Taste & Travel Buzz with Steve Haren

AS SEEN ON
Showcasing the Future.
realestate TV SHOWCASE
SUNDAYS 11AM
Channel 43

Schrock's Amish Farm & Village

Great family fun in the heart of Amish Country

By Steve Haren of Taste & Travel Buzz

Located 1 mile east of Berlin in the heart of the world's largest Amish community lies a family fun center that all ages can enjoy. A working farm for more than a century, Schrock's Amish Farm and Home has been open to the public for more than 20 years offering fun for all ages – buggy rides, train rides for children and adults, animal petting, incredible shopping and more.

A world apart

Shrock's is such a departure from the conventional world that you may get the urge to take pictures during your visit. Just be sure to ask permission first. Photos are sometimes prohibited for religious reasons among the Amish.

Christmas year-round

Many of you will recognize the Schrock's complex by 'Tis the Season, Ohio's largest year-round Christmas shop. You will be amazed as you walk through three floors of a Christmas wonderland that features more than 100 decorated and lit trees. You can find anything and everything your Christmas heart desires including hundreds of decorations, garlands, ornaments and more. You can also peruse a full line of snowmen, angels, Santas, nativity sets and a full line of collectibles. One of the most collectible is 'Tis the Season's exclusive Byers Choice caroler doll, "Barbara," modeled after the grandmother of Jo Ann Hershberger, owner of Shrock's Amish Farm.

From July 1-6, 'Tis the Season will conduct its annual Christmas in July sale. Come in during this Hawaiian-themed event and save 25 percent throughout the store-collectibles and a few other items are not included. Wear your Hawaiian print shirt and get a free gift. Also be sure to register for great door prizes.

Incredible shopping opportunities

Gramma Fannie's Quilt Barn is housed in one of the original barns and offers quilts, wall hangings and more than 2,000 bolts of fabric. You also will find Gramma Fannie's own line of wall-hanging patterns and lots of books, stencils and quilting notions. Most days you will find someone quilting at Gramma Fannie's who will be happy to answer your questions.

More incredible shopping can be found at the Antique Mall and Craft Mall. The Antique Mall houses more than 75 booths of quality antiques, all on one floor. The Craft Mall is home to more than 100 booths of great, locally made crafts, furniture and more. I challenge anyone to walk out of either mall empty-handed as you are bound to find something that strikes your fancy!

Be sure to visit Quail Hollow Candles where you can actually watch the candles being made, Berlin Pets and Supplies for the adorable puppies for sale, and Berlin Leather and Shoe for everything from top-quality boots and hats to saddles, purses and collectibles. Also don't forget to stop by the Precious Petals flower shop.

Exciting activities

Buggy rides are just plain fun while you pretend you're part of an Amish family cruising around the farm. After the buggy ride it's all aboard the Amish Farm Express, a 16-gauge-scale train that takes you on a 1.2-mile trip through the countryside. The Amish Farm Express isn't just for the kids. Seating accommodates mom and dad, too, who will have every bit as much fun! Now that you've toured the grounds by buggy and train, it's time to tour an Amish home to see just how the Amish live. The tour is self-guided, but you can always find Alma inside baking cookies and pies and more, ready to answer any questions you might have. From the house you can make your way to the petting area where you and the kids can feed and pet the animals.

Make it a family tradition

Schrock's Amish Farm is an annual pilgrimage for my family and me. We visit every shop and ride every ride. We tour the home as well. We learn something new with every visit and find something new in every shop. We especially enjoy the farm and everything it offers, including the lunch items available at the on-site diner. We treasure the family time together and the memories we create with each visit.

So, if you think you've been there before, be sure to go again because it changes continually. You, too, are sure to find something new every time you visit. See you there!

Schrock's AMISH FARM and VILLAGE
Experience the Farm Life

Schrock's Amish Farm & Village
4363 HWY 39, Millersburg, OH
Located 1 Mile East Of Berlin
330-893-3232
www.amishfarmmarketing.com
www.grammafanniesquilts.com
www.TisTheSeasonChristmas.com
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

'Tis the Season Events

Christmas In July, July 1 - 6
Collectible Event, first Saturday in August
Annual Christmas Open House, Veterans Day weekend
Christmas Down on the Farm, first weekend in December

Beacon Deals

A package tour for 4 *at* ***Schrock's Amish Farm*** *includes the home tour, 10-minute buggy ride, 15-minute train ride & petting area (a $55 value) for* ***only $25!*** *Visit* **Beacon Deals.com** *at 9 a.m. tomorrow to get yours!*

f04_2638416

Check Web sites for more information and schedules of upcoming events!