

Volume XLVIII, Number 4 • March/April 2026

BUS TOURS

Magazine

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PEAK YOUR INTEREST?



All aboard the most state-of-the-art cog railway in the world. While the entire experience of riding the railway has been enhanced, the journey itself and the iconic, breathtaking views as you ride to the summit of America's Mountain remain the same. **Visit CogRailway.com to purchase your e-ticket today.**

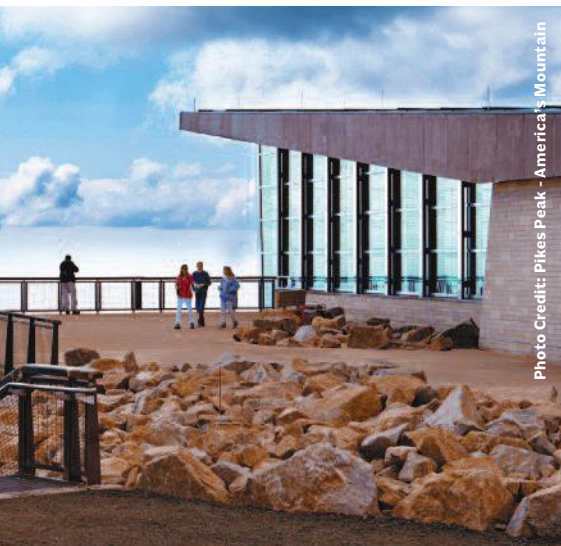


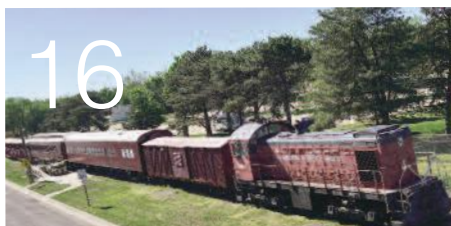
Photo Credit: Pikes Peak - America's Mountain



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COVER PHOTO

This photo by Sara Mitchell shows the south-facing terrace at Frank Lloyd Wright's Kentuck Knob home on a crisp autumn afternoon. The home is surrounded by the vibrant fall foilage of Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands.

SARA MITCHELL.

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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



The Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation Peoria, Illinois

The Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation in Peoria, Illinois, has officially broken ground on an innovative experience center honoring Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. The historic Spalding Institute – Sheen’s own high school – is being transformed into *The Sheen Experience*, a dynamic and immersive encounter with the life and legacy of one of America’s most influential evangelists.

This new center will significantly expand the Sheen Museum, which has welcomed visitors since 2008, and will become a vibrant hub where pilgrims and visitors can come to know Sheen’s profound impact more deeply. Guests will have the rare opportunity to walk where Sheen once walked and pray where he prayed. Through cutting-edge technology and thoughtful design, the center will guide visitors not only through Sheen’s remarkable past but also closer to Christ through his teachings and example.

To create a world-class experience, the project team is studying best practices from premier museums around the globe. The expanded space will allow for the display of many never-before-seen artifacts that previously could not be exhibited due to space limitations. While the current museum offers approximately 3,000 square feet, the new Sheen Experience will encompass an impressive 30,000 square feet. Future plans include a dedicated media and viewing room as well as an archives and reading room.

The Sheen Experience is anticipated to take roughly 2½ years to complete, with an expected opening in 2028. Once open, the center will be able to welcome significantly larger groups than the current space.

For information on visiting the current museum and to stay updated on the progress of the new Sheen Experience, visit celebratesheen.com.

North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, North Carolina

Renovation and expansion projects for the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher (NCAFF) are exciting. This transformative work will change the aquarium experience for generations, and with all the excitement comes change, including a time when this attraction will be closed for construction.

Construction began on January 12 on Discovery Cove – a one-of-a-kind mall space featuring ambassador animal encounters, marine life habitats, environmental education programs and a North Carolina Aquarium Society gift shop. The 8,000-square-foot mini-aquarium will also include offices for staff, animal holding and care areas, and life support systems behind the scenes.

Construction of the new mall location is expected to take eight weeks. Following the construction phase, the Aquarium team will transform the space into a wonderful and welcoming spot for shoppers to stop in to relax among beautiful marine life. Moving staff, habitats and life support systems is all part of the process, meaning the opening date is several months away.

Meanwhile, NCAFF remains open and looks forward to seeing visitors until closure for construction in the early part of this year. Online tickets are required to visit the aquarium at NCAFF Tickets.

For more information view ncaquariums.com.

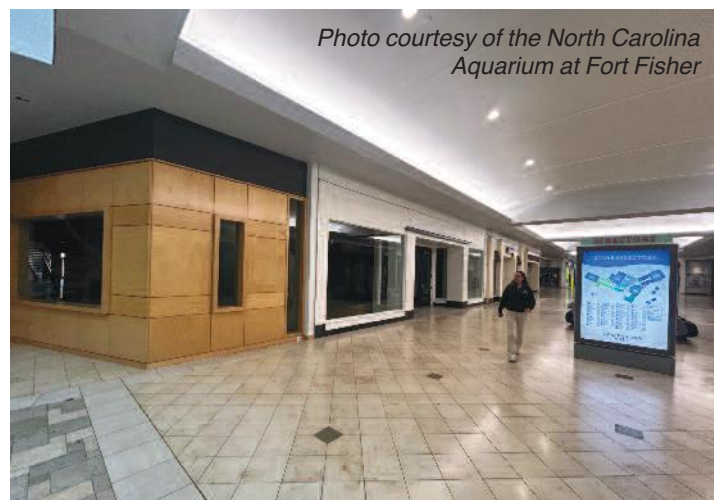


Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Tudor Place Washington, D.C.

On July 4, 2026, the United States will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Tudor Place joins cultural institutions nationwide in marking this milestone through America 250 at Tudor Place, a yearlong commemoration running from February 10 through December 31.

The centerpiece of America 250 at Tudor Place is a special exhibition *Founding Fortune: The Estate Sale of Martha Washington*, opening February 10. The exhibition explores the historic 1802 public sale of Martha Washington's household contents at Mount Vernon, revealing what the Washingtons' worldly belongings – and the people who desired them – can tell us about the values, aspirations and division of early American society.

Most of the objects featured in the exhibition were purchased at the estate sale by Martha and Thomas Peter and have remained at Tudor Place for more than 200 years. Several of these items, displayed together, will be presented to the public for the first time.

In addition to this exhibition, America 250 at Tudor Place will feature special programming to allow visitors to further engage with the stories and themes woven throughout the nation's history.

A complete calendar with full program titles and descriptions is available at tudorplace.org/calendar. □



Photo courtesy of Tudor Place Historic House & Garden

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Historical Attractions

and Museums

Crawford County Meadville, Pennsylvania

Beautiful Crawford County is home to endless activities and diverse amenities. Crawford County, part of the Great Lakes Region, borders Ohio and is conveniently located right off Pennsylvania Interstate 79, 30 minutes north of I-80, or 30 minutes south of I-90. Enjoy a great multiday trip, approved by the locals.

Day One

Start your day off in Linesville "Where Ducks Walk on the Fish" at Pymatuning State Park's "The Spillway." Throw bread and watch the frenzy of thousands of carp and ducks fight for the bread. Enjoy the picturesque State Park, and swing into town for Twin Pies. Who does not love pie and coffee for breakfast?

The nearby town of Conneaut Lake showcases Conneaut Cellars Winery and Distillery. Enjoy a free tasting and a tour. This winery has a large variety of high-quality, award-winning wines and spirits. Take your favorite bottle and board historic *Barbara J. Sternwheeler* Paddle Boat. The boat has an open upper deck and a lower enclosed room to view Pennsylvania's largest glacial lake.

Enjoying lakefront dining at Silver Shores Restaurant on beautiful Conneaut Lake.

Day Two

Ride the historic Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad across "the Valley that Changed the World." Enjoy fun Murder Mystery dinners or wine and brew events. While they are famous for their fall scenic excursions, any time of

their season is great. Stay the night at the Caboose Motel to complete your experience.

After the three-hour train ride, enjoy all that Titusville has to offer.

Day Three

Visit the historic Meadville Market House. Built in 1870, this structure is the oldest, continuously operated market in Pennsylvania featuring many local vendors.

Tour the Baldwin Reynolds House Museum, built in 1843. The mansion was the quintessential Southern home located in northwestern Pennsylvania with a huge national history impact. Enjoy daily tours, dinner theaters, lectures, music and more.

Unwind at any of our local restaurants such as Voodoo Brewery, Riverside Brewing, Davenport or Julian's, which feature live music entertainment most nights.

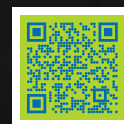
For more information go to VisitCrawford.org or phone (814) 333-1258. Download our new app while on the site. □



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AIRPARK

Gardens

Huntsville Botanical Garden Huntsville, Alabama

Naturally delightful journeys await you in Huntsville, Alabama – a place where the Southeast's quiet charm meets a world of vibrant color, immersive landscapes and pure, refreshing escape.

At Huntsville Botanical Garden, every visit feels like stepping into a living postcard, one painted with Alabama's lush plant diversity and framed by the warm, welcoming spirit of the region.

Tucked in the heart of Huntsville, Alabama, and just down the road from the

U.S. Space and Rocket Center, this 118-acre haven is more than a stop along your journey – it is an invitation to slow down, breathe deeply and discover something new around every bend. Wander through curated display gardens, cross into the serene Lewis Birding Trail or step inside the nationally-renowned

Purdy Butterfly House, where hundreds of delicate wings drift through shafts of sunlight during butterfly season.

Families will find adventure in the Wicks Family Garden, where imaginative play and nature collide, and guests of all ages will marvel at Mama Zelda, the 18-foot-tall troll (cre-



Naturally Delightful

Open year-round • Discover 118 acres of gardens, scenic trails, and inspiring exhibits, from Mama Zelda by artist Thomas Dambo to the dazzling Galaxy of Lights.

**HUNTSVILLE
BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

4747 Bob Wallace Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35805
hsvbg.org



Feature: Gardens

ated by artist Thomas Dambo) seated at the heart of the Mother Earth Troll Garden maze.

What truly makes the Garden shine within the charming Southeast is the way it blends natural beauty with meaningful connection. Here, vibrant blooms and peaceful pathways become places to reconnect – with yourself, with loved ones, and with the wonder of the natural world. The Garden's mission is simple yet powerful: to connect people to plants, enriching life through environmental stewardship, education, and delight.

Season after season, the Garden transforms – each visit offering a fresh perspective, a new discovery, a moment worth savoring. Whether you are chasing the gentle quiet of a morning stroll, exploring immersive exhibits or joining in beloved seasonal festivals, there is always something naturally delightful to experience here.

As you map out your journey through the Southeast, make room for a stop that feels like coming home to nature. Let Huntsville



Botanical Garden welcome you, delight you and refresh your spirit – one blooming moment at a time. □



Smack dab in the middle.

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche, SD is at the middle of the nation – and we have a spectacular monument to prove it! Visit us for exhibits on rodeos, ranching, pioneer life, bank robbers, dinosaurs and more.

Take a photo at the Center of the Nation compass rose monument; step back in time with a visit to our Johnny Spaulding Cabin; shop in our store full of books, jewelry, western memorabilia, puzzles, smart toys and games. Then have a picnic on our spacious lawns!

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415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche
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www.thetristatemuseum.com

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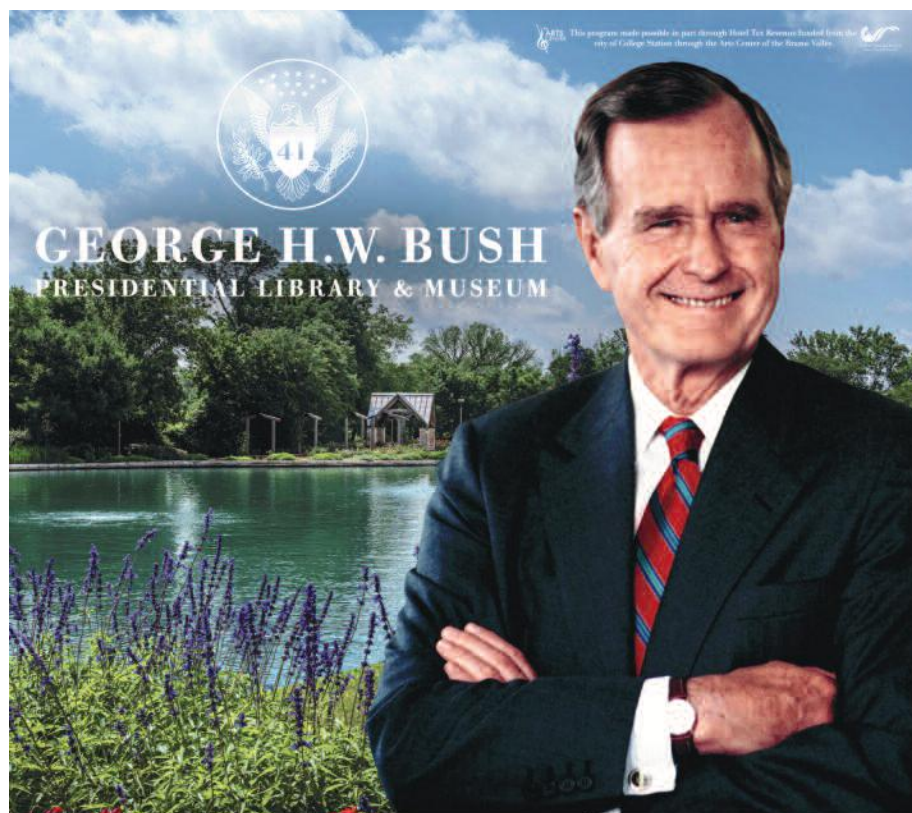


Presidential Locations

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum **Simi Valley, California**

Perched atop a hill with sweeping views of the southland, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is one of California's most beautiful and unique destinations. This iconic landmark is more than just a museum – it is a journey through history. Where else in California can visitors walk onboard an actual *Air Force One* aircraft that flew seven U.S. presidents, touch an authentic piece of the Berlin Wall or lay a hand on a real steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center after 9-11?

The Reagan Museum boasts a stunning collection of artifacts, interactive exhibits and even a full-scale replica of the Oval Office. Visitors step aboard and tour through an authentic *Air Force One* 27000 and *Marine One* to learn how President Reagan changed the face of global diplomacy. Beyond the extraordinary displays, the Reagan Museum offers an opportunity for visitors to truly understand the impact that President Reagan had on our nation and the world.



1000 George Bush Drive West, College Station, Texas | **Bush41.org**

Feature: Presidential Locations

Visitors may also enjoy the Museum's outdoor grounds, where you can stroll through replicas of the White House Rose Garden and South Lawn and reflect at President and Mrs. Reagan's memorial site.

The Reagan Library is also home to two restaurants, Reagan's Bar+Bistro and The Ronald Reagan Pub. Group tour meals are available, as are docent-led tours; phone (805) 577-4066 or e-mail visitorservices@reagan-foundation.org for more information. In addition, the Reagan Library features many world-class traveling exhibits. It is always best to go on the library's Web site (reaganlibrary.com) or to phone (800) 410-8354 to see what exhibits may be open for touring during your visit. The library also has free bus parking.

From *Air Force One* to historic photos and video to interactive games to exquisite landscaped grounds, the Reagan Library is sure to be a fun, entertaining and educational experience for everyone, of every age, in your group. □

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In today's fast-paced world, finding genuine connection and relaxation can seem like an impossible dream. Yet along the historic St. Lawrence River, an extraordinary experience awaits those seeking the perfect blend of relaxation and discovery. St. Lawrence Cruise Lines offers an intimate journey that transforms the traditional cruise experience into something truly remarkable, where every moment unfolds at exactly the right pace.

St. Lawrence Cruise Lines began operations in 1981 with the goal of introducing Canada's rivers to the world and that tradition continues in 2026. Travellers can experience the tremendous beauty and rich history of the St. Lawrence River on the small ship *Canadian Empress*.

The *Canadian Empress* is a showpiece of riverboat design, combining classic charm with modern comfort. This one-of-a-kind vessel welcomes just 64 guests per journey, creating an atmosphere very

different from traditional cruise ships. Every stateroom faces the river and sits above the waterline, ensuring spectacular views of the ever-changing landscape. The Grand Saloon's expansive windows frame each day's new adventures, while modern amenities provide all the comforts today's travelers expect.

Life aboard the *Canadian Empress* flows with a natural rhythm that invites true relaxation. During their journey, guests discover the joy of waking to misty mornings on the river, watching sunlight play across the water from comfortable deck chairs, and ending each day in safe harbor under starlit skies.

The gentle waters of the St. Lawrence provide a smooth, peaceful journey unlike anything found on ocean cruises, while daily shore excursions offer fascinating glimpses into Canadian culture and history. The intimate size of the vessel allows the *Canadian Empress* to gracefully navigate into charming small towns and hidden waterways, and guests can explore authentic local culture in ways traditional cruise ships cannot match.

Cruise options for 2026 range from four to seven nights, starting at \$2,234 CAD per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement rooms are available, if required. Stateroom fares include all accommodations, meals, ship's reserve wine and domestic beer during meals, and daily shore excursions.

Phone (800) 267-7868 to find out more about cruise availability on the *Canadian Empress*, or request a brochure through their Web site. □

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Explore the Northeast



Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad Titusville, Pennsylvania

Imagine stepping aboard vintage train cars for a captivating three-hour round-trip through the legendary "valley that changed the world." For 39 years, the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit) has offered this unique experience, inviting passengers to relive the dramatic history of the original Oil Boom. Knowledgeable volunteers share tales of a bygone era as you witness nature's reclamation of the landscape in Oil Creek State Park.

The seasonal schedule offers a variety of adventures, from the Peter Cottontail Express in spring to the Santa Trains after Thanksgiving. Throughout the year, enjoy regular excursions and special events. In June and September, ride Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. July and August offer Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. The renowned Fall Foliage Tours in October run Wednesdays through Fridays at 11 a.m, and Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m and 3 p.m, providing stunning photo opportunities amidst the vibrant autumn colors.

Beyond regular rides, engaging special events like Wine Tastings, Christmas in July, Taps on Tracks and a Halloween Ride are hosted. A consistent sell-out is the Murder Mystery Dinner series, held 10 times annually from May to October. Featuring performers from In All Seriousness of Erie, Pennsylvania, and a local caterer, these interactive evenings offer limited seating, so early reservations are recommended.

Extend your historical immersion at The Caboose Motel, located across from the station, offering unique overnight stays in real caboose cars [phone (814) 827-5730].

Your journey begins at Perry Street Station, 409 S Perry Street, Titusville, Pennsylvania [phone (814) 676-1733]. Inside, you will find the Museum & Gift Shop and a concession stand. Group rates, car rentals and box lunches are available upon request.

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**Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad
409 S. Perry St., Titusville, PA 16354
Phone: 814.676.1733
octr@zoominternet.net
www.octr.org**

Guide: Explore the Northeast

Frank Lloyd Wright House on Kentuck Knob Dunbar, Pennsylvania

Both dramatic and serene, Kentuck Knob is situated just below the crest of a great hill and appears part of the landscape itself. An organic floor plan, cantilevered overhangs, and imaginative expanses of glass effortlessly integrate the interior of the house with its surroundings.

I.N. and Bernardine Hagan were the owners of the Hagan Ice Cream Company based in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. A business deal evolved into a friendship with the Kaufmanns, the Pittsburgh-based owners of nearby Fallingwater, which introduced the Hagans to the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. After many visits to Fallingwater, and a growing admiration for Wright's designs, the Hagans commissioned Wright to design a house for them.



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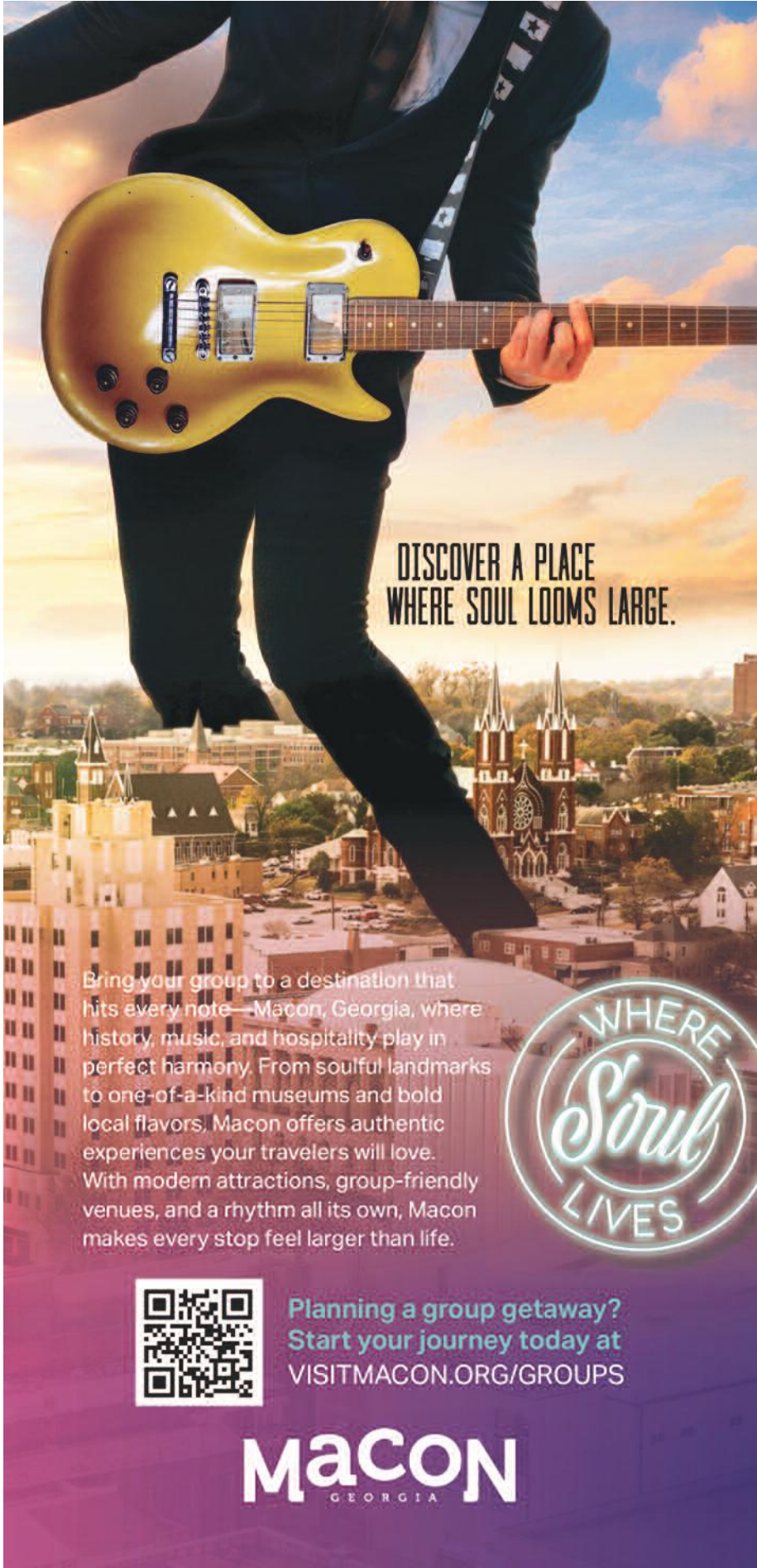
Feature: Northeast

Frank Lloyd Wright adapted his philosophy of organic architecture to a modern world and called this style 'Usonian.' At 2,200 square feet, Kentuck Knob is an extraordinary interpretation of Wright's Usonian designs. The house is built from natural material, such as its copper roof, tidewater red cypress woodwork, and sandstone native to the region. The house is complete with built-in furniture, indirect lighting and semi-enclosed spaces. At its core stands the fully functioning kitchen, with the house's two wings rising to meet the horizontal line of the copper roof.

Completed in 1956, the Hagans lived at Kentuck Knob for 29 years before selling the property to the current owner, Lord Peter Palumbo. The Palumbo family enjoyed Kentuck Knob as a vacation home before opening the house to the public as a museum in 1996.

2026 is a special year in the history of Kentuck Knob. This year marks 70 years since the Hagans moved into their newly built Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home. 2026 also marks 40 years since the Palumbos purchased Kentuck Knob to use as a vacation home for their growing family, and 30 years since the Palumbos opened Kentuck Knob as a privately-owned museum. □

The
Trivia question
for this issue
can be
found on
page 22.



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Rail and Sail



Abilene & Smokey Valley Railroad Abilene, Kansas

The Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad (ASVRR) in Abilene, Kansas stands ready to help you celebrate America 250. The official Kansas Heritage Railroad is conveniently located just five minutes off Interstate -70 in central Kansas. Abilene offers a host of museums and ASVRR is in the heart of the museum district. Adjacent to the Dwight D Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, the National Greyhound racing hall of fame, the Dickinson County Heritage Center and museum of independent telephony, and the wild west of Old Abilene Town are located right next door..

ASVRR offers two-hour Flint Hills Express excursion train rides where *History in Motion* brings you the stories of how railroads built

Kansas, Kansas Communities and Kansas Agriculture. The affiliated Hoffman Grist Mill at the Enterprise terminal lets riders experience the milling process of turning grain into its food products via original 1880s milling equipment. On return to Abilene, riders can tour the Fred Schmidt railroad museum in the 1887 Rock Island Depot.

If you time your trip just right, you can enjoy an elegant meal on one of ASVRR's Saturday evening Smoky Valley Limited dinner trains. Delicious food served on fine china while you ride through the Smoky Hill River valley, or as we like to say Delectable Dining while making magnificent memories.

Many Kansas communities exist because of railroad history. While the tracks may be gone, the community remains because of the

railroad. ASVRR offers experiential entertainment and fun for those who ride.

The 2024 Kansas Legislature named the ASVRR as the Official Kansas Heritage Railroad and our 1919 ATSF3415 Baldwin Pacific locomotive as the Official Kansas Steam Locomotive. The ATSF3415 is currently being rebuilt but will be operational in the fall of 2027.

More than 15,000 passengers enjoyed riding the ASVRR in 2025 with more expected during the 2026 season.

For information or to schedule a group charter, contact ASVRR at groups@asvrr.org or charters@asvrr.org. Additional Information available at ASVRR.ORG or 785.263.1077. ASVRR is ready to help you celebrate 2026 in style. □

Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad

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email: charters@asvrr.org
website: asvrr.org
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tickets: ASVRR.ORG



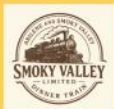
1776 - *History in Motion* - 2026



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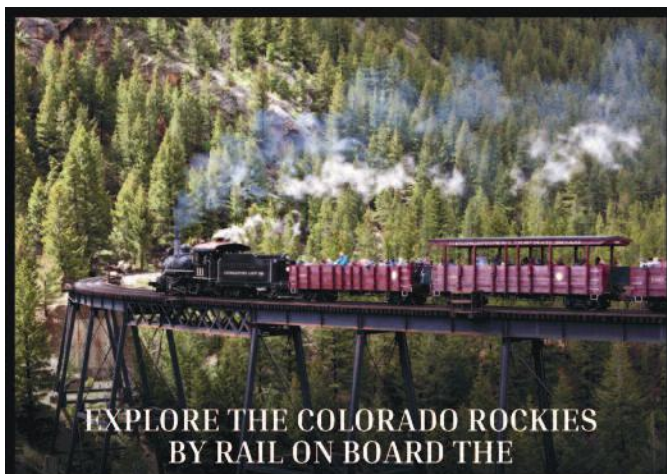


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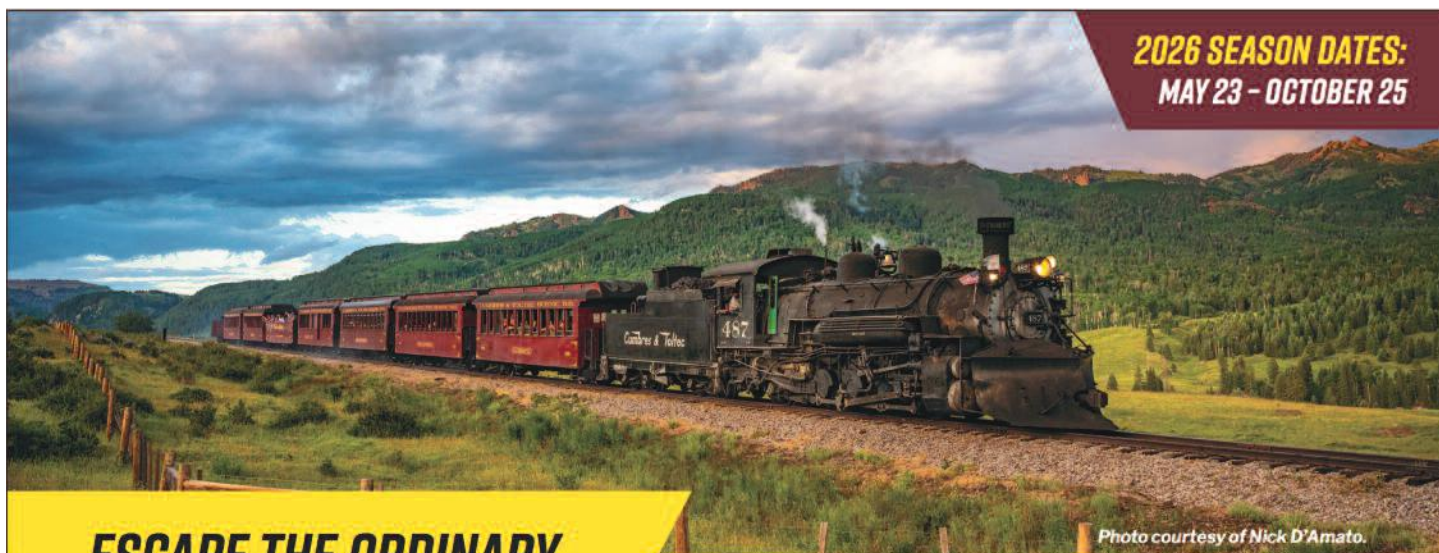
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A signature highlight is the Playhouse Theater. Live productions such as *Elvis Through the Years* and *Kenny and Dolly in Harmony* feature familiar music, professional performances and a warm, inviting atmosphere. Each show

is paired with a buffet style lunch, thus combining great food with unforgettable entertainment.

Each Christmas season, White Pines Lodge presents its own month-long production, *Scrooge the Comedy*. This one-of-a-kind show delivers laugh out loud moments through clever storytelling and enthusiastic audience participation, making it a favorite holiday tradition for many returning guests.

Beyond the stage, White Pines Lodge is known for its on-site dining, offering classic, homestyle cuisine that guests enjoy whether visiting for the day or staying overnight. Historic lodging adds further appeal, inviting guests to

unwind and fully enjoy the lodge's heritage and charm.

Guests can also explore shopping for unique gifts or take scenic hikes along trails that showcase the natural beauty of the area, creating a well-rounded experience for every interest.

With convenient access for groups and thoughtful amenities throughout, White Pines Lodge is more than a stop along the way; it is a destination. From matinees to welcoming dining, historic accommodations and outdoor activities, White Pines Lodge remains a timeless favorite for group travel in 2026 and beyond.

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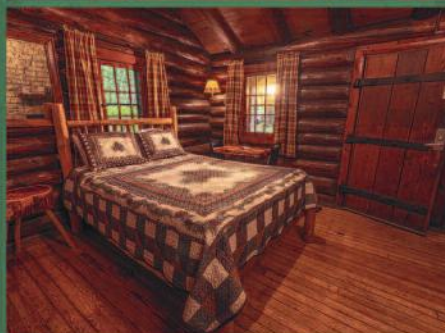
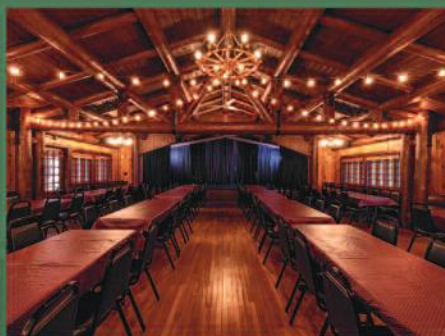


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Happy Birthday Route 66

by Larry Plachno

Many if not most people in the travel industry are aware that Route 66 celebrates its 100th birthday in 2026. For many, it is not only the best-known American highway prior to the interstate system but also a popular route with bus tour groups. I was fortunate in being able to travel some of the eastern half of the road in a former Greyhound Scenicruiser and was delighted to find that many of the traditional landmarks, attractions and other bus tour stops are still there and still as active as ever.

It all started with the Federal Highway Act of 1925 that set out to organize and improve America's existing trails and roadways. With the huge growth in automobile ownership, people were looking for paved roads to replace the existing collection of questionable roadways and dirt trails. The new system not only set out to improve these roads but also to give them logical numbers in the federal highway system.

Established in 1926, Route 66 was one of the first numbered highways. It extended from the waterfront in Chicago all the way to Santa Monica, California, a distance of about 2,448 miles, from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean. It went through eight states and connected several cities including St. Louis, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Albuquerque and Los Angeles. While some sections of the road have been replaced by interstate highways, much of it remains as a popular itinerary addition to bus tours.

Sometimes known as "The Mother Road," Route 66 has received substantial publicity over the years. It was mentioned in John Steinbeck's famous *The Grapes of Wrath*. In 1946, Nat King Cole and his trio gave the highway a theme song. It was featured in several episodes of *I Love Lucy*. It even managed to have its own television program, *Route 66*, in 1960. It also appeared in the Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper hit film *Easy Rider*.

Two new books on Route 66 have come to our attention in commemoration of its 100th anniversary. One is a marvelous book that covers both the history of the road as well as contemporary photos and information. The other is a culinary journey along



100 Years

Route 66: 100 Years is a hardbound book with 368 pages and 475 photos, most of which are in color. It provides information on Route 66 and goes into substantial history as well as things along the road. There are several sidebars that feature information on a specific item or event.

Route 66 with a cookbook that includes some favorite recipes from different locations along the road. Both books could provide information in planning a Route 66 bus tour, information for your tour guide or driver to share with passengers or even a prize for an on-board contest or activity. The two books can be purchased at major book stores.

Route 66: 100 Years
Edited by Jim Hinckley
Published by Motorbooks, an imprint
of the Quarto Group

This is an impressive hardcover book that is 9-1/2 inches wide by nearly 11 inches high. It has 368 pages with more than 475 photos. Most of the photos are in color although some of the historical photos are in black and white. The book starts out with an historical section and then provides separate sections for each state. The typography is impressive as is the print quality.

Along the way, the book offers essays on the history of Route 66. These are illustrated with both color photos as well as historical black and white photos. Included are images of various memorabilia located along the road. Of special interest are the sidebar features that provide information about a specific item or event.

It is interesting that the National Register of Historic Places includes more than 250 locations along "America's Main Street." The book provides hours of reading enjoyment for someone who wants to learn more about Route 66. It can turn your tour guide into a Route 66 expert and provides numerous items of information you can share with passengers.

At the end of the book is a special Chapter 9 titled "Renaissance." It covers various topics including international interest in Route 66, songs about the road and cinematic road trips. This chapter brings out the resurgent interest in Route 66, rehabilitation projects

and Route 66 moving into the future. There is a substantial index at the back of the book for those who are looking for specific items or topics.

The Route 66 Cookbook
Linda Ly
From Quarto

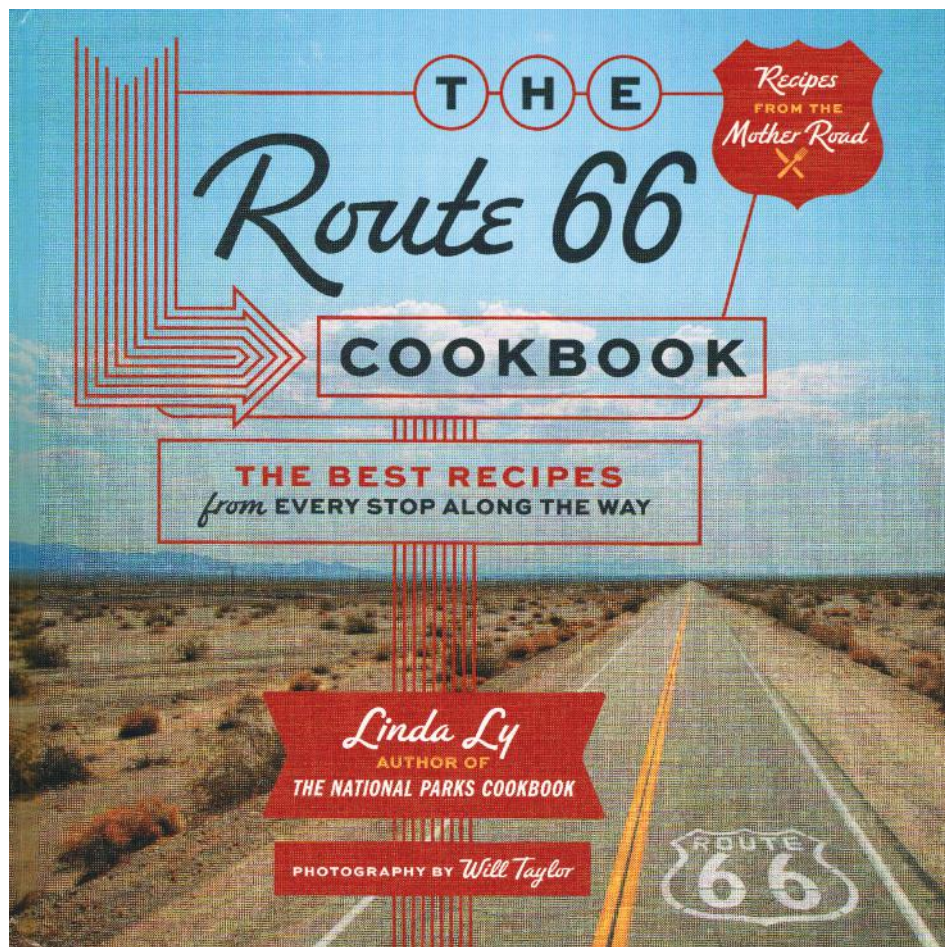
This hardcover book is 9-1/4 inches wide by 9-1/4 inches high, an unusual square format. It has 192 pages and includes photography by Will Taylor. The photographs are impressive and include photos of both the food items made from the recipes as well as the places that provided the recipes. I would suggest that you not read the book on an empty stomach as some of the featured dishes are mouth watering and could easily tempt you to run to your kitchen with the recipe.

The recipes can only be described as eclectic, comprehensive and varied. They have been collected from diners, cafes and restaurants located along historic Route 66. Most come from smaller eating places, including many small and family-owned eateries, but the range is substantial. On the one hand we can look at a recipe for Apple Strudel from the famous Berghoff Restaurant in Chicago or a traditional Ham Sandwich from Roy's Motel & Cafe in Amboy, California, a tiny mining town suffering from a declining population.

Likewise, the recipes encompass items suitable for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For example, you can find a recipe for Thick French Toast at Lou Mitchell's Restaurant and Bakery in Illinois, a range of specialized burgers in Missouri, Oklahoma and New Mexico as well as Fried Pork Chops in Oklahoma and Short Rib Noodles in California.

Looking for something sweet after your meal? You might consider French Silk Pie in Oklahoma, Butter Spritz Cookies in Illinois, the famous Elvis Ugly Crust Pie in Texas or even a Chocolate Malt in California. If you are looking for seafood, you have the options of Grilled Maine Lobster and Spicy Seafood Soup in California. Speaking of soup, you will find French Onion Soup in Missouri or Grandma's Chicken Soup in California as well as a couple different kinds of Chili. Just to show that they have thought of everything you will also find recipes for a Smoke-Filled-Room Cocktail in Illinois or the unique Smoke and Peaches Cocktail in California.

As you might expect, the book is divided into chapters by the eight states crossed by Route 66. German, Mexican and Asian recipes are also in the mix. Included are the Weiner Schnitzel from Arizona, Chiles Rellenos De Camarón from New Mexico and Wok Fried Rice With Pork Belly from California. While some recipes may require special ingredients or equipment, most can be cooked or created in the average kitchen.



The Route 66 Cookbook, put together by Linda Ly, is a unique square hardbound book that offers a culinary review along Route 66. Many of the recipes come from smaller cafes, diners and restaurants along the road although some well-known restaurants have also contributed. An eclectic range of recipes covers items for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as sweet stuff and drinks.

The book ends with a section offering the names, addresses and phone numbers of the places contributing the recipes. There also is a list of Route 66 associations with their Web sites. The book ends with an index that allows you to track down your favorite food items that appear in the book. □

Many of the Advertisements in *Bus Tours Magazine* have hyperlinks that allow you to connect with the advertiser.

Columnist Wanted

Bus Tours Magazine is seeking someone knowledgeable in planning bus tours to write a regular column for our bus tour planner readers. We are looking for tips, suggestions and advice on how to plan and run better tours and how to keep your customers happy. Ideas on how to bounce back from the pandemic would be particularly helpful. There is one column per issue with six issues per year.



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For the answer go to:

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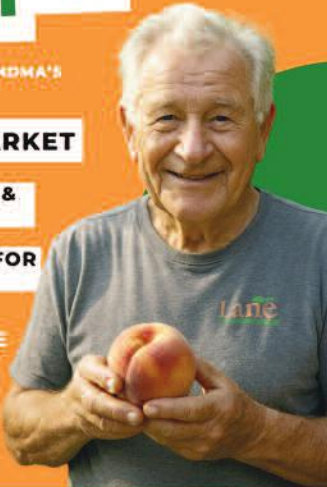
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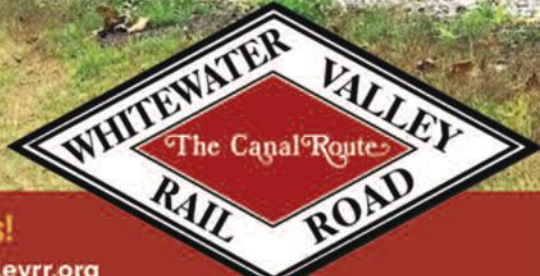
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When it comes to unforgettable group travel, Myrtle Beach knows how to deliver – and two of its most iconic attractions, Broadway Grand Prix and Myrtle Waves Water Park, continue to raise the bar for group entertainment.

Just steps apart in the heart of Myrtle Beach, these sister properties invite tour operators, student groups and family reunions to experience the best of both worlds: high-speed thrills and refreshing relaxation.

At Broadway Grand Prix, guests can race to the finish on seven unique go-kart tracks, putt their way through two 18-hole mini golf courses, or rack up points inside the Grand Prix Arcade filled with classic and cutting-edge games. Thrill seekers can soar down the high-banked curves of the Pro Track while younger racers find their own adventure on the Kids and Family Tracks. Add in bumper cars, the rock wall, and a full snack bar – and you have got a stop that is guaranteed to keep groups smiling all day long.

Then, cool off just across the street at Myrtle Waves Water Park, South Carolina's largest water park. Groups can enjoy more than one million gallons of water fun, with slides, wave pools and splash zones made for every age and adventure level. From the iconic Turbo Twisters and Rockin' Ray to the family-favorite Saturation Station, Myrtle Waves delivers classic summer fun with modern amenities, private cabanas and easy dining options that make planning a breeze.

Together, Broadway Grand Prix and Myrtle Waves create a seamless group itinerary – two premier attractions, one unbeatable location. Custom group packages, meal deals and exclusive ride or slide times are available, making it simple to tailor your visit for any occasion.

Whether you are planning a student trip, corporate outing or multi-generational adventure, make 2026 the year your group experiences



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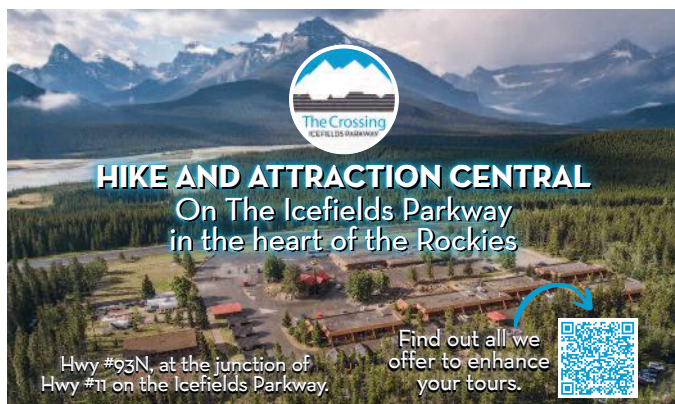
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Reconnect with your sense of wonder at Factory Obscura in downtown Oklahoma City. This artist-run collaborative company creates immersive experiences and interactive events designed to give adults and kids a place to play, connect, and engage with art in a new way.

MIX-TAPE is Factory Obscura's year-round immersive art experience created by local artists, with 6,000 square feet of handcrafted immersive art that is meant to be touched, interacted with, and explored. Pick up the free scavenger hunt at the box office, which will help guide you to some of the often overlooked secrets hidden within. Light diffraction glasses are also available, adding an extra layer of magic and sparkle to the experience.

The Bonus Track gift shop is filled with unique items you won't find anywhere else, featuring local artist-made creations, from original art and apparel to prints and stickers, from 100 artists. It's also where you'll find Factory Obscura's branded merchandise, including their iconic cassette tape compilations of original music by local musicians, t-shirts, magnets, and other fun mementoes from your visit.

Factory Obscura hosts events, performances, and community celebrations throughout the year, including outdoor festivals and artist markets, live music and concerts, open mic nights, and many more. Check out their website for the latest, www.factoryobscura.com.

Located in the Historic Automobile Alley District of downtown Oklahoma City, there are many local restaurants, coffee shops, retail, and other attractions within walking distance. Or, hop on the OKC Streetcar just a block away for a fun way to get around downtown. Nearby attractions include Oklahoma Contemporary Art Center, which offers free admission to its galleries, and Scissortail Park, an iconic gathering place for the city.

Factory Obscura is wheelchair accessible. Group tours are welcome and free bus parking is available. Group discounts are automatically applied when 10 or more tickets are added to your order. Factory



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A promotional graphic for the MIX-TAPE experience at Factory Obscura. The background is a bright yellow. At the top, there are two circular images: one showing the exterior of the Factory Obscura building and another showing a person inside an immersive art installation. Below these images is a cassette tape with the words "MIX-TAPE" on it. The main text "MIX-TAPE" is in large, bold, pink letters. Below it, "FACTORY OBSCURA" is written in a smaller, black font. Further down, the text "Experience 6,000 square feet of immersive, interactive art in Downtown Oklahoma City!" is written in a bold, black font. Below that, a paragraph of text describes the experience: "Enjoy group, senior and student discounts at this wheelchair-accessible, adult-designed experience that's fun for all ages, featuring a gift shop with 100+ local artists, free parking, and nearby restaurants, shops and attractions." At the bottom, the address "25 NW 9th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73102" and the website "www.factoryobscura.com" are listed.





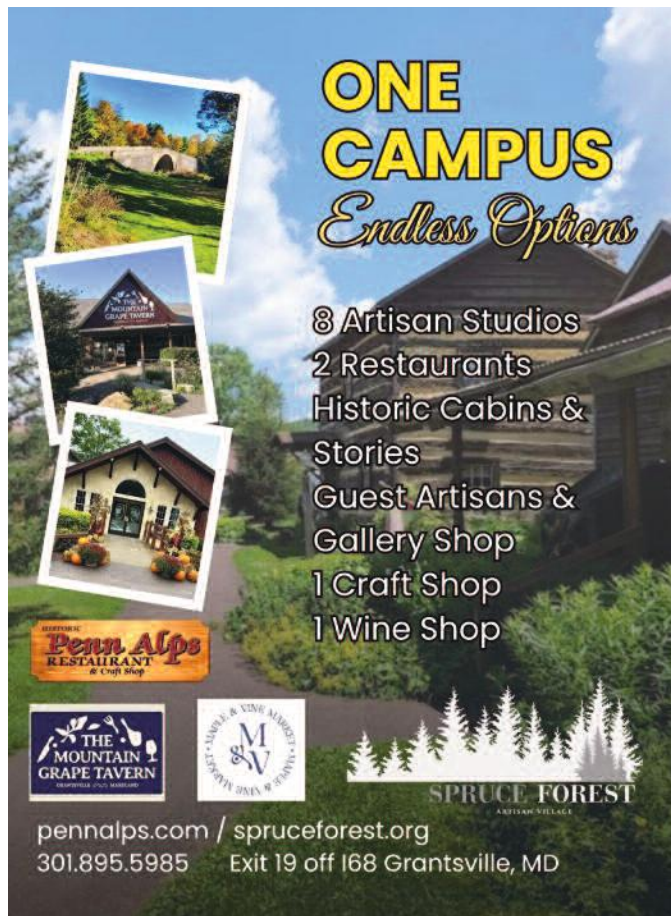
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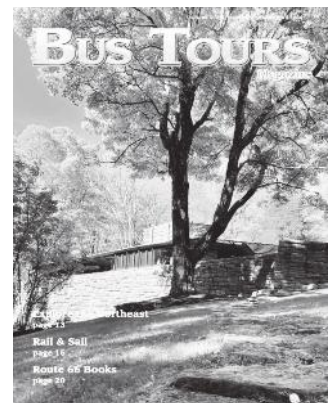
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