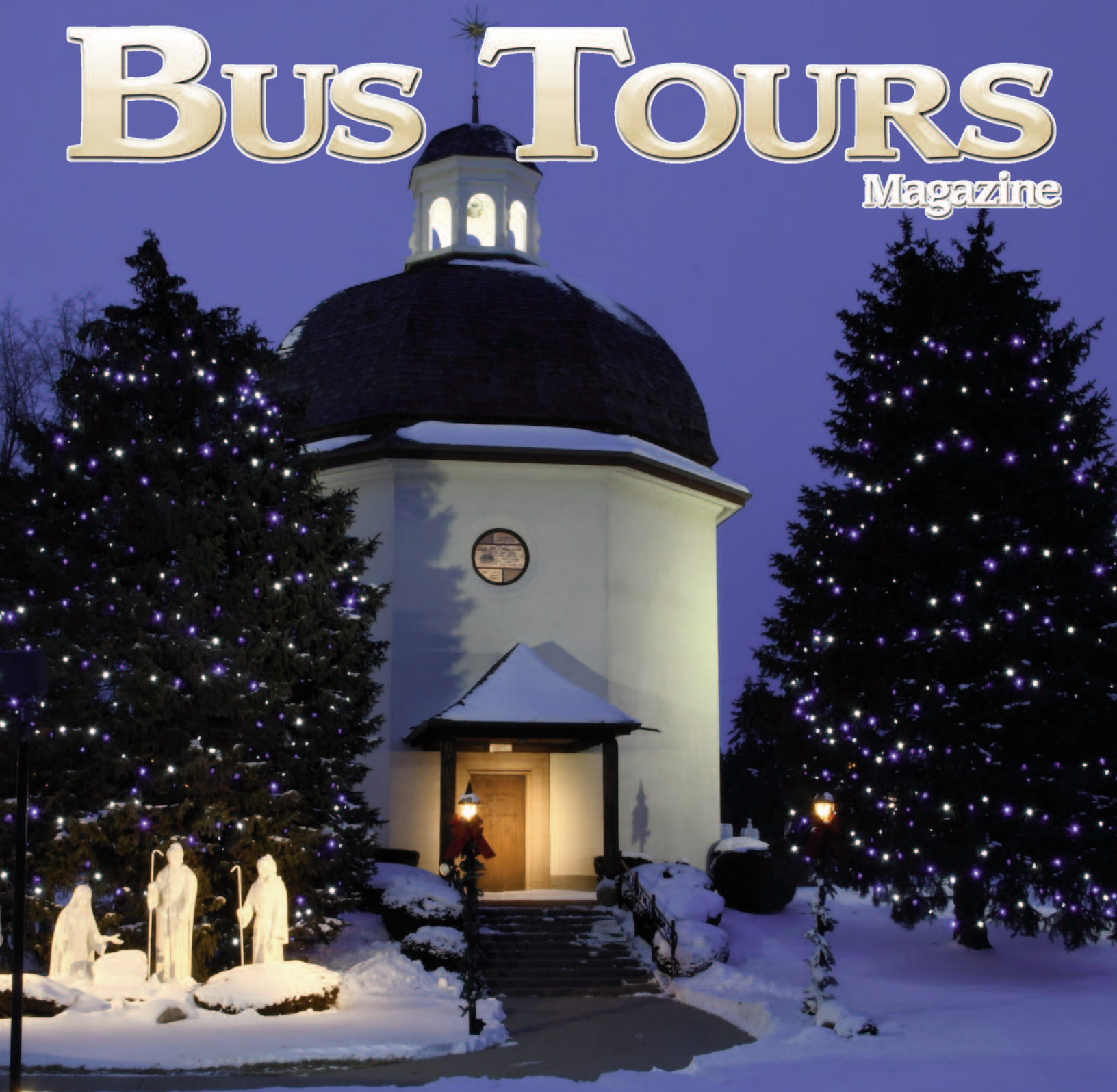


BUS TOURS

Magazine



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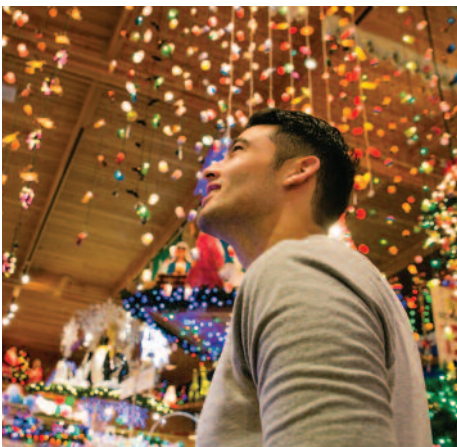
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COVER PHOTO

Bronner's Silent Night Memorial Chapel, a 56-foot-tall landmark, is nestled on the southern tip of Bronner's 27 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds. It is a replica of the original chapel in Oberndorf/Salzburg, Austria, which marks the site where "Silent Night" was first sung on Christmas Eve in 1818. Bronner's chapel is open daily during store hours for visitation and meditation. There is no charge for admission. FRANKENMUTH CVB.

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The editorial staff at BUS TOURS MAGAZINE are always looking for news items and editorial material on places that want bus tour groups to stop. Please phone (815) 946-2341 or send material to editorial@busmag.com.

Buzz on the Bus

News and notes for bus tour planners

Bringle's Smoking Oasis

Nashville, Tennessee

On your next tour, consider Carey Bringle of Peg Leg Porker, and Bringle's Smoking Oasis (Bringle's newest concept that opened late last year).

Nashville's global award-winning pitmaster (25+ years grilling), Bringle has been featured in *Southern Living's* Great American BBQ Bucket List, has placed six times at the iconic Memphis in May World BBQ Championship and has a new book, *BBQ for Dummies*.

Bringle says, "I was raised on iconic west Tennessee barbecue where thick smoke, a spicy rub and a trusty smoker is 'the secret sauce.' Peg Leg Porker is known for its playful side dishes and its juicy, smoked-to-perfection pork ribs drenched with a spicy dry rub after they are cooked."

Peg Leg Porker is a safely-distanced, 10,000+ square-foot establishment and is open Monday through Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The restaurant features award-winning BBQ in Nashville's Gulch neighborhood at 903 Gleaves Street. For more information, visit peglegporker.com.

Pitmaster and Nashville native Bringle, has been competing in barbecue contests for more than 25 years, and has the blue ribbons to prove it. With a deep Southern background built around family values and valuing a good meal, Bringle founded Peg Leg Porker in 2013.

Peg Leg Porker is named after Bringle himself and his greatest win, a cancer battle that he triumphed at the age of 17. With this triumph, though, Bringle lost his leg, which led him to create a name while adding more fire to his passion for success. Upon opening its doors in the heart of Nashville, Peg Leg Porker was quickly named one of the hottest BBQ Joints in the country by Food Network, The Travel Channel, BBC, *Southern Living*, *Texas Monthly*, *GQ*, *Garden* and *Gun* magazines and many more.



Bringle's Smoking Oasis

Gaylord Rockies Resort

& Convention Center

Aurora, Colorado

A \$22 million exterior enhancement project is underway at Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center. Scheduled to be complete in January 2023, the project showcases an elevated arrival experience, a new games lawn, enhancements to the Grand Lodge lawn and the addition of terraces to Old Hickory Steakhouse and Mountain Pass Sports Bar. The project also features more than 1,500 native and

adaptive trees, 40,000 shrubs, groundcovers, perennials, and five acres of low water-use native grass mixes.

"The enhancements will layer in a richness to the resort and create a more genuine lodge experience for our guests," said Suzy Hart, General Manager of the 1,501-room resort. "While we are focused on the exterior enhancements and the new dining terraces in 2022, there are plans for future development of the 130 acres that surround the resort. We are currently in the design phase on what those 130 acres will look like, but it will complement the community and the

Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center



resort with retail, dining, entertainment venues and open spaces that bring people together,” she added.

Guests will experience an elevated arrival experience featuring clusters of mature pine trees and drought resistant native plants and shrubs lining the entry drive. In front of the main entrance, a 9,000-square foot turf lawn will feature custom benches where guests can sit and watch the sun rise to welcome the day.

The Grand Lodge Lawn will provide an expansive space for guests to enjoy the beautiful Colorado outdoors. A large freestanding double-fireplace structure, with two nine-foot-wide hearths, will be a showcase feature on the lawn where resort-style seating spaces will allow guests to relax and enjoy the majestic sunsets over the Rocky Mountains. The event lawn will also feature a 10,000-square-foot artificial turf area, four fire pits and two natural boulder fire features. Adjacent to the Grand Lodge lawn will be a games lawn featuring artificial turf, family-friendly games such as bocce ball, corn hole and giant

chess, as well as three firepits where guests can roast s’mores.

The Old Hickory Steakhouse Terrace will add an additional 96 seats to the restaurant. An elegant fireplace with an eight-foot-wide hearth will provide added warmth to the 2,600-square-foot space. The Mountain Pass Terrace will seat 108 guests and will feature a massive double-sided fireplace featuring a 10-foot-wide hearth where guests can gather and enjoy awe-inspiring views of three of Colorado’s Fourteeners - Pikes Peak, Longs Peak and Mount Evans.

Located minutes from both Denver International Airport and Downtown Denver, Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center opened late 2018. The resort destination features 1,501 guest rooms, including 114 well-appointed suites and more than 517,000 square feet of meeting and convention space.

As a gateway to the Rocky Mountains, Gaylord Rockies offers easy access to Denver attractions and Rocky Mountain adventures, complete with eight dining options; a luxurious spa and salon; indoor and outdoor pool,

lazy river; a 75-foot TV in Mountain Pass Sports Bar; and picture-perfect sunset views of the mountains. Learn more at GaylordRockies.com.

**Dismals Canyon
Phil Campbell, Alabama**

Tucked away near the tiny town of Phil Campbell, Alabama, is a natural wonder like no other – Dismals Canyon. Designated as a National Natural Landmarks Program by the U.S. Department of Interior, the canyon is a privately-owned natural terrain trail. Deep in the canyon is the grandeur that got it classified as a National Natural Landmark. Many native plant life species such as Hemlock, Tulip Poplar, Sweetgum and Big Leaf Magnolia line the floor of the canyon making it a biological and geological gem. In fact, botanists have identified more than 350 exotic flora on the canyon’s floor.

Dismals Canyon also has become famously known for its Dismalites, a select species of “glowworms” that are kin to the New Zealand glowworms. These glowworms

Buzz on the Bus

have to have a special habitat to survive in and are unique to this part of the South. These species glow green and blue in order to attract food. They have been classified as *Orfelia Fultoni* and what makes them unique to this area is the vast number of them that can be found on the canyon wall.

While exploring the area, make sure you take it all in, especially at night when you can not tell the difference between where the glowworms illuminate and the stars begin.

The 1.5-mile hiking trail follows along the stream with boulders, waterfalls, mossy green ferns, natural bridges and giant trees. The area was a sanctuary to many Native American tribes such as the Cherokee, Paleo and Chickasaw. Visitors also will have the opportunity to explore the Temple Cave, a bluff that was home to the Paleoamericans.

This old-fashioned general store has candy, t-shirts, Native American goods,



Dismals Canyon

gifts and postcards visitors can purchase to remember their time at Dismals Canyon. The Soda Fountain is known for its

sandwiches, specialty drinks, ice cream and milkshakes. Many visitors work up an appetite after exploring the canyon floor. □

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Gaming

With thousands of square feet of meeting space, Rocky Gap is a popular destination for private events. In addition to four 600-square-foot meeting rooms; an executive boardroom; and a private dining room, accommodating up to 24 guests; Rocky Gap offers outdoor events at the Allegheny Event Center; the Lakeside Reception Area, Lakeside Terrace and Golfview Pavilion.

Rocky Gap's exceptional dining includes the resort's new high-end restaurant, Lakeside

Rocky Gap Casino Resort Flintstone, Maryland

Rocky Gap Casino Resort, a AAA, Four-Diamond hotel nestled in the Appalachian Mountains with lakeside views, offers luxurious amenities, an award-winning golf course, restaurants for every occasion, adventurous activities, a relaxing spa and a high-energy casino all set to the natural beauty of Rocky Gap State Park. Located about two hours from Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Pittsburgh, Rocky Gap offers a picturesque retreat for a romantic getaway, corporate event or bus tour group.

Grille. Overlooking the lake, Lakeside Grille specializes in steaks, chops and fish and features a curated wine list—plus, its crowd-pleasing Maryland crab cakes. Other restaurants include Signatures Bar & Grill, which offers sports viewing, burgers, pizzas, beer and more in a clubhouse atmosphere; and Lobby Lounge + Café, a popular spot for pastries, coffee and sandwiches, as well as a full-service bar. On the Rocks, the resort's biggest full-service bar, serves specialty cocktails and a wide selection of beers on tap.

Gaming continued on page 22

BUS TOURS WELCOME

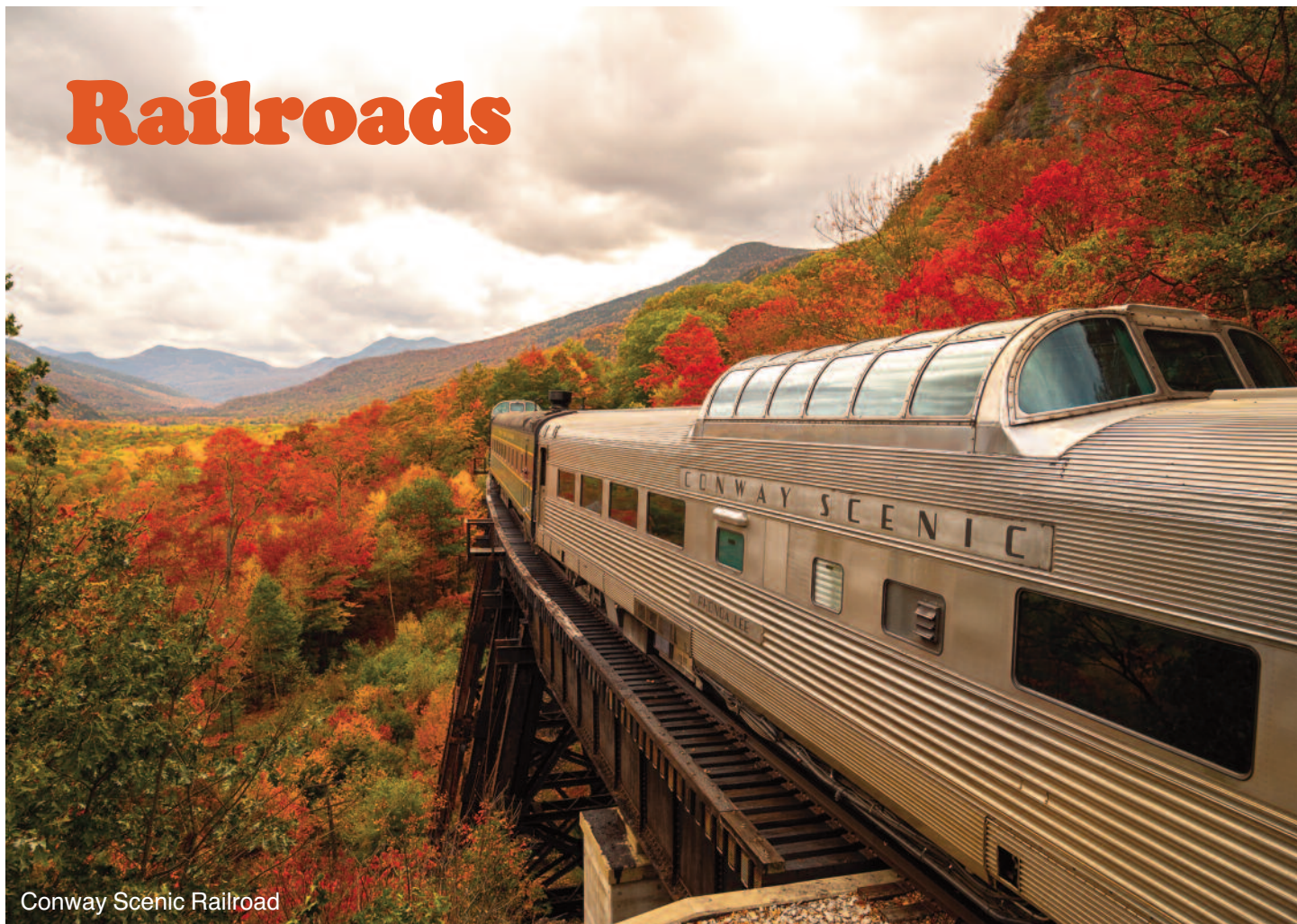
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Railroads



Conway Scenic Railroad

Conway Scenic Railroad

by Brian Solomon

If you have enjoyed a visit to New Hampshire's Conway Scenic Railroad, you will love it even more on your next visit! The railroad has been making improvements. During the 2022 season, trackwork along most of the routes has made for a smoother ride, and in September the railroad debuted its latest luxury railcar, the beautiful *Leslie Ann*. This deluxe Budd Vista dome was built in the early 1950s for Northern Pacific and until 2019 had worked for the Orford Express dinner train in Quebec. It now provides platinum-class service on Conway Scenic's *Mountaineer* that runs seasonally from North Conway over Crawford Notch. *Leslie Ann* is the third Vista Dome in the railroad's growing fleet of vintage railcars.

Conway Scenic has one of the most diverse excursion offerings. Spring, summer

and fall the railroad operates three distinct rides, each with various options for visitors.

The most popular ride is its classic one-hour trip down the old Boston & Maine Conway Branch. This short ride is great for children and aims to recreate the experience of traveling from town to town by train using a selection of railcars built between the 1890s and early 1950s.

The Sawyer River excursion is a two-hour midday trip that runs west to its namesake. It offers pastoral views and follows the Saco River to the siding at near the crossing of the Sawyer River west of Bartlett.

The best trip is the railroad's flagship *Mountaineer* that aims to recreate the experience of a 1950s cross-country streamlined train. Depending on the season, this offers between a 4½ and 5½ hour scenic journey over Crawford Notch in New Hampshire's White Mountains. Since the arrival of *Leslie Ann*, this train now has four classes of travel

available to passengers. While most passengers book round trip fares, the railroad offers bus tour groups the option of booking one-way journeys aboard the *Mountaineer* and guests may join the train at North Conway for the ride over Crawford Notch or join the train at Crawford's Station for the eastward journey. Phone (603) 356-5251 for details.

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

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Guide: Railroads

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

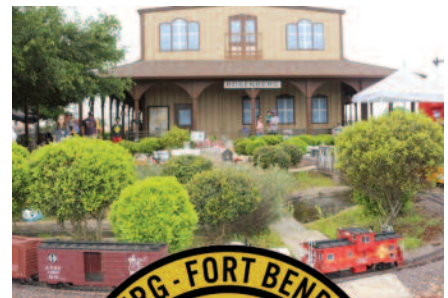
depiction of the town of Rosenberg in the 1950s, walk on over to Historic Downtown Rosenberg. Enjoy the restaurants, boutiques and antique shops.

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 there is the Ol' Railroad Cafe, where they serve an excellent all-American breakfast, lunch, and dinner for everyone to enjoy. Or perhaps you're 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



Current Museum Hours:

Wed.-Fri. 10-3 pm

Sat. 10-4 pm & Sun. 1-4 pm

Admission: \$9 (Adults)

\$7 (55+)

\$6 (2-14yrs)

Located in Historic
Downtown Rosenberg, Texas

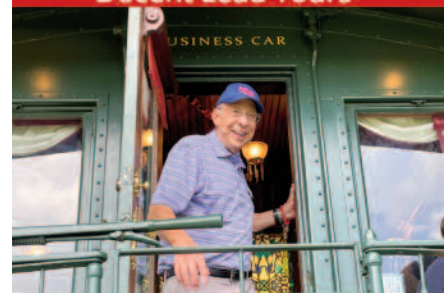
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www.RosenbergRRmuseum.org

Docent Lead Tours



Rosenberg Railroad Museum

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.

Adirondack Railroad

New York State

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enjoy the magnificent beauty of the six million acre Adirondack Park. The Adirondack Railroad welcomes groups, tours, business outings, wedding parties and gatherings

of all kinds. Flexible charter service and group rates will allow you to reserve seats on one of the regular scheduled trains or charter the entire train on your chosen date.

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Guide: Railroads

The Adirondack Railway Preservation Society, Inc. (ARPS) operates the Adirondack Railroad. It is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer-based organization with main offices in Utica, New York. Since 1992 it has provided a successful tourist attraction, operating on the former New York Central Adirondack Division located in upstate New York. Visit online at adirondackrr.com.

Rockhill Trolley Museum

Rockhill Furnace, Pennsylvania

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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.

Each Tuesday through Saturday from November 1 to December 23, witness the history and archaeology of the first Christmas during the Manger Tours. See full-scale reconstructions of structures relevant to the time, genuine artifacts from the era and insight that will make this Christmas even more meaningful.

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. Soak in the beauty of manicured terraces, rose bowers, dwarf boxwood parterres and wooded pathways, which provides 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. □



Special Features on Demand

Berkeley County

Explore Berkeley County, South Carolina

Transport yourself back to a time when the livin' was easy! Natural beauty, rich history, and exciting adventures await those who visit. Clean, affordable, bus-friendly accommodations help ensure your stay is comfortable and enjoyable.

Cypress Gardens

Visitors from across the globe come to experience this unique attraction 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 blackwater cypress swamp. Enjoy the butterfly house and Swamparium. Take a stroll along newly restored scenic paths and bridges. Gift shop.

Mepkin Abbey

Mepkin Abbey is one of the few monasteries that offers tours. 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 River. Features an extensive store with handmade items from international monastic artisans.

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

The Berkeley Museum

Enjoy numerous unique exhibits chronicling the area's rich history, from the first Native American settlers and the famed "Swamp Fox" Francis Mar-



Picturesque Wildlife



Swamp Boat Tours



Historic Estates



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Heritage Gardens



Museums

Guide: Special Features on Demand

ion's American Revolution battles to the later settlers whose families have remained for generations. Gift shop.

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Battlefield Tours

Berkeley County is famous for its Revolutionary War connections. It's the birthplace of two prominent military leaders – General Francis Marion and General William Moultrie – and 32 of the war's more than 200 South Carolina battle sites. www.exploreberkeleycounty.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



Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center/Museum

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.




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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 Tsagaglallal "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 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 run 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.

**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

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White Pines Lodge

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 Christmastime, when you can take a horse-drawn wagon ride, visit with Santa, buy a freshly-cut 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. □

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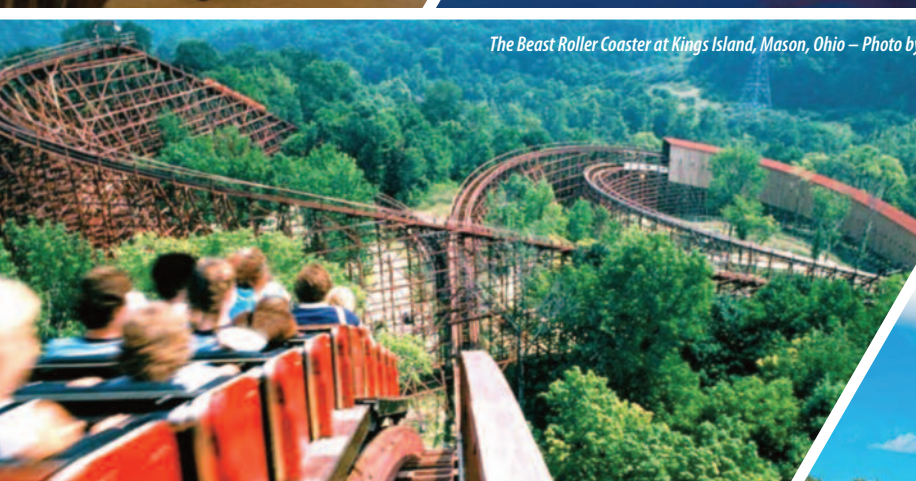
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National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Ohio – Photo by Mark Bealer



Northern Kentucky Skyline with Roebling Suspension Bridge – Photo by Liz Dufour



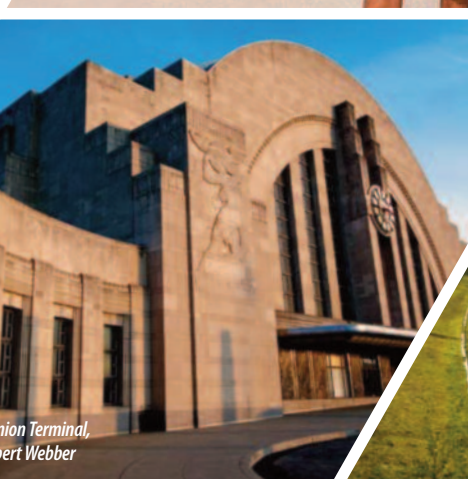
The Beast Roller Coaster at Kings Island, Mason, Ohio – Photo by Kings Island



Ark Encounter, Williamstown, Kentucky – Photo by Ark Encounter



Newport Aquarium, Newport, Kentucky – Photo by Newport Aquarium



Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, Cincinnati, Ohio – Photo by Robert Webber



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20 TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE STUDENT MARKET

by Paulette Isoldi

Beforehand

1. Know Your Demographics. Different areas have different needs, and how field trips are handled even from school to school in the same district can vary a great deal.

2. Teaching Experience. If you can, get someone with teaching experience who has put together student trips and add them to your company. Retired teachers are usually great for this. You could also find people who are currently teachers and get them onboard. Teachers are always looking for ways to earn money and do at the same time something that many of them love.

3. Teacher Conferences. Exhibit at teacher conferences. There are some national conferences, some regionals and those for each state. I found the state ones to be the most helpful. You should target not only your own, but those states surrounding you. The ones to aim for are music, social studies, science and English. You can pick up a lot of great leads this way. Go online to find out where they are for your area. Also, join SYTA (Student and Youth Travel Association). They have a lot of knowledge to impart and their fairs are very good. This could be a great recruitment opportunity.

4. School Districts and Getting Paid. Understand that working with school districts and getting paid could be a problem. Some want to pay when the trip is over, but that is getting less and less common. Do not do anything until you have a non-refundable deposit.

You can work for ages on something (as with most of the travel business) and end up with **nothing**. Do not give out too much information ahead of time. Wait for the deposit. What some teachers do is get all your info and then use that knowledge to plan the trip themselves. Do not be surprised if they cancel at the last minute. Yes you have a great contract, but try collecting from a school district that does not want to pay. You are probably not going to get anywhere.

5. Work With a Minimum. Work with a minimum number of students that must be paid for before the trip is a go. Never make it the full amount of the seats on the bus. Make sure you set aside seats for comp chaperones and factor that into your pricing. Always keep two seats for things you need to take with you. This should include a “to-go bag.”

6. Plan Ahead. Give the lead teacher any info you think is needed beforehand. This should include what should be expected from the students, both on the bus, at attractions, at restaurants and in a hotel, if applicable. Advise the teacher to have a health sheet on each student – each chaperone should have it for the group and the lead teacher should have a master copy. They should check with their nurse’s office about medications and what school policy is concerning them. They should also have a contact sheet if a parent/guardian needs to be contacted, especially on overnights. The teacher should also have every student’s cell number. Advise the

teacher to have a cell phone policy that includes when they can be used and when they must be shut off.

Buses

7. Check Out the Bus Company. Check out your bus company beforehand. Most drivers must have a state-approved license for transporting students. Some school districts will inspect the bus(es) before they leave for the trip. If they do not pass this inspection, the bus(es) will not move and you will be left holding the bag.

8. Link to State Standards. Teachers love it when you have done your homework and can link the trip to state standards. Having worksheets for the teacher on places being visited can be very helpful to them. Many attractions already have them; just ask.

9. Escorts and Expectations. If you are not personally guiding the trip, make sure your escorts are familiar with everything you have done and what your expectations are. Make sure they have 24/7 contact numbers if there are any questions or problems.

10. Start by Going Over the Rules. Make sure before you leave your embarkation place the teacher goes over the rules of the bus. Unless there is a problem, advise the teacher to have seats the same throughout the trip. This makes it easier for them to take attendance and cuts down on unnecessary spreading of germs.

11. Breaking into Groups. Advise the teacher to break down the groups into fours or fives – four is best if you are staying in a hotel where there are usually four to a room, five for a day trip. Then have a student group leader for each one. This should be a very responsible person. Every time the teacher takes attendance, that person just needs to ask those leaders if their people are present. It makes things a lot easier and much quicker. Remember you still need to double check. The stories I could tell you about students being left behind are legendary.

12. Gift Bags. Have a little gift bag for each student which includes wipes, water, a mask, a pair of gloves and perhaps some individual snacks. Most kids love food – but check first for allergies – no peanuts. You might also want to have little prizes for various things that go on throughout the trip.

13. Garbage. Have garbage bags throughout the bus and make sure a garbage run is done periodically. Part of the trip should be kids learning how to behave. This is a prime example of them learning to clean up after themselves – this should also be addressed to the teacher(s) ahead of time. Current buses cost a great deal of money, and if you have a good relationship with your bus company, you do not want to ruin it with messy and unruly children.

Attractions

14. Understand the Rules. Make sure you and the teacher(s) understand the rules of each place being visited, particularly in regard to COVID. Some attractions have student/teacher ratios that must be met. Some will not allow backpacks in. Others will not allow food. All this must be researched ahead of time. Read your attractions' contracts very carefully.

Hotels

15. Hotel Rules. If staying with your group at a hotel, establish rules ahead of time. Make sure you understand what ameni-

ties are being provided. If more than one night, will the room be cleaned each day? It is very important that students understand that there are things in the room that are not souvenirs such as pillows, irons, remotes, etc. On checking out make sure each room is acceptable." If not, bring those students back in to make it so. Many hotels now require the hiring of a security guard or one or more teachers being on duty throughout the night.

16. Lights Out. Make sure the lead teacher understands that it is not acceptable for students to be heard once "lights out" is called. They must be aware that there are other people staying at the hotel and those people have the right to a good night's sleep.

17. Keeping Together – Or Not. When possible, and it is not always possible, try to have your students in a bloc. Make sure that boys and girls rooms do **not** have adjoining inside doors.

18. Convention Hotel. If you are going to a convention, I never would stay at the convention hotel. This leads to too much intermingling with other schools and could be a major problem.

Overall

19. Staying Informed. Keep the lead teacher informed at all times of what is going on, but always put a positive spin on things. You want to be as upbeat as possible and make them feel you are in control of the situation even if things might not be as they should be.

20. Good Luck. Breaking into this niche is not easy. Once you get a good track record, you are probably set up for repeat business for many years.

If you have any comments, suggestions, questions, concerns or need any help planning a student trip, e-mail Paulette Isoldi, Paul-Marc Tours at paul-marc@verizon.net. □

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.

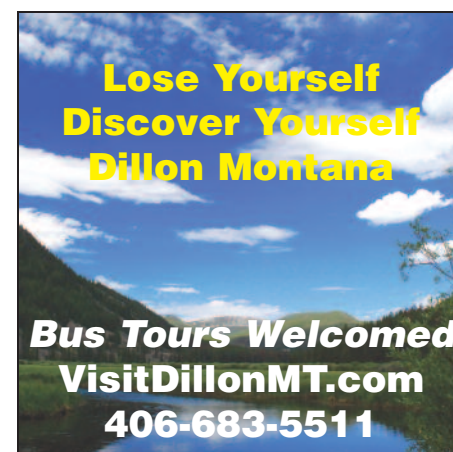
November 13-16, 2022. NTA Travel Exchange. Reno Tahoe, Nevada.

January 12-16, 2023. UMA Motorcoach Expo 2023. Orlando, Florida. For more information view motorcoach-expo.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 heartland-travelshowcase.com.

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 bustours-magazine.com Web site and getting locations to invite bus tours are welcome.



Gaming continued from page 7

Rocky Gap offers a tranquil spa, salon, fitness center and a spacious indoor swimming pool, open year-round. The Spa at Rocky Gap offers guests a variety of indulgent services, including massages, facials, salon services, manicures, pedicures and waxing services. A popular favorite includes Rocky Gap's signature spa massage – with warm stones and aromatherapy, perfect after a long day of adventure or golf.

There is plenty of adventure year-round, as well, at Rocky Gap's casino, where there are thrills to be had while playing slot machines or table games and while cheering for sports teams in the brand-new sports viewing lounge, which features a full LED TV wall.

View the Web site at rockygapcasino.com; phone (301) 784-8400 or e-mail Wanda.Holtschneider@goldenent.com for more information. □

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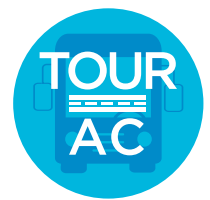
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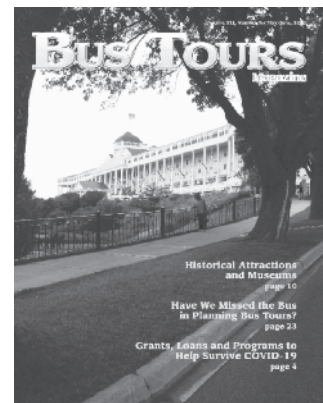
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