



For information on this and other itineraries, contact Ashley Vezzoso to book your group – avezzoso@evansvillecvb.org or 800-433-3025

EVANSVILLE, IN. Premier Itinerary - HISTORIC EVANSVILLE, ESCAPE AND EXPLORE

Located in Southwest Indiana on the Ohio River, Evansville is a wonderful destination rich in history where the people are warm and friendly and more than willing to share this special place we call home. In 2012, we are celebrating our 200th Birthday the Evansville Bicentennial Celebration. Evansville offers special events year-round as well as fascinating and fun attractions. For your convenience, we created what we consider our Premier Itinerary for you. We invite you to join us on Day One of your Escape and Explore Adventure in Evansville.

DAY ONE

Evansville's Historic Downtown and rich architecture are best described by our professional tour guides. They will begin your tour at the Historic Pagoda that serves as the headquarters of the Evansville Convention and Visitors Bureau and our Visitors Center. We will welcome you to the Pagoda where you can go topside and see the magnificent Ohio River and the beautiful view of our riverfront that can only be viewed from this vantage point. After experiencing this great photo opportunity, you will board our bus for a tour of Historic Downtown. You'll see the magnificent architecture of our city and hear the history of our people, the challenges of days past and how they have brought us to where we are today. It's a tour you won't want to miss.

LST 325

During WWII, the Port of Evansville was one of the most active in the country in the construction of 167 LTS Landing Ship Tanks at the Evansville Shipyards. Today, Evansville is honored to be the home of the only operational LST (Landing Ship, Tank) in existence. The LST 325 is 328 feet long and weighs 1,625 tons. She was actively engaged in D-Day and participated in the Pacific Campaign throughout WWII. The LST fleet remained active in the Korean War and Vietnam War. This is a tour of an operational LST that you won't find anywhere but in Evansville.

Museum of Arts, History and Science

Permanent art collections valued at \$10 million date from the first century B.C. to the present. Paintings, sculptures, artifacts and room displays on two floors. Koch Planetarium is located on the third floor. Science Center with children's hands-on exhibits is on the ground floor. Traveling and special exhibits are premiered quarterly.

Learn about the history of transportation in Evansville at the Evansville Museum Transportation Center (EMTRAC). Located next to the Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science, EMTRAC chronicles the history of transportation from a dugout canoe to a fully outfitted vintage passenger train.

Reitz Home Museum

Before you begin your tour of the Reitz Home, you will experience a wonderful lunch in the Reitz Home Carriage House. It's an addition to your tour today you won't want to miss.

The elegance and grandeur of the Victorian era abound in this historic mansion which is recognized as one of the most beautiful home museums in the country. Restored and renovated to the more gracious time of the late 1800s, the Reitz Home is a stunning example of French Second Empire architecture. Silk damask-covered walls, French gilt chandeliers, hand-painted ceilings, intricate inlaid wood floors and other period standards of luxury can be admired by touring this Evansville gem.

Willard Library

Our last tour for the day is one of our crown jewels of Evansville - Willard Library.

Opened in 1885 to be "a public library for the use of the people of all classes, races and sexes free of charge forever," Willard Library continues to operate as a public library to this day and houses one of the most extensive collections for genealogy study in the Midwest. Fully restored to its architectural splendor, Willard Library is one of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic architecture. Sneak a peek at our famous "Grey Lady" with 24-hour viewing available on the "Ghostcam," located on the library's website.

The Perfect End to a Perfect Day - Casino Aztar and the District

To complete your first day in Evansville, you will dine at one of our favorite restaurants, and maybe, just maybe, enjoy a little time at Casino Aztar. Evansville offers a wide variety of fine food experiences from fine food to casual dining. The staff at the ECVB will be more than happy to work with you and your group in planning your evening. Once dinner is complete, you might want to consider going to our top attraction - Casino Aztar - for your evening entertainment.

Located on Evansville beautiful riverfront, Casino Aztar offers three casino levels filled with over 1,000 slot games and more than 50 table games including a live Poker Room. The casino is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Casino Aztar has a place for every taste with nine restaurants and eleven bars and nightclubs. Whether you're in the mood for Cavanaugh's fine steaks and fresh sea food or a casual meal at Max & Erma's, you'll find your favorite foods all in one great location. Discover more choices at Riverside Cookery, RiRa Irish Pub, Temptations Buffet, Outlaw Burger Company, Riverside Coffee Company, Diamond Deli and Blush Ultralounge.

Hoosiers Lounge, located in the riverfront Pavilion, is the place to be daily for drink specials and live entertainment. Sunday nights feature big band music. Monday through Wednesday nights, hear local and regional acts playing favorites from yesteryear to today's greatest hits and Karaoke on Thursdays. On Friday and Saturday nights, Hoosiers Lounge heats up with well-known entertainers. Best of all, these shows are free!

DAY TWO

Day Two of your Visit Evansville experience is going to be full of light adventure and the outdoors. Do as much or as little as you want today. We know this for sure, the places on today's itinerary are fun experiences you won't want to miss.

Mesker Park Zoo and Amazonia

The largest zoo in Southern Indiana, Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden built a new front door in 2008. The new entrance and plaza area complete with a "kid friendly" fountain area also offers a gift shop and restaurant where you can dine inside or outside. Tour the zoo and botanic garden on foot or by tram (for a nominal fee). Strollers for youngsters and paddleboat rentals for fun on the lovely Lake Victoria are also available. The new amazing exhibit AMAZONIA! is a spectacular experience of a walk through the South American rainforest. Fully enclosed and climate controlled, it is the ideal jungle temperature year round. The zoo extends over 50 acres and is home to more than 700 animals, including Donna, the oldest hippopotamus in captivity. Open 365 days a year.

Wesselman Woods Nature Center

When did you last take a walk in an urban forest? Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve is one of Indiana's few remaining old growth bottomland hardwood forests, providing habitat for a huge diversity of woodland species, including white-tailed deer, raccoon, rare salamanders, and both resident and migratory birds. Over six miles of trails allow visitors to encounter a showy display of spring wildflowers, explore a dense summer forest understory, enjoy the rich autumn color of a towering tree canopy, or discover historic remnants of two railroad beds and the Wabash & Erie Canal. A nature center is located at the Preserve's entrance as well. This facility includes indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife

observation areas, multipurpose rooms and a gift shop. Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve is a National Natural Landmark and is the largest urban forest of its kind and quality in the United States.

Historic Newburgh

Historic Downtown Newburgh welcomes you to shop, dine and relax. Art galleries, specialty stores, antique shops and quaint dining establishments make historic Downtown Newburgh a perfect spot to spend an afternoon. Walk through the historic district, stroll the Rivertown Trail along the Ohio River and take time to enjoy a meal or glass of wine at one of the charming restaurants overlooking the river.

As part of your visit to Historic Newburgh, we have planned a lunch at one of their quaint little restaurants in downtown. A little food and a little shopping and you will be on your way to the last stop of the day.

John James Audubon Museum in Audubon State Park

Located just south of Ellis Park Race Track, the Audubon Museum preserves the work and spirit of this internationally recognized expert of ornithology who walked the forest now named after him when he resided in the area in his early years. The museum interprets this famed naturalist's life through his original works and personal memorabilia while the park and surrounding woods offer trails, a 9-hole golf course and other recreational activities.