

# The simple life

## Explore Amish living in Nappanee

For much of North America, the lifestyle and culture of the Amish remains a mystery.

It doesn't need to stay that way.

Activities at Amish Acres in Nappanee provide an authentic look at the Old Order Amish.

The 80-acre farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Several documentary films — *Genesis* and *Exodus* — are available for viewing. The movies tell the story of Amish history.

Groups can walk through the orchard and past the kitchen garden and out-buildings on the way to the 125-year-old Amish homestead. The original house, a two-room pioneer home — filled with furnishings, a cook stove and kitchenware — is still on the property. Here, groups can learn more details about Amish history and culture.

The main home is filled with the simple amenities of Amish life: a family Bible, kerosene lamps, a wood-burning stove and a treadle sewing machine. The house presents an authentic look at the home life of the Amish.

The rest of the farm tour includes a visit to the Schweitzer barn, which features an 1874 wooden threshing machine, and the wagon shed, which holds several different examples of horse-drawn transportation.

Nearby, groups can see the Chauncy Thomas Blacksmith Shop. The ice house, cider and grist mill and a one-room schoolhouse are on the property also.



Photo: Amish Acres

Round Barn Theatre at Amish Acres presents eight shows a week.

A tractor-pulled wagon ride brings groups through the farm's woods.

Groups can enjoy the Threshers Dinner in the Restaurant Barn.

The traditional home-cooked meal includes ham and bean soup, freshly baked hearth bread, locally made apple butter, cider-baked hickory-smoked ham, broasted country chicken and roast beef (choose two meat entrees per table) vegetable, mashed potatoes and dessert, including shoofly pie. Coffee, hot and iced tea, milk and lemonade are available.

The dinner is named for the meals served to hungry threshers after long hours of working in the fields.

Amish Acres also holds musical theater productions in the Round Barn Theatre, the home of northern Indiana's only professional repertory musical theater

company.

The 2013 season opens April 10 with *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping*.

Also on the schedule are *Nunsense A-Men*, *9 to 5 the musical*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

*Plain and Fancy* will be performed from May 29 to Oct. 19.

Amish Acres is the national home of *Plain and Fancy*, the 1955 Broadway musical about Amish life and love. The show has been produced here since 1986.

PastPort and Bonnets and Britches are single-day packages. The Country Package is ideal for overnight groups. •

Amish Acres  
(800) 800-4942  
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