

Good Art, Great Food, & Grand Gardens

DAY 1

10:30 am

Arrive at McCourtie Park, located on the edge of the Irish Hills, off US-12, in Somerset Center, MI. Having the opportunity to meander through McCourtie Park, and learn about its history, is a truly unique experience. There are seventeen bridges, Kris-crossing a stream that meanders through the park, no two alike. Each bridge is made of cement, painstakingly carved, by hand, to look like logs, planks, and ropes, by two artisans, from Mexico. In addition to the stream and bridges, there are two spring fed ponds, originally used for swimming and trout fishing, two unique birdhouses, and rolling green areas to enjoy. Click here: www.visitlenawee.com/old/html/unique_unusual_site.html



12:30 pm



Enjoy a scenic ride down Historic Byway US-12, into the heart of the Irish Hills, for a real smoke-house lunch, at Randy's Roadside Bar-B-Que. Relax and enjoy a delicious bar-b-que lunch, topped off with a generous piece of peach or blackberry cobbler! For more info, check out their website: www.randysbarbque.com.

2:30 pm

Arrive in downtown Tecumseh ready to shop 'til you drop in the many charming stores and boutiques. As you stroll along the boulevard, enjoy a homemade cookie from the bakery, pick up some fresh artisan cheese from the friendly market, sit and sip a cup of tea surrounded by old English ambiance, or purchase a bottle, or two, of wine from the local downtown winery! Just to name a few of the lovely experiences awaiting you in downtown Tecumseh, today!



During your shopping excursion, enjoy Art Trail Tecumseh, a self-guided walking tour, made up of many unique and beautiful outdoor sculpture pieces, strategically placed throughout the downtown shopping district. For more information, check out the website at: <http://www.msisculpture.com/ArtTrail2009-10TecumsehMI.htm>.

5:00 pm

Relax on the short ride to Adrian where you will check into your lodging facility and prepare for dinner. Depending on your lodging choice, enjoy a leisurely dinner in the hotel's bar/restaurant or consider a fun Pizza Party or catered buffet, created especially for your group, in one of the hotel's meeting rooms! Following dinner enjoy a delicious dessert reception, take a leisurely swim, use the mini-health club facilities, or relax and unwind in the bar with old and new friends.

DAY 2

8:30 am

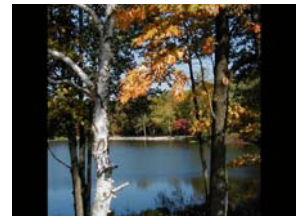
Begin your day with a hot breakfast, onsite, at your lodging facility. Following breakfast, bring your bags to the bus and prepare for a day filled with fresh air and the beauty of nature, in the colorful Irish Hills!

10:00 am



Board the bus for a relaxing ½ hour ride to Hidden Lake Gardens, a 750+ acre arboretum, owned and maintained by Michigan State University, located in Tipton, MI. Spend the day exploring Hidden Lake Gardens, which consists of year-round indoor and outdoor garden collections, a wonderful conservatory, the beautiful lake area, woodlands, open grass meadows, formal gardens and trees, shrubs and flowers, from all over the world, including Bonsai and rare Conifers, plus a multi-purpose visitor center, and a lovely gift shop. Wheelchair user trails and year-round educational programs, for all ages, are always available at HLG.

In the morning, when you arrive, enjoy a docent-directed tour of the gardens and conservatory, including a leisurely drive along the 7-mile viewing road. Following the tour, and depending on the time of year, enjoy lunch, mid-day, catered by a local restaurant, served outside, under a tent, on the garden grounds, or inside, in the indoor meeting room. Following a lovely lunch, provided by a local restaurant, enjoy an informative seminar or workshop, tailored to the group's particular interests, spend time further exploring the conservatory and the gift shop or wander the gardens and grounds at your own pace. For more info visit: www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu.



5:00 pm

At the end of a lovely day, filled with fresh air and beautiful gardens, lean back, relax, and enjoy a leisurely ride home. Thank you for visiting Lenawee County and we hope you will return soon!