



## You can't avoid Amish influence in Shipshewana

SHIPSHEWANA, IND. — When you drive U.S. 20 through the farmlands of northern Indiana, you see the first signs: "Amish Fruit Market ahead," a billboard pointing south to Amish Acres, a restored village at Napanee; and a road sign that warns you to watch for horse-drawn vehicles.

It is easy to miss the Amish buggy parked in the driveway of a farmhouse or standing horse at the ready, in the field behind it. You can't miss the two black Amish buggies that clip-clop around the corner from the town of Shipshewana.

The places recommended in the guidebooks are all there on the road leading into Shipshewana — especially the auction grounds and the new Amish-Mennonite Visitor Center — but it is hard to keep your eyes off the 19th century traffic and the parking lots.

TWO BLACK buggies, with their orange caution triangles attached to the back, are parked beside the hardware store, under signs that read "Customer parking only." A whole

row of buggies are tied to a horse rail, side by side, while their owners, in black dresses and bonnets, go into the Wana Cup Restaurant with the big Pepsi sign over the door.

Tourism is an important business here, so all the old houses have been restored and converted to craft shops, antique stores and galleries.

You will find Sheri Scott-Welby in Galeria Folk Arts, in what was once the old train station. Sheri will show you a selection of paintings by Will Moses, great-grandson of Grandma Moses, plus paintings by local artists, such as Maxine Lane, who accompanies her primitive paintings with written descriptions of farm life.

On Saturday morning, the Amish men gather on the benches in front of the pharmacy. They don't like to have their photographs taken, so be tactful and use a long lens from a distance.

Any day of the week, you will find both locals and tourists in the Wagon Wheel restaurant. Ask the owners to point you down Morton Street to their three bed-and-breakfast homes. The Wolfe House, grandest of the three, has beautiful rooms and guests have full access to the kitchen.

RATES ARE \$40 to \$65 for two, depending on the day of the week. Monday and Tuesday nights are prime time, because the famous Shipshewana auction is held Tuesday and Wednesday.

It may be the world's biggest "flea market," held Tuesday and Wednesday May through October. The antique market is held Wednesdays year round. Friday is the animal auction. People come from all over the United States to buy Amish horses.

I only had a quick taste of Shipshewana. It wasn't enough. I highly recommend a visit.

Follow I-94 to Marshall or U.S. 12 to Coldwater, turn south on I-69 to Angola and west on U.S. 20 to Shipshewana.

You can't miss it. Just follow the horse-drawn buggies.

Hitching posts are more common than cement bumper curbs in Shipshewana, the heart of the Amish country in Indiana.

## Wineries, farms dot shoreline

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clear power plant next door.

There's nothing like a tour to make you hungry, and the best way to find good local eateries is to ask somebody who lives there. We cornered a couple having coffee on the patio and they recommended dining at the Grand Mere Inn or Tost's in nearby Stevensville; also the Mexican food at the Old Mill Inn in New Troy.

FOR OVERNIGHTERS, you can dress up and dance at Pebbleswood, or dress down for the country music at Country Gal. For those going north, and we were, they suggested we drive into downtown St. Joseph and try a tiny hamburger bar called Zita's.

Lake Michigan is not very visible from the road, but you get a great view of it as you approach South Haven. Sailboats bend against the wind as they head for the lighthouse that marks the harbor entrance.

There is a little point of land that marks the public beach here. If you are looking for something to do, go to the public beach and you'll find it.

Even in October, the walkers and sand players are out.

There are lots of great little bakeries, restaurants and bars in town, although there is not much late night activity, except perhaps at Clementine's.

A local pointed us to dinner at Ichabod's, inside a 1930s' condominium complex called Sleepy Hollow. Very art deco. Good duck, a great salad bar. You can rent condos here in season, but it's probably too late for this year.

You'll find a couple of small hotels downtown, plus the usual array of roadside hotels, but South Haven is particularly rich in bed-and-breakfast accommodations. Many of them seem to be on North Shore Drive, with easy access to the marina and the beach: The Last Resort, A Country Place, Arundel House, North Beach Inn and the about-to-open Yellon Manor, to name a few.

From South Haven, you can turn east toward home or you can continue north to Douglas and Saugatuck, where all the funky summer attractions are available without the crowds of summer.

CHECK OUT the bed-and-break-

*If you turn right at the I-94 exit, you will find yourself at the Cook Energy Information Center. It's worth an hour to explore the hands-on exhibits in the lobby and to see the three creative theater presentations.*

fast places in Saugatuck. Be sure to visit the wonderful Joyce Peter Gallery. Pig out on fudge and ice cream. Join the gang for beer at the Butler House, overlooking the lake.

The trouble with sand is that its attractions never end. You could start up this coast for a weekend and stay a lifetime, as many a traveler has done before.

If you would like to just wander off the road and taste as you go, play it by ear or contact the Michigan Travel Bureau toll-free at (800) 543-2YES.



MICKY JONES

One feature you'll notice when walking the Lake Michigan beach at Saugatuck is its oval curve.

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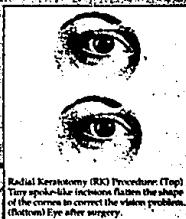
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## You may be able to throw these away forever



**Radial Keratotomy**  
If you are presently nearsighted and wear glasses or contact lenses, a remarkable procedure known as Radial Keratotomy (RK) can give you 20/20 vision. First performed in Russia in 1972, RK has been re-evaluated and "tested" since coming to the U.S. in 1978. No longer considered an experimental procedure, RK is practiced by highly trained ophthalmologists across the country. Here in Southfield, Michigan, Dr. Martin I. Apple, M.D.,



Radial Keratotomy (RK) Procedure: (Top) Tiny spoke-like incisions flatten the shape of the cornea to correct the vision problem. (Bottom) Eye after surgery.

performs this innovative procedure with a better than 90 percent success rate. RK involves the flattening of a misshapen cornea with tiny spoke-like incisions using microsurgical techniques. The operation is brief and comfortable and takes less than one hour. Most people are back to work within 48 hours. One eye is done at a time, so that the patient will still see as the other eye heals.

Since the procedure is new, Dr. Apple recommends that you consult an ophthalmologist to determine if you are a candidate.

For more information, contact Dr. Apple at an appointment, contact Dr. Apple at Southfield, Southfield, Michigan 48064, 313-358-3937.

358-3937