

# Villages of Van Buren Holiday Tour

Held annually- First Saturday in December



**8:00am - Milton.** (*Meet your Step-on Guide*) Take a quick visit to the new **Milton Creamery** and learn how this Mennonite family processes Amish milk into delicious cheese. Don't forget to grab some fresh cheddar cheese curds to snack on throughout the days journey. Enjoy viewing the variety of nativity scenes at the Methodist Church.

**9:30 am - Cantril.** Visit **The Dutchman's Store** which is filled with bulk food items and dried goods. It is also known as "A Quilter's Paradise" with 1000's of bolts of quilting material and supplies. Don't be surprised to see an Amish horse and buggy tied up at the hitching post, as the areas very large Amish and Mennonite community do their grocery shopping.

**10:30 am - Yoder's Indian Creek Furniture** shop is the area's newest Amish Furniture store. The Yoder family will offer to take guests through their wood shop where you will see how Amish made furniture is constructed. You will then have the opportunity to purchase some quality products at their new retail outlet.

**11:30 am – Whispering Pines Winery** is one of the county's newest wineries in the secluded country wilderness. You will learn about the viticulture and the processes of creating delicious fine wines. There be plenty of free samples and you may even want to purchase a bottle or two to take home with you...wine is ALWAYS a perfect gift too!

**12:30 pm** - Enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet lunch, complete with drinks and yummy desserts at **Village Cup & Cakes** in downtown Keosauqua.

**1:45 pm** - Experience a truly festive time at the **Festival of Trees** (*restrooms*). This event is sponsored annually by the Van Buren County Lions' organization and attracts hundreds of visitors. There are full size and tabletop trees, as well as wreaths all beautifully decorated by various organizations. A silent auction is held throughout the weekend with proceeds to the Christmas for Kids charity. Homemade cookies/bars & drinks will be available.

**2:45 pm** - Nestled along the lazy banks of the scenic Des Moines River, is the former riverboat village of **Bentonsport**. Within the village you will discover most buildings are the original structures from the 1800's, and now are homes to a variety of **specialty shops**, including the **Greef General Store**, (*restrooms*) offering a broad spectrum of hand made gifts, from weaving to woodcarving and antiques. Also, witness working artisans, as a skilled blacksmith and potter demonstrate beautiful artistic creations in **Iron & Lace**. Here is where you will find the famous "Queen Anne's Lace Pottery". Bentonsport is also the home to other local artists. You will be able to stroll across an old iron pedestrian bridge, which spans the Des Moines River. Bentonsport is a "must-see" for all visitors to Van Buren County.

**4:00pm-** Depart for home with fond memories from the Villages of Van Buren.

The cost of the magnificent Holiday tour is **\$22.00 per person**.  
All inclusive. A group of 30 will afford you 2 comps.