

Volume XLIII, Number 4 • March/April 2022

# BUS TOURS

Magazine

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Cypress Gardens



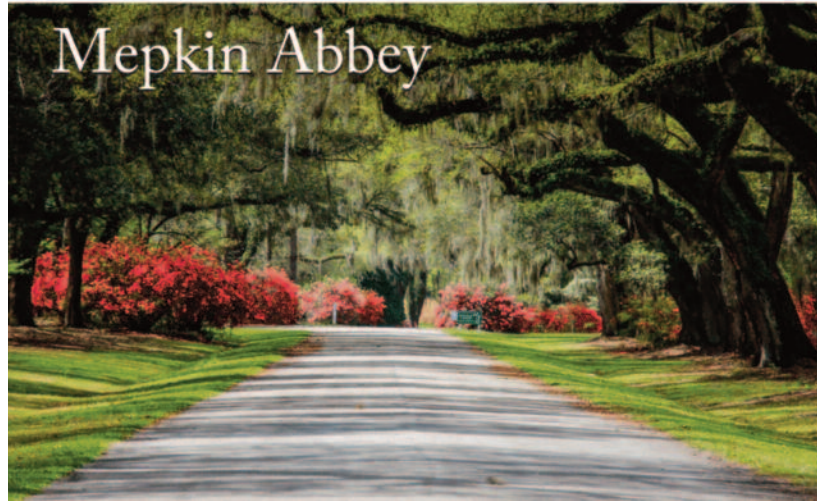
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Mepkin Abbey



Old Santee Canal Park



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**MARCH/APRIL 2022**

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## COVER PHOTO

Starved Rock State Park offers a wide range of activities and history including LaSalle Canyon. Located along the Illinois River, the canyon is composed of St. Peter sandstone and is named after the French explorer Robert de LaSalle. The waterfalls are active in the spring.

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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).

# Buzz on the Bus

*News and notes for bus tour planners*

## **Q Casino Expands Houlihan's Outdoor Seating**

Q Casino announces the creation of an expanded outdoor dining experience at Houlihan's located next to the Hilton Garden Inn on Schmitt Island in Dubuque, Iowa. Alex Dixon, president and CEO, states, "We are so excited to be bringing this elevated outdoor dining experience to the island; this \$700,000 project enhances our resort style amenities perfectly."

An exhilarating space has been created that features expanded capacity with more than 100 more seats, big screen TVs; perfect for viewing the big game, a large firepit with romantic lounge seating and ceiling mounted heat lamps for the cooler season. Houlihan's Outdoors looks forward to spotlighting regional acoustical music seasonally on the patio and welcoming customers to enjoy the new outdoor space.

Along with the new outdoor space, Houlihan's has also partnered with the fast-casual Asian concept, Wow Bao, to cook and steam their menu items. Bao is a traditional Asian street food favorite. Bao (rhymes with "wow") also known as steamed buns or baozi is a soft, fluffy dough served with savory or sweet flavors and steamed to perfection. Order options – Uber Eats, Grubhub – phone direct at (563)585-3006 or stop by the pick-up Window located in the hallway between Houlihan's and the Hilton Garden Inn.

## **Ferraro's Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar**

Family-run, fine-dining Ferraro's Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar has welcomed its third generation of chefs to the kitchen. Nico Ferraro, 11-year-old grandson of Owner Gino Ferraro and son of Executive Chef Mimmo

Houlihan's Outdoor Dining



Mimmo, Gino and Nico Ferraro

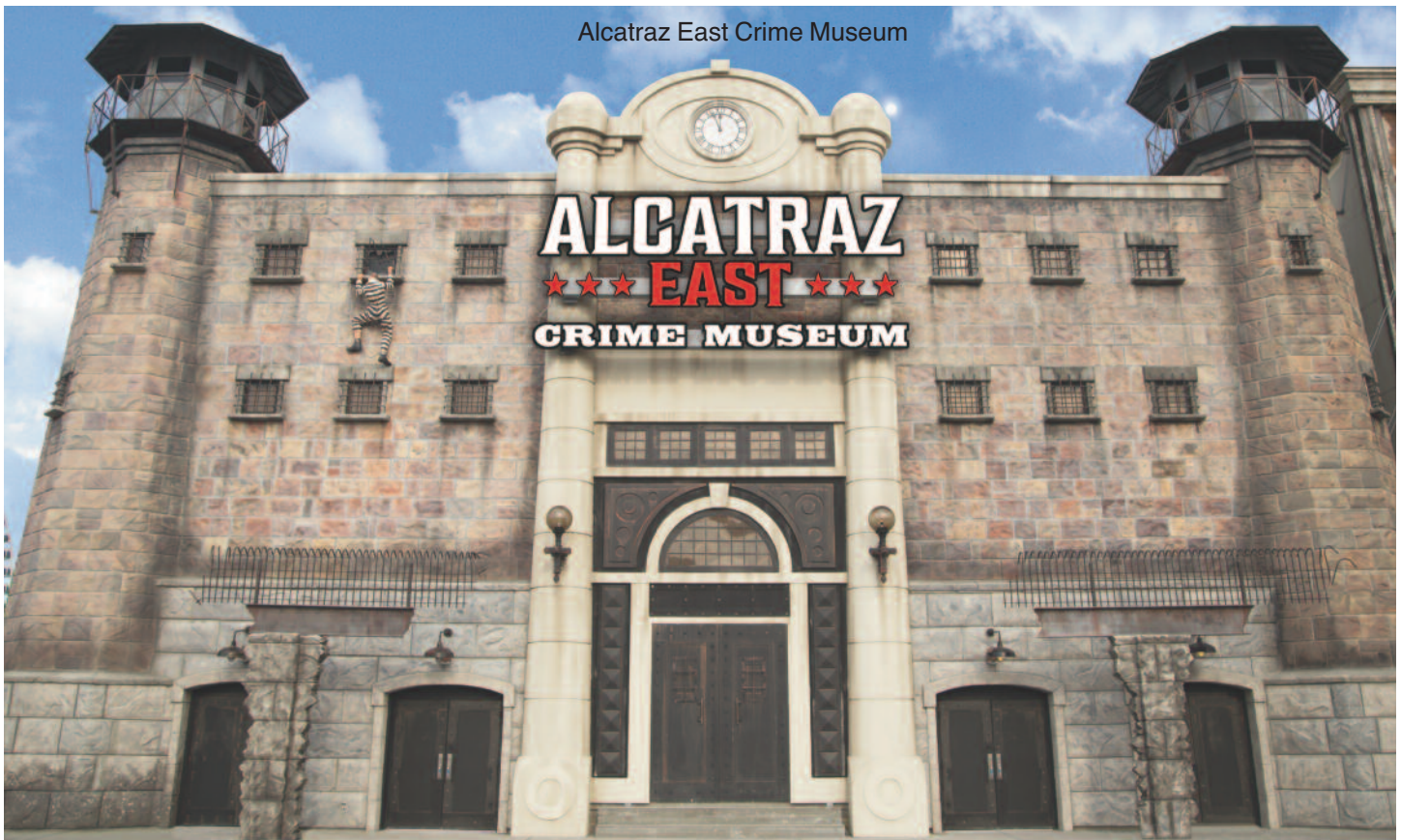


Ferraro, has signaled his interest in carrying on the family's culinary tradition by learning to prepare the family's authentic, signature recipes.

Nico first learned to cook at home, then began shadowing Mimmo at Ferraro's since late 2020. Today, he can be spotted in the kitchen or strolling through the restaurant and graciously greeting guests. Nico has not

only been learning the family's treasured recipes from his father and grandfather, such as Pappardelle Mimmo, Spaghetti Aglio e Olio, Lasagna alla Gino and Osso Buco, but also seeing firsthand how demanding the restaurant business can be.

"Nothing brings me greater joy than to have my family an ongoing part of the Ferraro's experience," said Gino Ferraro, owner,



Alcatraz East Crime Museum

Ferraro's. "It's beyond incredible to see Nico developing a passion for Italian cooking, just like his father and grandfather!"

For more information about Ferraro's or to make reservations, phone (702) 364-5300.

### Alcatraz East Crime Museum

While visiting the Pigeon Forge area there is a must-see destination for everyone who considers themselves to be a true crime fan or history buff. Alcatraz East Crime Museum is a popular destination for those tourists and residents alike. The museum puts the spotlight on crime and punishment, giving people an experience they can not find elsewhere. Not only will guests learn about some of the most notorious crimes, but they will also learn about the consequences of crime, and the important role that law enforcement plays.

True crime and history buffs are not the only ones who make the museum a destination. There are individuals and families who visit, because it provides such an educational and interesting experience. There are areas of the museum that will engage all ages, including kids who can be a junior detective and meet McGruff the Crime Dog.

Here are the top 5 things to do at Alcatraz East Crime Museum:

- See O.J. Simpson's famous white Bronco on display. The actual vehicle that captured the attention of millions is one of the things people want to see most

- Get hands-on experiences all throughout the museum. Guests can be a part of a line-up, walk through a jail cell, test their hand at solving crime and more.

- Brush up on crime history, including seeing a serial killer exhibition and learning about the history of crime in America. The crime information will take you from pirates to white-collar criminals to the events of 9/11, and beyond.

- Learn how law enforcement solves crime by taking part in the investigation. This hands-on exhibit allows you to solve crime through forensic science, including using DNA, blood analysis and fingerprinting.

- Check out the artifacts. The museum is loaded with real crime-related artifacts that are in display. Some of the most notorious artifacts include Ted Bundy's VW Beetle, John Dillinger's death mask and John Wayne Gacy's paint box.

Alcatraz East Crime Museum features more than 100 exhibits, including temporary exhibits, focusing on the notorious history of crime in the country, crime scene investigation, the consequences of crime, crime fighting, counterfeit crimes and pop culture, and more. The museum also features special guest speakers throughout the year.

This top museum is open at 10 a.m. daily. To get more information about tickets, discounts and what all the museum offers, visit the site: [alcatrazeast.com](http://alcatrazeast.com).

### Butterflies Returned to Tennessee Aquarium

From playful river otters and sleek sand tiger sharks to toothy American Alligators, there are certain animals that are undeniably iconic members of the Tennessee Aquarium's living collection.

However, some of the Aquarium's most entrancing, cherished residents — and there are literally thousands of them — have been absent for more than a year and a half.

Due to supply chain disruptions, the Aquarium has been unable to source butterflies to fill the Ocean Journey building's Butterfly Garden since early 2020. The Tennessee Aquarium's Butterfly Garden reopened to the public on November 5, 2021. This warm, light-filled gallery is once more filled with these jewel-like insects, which fill the air in their fluttering hundreds.

Walking through the Garden is a transportive experience, like being whisked into the steamy, lush wilds of a Costa Rican rainforest. To ensure the wellbeing of its residents, the interior of the gallery is always kept warm and humid. Seemingly every leaf, blossom and branch serves as temporary resting spot for butterflies of every description.

At any one time, the Garden houses between 1,000 and 1,500 butterflies. These can come from any of more than two dozen species, from cerulean-winged Blue Morphos to enormous Tawny Owls with their tell-tale eyespots.

Every week, about 500 butterfly chrysalises — the life stage between caterpillars and full-fledged adults — are delivered to the Aquarium from Costa Rica. By raising specific plants, Costa Rican farmers can attract butterflies that use the plants as egg-laying sites and feeding sources for their offspring. By collecting and shipping chrysalises to facilities like the Aquarium, farmers can earn a reliable income without resorting to destructive agricultural practices that threaten their country's life-rich rainforests.



The cocoon-like chrysalises can be viewed hanging from racks through a special viewing window in the Garden. Their shells often look drastically different from the butterflies within. Who would suspect that the familiar orange, black and white Monarch Butterfly would come from a gold-fringed, jade chrysalis or that leaf-like pink or green chrysalises are host to brilliant yellow Cloudless Sulfurs?

If they time their visit right — usually by arriving earlier in the day — guests may be lucky enough to see the butterflies in the act of emerging or flapping their wings to dry and prepare them for their first flight. Better yet, visitors can also watch a butterfly release, when newly emerged butterflies are collected and relocated to the gallery.

Guests are not encouraged to touch the butterflies, which can be harmed by even the most well-intentioned hands, but with such great numbers of these beautiful insects fluttering about, fingertips, shoulders and even heads often serve as impromptu perches.

Those Instagram-ready moments are the kinds of experiences that can leave a lasting impression, Segbers says.

### What's New in San Diego

A few things reopening in winter 2022 follow below:

#### Attractions and Events

The 3.2-acre Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp at the San Diego Zoo, which opened February 2022 on the former Children's Zoo site, will blend innovation with opportunities to explore a variety of species, ranging from leafcutter ants and orb weaver spiders to prairie dogs and sloths.

Opening March 2022, Sesame Place San Diego will feature seven Sesame Street-themed rides, an interactive musical play area and 11 water attractions, including a 500,000-gallon wave pool — one of the largest in southern California. The park will also have an interactive Sesame Street Neighborhood complete with the iconic 123 Stoop,

live character shows, daily parades, photo opportunities and, of course, everyone's favorite Muppet characters.

### Arts and Culture

Reopening April 2022, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego will be expanding its La Jolla campus, allowing for the dedicated display of the permanent collection alongside the presentation of temporary exhibitions. The expansion includes clarifying the entry sequence to the building and expanding gallery space while integrating the complex existing conditions into a harmonious whole. A large, flexible multipurpose gallery on the lower level will provide capacity for public programs, artist talks, performance art, music and other immersive educational activities.

### Restaurants and Bars

Opened December 2021 in University Heights, San Diego's first absinthe bar and bistro Wormwood showcases more than 30 absinthes sourced from Europe and the United States, which are served in slow-drip fountains with a cube of sugar. The bistro's French-influenced fare revisits classic dishes and features small plates and shareable entrees prepared with local ingredients from southern California and Baja, Mexico.

Coco Maya, by Miss B's Coconut Club, set to open on Little Italy's buzzing India Street in March of 2022, will offer an open-air aesthetic designed to reflect the boho chic vibes of Tulum, Mexico. Its main cocktail bar will sit under a massive skylight and the roof will be removed to create a 900-square-foot deck. The restaurant's Caribbean-inspired menus will feature tequila drinks and modern takes on Jamaican coal pot cooking from a Josper Charcoal oven-powered kitchen.

### Transportation

In November 2021, the San Diego Trolley opened its expanded UC San Diego Blue Line that now runs all the way from the U.S.-Mexico border to UC San Diego in La Jolla to the UTC Transit Center, adding nine new trolley stations. The Trolley has on three color-coded lines connecting San Diego's east, south and north county communities with downtown San Diego.

San Diego International Airport (SAN) launched the "San Diego Flyer," a free electric shuttle bus service between San Diego International Airport (SAN) and Old Town Transit Center in November 2021. The shuttle operates seven days a week, with an average arrival every 20 to 30 minutes. The first pickup is at 4:45 a.m. and the last pickup/drop-off at 12:30 a.m., which are timed to match the schedules of the Trolley, Coaster, Amtrak as well as MTS bus lines.

For more information on San Diego's offerings, including valuable coupons for attractions, restaurants and more, visit the San Diego Tourism Authority's Web site at [sandiego.org](http://sandiego.org).



### East Troy Railroad Museum

The East Troy Railroad Museum will receive \$100,000 from the We Energies Foundation over the next five years. The money will fund new energy experience interactive education displays at the museum with the theme: Generating Green Electricity for Modern Mobility.

The funding will also improve the visitor experience by supporting new heating and cooling systems in the Depot, which houses educational displays and historic electrical equipment and controls. The Depot was built in 1910 as a substation for the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company (TMER&L), which we now know as We Energies.

The East Troy Railroad Museum operates regular 14-mile round trip excursions from its historic East Troy depot and museum to Indianhead Park in Mukwonago, with a stop at the popular Elegant Farmer store and deli. This not-for-profit railroad is operated and managed by over 130 volunteers dedicated to engaging visitors in the heritage of electric interurban railways and trolley systems. For more information, visit [easttroyrr.org](http://easttroyrr.org) or phone (262) 642-3263. □



## The Colony

### The Colony, Texas

Just north of Dallas, nestled along 23 miles of shoreline, you will find a uniquely tranquil getaway complemented by metropolitan luxuries. The Colony offers a variety of outdoor excursions, world-class restaurants and lively entertainment you will not find anywhere else in Texas.

Outdoor enthusiasts appreciate Lewisville Lake's abundance of recreational opportunities. Travelers can stretch their legs along miles of shoreline trails or explore the waters on a guided paddleboard tour for a fresh air escape. Visitors can enjoy the sandy beaches or cast off on a party boat for a sunset cruise with group rentals.

While becoming a hub for international restaurants, The Colony's diverse dining scene offers cuisines for every palate from casual to fine dining. Many restaurants in the city feature menus with seasonal specialties crafted from regional produce for a truly local taste. Eat your way through dozens of culinary adventures, ranging from Texas smokehouse barbecue to authentic Japanese ramen.

Grandscape, one of North Texas' largest entertainment and shopping districts, features a wide variety of retail experiences sure to impress. Shoppers are always in awe of the magnitude of the World's Largest All Sports Store and Nation's Largest Home Furnishing Store, both offering more than the names suggest. With a 65-foot indoor Ferris wheel, Wildlife Mountain and more than 80 specialty departments, SCHEELS is a must-see in The Colony. Additionally, The Homestead at Grandscape wows with a collection of artisans and boutiques specializing in crafts like leatherwork and candle making.

In the evenings, The Colony comes alive with a vivid live music and micro brewing scene. Visitors can catch a show at Truck Yard's honky-tonk stage, party like a rock star at Lava Cantina or feel transported in the intimate lounge at Windmills. The expansive indoor-outdoor destination also

The Colony Fountain



# Niche & Specialty Tours

features high-energy outlets including Andretti Indoor Karting, Puttery and The Lawn with easily accessible parking and walkability for groups.

Plan your next tour with sample itineraries on the Visit The Colony app, available on the App Store and Google Play and [VisitTheColonyTX.com](https://www.visitthecolonytx.com). For more information, phone (972) 624-5253 or visit The Colony at [visitthecolony@thecolonytx.gov](mailto:visitthecolony@thecolonytx.gov).

### Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center/Museum Stevenson, Washington

The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center/Museum is located in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge in Stevenson, Washington. The museum features more than 11,000 square feet of indoor exhibits, as well as a large display of antique trucks, logging equipment, mine replica and train cars. The Columbia Gorge is known for its exquisite beauty and unique natural history. Would you like to learn more about how it

was formed? Or explore the roots and culture of its earliest people? Then be sure to stop in and explore the 15,000 years of history, from local native tribes to the settlers that followed in the footprints of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The museum is dedicated to preserving the stories and culture of the Columbia River Gorge. It features the world's largest Rosary Collection, 1917 Curtiss Bi-Plane, McCord Fishwheel Replica and exhibits dedicated to the local Columbia River Indian Tribes, as well as Russian and Japanese heritage. Feel free to rest your feet in the theaters featuring films about the formation of the gorge, local history and its future. Learn how Skamania County became Washington's first "Sasquatch Refuge," and why thousands of couples would anxiously run to Skamania County to tie the knot, earning it the title "Marriage Mill."

The museum is open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information and admission cost, go to [8 • Bus Tours Magazine / March, 2022](https://www.columbi-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)



## Guide: Niche & Specialty

[agorge.org](http://agorge.org). If children are in your group, stop by to pick up a children's workbook

and crayons (free). Even join in on the search for their very own "Bigfoot."



Columbia Gorge Museum

### Prestonburg, Kentucky

Prestonburg is the perfect group travel destination for those looking for off-the-beaten path tours that still deliver big experiences. While Kentucky is often associated with bourbon and horses, head east and discover a world of mountains, moonshine and music. Nashville is often referred to as the birthplace of country music, but eastern Kentucky is the birthplace of country music legends. With iconic names like Loretta Lynn, Crystal Gayle, Chris Stapleton, Dwight Yoakam, The Judds and more, all hailing from the hills and hollers along U.S. 23, the corridor became known as the Country Music Highway. Groups enjoy music serenations throughout their tour.

"We believe every client should receive an experience completely unique to their motorcoach and one that a guest couldn't have any other way than with a bus tour. That's what separates group tours from every

Marvel at the  
*Texas-sized collection*  
of dining, shopping and entertainment.

A photograph showing the interior of Grandscape in The Colony. The space is filled with various items for sale, including clothing, home decor, and gifts. A green shopping bag with the word "GRANDSCAPE" is visible in the foreground. A map of the area is overlaid on the right side of the image, showing the location of Grandscape in The Colony relative to other landmarks like the Winemaking & Brewery, Restaurant, Music, and House on the Hill, and the Jurassic World The Exhibition.

Grandscape in The Colony is the ultimate indoor-outdoor entertainment district featuring unique venues you won't find anywhere else in Texas or the US. Offering plenty of variety and parking, it's perfect for all ages and interests. Make Grandscape part of your next trip.

**Visit THE COLONY**

A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.

[visitthecolonytx.com](http://visitthecolonytx.com)

The logo for the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum features a stylized face with large eyes and a wide smile, resembling a mask or a piece of art.

**Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum**

**Experience 15,000 Years of History!**

- 23,000 square feet to explore
- Family and group rates
- Meeting and event rentals
- Open 9am - 5pm daily

[www.columbiagorge.org](http://www.columbiagorge.org)  
990 SW Rock Creek Dr. Stevenson, WA

A photograph of the exterior of the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum. The building is a large, modern structure with a curved roof and large glass windows. It is surrounded by greenery and trees.

**PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!**  
**800.991.2338**  
509-427-8211

Printing Sponsored by the City of Stevenson and Skamania County Lodging Taxes

## Guide: Niche & Specialty

other type of travel planning," says Prestonsburg Tourism's Executive Director Samantha Johnson.

During the day, groups tour Loretta Lynn's famous Butcher Holler homestead while traveling through a Kentucky coal camp community. The standard miner snack of moonpies and RC Cola's are just icing on the cake. Then, that evening, groups will enjoy a private performance and tour at the Mountain Arts Center. From Lynn's humble roots to bright lights, groups will receive VIP access to stand on the very stage Lynn performed on so many times. In Prestonsburg, it is not just about seeing. It is about feeling, being and understanding.

While rich in music and history, some may be surprised to learn that Prestonsburg is home to one of the world's most technologically-advanced planetariums. Although, nothing really beats sky gazing in the mountains. The Jenny Wiley State Resort Park offers a wide variety of outdoor explorations, including elk viewing tours, nature hikes and pontoon rides around Dewey Lake with park naturalists.

Prestonsburg attractions are truly remarkable, but it is their people that have guests falling in love and ready to come back again and again. That is established with the free-service local step-on guide that remains with your group from arrival to departure. Re-enactors, historians and entertainers bring every stop to life. Just ask Uncle Shine during Prestonsburg's staple Moonshine Tour.

Phone today to plan your perfect motorcoach getaway. Planning is made easy. In addition to complimentary FAM tours, Prestonsburg



Prestonsburg

Tourism offers free itinerary planning and will even do the booking for you.

### Beaverhead County

#### Dillon, Montana

Distinguished as the largest in Montana, Beaverhead County includes 5,551 square miles of diverse geography including 30 square miles of Blue Ribbon Trout Streams. Larger than the state of Connecticut, the county is home to less than 10,000 residents.

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Not many small towns boast one of the World's most advanced planetariums, a state park, national battlefield, roaming elk, acclaimed trails, premiere performance venues, and musical legends. Yet, welcome to Prestonsburg. From indoor entertainment, to heritage exhibits, and scenic mountain tours, go ahead and let yourself say yes to adventure.

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 **PRESTONSBURG KENTUCKY**  
prestonsburgky.org



Beaverhead  
Kristi Holland portfolio

The county is home to many generational cattle ranches, including the largest – Matarador Ranch. Ranching and agri-business is the largest economic sector in the county. In Beaverhead County, there are more cows than people.

Beaverhead County cities include Dillon, the county seat, and Lima, as well as the communities of Argenta, Bannack, Dell, Dewey, Glen, Grant, Elkhorn, Jackson, Lakeview, Monida, Polaris, Wisdom and Wise River. Geologic features, abundant recreational opportunities; a rich cultural history and a wide array of events and activities make the county a very attractive destination for a vacation or a lifetime.

### Climate

Surrounded by the Continental Divide on three sides, Beaverhead County area is unique in that it is both cold and dry. Locally known as the Montana’s Banana Belt, precipitation varies widely. Average annual amounts range from 10 inches in Dillon to

more than 50 inches in mountains forming the Continental Divide. Two-thirds of the precipitation in mountains is snow. A typical winter has snow in the mountains and is relatively dry in the valleys.

- Average temperatures: January 21°F; July 66°F
  - Normal frost-free days for Dillon: 99.
- Cloudy weather rarely exceeds more than few days.

### Cultural

Community Concert Series, community theater, community band and orchestra, Shakespeare in the Park, The University of Montana Western Art Gallery, Lunch in the Park series, Southwest Montana Arts Council are all cultural attractions available in the county.

### Activities

Hiking is available in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (the largest in Montana), snowmobiling, skiing, hot springs,

hunting, camping and of course, fly fishing in either the Big Hole or Beaverhead Rivers. Rodeos are a big attraction each summer. The Dillon Jaycees hosts Montana’s largest rodeo over Labor Day weekend each year, and the Beaverhead Chamber hosts the Sr. Pro Rodeo each summer.

Visit Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture or Dillon Convention & Visitors Bureau for more tourism information at [beaverheadchamber.org](http://beaverheadchamber.org) or [visitdillonmt.com](http://visitdillonmt.com).

## Guide: Niche & Specialty

### Coral Castle

#### Miami, Florida

Top ranked by TripAdvisor / Yelp, 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 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 their 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 can be seen 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.

Enjoy the delicious delights at the Coral Castle Café. For more information view [facebook.com/CoralCastleMuseum](https://facebook.com/CoralCastleMuseum).

### Explore Berkeley County, South Carolina

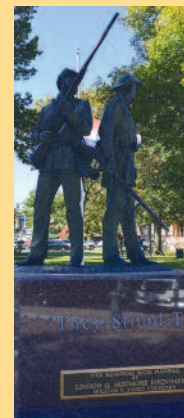
Berkeley County is a popular "must see" destination centrally located minutes from Downtown Charleston and 1½ hours from Myrtle Beach. Transport yourself back to a time when the livin' was easy. Natural beauty, rich history and exciting adventures await those who visit. Staying overnight? Clean, affordable, bus-friendly accommodations are



### 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**



### Columnist Wanted

*Bus Tours Magazine* is seeking someone knowledgeable in planning bus tours to write a regular column for our bus tour planner readers. We are looking for tips, suggestions and advice on how to plan and run better tours and how to keep your customers happy. Ideas on how to bounce back from the pandemic would be particularly helpful. There is one column per issue with six issues per year.



Please phone (815) 946-2341  
or send an e-mail to [management@busmag.com](mailto:management@busmag.com)

available to ensure your stay is comfortable and enjoyable.

**Cypress Gardens**

Visitors from across the globe come to experience this unique attraction which has been featured in magazines, television shows and motion pictures including, *The Notebook*, *The Patriot*, and *Cold Mountain*. Embark on an adventurous boat ride on a natural black-water cypress swamp. Enjoy the butterfly house and Swamparium. Take a stroll along newly restored scenic paths, bridges and 4½ miles of walking trails. A gift shop is available.

**Mepkin Abbey**

Mepkin Abbey is one of the few monasteries offering tours. Guests can attend an authentic Trappist monk worship service and stroll along the beautiful grounds featuring giant live oak trees and meticulously landscaped gardens overlooking the Cooper



Berkeley Bridge

River. Their extensive store features handmade items from local, regional, national and international monastic artisans.

tive Center to learn about the area's history including the first semi-submersible torpedo boat, *CSS Little David*, which was built on these grounds. A gift shop is available.

**Old Santee Canal Park**

Explore the site of the first true canal in America. Once used for trade and transportation during colonial times, it also served as a trading post for Native Americans. Tour the historic Stoney Landing House and Interpre-

**The Berkeley Museum**

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## Guide: Niche & Specialty

Revolution battles to the later settlers whose families have remained for generations. A gift shop is available.

### Battlefield Tours

Berkeley County is famous for its Revolutionary War connections. Explore the Patriots' victories and defeats on the battlefields, which served as the setting for 32 of the war's more than 200 South Carolina battle sites and birthed two prominent military leaders, General Francis Marion and General William Moultrie.

Visit [exploreberkeleycounty.com](http://exploreberkeleycounty.com), the official tourism Web site.

### Crawford County Pennsylvania

For those who want to spend a rainy afternoon or a whole weekend immersed in unique history, Crawford County has a number of amenities that connect the region to not just regional history, but major events and individuals who shaped our nation's past. Everything from timeless architecture to the history of the underground railroad is explored including the man that helped get Andrew Jackson elected President.

While every town in America, it seems, has their own house museum that relays the history, in Crawford County, the house museum was owned by a United States

Supreme Court Justice. He is responsible for helping to acquire Florida, the Missouri Compromise and many of the nation's tariff laws. Mount Hope: The Baldwin-Reynolds House Museum was the former home of United States Supreme Court Justice Henry Baldwin, who served on the bench from 1830 through 1844 after spending time in Congress and helping Jackson get elected President. Baldwin lived in the house a relatively short time (dying within a year of its completion), but his descendants (and future Mount Hope residents) were major figures in the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad as well as much of the development of this region. The house is open as a museum from Memorial Day through Labor Day every Wednesday through Sunday from 12-4 p.m.

Another unique tour spot, serving as the main graveyard for the City of Meadville since 1852, Greendale Cemetery is much more than its name implies. The cemetery is as much a park or arboretum as a burial ground. It features the landscape design of Herman Munz, an architect who helped lay out much of the older section of the cemetery as well as planted thousands of rhododendrons on the property. These blossoms are enjoyed by visitors and locals alike each spring. The cemetery features walking trails near a waterfall as well as the final resting places of the inventors of the zipper, the wife of a



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## Guide: Niche & Specialty

Supreme Court Justice, those involved in the Underground Railroad and many more. Hours are dawn to dusk, and respectful visitors are welcome.

For more information or to see upcoming events, visit [VisitCrawford.org](http://VisitCrawford.org). □

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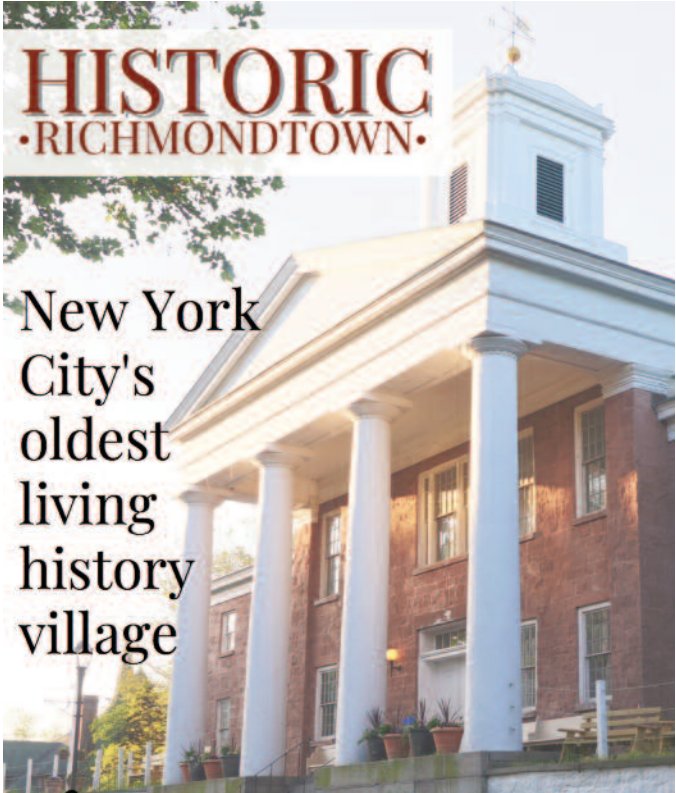


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# Railroads

## Rosenberg Railroad Museum

Rosenberg, Texas

The Rosenberg Railroad Museum is a hidden gem in the heart of Historic Downtown Rosenberg. The museum has a comprehensive railroad collection and exhibits that trace the story of Rosenberg, Fort Bend County and its deep roots in the railroad industry.

The museum's grounds are two acres and offer a park-like atmosphere. It sits next to four active rail lines, providing guests of all ages an immersive railroad experience. There are seven structures that guests can explore throughout the property with docent-led tours. Among those structures, guests can enjoy the Victorian Era 1879 Business Car; The Quebec, Rosenberg's very own interlocker Tower, Tower 17 (built-in

1903); and the museum's 1970s Missouri Pacific Caboose.

For model train fans, the museum has its own model train room with two HO model train exhibits on display and a Lionel O-gauge model train exhibit that is currently in progress. In addition, the Rosenberg Railroad Museum is the only museum near the Greater Houston area that offers guests of all ages the chance to experience a Garden Railroad. The museum's Garden Railroad is tailored to look like Historic Downtown Rosenberg in the 1950s and its surrounding areas.

For planners, there is plenty of parking space available for tour buses in front of the museum and a parking lot is also available where there is more than enough space for multiple buses to park. All the stops mentioned are within walking distance.

## Explore Historic Downtown

After exploring the museum's grounds and experiencing the Garden Railroad's depiction of the town of Rosenberg in the 1950s, walk on over to Historic Downtown Rosenberg. Enjoy the restaurants, boutiques and antique shops.

## Eat Local

Another Time Soda Fountain & Cafe is situated right across the street from the museum. Here, you will find delicious, all-American foods and original handmade milkshakes. Among the various mouthwatering options Rosenberg has to offer is the Ol' Railroad Cafe, where they serve an excellent all-American breakfast, lunch and dinner for everyone to enjoy. Perhaps you are a taco lover; Bob's Tacos is your stop.



If you are looking for something more on the sweet side, stop by Edible Candy Bites Dist. Co., where you will find sweets for everyone to enjoy!

**Shopping**

After an outing at the museum and lunch, take a stroll and explore the rest of the shops throughout the downtown area. Step into the various antique shops, where you will find hidden treasures in places like D&S Antique Mall, Vogelsang Antique Emporium, Roots and Relics and the Red Queen's Attic, just to name a few. If you prefer shopping at stylish local boutiques, there is Southern Sisters, Wild Blossom Texas and Calla Lilies.

**Home and Goods**

If you are looking for unique and sophisticated furniture pieces for your home or office, Portillo's Home and Garden has you covered. If you are more into the art scene, check out the Fort Bend Art Center, where

you will find art pieces from painting to 3D sculptures.

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

What comes to mind when you hear vintage train cars, knowledgeable volunteers, exciting special events and the occasional mystery? We hope you think of the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad. In operation for 36 years, three-hour, round-trip train rides are provided through the "valley that changed the world" and the history of the original Oil Boom is shared.

The seasons generally begin with the Peter Cottontail run in spring and end with three Santa Trains shortly after Thanksgiving. In-between are many regular excursions and special events. Each ride takes you through beautiful Oil Creek State Park as you hear the history of the valley as it once was and see how Mother Nature has reclaimed it.

June and September rides are Saturday and Sunday, departing at 11 a.m. July and August runs are Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. Fall Foliage Tours during October are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 11 a.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m and 3 p.m. The ride through the park as the leaves are changing allows for some amazing sights. Many people ride just for the outstanding photo opportunities.



Current Museum Hours:  
Wed.-Fri. 10-3 pm  
Sat. 10-4 pm & Sun. 1-4 pm  
Admission: \$9 (Adults)  
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## Guide: Railroads



Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad




Special events include Wine Tastings, WWII Re-enactment, Christmas in July, Brew Choo, Halloween Ride and Santa Trains. Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad is also partnering with Oil Creek State Park for several Petroleum Centre Tours during the season.

A favorite that continues to be a sell-out is the Murder Mystery Dinner. Ten dinners are hosted every year and they run from May to October. Performers are from *In All Seriousness* of Erie, Pennsylvania, and the meal is catered by Stewart's Premier Catering of Titusville. This event features limited seating and phoning early for reservations is recommended.

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

The train departs from Perry Street Station, 409 S Perry Street, Titusville, Pennsylvania. Phone (814)676-1733. Inside the station is the Museum & Gift Shop, as well as a concession stand. Group rates, car rentals and box lunches are available. □

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# Gaming and Entertainment

## Experience Atlantic City

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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 journey of pure relaxation. From a Himalayan Salt Grotto, to Rhythm & Motion rooms, each spa offers an experience of its own.

Is sports more your speed? Atlantic City's land-based sportsbooks is the hottest game 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 of Atlantic City's nine casinos offering sports betting, 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 features 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.

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.

Whether a tour at one of the region's historical wineries or a trip to nearby Smithville Village for its quaint shops, any time is a good time to visit Atlantic City and the surrounding areas.

If you are winding down after a long day or meeting up with a few family and friends, Atlantic City offers a host of happy hour specials suitable for all budgets. Sip, sample and let the conversations flow.

With so much going on, it is no wonder Atlantic City was named in the Top 3 Fall Travel Destinations by Tripadvisor.

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

## Texan Theater Greenville Greenville, Texas

An hour from Dallas on Interstate 30 is a quaint downtown with lots of murals to see while walking around to the various antique stores, but the best feature is the historic Texan Theater.

Originally built in 1890 as the King Opera House, this renovated theater blends the old with the new. The stage walls hold remnants of that long past glory with posters from the opera house that closed in 1920. Some of the



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## Guide: Gaming & Entertainment

acts on the wall are Katie Alley, The Mighty Mastodon Minstrels, When Knighthood was in Bloom and even a half poster with no name that looks quite a bit like Houdini who was supposed to have played here. After the 1920 closure, the theater became named the Texan in 1934. The stage was turned. A catwalk was built. A large fly system was put in place. Many of these features are still in the theater today. Traveling shows stopped during WWII, and it became just a movie house. Things went dark again in 1974 when the modern twin cinema was built. The theater was just another antique store with space for quilting for many years.

In 2010 major renovation began. First the neon was remade so the town could see things happening and be ready for the grand new room. After 4½ grueling years, The Texan Theater reopened her doors. She hosts acts from teenagers just starting out to legends like Marty Allen and Eddie Money. Dance

recitals to movies. Mixing the modern with the old has made a very unique venue.

The “concession stand” is much more than you would expect. Nespresso coffee is featured to make cappuccinos and lattes. Homemade soups and build-your-own sandwiches with a quarter pound of meat are featured for lunch.

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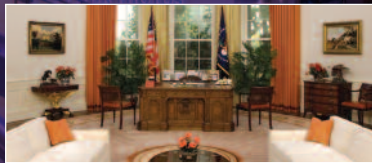


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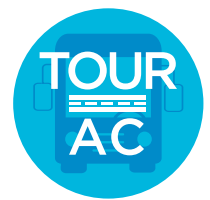
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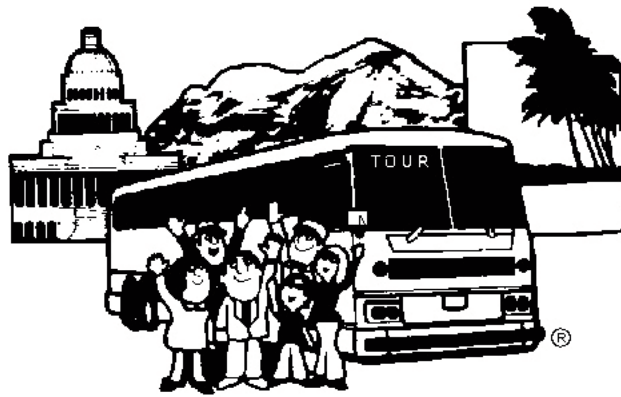
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