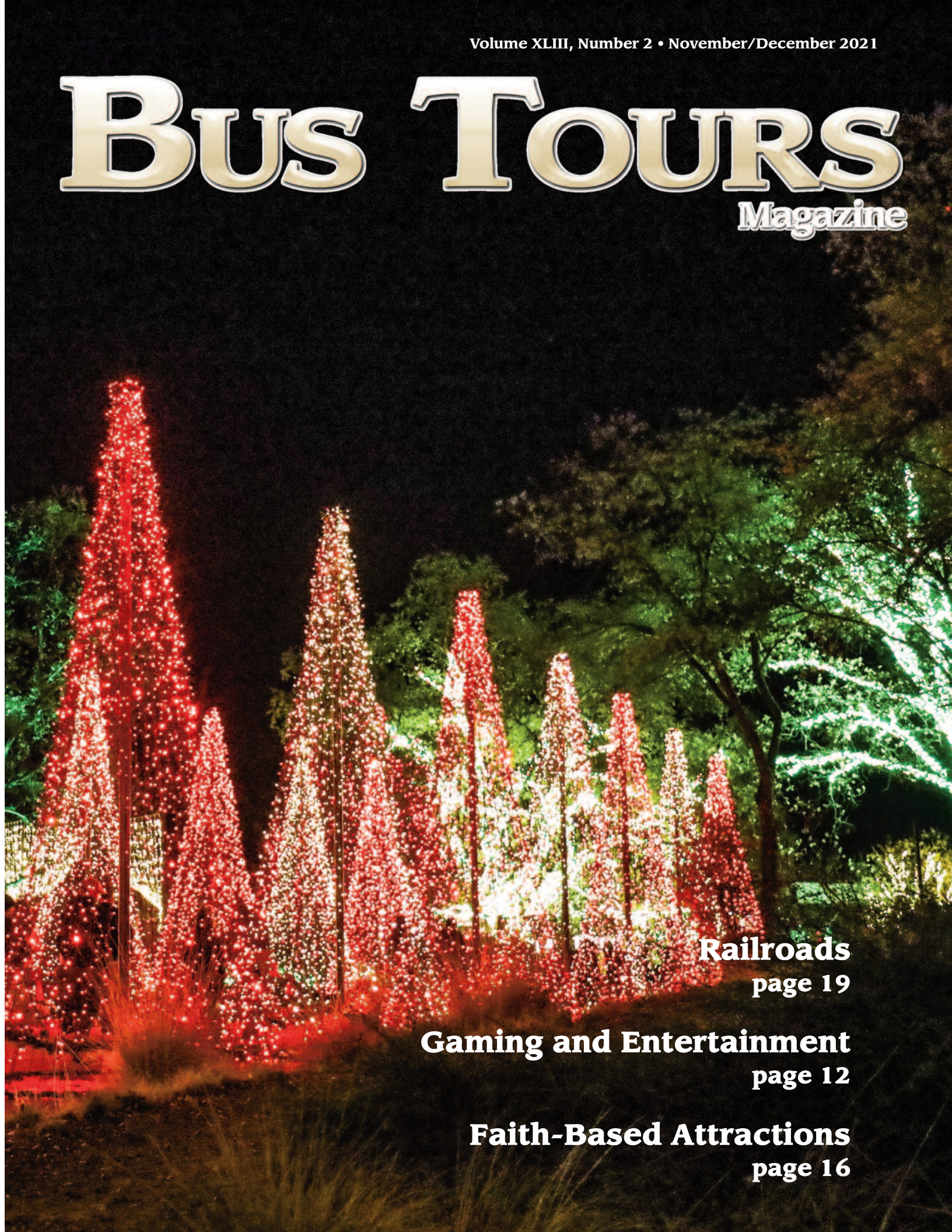


# BUS TOURS

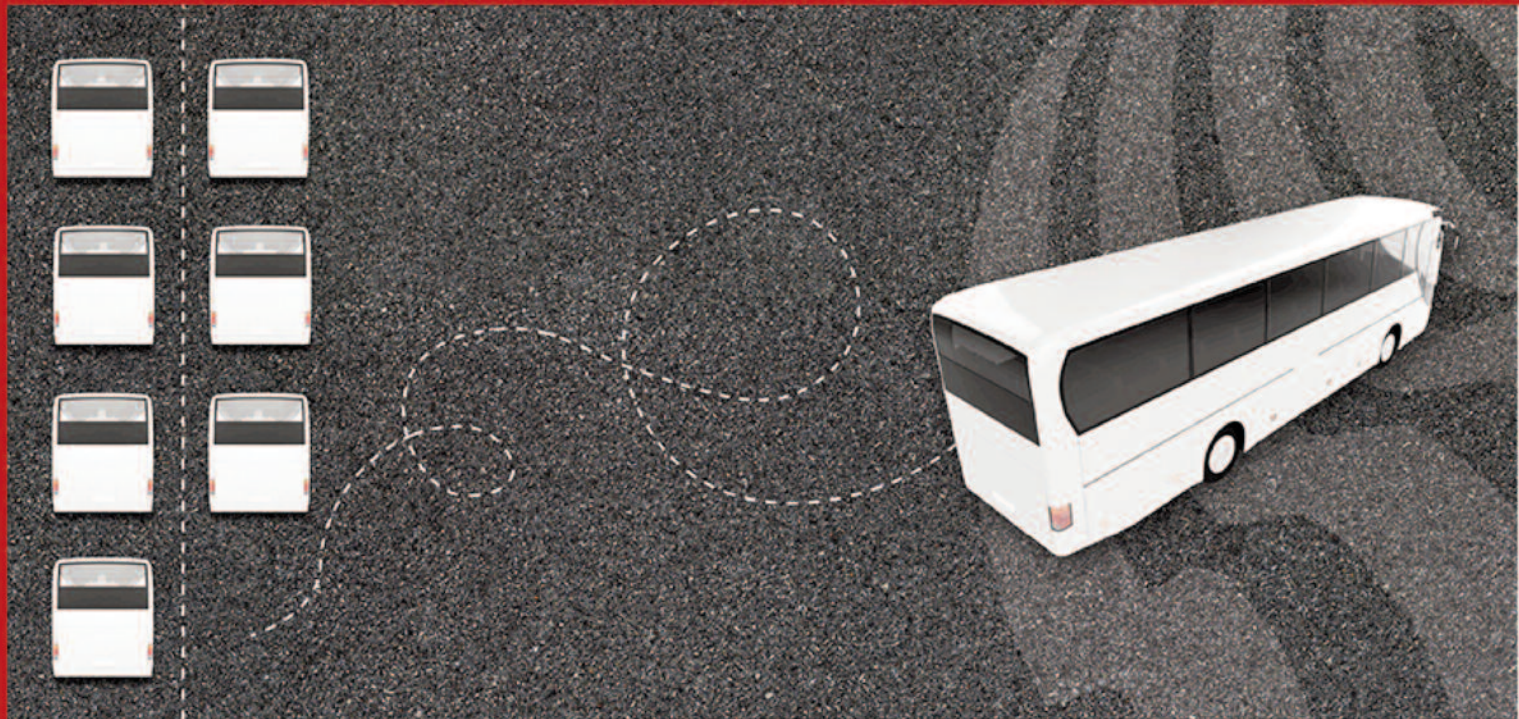
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# Heartland Travel Showcase

February 4-6, 2022 • Cleveland, OH

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## Heartland Travel Showcase, Carving An Exciting Path in Group Travel

Heartland Travel Showcase helps you build lasting relationships that will impact your group tour business for years to come. Meet with unique and savvy suppliers and destinations that will attract customers.

Heartland is more than a show. Throughout the year, you'll be connected to other operators and suppliers. With growing demand for thematic tours, Heartland also offers regional tour ideas focused on some of today's top traveler interests.

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

Volume XLIII, Number 2



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## COVER PHOTO

Redding's Garden of Lights' 10-acre light-show features *Holiday Allée*. Animated trees are set to music creating movement before entering Turtle Bay's holiday-themed village of food, drinks, gifts and live reindeer enclosure. REDDING TOURISM AND MARKETING GROUP.

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.

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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](mailto:editorial@busmag.com).

## Coral Castle

Ed Leedskalnin secretly built Coral Castle at night – excavating, carving and moving 1,100 tons of coral rock. Since 1923, scientists, engineers and scholars continue to be mystified. The methods Leedskalnin used to create this architectural feat remain unanswered to this day.

A self-taught engineer, Leedskalnin published in 1936 and 1945 a book and instructional pamphlets on electrical magnetism. Evident by the mathematical models of Edward Leedskalnin's Perpetual Motion Holder, a hand-carved nine-ton gate, a Polaris telescope – the world's only sundial with seasons.

Referred to as a Modern Megalith, Coral Castle is compared to the ancient megalith's of the Egyptian pyramids, Stonehenge, and is considered by many to be one of the Wonders of the World. Experience the Coral Castle with the continuous live tours. Guides will share the "Love Story," the history, the science, and experience how some of Leedskalnin's items work even after a century. It has been shown on the History Channel, Travel Channel, Discovery Channel, Ancient Aliens, Univision, BBC and much more. Billy Idol wrote the famous song he continues to sing in concert today called: "Sweet Sixteen." There is a fantastic short movie about the greatest mysteries of Coral Castle and its creator and builder – Edward Leedskalnin. You may also enjoy the delicious delights at the Coral Castle Café.

## McKinney, Texas

McKinney's Historic Cultural District attracts guests from across the United States and around the globe. Stepping into the downtown square evokes feelings of nostalgia when exploring this picturesque and vibrant center of business. The buildings lining the streets date back to the mid-to-late 1800s and are filled with more than 100 mom-and-pop businesses including locally owned boutiques, art galleries and studios, specialty shops and a boutique hotel. Your group may also enjoy nightlife options in McKinney including live music at the restaurants, wineries and pubs, a comedy club,



Coral Castle

# Special Features on Demand

hooka café, vintage video arcade and even a speakeasy.

"There is something here to spark almost everyone's interests, all found within several easily-walkable blocks," said Visit McKinney Executive Director Dee-dee Guerra. "And bus parking is easily accessible."

History buffs will enjoy visiting McKinney's three museums that provide a glimpse into the lives of early Texas settlers. The Collin County History Museum, housed in the 1911 post office, hosts rotating exhibits and programs. Chestnut Square Heritage Village is comprised of a general store, one-room schoolhouse,

wedding chapel and several houses including the oldest home in the county, built in 1845. The Heard-Craig Center for the Arts is based in a beautifully-restored home, built in 1900, and filled with an impressive collection of art and furnishings. Do not forget the centerpiece of the square, the Historic Collin County Courthouse, which was built in 1872 and houses the McKinney Performing Arts Center. Historic walking and trolley tours are also available for visiting groups wanting to learn more about McKinney's history.

Foodies will delight in the culinary adventures awaiting them in McKinney. Many of

# CORAL CASTLE

Museum &  
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## Guide: Special Features on Demand

the chefs work closely with area farmers to incorporate locally sourced produce, meat and dairy into their menus. These eateries also offer a myriad of craft cocktails created by talented mixologists, an assortment of tasty specialty coffees and pastries. Guests taking a downtown food tour will enjoy sampling many of these offerings.

Explore options for bringing your group to McKinney at [VisitMcKinney.com](http://VisitMcKinney.com) or by contacting the SMERF Sales Manager Rachel Tamez at [sales2@visitmckinney.com](mailto:sales2@visitmckinney.com) or (888) 649-8499.

### Starved Rock Lodge

Starved Rock Lodge is the only hotel nestled in the forest surrounding Starved Rock State Park (a National Historic Landmark). The lodge sits high atop a bluff overlooking the scenic Illinois River in Oglesby, Illinois. The stunning rock formations and canyons in the park are composed of rare St. Peter sandstone. Seasonal waterfalls, 13 miles of hiking trails and a wide variety of activities are what make this unique hotel and conference center LaSalle County's premier destination. Motorcoach guests enjoy "Tribute to the Stars" matinees in the historic Great Hall. From Elvis to Patsy Cline and rock 'n roll superstars, a wide variety of high-energy entertainers put on dynamic shows, all of which include a delicious, hot buffet lunch. Trolley tours and river cruises are among the other popular activities which bring adventure seekers to this hidden gem. Customized itineraries are

McKinney, Texas



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available. The friendly staff is happy to coordinate the details.

The trolleys and the *Eagle I* riverboat are both wheelchair accessible. So, guests with limited mobility can have lots of fun as well. Outdoor dining on the veranda allows guests a chance to experience the great outdoors and enjoy lunch or dinner with an amazing view. Starved Rock Lodge's main dining room has a nostalgic feeling of yesteryear and is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are special menus for tour groups. Locally-brewed craft beer is available on tap in the Back Door Lounge along with seasonal cocktails, appetizers, lunch and dinner options. The cafe prides itself on its house-made ice cream and fudge-voted the guest-favorite snacks. Starved Rock souvenirs, gifts, books and more are available at the gift shop and Trailheads Concessions. The indoor pool complex provides a relaxing way to enjoy some quiet time.

Group tour operators love to come to Starved Rock for Mystery Tours because the lodge and park are surrounded by flatlands and cornfields, making the unique geology quite a surprise to those unfamiliar with this part of the state. Step-on guides are always available for larger groups, but there is nothing better than breaking into smaller groups for a trolley tour. For more information, visit the lodge's Web site at [starvedrocklodge.com](http://starvedrocklodge.com) or phone (815) 220-7386.



Starved Rock Lodge

### Big Cat Habitat & Gulf Coast Sanctuary

Big Cat Habitat is a 501c3 non-profit organization located in sunny Sarasota, Florida. It is currently home to more than 300 animals from dozens of species including: lions, tigers, bears, primates, tortoises, zebra and more. Spend the day visiting with the animals and enjoying the charming petting zoo. Also be sure to catch the live educational animal shows which typically feature birds, alligators, lemurs, dogs and big cats. These shows occur every day Big Cat Habitat is open and are fun for your tour group.

Big Cat's mission is to provide a safe, loving and permanent home for exotic and domestic animals in need, and to educate

the guests on the importance of species preservation to ensure the survival of these magnificent animals for future generations. Big Cat Habitat is firmly committed to keeping alive the human-animal connection in the world and the community.

Group tours are offered for all ages. Guests adventure through the park for an educational and fun experience where they



Big Cat Habitat

A vertical promotional graphic for Starved Rock Lodge &amp; Conference Center. At the top is the lodge's logo and name. Below are four circular images: a red and blue trolley, a couple, a dining room, and a group of people. The text "TROLLEY TOURS", "MUSIC TRIBUTES", "COZY ROOMS", and "&amp; DELICIOUS DINING" is overlaid on the images. At the bottom, the contact information is listed: "OGLESBY, IL | (815) 220-7386" and "WWW.STARVEDROCKLODGE.COM".

## Guide: Special Features on Demand

are able to stand only four to six feet away from the animals. Also offered are exciting interactive experiences with the animal ambassadors. Whether you choose a meet and greet with Stella, the two-toed sloth, or hang out with the Ruffed Lemurs, you will enjoy every moment with these beautiful creatures.

For more information about Big Cat Habitat, visit our Web site at [bigcathabitat.org](http://bigcathabitat.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram at @bigcathabitat.

### Pullman National Monument and State Historic Site

After a multi-million-dollar renovation, the Pullman National Monument Visitors Center officially unveiled its new look in September of 2021.

The area became one of the first planned industrial communities in the United States when Engineer/Industrialist George Pullman founded the Pullman Palace Car Company in 1867 to manufacture sleeping train cars with a focus on luxury and customer comfort.

In 1894, the Pullman workers strike changed the American labor landscape prompting the U.S. Government to create a "Labor Day" holiday and changed American

workers' rights and protections.

On February 19, 2015, President Barack Obama designated Pullman a National Monument and the first and only National Park Service unit in the City of Chicago. He also beamed about First Lady Michelle Obama's great grandfather who had been a Pullman porter, a job he was very proud of and passionate about.

Start your tour at the Historic Pullman Foundation Pullman Exhibit Hall for a 15-minute introductory video that provides an historical overview of Pullman and visit its museum gallery. Next, at the Pullman National Monument Visitor Center in the Administrative Clock Tower Building, groups can engage in interactive exhibits and peruse the souvenir gift shop.

While exploring the industrial grounds you will find the remaining buildings and features of the Pullman car shops. Walk through



Pullman Exhibit  
Courtesy of National Park Service

the recreated historic worker's gate which stands as a symbol of the workers of the Pullman company and the labor they provided to create Pullman sleeper, dining, parlor and freight cars. Explore the beauty of the residential streets of red-brick rowhomes as well.

Finally, do not forget to visit the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum which celebrates the contributions of Porters and the experiences of the African American railroad worker. Mr. Randolph formed the first African American labor union called Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

To begin planning your group tour itinerary of the Pullman National Monument Visitors Center, contact Tobie Fitzpatrick at [tobie@visitchicagosouthland.com](mailto:tobie@visitchicagosouthland.com) or phone (888) 895-3211.



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### Clinton, Missouri

The Greater Clinton-Area Chamber of Commerce and Clinton Main Street welcomes you to Clinton, Missouri. Clinton is located at the intersection of Missouri highways 7, 13, 52 and 18 – one hour southeast of Kansas City, 1½ hours north of Springfield and west of Columbia, and two hours east of Topeka, Kansas.

The Historic Downtown Square, the largest square district in Missouri, offers a Victorian setting making you feel like you took a step



## Guide: Special Features on Demand

Clinton, Missouri



back to the 1800s. Browse through shops, where you will find jewelry, clothing, quilting supplies, a bookstore, restaurants, the visitor's center and an array of gifts. Our award-winning Henry County Museum and Cultural Arts Complex, located in an old Anheuser Busch building, takes you back in time and is worth seeing. In the middle of it all is the Henry County Courthouse, which dates to 1893.

As you soak in the small town atmosphere, do not miss the Memorial Bandstand, the Soldiers Memorial, the 9/11 Memorial and the granite Historic Fountain that was donated to Clinton in 1911 by the Human Alliance Foundation. Since Clinton is located on Truman Lake, it is a tourist destination for those interested in outdoor sports such as boating, hunting, hiking and fishing. Other outdoor activities

in and around Clinton include camping, golf, bicycling and more. Olde Glory Days is Clinton's 4th of July celebration featuring music, food, parade, carnival, games and more. Clinton offers Cruise Nights from May through October, BBQ contest, rodeo, wine stroll and quilt walk, just to name a few. Artesian Park has a pool, 18-hole disc golf course, ball fields, walking trail, playgrounds, shelter houses, tennis courts, horse shoe pits and an amphitheater. The Community Center offers courts, weights, track, exercise, indoor pool and more.

Clinton features three outstanding hotels: Hampton Inn, Parkfield Inn and Westbridge Inn. Bus parking is available on the square and of course, at the hotels.

If you are thinking about coming to Clinton, mention **BUS TOURS MAGAZINE** when

### Bus Tours Welcome

Clinton, Missouri . . . where small town life is alive and well. We invite you to cruise the shoreline of Truman Lake or visit our town square, shopping and museum. The Golden Valley where we live offers a multitude of opportunities for your group to connect with our natural surroundings. Come share all the things we love: our events, our square, our museum, our nature and our people. We are Clinton and we are great people by nature.

**For more information, call 1-660-885-8166, visit [www.clintonmo.com](http://www.clintonmo.com) or Like Our Facebook Page @Greater Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce**



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## Guide: Special Features on Demand

phoning or e-mailing. Find out more about Clinton when you go to [clintonmo.com](http://clintonmo.com), phone (660) 885-8166 or e-mail [david@clintonmo.com](mailto:david@clintonmo.com).

### Experience Jackson

Jackson, Michigan is an historic hotspot. Your group tour kicks off where the abolitionist movement began in Jackson County. The area is peppered with locations that were once key stops on the Underground Railroad. Both self-guided and group-led tours available.

The Michigan Theatre of Jackson began as a vaudeville theatre in 1930, with doors, goldleaf and architectural detail that will transport you to another time. Today, it hosts a variety of local and national acts, alongside current films and events.

Jackson has a history with car production, as can be seen in an incredible display of vehicles and memorabilia in the Ye Olde Carriage Shop – from pedal cars, to rare roadsters, both large and model scale.

The newly renovated Michigan Military Heritage Museum tells the story of those who battled for our freedom, with unique pieces and period uniform. From a nearly 60-pound Russian machine gun to an abandoned British cannon rescued from the bottom of the Detroit River, you are sure to find something to admire.



Jackson

Jackson's Under the Oaks memorial honors the development of politics, as it honors the birthplace of the Republican party – where the party held its first convention.

Architecture in the City of Jackson is a beauty to behold. You will find the oldest continually operational passenger rail station in the country. In the summer, gaze into the colors of a classic Jackson tradition – The Cascades Falls. The Cascades are a manmade waterfall in the beautiful Sparks Foundation Park, and are illuminated with color and music for local and visiting guests to enjoy.

A handful of museums dot the county, with specialties such as a large collection of reed organs and restored train cars at the Lost Railway Museum, featuring the newly-installed virtual recreation of the Boland Railway. This exhibit puts you right into a train car and leads you through stops along a rich industrial period in south-central Michigan. Jackson's historic prison tours recall Michigan's first state prison system, with a few behind-the-scenes secrets along the way.

All of these can be explored on the new Experience Jackson app, available on Google play and Android. View the Web at [experience-jackson.com/meet/group-tour-options](http://experience-jackson.com/meet/group-tour-options).

### Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum

Stevenson, Washington

Come experience 15,000 years of history at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum. Located in the middle of the National Scenic Area in Stevenson, Washington, the museum is ideally situated to interpret the natural and cultural history of this beautiful region.

The first floor introduces the culture of the First Peoples, the Cascade Chinook. Discover the impact contact with other cultures had on them, the emigration struggle to the West, early community development, transportation, and the harvesting of resources. In the grand





Columbia Gorge Interpretive Museum

gallery see for yourself the differences between the Cascade Chinook technique of dip netting for fish and the mechanical device, the fish wheel. Let our massive Corliss steam engine and our 1921 Mack log truck pique an interest in the history of the timber industry and the machinery of days past. Hanging in the grand gallery is a 1917 JN-4 Curtiss airplane, affectionately known as "The Jenny." This type of plane was commonly used in mail deliveries, crop-dusting, and daredevil stunts called barnstorming.

The mezzanine level emphasizes natural history with displays about geology, botany, and entomology. An exciting explanation of the geological creation of the Gorge is presented in a 12-minute program in the main theater. The theater comfortably accommodates 45-60. The second floor galleries tell the stories of real people who left their mark on local communities and concludes with an eight-minute DVD program. Enjoy this light-hearted approach to the past and the future of the Gorge in a theater seating 24.

Other exhibits to explore include: the Spiritual Quest Gallery; the Rosary Collection; and many outdoor exhibits, which include a diesel locomotive, cedar log carvings, logging equipment, a portion of the Broughton flume, and an interpretive kiosk. There is also an art gallery that hosts a variety of temporary and changing exhibits. The museum store offers a selection of souvenirs, gifts, books, and collectibles that pertain to the Gorge and the history and culture of the region.

For more information contact the museum by phone at (800) 991-2338, by e-mail at [info@columbiagorge.org](mailto:info@columbiagorge.org), or at Facebook at [facebook.com/shewatches](https://facebook.com/shewatches). □

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Title of Publication: Bus Tours Magazine. Publication No. 0199-6096. Date of Filing: 9/17/21. Issue Frequency: Bi-monthly. No. of Issues Published Annually: 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$15 U.S., \$20 Canada & International. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication and Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064. Contact Person: Larry Plachno. Telephone: (815) 946-2341. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Larry J. Plachno, 9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064. Owner: National Bus Trader, Inc., Larry J. Plachno, 9698 W. Judson Road, Polo, Illinois 61064. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None. Tax Status: Has not change during the preceding 12 months.

Extent and Nature of Circulation: Total No. Copies: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 8,454; Actual Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 8,200. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 1) Paid /Requested Outside-County: Average: 5,504; Actual: 5,414) Paid/Requested In-County: Average: 6; Actual: 6. 3) Paid distribution outside the mails: Average: 102; Actual 85) Paid distribution by other classes of mail: Average: 73; Actual 100. Total paid distribution: Average: 5,685; Actual 5,605. Non-requested distribution: 1) Outside County: Average: 2,666; Actual: 2,430. 2) In-county: Average: 0; Actual: 0. 3) Mailed at other classes through the USPS: Average: 0; Actual: 0. 4) Outside the mail: Average: 75; Actual: 140. Total free or nominal rate distribution: Average 2,741; Actual: 2,570. Total distribution: Average: 8,426; Actual: 8,175. Copies not distributed: Average: 32; Actual: 25. Total: Average: 8,458; Actual: 8,200. Percent Paid: Average: 67.45%; Actual: 68.56%. Requested and Paid Electronic Copies: Average: 3,017; Actual: 3,128. Total Requested and Paid Print Copies + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies: Average: 8,702; Actual: 8,733. Total Requested Copy Distribution + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies: Average: 11,443; Actual: 11,303. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: Average: 76.05%; Actual: 77.23%.

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## Gaming and Entertainment

### **NYC & Company**

New York City is always ready to wow visitors, but the five boroughs are particularly dazzling from Thanksgiving through New Year. The City's "fifth season" will feel especially festive this year, as many beloved events make their long-awaited return. Your groups will have the opportunity to explore iconic experiences – and make new traditions, too.

### **Holiday Displays**

The window displays on Madison and Fifth Avenue will beckon your groups off the bus immediately. Each year, the big flagships like Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman and Bloomingdale's attempt to outdo their

previous efforts – and each other. After visiting the tree at Rockefeller Center, families can go on a "lantern safari" at the Holiday Lights at the Bronx Zoo or marvel at the intricate models at the New York Botanical Garden's Holiday Train Show.

### **Shopping**

Groups will enjoy sipping hot cocoa as they wander the city's charming outdoor holiday markets like the Holiday Shops at Bryant Park's Winter Village. For one-of-a-kind gifts, try the Makers Show at Brooklyn's City Point, which features the work of local artists and small businesses. Looking to conquer your list in a day? Empire Outlets offers more than

100 shops, just steps from the Staten Island Ferry.

### **Ice Skating Rinks**

For a quintessential NYC holiday experience, groups should head to Harlem's Riverbank State Park, featuring spectacular views of Upper Manhattan and the Hudson River. Or for downtown views, Winterland Rink at Pier 17 offers rooftop skating with the Brooklyn Bridge as a stunning backdrop.

### **Menorah Lighting**

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with public menorah lightings at both the Manhattan and Brooklyn Grand Army Plazas. Make that the



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## Guide: Gaming & Entertainment

world's largest Menorah Lighting, with each lantern towering more than 30 feet in height.

### Live Theater

The marquees of Midtown will not be outshone by even the most brilliant holiday displays. *The Christmas Spectacular*, starring The Radio City Rockettes, makes its triumphant return to the stage, while Trey Parker and Matt Stone's *The Book of Mormon* deftly blends hilarious and heartfelt moments for an irreverent yet uplifting experience.

### Dining

There is nothing like a long bus ride to work up an appetite. Carmine's delicious old-school Italian fare is always a crowd-pleaser, with both portions and accommodations on the generous side. The spacious Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden offers an old-world atmosphere as well as an extensive list of Czech and craft beers served alongside pretzels, schnitzel and other pub fare.

For more information and ideas, visit New York City's official guide at [NYCgo.com](http://NYCgo.com).

### Atlantic City

From top-notch dining experiences, luxury hotel accommodations, entertainment and more, Atlantic City has more than enough to make it a perfect and safe getaway.

Looking to relax and recharge? Atlantic City has the answer. Pamper yourself at one of the world-class spas where you will be taken on a journey of pure relaxation. From a Himalayan Salt Grotto, to Rhythm and Motion rooms, each spa offers an experience of its own.

Is sports more your speed? Atlantic City's land-based sportsbooks are the hottest venues in town. From the Boardwalk to the Marina District, fans can pick their favorite teams, relax in plush seats and enjoy the action on multiple LED screens. With all Atlantic City's nine casino resorts offering

state-of-the-art sportsbooks, no sporting event is likely to be missed.

Shopping never goes out of season and Atlantic City's Tanger Outlets The Walk on Michigan and Atlantic Avenues feature 50 national retail brand outlet stores such as Michael Kors, Coach, Kate Spade New York, Under Armour and Victoria's Secret just to name a few. Need outdoor attire, equipment or accessories? Bass Pro Shops is the ultimate outdoor world and offers the area's largest selection for hunting, fishing, camping, boating and more.

Located off the world-famous Atlantic City Boardwalk, Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall is a premier entertainment venue that has been dazzling guests for more than 91 years. Inside the newly-renovated atrium, you will find a brief overview of the city's expansive history and accomplishments, which is known as The Atlantic City Experience. Home to the Miss America Pageant and many firsts, learn

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## Guide: Gaming & Entertainment

about the city's origins and make Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall the first stop to start your Atlantic City experience.

Did you know that Atlantic City is home to more than 50 murals? Stories behind the artists' works are as touching and moving as the murals they create, and these permanent public works of art show the heartbeat of Atlantic City. A few of the unique and beautiful pieces include, *Before I Die* which features fill-in-the-blank lines where a person can add their bucket-list item to the wall, and the *Jelly Fish*, an optical illusion mural where the tentacles of the jellyfish appear to move when using red and blue 3D glasses.

Complete Atlantic City information is offered and knowledgeable staffs available to assist you. For more information, visit [touratlanticcity.com](http://touratlanticcity.com). □



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# Faith-Based Attractions



Fulton Sheen – St. Mary Cathedral

## Meet Fulton Sheen

### Peoria, Illinois

Welcome to Peoria, the hometown of its best-known son Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Whether you plan to spend an hour or the day, you can make a special Sheen Pilgrimage to Peoria at the historic campus of Spalding Institute, his high school and St. Mary Cathedral, the church of his childhood and his final resting place.

### Where to begin?

Take your private group tour of St. Mary Cathedral ([catholicpeoria.com/Cathedral](http://catholicpeoria.com/Cathedral)), including the Cathedral collection of relics and enjoying private prayer time at the Sheen Tomb. You can invite your parish priest to launch your pilgrimage with a Cathedral Mass.

Take a one-block walk to the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Museum ([CelebrateSheen.org](http://CelebrateSheen.org)) and explore the largest collection of his personal artifacts preserved in attractive multi-display exhibit:

- A Man of Prayer

- The Cause
- A Miracle
- A Man of the Church
- A Man of Peoria
- TV Corner and Book Nook
- A Man of Media
- Children's Corner
- A Man of Others

Relax at a catered lunch with a Sheen movie. Visit an on-site religious gift shop with a wide variety of Sheen books, audio/video and specialty souvenirs. Free

informational material, small literature, pamphlets and prayer cards are available throughout the museum. Before you leave, do not forget to take a selfie with Sheen!

Complete your day with visits to other beautiful churches in downtown Peoria – Sacred Heart for a convenient noon Mass ([catholicpeoria.com/](http://catholicpeoria.com/)), St. Joseph, the oldest Peoria church ([catholicpeoria.com/St-Joseph](http://catholicpeoria.com/St-Joseph)) or the Fra Angelico's Shrine at St. Mark ([saint-mark.net/church/about/shrine-to-fra-angelico/](http://saint-mark.net/church/about/shrine-to-fra-angelico/)).

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## Guide: Faith-Based Attractions

Let us arrange for your group pilgrimage. Contact Sister Lea, FSJB, at (309) 671-1550 or e-mail at [Sr\\_Lea@cdop.org](mailto:Sr_Lea@cdop.org) for detailed itinerary. For an overnight stay, check ahead for the special hotel rates at ([cdopmuseums.org/p/contact-us.html](http://cdopmuseums.org/p/contact-us.html)).

### Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation

Since 1875, pilgrims of many backgrounds and traditions have journeyed to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, Ohio to experience the powerful intercession and the maternal comfort of Mary, Consoler of the Afflicted.

This Shrine began as a parish church in the 1860s. Then, Father Joseph Gloden, a native of Luxembourg, inspired other immigrants from Luxembourg living in Carey, to acquire a statue of Our Lady of Consolation, the patroness of their native land honored in the cathedral of the capital city. From the time that statue



Our Lady of Consolation

arrived, countless people have experienced God's presence and Our Lady's intercession in a powerful way.

For people of faith, life is a journey leading ultimately to perfect joy and happiness in God's eternal presence. A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place; it is symbolic of life's journey and offers an opportunity to

reflect on where you have been and where you are going.

Visitors may attend daily Mass in the Basilica or just enjoy some time for private prayer in the Original Shrine Church. The 30-acre Shrine Park with its shaded walkways and beautiful landscaping provides a natural setting for the Stations of the Cross. The

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309-671-1550 or  
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Located in Carey, Ohio

30 Acre Park - Stations of the Cross  
Gift Shop - Retreat House  
Marian Garden - Christ the King Grotto

Established in 1875, the Shrine is known for its devotion to Mary and continues to be a holy and powerful place for inner healing for people of faith. Visit the Original Shrine Church, Lower Basilica, or the Upper Basilica where the Shrine Altar can be a serene place for prayer and reflection.

The Shrine Gift Shop is stocked with hundreds of items. The Gift Shop is open seven days a week, and extended hours are offered to accommodate groups if needed.

**OLC** Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation  
315 Clay Street, Carey, Ohio 43316  
Contact us: 419-396-7107 or [shrineoffice@olcshrine.com](mailto:shrineoffice@olcshrine.com)  
Visit us online: [www.olcshrine.com](http://www.olcshrine.com)

## Guide: Faith-Based Attractions

Shrine Gift Shop offers religious books, rosaries and gifts for the shopper and is open seven days a week (closed holidays).

Our Lady of Consolation offers a number of special events throughout the year. All are welcome at any time on their journey to faith, hope and healing.

### Our Lady of Good Help

#### Champion, Wisconsin

Among the most popular places for faith-based tours are Marian apparition sites. The best known sites are in Guadalupe, Mexico; Lourdes, France and Fatima, Portugal. These locations typically get as many as four to five million visitors and pilgrims annually.

What many tour planners may not know is that the only approved Marian apparition site in the United States is located in Champion, Wisconsin, just east of Green Bay. Known as The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, it commemorates the Marian apparitions of 1859 to Adele Brise, a young woman from Belgium who came to the area with her parents.

Three times Adele saw a woman dressed in white. She said: "I am the Queen of Heaven, who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same." She gave Adele the mission of teaching the local children. This location is also the site of a major miracle when in 1871 the firestorm of the famous Peshtigo Fire



Our Lady of Good Help

jumped over the Shrine as well as the people and animals that had taken refuge there.

Due to increasing bus tour visits, the Shrine has expanded and is now offering even more for bus tour groups. A second large parking lot has been built with designated bus parking areas. Restrooms suitable for groups are available at several locations. All points of interest are handicap-accessible including heated ramps in the winter. The recently constructed Mother of Mercy Hall is used for large events and pilgrim groups along with a devotional area that houses a beautiful stained glass window depicting the apparitions.

Mass is celebrated at 11 a.m., and groups can stay for lunch. Food can be ordered from the Schoolhouse Cafe or through a number of catered options. Other areas and activities include the church upstairs and apparition chapel downstairs where you will find crutches, canes and other items people have left behind after visiting the site. There is a gift shop offering numerous items of interest to visitors and pilgrims. Outside are stations of the cross, a long prayer walk as well as several statues and prayer areas. One particularly popular one is a beautiful grouping depicting Our Lady of Fatima and the three children.

For current information you can visit their Web site at [championshrine.org](http://championshrine.org) or phone (920) 866-2571. □

## The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

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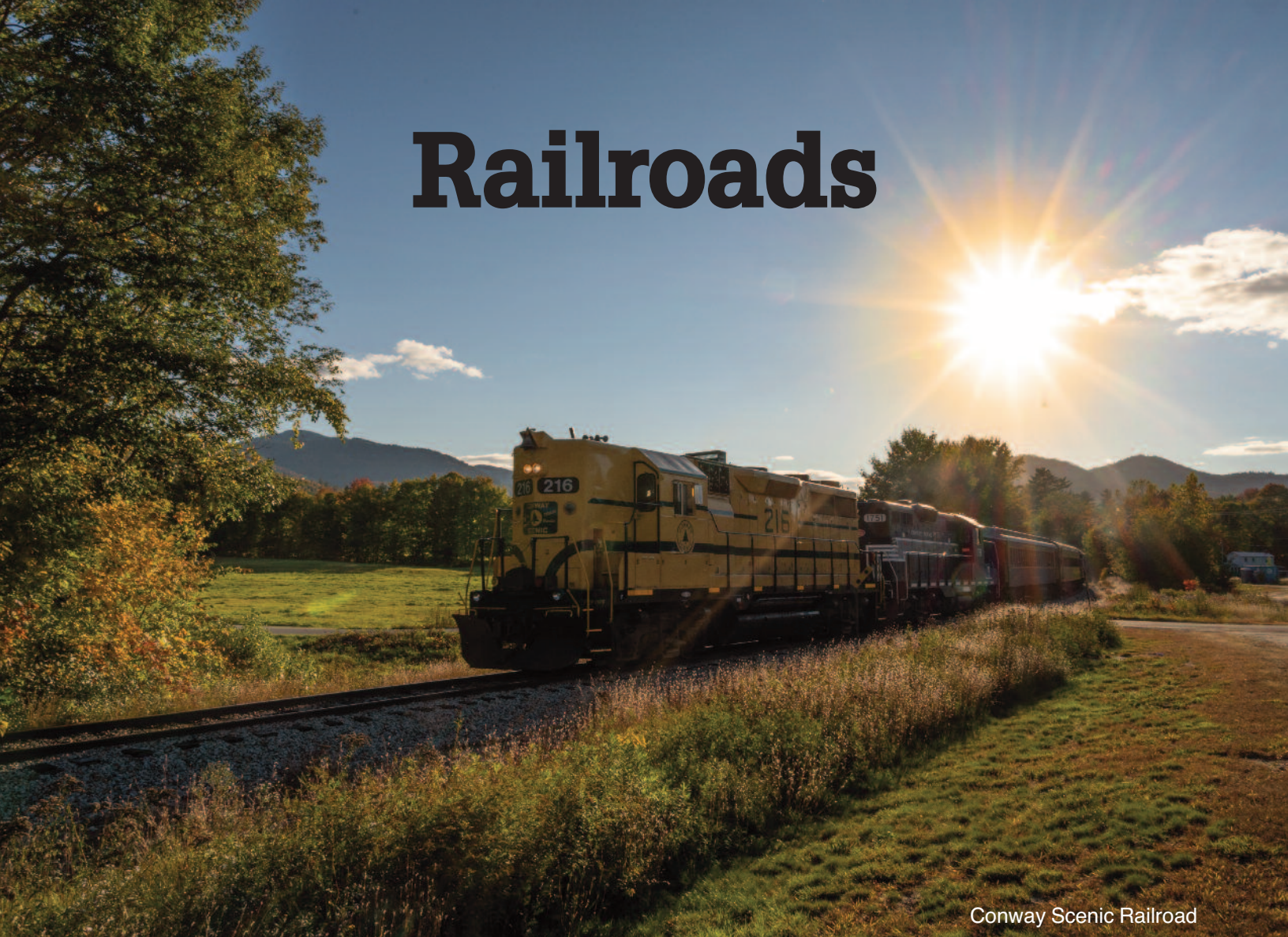
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# Railroads



Conway Scenic Railroad

## Conway Scenic Railroad

by Brian Solomon

New Hampshire's Conway Scenic Railroad is one of America's premier tourist railroads and offers a variety of historic and scenic excursions in the Mount Washington Valley and over Crawford Notch.

Conway Scenic owes its heritage to the Boston & Maine and Maine Central railroads, routes that were built during the industrial age in the 1870s before paved highways offered transportation. The railroad was founded in 1974 by Dwight Smith, a career railroader and visionary who recognized the potential of the unique North Conway station as a tourist destination.

This beautiful Victorian station had been built in 1874 but had fallen into ruin. Smith and his partners restored the property and

began operating excursions using a restored 1921-built steam locomotive number 7470. In 1994, Conway Scenic acquired rights to operate the former Maine Central Mountain Division over Crawford Notch and began running this supremely scenic line a year later. Today, Conway Scenic's *Mountaineer* is one of the region's most popular railroad journeys that provides a four- to five-hour trip through the Mount Washington Valley and over Crawford Notch.

The railroad's original North Conway to Conway run continues to be very popular with families and visitors with time constraints. This provides a one-hour historic train ride that aims to recreate the experience of traveling from town to town as it would have been in the Golden Age of American Railroads in the early part of the 20th century.

The railroad's 1898-built Pullman parlor observation car *Gertrude Emma* – named for Dwight Smith's late wife – is a star attraction on this run.

Conway Scenic also offers a variety of season special trains, including the autumn Pumpkin Patch and winter Snow Trains that run to the ski area at Attitash near Bartlett.

Conway Scenic's original steam locomotive 7470 was returned to service in 2019 after a number of years in the shop. This relic of the steam era continues to thrill visitors when it makes its occasional appearances. Most of Conway Scenic's regularly scheduled trains are operated with vintage General Motors diesel-electric locomotives dating from the 1950s and 1960s.

## Guide: Railroads

### Bluegrass Scenic Railroad and Museum

The Bluegrass Scenic Railroad and Museum operates 90-minute chartered train rides through the rolling central Kentucky countryside past thoroughbred horse farms to the palisades of the Kentucky river. Air-conditioned, first-class cars and exciting open-air cars are available. In addition to train rides, the museum maintains an outdoor collection of historic railroad locomotives and railcars and an indoor museum of railroad artifacts. For more information about the museum, model train layouts and gift shop, e-mail [BluegrassRailroad@yahoo.com](mailto:BluegrassRailroad@yahoo.com).

### Golden Spike Tower

The Golden Spike Tower is the only public viewing of the World's Largest Rail Yard, Bailey Yard. From eight stories above guests can watch the workings of this massive yard, spanning 8.5 miles long and 2.5 miles wide, sorting more than 10,000 rail cars daily and features the only hump yard in the northern region for Union Pacific. Bus Groups are welcome and encouraged to phone ahead for special bus tour-only options and specials. at (308) 532-9920 or e-mail [Tours@GoldenSpikeTower.com](mailto:Tours@GoldenSpikeTower.com).

### B&O Railroad Museum

Comprised of the oldest and most comprehensive collection of railroad history in the Western Hemisphere, the B&O Railroad Museum is a unique cultural and educational asset for the city and the region. An unparalleled roster of the 19th and 20th century railroad equipment, original shop buildings and surviving tracks at the historic Mt. Clare site provide an integrated resource to present virtually every aspect of American railroad development and its impact on our society, culture and economy.

Visit [BORail.org](http://BORail.org) for tickets and more information.

### Pony Express Museum

The Pony Express Museum is located on the actual spot where Johnny Fry, the first



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Pony Express Museum

Pony Express rider, left on April 3, 1860. M. Karl Goetz purchased the building in 1950 and opened it as the museum in 1959. The museum stands as the only organization interpreting the entire 2,000-mile Pony Express trail. As such, it attracts visitors from not only surrounding states, but the entire U.S. and other countries, bringing welcome tourism dollars to the local economy.

Museum staff and board of trustees work tirelessly to keep exhibits fresh. Many are hands-on, teaching guests history through visual and interactive exhibits. In addition to offering a glimpse of history, the museum rents out its large community room for your special event. Should your organization, family, or other group need a guided tour or a catered meal, please contact us for rates.

The museum received awards in 2020 and 2021: *True West* magazine ranked us in the top ten western museums. Tripadvisor ranked it among the top 10 percent of attractions worldwide based on website comments in 2020 and in 2021 Traveler's Choice award. The museum received the News-Press NOW Readers' Choice Award in 2019 and 2021, and KQ2's Best of St. Joe 2021 Museum. The Pony Express Museum is home to Tuesday Night Talks for six

weeks mid-January to mid-February. The museum also hosts a two-week Day Camp for children in July, and Pumpkinfest the second weekend in October. □

## Down The Road

Coming events of interest to readers of BUS TOURS MAGAZINE. Submissions for the department should be directed to the editor. Unless otherwise indicated, events are not open to the general public.

**January 8-11, 2022. American Bus Association Marketplace.** Grapevine, Texas. For more information visit [marketplace.buses.org](http://marketplace.buses.org).

**February 4-6, 2022. Heartland Travel Showcase.** Cleveland, Ohio. Visit [heartlandtravelshowcase.com](http://heartlandtravelshowcase.com) for more information.

**February 13-15, 2022. Travel South Domestic Showcase.** Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. For more information visit [southeasttourism.org](http://southeasttourism.org).

**June 4-5, 2022. Museum of Bus Transportation Spring Fling.** AACA Museum, Hershey, Pennsylvania. For more information phone (717) 566-7100 or e-mail [events@busmuseum.org](mailto:events@busmuseum.org).

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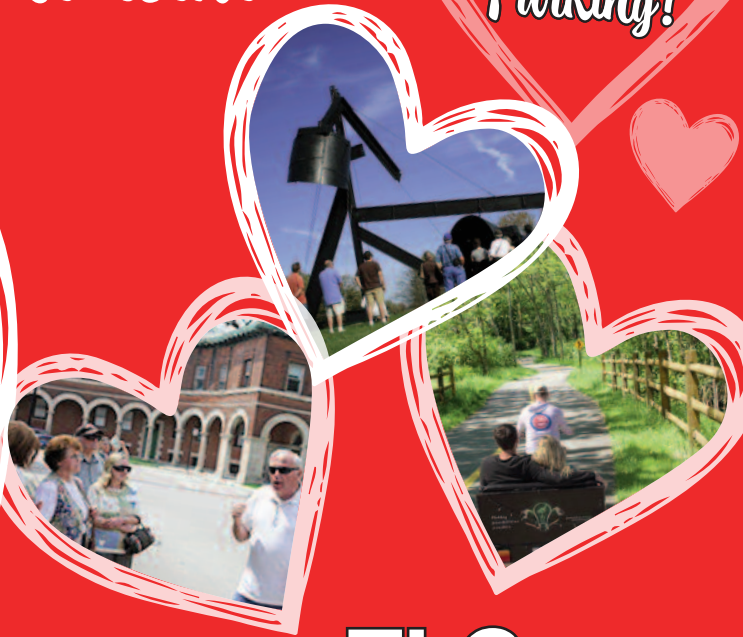
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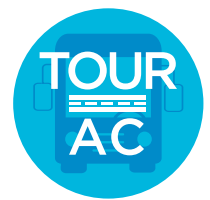
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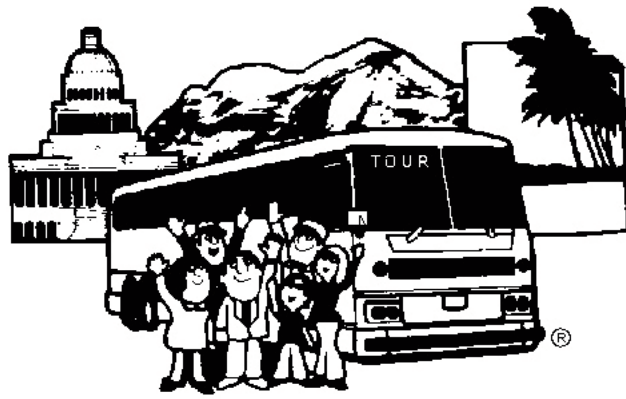
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