores Restaurant on beautiful Conneaut Lake.

Day 2

Ride the historic Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad across "the Valley that Changed the World." Enjoy fun Murder Mystery dinners or wine and brew events. While they are famous for their fall scenic excursions, any time of their season is great. Stay the night at the Caboose Motel to complete your experience.

After the three-hour train ride, enjoy all that Titusville has to offer.



HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST

How amazing is this view? For a rewarding and awe-inspiring experience, come along with us on a historic journey across the majestic and most spectacular scenery in the Rocky Mountain West. Join us for a day and climb aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. At 64-miles in length, it is the longest, the highest and most authentic steam railroad in North America. We won't disappoint! Group rates available!

BOOK NOW AT CUMBRESTOLTEC.COM 1-877-890-2737



Cumbres & Toltec
AMERICA'S MOST HISTORIC SCENIC RAILROAD

Guide: Rail & Sail

Day 3

Visit the historic Meadville Market House. Built in 1870, this structure is the oldest, continuously operated market in

Pennsylvania featuring many local vendors.

Tour the Baldwin Reynolds House Museum, built in 1843. The mansion was the quintessential southern home, located in



Crawford County



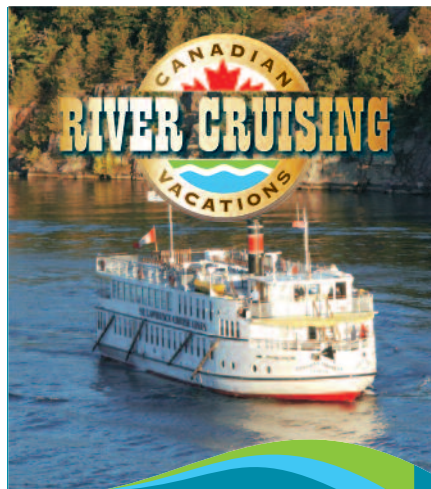
Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad Titusville, Pennsylvania



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.

Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad
409 S. Perry St., Titusville, PA 16354
Phone: 814.676.1733
octr@zoominternet.net
www.octr.org



RIVER CRUISE VACATIONS NOW BOOKING

Experience the beauty and history of Canada's rivers. 4, 5, 6, 7 nights of small ship cruising on a classic riverboat with departures from Kingston, Ottawa, and Quebec City. Call to request our free travel brochure.

1-800-267-7868

www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com
253 Ontario St., Suite 200 Kingston, ON K7L 2Z4
TICO #2168740



Visit Crawford Everyone Needs a Getaway!



48 Miles
of water trails



**8 Lakes &
93 Streams**



814-333-1258





Conway Scenic Railroad

northwestern Pennsylvania with a huge national history impact. Enjoy daily tours, dinner theaters, lectures, music and more.

Unwind at any of the local restaurants such as Voodoo Brewery, Riverside Brewing, Davenport, or Julian's, which feature live music entertainment most nights.

For more information including accommodations, events and additional itineraries, go to VisitCrawford.org or phone (814) 333-1258. Try downloading the new app while on the site.

Conway Scenic Railroad's 50th Anniversary Year

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 of 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

EXPLORE THE COLORADO ROCKIES
BY RAIL ON BOARD THE

GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD

GEORGETOWN, CO

MAKENNA GALKE, GROUP SALES
makenna.galke@historicrailadventures.com
(303) 569-0133

WWW.GEORGETOWNLOOPRR.COM

Guide: Rail & Sail

former Maine Central Mountain Division over Crawford Notch and developed this route as one of the region's premier scenic journeys. 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 acquisition of 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 departures. 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. □



VISIT DENALI BY TRAIN

Let us take your clients to Denali National Park and Preserve, home to the tallest peak in North America and untouched wilderness.

Scan to see the adventure!



Gaming & Entertainment



Atlantic City

Atlantic City New Jersey

Atlantic City welcomes one and all to the seaside destination, where local spirits are connected, and the celebrations are unforgettable.

Nestled between the land and sea, experience Atlantic City's unique location. Located within a one-day drive of one-third of the nation's population, Atlantic City's convenient location allows for visitors and attendees to travel in the comfort of a bus 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. Powered by compressed natural gas, Jitney's are Atlantic City's most convenient and affordable mode of transportation. 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 experi-

ence. 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.

From group-bonding opportunities to evening adventures, Atlantic City is ready to celebrate life's greatest moments with thrilling year-round events and attractions. Gather your group and try a throw at Westecunk Axe Throwing for your group to experience the sport of axe throwing in a safe, comfortable and modern open space setting. For live entertainment, score front row seats at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall as entertainment's biggest and most successful acts take the stage. Endless excitement continues at Atlantic City's casino resorts where nightlife

and late-night experiences are always celebrated.

With constant excitement and endless entertainment, a variety of services for the ultimate well-being recharge can be found at one of Atlantic City's world-class spas. Treat yourself and your group to the illuminating spa services for a journey of peace and relaxation. Being pampered at one of Atlantic City's spas is not only a luxury, but a necessity to recharge and enjoy the many energetic events during your Atlantic City experience.

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.

The vibrant city awaits your arrival as complete Atlantic City information is offered and knowledgeable staff is available to assist you. Visit [visitatlanticcity.com/group-travel/](https://www.visitatlanticcity.com/group-travel/) for more information.

Guide: Gaming & Entertainment

Historic White Pines Lodge

Mt. Morris, Illinois

There is a hidden gem in Ogle County called White Pines Lodge. If you have never been to Mount Morris, Illinois, you now have a new reason to plan a trip there. They are opening for the season on March 1, 2024 with dining, lodging and a full schedule of musical entertainment.

One of life's joys is finding a destination like this less than two hours from Chicago. Tour groups truly enjoy the high-quality entertainment brought to the stage of the Lodge's Pines Dinner Theater. Tributes to John Denver, Abba and Cher are a few of the talented shows on the schedule. Reservations are now being taken for 2024 Matinees which include a delicious hot lunch buffet.

This quaint, 1930's-era Lodge is nestled deep in the forest of White Pines State Park. The restaurant is known far and wide for its delicious home-style cuisine, generous portions and friendly staff. Guests enjoy tasty

homemade dishes for breakfast, lunch or dinner in this treasured landmark. Whether you are stopping by on a motorcoach or for a family outing, wedding reception, business retreat or Christmas party, White Pines takes pride in ensuring that every guest who steps through the door has a great experience. Adjacent to the landmark restaurant is a charming and rustic gift shop filled with jewelry, locally-made soaps, nostalgic gift items

and souvenirs which will become precious mementos.

As the lush green canopy of summer begins, a walk in the park is a wonderful way to spend a few hours outdoors soaking up the photo-worthy scenes of the season.

Authentic, cozy log cabins provide overnight lodging just a stone's throw from the lodge. Natural beauty abounds with miles of hiking trails that crisscross over bubbling



WHITE PINES
Lodge



- Playhouse Theater
- Delicious Buffet (group favorite)
- Gift Shoppe
- Scenic trails & more

Tribute Shows: ABBA Salute,
Kenny & Dolly in Harmony,
Elvis Through the Years,
Tribute to the Oak Ridge Boys,
Tribute to Cher & many more!



6712 W Pines Rd, Mt. Morris, IL
VisitWhitePines.com
815-655-2400

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

streams and along moss-covered limestone bluffs. This lovely destination is ideal for relaxation, romantic escapes, family outings, corporate retreats, wedding receptions and weekend getaways. Be sure to visit at Christmas-time, when you can take a horse-drawn wagon ride, visit with Santa and more.

Discover White Pines Lodge, where you will find time to relax and unwind in this peaceful forest. For details phone (815) 655-2400 or go to visitwhitepines.com. □



White Pines Lodge

EXPERIENCE ILLINOIS' **STARVED ROCK LODGE & CONFERENCE CENTER**

Favorite Group Tour Destination

Music Tribute Shows
Trolley Tours & River Cruises
Indoor Pool Complex
Historic Lodging
On-Site Dining Room

815-220-7386 | One Lodge Lane; Oglesby, IL | starvedrocklodge.com





Alabama Aquarium on Dauphin Island

Zoos, Aquariums & Wildlife

Alabama Aquarium on Dauphin Island

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab is the state of Alabama's marine research and education center. With programs for all ages, the Alabama Aquarium on the DISL campus is open seven days a week.

The Alabama Aquarium is a nearly 12,000-square-foot facility that houses more than 100 species of marine life common to the northern Gulf of Mexico and

Alabama's Watershed. The mission is to educate visitors about the importance of ocean conservation and Alabama's Watershed.

First opened in 1998 and renovated in 2023, the Aquarium is a popular attraction for residents and tourists. This renovation delivers an improved visitor experience, a refreshed interior and a deeper connection to the research led by DISL faculty and students.

The goal of the Aquarium is to provide an unparalleled experience that inspires visitors to care for and protect the ocean and its creatures.

Highlights at the Aquarium include the Rays of the Bay Touch Tank, which allows you to get up close and personal with Cownose Rays and Atlantic Rays. There is also a touch table in the center of the Aquarium featuring a variety of preserved

Feature: Zoos, Aquariums & Wildlife

specimens, horseshoe crabs and hermit crabs.

Walking through the Aquarium, you will also learn about the various research projects the DISL researchers and students led.

Other programs offered at the DISL include summer camps, academic field trips for elementary through high school students, undergraduate and graduate courses, and educator workshops.

For more information about the DISL and the Alabama Aquarium, visit disl.edu.

Fort Worth Zoo Fort Worth, Texas

The Fort Worth Zoo has been voted No. 1 in North America by *USA Today*, the Best Zoo in Texas by Yahoo Travel, and one of the "World's Greatest" by Bloomberg TV. The Zoo is home to nearly 7,000 animals and is committed to the conservation of endangered

TABASCO[®] BRAND

Visit the historic home of TABASCO[®] Sauce on Avery Island, Louisiana and:

Experience the TABASCO[®] Sauce Factory

Tour the TABASCO[®] Museum

Shop at the TABASCO[®] Country Store

Eat Cajun and Creole dishes at 1868 Restaurant

Explore the local flora and fauna in 170-acres of Jungle Gardens



Hop in and see us!




SCAN ME
disl.edu/aquarium

Alabama Aquarium



at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Open 7 Days a Week!
(251) 861-7500
102 Bienville Boulevard, Dauphin Island, AL 36528
Group Rates Available

A Unique Drive-Thru WILDLIFE PARK



Enjoy a leisurely bus ride to see black bears, mountain lions, wolves, elk, bighorn sheep and other wildlife in their natural environment. Stroll along the outdoor Wildlife Walkway and see the antics of the baby bears and other smaller animals play in the outdoors. Grab refreshments at the Cub Grub Snack Shack and then shop at the Bear's Den Gift Shop!

BEAR COUNTRY U.S.A. Since 1972




bearcountryusa.com • 605-343-2290
8 mi. S. of Rapid City, Hwy. 16



Fort Worth Zoo

and threatened species, as well as strengthening the connection between humans and wildlife.

With nearly 64 acres to explore, there is no lack of adventure at the Fort Worth Zoo! Guests can enter the African Savanna habitat and be transported to exotic grasslands, standing nose to neck with giraffes where they can hand-feed them lettuce, as well as get up close and personal with hippos in their underwater habitat. From there, they can stroll through Elephant Springs and watch the herd interact, trumpet and swim in their 400,000-gallon pool, as well as say hi to the zoo's biggest babies, elephant calves Brazos and Travis.

Guests can check out the Museum of Living Art (MOLA), the award-winning indoor herpetarium, home to more than 250 amphibian and reptile species. Everyone can experience the flora and fauna of the Lone Star State in just one day at Texas Wild. Additional habitats feature primate troops, impressive birds of prey, penguins, kanga-

The graphic features a lion's face on the left and a tiger's face on the right, both looking towards the center. The text is centered on a white background with a subtle pattern.

 fort worth zoo

FEAST YOUR EYES

NOW OPEN

PREDATORS
OF ASIA & AFRICA

 **PLAN YOUR VISIT**
fortworthzoo.org

Feature: Zoos, Aquariums & Wildlife

roos, the interactive Toyota Children's Ranch & Petting Corral and the newest, Predators of Asia & Africa.

Predators of Asia & Africa opened June 2023 and is home to 14 species at the top of the food chain, including African leopards, cheetahs, Sumatran tigers and an African lion pride. Guests can get closer to these fierce carnivores than ever before – with just a pane of glass between them.

The zoo is located in Fort Worth, home to a variety of experiences from the truly Texan to world-class arts. Whether visiting the Stockyards or Dickies Arena, or spending the afternoon in the Museum District and catching a show, Cowtown has a bustling nightlife and engaging daytime experiences with something for everyone.

Plan for a worldwide adventure in the heart of the modern west – all at the Fort Worth Zoo. □



Do you need to update your marketing & advertising materials?

With over 24 years experience in the motorcoach industry, we can enhance your brand with updated and redesigned marketing materials.

The MCI J-Series
The long and short of luxury

MCI D-Series

MCI
Energy Efficient Coaches
Clean Diesel or Electric
Environmentally friendly choices

Call us or visit our website
719.650.0644 | pixelgraphics.org

PixelGraphics

where we all grow

Alexander Liberman. *Aria*, 1979–1983.

MeijerGardens.org/groups
 GROUP RATES | TRAM TOURS | CAFÉ | GIFT SHOP | FREE MOTORCOACH PARKING

Frederik
MEIJER GARDENS & Sculpture Park
 1000 E. Beltline Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 | Tours 877-975-3171



Ronald Reagan Presidential
Library and Museum

Presidential Locations

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum Simi Valley, California

Perched atop a hill with sweeping views of the southland, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is one of California's most beautiful and unique destinations. This iconic landmark is more than just a museum - it is a journey through history. Where else in California can visitors walk onboard an actual Air Force One aircraft that flew seven U.S. presidents, touch an authentic piece of the Berlin Wall or lay a hand on a real steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center after 9-11?

The Reagan Museum boasts a stunning collection of artifacts, interactive exhibits and even a full-scale replica of the Oval Office. Visitors step aboard and tour through an authentic *Air Force One 27000* and *Marine One* to learn how President Reagan changed the face of global diplomacy. Beyond the extraordinary displays, the Reagan Museum offers an opportunity for visitors to truly understand the impact that President Reagan had on our nation and the world.

Visitors may also enjoy the museum's outdoor grounds, where you can stroll through replicas of the White House Rose Garden and

South Lawn and reflect at President and Mrs. Reagan's memorial site.

The Reagan Library is also home to two restaurants, Reagan's Country Café and The Ronald Reagan Pub. Group tour meals are available, as are docent-led tours; phone (805) 577-4066 or e-mail visitorservices@reaganfoundation.org for more information.

In addition, the Reagan Library features many world-class traveling exhibits - from March through September 2024 enjoy the brand-new exhibition, *Defending America & The Galaxy: Star Wars and SDI*. The library also has free bus parking.

Guide: Presidential Locations

From *Air Force One* to historic photos and video to interactive games to exquisite landscaped grounds, the Reagan Library is sure to be a fun, entertaining and educational experience for everyone, of every age, in your group.

Open seven days a week, the Reagan Library is only closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. □

MOVING?

Please let us know at least 60 days in advance to ensure that your next issue of *BUS TOURS MAGAZINE* reaches your new address.

Please return your mailing label or the information on it with your new address.



A Spirit Can Ne'er Be Told...
A Century of Aggie Football

The Association of Presidents of Texas | George & Barbara Bush Foundation | 19th Anniversary

Open through **April 28th, 2024**



41@100: A Celebration of George H.W. Bush

June 11-13, 2024 celebration honoring the 100th anniversary of his birth



Special Museum exhibit + events throughout 2024

Visit **BUSH41.ORG**

1000 George Bush Drive West
College Station, TX 77845
(979) 691-4000

Follow Us



@bush41library



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



THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM

One of California's most beautiful and unique destinations!



**STAR WARS and SDI
DEFENDING AMERICA
& THE GALAXY**
AT THE REAGAN LIBRARY

For information on our special exhibitions, including the one on Star Wars, visit ReaganLibrary.com



REAGANLIBRARY.COM

Tickets include admission to the Reagan Library, where you can touch an actual piece of the Berlin Wall, view an exact replica of the Oval Office, and climb aboard Air Force One!
40 Presidential Dr., Simi Valley, CA 93065 • 800.410.8354

New, Improved and Different

Jim Dykes, NYC Tour Guide

Jim Dykes was nicknamed “New York’s Celebrity Tour Guide” by the late comedienne Joan Rivers after one of his appearances on her New York show. As an actor and licensed NYC tour guide, he sprinkles his step-on tours full of celebrity information and tells fun stories of the “Rich & Famous” – mixed into his city tours of history and architecture and city legends. “Besides Joan Rivers, I’ve met many New York personalities including Steven Spielberg (he tagged along on a tour) and Donald Trump.”

“The two things you can never miss in the daily New York papers are the gossip columns and real estate sections (which is sometimes the same thing),” says Dykes, who has been in many TV commercials, TV shows and plays.

Dykes does step-on bus tours for many tour companies and travel agencies, incentive tours, corporate tours, cruise ship excursions in NYC, walking tours, church groups and community groups, student groups and families.

He once gave a private tour for the royal family of Saudi Arabia. “They wanted to see movie and TV locations,” he said.

In addition to being a regular licensed guide, Dykes was one of Mayor Guiliani’s first class of five-star guides specially trained for the Tourguide Enhancement Program which formed an elite group of guides for special private tours.

Many people recognize Dykes from his TV commercials such as the funny husband and Dad in HGTV and Odor Eaters and Hasbro Toys. Check out his YouTube commercials page. “I’ve been a Screen Actor’s Guild member for years and have appeared on *Sex & the City*, *Law & Order*, *Blue Bloods* and movies such as *The Avengers*, *The Bounty Hunter* and others.”



#1 BEST SPA RESORT AND HOT SPRINGS
THE SPRINGS RESORT
IN PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

25 HOT SPRING POOLS
12+ WELLNESS ACTIVITIES
24/7 POOL ACCESS FOR HOTEL GUESTS
SCENIC COLORADO VIEWS
7,000+ 5-STAR REVIEWS

REQUEST A PROPOSAL TODAY:
WWW.PAGOSAHOTSPRINGS.COM

A couple in white robes are walking through a hot spring pool. The water is bubbling and steaming. The background shows a scenic view of a hot spring pool with a wooden fence and a rope barrier. The text is overlaid on the image.

New, Improved and Different

Dykes says: "Once I took a group from England to the restaurant on top of World Trade Center Tower One (Windows on the World) and we ran into Sharon Stone. Well I said hello because I had recently done a TV show with her; she was very nice to the group."

He loves to show people New York and his natural enthusiasm for the city shows through his upbeat personality on tour. Born in Kentucky, Dykes came to New York to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts on scholarship and has lived in New York for many years. One Southern lady on a tour said: "We understand you – you speak our language."

Dykes is on Google and Trip Advisor and Yelp with five-star ratings.

The Archway Kearney, Nebraska

The Archway in Kearney, Nebraska is a monument and museum that stands over



LOCATION ~ SERVICE ~ ITINERARIES
The Obvious Choice For Southeastern Wisconsin

FIND yourself HERE

Harbor Shores
ON LAKE GENEVA
300 WRIGLEY DRIVE | LAKE GENEVA, WI

Contact: Caroline Cornelison
Website: harborshoreslg.com
Email: caroline@harborshoreslg.com
Phone: 888.746.7371 ext. 123



Jim Dykes
New York City
Step On Guide

• 5 Stars on Trip Advisor
• Friendly & Easy to Work With
• Half-day Rate \$375.00

Call 917-576-7170
jimdykesnyc@gmail.com
www.jimdykesnyc.com



Come experience all of our amazing attractions in York, Nebraska

YORK COUNTY NEBRASKA VISITORS BUREAU
Something Special is in the air

601 N. Lincoln Ave., York, NE 68467
402-362-4575 | www.yorkvisitors.org
yorkcountyyvisitors@gmail.com

- HENDERSON MENNONITE HERITAGE PARK
- CHANCES R RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
- CLAYTON MUSEUM OF ANCIENT HISTORY
- WESSELS LIVING HISTORY FARM

New, Improved & Different

The Archway



Interstate 80. It showcases the history of the westward migration in the United States, including the Oregon trail, Mormon Trail, pony express and the transcontinental railroad.

The museum features exhibits with audio-visual presentations, life-sized dioramas and artifacts, providing an immersive experience that narrates the history of transportation and migration in the American West.

Shop The Archway's gift shop filled with unique hand-crafted merchandise from local Nebraska artists as well as souvenirs and memorabilia.

The Archway provides a scenic overlook that allows visitors to enjoy views of native Nebraska landscapes. Walk the trails to explore the historic courtyard, sod house and roaming buffalo.

Plan your visit at archway.org.

Owatonna, Minnesota

Are you planning a group tour to Owatonna, Minnesota? Going the extra mile off

A promotional graphic for The Archway museum. It features a large image of the building and archway. In the top right corner, there is a logo for "The ARCHWAY Kearney, Nebraska". In the center, the text reads "THE JOURNEY THAT BUILT AMERICA". Below this, there is a blue box containing the following information:

Normal Business Hours
MON-SAT • SUNDAY
9am - 5pm • 12pm - 5pm

Open Year Round

Plan your visit
archway.org
308.237.1000

A memorable experience!
The Archway is an award-winning exhibit with a unique self-guided audio tour that takes you on a journey through the 180 years that built America. From the Oregon Trail Era through today, the Archway brings history to life for visitors of all ages.

3060 E 1st Street Kearney NE, 68847



New, Improved & Different

Interstate 35 and Highway 14 brings you to new adventures offering a variety of attractions and activities that are perfect for group tours. Here are some must-see places to consider for your itinerary:

- **Steele County History Center & the Village of Yesteryear:** This museum features exhibits on the history of Steele County, including its early settlers, agriculture and industry. The summer Extravaganza held in July gives an interactive experience of early settlers in the area.

- **Owatonna State School Orphanage Museum:** This historic orphanage dates back to the 19th century and operated until the 1940s. Visitors can take a guided tour and learn about the history of the facility and the lives of the children who lived there.

- **Historic Walking Tour:** Take a stroll through Owatonna's historic downtown district and learn about the city's rich history and architecture. Spend a few hours shopping the unique boutiques housed within the



district. The National Farmers Bank, a world-renowned architectural treasure, is a must-see on this tour.

- **Mineral Springs Brewery and Foremost Brewing Cooperative:** Break up your tour day with a local craft brew at one of these local

taprooms. Tours and tastings are available as well as live music, trivia and other events.

- **Owatonna Parks and Trails:** Enjoy the great outdoors with a visit to one of Owatonna's many parks and trails. From hiking to biking to fishing, there is something for everyone.

From live entertainment, to shopping downtown, or a step back in time, you never know where the extra mile will take you.



Owatonna is a place where the extra mile isn't merely a distance but a promise, of unforgettable experiences and uplifting community.

Plan your next trip to Owatonna, where the extra mile takes you.

visit
OWATONNA

Scan Here!
visitowatonna.org
800-423-6466



New, Improved & Different

- Little Theatre of Owatonna: Catch a performance at this community theater, which has been entertaining audiences for more than 50 years. Line up your visit with their production schedule and enjoy a backstage tour as part of your day.

- RAD Zoo: This unique attraction features reptiles and amphibians where visitors can learn about these fascinating animals, and even have the opportunity to interact with them.

- Owatonna Arts Center: This art museum and gallery showcases the work of local and regional artists. Visitors can also participate in classes and workshops.

Owatonna is a fantastic destination for group tours. With its rich history, unique attractions and beautiful outdoor spaces, there is something for everyone in Owatonna. Plan your next group tour to this charming Minnesota city and create lifelong memories. Stay an hour, a day or a few days – we will help develop your itinerary to fit your timeline. □



National Watch & Clock
MUSEUM
NAWCC

We have all the time
in the world!

514 Poplar St.
Columbia, PA 17512
museum.nawcc.org



nacho hippo
CANTINA MAXIMO

"NACHO AVERAGE TACO JOINT!"

www.nachohippo.com • www.divinedininggroup.com    

Proud member of the Divine Dining Group family of restaurants!



Music brings us together.

Experience
the St. Louis
Symphony
Orchestra

Groups
Save ^{up to} 20%

Plus:

- Curated service
- Student rates
- Priority seating
- Free bus parking
- No ticket order fees

and more!

slo.org/groups
314-286-4155



s|s|o

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra
Stéphane Denève : Music Director

ALWAYS FORWARD

We chose to be inspired by you.



temsa.com





20 TIPS FOR TOUR PLANNERS

by Dr. Charleen Jaeb

Editor's Note: We have recently received questions on trips for students. Hence, we are reprinting this past column written by Dr. Charleen Jaeb.

20 Tips for Student Trips

If you have never set up a trip for students, you might be missing some lucrative, growing and untapped markets. Student bus trips offer many young people the only opportunity they ever have to experience this type of travel. Traditional students are from public and private elementary schools, high schools and colleges. Since some colleges and schools are doing away with their buses and drivers because maintaining them is too expensive, bus and tour companies are capitalizing on this development. Your challenge is to find and approach them.

Some of the fastest growing student populations are non-traditional. They are from home schools, adult education classes, learning in retirement classes, history clubs, science clubs, cooking institutes and on-line schools. Some organizations specialize in setting up summer camping trips out west by bus. Others arrange bus trips around the U.S. for foreign students. My first column on student bus trips in 2010 focused on trips for traditional students. The second in 2014 focused on non-traditional students. This reader-requested column will update the first two and focus on the emerging adolescent learners.

I spoke with math teacher Tom Andrews, who sets up end of the year junior high trips in the Berea, Ohio school district (where I live) and teacher Anne Budzik, who sets up the annual eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. in the Bay Village district (where my daughter Kristine teaches), bus company personnel and Larry Plachno, editor of *Bus Tours Magazine* and combined them with Internet findings and my experience escorting student bus trips for Lakefront Lines.

I also spoke with Megan Ross of the Student and Youth Travel Association (SYTA). SYTA, a non-profit, professional trade organization, published the 2015 Top 10 Student Trips to United States, North American and international destinations: Those in the United States were: 1) New York City, 2) Orlando, 3) Washington D.C., 4) Chicago, 5) Southern California, 6) Boston, 7) Nashville, 8) San Antonio, 9) New Orleans, 10) Philadelphia. Emerging student travel destinations in U.S. were Hawaii, Dallas, St. Louis, Myrtle Beach, Charleston and Cleveland. I have been to all but Philadelphia (which is on my bucket list) and can attest to their value.

Most primary grade students travel on school buses during the school day to locations within an hour's drive of the school set up by teachers. My daughter has taken her first and second grade students to the art museum, history museum, plays and the zoo. Middle school students usually take one-day bus trips within a three hour's drive from the

school. Trips to historical Greenwich Village in Dearborn, Amish country, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus and both major and minor league baseball games are favorites here. Multi-day trips usually start in junior high. High school band members, athletic teams and academic teams charter commercial buses or mini buses or use their district school buses. Most school bus planners first contact companies that specialize in student trips who then contact the bus company or visa-versa. The choice depends on the length and type of trip, number of students, cost and past experience.

Here are 20 tips to assist you when planning student bus trips, and additional new information on several new topics such as eighth grade trips, one of the most popular inclusive student end-of-the-year multi-day bus trips.

Before the Trip:

1. Teachers or school bus planners need to decide who to invite, where they want to go, what they want to see and do, when they want to go, how much they can afford and whose approval is needed. They need to contact a bus company or travel company specializing in student tours 12 months in advance of the trip to make sure buses are available. Two years in advance is not too early for multi-day trips with large numbers of students. Many eighth grade trips take place the week after school is out. Pre-

vious experience, recommendations of bus company planners, desires of colleagues and students, Google, articles in *BUS TOURS MAGAZINE* and *Teach and Travel*, the official publication of the Student and Youth Travel Association, could be deciding factors.

2. Suggest creative fundraising ideas.

Publicize them through schools, local newspapers and social media. Students can earn money through sales of candy, wrapping paper, discount coupon books, or by holding car washes or dog washes. School band trips are often made possible by Band Booster Clubs where band parents work in concession stands, hold garage sales and dinners to help their children afford trips to places where the bands perform. Some states have rules on school fundraising which may limit individual sales.

3. Make rules clear and concise. Spell out consequences for breaking them. They should cover safety rules, use of cell phones and electronic devices, photography, payment deadlines, food and student behavior on and off the bus. No smoking, drugs or alcoholic beverages is pretty much a universal policy. Attach them to a printed itinerary for parents or guardians and everyone on the bus. Learn your state and school's policies on student bus trips. For multi-day trips meet with parents early in the school year and shortly before the trip leaves.

4. Prior to scheduling destinations, find out if there are different restrictions for different ages. For example, on a trip my daughter took with her second grade students to NASA, all adults accompanying the group had to have photo IDs. If college age students want to stop at a casino, in most states only people 21 and older are admitted.

5. Collect medical information forms and medications students require on the trip. Berea schools require both be brought to the school two weeks before the trip starts by parent/guardian and given to the school nurse in person. Berea gives parents a quart clear plastic bag to place medications required in their original containers into

along with a photo ID, signed doctor's orders and the medical information form. One staff member on each bus is trained by the nurse on handling, administering and recording medications on the bus. Medical information forms should include student's name, address, date of birth, parent/guardian's phone/cell phone, notifications in case of emergency, insurance information, health history, allergies and in case of emergency grant permission to transport student to hospital and have licensed physician treat them. It should be signed and dated by the parent/guardian.

6. Student trip permission slips must be turned in, signed and dated by the parent/guardian before the trip starts. The staff should attach a full itinerary to this slip for every trip. A good printable example from the Olympia, Washington School District can be found online. It states that their child has their permission to travel and participate in a field trip to a stated destination on a stated date as well as the time the trip will depart and the approximate time of return. It should state they have reviewed the itinerary and rules concerning this trip or activity and give permission for their child to participate and expressly recognizes that their child is responsible for his/her behavior and that all school rules of conduct apply while participating. Further, it should indemnify and hold the school district harmless from any claim not resulting from the fault of the district.

7. Keep in mind who you are planning the trip for – students. Students are active and like to walk. Students sometimes have more energy than adult chaperones, and often have shorter attention spans. Students enjoy different modes of travel such as boats, trains, trams, horse- and tractor-drawn wagons, and trolleys. They like animal encounters, visiting historical homes and monuments, museums, meeting famous people, live theater, interactive learning and laughter. On day trips in elementary schools, plan for the bus to return to the school in time for children to catch their rides home.

8. Choose appropriate chaperones.

Today most school districts around me have only teachers or staff on the upper grade trips. A good ratio for primary grade students is one chaperone for every four or five students. A second grade chaperone going with the class to the zoo might be responsible for four children (and their lunch bags); escorting them through the zoo at their own pace and making sure they get back to the bus on time. A ratio of one chaperone for 10 students is the norm for junior high trips. Bus attractions often give one complimentary admission for every 10 students. Place chaperones throughout the bus and have them walk up and down the aisles occasionally.

On the Bus

9. Make sure the microphone and VCR work when boarding the bus. One teacher told me she had ones that did not and it was disastrous. Play their kind of music on the bus and have age-appropriate video(s). A bus driver told me playing their kind of music was always a bargaining point in getting them to behave. Most school outings are seen as fun affairs, so it is fine to choose videos for pure enjoyment as well as learning.

10. Go over the rules in Tip 3 and add safety rules similar to what the airlines do prior to take off. On the bus children should talk quietly, be courteous to the driver and escorts and follow their instructions. Students should stay seated during the entire bus ride and keep the aisles clear. Give safety rules to follow in an emergency such as how to exit through push-out windows. No fighting, pushing or bad language. Keep the area around the seats clean. If absolutely necessary to use the restroom, hold on to the seat backs when walking to it. Do not put anything out the window. Return to the bus at the time announced. Kids that misbehave have to sit in the front of the bus – or worse – as explained in their pre-trip information.

11. Put name tags on students. In a primary grade class of 20 students a teacher

20 Tips

could make name tags with four different colors with their first names on it matching with their chaperone's color. In junior high multi-day trips each student receives a name tag with their name, photo and the name of their school on the front of it with the group leader's cell phone on the back. Let the teacher decide on bus seating arrangements.

12. The Eight Grade/Junior High Trip: Teachers and school employees are often the only chaperones today. Students must furnish the medical and permission forms described in tips 5 and 6. In the Berea school district typical eighth grade trips are open to students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The destinations rotate over three years including one year in Washington D.C., one in New York City and one in such cities like Chicago, Boston, Williamsburg or Orlando. Thus giving the student an opportunity to travel to three different cities. In Bay Village schools the annual eighth grade trip, which usually consists of four or five buses, goes to Washington D.C. Budzik also includes a dinner cruise and a Medieval Feast. However, places to visit in Washington may vary the following year based on survey forms at the end of the trip. Teachers who have access to people in high places may arrange for their bus to visit them on the job. Group leaders in Bay Village set up a Twitter account to keep parents informed of where students are and how things are going.

13. Favorite stops for Berea Junior High Trips include free time in the heart of a city and a dinner-dance on a Spirit river or harbor cruise with entertainment and sight-seeing are two activities Andrews usually includes in his end-of-the-year trip. Three or four hours in Rockefeller Center in New York or the Smithsonian Museum area in Washington D.C. for shopping and exploring is welcomed. They stay close to their chaperone. Andrews recommends students not bring more than \$50 to \$100 and tells parents if they give it to them not to expect change.

14. Kids are always hungry. Having snacks on board can help. However, some bus companies do not allow milk products

or beverages that are easy to spill. Good suggestions are wrapped candy, cookies, pretzel sticks and bottled water. Some teachers require all food to be consumed off the bus at rest stops. If traveling during warm months, a good idea is to keep an ice and water-filled cooler on the bus.

15. Schedule meals at appropriate times. A lunch that is two hours late is a disaster. If lunch bags are packed, be sure names are on them and decide ahead of time where they will be kept and how they will be distributed.

16. Tips on handling overnight accommodations for junior high students: Put girls and boys on different floors with a security guard or chaperone on each floor. Choose rooms facing inside the hotel. Have chaperones visit each room at curfew time. Make sure everyone is there (and no more.) Ask if they need anything. Tell them not to leave unless an emergency occurs and that you will place masking tape on the door.

17. To attract student bus tours, set up a Web site (or add it to the one you have) designed to make planning student field trips easy and fast for teachers. An example is placing a form online where teachers can pick the date/time, destination and itinerary for their trips and submit it to you. Within one business day return a comprehensive price quote to the sender.

18. Choose food stops the students enjoy. Restaurants with an atmosphere like the Hard Rock Café, The Rainforest and restaurants with a game room are popular if time allows. Stops at fast food chains or a picnic lunch at a park are fast, fun, inexpensive stops.

19. Get feedback from trips to plan future trips. Circulate a survey to passengers on the way home listing the stops made with a rating system for each with space to make comments. It gives you an idea on which stops to add and which to remove.

20. Go the extra mile for teachers if you have been asked to plan or escort a student bus trip. For example, contact the destination's convention and tourist bureau and ask if they would

put together a welcome package to be given out at one of their stops. Set up a meeting with a city official. Ask if there are specific areas at the destination the teacher would like the driver to drive through. Take a group picture. Keep in touch with teachers after the trip. Send them a thank you note. Let teachers know services, prices or trips that are added.

Kudos to my friends Sister Martha Kunesh and Sister Christine Cosgrove who have taken 3,000 participants throughout the past 30 years from their Catholic girls high school in Manhattan to international destinations on six continents. They use EF tours and go during the summer or on spring break.

Many bus companies and organizations who set up student tours hire retired teachers to work for them escorting trips. If you are honest, dependable and treat people the way you want to be treated, you will be respected by the students and teachers and requested again.

Dr. Jaeb was responsible for this column for many years and is now retired in Ohio. □



EXPERIENCE PRINCETON

Explore Princeton's Historic Main Street, boutique shopping, local eats & brews, impressive Airbnb stays, public arts and parks, walking and biking trails, county fair, national historic landmarks & homes museums, art gallery, professional theater, street concerts, farmers markets, festivals & more!



www.princetonontourism.org [princetonontourism](https://www.facebook.com/princetonontourism) [visitprinceton_il](https://www.instagram.com/visitprinceton_il)





Quality you can trust, a team you can rely on.

With each North American-built coach, MCI is dedicated to earning your trust with an industry-leading product.

Add in our relationship-driven field and tech support, expanding service network, comprehensive parts selection, and best-in-class training programs, and you have a team you can rely on.

Together, we are Reliability Driven™





TAKE FLIGHT WITH US AT GRISSOM AIR MUSEUM

GRISSOMAIRMUSEUM.COM



Indoor Exhibits

Outdoor Airpark

Facility 14 acres

Seat Reserved

Explore

Educate

Experience

Address

1000 W Hoosier Blvd Peru IN (765) 689.8011



Advertiser's Index

Age of Steam	National Underground Railroad7
Roundhouse Museum10	National Watch & Clock Museum24
Alabama Aquarium at the	Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad8
Dauphin Island Sea Lab15	Owatonna Area COC & Tourism23
Alaska Railroad10	PixelGraphics17
Atlantic City32	Princeton Tourism28
Bear Country USA15	Ronald Reagan
Black River Railroad	Presidential Foundation19
Historical Trust17	St. Lawrence Cruise Lines8
City of Gallup2	St. Louis Symphony Orchestra24
Clinton Iowa CVB12	Starved Rock Lodge
Conway Scenic Railroad31	& Conference Center13
Crawford County CVB8	TABASCO® Fan Experience15
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad7	Temsa25
Divine Dining Group24	The Archway22
Fort Worth Zoo16	The Springs Resort20
Frederik Meijer Gardens	Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center . . .30
& Sculpture Park17	White Pines Lodge12
George Bush Library & Museum19	Yellowstone Wild Life Sanctuary17
Georgetown Loop Railroad9	York County Visitors Bureau21
Grissom Air Museum30	Yosemite Mountain Sugar
Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva21	Pine Railroad10
Jim Dykes – NYC Guide21	Zoo Montana17
MCI29	



Smack dab in the middle.

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche, SD is at the middle of the nation – and we have a spectacular monument to prove it! Visit us for exhibits on rodeos, ranching, pioneer life, bank robbers, dinosaurs and more.

Take a photo at the Center of the Nation compass rose monument; step back in time with a visit to our Johnny Spaulding Cabin; shop in our store full of books, jewelry, western memorabilia, puzzles, smart toys and games. Then have a picnic on our spacious lawns!

Meet us in the middle, in Belle Fourche!

415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche
605-723-1200
www.thetristatemuseum.com

CONWAY SCENIC RAILROAD

CONWAY SCENIC RAILROAD

50th



ANNIVERSARY

1974 - 2024

*Celebrating 50 years
of railroad excursions*

All Aboard!

All trains depart
from our 1874 station in the center
of North Conway Village.



*The Mountaineer offers
a supremely scenic journey
over Crawford Notch.*

A Choice of Train Rides!

1-hr, 2-hr & 5-hr excursions • Tour groups welcome!

One way group fares available • Train charter options

• VIP Tour & Charter Bus Company is now part of the Conway Scenic family!

Call or Book online - ConwayScenic.com • (603) 356-5251

38 Norcross Circle | North Conway, NH

VISIT
*Atlantic
City*

Live to Explore



**24-hour gaming
& entertainment**



**Sandy beaches
& world-famous
boardwalk**



**Award-winning
dining**



Book your Atlantic City Escape!
Heather Colache 609.318.6097
heatherc@visitatlanticcity.com

visitatlanticcity.com/group-travel

Visit Atlantic City received funding
through a grant from the NJ Department
of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.



TABASCO® BRAND

Visit the historic home of TABASCO® Sauce on Avery Island, Louisiana and:

Experience the TABASCO® Sauce Factory

Tour the TABASCO® Museum

Shop at the TABASCO® Country Store

Eat Cajun and Creole dishes at 1868 Restaurant

Explore the local flora and fauna in 170-acres of Jungle Gardens

VISIT US: Hwy 329, Avery Island, LA 70513 | CONTACT US: (337) 373-6139 | FOLLOW US: @TABASCO



Embark on a journey that combines history, architecture, and breathtaking views.



Elevate your visit to St. Louis with a tram ride to the top of the Gateway Arch. Plan a unique excursion and experience panoramic views from 630 feet, guaranteed to make memories that reach new heights.

Experience the charm of St. Louis from a unique perspective.



Embrace the beauty of the Mississippi River aboard the Riverboats at the Gateway Arch. Surround yourself with the stunning skyline and historical landmarks on a variety of cruises perfect for your group.

Email or call our sales team to book your group! 314.923.3080 groupsales@gatewayarch.com

 GATEWAY ARCH



Scan for more information

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.

 NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM
Smithsonian



airandspace.si.edu



[@airandspace](https://www.facebook.com/airandspace)



[@airandspace](https://twitter.com/airandspace)



[@airandspacemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/airandspacemuseum)



JOIN US IN NASHVILLE



2021 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203 | 615.340.6376 | sales@aertsonhotel.com | Aertsonhotel.com | #AertsonHotel

Reader Service Card

To receive more bus and group tour planning information, from these advertisers, just check the box and mail or fax this form back to us.

Mail to: Bus Tours Magazine, 9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064 or fax to (815) 946-2347

Please print all information to insure correct response.

Name/Title

Firm/Organization

Address

City, State, Zip

Area Code & Phone No.

E-mail (optional)

Comments

MARCH/APRIL 2024

To receive information from **all** advertisers in a territory, check the box below

Midwest Northeast Southeast West Central

To receive information from individual advertisers, check the specified box(es) below

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum10 | <input type="checkbox"/> National Underground Railroad7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab15 | <input type="checkbox"/> National Watch & Clock Museum . . .24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Railroad10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic City32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Owatonna Area COC & Tourism23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear Country USA15 | <input type="checkbox"/> PixelGraphics17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black River Railroad Historical Trust17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Princeton Tourism28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Gallup2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Iowa CVB12 | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Lawrence Cruise Lines8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conway Scenic Railroad31 | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Louis Symphony Orchestra24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crawford County CVB8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad . . .7 | <input type="checkbox"/> TABASCO® Fan Experience15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divine Dining Group24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Temsa25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Worth Zoo16 | <input type="checkbox"/> The Archway22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park17 | <input type="checkbox"/> The Springs Resort20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George Bush Library & Museum19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center . .30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgetown Loop Railroad9 | <input type="checkbox"/> White Pines Lodge12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grissom Air Museum30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellowstone Wild Life Sanctuary . . .17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva21 | <input type="checkbox"/> York County Visitors Bureau21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Dykes - NYC Guide21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MCI29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoo Montana17 |

**You Can
Return Your
Reader Service
Request
Three Ways:**

1. Mail to *Bus Tours Magazine*, 9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064

2. Fax to (815) 946-2347

3. Fill out online at BusToursMagazine.com/rsc

Save postage or fax charges and get bus and group tour information by filling out the Reader Service Card online.

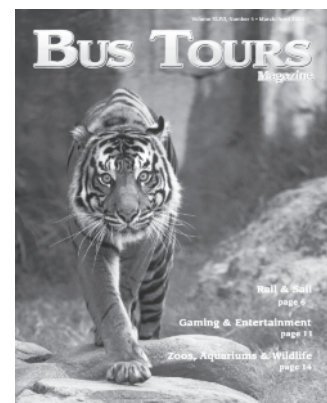
Just go to **www.BusToursMagazine.com/rsc**

BusToursMagazine.com

Looking for ideas for your next bus tours?

**Surf on over to Bus Tours Magazine
at www.bustoursmagazine.com
for ideas including:**

- **Supplier Directory**
- **Online Editorial**
- **Digital Ads / Banners**
- **Digital Issues of *Bus Tours Magazine***
- **Videos of Bus Tour Locations**
- **Regional Sections**
- **Plus Much More**



**For more information on advertising opportunities please
contact us at (815) 946-2341 or tourgroups@busmag.com**

Get a Copy of Bus Tours Magazine for a Friend or Associate

If you would like an additional free copy of Bus Tours Magazine, please follow one of the three steps below to get on the mailing list. Please be sure to check one of the tour involvement boxes on the form.

How Can I Receive Bus Tours Magazine Free?

1



Snail Mail – Fill out the form and mail to:
Bus Tours Magazine
9698 W. Judson Rd
Polo, IL, 61064

2



Fax – Fill out the card below and fax to (815) 946-2347.

3



Online – Visit our Web site at www.bustoursmagazine.com and click on the appropriate “Subscribe” link.

Postal regulations require that we periodically obtain your approval to keep your name on the mailing list of Bus Tours Magazine.

Free Bus Tours Magazine Subscription

You May Also Fax This Form To: 815-946-2347

**Additional Free Copy
of Bus Tours Magazine**

Name _____

Company _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State (Province)/Zip (PC) _____

Contact me for renewal by e-mail phone

Phone# _____

e-Mail _____

Please indicate your area(s) of group tour involvement:

Bus/Group tour planner

Tour Wholesaler

Bus Operator Planning Tours

Corporate/Organization Tours

Receptive Operator

Group Leader

Other, please specify _____

Today's Date _____

Your signature _____

Bus Tours Magazine

9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064
March/April 2024

- **Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum**
page 10
- **Bear Country USA**
page 15
- **Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva**
page 21
- **Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad**
page 8
- **Owatonna Area COC & Tourism**
page 23
- **TABASCO® Fan Experience**
page 15
- **The Springs Resort**
page 20
- **Yellowstone Wild Life Sanctuary**
page 17
- **York County Visitors Bureau**
page 21

Moving Ahead
With 2024 Tours

Please fill out the Reader Service Card
on the back wrapper.