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Join the group travel show that works! Heartland Travel Showcase 2023 will be held in the Cincy Region, (Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky) March 10-12. With destinations and sellable group ideas in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Ontario, Heartland Travel Showcase is unmatched. Discover innovative tour experiences, learn new sales tactics, and meet with excited, unique suppliers focused on helping you get business. #OnlyInTheHeartland



March 10-12, 2023 • Cincy Region

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

Volume XLV, Number I









Guides

PLACES FOR SUMMER 2023

Many tour planners are already looking for places to go in the summer of 2023. Here are some locations inviting bus tours for summer 2023 and looking forward to welcoming them.

HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS & MUSEUMS

Historical locations have always been among the most popular stops on bus tours. Regardless of their age, passengers tend to enjoy looking back on how things were. Here are several historical attractions plus interesting and unique museums that invite bus tours to their location.

SHOPPING, DINING & LODGING

It is impossible to put together a bus tour without shopping, dining and lodging. The big question is where to stop. Here are some places that welcome bus tours and can be a nice addition to your next bus tour.

STUDENT & SENIOR TOURS

Many bus tours are geared to specific groups like students and seniors. Here are some places that

Guides (Continued)

welcome bus tours and could be a good addition to specialized or general bus tours.

Features

10 SMALL TOWN AMERICA

Great things come in small packages. Treat your group to a stop in Small Town America for a change of pace. Here, you are likely to find things that are new and different that will interest and please your passengers.

And More

BUZZ ON THE BUS

News and notes of interest to the bus tour industry.

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STAFF

Editor & Publisher	Larry Plachno
Business Manager N	Nancy Ann Plachno
Typesetting/Page Layo	ut Sherry Mekeel
Web site	Jake Ron Plaras
Advertising	Charles Hinkle
Editorial Assistant	Paulette Isoldi

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

Web site: bustoursmagazine.com

Advertising Central/International

central@busmag.com - (815) 946-2341

West

midwest@busmag.com - (815) 946-2341

Midwest

midwest@busmag.com - (815) 946-2341

Northeast

bustoursmag@gmail.com - (815) 946-2341 tourgroups@busmag.com - (815) 946-2341

Southeast

southeast@busmag.com - (815) 946-2341

COVER PHOTO

In 1620 the pilgrims arrived in the New World on the Mayflower and landed at Plymouth Rock, thus starting the colonies that became the United States of America. The rock is now protected by this monument. Like the pilgrims, bus tours come to Plymouth, Massachusetts today to enjoy what the area has to offer. SEE PLYMOUTH - HAWK VISUALS.

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Founded in 1979, Bus Tours Magazine is the oldest inde-pendent magazine in the bus and group tour market. Circulation includes bus and group tour planners in the United States and Canada regardless of affiliation or whether commercial, private or corporate or group leader. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced either in whole or in part without the written consent of the publisher. The name Bus Tours Magazine and the logo incorporating the passengers, bus and destinations are trade marks of National Bus Trader, Inc.

Buzz on the Bus

News and notes for bus tour planners

Champions of Innovation Exhibit Honors Sports Bra Inventors and Women Who Changed the World Alexandria, Virginia

From world-famous photos from the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup to gyms worldwide, the sports bra has helped provide sports equity, health and quality of life for women and girls worldwide. In recognition of this invention and the contributions of women innovators, the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF) Museum, in partnership with the global lifestyle and athletic wear brand Champion®, announces a new exhibit, *Champions of Innovation*.

This exhibit, now available for viewing in the newly reopened NIHF Museum, celebrates groundbreaking women including NIHF Inductees Lisa Lindahl, Hinda Miller and Polly Smith, inventors of the Jogbra®—the world's first sports bra.

To tell the story of the sports bra, this exhibit highlights its inventors and features artifacts that show its evolution.

Among the garments featured is a prototype replica of the original Jogbra, which was constructed out of two jockstraps. The original Jogbra was developed in 1977, when Lindahl wanted to develop a more supportive bra for greater comfort while she ran. She then teamed up with Smith, who sewed the original prototype.

The sports bra was patented in 1979. Miller and Lindahl commercialized the invention as the Jogbra and co-founded their company, Jogbra Inc., which was later renamed JBI.

`The Jogbra launched a multi-billion-dollar industry. Playtex Apparel bought JBI Inc. in 1990, and in 1991, Sara Lee – the owner of Champion Products Inc. – bought Playtex and formed the Champion Jogbra division.

A wall-sized timeline spanning the Champion brand's history traces how the brand has continued to raise the bar in comfort, style and innovation.

Another key feature of the "Champions of Innovation" exhibit is a panel honoring women in diverse fields who have persevered by meeting challenges with integrity. These icons include Wilma Rudolph, the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at a single Olympics; Junko Tabei, the first woman to summit Mount Everest; and Sonia Sotomayor, the third woman and first Hispanic justice appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Additionally, the exhibit features an interactive "Create-a-Champion" experience, challenging everyone to be an innovator. Visitors are invited to swap out pieces of Champion fabric to make their own designs, pair them with a number of inspiring qualities and then share their creations on social media using #createachampion. The exhibit runs through June 2023.

"Champion stands for inclusion in sports," said Maria Teza, senior vice president of Champion North America. "We're proud to partner with the National Inventors Hall of Fame to honor women in sports and from all walks of life who exemplify an entrepreneurial spirit and the heart of a champion."

The National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum is located at the United States Patent and Trademark Office's Madison Building in Alexandria, Virginia. Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., admission to the museum is free and open to the public. For more information visit invent.org/museum.



Big Bear Mountain Roller Coaster to Open at Dollywood Next Spring

Dolly Parton recently announced the newest addition to Dollywood Parks & Resorts, "Big Bear Mountain," a \$25 million roller coaster that will take guests on an unforgettable expedition through the Smokies in search of the elusive "Big Bear." Stretch-



ing an incredible 3,990 feet as it extends the perimeter of Dollywood's Wildwood Grove area, which opened in 2019, Big Bear Mountain will be the longest roller coaster ever built at Parton's legendary theme park.

The coaster's massive structure will hug six acres of undulating topography that runs along the border of Wildwood Grove, with riders racing through the wilderness before soaring high above the forest on the search for a legendary bear. Featuring a top speed of 48 m.p.h., Big Bear Mountain will take guests through three separate launches, multiple airtime hills, high-speed carousel turns and tunnels, including a breathtaking pass behind a waterfall.

In addition to becoming the longest roller coaster at Dollywood, Big Bear Mountain will also be the first attraction at the park to feature on-board audio. The sound system will provide auditory thrills to match the ride's dynamic movements. Though the coaster will offer plenty of excitement, its minimum height requirement is 39 inches, which means that even younger adventurers can come along for this ride.

The coaster will follow a fictional backstory: According to local legend, Big Bear is a massive black bear that has been roaming through Wildwood Grove for as long as anyone can remember. While no one has ever seen him, telltale signs regularly appear in the hills surrounding the Grove. Guests will be invited to join Wildwood Grove's resident wilderness explorer, Ned Oakley, on an adventure to find Big Bear. From his base camp, Oakley will take adventurers for the ride of their lives in his specially outfitted "four-wheeldrive SUVs." (The innovative coaster cars look like tiny off-roading vehicles.)

"The Smokies are all about adventure and going exploring," Dolly Parton said. "I'm excited our guests will be able to head out on their own trip into the Smokies to see if they can find that Big Bear. Whether he's out there or not, I'm sure they'll find a lot of memories along the way that they'll keep forever."

It is anticipated that Big Bear Mountain will open in the spring of 2023. For more information about Big Bear Mountain, visit Dollywood.com/BigBearMountain.

Inglenook Unveils Spectacular 22,000 Square-Foot Winery Cave Rutherford, California

Francis Ford Coppola, the proprietor of Inglenook, is pleased to announce the

estate's new winery cave, distinctive for its complex engineering, size, function and dedication to specificity and customization, has been completed. The new winery will be used for the first time for this year's harvest.

"Most wineries design caves for barrel aging and storage, but we are proud that ours stands out as a 22,000 square-foot production cave where our winemaking team can craft Inglenook's world-renowned, elegant wines. Our new winery cave is so astounding, extensive and spectacular in its visuals, dimensions, and sheer audacity," said Coppola. "Together with my family, I am just the third steward of this legendary estate. Since it was founded in Napa Valley in 1879, Inglenook has been recognized around the world for its innovation and industry leadership. This new production cave is another shining achievement in Inglenook's illustrious 143-year history."

Taking a cue from winemaking facilities from centuries ago, Inglenook's new winery is eco-friendly and does not require heating and cooling, as caves naturally maintain cooler temperatures throughout the year. Novel in its approach and tucked beneath a knoll on the south side of the estate, the cave

Buzz on the Bus

is also safe from the occasional threat of wildfire. No flammable elements were used, and the entire cave is protected by sprinklers.

Because winery caves are not usually equipped for production, adapting Inglenook's new winemaking facility to a cave environment was an intricate engineering challenge that ultimately centralized winemaking operations to optimize production flow. One of the most notable features is the addition of 120 brand new insulated, remotely-controlled stainless steel fermentation tanks – each assigned to a different nuanced block in Inglenook's 235-acre organically farmed vineyard. It is remarkable for a winery that produces fewer than 30,000 cases of wine per year to have 120 dedicated tanks. While perhaps more common in Bordeaux, this is an extraordinary feat in Napa Valley. Thirty miles of electrical and communications wiring run through six miles of conduit in the new cave, underneath more than 1,000 cubic yards of low ${\rm CO}_2$ concrete.

The Inglenook team broke ground on the new winery at the end of 2018. The cave was excavated under a hillside vineyard near the estate's majestic chateau, which was built in 1887. For structural integrity, a diamond-shaped cave was excavated around a solid, central mass – making it similar to a baseball diamond. The "pitcher's mound" is the solid central support, surrounded by a diamond-shaped tunnel that extends from "home plate" at the cave's eastern entrance, north to "first base," west to "second base," south to "third base," and back to home plate, the cave's portal. The portal's look was inspired by the design of the entrance to the caves at Château Lafite Rothschild. During harvest, Inglenook's organically farmed fruit will be carefully sorted by hand in the portal and bottling will occur in that same area later in the year.

An elaborate panel that controls all of the electricity, utilities, Wi-Fi and customized controls for each tank, extends along the wall near "first base," in the northern corner of the diamond-shaped tunnel.



This is also where Inglenook's new cave connects with the winery's pre-existing, 16,000 square-foot cave, which was excavated in 2003 to house the wines as they age in barrel beneath the estate's chateau. A gentle two-foot slope from the back of the winery to the front, plus trench drains throughout, ensure that run-off from the winery and its crush pad will not flow into the estate's storm drains.

Inglenook's founder, Gustave Niebaum, won accolades in Paris and Australia and swiftly garnered international acclaim for Inglenook's wines in 1889, just 10 years after he founded the celebrated Napa Valley estate. That success was continued by his nephew, John Daniel, Jr. Most notably, Daniel's 1941 Cabernet Sauvignon is still widely regarded by wine critics as one of the best wines of the 20th century. Sadly, Daniel sold Inglenook to a corporation in 1964 and for 11 years the people running Inglenook dismantled the original estate and strayed from its previous leaders' commitment to excellence.

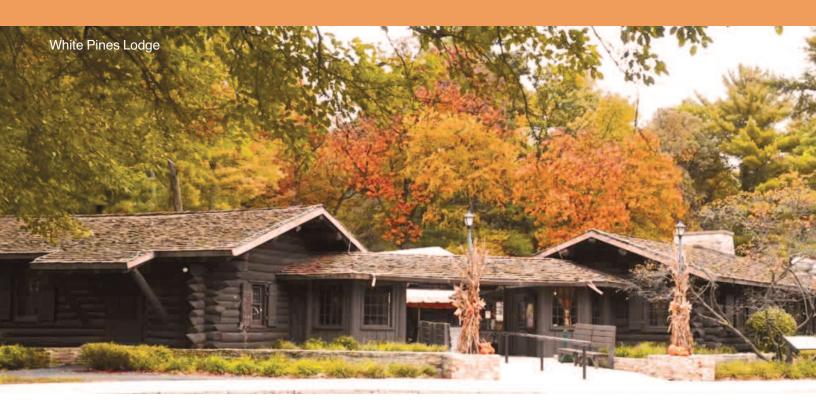
In 1975, Francis Ford Coppola and his wife, Eleanor, were searching for a modest vacation cottage and instead ended up purchasing Gustave Niebaum's home and a portion of the original Inglenook estate. The

Coppolas soon discovered the inherent treasure in what they had acquired and vowed to reunite the vineyards of the original estate and restore Inglenook's esteemed reputation. Over the next 47 years the Coppola family produced their first vintage of Rubicon, Inglenook's premier wine (1978); purchased the estate's iconic chateau (1995); reunited all of the contiguous vineyards of the original Inglenook estate (1995); and bought back Inglenook's name and trademark (2011). \Box



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Places for Summer 2023



Visit Historic White Pines Lodge Mt. Morris, Illinois

White Pines Lodge is the hidden gem of Ogle County. If you have never been to Mount Morris, Illinois, you now have a new reason to plan a trip there. One of life's joys is finding a destination like this less than two hours from Chicago. Tour groups truly enjoy the high-quality entertainment brought to the stage of the Lodge's Pines Dinner Theater. Reservations are now being taken for 2023 matinees which include a delicious hot lunch buffet.

This quaint, 1930's era Lodge is nestled deep in the forest of White Pines State Park. The restaurant is known far and wide for its delicious home-style cuisine, generous portions and friendly staff. Guests enjoy tasty homemade dishes for breakfast, lunch or dinner in this treasured landmark. Whether you are stopping by on a motorcoach or for a family outing, wedding reception, business

retreat or Christmas party, White Pines takes pride in ensuring that every guest who steps through the door has a great experience. Adjacent to the landmark restaurant is a charming and rustic gift shop filled with jewelry, locally-made soaps, nostalgic gift items and souvenirs which will become precious mementos.

As the lush green canopy of summer begins to turn to fall, a walk in the park is a wonderful way to spend a few hours outdoors soaking up the awesome colors of autumn.

Authentic, cozy log cabins provide overnight lodging just a stone's throw from the lodge. Natural beauty abounds with miles of hiking trails that crisscross over bubbling streams and along moss-covered limestone bluffs. This lovely destination is ideal for relaxation, romantic escapes, family outings, corporate retreats, wedding receptions and weekend getaways. Be sure to visit at Christ-

mastime, when you can take a horse-drawn wagon ride, visit with Santa, buy a freshlycut Christmas tree and more.

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

Bar Harbor Historical Society Bar Harbor, Maine

Few destinations offer a more personal immersive historic and cultural experience than the LaRochelle Mansion and Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Operated by the Bar Harbor Historical Society, the 13,000-square foot, waterfront, Colonial Revival-Chateaux styled mansion was built in 1903 for the Bowdoin family (George Bowdoin was the great grandson of Alexander Hamilton) during the peak years of Bar Harbor's Golden Age. It was a time when the wealthy elite and artistically

Guide: Places for Summer 2023

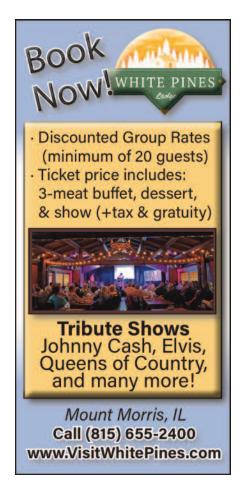
inclined from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and other major cities flocked to Maine to escape the stifling heat and foul effluvia of a chaotic urban landscape. These summer "cottagers," created a grand summer society whose members included a who's who of industrialists, diplomats, socialites and politicians include J.P. Morgan, Joseph Pulitzer, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Acadia National Park co-founder George Dorr. Their passions, interests and fortunes led to the creation of what is today one of America's most popular national parks, a destination and institution whose fortunes are inseparably intertwined with the communities of Mount Desert Island.

LaRochelle is the only mansion of its kind accessible to the public. Referred to by some as the "Downton Abby" of Maine, LaRochelle features more than two floors of exhibits, displays and ornate period rooms bestowed with many of their original furnishings. Marvel at the intricate table setting in the formal dining room, while at the same time experience the sparse yet dignified quarters occupied by the head house-keeper. Featured exhibits profile the area's earliest Native American inhabitants as well as what every aspect of life was like for both summer people and year-round residents. Some include rare and original audio and video recordings; The Great Fire of 1947, which leveled dozens of estates and burned tens of thousands of acres is covered in depth.

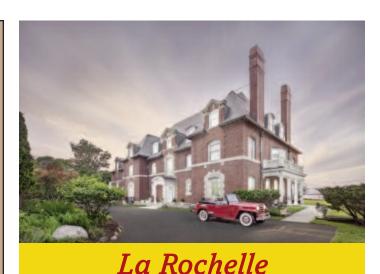


Expansive lawns and gardens, designed by renown landscape gardener Beatrix Farrand, surround the towering brick structure with its hand-cut slate roof.

Combined, the house, contents and exhibits tell the stories of people from every walk of life and station in society who have been drawn to this special place that continues to resonate with, and inspire, as much today as it did more than 100 years ago.



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Home of the Bar Harbor Historical Society

Mansion & Museum

Bar Harbor Historical Society 127 West Street Bar Harbor, ME 04609 207-288-0000 Www.barharborhistorical.org



LaRochelle Mansion and Museum is open seasonally from May through the end of October. Group tours are encouraged and rates vary. There is a small gift shop on premises and designated bus parking and drop-off spots on street at the edge of the property. Find out more by visiting barharborhistorical.org or phoning (207) 288-0000.

New York Power Authority's Visitors Centers New York

Enjoy hours of free "Powerful Fun" at the New York Power Authority's Visitors Centers across the state. They are easy to get to and with features to make all bus tours welcome, including ample free bus parking, driver rest areas, guided tours, dining areas for catered meals and brown bag lunches and handicap-access.

☐ Niagara Power Vista is just minutes from Niagara Falls at the Niagara Power Project in Lewiston, New York. Discover more than 50 interactive energy and STEM-focused exhibits, plus stunning views from 350 feet above the Niagara River Gorge. See the largest single producer of electricity in New York State – the Niagara Power Project – owned and operated by the New York Power Authority, the largest state electric utility in the nation.

☐ Journey through the past, present and future of electricity at the John S. Dyson New York Energy Zone in Utica, adjacent to the Utica

Zoo. At New York State's only learning center for everything electric, you will be immersed in famed cinematographer Douglas Trumbull's 3-D movie *Imagination!* Test your skill as a drone pilot flying over huge transmission towers. Tinker in an old-fashioned electricity lab like Thomas Edison. Learn about the history of electricity.

☐ 21st century power generation meets 19th century living will at the Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center and Historic Lansing Manor. Housed in a 19th-century dairy barn, the visitors center features interactive exhibits demonstrating the unique way the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project makes power. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Lansing Manor is an early American country estate filled with authentic furnishings and a classic example of Federal period architecture.

☐ Enjoy the power generation journey in a dramatic setting at the Frank S. McCullough, Jr. Hawkins Point Visitors Center and Boat Launch at the St. Lawrence-FDR Project. You will find panoramic views of the power project and St. Lawrence River. Interactive exhibits help you understand hydropower and electricity.

An electrifying experience awaits at all four of the New York Power Authority's Visitors Centers. Contact the Visitors Centers to preregister group tours at: Niagara Power Vista – (716) 286-6661; Blenheim-Gilboa – (800) 724-0309; Hawkins Point (Massena) – (315) 764-6679; NY Energy Zone (Utica) – (315) 792-8720.



Small Town America



LaGrange, Georgia

LaGrange, Georgia is one of those charming American towns that has reinvented itself, while still preserving what makes it unique. An hour south of Atlanta, LaGrange is home to one-of-a-kind attractions, a storybook downtown, gorgeous recreation areas, intriguing museums and other cultural attractions, nearby wineries, multiple breweries, a formidable antique

shopping scene and plenty of thrilling activities.

This unexpectedly beautiful and surprisingly sophisticated town is filled with everything a savvy traveler craves – an authentic cultural experience, incredible food and interesting attractions without the hefty price tag of bigger cities.

The Biblical History Center is one of the few places outside Israel where you can see

more than 250 genuine artifacts from the ancient Middle East. On loan from the Israeli Antiquity Authority, the exhibits include pottery, ceramics and tools, as well as a life-size recreation of a biblical village. Walk in the Archeological Replica Garden and you will feel like you are wandering through excavations in Isreal, Malta or Jordan. The center also offers a four-course Biblical meal and a shepherd's bread-making experience.



Feature: Small Town America

When you visit Hills & Dales Estate in LaGrange, you will not only tour one of the finest homes in America today, but you will experience magnificent 130-year old gardens – created in the 1890s by Sarah Ferrell. Tour the magnificent Classic Revival residence of textile magnate Fuller Callaway, and soak in the beauty of manicured terraces, rose bowers, dwarf boxwood parterres, and wooded pathways, which provide spectacular foliage each and every season.

LaGrange's beautiful, historic downtown is filled with local boutiques and antique stores where you can shop for unique clothing, artifacts, vintage pieces and furniture. Visit a family-owned department store selling popular brands that has been an iconic landmark since 1932. Browse a two-story emporium offering an incredible selection of antiques, furniture and home accessories. Explore other local retailers with everything from handmade jewelry and higher-end women's fashions to holiday accessories and delicious gourmet food items.

There are so many photo opportunities to capture and so many stories to be told in LaGrange, Georgia. Bus and group tour planners will find what they need to plan an authentic, one-of-a-kind visit by contacting Visit LaGrange Georgia at (706) 668-5555 or VisitLaGrange.com.

Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum Stevenson, Washington

The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum (CGICM) is in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge in beautiful Stevenson Washington, Skamania County. Stop in and explore the diverse and unique heritage of the first nations that fished and traded on the Columbia River to the first settlers to arrive via the Oregon Trail in search of a new beginning.

Prior to the building of the dams, the portion of the Columbia River bordering today's Skamania County was known for its rapid waters (Skamania is a Chinook term meaning "swift waters"). The Cascade Rapids, seven miles long, historically served as a trading hub for more than a dozen Native American tribes throughout the area, including the Cascade, Chinook, Yakima and Wishram Indians. On display at the museum is a wide variety of petroglyphs, baskets, tools, and jewelry highlighting the creativity and beauty of Skamania's First People.

While visiting CGICM learn about the Legend of Coyote "The Creator" and Tsagaglalal "She Who Watches," a female Indian Chief of the Wishram people frozen in time. Look as well into local village life from fishing, plank homes, to the first Native American Woman in Washington to own land, Kalliah known as "Indian Mary." Also, view a replica of the largest archaeological find in Washington, "Clahclehlah" Village, where one-half a million artifacts were found and preserved.



The museum is dedicated to preserving the stories and culture of the Columbia River Gorge and the incredible people that traveled and forged a path through time and rock. It also features a Rosary



Feature: Small Town America

Collection featured in the *Guinness Book of World Records*; a 1917 Curtiss Bi-Plane, as well as Russian and Japanese heritage. Learn how Skamania County became Washington's first "Sasquatch Refuge," and why 1,000s of couples have anxiously runn to Stevenson to tie the knot.

The Museum is open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for more information/admission cost go to columbiagorge.org. Be on the lookout for CGICM's Mascot "Gifford P. Twiggs," their friendly Sasquatch, as you dive into the rich history, geology, and culture of the Columbia River Gorge – welcome to Small Town USA.

Moving?

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Hístorical Attractions and Museums

Billy Graham Library Charlotte, North Carolina

During nearly 80 years of ministry, Billy Graham shared a message of hope with more than 215 million people in live audiences across 185 countries and territories. Hundreds of millions more have been reached through television, video, film and webcasts. Soon, visitors to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, North Carolina, will hear that same message – for many decades to come – through the Library's newly refreshed *Journey of Faith* tour.

"The Library is built on the reflection of a strong past, but now an exciting future.

It's being renewed for a new generation," said David Bruce, executive vice president of the Billy Graham Library and the Billy Graham Archive and Research Center.

Since 2007, more than 1.7 million people have visited the Library. Now, 15 years later, *The Journey of Faith* tour will incorporate multimedia enhancements, updated exhibits and new technology. Billy Graham's story will come alive to visitors – from his public life as a global preacher and counselor to world leaders, to his private life with his family. For instance, a replica of the Graham's living room will be featured on the tour, giving guests a glimpse into the

family's home life in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

In addition to *The Journey of Faith* updates, the Library will also unveil a new event space, updates to the Graham Brothers Dairy Bar and an expanded selection in Ruth's Attic bookstore.

Adjacent to the Library, a newly-constructed Archive and Research Center will open in 2022. This state-of-the-art building will house sermon notes, photos, videos, audio and correspondence with global leaders. Those who want to explore the historical details of Billy Graham's time-

Main Street USA display at the Billy Graham Library

REOPENING SOON: COMING SUMMER 2022

Experience it for yourself.



Bring your group to see a powerful story of hope unfold at the Billy Graham Library. You'll see exciting changes including multimedia enhancements, updated exhibits, and new technology. 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





...with architecture out of the illustrated scenes of storybooks...lights outlining the shapes of nature...horse-drawn carriages decorating the streets. A snowglobe town that's kissed by frosted crystals of white, enveloping all with the seasonal spirit.

You are not in Kansas anymore, and there is no need to pinch yourself because if you have woken up in Frankenmuth, Michigan you are most definitely living this dream. Where character and charm meet hospitality and authenticity is where you will find the heart of Michigan's Little Bavaria. This characterized destination reaches far beyond your bucket list expectations.

REINDEER, AN ICE RINK, AND CHRISTMAS, OH MY!

The Christmas magic really begins to sparkle in mid-November when the lights illuminate the silhouettes of downtown's Bavarian buildings. And it only snowballs from there...

LIGHT UP YOUR CHRISTMAS CHEER

With over 150 trees wrapped in twinkling lights, your walk downtown is sure to glow. And glow it will, right on over to the center of Little Bavaria, where you will be welcomed to sing along to a 40-foot Christmas tree lit with 23,000 synchronized lights that dance throughout the sky to the sounds of Christmas bliss. Show off your figure skating skills under the lights of the starry night at the Frankenmuth Ice Rink . And carry on merrily with a 'lit' evening drive under the Palmer Gateway Arch, and down twinkling Christmas Lane to see the Silent Night Memorial Chapel, an exact replica of the chapel in Oberndorf, Austria where the hymn "Silent Night" was first sung in 1818.

EMBARK ON AN ELF SHOPPING SPREE

A carriage ride through the heart of Little Bavaria is a great chance to scope out a new perspective and see the unique boutiques that house your future treasures and goodies. Feel like Santa's little elf by shopping at River Place, downtown, or at the Frankenmuth Farmers Market's traditional German ChristKindlMarkt, an outdoor market showcasing locally made trinkets, gifts, baked goods, and more.

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH OODLES OF ORNAMENTS IN BRONNER'S

CHRISTmas wonderland, the world's largest Christmas store! Remember it all with Frankenmuth's seasonal Stop & Snap challenge that captures your memories in the click of a pic!

SAVOR THE HOLIDAY FLAVOR

Feasting with your friends and family at the dinner table and beyond is a must. Annually serving over 250,000 pounds of locally grown squash between Zehnder's and Bavarian Inn Restaurants, this featured seasonal veggie, might just become a holiday favorite. Right after the world-famous chicken dinners, of course! Add a cherry on top of your dining experience with the sweetest of treats from Zak & Mac's, the Frankenmuth Fudge and Taffy Kitchens, Rau's Country Store, and SugarHigh Bakery. Cheers it off with specialty drinks from local coffee shops, Harvest, Kaffee Haus, or N'Orlin's Beignets & Coffee.

The Frankenmuth Christmas Experience is an opportunity to celebrate the real reason for the season with the ones you love most. So come home for the holidays, and by home we mean Frankenmuth. Built on tradition. Made for Memories.





Zehnder's is all lit up with Christmas finery for the season!



Frankenmuth's spectacular musical tree show runs all day!



Take a stroll across the Holz Brücke covered bridge to discover more shopping!



Christmas shopping is magical in Frankenmuth!



For more information on group tour reservations and Christmas activities, please contact the Frankenmuth Convention & Visitors Bureau:

989-652-6106 | GROUPSALES@FRANKENMUTH.ORG

Guide: Historical Attractions & Museums

tested methods of evangelism will be able to do so within this new facility.

The Billy Graham Library has received accolades from various groups including being named #1 attraction in Charlotte and Certificate of Excellence recipient from TripAdvisor; "Top 10 Religious Attractions" by Religious Planning Guide; and "Best of the Best" from the American Bus Association.

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 can change everything. More information, as well as special event listings and group booking details are available at BillyGrahamLibrary.org.

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Canyon, Texas

You can enjoy a great full itinerary in Canyon from the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum to the TEXAS Outdoor Musical to many wonderful shops and restaurants in between. You will be welcomed with history and hospitality.

Contact Stephanie Price at sprice@wtamu.edu to help build your trip or visit Texas-show.com to order all your discounted group tickets in one place.

George H.W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum West College Station, Texas

George H.W. Bush had already garnered an impressive list of titles before his election



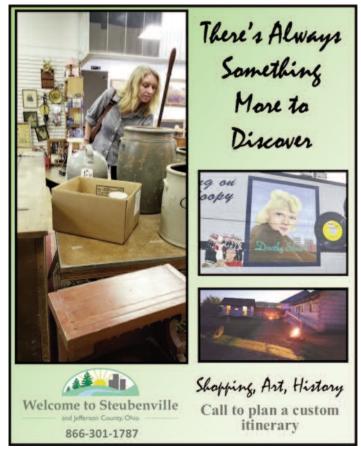


as the nation's 41st President. Bush served as a U.S. Congressman, Ambassador to the

United Nations, Republican Party chairman, Chief Liaison to China, Director of the Central









Guide: Historical Attractions & Museums

Intelligence Agency and Vice President. This illustrious past, his term as president, his military service during World War II and his successful business career are detailed throughout the exhibitions and archives of the Bush Library and Museum.

Museum highlights include actual film footage of Bush's submarine rescue after his plane was shot down over the island of Chichi Jima in September 1944; an interactive study of the timeline leading up to the Gulf War; examples of gifts given to President Bush when he met with foreign heads of state; replicas of both the Oval Office and the office at Camp David and much more. The museum also features temporary exhibits on a variety of topics, providing repeat guests a new experience every time.

The Bush Library and Museum is excited to welcome *Mandela: The Official Exhibition*, detailing the life of one of the world's most famous freedom fighters. The epic story of Nelson Mandela is told in a series of experiential galleries, from his rural childhood home through years of turbulent struggle against the apartheid regime, to his eventual vindication and final years as South Africa's first democratically-elected president. The exhibition is open now through April 23, 2023.

The Bush Center grounds have much to offer. Visitors can view the sculpture "The Day the Wall Came Down," a composition of five bronze horses leaping over a reproduction of Berlin Wall rubble, signifying the long-awaited freedom of the East German people. In the center of the plaza is a statue of George Bush, which is eight feet tall and composed of granite and bronze. The Barbara Bush Rose Gardens and the Presidential Pond provide an area to relax and reflect, and have been the backdrop for countless marriage proposals, family and group photos, picnics and peaceful strolls. Fishing is allowed in the pond, provided it is catch-and-release with barbless hooks only.

For more information, visit Bush41.org.

Plymouth County, Massachusetts

From the *Mayflower* to air-conditioned motorcoaches, groups have been making the pilgrimage to Plymouth since 1620.

Many of those same qualities that drew the Pilgrims to settle in what was the vacant Wampanoag village of Patuxet continue to attract visitors to the Plymouth area more than 400 years later. Everything from beautiful coastal landscapes and picturesque waterfront areas to backroads blanketed with cranberries, pine trees and

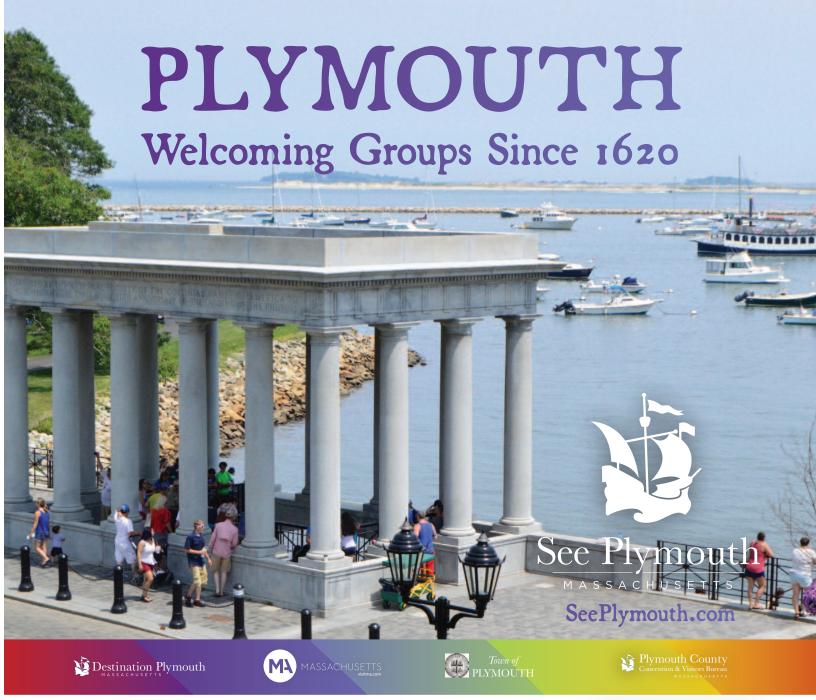
countless ponds and lakes. Its known worldwide as the landing place of the *Mayflower*, but visitors flock to Plymouth County for the history and so much more. Discover the local charm and well-preserved historical attractions that beckon visitors from all around the world.

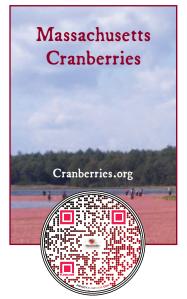
It is no surprise that Plymouth County is home to some of the most renowned monuments and museums including Pilgrim Hall Museum (America's oldest continuously operated public museum), the aweinspiring National Monument to the Forefathers, Plimoth Patuxet Museums, *Mayflower II*, Fuller Craft Museum and of course, Plymouth Rock.

From familiar hotel brands ready to welcome you to luxury resorts ready to pamper you, Plymouth boasts some of the most amazing hotels and accommodations. Whether it is a spa resort, quaint inn or a centrally located waterfront hotel, you will find the perfect place to stay in Plymouth.















Guide: Historical Attractions & Museums

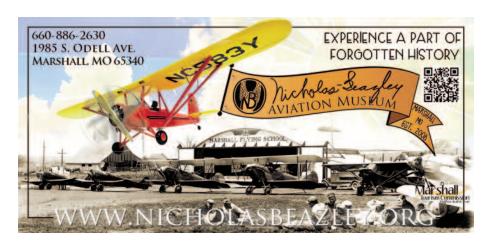
At the edge of Plymouth County sits historic Quincy, Massachusetts, the birthplace of the second and sixth U.S. Presidents, John Adams and son, John Quincy Adams. Quincy is home to the Adams National Park, the Adams Crypt and gorgeous Marina Bay.

Cranberries have been cultivated for more than 200 years throughout southeastern Massachusetts. Plymouth County has some of the top growers in the country. Cranberries are beautifully ubiquitous in much of the region and their unique harvest season draws visitors from all over the world each fall.

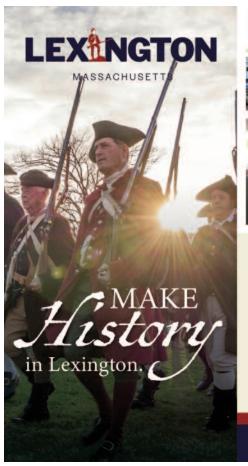
Visit SeePlymouth.com for more tips on group tour planning, events to attend, lodging and so much more so you can focus on your memorable trip to America's Hometown and Plymouth County.



Historic train excursions through the St. Croix Valley from Osceola, WI. Groups and charters welcome. 651-291-0074 | barb@trainride.org www.trainride.org

















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Shopping, Dining & Lodging



Atlantic City New Jersey

Atlantic City is a hidden gem along the New Jersey shoreline, offering visitors much more than a seaside destination. Atlantic City started as a health resort, the tradition today with our clean, safe, and healthy protocols is continued today.

Just a short drive away. The seaside destination is the perfect location for visitors to travel to in the comfort of a car or motorcoach. Atlantic City is located within a few hours drive of nearly one-third of the nation's population and is easily accessible from many cities along the Northeast.

From top-notch dining experiences, luxury hotel accommodations, spectacular entertainment and more, Atlantic City is the perfect destination for a fun and safe getaway. Looking to relax and recharge? Atlantic City has the answer. Pamper yourself at one of our world-class spas where you will be taken on a 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 are the hottest venues in town. From the Boardwalk to the Marina District, fans cans 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. Atlantic City's Tanger Outlets The Walk on Michigan and Atlantic Avenues feature more than 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.

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 family and friends, Atlantic City offers a host of happy hour specials suitable for all budgets. Sip, sample, and let the conversations flow.

Guide: Shopping, Dining & Lodging

Complete Atlantic City information and knowledgeable staff are available to assist you. For more information, visit touratlanticcity.com.

Epworth by the Sea St. Simons, Georgia

Stay at the hidden gem of the Golden Isles, Epworth By The Sea, on St. Simons Island, Georgia. Let it be your home away from home while exploring the rich history and experiencing the natural wonder of Georgia's barrier islands. The spacious accommodations have recently been renovated and the river view rooms offer balconies perfect for enjoying the gorgeous sunset.

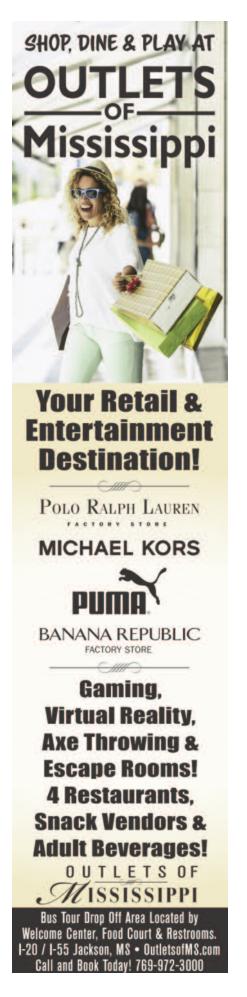
Great local dining and a variety of activities await. Group rates are available to accommodate any size group. Visit epworthbythesea.org for more information and phone group reservations at (912) 638-8688 to book your bus tour today.

Crawford County, Pennsylvania

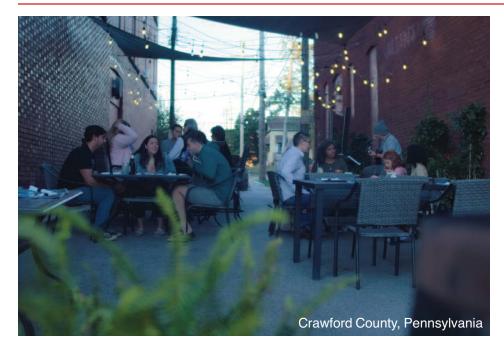
Crawford County offers a variety of dining options for every meal of the day. Need family-friendly and affordable comfort food? Crawford County has it. A BBQ lunch you will rave about for months to come. You have options here. Perhaps a bite to satisfy a global palate? It is all right here. Whether you know what you like 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 can not 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 loca-





Guide: Shopping, Dining & Lodging



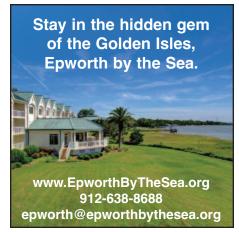
tions, a home away from home in the Air B'nBs, or cozy historical say in the adorable bed and breakfasts.

With several intimate and innovative downtown areas, Crawford County is burst-

ing 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.





Student & Senior Tours



Anderson/Madison County Anderson, Indiana

by Cheryl Shank

The moment you enter the Historic Paramount Theatre you are taken back to a time when theaters were not just a big room with a screen, you were in a palace. From the opening on August 20, 1929, to present day, walking across the terra cotta façade of the lobby of handset tiles into the auditorium, you are transported to a Spanish Villa at nightfall. The ceiling is alight with twinkling stars set against a dark blue sky with wispy clouds seemingly moving across the expanse. Wrought iron gates with ornate twists and turns, open on to statues of Venus and Hebe, the Goddess of Youth, swirled columns line the walls and sconces with

lanterns light your way along the side aisles. You are transported.

Begun in 1928 and completed in 1929 as an Eberson atmospheric theater, the Paramount was one of 155. Meant to be seven stories with an adjoining hotel, the Depression altered the plans and the size. Another very special focal point of the theater is its Grand Page Organ, one of only three remaining in their original theater installations. Now used as a concert and event venue, one can experience the new with the old. The staff of the Paramount welcomes tour buses and is honored to share this historical gem with all who come.

Contact andersonparamount.com or phone (765) 642-1234.

No trip to Anderson and Madison County is complete without a stop at Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing and Casino. Live Standardbred Racing begins at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday through October and Thursday through Saturday through December 10. The casino is always open, so come anytime for exciting gaming fun. While in town, let Uranus Fudge Factory pack a pound of their fabulous fudge and enjoy the merry mayhem while visiting their shop. A classic vintage club experience awaits you when you dine at The Edge. Open Tuesdays through Sundays for lunch and dinner, they will not disappoint. Finish your days' travels with a restful night at Best Western Plus or the Holiday Inn Express.

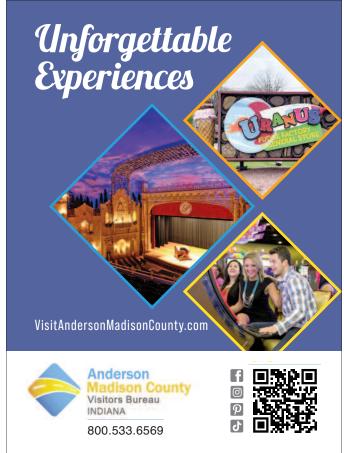
View visitandersonmadisoncounty.com for more details.

Guide: Student & Senior Tours

Prestonburg Tourism Prestonburg, Kentucky

Looking for a taste of the West in the Southeast? Prestonsburg is the perfect mountain destination for those looking for fresh tours that deliver big experiences. While Kentucky is often associated with bourbon and horses, head east and discover a world of mountains, moonshine, music and magical creatures. The region of Prestonsburg is home to the second largest elk population in America, which your







Guide: Student & Senior Tours

group can witness and learn the calls. Did you know elk often weigh around 700 pounds. These amazing sightings are at their peak during fall foliage.

"We believe every client should receive an experience completely unique to their motorcoach and one that guests couldn't have any other way than with a bus tour. That's what separates group tours from every type of travel planning," says Prestonsburg Tourism's Executive Director Samantha Johnson.

While Nashville is often referred to as the birthplace of country music, eastern Kentucky is the birthplace of country music legends. With iconic names like Loretta Lynn, Chris Stapleton, The Judds and more all hailing from the hills and hollers along U.S. 23, the corridor became known as the Country Music Highway. Here, groups tour Lynn's famous original Butcher Holler cabin. Then, guests will be mesmerized by a private tour and performance at the Mountain Arts Center, where Lynn performed to sold-out crowds. In Prestonsburg, it is about seeing, 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.

Second Saturday in July

Sisters
Outdoor
Quilt
Show

SISTERS, OREGON • SOQS.OFG • SINCE 1975

Prestonsburg attractions are truly remarkable, but it is the locals that have guests falling in love and ready to return again and again. That is established with the free 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.

Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show

Sisters, Oregon

Snuggled by The Three Sisters Mountains, Sisters, Oregon brings coziness and art to a new level with the renowned Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show (SOQS). Seated at the base of the Cascade Mountains and the edge of the Deschutes National Forest, Sisters is the premiere destination for artists, outdoors enthusiasts and families.

Held annually on the second Saturday in July, the SOQS is the largest outdoor quilt show in the world. More than 1,200 quilts from around the world are on display. Every year, 10,000 visitors from 23 countries and all 50 states flock to this small town for this one-day event. A walk down the charming Old West streets of Sisters will heighten visitors' senses. From the scent of fresh coffee and cinnamon rolls to the laughter and the admiration heard from guests viewing

exhibitors' handiwork, this quilt show enlivens visitors.

The week prior to the show, Quilt Week, master quilt makers teach classes. Their quilts are later displayed at the annual show. *Show-and-Tell* exhibits house hundreds of quilts, allowing makers and viewers a chance to meet. Quilt artists range in age from five to 94 years and come from all over the world.

Many of the quilts may be purchased with a portion of the proceeds supporting SOQS, the non-profit organization producing this free quilt show and fiber-arts activities year-round. The organization's mission is to educate the public about the art, skill and heritage of traditional and contemporary quilts and fiber arts. Through this show and more, the organization enriches the cultural vitality of Sisters and central Oregon.

The show began in July 1975 when founder Jean Wells Keenan hung a dozen quilts made by her students outside her quilt shop one Saturday. At that time, there was one quilt shop in Sisters. Forty-four years later, central Oregon boasts 10 shops and a dozen active quilt guilds. The show is stronger than ever.

With natural wonders in all directions and more than 100 quilt shops in the state of Oregon, SOQS fulfills the bucket list of quilters from around the world. For more information, phone SOQS at (541) 549-0989.



20 TIPS FOR BUS TOUR PLANNERS

by Paulette Isoldi

20 Tips for Bus Tour Operators in a Post-COVID World

We all know that this is a different world we are living in since before COVID. We can not be careful enough regarding the safety of our employees and all who travel with us. We hope these tips will help you to survive and prosper.

- 1. COVID Regulations. Every state and individual areas have different expectations and parameters regarding COVID. You **must** make yourself aware of them and keep updated on changing norms. This would include not only your point of embarkation, but also any place you might visit on a trip. You can call the DHEC Care Line at (855) 472-3432 between 8 a.m.a nd 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Messages left after hours and on Saturdays and Sundays will be returned.
- **2. Cancellation Policy.** Make sure you have a cancellation policy in place, especially regarding COVID. This has always been important, but now more than ever. If there is another outbreak, who makes the decision regarding cancellation, and what about refunds (bus company, hotels, attractions, restaurants) both for yourself and the clients?
- **3. Bus Company Policies.** When booking with a bus company, make sure you are aware of their COVID policies. How clean do they keep their buses, including the baggage compartments? Are they disinfected after each group?

- **4. Vaccinations?** Will you require vaccinations or not? If not, will you require some proof of passenger health? Clients **must** sign a waiver absolving you of all liability in case COVID is encountered. Check with your lawyer about this document and make sure it is valid and enforceable. Will you require a COVID test of clients before embarkation? Right now this does not seem to be necessary, but anything could change at any time.
- **5. Testing Positive.** Have in place what you will do if a person or persons contract COVID or show signs of COVID while you are on your trip. I would recommend you have COVID test kits with you free from the federal government. Do you cancel or go ahead? What medical facilities are nearby? Can you isolate these people on the bus or do you send them home?
- **6. Insurance.** Make insurance **mandatory** and make sure it covers COVID. Be sure you are using a reputable insurance company. If a person does get sick, they might need to be sent home. Make sure they get insurance that covers those costs. Know in advance how to do this.
- **7. Seating.** On booking a trip, seating should be permanent and on a first-come, first-served basis. In the past this might not have been necessary, but in today's world it is. This cuts down on germs spreading from a seat being used by different people, it allows people to keep their seat as clean as they feel necessary, and a great side benefit it gets people

to book ASAP. The actual seat number should be given out at this time.

- **8. COVID Gift Bag.** Give a "COVID Gift Bag." This should include all of the following: sanitary wipes, antiseptic spray, a mask and gloves. Also, anything else you feel is necessary.
- **9. Onboard Supplies.** Make sure your basic medical supplies include throat cough drops with zinc.
- **10. Restroom Cleanliness.** If using the bus bathroom, try to make sure that people take some wipes and use them before leaving the area.
- **11. Snacks.** If you give out snacks and what is a trip without snacks have them individually packaged.
- **12. Garbage Bags.** Give out garbage bags to each client. This keeps the bus clean with minimal detritus. A clean bus is a safer bus.
- **13. Hand Washing.** Before disembarking at any rest stops, remind people to wash their hands thoroughly this means 20 seconds of washing with soap and warm water. While people are off the bus, you might want to wipe areas of constant contact, such as hand rails getting on and off.
- **14. Safety Measures.** Before going into an attraction, make sure people are aware of any safety measures that are in place.
- **15. Hotel Cleanliness and Amenities.** If you are using a hotel, especially for more than one night, make sure people are aware of whether or not the room will be cleaned

each day and what amenities will be provided. I would strongly urge that this be made part of pre-trip instructions. If you do nothing else for pre-trip instructions, this is a must.

16. Restaurant Suggestions. When booking a restaurant, find out if they have any COVID criteria in place. Try to make sure the group is seated together to cut down on interaction with other people who are possible transmitters of germs. If going to a buffet, try to be there when it opens and make sure people use gloves when they are getting their food. If a particular dish looks like it has been compromised, tell them to avoid it.

17. Buying Open Seats. About one or two weeks before the trip, if you have any seats open, allow people to buy their adjoining seat at a cost-based rate. This gives those people who are leery about the trip because they do not know who they might be sitting next to, to travel with peace of mind. You might even consider putting aside a certain number of seats on each trip, just for this purpose.

18. Pre-Trip Information Sheet. Make sure you send out a pre-trip instruction sheet with everything from the previous trips that people will need to know ahead of time. The more you can tell your client what to expect, the better off you are. Of course, there are those people who never read anything you send them, or if they do, they do not remember any of it. That is why every step along the way, repeat important instructions.

19. Be Prepared for the Unexpected.

This has always been true in this business, but now more than ever you need to be vigilant and ready for anything. Make sure the guide/tour escort has emergency numbers of whom to contact if there is an emergency regarding COVID, or anything else. They need to know who will make decisions on whether or not to send someone home, cancel the trip or who to deal with if something happens.

20. Keep a Positive Attitude. Have as much of a positive attitude as possible. If you

are prepared for all contingencies, I believe they are less likely to happen and if they do, you know what to do.

May you and your clients be safe, happy and healthy. Have wonderful trips and make a lot of money.

If you want to give any feedback on this article or make suggestions for future articles, please e-mail Paulette Isoldi, Paul-Marc Tours at paul-marc@verizon.net.

Paulette Isoldi has been in the travel industry since 1974. She and her husband started their own tour company in 1992 called Paul-Marc Tours. Since then, they have taken people to visit 41 states and many different countries. Their specialties are reunion groups, student groups and "foodies." Please feel free to send feedback and suggestions to paul-marc@verizon.net. Suggestions on how to get more people visiting bustoursmagazine.com Web site and getting locations to invite bus tours are welcome.

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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.

November 13-16, 2022. **Ontario Motor Coach Association (OMCA)** Marketplace. Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

November 13-16, 2022. NTA Travel Exchange. Reno Tahoe, Nevada.

January 12-16, 2023. UMA Motorcoach Expo 2023. Orlando, Florida. For more information view motorcoachexpo.com.

February 2-8, 2023. American Bus Association Marketplace 2023. Detroit, Michigan.

March 10-12, 2023. Heartland **Travel Showcase.** Cincinnati Region. For more information view heartlandtravelshowcase.com.

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