

weekend escapes in northern indiana

shops and shores

Small shops in restored workers’ homes... Friendly resorts... Canoeing... Down-home cafes... Lakes for fishing and swimming... An antiquing town... Live theater... Cut-glass creations... Cruises on an old-fashioned sternwheeler. Outdoor activities and one-of-a-kind shopping expeditions artfully combine in Kosciusko and LaGrange Counties for days of fun on land and water.



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Day 1: SHOP! (Winona Lake, Pierceton, and Warsaw)

THINGS TO DO:

- **Visit the Village at Winona:** This thriving arts community along the Winona Lake shore is a dream for shoppers looking for one-of-a-kind finds. Galleries, studios, shops and unique restaurants fill charmingly restored workmen’s homes.
- **Discover Classy Glass** (Photo 1): The Warsaw Cut Glass Company, founded in 1911, features goblets, pitchers, platters and bowls, all in gleaming hand-cut crystal. On most weekends you can watch the glasscutters work their magic.
- **Go antiquing in Pierceton:** Just a few miles southeast of Winona Lake, the small town of Pierceton is a haven for antique and art lovers alike. You’ll find vintage furniture, clothing, glass, jewelry, and other heirlooms, along with modern-day landscapes, pottery, sculpture and photography.
- **Catch a show:** The award-winning Wagon Wheel Theatre in Warsaw features Broadway-quality theatrical productions in an intimate theater-in-the-round setting.

LODGING:

- **The Blue Heron Guest House, Winona Lake** (Photo 2): A beautiful inn resembling an Italian villa along the shores of Winona Lake with nightly boat cruises and gourmet breakfast.
- **Brook Pointe Inn, Syracuse:** Close to Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake, a 30-room inn with indoor pool, suites with whirlpools, and 12 miles of trails on the grounds.

DINING:

- **The Cerulean Restaurant, Winona Lake:** Classy restaurant with Asian and Mediterranean dishes.
- **BoatHouse Restaurant, Winona Lake** (Photo 3): Lakeside restaurant with a casual atmosphere and upscale menu.
- **The Old Train Depot, Pierceton:** Sandwiches, salads and micro-brewed beers in a historic train depot.

Day 2: Lakes and Markets (Syracuse, North Webster, Howe and LaGrange)

THINGS TO DO:

- **Hit the Lakes:** You can easily spend a whole weekend (or week!) swimming, fishing , boating or just lounging on the beach at one of Kosciusko County’s many lakes. **Lake Wawasee** (Indiana’s largest natural lake), **Syracuse Lake**, **Webster Lake**, **Tippecanoe Lake**, along with **Lake Winona** draw swimmers to their sandy beaches, anglers who fish for muskie and more, plus skiers and sailboaters. Several marinas offer rentals, and family-friendly resorts make great spots to stay.
- **Shop the Farmers’ Markets:** LaGrange County is known as the No. 1 organic growing area in Indiana, so Saturday morning farmers’ markets in the communities of LaGrange and Howe, just six miles apart, offer a great chance to meet friendly Amish farmers and stock up on fresh produce, delicious baked goods, finely finished woodcrafts and more.
- **Meet the Bison** (Photo 5): The couple who own Cook’s Bison Ranch near Wolcottville have a passion for raising these noble animals and love to share their history with you. Meet the bison up close on guided wagon rides.

LODGING:

- **Oakwood Resort, Syracuse** (Photo 4): Upscale resort on Lake Wawasee with hotel rooms, cabins, vacation homes, a restaurant, and numerous amenities.
- **Big House in the Little Woods, Millersburg:** A gleaming white Colonial-style house with lovely rooms and gourmet breakfast.

DINING:

- **The Channel Marker, Syracuse:** Visitors arrive by boat and car to this relaxed restaurant with great food located on a beautiful channel that connects Lake Wawasee and Lake Syracuse.
- **Emma Cafe, Emma** (Photo 6): A hidden gem with an old-fashioned soda fountain in the Emma General Store, serving diner food, pizza, and daily specials. A similar treat is **Crossroads Cafe** a few miles away in Topeka, in the back of the Topeka Pharmacy.

Day 3: Water and Walking

THINGS TO DO:

- **Kayak or Canoe:** The gentle Pigeon River near Mongo is a favorite of canoers and kayakers who love to stop along the way for lunch, swimming, fishing for trout, and wildlife watching. The Trading Post at Mongo will set you up with all the gear for a couple hours or a day or more.
- **Ride the Dixie!** (Photo 7): Take a 75-minute cruise on Webster Lake aboard Indiana’s oldest sternwheeler for a little history, lots of music and loads of fun.
- **Visit the Gardens:** Roam a peaceful setting at the Warsaw Biblical Gardens, which contain over 100 plants that are named in the Bible.

DINING:

- **Mi Lindo Acapulco, Warsaw:** Fresh and authentic Mexican food; breakfast all day.

Extend your Northern Indiana stay by traveling to other stops on the Art and Earth Trail.