

Indiana County offers year-round 'It's a Wonderful Life' tour

Indiana County is located in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, just one hour east of Pittsburgh. It is the birthplace and childhood home of Hollywood actor James "Jimmy" Stewart and also is known as the "Christmas Tree Capital of the World."

This year-round *It's a Wonderful Life* itinerary, created by the Indiana County Tourist Bureau, can be paired with the annual It's a Wonderful Life Parade, held this year on Nov. 17.

This sample itinerary can be adjusted in several ways. If groups visit during the holiday season, other activities such as the Smicksburg Annual Cookie Tour, Trees for Troops and holiday entertainment can be added. Overnight tours can include a Holiday Party with Santa at the hotel. The party includes live Christmas tree decorating, the showing of *It's A Wonderful Life* and gifts from Santa.

Morning

Start the day at The Jimmy Stewart Museum. A representative of the Indiana County Tourist Bureau will greet the group and present guests with complimentary gift totes.

Take a hometown tour of Indiana — Jimmy Stewart's birthplace. The tour travels past the site where he was born and stops at his boyhood home on Vinegar Hill overlooking the town. Continue past his grandfather's home; his family church with the Stewart family Tiffany Rose Window; and the site of his father's local hardware store, J.M. Stewart & Co. The tour ends back at The Jimmy Stewart Museum, where a group photo is taken in front of the statue of Stewart. Free step-on guide service is available throughout the trip.

Tour The Jimmy Stewart Museum. The group will see how the town has preserved a collection of Stewart memorabilia that represents his accomplishments as an actor,

military figure, civic leader, family man and world citizen. The museum is over 5,000 square feet and consists of exhibits of personal items from Stewart's family and friends, a gift shop and a 50-seat theater. While at the museum, the group will view a biography of Jimmy Stewart's life.

Afternoon

Enjoy homemade soup, sandwiches and dessert at a local, made-to-order restaurant in a historic setting.

Tour Fleming's Christmas Tree Farm. Groups can ride to the fields on a tractor- or horse-drawn hayride while they learn about growing and harvesting Christmas trees. Back at the holiday gift shop, they can browse while enjoying hot chocolate and desserts. Closer to the holidays they can buy wreaths, trees and unique decorations.

Take some time to visit historic covered bridges. Thomas Covered Bridge is a perfect photo opportunity for groups. The iconic bridge was built in 1879 and rebuilt in 1998 to connect farms in the rural area. Just down the road sits two more historic bridges set in the bucolic countryside.

Spark up the afternoon with a tasting and tour at Levery Brewing Company, which uses locally grown ingredients. The brewery's craft samples bear the names of nearby historic landmarks. Enjoy homemade ginger ale and root beer while crafting an artist bar souvenir.

Evening

Enjoy a Jimmy-themed meal at a local farm-to-table or gourmet restaurant. Choose from historic settings to cozy, fireplace rooms where the meal is completed with a visit from a Jimmy Stewart impersonator. Complimentary dinner gifts, free parking and door-to-door drop-off are included. 🍷



Jimmy Stewart Museum, Indiana, Pa.

GO

Indiana County

SEE

Fleming's Christmas Tree Farm
724-463-0570
flemingstrees.com

The Jimmy Stewart Museum
724-349-6112
jimmy.org

SIP

Levery Brewing Company
724-840-7611
leverybrewing.com

ASK

Indiana County Tourist Bureau
877-746-3426
visitindianacountypa.org/motorcoach

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