



ARCHITECTURE, ART & ANTIQUES

Home. Grown. Treasures.

Miami County, Ohio

DAY ONE

9:00 am

Located in the heart of Piqua is the town's historic gem, the beautifully restored **Fort Piqua Plaza**. This is an architectural treasure that was restored to the 1914 remodeled era of the hotel. Previously known and beloved at the Fort Piqua Hotel, it was transformed into a spectacular multi-use community building, housing the Piqua Public Library and a community banquet facility. Visitors can enjoy the magnificent lobby with the perfectly restored stained glass windows, breathtaking skylight and an opportunity to appreciate the well-worn gray Tennessee marble grand staircase. The



library boasts of a large local history collection as well as genealogical research resources and historical displays from the Piqua and the Northern Miami Valley. The second floor houses a Piqua art gallery as well as visitor friendly Local History Department, containing items from the local museum placed throughout the building among other exhibits. Reservations for this tour required. Allow an hour. Elevator available. Contact Beth or Jim Oda at 937-773-6753 or via email at adminwebsite@piqualibrary.org . www.thefortpiquaplaza.com

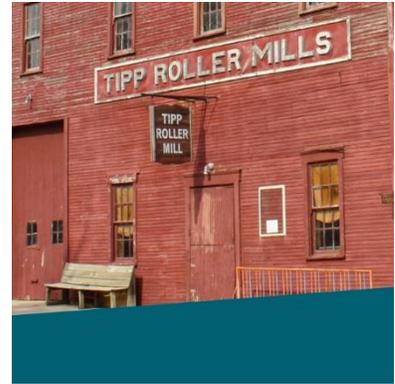
10:00 am

"A Time of Change-Downtown Piqua 1890", a self-guided walking tour, is available at the local history department of the Piqua Public Library (116 W. High St.) or Mainstreet Piqua/Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce (326 N. Main St.). Your tour begins in the 500 block of N. Main St. Allow approximately 1-2 hours for this tour.

While touring downtown Piqua, enjoy shopping at some of our local downtown Piqua businesses.



12:00 pm Enjoy lunch at one of Tipp City's local restaurants. Contact Leiann Stewart, Group Sales Manager, at the Miami County Visitors & Convention Bureau at 800-348-8993 for recommendations or visit www.homegrowngreat.com.



1:30 pm Make your way to **Downtown Tipp City** where you will enjoy some unique architecture and history and some wonderful local shopping.

The Tippecanoe Historical Society members offer walking tours of the five block downtown historic district, including an old opera house, converted mill and dozens of historic homes. Reservations required for groups. There is a required donation to the Tippecanoe Historical Society. Contact 937-667-4092 for more information or to schedule a tour.



Downtown Tipp City offers some fabulous specialty store shopping with an eclectic assortment of treasures. The majority of the Main Street shops and businesses are housed in many original structures from the past, lending a historic atmosphere. Some of the shops you will be visiting include The Hotel Gallery, formerly a 3-story hotel which contains beautiful pottery and batiks plus 2 additional floors of work by local artists, Merchant 31, Browse Awhile Books, Hapinstance, Living Simply Soap, Sweet By Kristy, Iron Dog Salvage and Cairns Toys. And, if your battery needs to be recharged, you can enjoy a cup of tea at The Golden Leaf Tea Room or a cup of coffee at Grounds For Pleasure.

3:30 pm Board motorcoach and relax at your hotel before dinner and your evening activity.

5:00 pm Wine & Canvas - Just east of the Stillwater River, on the outskirts of West Milton, the **Old Mason Winery & Vineyard** is nestled in amongst corn fields and farmsteads. The



perfect rural setting to unwind in. Come relax in their unique bricked tasting room, or on the patio with a vineyard view, while sipping on their handcrafted wines. Your group will enjoy a tour of the production facility and the vineyards as well as a wine tasting. They currently offer twelve varieties of wine. \$6/person for 1 oz. of five different wines. \$12/person for 2 oz. of five different wines. The tour and tasting can last from 1-2 hours, whatever fits the group's schedule. After the tour and tasting, order dinner from one of Miami County's local pizzerias or restaurants brought right in for you to enjoy at Old Mason

Winery & Vineyard. Then, channel your inner artist and prepare to be inspired as you are taught step-by-step how to paint on canvas. No talent or experience is necessary. The instructor will teach you everything you need to know. Old Mason Winery, Contact Jeff or Donna Clark at 937-698-1122 or via email at info@oldmason.com. www.oldmason.com (No tour/tasting on Sunday)



DAY TWO

Enjoy breakfast in your hotel and then depart at 8:45 am for downtown Troy.

9:00 am

Your first stop for today is a tour of the **Miami County Courthouse**. The courthouse combines beautiful Greek and Roman architecture with five cast iron domes. This Masterpiece was designed in 1885 by Ohio native, J.W. Yost. Completed in 1888, the

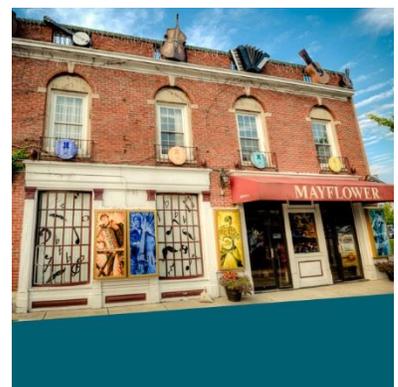


courthouse stands as one of the tallest structures in the county, towering 185 feet above the Great Miami River. The tip of the building is fitted with a copper statue of justice with bronze statues in attendance. Inside, the dome is guarded by a number of colorful visages representing cultures from around the world. Frescoed plaster ceilings, arches ornamented with representations of local agricultural produce, marble wainscoting, mosaic tile, and brilliant wood work also make the inside of this structure an architectural treasure. Reservations required. Contact Chief Charles

Frank at 937-339-0256. (No tours on Sunday)

10:15 am

The historic 1928 **Mayflower Theater**, built at the height of the silent movie era, is now home to the Mayflower Arts Center. The Mayflower Arts Center is a visual and performance arts center featuring gallery and exhibit spaces, arts studio, and fine arts retail. It also houses a large theater seating 132 people and features a 30' movie screen and digital projection surround sound. The theater is available for lectures, art films, business functions, and private parties. The Mayflower Arts Center offers a variety of art classes and workshops for people of all ages and group sizes. Groups can enjoy a private tour of this historic Troy Theater, browse the art galleries, take a class, or escape with a movie. Reservations required. Contact Lisa Bauer at 937-215-5257 or via email at



lisa@mayflowerartscenter.com. www.MayflowerArtsCenter.com

11:00 am

Before lunch, enjoy **Downtown Troy** by visiting the many unique shops located about two blocks in any direction from the town square and beautiful fountain. Groups can visit Bakehouse Bread, Winans Fine Chocolates and Coffees, The Blue Bow Boutique, Ark & Echo, The Olive Oasis, Ashley's Boutique, Amish Country Furniture, Troy Bulk Barn, David Fair on the Square, Expressions of the Home and many more. There is something for everyone. For more details on shopping and restaurants or information on a formal walking tour with historic information, please visit www.troymainstreet.org.



12:45 pm

Enjoy lunch in downtown Troy and then visit **Troy Hayner Cultural Center**, a cultural arts center housed in a beautifully restored 1914 mansion, was donated by the Hayner family to the community of Troy to be used for cultural programming, art exhibits and workshops. Groups may tour the mansion and enjoy the current art exhibits. Contact David Wion at 937-339-0457 to schedule a tour of Troy Hayner Cultural Center.

3:00 pm

Next you will visit the historic **Eldean Covered Bridge** set amongst the backdrop of Miami County's vast farmland and the tree-lined corridor of the Great Miami River. Built in 1860, it's one of the only two covered bridges remaining in the county and is the longest "Long Truss" covered bridge in the nation. Today, visitors can still cross through the protected barriers of this historic landmark, both on foot and by car. Either way, the design and craftsmanship will no doubt take you back to another time in Miami County's early history. Doug Christian will provide a 20 minute presentation on the bridge and its significance. *Corner of N. Co. Rd. 25-A & Eldean Rd.*



3:30 pm

Board Motorcoach to begin your journey home.

There are over 60 perfect backdrops across Miami County for that one or two or three special photos, the Miami County Barn Quilts. You can decide at some point during your stay in Miami County to drive the entire Barn Quilt tour or you can take brief detours to a few of them as you are traveling from destination to destination over the course of your stay. The barn quilts are 8' x 8' squares that are colorful, hand painted folk art renditions of traditional quilt patterns. They celebrate the unique rural and agricultural experience in Miami County. No two are alike. When you stop, feel free to get out, visit with the owners and take photos. For a Barn Quilt brochure, please call Leiann Stewart, Group Sales Manager, at the Miami County Visitors & Convention Bureau at 800-348-8993.