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Southfork Ranch

Explore the Legendary Southfork Ranch: A Journey into Television History and Texan Charm

Imagine stepping into a world where glamour, intrigue, and Texas hospitality converge. Welcome to Southfork Ranch, a place where the line between reality and fiction blurs, bringing to life the iconic home of the Ewing family from the hit television series "Dallas." Nestled in the heart of Texas, just a short drive from Dallas, Southfork Ranch offers an unforgettable experience for fans of the show and newcomers alike.

From the moment you arrive at this legendary ranch, you're transported back to the glitz and drama of the 1980s, where larger-than-life characters lived, loved, and battled for power under the vast Texan sky. As you stroll through the beautifully manicured grounds and marvel at the sprawling mansion, you can't help but feel a sense of nostalgia for the era that made "Dallas" a global sensation. Here, you can explore the very rooms where J.R., Bobby, Sue Ellen, and the rest of the Ewing family plotted their next moves, and perhaps imagine yourself as a character in your own dramatic story.

But Southfork Ranch is more than just a piece of television history—it's a vibrant destination that

offers something for everyone. Enjoy a guided tour of the mansion, where you'll hear fascinating behind-the-scenes stories from the show, or take a leisurely walk around the picturesque grounds, perfect for snapping memorable photos. For those seeking a taste of true Texan hospitality, the ranch hosts special events throughout the year, including BBQ cookouts, trail rides, and music festivals that capture the spirit of the Lone Star State.



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BUS TOURS

Magazine



**Historical Attractions
& Museums**
page 4

**Places for
Summer 2025**
page 16

**Shopping, Dining
& Lodging**
page 27

Berlin Wall
display at the
Billy Graham Library



Billy Graham ministering to people
on the streets of Berlin in 1990.

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Bring your group to see a powerful story of hope unfold at the Billy Graham Library. Together, you can explore engaging multimedia presentations, displays, photos, and memorabilia. Come discover how God used a dairy farmer's son to tell the world about His love—and see for yourself how this never-changing message changes everything.

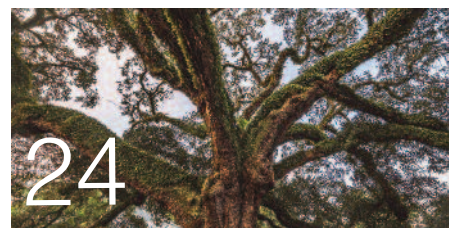
FREE ADMISSION

Mon.-Sat., 9:30-5:00 | BillyGrahamLibrary.org | 704.401.3200 | 4330 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, NC

contents

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

Volume XLVII, Number 1



Guides

4 HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS & MUSEUMS

Everyone on the bus seems to enjoy a trip back in time when visiting historical attractions and museums. Looking at how things were back then gives us an idea of how we got where we are today.

16 PLACES FOR SUMMER 2025

Looking for one or two more tours to fill your 2024 catalog? Here are a couple of locations that are great for bus groups and could give you an idea for putting together another trip for next year.

27 SHOPPING, DINING & LODGING

While dining and lodging are required on bus tours, many bus tour passengers also appreciate an opportunity to go shopping. Here are a few locations you might consider for your next bus tour.

Guides (Continued)

33 STUDENT & SENIOR TOURS

Students and senior enjoy going on bus tours and sometimes have special interests. Here are some locations that may be particularly attractive to your student and senior groups.

Feature

22 ZOOS, AQUARIUMS & WILDLIFE

Everyone on the bus likes to visit and see interesting animals and creatures. Here are some locations you can include in your next tour that will add to the trip's excitement and adventure.

24 SMALL TOWN AMERICA

Big cities may have their advantages, but tour passengers already know that great things can be found in smaller communities. Here are a couple of examples of places that are popular with bus groups.

And More

- 14 PELLA, IOWA
- 38 TRIVIA QUESTION
- 38 ADVERTISERS INDEX

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COVER PHOTO

The 1956 Elvis homecoming statue in Downtown Tupelo commemorates Elvis' 1956 Homecoming Concert just eight years after his family moved to Memphis. Visitors from around the world visit Tupelo to experience this iconic landmark, often recreating the memorable gesture of touching Elvis' outstretched hands. TUPELO CVB.

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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.

Historical Attractions & Museums



George Bush Presidential Library & Museum

George Bush Presidential Library & Museum

West College Station, Texas

The George Bush Presidential Library & Museum is ready for an exciting fall. Educational opportunities to learners of all ages are provided. From new curricula for school groups to exciting community programs to engaging exhibits, there is always something new to see and learn at the Bush Library & Museum.

In addition to the permanent exhibition galleries, the museum features temporary exhibits on a variety of topics, providing repeat guests a new experience every time.

The Spirit of the Place exhibit is open through March 30, 2025, in the Ansary Gallery of American History. This exhibit explores the path that led President Bush to choose Texas A&M to be the home of his Presidential Center. Additionally, *The Spirit of the Place* offers information on the many ways that George and Barbara Bush supported the

community that embraced them with open arms. Using artifacts, documents, photographs and other materials, visitors get a never-before-seen look at George Bush's vision for creating a world-class cultural institution dedicated to public service right in the heart of Texas. Experience the legacy that President Bush has left through his Presidential Center, discover its role in the community and its impact on the world, and see how that ongoing legacy is intertwined with the Spirit of Aggieland.

Serving America and President Bush: The U.S. Foreign Service is on exhibit in the Fidelity Gallery through February 2, 2025. This exhibit commemorates the centennial of the founding of the U.S. Foreign Service – the career diplomats who advise the President on international affairs and advance the nation's interests serving in 165 foreign countries. The exhibit tells the story of the origin, development and contributions of the Foreign Service since 1924.

Along with the museum exhibits, a variety of educational opportunities are offered for all ages. Visit Bush41.org for event and exhibit info and for all of the details to plan your visit.

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum

Waco, Texas

"One riot, one ranger," is a phrase made famous by Texas Ranger Captain W.J. McDonald in the very early 1900s. McDonald was called upon by a mayor to stop a forbidden prize fight and ease an angry mob. When stepping off the train by himself, the puzzled mayor asked, "Where are the others?" To that McDonald replied, "Hell, ain't I enough? There's only one riot, isn't there?"

It was the reputation of McDonald and early Texas Rangers that personified an icon of rugged individualism, courage, honesty



“Texas Ranger” Sculpture by Don Hunt

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Guide: Historical Attractions

and virtue. They have created an image that criminals fear and children idolize.

The legendary Texas Rangers are the oldest state law enforcement agency. They celebrated their 200th anniversary in 2023. Tracing its lineage back to 1823, Rangers have served through three centuries under five flags – Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the State of Texas, Confederate Texas and the U.S. again.

The official Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum is conveniently located off Interstate 35 at the Brazos River in Waco, Texas. Visitors learn about the history of the Texas Rangers through exhibits, which include badges, firearms, photographs and other artifacts on display. In addition, children will enjoy a bandit hunt. The Texas Rangers, with their cowboy hats and silver stars on their shirt pockets, remain an important part of our heritage.

Sponsored by the City of Waco, more than four million persons have visited its museum, hall of fame, research library, Ranger headquarters building and banquet facilities. *Texas Highways* magazine readers ranked it one of the Best Texas Museums, *USA Today* called it one of the nation's outstanding Halls of Fame, and *True West Magazine* titled it the Best Western History Museum in Texas.

The museum is open Monday through Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. with group rates available. Guided tours can be booked at least two weeks in advance of arrival with staff availability. For more information, phone (254) 750-8631 or visit TexasRanger.org.



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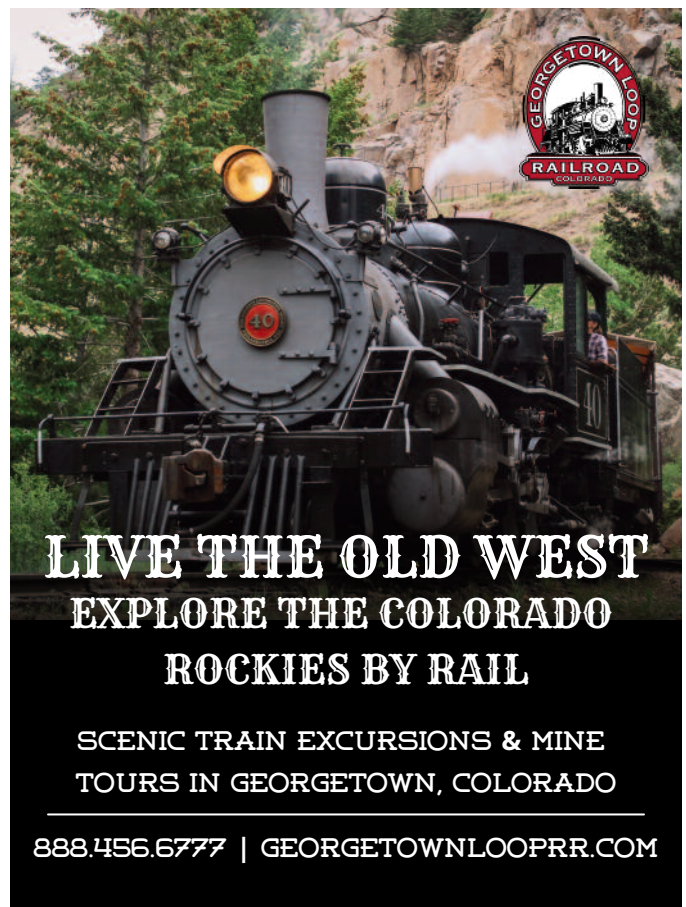


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**Martinsburg-Berkely County
West Virginia**

Shoppers and history enthusiasts find hours of entertainment in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, West Virginia. The area's rich history links to events from before the Revolutionary War through the Civil War. Martinsburg is surrounded by historical sites and provides the perfect picturesque downtown for hub-and-spoke tours or good old-fashioned shopping sprees.

It is time to park the bus and let tour passengers explore. The peaceful and delightful town of Martinsburg has great finds at every turn. With innumerable shopping opportunities, the quaint Norman Rockwellesque downtown will charm visitors. The store windows shine with artisan décor, unique finds, spa-worthy luxuries and antiques only available in such a historic place. Word to the wise: pack an empty suitcase to carry all the new treasures one will find at the downtown shops.

Martinsburg-Berkeley County



**HERE, OUR
PAST IS**

**ALWAYS
PRESENT**

The stunning beauty of lovingly preserved country manors surround the architecturally rich downtown of Martinsburg as you explore Berkeley County, West Virginia. The rich history of our past is evident at every turn. Hike our trails, paddle our lakes, and wine and dine downtown.



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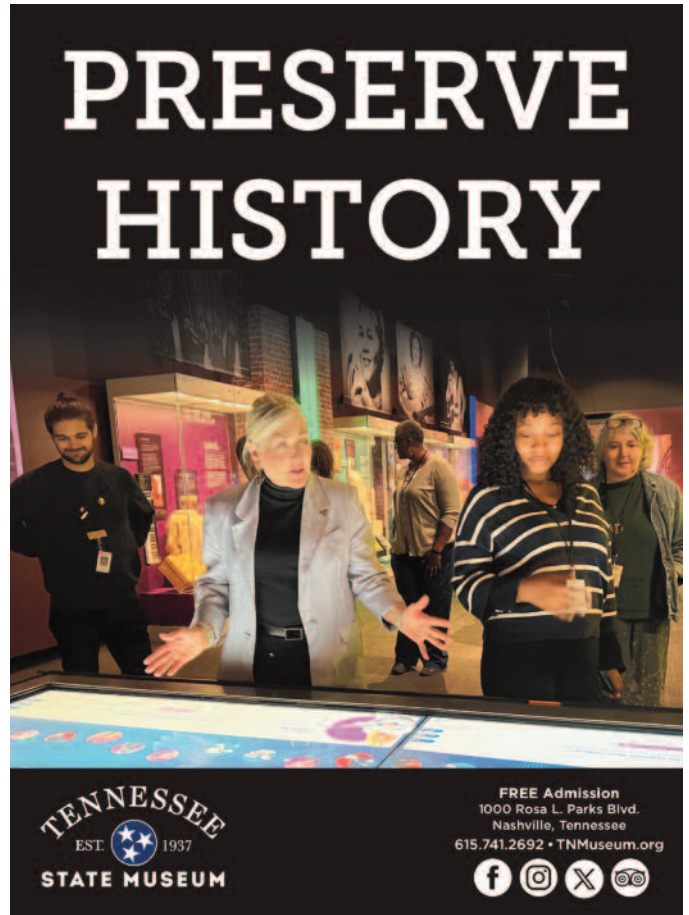
Guide: Historical Attractions

Are you feeling peckish after shopping? Groups find a selection of tasty eats at Martinsburg's locally-owned restaurants. Choose between world cuisines or go straight to dessert. Visiting DeFluri's Fine Chocolates and Everything Cheesecake will satisfy anyone's sweet tooth.

For more eclectic shopping and eateries, groups head 15 minutes east to Shepherdstown, the oldest town in West Virginia. Groups visiting Shepherdstown find that hospitality is the only thing more alive than the local arts scene.

It is easy to make a group tour historical in Berkeley County. Historic sites like Morgan Cabin – the home of the area's first white settlers; General Adam Stephen House - the founder of Martinsburg and The George Washington Heritage Trail pull history from the past and into today. Groups can even see George Washington's outdoor bathtub in nearby Berkeley Springs. There is an ample amount of Civil War sites, as well. Groups can visit the Martinsburg B&O Roundhouse to see the place once destroyed by Stonewall Jackson's troops in 1861. Men, of course, are not the only participants in the war. Check out the Berkeley County Museum, located in the home of Confederate spy Belle Boyd, at the aptly named Belle Boyd House.

These opportunities and more wait for motorcoach tours in Berkeley County. For information, visit travelwv.com or phone (304) 264-8801.



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**Bush Family Home
State Historic Site**

Midland, Texas

Two presidents, a first lady and two governors lived here. While George H.W. and Barbara Bush resided in this home with their young family, two of their children were born, and one of them died.

It was a remarkable time in the lives of a consequential American family.

The Bush Family Home State Historic Site is unlike any other in the THC's collection of 38 properties. It is a different kind of historic – only a generation removed from many visitors' lives. The home is filled with familiar touches, like Pyrex kitchen bowls, a yellow Cub Scout neckerchief and even a television in the living room.

"A lot of people say the home reminds them of their mom or grandma's house – I love to hear things like that. People have a real tangible connection to this home," says Site Manager Troy Gray, noting that

the Bush family lived in the house from 1951-55.

One of the site's highlights is George W's room. Metal roller skates, a Little League glove and adventure books humanize the

former president by showcasing his childhood years as a typical American kid with recognizable toys and interests. Another room is dedicated to baseball, which played a significant role in George W's life.



Bush Family Home Historic Site



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Guide: Historical Attractions & Museums

Now that the THC has officially acquired the Bush Family Home, Gray is optimistic about future goals and plans for the site. He notes that thanks to assistance from the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission and THC Chairman John L. Nau, III, two adjacent properties were purchased to develop additional exhibit space dedicated to the family.

With new exhibit space years down the road, Gray is currently focusing on updating and expanding the scope of stories told at the home. Future interpretation will include information about the importance of volunteer work in Barbara Bush's life along with additional displays about the family's other children.

Gray says he also hopes to dedicate exhibit space to people who played important roles in the family's lives, including household staff. He envisions displays focusing on Civil Rights and the inequitable treatment of the people of color who worked in the home.

To learn more, visit visitbushfamilyhome.com.

American Museum of Tort Law Winsted, Connecticut

Located in the scenic northwest hills of Connecticut's Litchfield County, The American Museum of Tort Law opened in September 2015 in the beautifully-restored Winsted SavingsBank at 654 Main Street in downtown Winsted. The mission of this



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Guide: Historical Attractions & Museums

nationally acclaimed institution is to educate, inform and inspire Americans about the right to trial by jury and the benefits of tort law, the law of wrongful injuries. From motor vehicle crashes, defective products, medical malpractice, to environmental disasters and many more, tort law's impacts are wide-ranging and relevant to all Americans.

Visitors to the museum will enjoy learning about this fundamental aspect of the legal system, and see how it has improved society by ensuring safeguards and protections for consumers. The Museum has multiple galleries full of engaging artwork sure to make this important subject matter fun and interesting for guests of all ages. With interactive displays, a brief film and historic artifacts, visitors may be surprised at just how compelling the law can be.

The gift shop is stock full of iconic merchandise including stylish apparel, tote bags and a small library's worth of fascinating literature.



American Museum of Tort Law

An advertisement for the Grissom Air Museum. On the left, a black and white photograph shows a propeller-driven aircraft on a runway. The right side of the ad is a dark grey area with white text and graphics. The text reads "It's just plane fun" in a large, stylized font. Below this, the museum's name "GRISSOM AIR MUSEUM" is displayed. Three circular icons show different museum exhibits. The website "WWW.GRISSOMAIRMUSEUM.COM" is listed, followed by the address "1000 W. Hoosier Blvd. Peru, Indiana 46970" and phone number "PH: (765) 689-8011". The "INDIANA" logo is in the bottom left corner, and the "Grissom AIR MUSEUM" logo is in the bottom right corner.

Guide: Historical Attractions & Museums

Check out the museum Web site at tortmuseum.org to see elements from the virtual tour or plan your visit to coincide with one of the many upcoming events.

Stop by The American Museum of Tort Law and see why Politico called the museum “Fun, creative, visually stunning, and provocative” for yourself. Mention Bus Tours MAGAZINE when booking your tour for a complimentary gift upon your visit. □

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“Fun, creative, visually stunning and provocative” Politico

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Begin your adventure by immersing yourself in the grandeur of the largest working windmill in North America, the Vermeer Windmill. Take a guided tour and watch them mill flour, or step out on the deck to see Pella from new heights. After visiting the boyhood home of Wyatt Earp within Pella Historical Museums, make sure to leave time to visit the Scholte House which Pella's Founder Dominie Scholte built for his bride Maria. At Maria's Tea Room, located at the Scholte House, step into Maria's world and discover her heartfelt emotions upon arriving in this new land, all while enjoying a traditional Dutch coffee time with some of Pella's favorite treats. At Sunken Gardens, notice the pond is in the shape of a wooden shoe, walk along the brick path and learn about the Tuttle Cabin, where the first pioneers settled in Marion County.

Curious about the gathering near the crosswalk or where are those chimes coming from? Uncover a living piece of Pella's history with the captivating Klokkenspel Plaza. The Klokkenspel portrays people and moments of Pella's history – make sure to catch four figures on the street side and then walk to the courtyard to finish watching the last four figures. Catch a show at the historic Pella Opera House or walk along the picturesque canal at the Molengracht Plaza and enjoy the authentic Dutch architecture attributes in every detail.

Tulips are in full bloom for the Tulip Festival, held May 1-3, 2025. Pella proudly showcases its Dutch roots with many events including a daily afternoon and evening parade and lots of authentic Dutch costumes. As seasons change and the snow begins to fall, Christmas magic fills the air as guests are invited to attend the Christmas Tour of Homes, December 4-6, 2025, to explore beautifully-decorated Pella homes. Afterward, savor the sweet aroma of spiced treats and shop from local artisans as you explore Kerstmarkt. Kerstmarkt is a Dutch Christmas market located along the Molengracht Canal filled with holiday cheer. Guests are invited to browse the Festival of Trees, take a horse-drawn carriage ride, and meet Sinterklaas as he arrives in a special celebratory parade.

Pella is a hub of agricultural innovation and a must-visit destination for agri-tourism enthusiasts. Home to Vermeer Manufacturing, a global leader in agricultural equipment, the city boasts a rich history of pioneering farming solutions. Step into the Vermeer Museum & Global Pavilion to witness firsthand how one man's vision transformed into a worldwide enterprise. Discover the future of farming through Vermeer's collaboration with Lely, a Dutch innovator in automated livestock care. Pella offers a unique opportunity to explore the heart of American agriculture and experience the spirit of innovation firsthand.

Indulge your senses in a Dutch culinary adventure. Pella's bakeries and meat markets are a



Pella, Iowa

*A Dutch haven in the heartland,
where tulips bloom and charm abounds*

foodie's paradise, tempting you with the mouthwatering aroma of freshly-baked goods and savory delights. Savor classic Dutch treats like Pella bologna, the unique combination of dried beef and gouda on a raisin bun, crispy stroopwafels and the iconic Dutch letters. Craving a full meal? Local restaurants offer delicious boxed lunches, or for a truly authentic experience, enjoy a Dutch dinner at Central College.

Discover a hidden gem in Pella: charming boutiques owned and operated by friendly locals. From chic fashion and trendy accessories to unique home decor and delightful paper goods, you will find something special to treasure. Experience the warmth of small-town hospitality as you explore these delightful shops and uncover one-of-a-kind finds.

Create unforgettable memories in Pella with fun and quirky photo ops. Snap a selfie with the iconic giant wooden shoes, give Pieter Pella a virtual handshak, and capture the charm of the Molengracht drawbridge. Do not forget to admire the vibrant colors of a Staphorst Mural and the majestic Vermeer Windmill. Share your Pella adventures

with the world and inspire others to visit this delightful town.

Pella is home. Pella is a tradition. Pella is vibrant. Immerse yourself in a world of vibrant culture, stunning architecture and warm hospitality. Experience the magic firsthand and see why it has been lovingly called "America's Dutch Treasure." □



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Places for Summer 2025

Experience the Village of Boys Town

When Father Edward J. Flanagan purchased the Overlook Farm west of Omaha in 1921, it became what today is the site of Boys Town. Over the decades that followed, schools, churches and homes were built on the property and Omaha grew around the famous home where tens of thousands of young lives were transformed. When you visit the Village of Boys Town, a National Historic Landmark, you will get an unforgettable glimpse into the history of an organization that has given new hope to so many at-risk children for more than 100 years.

Today, Boys Town, Nebraska, is home to the national headquarters and its family-style

residential program. The Boys Town National Research Hospital West is located on the southern edge of the campus. Boys Town also has locations throughout the United States. As one of the largest nonprofit child and family care organizations in the country, it provides effective, compassionate treatment through services that touch the lives of more than 2 million people nationwide every year.

In the Village, visitors can see where the children live, go to school and play. Trees, open spaces, statues, and fountains create a picturesque, small-town setting for America's hurting children.

Visitors are welcome at Boys Town throughout the year and tour options include a campus driving tour and a "Boys Town Vis-

itor Tours" mobile app designed to guide you at your own pace. Popular attractions include the 1920s-era home of Father Flanagan, the Hall of History Museum, beautiful Dowd and Chambers Chapels and the "World's Largest Ball of Stamps" located in the Visitors Center. The newest addition on campus is the state-of-the-art Boys Town Education Center, serving youth of all ages, from elementary grades through high school.

Whether Omaha is your travel destination or a scheduled stopover, make the Village of Boys Town part of your itinerary. Stretch your legs and stroll around the historic campus or grab a bite to eat and unwind in the café. The Village is a true American treasure that will

Relax. Recharge. Recalibrate

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Guide: Places for Summer

leave a lasting impression. Discover Boys Town today. Visit online at boystown.org/discover.

Celebrate 150 Years of Mountain Railroad in New Hampshire

by Brian Solomon

In summer 2025, New Hampshire's Conway Scenic Railroad will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the famous Mountain Division over Crawford Notch – a rocky pass named for pioneer settler Able Crawford. This spectacular railroad was completed over Crawford Notch in 1875 and remains one of the most scenic lines in New England. Conway Scenic has operated excursions over Crawford Notch since 1995. Today it is the route of the *Mountaineer*, which recreates the experience of a 1950's transcontinental streamlined passenger train. This offers three classes of travel in a variety of different cars. The ever-popular, stainless-steel Budd Vista domes provide a premium class experience with elevated panoramic views. To help mark the anniversary of the Mountain Division,



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Hall of History Museum



Dowd Chapel



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Guide: Places for Summer 2025

the railroad has added extra trains to its summer schedule.

Conway Scenic Railroad is based at the iconic 1874-built North Conway Station. Designed in a Russian revivalist style by Boston architect Nathaniel Bradlee, this unique railroad structure is a treasure of the Victorian era. Among the daily trains from this beautifully-restored station is the *Valley Train* that all summer long makes several daily trips down the Saco River Valley on the

historic Conway Branch to Conway, New Hampshire, treating visitors to the experience of traveling from town to town by rail on authentic vintage rail passenger cars. Among the most popular is antique open-platform observation car *Gertrude Emma*, built by the Pullman Company in 1898.

Since 1974, Conway Scenic Railroad has been a chief attraction in New Hampshire's Mount Washington Valley located in the heart of the White Mountains. Relax on board the

train and take in a rolling panorama. The combination of classic mid-20th railroading with pastoral mountain environment, characterized by rocky peaks, forests and the winding Saco River offers visitors a trip back in time. Conway Scenic is a real railroad, its lines located in the mountains when the train was the most efficient means of land travel. Check out conwayscenic.com for more information. □

Below: An historic view circa 1875, showing a Portland & Ogdensburg 4-4-0 steam locomotive leading an eastward passenger train over the famous Willey Brook Bridge at Crawford Notch. CONWAY SCENIC COLLECTION. *Bottom:* Conway Scenic's GP38 diesel-electric locomotive 252 leads a modern-day excursion across the Willey Brook Bridge at Crawford Notch. BRIAN SOLOMON.



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Zoo Atlanta

Atlanta, Georgia

One of Atlanta's oldest cultural destinations, Zoo Atlanta is home to a global animal population including a wide variety of birds, primates, reptiles and amphibians, and large mammals, such as African elephants, giraffes and southern white rhinos. The Zoo's rhino herd includes Zuri, a rhino calf born in December 2023, and the first-ever southern white rhino born at Zoo Atlanta.

The Zoo also features one of North America's largest populations of Bornean and Sumatran orangutans and western lowland gorillas, including Willie B. III, Zoo Atlanta's youngest gorilla and a grandson of Atlanta icon Willie B. Last September, the Zoo was also thrilled to welcome Nangka, the newest adopted infant of orangutan supermom Madu, who has adopted and raised five infants in need of maternal care from a female of their own species. Primate lovers can enhance their Zoo visit by planning to attend scheduled Keeper Talks.

In addition to connecting guests with animals, a visit to Zoo Atlanta supports the Zoo's mission of conservation. Zoo Atlanta is proud to participate in a wide variety of projects and partnerships protecting a diverse sampling of species and their habitats, in addition to hosting the U.S. headquarters of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund in support of their work for gorillas and human communities in Africa. Supporting Zoo Atlanta benefits the vital conservation work of signature partners such as Conservation South Luangwa in Zambia and the Golden Lion Tamarin Association in Brazil, not to mention many other efforts at home in Atlanta and around the world.

Zoo Atlanta offers an array of dining options, ranging from signature coffee beverages, frozen treats, popcorn, pizza and café offerings such as sandwiches and salads. Seasonally on weekends, guests 21 years of age and over can also enjoy local brews from the SweetWater Beer Garden. Other non-animal attractions include the Endangered Species Carousel, Norfolk Southern Zoo Train

Zoo Atlanta



Zoos, Aquariums & Wildlife

and a VR Theater presented in partnership with Immotion.

The Zoo is open year-round, with each season offering its own unique experience. In addition to ushering in the chillier weather animals like red pandas and

Chilean flamingos especially enjoy, fall boasts an exciting lineup of events, including the Zoo's yearly Halloween celebration, Boo at the Zoo, and IllumiNights at the Zoo, a luminous lantern festival that kicks off in mid-November. IllumiNights attendees

Feature: Zoos, Aquariums & Wildlife

can enjoy special seasonal drinks and bites while marveling at hundreds of hand-painted Chinese lanterns inspired by wildlife and the imagination.

Located in Atlanta's historic Grant Park neighborhood, Zoo Atlanta is a short distance from the city's best dining, accommodations and attractions, including the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca Cola Museum, the King Center, Oakland Cemetery and Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The Zoo is within close proximity to interstates 75/85 and 20.

Both educational and a fun and engaging experience, Zoo Atlanta loves hosting groups and tours. Groups of 15 or more may receive a discounted rate. Special rates are available for advance bookings, which can be arranged up to a year in advance. To receive a group rate, one person must pay for the entire party, and the group is required to enter the Zoo together.

View zooatlanta.org to plan your group's visit. □

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zooatlanta.org/groups



Thomasville's Big Oak

Small Town America

With a long tradition of entertaining and welcoming visitors from all over the world, Thomasville has been a hot spot for the distinguished traveler since the late 1800s. Immerse yourself in the heart of this charming destination, where history and natural beauty intertwine to create an unforgettable experience.

Take a stroll through the brick-lined streets of Downtown Thomasville where you will find more than 100 locally-owned shops, from antique stores to delectable dining options. Explore Thomasville's vibrant drink-

ing establishments including a local distillery, brewing company and wine tasting room. Indulge in a local food tour, sampling a medley of state and national award-winning foods combined with a historic tour of Thomasville's rich tapestry.

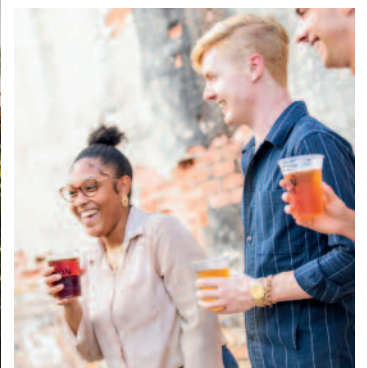
If you are looking for a weekend getaway, plan your visit around one of Thomasville's First Friday events, featuring extending shopping and dining hours capped off with a free concert. Mark your calendar for Victorian Christmas, a two-day holiday-themed festival featuring carriage rides, festive food and drink, and entertainment in a Victorian

atmosphere, or plan a visit in April for the renowned Rose Show and Festival, a tradition since 1922 featuring flower shows, antique car displays, an artisan market, parade and more.

As Georgia's Rose City, the City of Thomasville maintains the Thomasville Rose Garden, showcasing a stunning variety of more than 1,500 rose bushes that are in full bloom from April through July. You can also explore the many historical landmarks connecting Thomasville's past and present including Thomasville's Big Oak, a 330+ year-old massive live oak tree with a cleverly

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Feature: Small Town America

mounted camera that can snap your souvenir photo; Pebble Hill Plantation, a 20th century sporting estate that stands proudly amid the magnolias and long leaf pines; the Jack Hadley Black History Museum, featuring more than 4,500 pieces of artifacts celebrating local, state and national African-American achievers; the Thomasville History

Center, home to the second oldest private bowling alley in the United States and the Lapham Patterson House, a 6,000-square-foot Victorian home with vibrant colors and an asymmetrical floor plan.

Plan your next visit and discover why Thomasville is worth the trip. Phone (229) 228-7977 or visit thomasvillega.com. □



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Shopping, Dining & Lodging



The Springs Resort

The Springs Resort **Pagosa Springs, Colorado**

Nestled in the heart of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, The Springs Resort is not just another stop – it is a destination that keeps guests returning for generations. Voted as a Best Spa Resort by *USA Today* in 2023 and 2024, recognized as the #2 Best Hot Spring in the U.S. in 2024, and featured in *Travel + Leisure's* 2024 Readers' 500 Resort list, they are the destination for tour operators seeking rave reviews and unforgettable experiences.

At our core lies the Mother Spring, the world's deepest geothermal hot spring. She feeds 25 mineral-rich pools, transforming ordinary tours into extraordinary wellness journeys. Whether your guests crave serene oaks or complimentary wellness activities like yoga and guided hikes, the 'highlight of the trip' is redefined.

Accommodations cater to groups of all sizes, ensuring everyone feels at home. With 24-hour access to the hot springs, pit stops are turned into memories. For those seeking exclusivity, the adult-only Relaxation Terrace offers a touch of luxury that will have your guests begging to stay longer.

The grand expansion, set to open in early 2025, will double the hot spring pool count and increase room capacity to 157 rooms. This means more options, more relaxation and more opportunities for groups to experience the ancient healing waters and scenic river views. Plus, with increased capacity, The Springs Resort offers unbeatable rates during quieter weekdays and shoulder seasons, arguably the best times for soaking, making The Springs Resort an even more attractive addition to your tour packages.

While in town, Pagosa Springs offers a tapestry of adventures. From hot air balloon

rides showcasing breathtaking vistas to charming horse-drawn carriage tours, Pagosa Springs is the answer to "What's special about this tour?"

Just an hour from Durango, The Springs Resort is the competitive edge in the tour industry. Create unforgettable memories for your guests while they relax in pools steps away from their accommodations. With upcoming expansion, there has never been a better time to partner with The Springs. E-mail at info@pagosahotsprings.com and discover The Springs Resort's healing waters.

Sky Ute Casino Resort **Ignacio, Colorado**

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

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The advertisement features a scenic view of a hot spring pool with a woman sitting on a wooden deck in the foreground. The background shows a large resort building and a rocky landscape. The text is overlaid on the image, providing key information about the resort's amenities and contact details.

Guide: Shopping, Dining & Lodging

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 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.

Crawford County, Pennsylvania

Comfort classics, modern takes, home-grown or international – these meals are the real deal and all in Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

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Crawford County

or are ready to try something new, it is coming right up at one of the local restaurants. Not to mention, there is also a great variety of breweries, wineries, cideries, and distilleries to add to your dining experience.

Whether you are looking for an immersive cultural stay or a getaway steep in nature, Crawford County has unique overnight stays you simply cannot find anywhere else. If you want to fill your days with outdoor fun, getting

lost in local boutiques or sampling craft beer and wines, you will be happy to lie your head at a cozy place to match. Your pick from a classic vacation in a traditional hotel, a night under the stars in the camping locations, a home



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away from home in an Air B'nB, or cozy historical stay in the adorable bed and breakfasts.

With several intimate and innovative downtown areas, Crawford County is bursting with small businesses that bring their unique wares and flares to local shopping. Outdoorsmen can grab their gear from outdoor experts, or more casual enthusiasts can rent equipment for a day of adventure. If you are looking for some fresh produce, Crawford County's farms and orchards have it. You might even catch a local farmer's market. Put your most fashionable foot forward by stepping into one of the clothing boutiques for your next on-trend look. Spiritual seekers will find alternative shops and apothecaries. Do not forget that sweet treat from a local bakery or candy store.

For more information or to plan your visit, check out VisitCrawford.org. □

Correction

In the July/August 2024 issue of BUS TOURS MAGAZINE, Sky Ute Casino Resort's location was incorrectly listed as Ignacio, South Dakota. The correct location is Ignacio, Colorado.



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Student & Senior Tours

LaGrange, Georgia

Located an hour south of Atlanta and within easy driving distance of many Southeastern cities, LaGrange, Georgia is a charming Southern town with a range of amenities and entertainment. Visitors often remark that LaGrange's downtown area looks like the backdrop of a Hallmark Channel movie.

A trip to LaGrange includes beautiful scenery, wide open spaces, trails and parks, world-renowned gardens, art museums, breweries, live music venues, locally-owned and operated restaurants, coffee shops, unique boutiques, antique stores and more. The LaGrange Visitor Center, located off Lafayette Square, which is the heart of the downtown, is the ideal place to start a visit.

The Thread, a 29-mile paved trail, offers the perfect opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to walk, bike or run while immersing themselves in the area's beautiful scenery.

This trail connects Historic Downtown LaGrange with its unique neighborhoods and businesses, including Wild Leap Brew Co., the recently opened Nutwood Winery Downtown, Sweetland Amphitheatre, Beacon Brewing and more.

One of the area's most popular attractions is Hills and Dales Estate, the 13,000-square-foot home of the Callaway Family. The home was completed in 1916 and the incredible gardens are open to the public.

LaGrange is home to a wide range of delicious dining options, from casual, family-friendly to upscale dining. Since 1920, Charlie Joseph's has been serving its tried-and-true menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, Brunswick Stew and Southern diner fare in a retro space decorated with memorabilia from its century-long tenure in LaGrange. Housed in a historic church built in 1892 that has been restored to its former glory, Taste

of Lemon serves a rotating lunch menu of classic Southern favorites. Upscale restaurants, C'Sons and Mare Sol offer seasonal menus, intimate surroundings and delicious cocktails, wines and local beers.

For overnight stays, the Courtyard Marriott LaGrange is located on the square in Downtown LaGrange, ideally situated for exploring the area.

For more information about LaGrange, visit visitlagrange.com. For the latest news follow @VisitLaGrange on social media.

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 one-third of the nation's population,

Guide: Student & Senior

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



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With its Southern charm, colorful history, outdoor pursuits, thriving arts community, and burgeoning food scene, LaGrange has a path for every pursuit. The walkable downtown is a pedestrian's paradise with an alluring blend of restaurants, boutiques, antique shopping, and green space. Make LaGrange the stunning backdrop for your next group tour. The next step—[VisitLaGrange.com](https://www.visitlagrange.com).



Oh, The Stories You'll Tell



Learn more about all there is to love about LaGrange.



Guide: Student & Senior

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 is offered and knowledgeable staff is available to

assist you. For more information, visit [visitatlanticcity.com/group-travel/](https://www.visitatlanticcity.com/group-travel/). □



Atlantic City

www.visitgillette.com

If you're revving up to explore Wyoming's wonders on wheels, be sure to stop off in Gillette. Located just an hour from Devils Tower, this town is packed with group-friendly activities that are sure to impress. From guided tours of Eagle Butte Coal Mine to a historic downtown that's waiting to be explored, Gillette is a must-visit along the Black to Yellow Route.

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

A vibrant mural in Gillette, Wyoming, depicting a red vintage truck driving on a winding road through a landscape of yellow wildflowers, a windmill, and a bison. The text "WELCOME TO GILLETTE WYO" is painted in large, stylized letters at the top. A woman is standing in front of the mural, posing for a photo.

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A photograph of the iconic Devils Tower, a massive, isolated rock formation with vertical columns, rising from a forested landscape under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

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Trivia Question for This Issue

What popular group attraction is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its Giant Panda Program this year?

For the answer go to:

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Advertiser's Index

4 Bears Casino and Lodge	32	Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad . . .	21	Rabbit Run Theater	26
Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum .10		Discover DeKalb Georgia	17	Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation	10
Alabama Aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab	23	Gateway Arch & Riverboats at the Gateway Arch	34	Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center	34
Alluvian Hotel & Greenwood CVB . . .31		George Bush Library & Museum	5	Stuhr Museum	9
American Museum of Tort Law	13	Georgetown Loop Railroad & Mining Park	6	TABASCO® Fan Experience	23
Atlantic City	40	Grissom Air Museum	12	Tennessee State Museum	8
Bear County USA	38	Historic Granville Tennessee	26	Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum	6
Billy Graham Library	2	Historic St. John's Church	13	The Delta Blues Museum	6
Birch Run CVB	20	Holiday Inn Ashville East – Blue Ridge Parkway	29	The Springs Resort	28
Boys Town USA	18	Lowell Observatory	37	Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center . . .13	
Bush Family Home	9	Martinsburg-Berkeley County CVB7		Tupelo CVB	32
Campbell County/Visit Gillette	36	National Duncan Glass Society	10	Visit Hopkinsville	21
Chautauqua CVB	18	National Museum of Nuclear Science	10	Visit LaGrange	35
Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism8		National Watch & Clock Museum	5	Visit Pella, Iowa	15
City of Gallup	11	North Dakota Tourism	39	Wood Grill Buffet	30
City of Thomasville	25	Princeton Tourism	26	Zoo Atlanta	23
Clinton Iowa CVB	13				
Conway Scenic Railroad	19				
Crawford County CVB	29				

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North Dakota's legendary people, like Lewis and Clark, Sakakawea, Sitting Bull and places like Theodore Roosevelt National Park have a story as fascinating today as it was 200 years ago. Visit the Northern Plains with its historic Native American Indian Villages and frontier army forts standing ready to greet you. Come, explore today!



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Visit Atlantic City received funding
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Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Heading to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with a group? Need something to do? Look no further. Offering special rates for groups of 15 or more, Broadway Grand Prix and Myrtle Waves is the place to go for your next get together

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. □

Is YOUR GROUP coming to Myrtle Beach? Make plans with us and DOUBLE UP!

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We'd LOVE to
see you there!

A large, stylized graphic of the word 'WORLD' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are thick and have a slight 3D effect. The background behind the letters is a vibrant, abstract watercolor wash in shades of yellow, orange, and red. To the left of the 'WORLD' text, there is a vertical column of small, black, square icons, resembling a building facade or a data column.

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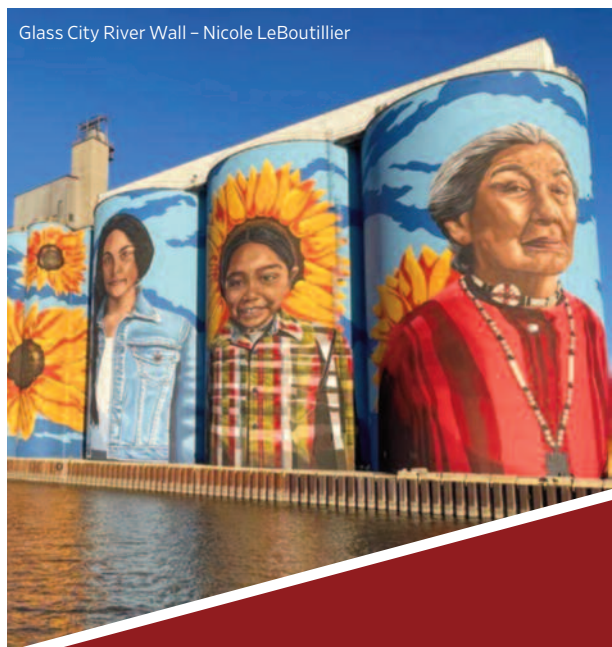
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Glass City River Wall – Nicole LeBoutillier

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We Quilt This City

Whether you are a quilting enthusiast or a traveler seeking inspiration, Paducah, Kentucky, promises a creative adventure. Weave through the charming Downtown and Lower Town areas, where you will discover an array of local quilting and sewing shops brimming with fabrics, patterns and supplies, plus art galleries showcasing stunning works. Preview a curated sampling of itinerary items, then explore deeper to find your inspiration in Paducah.

National Quilt Museum – Step into a world where quilting transcends tradition and embraces contemporary artistry. Discover stunning fabric creations that push boundaries and redefine quilting as an expressive art form.

Stitches & Steel Sculpture – This colossal steel needle and thread, created by local artist Michael Terra, stands as a testament to the city's quilting heritage and symbolizes the unity and creativity quilting brings. Do not miss this unique photo op.

Paper Pieces Pop-Up Shop – In a world of precision and artistry, explore meticulously crafted paper-piecing templates and tools and discover a curated collection of unique patterns and designs that will ignite your creativity.

Muppin's Sewing Emporium – Enter a world of sewing wonders, from vibrant prints to luxurious textures. Their curated selection offers endless possibilities for your quilting projects.



Tuscan Rose – Discover a world of hand-dyed fabrics and yarn artisanally made in Paducah. Each piece of cloth and skein of yarn is an art piece in its own right, just waiting for the right person to unlock its creative potential.

Lower Town Arts District – Delve into historic gallery spaces showcasing the works of local artists who push the boundaries of creativity. Marvel at their innovative techniques and captivating designs in quilting, ceramics, painting and more.

Hancock's of Paducah – Pore over an impressive array of fabrics ranging from classic quilting cottons to trendy designer prints. Allow your imagination to roam as you find the perfect materials to launch your next project.

Contact Amina Watkins, group travel sales manager, at amina@paducah.travel. □



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| <input type="checkbox"/> American Museum of Tort Law13 | <input type="checkbox"/> National Museum of Nuclear Science10 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Campbell County/Visit Gillette36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stuhr Museum9 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism . . .8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee State Museum8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Gallup11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Thomasville25 | <input type="checkbox"/> The Delta Blues Museum6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Iowa CVB13 | <input type="checkbox"/> The Springs Resort28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conway Scenic Railroad19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crawford County CVB29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tupelo CVB32 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad . .21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit Hopkinsville21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discover DeKalb Georgia17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit LaGrange35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gateway Arch & Riverboats at the Gateway Arch34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit Pella, Iowa15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George Bush Library & Museum5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Grill Buffet30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgetown Loop Railroad & Mining Park6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoo Atlanta23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grissom Air Museum12 | |
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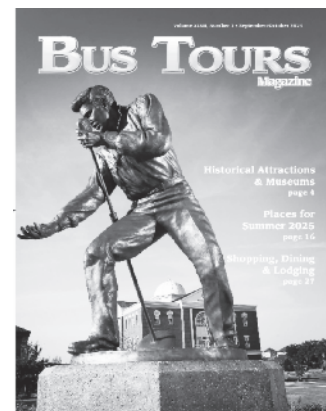
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September/October 2024

- **Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation**
page 10
- **Tupelo CVB**
page 32
- **Wood Grill Buffet**
page 30

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