

Buggies Down Country Lanes, Cannons at Twilight — A 3-Day Lancaster & Gettysburg Road Trip

A 3-day Pennsylvania weekend: Amish farm country around Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse, a steam-train ride through Strasburg, and a Licensed Battlefield Guide tour of Gettysburg — with real stops and 2026 prices throughout.

DURATION

3 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

April–May & Sept–Oct

mild weather, green or colorful farmland,
and fewer crowds than summer

FROM

\$340 USD / person

for 2 people

Day 1

Arrive in Lancaster County

Drive in and settle into Lancaster, then spend the afternoon getting a first taste of Amish Country by horse-drawn buggy.

Self-Drive In — Arrive Lancaster County

Door to door · ~2 hours from Philadelphia, ~1.5 hours from Baltimore

Lancaster County sits an easy drive from most of the mid-Atlantic — Route 30 and Route 340 both cut straight through the farmland that makes up the rest of the weekend.

Lancaster Central Market, Lunch

~1 hour · Market stall prices, most items \$5–15

The oldest continuously operating farmers market in the country, open since 1730 under its current Romanesque brick roof — Amish and Mennonite vendors sell soft pretzels, chicken corn soup, and whoopie pies alongside produce stalls.

AAA Buggy Rides — Amish Farmland Buggy Tour

~25 minutes · ~\$18 USD / adult, ~\$9 USD / child

A working Amish farmer drives an authentic horse-drawn buggy down back lanes between Intercourse's farms, narrating Amish life and farming along the way — the single most popular first stop in the county for a reason.

AAA Buggy Rides · +17179892829 · www.aaabuggyrides.com

Dinner — Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord

~1.5 hours · Smorgasbord ~\$28 USD / adult, ~\$14 USD / child

A sit-down Pennsylvania Dutch buffet running since 1970 — roast turkey, ham, chicken pot pie, and a dessert table heavy on shoofly pie and apple dumplings, all served family-style.

Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord · +17173938404 · bird-in-hand.com/restaurant-smorgasbord/

Overnight — Eden Resort & Suites, BW Premier Collection

From \$165–215 USD / night, for 2 people

A long-running Lancaster resort hotel with indoor and outdoor pools and easy access to Route 30, a central base for both nights of the Amish Country stretch.

Eden Resort & Suites · www.edenresort.com

Day 2

Amish Farmland & the Strasburg Rail Road

A full day on the back roads around Bird-in-Hand, Intercourse, and Strasburg — a covered bridge, a steam train, and an afternoon of shopping at a village built around a 1950s country store.

Self-Drive — Old Philadelphia Pike Loop

~1 hour of driving total · Route 340 & back roads

Route 340 (Old Philadelphia Pike) threads Bird-in-Hand, Intercourse, and Smoketown past farms still worked with horse teams — go slowly and expect to share the shoulder with the occasional buggy.

Kitchen Kettle Village, Browsing

~1.5 hours · Free entry, shop prices vary

A cluster of 40-plus shops and kitchens built around a jam-and-relish stand that opened in 1954 — free samples of jams, salsas, and chow-chow run most of the day, in Intercourse's village center.

Strasburg Rail Road, Steam Train Ride

~45 minutes · from \$20 USD / adult, from \$12 USD / child

America's oldest continuously operating railroad runs a coal-fired steam locomotive through 4.5 miles of the same farmland the buggies cross, with Amish farms visible from the open-window coaches the whole way.

Strasburg Rail Road · +17176874261 · www.strasburgrailroad.com

Dinner in Strasburg or Bird-in-Hand (on your own)

Est. \$15–25 USD / person

A handful of Pennsylvania Dutch diners and roadside stands along Route 896 and Route 340 serve the same chicken pot pie and ham loaf as the sit-down smorgasbords, at a fraction of the price.

Overnight — Eden Resort & Suites, BW Premier Collection

From \$165–215 USD / night, for 2 people

Second night at the same hotel.

Eden Resort & Suites · www.edenresort.com

Day 3 Gettysburg & Home

An hour west to Gettysburg for a Licensed Battlefield Guide tour and the Soldiers' National Cemetery, before the drive home.

Self-Drive — Lancaster to Gettysburg

~1 hour · Route 30 West

Route 30 runs almost the whole way, crossing the Susquehanna River at Columbia-Wrightsville before the farmland gives way to the rolling fields that surround the Gettysburg battlefield.

Licensed Battlefield Guide, 2-Hour Auto Tour

~2 hours · \$82.00 USD per vehicle, 1–6 people

A guide rides in your own car and narrates the three-day battle across its actual ground — Little Round Top, the Wheatfield, and the long open field of Pickett's Charge — tickets are sold through the Gettysburg Foundation and guides are capped at the posted rate.

Gettysburg Foundation — Licensed Battlefield Guides · www.nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/lbg-rates.htm

Soldiers' National Cemetery, Self-Guided Walk

~30 minutes · Free

The cemetery where Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address in November 1863 sits at the edge of the battlefield, its curved rows of modest headstones a quiet close to the day's touring.

Lunch on Lincoln Square (on your own)

Est. \$12–20 USD / person

The restaurants ringing Lincoln Square, in the shadow of the 1797 Gettysburg Hotel, make an easy last stop before the drive home.
