

Ohio Amish Tour

“A one-of-a-kind tour; Not your usual Amish tour”

May 7-11, 2012

Come and join tour director, Rev. Tom Malone*, and guide, Matt Troyer**, for a unique visit to Holmes County, Ohio, home of the largest Amish community in the United States. We are not going there to “gawk” at the differently-dressed people, or to comment about their horses and buggies, or even to shop in the tourist shops in the area. Other tours do that!

Our purpose will be to seek to really get to know and understand the Amish people, to learn about their customs and traditions, and to experience what life among them is like. We’ll seek to learn what intrinsic values lie behind their different ways of doing things and of seeing life. We’ll go to some out-of-the-way places that other tour groups don’t even know about to really experience Amish life and culture. We will visit some of the tourist sites and stores as well, but we’ll also give you some experiences you wouldn’t have on any other tour!

Come and join us!

* Tom is a Presbyterian minister, currently serving the Landrum Presbyterian Church in Landrum, South Carolina. Tom leads tour groups in both the United States and in Europe, especially the British Isles.

**Matt grew up in an Amish home in Holmes County, Ohio. He currently lives in Landrum, South Carolina, where he owns Foothills Amish Furniture Store. Matt looks forward to introducing us to his former home and heritage.

Day 1 (Monday, May 7, 2012)

Our modern, comfortable bus will leave Spartanburg, SC, at 8:00 a.m. sharp. We will be traveling most of the day as we make our way up through the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. We’ll take frequent breaks along the way and make a lunch stop (on your own). We’ll arrive in Holmes County for a late dinner (on your own) and check-in to our accommodations for the next three nights at the Berlin Hotel and Suites.

Day 2 (Tuesday, May 8, 2012)

After a good night’s sleep, you will enjoy a complimentary breakfast in the dining room of the Berlin Hotel. Then we’re on our way at 8:45 to the **Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center** where you will be introduced to the culture of the Amish through a video, displays, and viewing the stunning 265-foot circular mural depicting Amish and Mennonite heritage. You can also see the Conestoga wagon, visit the one-room schoolhouse, and buy books and local crafts at the bookstore and gift shop before we leave to travel up Highway 241 to Kidron where you will see Amish homes, farms, and people in their authentic settings. We’ll pop into **Heini’s Cheese Chalet** for a factory tour and to sample the all-natural cheeses, homemade fudge, smoked meats, jams and jellies. (You’ll probably want to take some home with you!) Your included lunch will be at **Mrs. Yoder’s Kitchen** where you will enjoy delicious home-style food and desserts. You’ll want a nap, but we’ll be off and running to visit **Lehman’s Hardware**, an old-fashioned general store where you will see thousands of products you probably thought they quit making years ago. Final stop for the day will be at **Care ‘N’ Share** where you will find hundreds of locally handmade crafts, quilts, baskets, and gift items, all crafted by physically-challenged Amish people in Wayne and Holmes counties. We’ll stop for one more meal (on your own) before we take you back to the Berlin Hotel so that you can rest up for an equally busy day tomorrow.

Day 3 (Wednesday, May 9, 2012)

Enjoy your complimentary breakfast again at the hotel before we leave for **Hershberger's Bakery & Farm**. You'll want to buy several of the Amish fried pies to take home or to enjoy as snacks along the way. We'll make our way next to downtown **Berlin** where we'll turn you loose to experience this typical small Amish town. You can shop until you drop. There are quilt shops and candle shops and antique malls among others (50+ to be exact), plus Sol's Palace, Ohio's largest arts and crafts mall, for you to enjoy. Stop for lunch (on your own) at **Cindy's Diner** or the **Boyd and Wurthmann Restaurant** when you get hungry. We'll leave Berlin after lunch to make our way to **Mt. Hope** where you will get to experience a real live Amish auction. Next stop will be the **Yoder's Amish Home** where you will have the opportunity to tour a real Amish home. On to **Wendell August Forge** where you can buy beautiful hand-hammered metal giftware created by artisans in their Forge in Pennsylvania. Tonight is certainly one of the highlights of our trip as we are welcomed to the **Emmanuel Miller Farm**, an active, working Amish farm (not normally open to outsiders) where we will tour the farm and the chair factory on the property, see a basket-making demonstration, enjoy buggy rides, and then sit down to an authentic Amish meal prepared by the members of the family. There will even be songs after dinner sung by members of the family and staff of the farm. Family members and staff will be hosting just our group as we enjoy this fantastic evening together! When darkness comes, we'll take you back to the Berlin Hotel to rest up for our final day in Amish country.

Day 4 (Thursday, May 10, 2012)

After your complimentary breakfast at the hotel, we'll check out of the Berlin Hotel and load our bags on the bus. Then we're off to **Walnut Creek Cheese**, which for over 30 years has provided Ohio's Amish Country with the most delicious foods. Next stop is the **Breitenbach Wine Cellars**, where you can sample over 30 of their award-winning wines. Buy some to take home at their gift shop. Then we're off for our final stop in Amish Country, the **Warther Museum**, where you will experience the story of the Warther family and see how their beloved hobbies of carving, button collecting, and knife making have left behind an amazing family legacy. After lunch (included) at the **Dutch Valley Restaurant** where you will enjoy one final Amish meal, we'll load the buses to start our trip home, stopping in West Virginia for the evening. Dinner will be on your own near the hotel.

Day 5 (Friday, May 11, 2012)

After complimentary breakfast at the hotel, we'll start the final journey home, reflecting on the wonderful sights we've seen and the unique experiences we have had in Amish Country. Lunch (on your own) will be en route. We will arrive back in Spartanburg mid-afternoon.

Cost: \$550 each in double-occupancy room; \$725 each in single room

Included:

- Transportation
- 4 nights hotel lodging in a double room (A limited number of singles are available at the Single Rate.)
- 4 complimentary breakfasts at the hotels
- 3 full Amish meals (at Mrs. Yoder's, at the Miller Farm, and at Dutch Valley Restaurant)
- Services of the Tour Director and Tour Guide

Not Included:

- Meals en route and meals designated "on your own" in the itinerary (3 lunches, 3 dinners)
- Incidentals/Personal purchases

Tour arrangements are being coordinated by **Universal Travel of Spartanburg (864-576-6616)**. Alda Kop, owner and travel agent, will help you with registration and payments. Call Tom Malone (864-457-7144) with questions about the itinerary or special needs.

The bus is owned and operated by Barney Bradley of **Bud's Christian Tours Inc. of Spartanburg.**
To register, mail the following registration form and \$200.00 *per person* deposit to:

Universal Travel
PMB 313
2153 E. Main Street C-14
Duncan, SC 29334-9295

The final payment is due to Universal Travel *on April 1st.*

We highly recommend that you purchase trip insurance for this trip. (We cannot guarantee refunds after final numbers are turned in a few weeks before our trip.) Alda at Universal Travel will mail you insurance information and a confirmation letter upon receipt of your registration form and deposit.

Space is limited, so send in your registration form and deposit today!

Perforate here and keep the important information above.

**Registration – Ohio Amish Tour
May 7-11, 2012**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ We will room together.

_____ I desire a single room.

_____ I will be rooming with _____.

Mail this form and your \$200.00 per person deposit to:

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