

DAS ESSENHAUS QUILT SHOW, GARDENS

3 Day Motorcoach Tour

Aug. 7-9

\$499 Double
\$479 Triple
\$629 Single

Annual Essenhaus Quilt Show
Quilt Gardens Tour
Guest Speaker Rebecca Haarer
Amish Country Touring, Home Lunch
"Quilters" The Musical
Shipshewana Shopping
Elkhart County Antique Quilts
5 Meals, Earn \$15 "Travelchecks"

Day 1: Essenhaus Quilt Show, "Quilters" The Musical. Start the day with home pickup and transfer to our deluxe motorcoach headed east. After threading our way through Indiana Amish country, we reach Middlebury and the Inn, restaurants and shops of Das Essenhaus. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the Essenhaus Quilt Show, Quilt Garden and Mural. See quilting demonstrations, meet vendors and shop for discount supplies. After checking into our lodging at the Essenhaus Inn, we enjoy our get-acquainted dinner then a performance of "Quilters." This Tony-nominated show is a magical musical about a pioneer woman and her daughters sharing stories and songs through the blocks of their handmade quilts. (D)

Day 2: Rebecca Haarer Quilt Trunk Show, Shipshewana Shopping. Enjoy a leisurely continental breakfast before joining a curator from the Elkhart County Historical Society for an up-close look at antique quilts and coverlets from 1850 to 1940. Riding through Amish country, we see some of the 16 quilt gardens, planted floral reproductions of familiar quilt patterns. Have your camera ready! For lunch we stop at an Amish home where the family serves up an "Amish taco," also known as a haystack. This after-

noon we meet Rebecca Haarer, a nationally-known collector of vintage Indiana quilts. From her "road show," Rebecca presents old quilts and discusses their significance in Amish culture. Afterwards, take time for shopping in Shipshewana before returning to Das Dutchman for dinner on your own and the evening at leisure. (CB,L)

Day 3: Quilt Gardens, Linton's Garden Center. The Amish Quilt Gardens Tour is one of the country's top 100 tour destinations each year. This morning after breakfast we see more of these gardens containing over 80,000 annuals in colorful, geometric displays along the Heritage Trail. Family-owned Linton's Enchanted Gardens is Indiana's largest garden center with nine acres. Stroll among ponds, waterfalls, bridges and streams. Shop in themed gardens and greenhouses filled with exotics and annuals before we have our lunch in the garden cafe. Learn from one of Linton's master floral designers before boarding the motorcoach with plants and ideas. An early-evening return, transfers take you home from the motorcoach. (CB,L)



DES MOINES AQS EXPO

4 Day Motorcoach Tour

Oct. 29 - Nov. 1

\$649 Double
\$629 Triple
\$829 Single

AQS Des Moines Quilt Expo, 200+ Vendors
Quilt Store Shopping, Fons & Porter
Bridges of Madison County, Winterset
Amana Colonies Shopping
Lunch at Historic Ox Yoke Inn
Hoffman's Patterns of the Past
Valley Junction Shop-About
7 Meals, Earn \$20 "Travelchecks"

\$15.00 Discount for AQS members with membership number.

Day 1: AQS Des Moines Quilt Expo. Convenient home pickups connect quilters to our deluxe motorcoach headed west to Iowa's capital, Des Moines. When the American Quilters Society is sewn to the Des Moines Area Quilt Guild, the result is an exhibit extravaganza with over 800 quilts on display, 200 vendors, seminars and celebrity instructors. After lunch along the way, we reach the Iowa Exhibition Center in mid-afternoon for our first quilt show visit. After our sampler, we go on the Drury Inn West Des Moines and unpack for the next three nights. A get-acquainted dinner is included this evening. (L,D)

Days 2-3: AQS Des Moines Quilt Expo, Fons & Porter. Both days begin with a continental breakfast at the Drury Inn. A multi-day pass to the expo is included so there's plenty of time to see it all. Admire the craftsmanship of each quilt and learn its story. Visit with the quilt creators and spend time in the vendor area. AQS members may register online in advance for instructional classes. One day we visit the historic Valley Junction district of West Des Moines for shopping and lunch on your own. The other day's side trip goes to see the covered bridges of Madison County with a stop at Fons & Porter quilter supply store in Winterset,

IA, then dinner. Evenings are free for sharing ideas with other quilters or exploring the nightlife around the Drury Inn. (2CB,D)

Day 4: Amana Colonies, Ox Yoke Inn, Patterns of the Past. After a continental breakfast, we leave the hotel and travel east through patchwork Iowa fields of soybeans and corn to Amana. Here we visit the Heritage Design Barn, rated one of the top ten quilt shops in the U.S. by American Patchwork & Quilting Magazine. At the historic Amana Colonies, we visit the Amana Woolen Mill and Amana Winery before a family-style lunch at the Ox Yoke Inn. Continuing east after lunch we stop at Hoffman's Patterns of the Past in Princeton, IL. Founded in 1944, this 8,000-square-foot store specializes in discontinued china and dinnerware patterns. What's your set missing? We return to home transfers later today after a fun-filled, creative and inspiring weekend with other quilters. (CB,L)