



# Explore Southern Indiana's state parks



Photos by Patricia Haggel Cornwell



Above, clockwise, American lotuses, members of the water lily family, line the banks of the lake at Lincoln State Park opposite the boat rental house.

Kelly Kuchenbrod of Evansville, Ind., a volunteer at O'Bannon Woods State Park, demonstrates how wool yarn is created with a traditional spinning wheel.

This log cabin is the hub of the pioneer farmstead at Lincoln State Park, and is located about 50 feet from the bronzed foundation and hearth of the cabin where the Lincoln family lived from 1816 until 1830.

A white-tailed fawn stares at tourists from the edge of the woods in Harmonie State Park.

See related story, page 2B.



Photo courtesy Al Brown

## Desert beauty

Sedona Gardens of St. John Vianney are breathtaking, page 5B.



Photo by Sean Gallagher

## Kentucky's 'Holy Land'

Bardstown played key role in growth of U.S. Church, page 6B.

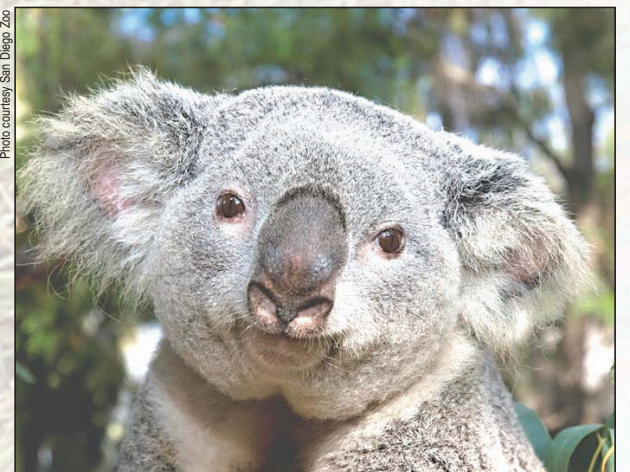


Photo courtesy San Diego Zoo

## Zoo celebrates 20 years

Koalas get summer vacation at Indianapolis Zoo, page 16B.

# History and harmony

## O'Bannon, Lincoln and Harmonie state parks offer lots of fun activities for everyone

By Patricia Happel Cornwell  
Special to The Criterion

SOUTHERN INDIANA—Indiana has 24 state parks, but many Hoosiers may not know that tucked away in the southwest corner are three beautiful parks: O'Bannon Woods, Lincoln and Harmonie.

You can reach these parks by State Road 62 from New Albany or I-65 south to I-265 west then I-64 west.

But if you take the interstates, you miss seeing Possum Junction, Little Pigeon Creek and Frog Pond Road. I prefer the "back way" past swallowtail butterflies feeding on Joe Pye Weed, fields of corn and cattle, hilltop farmhouses, small towns, the bell towers of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and sycamores lining Little Blue River.

Department of Natural Resources park fees are \$4 per car on Monday through Thursday, \$5 per car on Friday through Sunday and on holidays, and \$7 for non-residents. A \$36 annual pass for Hoosiers covers admission to all the state parks. An annual pass for a non-resident with an out-of-state license plate costs \$46.

Properties are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. for day users. The area west of Corydon is on Central Time so Lincoln and Harmonie state parks are an hour "behind" Indianapolis. These parks do not have lodges. Campsite and cabin fees vary by location.

*"In wildness is the preservation of the world."*  
— Henry David Thoreau



The restored home of Union Army Col. William Jones lies within the boundaries of Lincoln State Park. He is remembered as the first employer of young Abraham Lincoln, who was a clerk at his store.

Eighty miles of horse trails loop through the park and state forest, and two horsemen's camps are available, one with electricity.

Wildflower gardens grace the approach to the nature center, where year-round activities range from children's programs on creepy, crawly things to canoe trips and guided cave exploration.

A short walk through a butterfly garden behind the center brings you to the 1830s-era farmstead, the hub of living history demonstrations enacted on several weekends during the summer. We watched costumed volunteers ply such pioneer skills as blacksmithing, woodworking and spinning.

What makes O'Bannon Woods unique, however, is its 1850 hay press, a three-story baling mechanism that is its own barn. Restored in 2000, it is one of only eight surviving hay presses in the country and the only one that is still operational. The barn originally also housed cattle, hay and farm equipment.

My husband, John, and I joined a crowd one Saturday to watch the press work. Operating it requires three attendants plus a strong draft animal, such as an ox, to turn a wooden "sweep" at the bottom of the building.

During several weekends a year, "Lion," a 2,000-pound, 12-year-old Durham Shorthorn ox earns his hay when he is yoked to the sweep, a horizontal wooden beam, and a volunteer leads him in a circle. This raises a 500-pound weight from the second floor to the third level via pulleys as helpers fork hay into a second-floor compartment. When the weight falls, it compresses the hay into a 300-pound square bale. It takes 15 minutes to make one bale.

Samuel Hewitt of Switzerland County invented the press in 1843 to facilitate transportation of hay to urban areas via barges on the Ohio River. It improved on the earlier "jump press," so named because men actually jumped on the hay to compress it. By the 20th century, steam-powered balers made hay presses obsolete.

O'Bannon Woods partially borders the Ohio River and has small-boat access to the Blue River.

Leavenworth and Corydon are close enough to provide lodging and dining alternatives.

Also nearby are the Corydon First State Capitol, Wyandotte Caves, Marengo Cave and Squire Boone Caverns.

### Lincoln State Park

Highway 162  
15476 N. County Road 300 E.  
Lincoln City, IN 47552  
812-937-4710  
Established in Spencer County in 1932  
1,747 acres  
3 hours or 195 miles from Indianapolis  
1¾ hours or 80 miles from New Albany  
Where to go to Mass:  
St. Nicholas Church  
State Road 245  
Santa Claus, IN 47579  
812-937-2380  
Mass times: 4 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday

Everybody loves a bargain, especially on vacation, so my husband, John, and I were pleased to discover a "twofer" in Spencer County.

Turning west at the junction of State Road 245 and State Road 162, we discovered the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial directly across the road from Lincoln State Park.

The route to both sites goes past Holiday World in Santa Claus so those with kids may be compelled to stop there. If you do, the only hotel is Santa's Lodge across from the amusement park.

For adults, Christmas Lake Golf Course is nearby. There is no lodging in Lincoln City so a visit to the park and memorial requires an overnight stay either at Santa's Lodge, in a campsite or cabin at the park, or at one of two hotels north of Dale near I-64.

Lincoln State Park has cabins, campsites, a swimming pool, nature center, hiking trails, a small wetland and the Sarah Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve.

Lincoln Lake has a boathouse and paddleboats. I was fascinated by stands of American lotuses on the water with unreal and very photogenic six-inch yellow blooms.

History fans will want to visit the gravesite of Abraham Lincoln's sister, Sarah Lincoln-Grigsby, and the reconstructed brick farmhouse of William Jones, Lincoln's first employer.

The Jones home is accessible by foot trail for serious adult hikers, but it's a long walk and part of the route is along the busy road. The best option is to drive there via Highway 162 by going west two miles to Gentryville.

The 1,500-seat outdoor Lincoln Amphitheatre was built to offer concerts and other entertainment throughout the year, but there are no programs scheduled this year. Indiana Department of Natural Resources personnel expect to reopen it with a new "Lincoln Drama" in 2009.

Across Highway 162, the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will gratify history buffs. Its half-moon museum is faced with bas-relief sculptures and Lincoln quotations. There is no fee to visit the memorial. The grave of Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, is on the property, which is also the site of a working 1820s-era pioneer farm.

On the afternoon that we visited the farmstead, goldfinches were harvesting seeds from sunflowers, a dove cooed in a tree overhead, and a costumed woman swept out the cabin. In the barnyard, a man fed a cow, sheep and chickens. Another man did leatherwork in a nearby shed. In the summer, Indiana Department of Natural Resources personnel enact daily demonstrations of pioneer trades.

Thomas Lincoln, Abe's father, moved his family to what is now Spencer County in 1816, the year that Indiana became a state.

In 1934, archaeologists uncovered remnants of the cabin where the future president lived for 14 formative years as a boy and teenager. The bronzed hearth and foundation of the simple home can be seen up close

See PARKS, page 11B



Photos by Patricia Happel Cornwell

Costumed volunteers ready Lion, a Durham Shorthorn ox, for a demonstration of the restored 1850 hay press at O'Bannon Woods State Park.

### O'Bannon Woods

#### State Park

7234 Old Forest Road S.W.  
Corydon, IN 47112  
812-738-8232  
Established in Harrison County in 2004  
2,000 acres  
2½ hours or 150 miles from Indianapolis  
40 minutes or 30 miles from New Albany  
Where to go to Mass:  
St. Joseph Church  
312 E. High St.  
Corydon, IN 47112  
812-738-2742  
Mass times: 6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday

*"A culture is no better than its woods."*  
— W. H. Auden

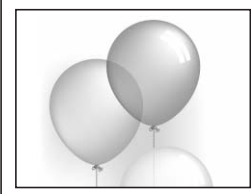
O'Bannon Woods is a state park within a state forest. Its 2,000 acres are surrounded by the 24,000-acre Harrison-Crawford State Forest, a nature preserve.

Originally called Wyandotte Woods State Recreation Area, it was renamed in 2004 to honor the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon, a Corydon native.

Like most state parks, it offers picnic areas, campgrounds, cabins, hiking trails, a swimming pool and nature center.



A circuitous maze of boxwood hedges eventually leads to a tiny stone chapel in the historic Harmonist Labyrinth on Route 69 just south of New Harmony. It symbolizes the difficult path to perfection.



# Parish Festivals

## May 24

St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight, 8310 St. John Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Strawberry Festival, 8 a.m.-1 a.m., make your own shortcake, street dance. Information: 812-923-5785.

Holy Guardian Angels Parish, 405 U.S. Highway 52, **Cedar Grove**. Spring Fling, rummage sale and chicken dinner, sale 9 a.m.-1 p.m., dinner, 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Information: 765-647-6981.

## May 28-31

St. Rose Parish, Highway 40, **Knightstown**. Yard sale, booths, food, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 765-345-7429 or [stroseyardsale@yahoo.com](mailto:stroseyardsale@yahoo.com).

## May 30

Knights of Columbus Council #3660, 511 E. Thompson Road, **Indianapolis**. Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Feast of the Sacred Heart, dinner and reception, 6:30 p.m.-11 p.m., \$20 per person. Information: 317-638-5551.

## May 30-31

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., **Indianapolis**. Open Market, Fri., rummage sale, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat., crafts, food, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., health fair, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.

## May 30-June 1

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., **Indianapolis**. Summerfest, Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 3 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., rides, games, food, entertainment. Information: 317-357-8352.

## May 31

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1530 Union St., **Indianapolis**. "Meet and Eat," pitch-in dinner, meat and drinks provided, 6:15 p.m.-9 p.m. Information: 317-638-5551.

Our Lady of the Springs Parish, 8796 W. State Road 56, **French Lick**. "A Taste of Italy," Italian dinner, 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Information: 812-936-4568.

## June 5-7

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklondon Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, rides, games, entertainment, food. Information: 317-826-6000, ext. 150.

## June 5-8

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., **Greenwood**. Summer Festival, Thurs. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Italian dinner, 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, fish fry, 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.,

Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, pork chop dinner, 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Sun. noon-9 p.m., fried chicken dinner, noon-3 p.m., rides, games, food. Information: 317-888-2861, ext. 236.

## June 6-8

St. Louis School, 17 St. Louis Place, **Batesville**. Rummage sale, Fri. 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., half-price sale noon-4 p.m., Sun. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$1 bag sale. Information: 812-934-3204.

## June 8

St. Paul Parish, 814 Jefferson St., **Tell City**. Parish picnic, City Hall Park, 700 Main St., across from church, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., games, food. Information: 812-547-9901.

## June 12-14

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., **Indianapolis**. Summer Festival, food, trash-to-treasures sale, games, Thurs. 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Information: 317-636-4828.

St. Bernadette Parish, 4838 E. Fletcher Ave., **Indianapolis**. Summer Festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, games, rides, food. Information: 317-356-5867.

St. Michael Parish, 519 Jefferson Blvd., **Greenfield**. Summerfest, Thurs. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Battle of the Bands, Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m.-11 p.m., rides, games, food, fireworks Fri. and Sat. nights. Information: 317-462-4240.

## June 13-14

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., **Indianapolis**. 25th annual Italian Street Festival, Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Italian foods, music, rides. Information: 317-636-4478.

Holy Angels Parish, 740 W. 28th St., **Indianapolis**. Juneteenth Festival, Fri. fish fry, 4 p.m.-9 p.m., Sat. soul food dinners, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., children's activities, country store, games, pony rides, classic car show. Information: 317-926-3324.

St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., **New Albany**. 24th annual Street Dance Weekend, Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 6 p.m.-1 a.m., games, food, music, dance Sat. night. Information: 812-944-9775.

## June 13-15

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., **Indianapolis**. International Festival, Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 5 p.m.-10 p.m., food, games, rides, entertainment. Information: 317-291-7014, ext. 27.

## June 14

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish,

2322 N. 13½ St., **Terre Haute**. Parish auction, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-466-1231.

## June 19-21

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road, **Indianapolis**. Summer Festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, food, games, rides. Information: 317-786-4371.

## June 20-21

Christ the King Parish, 1827 E. Kessler Blvd., **Indianapolis**. Summer Social, Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, music, games, talent show, entertainment, rummage sale. Information: 317-255-3666.

## June 22

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, **Sunman**. Parish festival and picnic, chicken dinner, turtle soup, games, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 812-623-2964.

## June 29

St. Paul Catholic Center, 1413 E. 17th St., **Bloomington**. "Mass in the Meadow" and parish picnic, 10:30 a.m., food, games. Information: 812-339-5561.

St. Maurice Parish, 1963 N. St. John St., **Greensburg**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., roast beef and chicken dinners, games, country store. Information: 812-663-4754.

## July 10-12

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m., rides, food, music, entertainment. Information: 317-353-9404.

## July 11-12

St. Benedict Parish, 111 S. Ninth St., **Terre Haute**. Community Festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, flea market, children's games, food, music, \$2 admission. Information: 812-232-8421.

## July 11-13

St. Lawrence Parish, 542 Walnut St.,

**Lawrenceburg**. Parish festival, food, music, rides, Fri. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, pork chop dinner, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, German dinner, Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 812-537-3992.

## July 13

Harrison County Fairgrounds, 341 Capitol Ave., **Corydon**. St. Joseph Parish, parish picnic, 10 a.m., chicken dinner, food, games. Information: 812-738-2742.

## July 17-19

St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., **Indianapolis**. 70th annual Midsummer Festival, Thurs. 4 p.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 4 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. noon-11 p.m., food, games, rides. Information: 317-241-6314.

## July 18-19

St. Susanna Parish, 1210 E. Main St., **Plainfield**. Parish festival, Fri. 6 p.m.-11 p.m., pulled pork dinner, Sat. 4:30 p.m.-midnight, rib-eye steak dinner, food, games. Information: 317-839-3333.

## July 19

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, 23670 Salt Fork Road, **Bright**. Parish festival, music, food, children's games, Mass, 3 p.m. Information: 812-656-8700.

## July 20

St. John the Baptist Parish, 25743 State Road 1, **Dover**. Summer Festival, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., fried chicken dinner, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., games, country store. Information: 812-576-4302.

St. Mary Parish, Navilleton, 7500 Navilleton Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., silent auction. Information: 812-923-5419.

## July 24-26

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., **Indianapolis**. Fun Fest, 5 p.m.-midnight, rides, food, music, games. Information: 317-787-8246.

See FESTIVALS, page 4B

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# FESTIVALS

continued from page 3B

## July 25-26

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 316 N. Sherwood Ave., **Clarksville**. Parish festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.-11 p.m., chicken dinner, food, entertainment. Information: 812-282-2290.

## July 26-27

St. Martin Parish, 8044 Yorkridge Road, **Yorkville**. Parish festival, Sat. 4:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., prime rib dinner, 4:30 p.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m., fried chicken dinner, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., food, games, music. Information: 812-623-3408.

## July 27

St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., **Leopold**. Parish festival and picnic, 11 a.m., chicken dinners, quilts, games. Information: 812-843-5143.

## August 1-2

St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., **Sellersburg**. Parish yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

## August 2

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., **Fortville**. Summer Festival, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., games, food, entertainment, auction, chicken and noodles dinner. Information: 317-485-5102.

## August 3

St. Bernard Parish, 7600 Highway 337, **Frenchtown**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner, booths, games. Information: 812-347-2326.

St. Boniface Parish, 15519 N. State Road 545, **Fulda**. Parish picnic, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., food, quilts. Information: 812-357-5533.

## August 9-10

St. Paul Parish, 9798 N. Dearborn Road, **Guilford/New Alsace**. Parish festival, Sat. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., family-style chicken dinner, quilts, food, games, music. Information: 812-487-2096.

## August 10

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary's Drive, **Lanesville**. Parish festival and picnic, fried chicken and country ham dinners, booths, quilts, games, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-952-2853.

## August 15-16

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 46th and Illinois streets,

**Indianapolis**. Sausage Fest, food, music, Fri., Sat. 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Information: 317-253-1461.

## August 17

St. Pius Parish, County Road 500 E., **Sunman**. Parish picnic, chicken dinners, games, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-623-8007.

## August 22-23

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Augustravanza," rides, food, music, entertainment, 4 p.m.-midnight. Information: 317-357-1200.

Prince of Peace Parish, 413 E. Second St., **Madison**. Community Festival, Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School, 201 W. State St., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight., Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, food, carnival rides, games. Information: 812-265-4166.

## August 31

St. Patrick Parish, 950 Prospect St., **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, games, dance contest, food, health fair, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Information: 317-631-5824.

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 9995 E. Base Road, **Enochsburg**. Parish festival, fried chicken dinner, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-934-2880.

## August 29-September 1

Sacred Heart Parish, 558 Nebeker St., **Clinton**. Little Italy Festival, Water Street in downtown Clinton, Fri. 7 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon. 11 a.m.-closing, Italian food, entertainment. Information: 765-832-8468.

## September 1

St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Road, **Brookville**. Labor Day Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., booths, games, quilts, 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., chicken dinner in dining room or carry-out meals. Information: 812-623-3670.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4791 E. Morris Church St., **Morris**. Labor Day Festival, games, food, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 812-934-6218.

## September 5

St. Anne Parish, 5267 N. Hamburg Road, **Oldenburg**. Turkey dinner, 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Information: 812-934-5854.

## September 6-7

St. Michael Parish, 145 St. Michael Blvd., **Brookville**. Parish festival, Sat. 4 p.m.-10 p.m., pork chop dinner, Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 765-647-5462.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, 333 W. Maple St., **Cambridge City**. Canal Days, Highway 40 in downtown Cambridge City, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., parish food booth, pork chops and Italian sausage. Information: 765-478-3242.

St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., **Rushville**. Fall Festival, Sat. noon-11 p.m., hog roast,

music, dance, Sun. 7 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 765-932-2588.

## September 7

St. Mary Parish, 212 Washington St., **North Vernon**. Community Festival, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., food, children's games. Information: 812-346-3604.

St. Pius V Parish, Highway 66, **Troy**. Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., dinners, games. Information: 812-547-7994.

## September 12-14

SS. Francis and Clare Parish, 5901 Olive Branch Road, **Greenwood**. Parish festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. noon-midnight, Sun., family fun day, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., rides, games, music, food. Information: 317-859-4673.

## September 13

Marian Inc., 1011 E. St. Clair St., **Indianapolis**. Holy Cross Parish, Feast of the Holy Cross, dinner, dance and silent auction, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., \$50 per person. Information: 317-637-2620.

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 N. Central Ave., **Indianapolis**. French Market, noon-10 p.m., French food, booths, children's activity area, entertainment. Information: 317-283-5508.

St. Anne Parish, 102 N. 19th St., **New Castle**. Fall Bazaar, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., crafts, bookstore, rummage sale, stained-glass and slate souvenirs from church. Information: 765-529-0933.

## September 13-14

St. Mary Parish, 302 E. McKee St., **Greensburg**. Parish picnic, Sat. 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m., pork chop dinner, Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., fried chicken, pulled pork barbecue, bake sale, games. Information: 812-663-8427.

## September 14

St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., **Jeffersonville**. Harvest chicken dinner, bake sale, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-282-2677.

## September 19-20

St. Malachy Parish, 326 N. Green St., **Brownsburg**. Country Fair and hog roast, 4 p.m.-11 p.m., food, booths. Information: 317-852-3195.

St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., **Mooreville**. Apple Fest, family fun, food, crafts, games, Fri. 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

## September 20

Holy Cross Parish, 12239 State Road 62, **St. Croix**. Rummage sale, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-843-5701.

## September 21

St. Louis Parish, 13 E. St. Louis Place, **Batesville**. Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, games. Information: 812-934-3204.

See FESTIVALS, page 9B

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# Desert beauty

## Sedona Gardens of St. John Vianney are breathtaking

By John F. Fink

SEDONA, ARIZ.—Many people consider Sedona, Ariz., about 110 miles north of Phoenix, and its surrounding area to be the most beautiful place in America.

Nestled between the massive rocks of Red Rock State Park and the deep gorges of Oak Creek Canyon, it has attracted thousands of artists and tourists. My wife, Marie, and I enjoy visiting there.

Some tourists prefer to hike through the Red Rock area, which requires a pass available at the Chamber of Commerce. Other visitors take guided tours by Jeep, offered by several companies, or two 55-minute tours by trolley.

One of the most popular stops, either on a tour or driving yourself, is the Chapel of the Holy Cross, which is located about a mile outside town.

A 90-foot cross dominates the chapel, which was built between two large red sandstone peaks and completed in 1956. A ramp leads to the entrance. It's an attractive site with a good view of the canyon area.

St. John Vianney Church and gardens is another beautiful desert destination. For the past 13 years, Father J. C. Ortiz, the pastor, has supervised the planting of extensive gardens around the church.

Last year, the Keep Sedona Beautiful organization nominated the gardens for a beautiful public space award.

During his seminary formation nearly 20 years ago, Father Ortiz attended the former Saint Meinrad College in southern Indiana. Through the years, he has maintained a long-distance friendship with several Benedictine monks.

You don't have to drive to Arizona to see some of the results of Father Ortiz's horticultural work in the parish gardens.

He has published *The Sedona Gardens of Saint John Vianney*, a gorgeous book filled with about 130 dazzling color photographs of flowers and desert scenery.

Six people are responsible for the stunning photos in the book, all with due credit, of course. Father Ortiz also acknowledges a long list of others, undoubtedly parishioners responsible for some of the heavy lifting.

This isn't just an attractive picture book. It's a book of meditations. Each chapter includes two reflections, which begin with a quotation from Scripture that has some connection to flowers or gardens.

In both photos and text, Father Ortiz presents the passing of a year in the gardens. From January through December, he shows how the gardens change from month to month.

Not all the photographs are of flowers. One of the most striking images is a full-page picture of a statue of St. Joseph and the Holy Child, partially adorned with snow, in the chapter for January, at one of several shrines on the parish property.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is pictured with flowers at both the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine and the shrine of *Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe*.

There are colorful flowers around the outdoor Stations of the Cross and a goldfish pond in an area dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi.

While Father Ortiz studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad, he was "surrounded by cornfields and dearly missed the scenery in Arizona."

As a Hoosier, I can sympathize with him and admit that the topography in Indiana can't match the Red Rocks of Sedona. Nevertheless, we also have beautiful gardens in Indiana.

To help himself feel a little more at home while he was studying at Saint Meinrad, he brought some cactuses to Indiana and "proudly displayed in one corner of my cell a piece of my very own desert."

The photos of the cactuses in this book, in the chapter for August, are certainly among the most beautiful, especially a full-page picture of an Engelmann's prickly pear and another of a Beavertail prickly pear.

That chapter also has a photo of cactuses in the foreground with the red rock formations of Sail Rock and Steamboat Rock in the background.

The photos show the amazing variety of plants and flowers at the St. John Vianney gardens. One two-page spread shows various tomatoes. It's followed by a photo of a loaded-down peach tree spread across two pages. The pictures of roses are also spectacular.

Father Ortiz said the reflections in the book sprang from remembrances as he walked on the grounds and in the gardens.

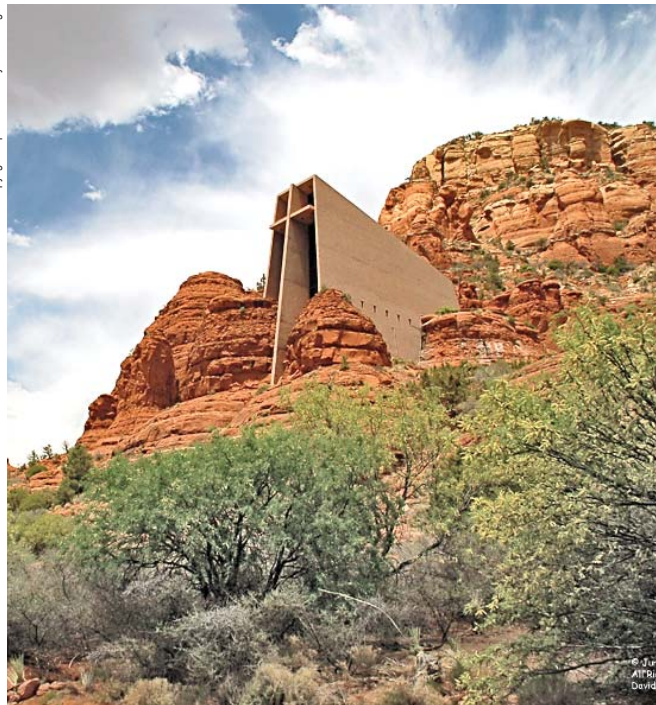
(The book can be ordered from Zitro Press, St. John Vianney Church, 180 Soldiers Pass Road, Sedona, AZ 86336. It is priced at \$34.95. John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.) †

Submitted photo courtesy Al Brown



Red rock formations are a stunning backdrop for the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe—*Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe*—in the Sedona Gardens of St. John Vianney in Arizona, a popular destination for Catholic tourists visiting the Southwest. While enjoying the gardens, visitors can attend Mass at the church. Father J. C. Ortiz, the pastor, is the author of a book of meditations illustrated with these and other color pictures of the beautiful gardens.

Copyrighted photo courtesy Dave Singer



The Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona, Ariz., is a chapel of the Diocese of Phoenix administered by Dr. Charles Reaume, with chapel staff under the direction of Father J. C. Ortiz. Visitors to the Southwest are invited to both tour and pray at the Chapel of the Holy Cross as well as the Sedona Gardens of St. John Vianney Parish, about three miles from the chapel. The Web site address is <http://www.chapeloftheholycross.com>.

Submitted photo courtesy Al Brown



Roses decorate the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Sedona Gardens of St. John Vianney in Arizona. The parish is named for a French priest who became known as "the Curé d'Ars," the patron of parish priests as well as a holy priest and gifted confessor. St. John Vianney was born in 1786 in Dardilly, near Lyons, France. People flocked to Ars to hear him preach and seek absolution in the sacrament of confession. He died in 1859.

Submitted photo courtesy Dave Singer



The Prickly Pear Cactus blooms with brilliant yellow flowers during the spring at the Sedona Gardens of St. John Vianney Parish in Arizona, a popular destination for tourists.

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# Kentucky's 'Holy Land'

## Bardstown played key role in growth of U.S. Church

By Sean Gallagher

BARDSTOWN, KY.—As you drive south on Interstate 65 out of Louisville and into central Kentucky, there is little evidence in the surrounding countryside that you are entering a region which played a key role in the early development of the Catholic Church in the United States.

But you would be doing exactly that if you got off the highway about an hour south of Louisville and headed over the rolling hills to the small town of Bardstown.

There, and in the area surrounding it, you will find the first cathedral west of the Appalachians, an even older parish church and rectory that also served as the first seminary in the American frontier, and some of the first religious communities in the United States.

In 1808, Pope Pius VII carved the new Diocese of Bardstown out of the Diocese of Baltimore, which at the time was the only Catholic diocese in the country.

One of the main reasons that Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in April was to celebrate the bicentennial of these dioceses.

Originally, the Diocese of Bardstown stretched from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes and from the Allegheny Mountains to the Mississippi River.

In the two centuries since its establishment, 40 other dioceses have been created from its original lands, including the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

So, in many respects, by visiting Bardstown, you are tracing the roots of our own local Church in central and southern Indiana.

Pope Pius chose Bardstown along with the more well-established cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia as the centers of new dioceses in the United States because the late 1700s saw some 300 Catholic families from Maryland move west and settle there.

Although the new diocese was established in 1808, its first leader, Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget—a French priest who had fled to the United States from France during the French Revolution—didn't arrive there until 1811.

Once he was settled, Bishop Flaget worked quickly to help his infant Church to grow larger.

This can be seen in the buildings of St. Thomas Parish, a

Photo by Sean Gallagher



Completed in 1819, the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky., was the first cathedral built in the United States west of the Allegheny Mountains.

few miles south of Bardstown.

The log cabin on the grounds that served as both the original home of Bishop Flaget and the first seminary on the American frontier was recently renovated, and everything you will see there, down to the wooden nails, is original from the time.

Visitors can tour the grounds any time by appointment. However, the parish property is only open to the public from noon until 2 p.m. on Sundays from May 1 to Nov. 1. The parish's church, which dates from 1816, is also of interest.

*Continued on next page*



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For more information about the parish and its history, log on to [www.st-thomasparish.org](http://www.st-thomasparish.org).

Three years after St. Thomas Parish built its church, the construction of St. Joseph Cathedral in Bardstown was completed. The Proto-Cathedral, as it is called now, continues to serve as a parish church almost 200 years later.

Much larger than St. Thomas Church, the cathedral—with its tall spire and interior marked by paintings that were gifts from popes and European royalty—must have been an impressive site to visitors who arrived at the small frontier town out of the seemingly endless forests of the time.

Also impressive is the fact that the building of the Proto-Cathedral was an ecumenical affair with Protestant Christians of the area lending their aid to a project they felt would increase the prestige of their town.

For more information about the Proto-Cathedral, log on to [www.bardstown.com/~stjoe](http://www.bardstown.com/~stjoe).

Other signs around Bardstown of the life of the Church 200 years ago include the motherhouses of the Sisters of Loretto and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, both founded in 1812.

More religious orders also established themselves in the new diocese in the following years, including the Jesuits and the Dominican friars and sisters.

Perhaps more well-known among these religious orders are the Trappist monks of Gethsemani Abbey, located about 12 miles south of Bardstown.

Founded in 1848, seven years after the Diocese of Bardstown became the Diocese of Louisville, the Trappist monks have maintained an apostolate of contemplative prayer and monastic liturgies for more than 150 years.

It was their way of life that attracted a young Thomas Merton to join the community in 1941. Merton, who was known to his fellow monks as Father Louis, became a major Catholic spiritual author in the mid-20th century. Perhaps his most famous book is his 1948 autobiography titled *The Seven Storey Mountain*.

Visitors to the monastery can enjoy the same prayerful silence of the monastery's church and its surrounding countryside that attracted Merton.

They can also purchase the cheese and bourbon fudge that the monks produce and sell to support their monastic community.

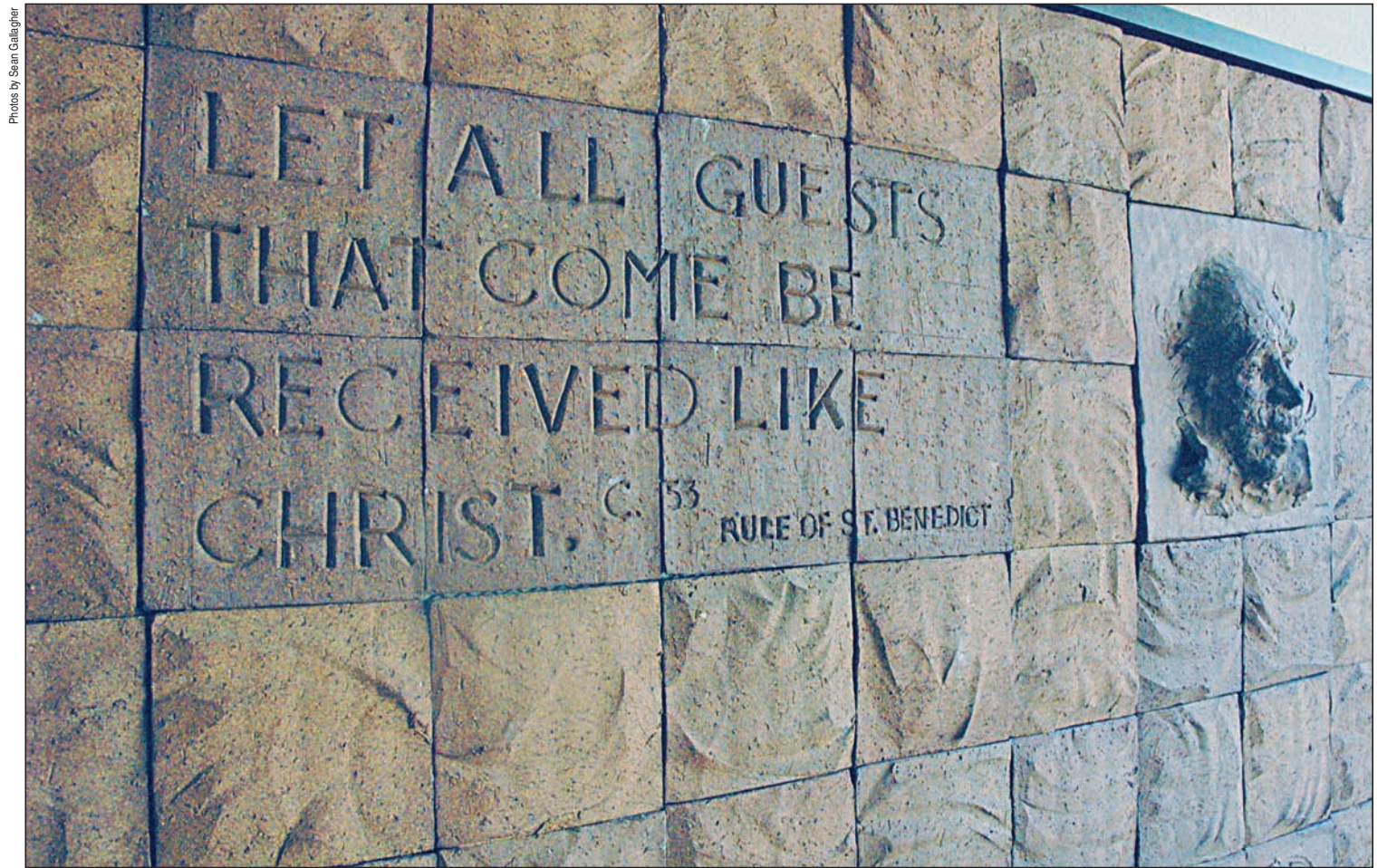
These and other Catholic historical sites in the region around Bardstown have led it to be known as the "Kentucky Holy Land."

But as the Trappist monks' means of support suggests, the Bardstown area is also known for its bourbon distilleries, including Jim Beam, Maker's Mark and Heaven Hill.

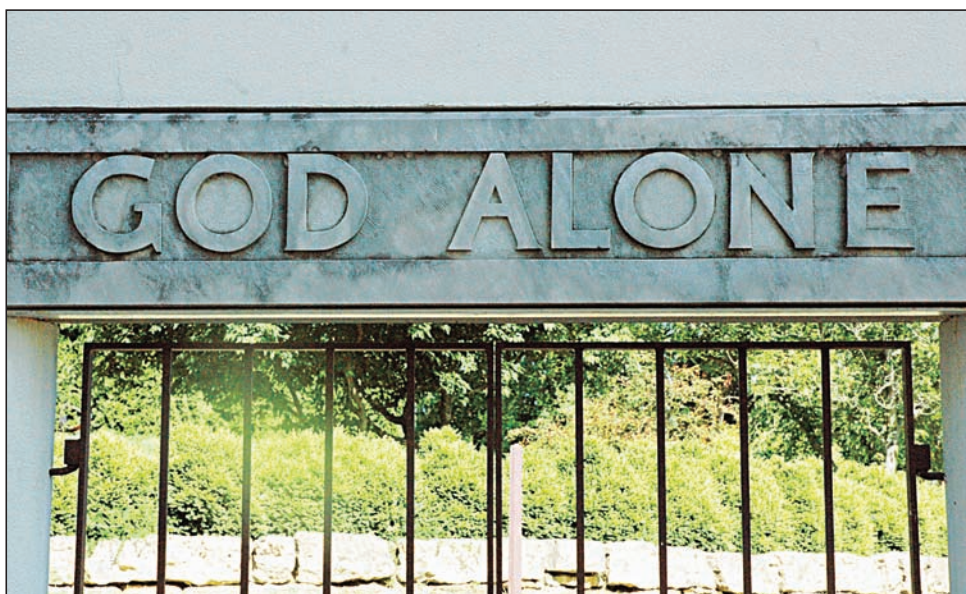
Visitors to these distilleries learn that the way bourbon was made 200 years ago is continued today.

An annual Kentucky Bourbon Festival ([www.kybourbonfestival.com](http://www.kybourbonfestival.com)) and a Kentucky Bourbon Trail ([www.kentuckybourbontrail.com](http://www.kentuckybourbontrail.com)) will interest some tourists.

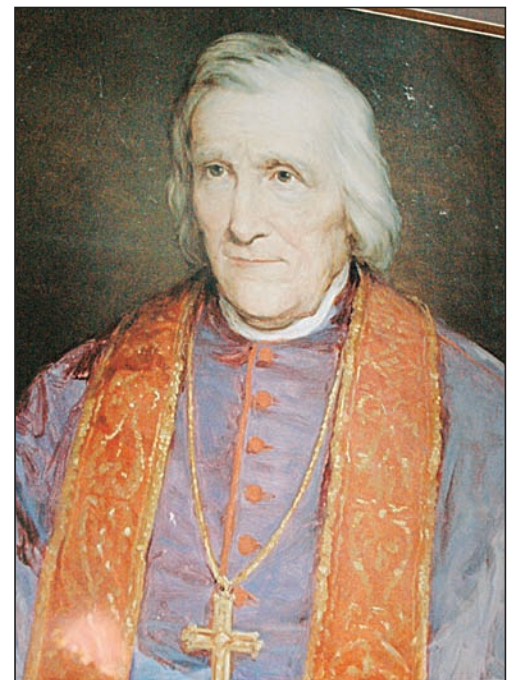
Travelers to Bardstown might also



This quotation from *The Rule of St. Benedict* greets visitors at the entrance to the Abbey of Gethsemani's guest house at the Trappist monastery in Kentucky.



The words "God Alone" stand above the entrance to the cloistered area of the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani, some 12 miles south of Bardstown, Ky. The stark simplicity of and quiet solitude afforded by the monastery's church and grounds invite visitors to focus their hearts solely on God.



This portrait of Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget, the first bishop of the Diocese of Bardstown, Ky., is displayed in the entryway of St. Thomas Church, which is located a few miles south of Bardstown.

consider spending time at My Old Kentucky Home State Park in which is preserved the home of a cousin of 19th-century composer Stephen Foster, who wrote what became Kentucky's state song, "My Old Kentucky Home," while visiting the area.

A musical based on Foster's songs, *Stephen Foster: The Musical*, is performed several times a week in the park during the summer months.

For more information about the state park and the musical, log on to <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/recparks/mo>.

Bardstown, a relatively short drive from many areas in the archdiocese, is home to a wide variety of historical attractions that suit

many tastes, and all of them are nestled in the beautiful wooded hills of central Kentucky. †

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# Italian artistry

## Beauty fills Tuscany's cities, towns and countryside

By Sean Gallagher

TUSCANY, ITALY—The cities and towns of Tuscany, a region of Italy north and west of Rome, attract countless visitors, filled as they are with beautiful, centuries-old churches and museums.

Traveling through the region—at least for this two-time visitor to Tuscany—also keeps tourists charmed with every hill and turn in the road.

The rolling hills of Tuscany, which are the foothills of the Apennine Mountains, make up a beautiful patchwork quilt dotted with trees, villas, vineyards and olive tree groves.

If you haven't had the chance to travel through Tuscany, you can get a visual taste for what the region looks like by viewing the 1993 Shakespearean movie *Much Ado About Nothing*.

But as beautiful as that movie is visually, it cannot compare with actually visiting the region.

The splendor of the Tuscan hills is complemented nicely by the magnificence seen in its cities and towns.

The most prominent city in Tuscany is Florence.

Even as a green, first-time overseas traveler of 17 when I visited the city 20 years ago, I found it easy to navigate its streets because of the Arno River that flows through the city.

As you walk from place to place, simply keep in mind where the river is located and that will help keep you from getting lost.

Walking near the river itself is a treat with the many interesting and ancient bridges that cross it.

The most well-known of these is the medieval *Ponte Vecchio*, on which have been built lines of shops over the centuries. Today, the buildings are mostly jewelry shops and art galleries.

A visit to Florence would not be complete without stopping at the city's cathedral, known in Italian as the "Duomo." The Renaissance era dome designed by Brunelleschi dominates the skyline of the magnificent city.

The baptistry across the street from the *duomo* is also a great tourist site with its beautiful gilded bronze doors, known as the "Gates of Paradise," and a 13th-century mosaic of the Last Judgment which adorns its ceilings.

One can easily imagine the medieval Florentine poet Dante being inspired by the mosaic as he penned the "Inferno" section of his *Divine Comedy*.

Florence's two great museums, the *Accademia* and the Pitti Palace, are great meccas for lovers of Renaissance sculptures and paintings because they are filled with great works of art by Michelangelo, Raphael and other noted artisans.

Michelangelo's famous statue of David



This view from the *Villa Fattoria di Cinciano* in Poggibonsi, Italy, shows the beauty of the rolling Tuscan countryside dotted with trees, vineyards and olive tree groves.

is housed in a beautiful gallery in the *Accademia*.

Another prominent city in Tuscany is Siena. Like Florence, the view of Siena is dominated by its stunning medieval cathedral, covered on the exterior and interior with alternating rows of black and white marble.

The Church of San Domenico in Siena houses relics of the city's great saint, Catherine of Siena, who is also patroness of all of Italy.

Siena's Church of San Francesco is the site of a Eucharistic miracle. Consecrated hosts that date from 1730 remain in pristine condition.

Before leaving Siena, visitors should take some time to relax on its main square, the *Piazza del Campo*.

This large plaza is surrounded by tall apartment buildings that house shops and restaurants on their ground floors. It slopes downward to the *Palazzo Pubblico*, Siena's medieval town hall, which dominates the area with its tall clock tower.

Most of the time, visitors and residents of Siena will sit back and relax in the square, perhaps enjoying some delicious *gelato*—Italian ice cream—as I did when visiting Siena in 2006.

But on July 2 and Aug. 16 each year, the *Piazza del Campo* is packed with spectators for the city's centuries-old bareback horse race, the *Palio*.

Neighborhoods in the city sponsor horses, and the event is known for secret negotiations that begin well in advance. Residents of various neighborhoods team up to help each other or block their rivals' horses.

The riders' whips can be used on their competitors as well as on their own horses.

The race is preceded by a great medieval pageant with men in flowing, colorful costumes waving large, equally colorful flags that represent the neighborhoods.

If visitors to Tuscany happen to be in Siena on the day of the running of a *Palio*, they might want to escape the loud, bustling crowd gathered for the race by retreating to the quiet, hilltop town of San Gimignano.

An American tourist new to San Gimignano might be surprised when approaching the town because its skyline, which is medieval in origin, resembles in some ways a modern American

*Continued on next page*



Tourists and townspeople gather at Siena's *Piazza del Campo*, where its famous horse race, the *Palio*, is run twice a year. The Italian city's medieval town hall, the *Palazzo Pubblico*, dominates the plaza with its tall clock tower.

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city dominated by tall skyscrapers.

San Gimignano is home to some 14 tall towers built by families in the town during the Middle Ages. Much like large corporations of today, families back then sought to display their prestige by building towers on their homes that were bigger than their rivals.

Other Tuscan cities and towns at one time featured such towers, but most of these structures have been brought down through wars or other disasters.

Beauty will welcome you at every turn in Tuscany, and you will want to return again and again. †



These gilded bronze doors to the baptistry in front of Florence's cathedral, designed in 1329, are known as the "Gates of Paradise." Their panels portray the life of St. John the Baptist and eight virtues.



Above, alternating rows of black and white marble cover Siena's medieval cathedral, which also features an ornately carved ambo where Mass readings are proclaimed and homilies are delivered by priests.

Right, the façade of Florence's Duomo, or cathedral, is an example of the classic artistry produced in the city during the Renaissance in the 15th century.



## FESTIVALS

continued from page 4B

St. Michael Parish, 101 St. Michael Drive, **Charlestown**. September Fest, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner. Information: 765-832-8468.

St. Meinrad Parish, Community Center, 13150 E. County Road 1950 N., **St. Meinrad**. Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., food, games, quilts. Information: 812-357-5533.

**September 24**  
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, 3856 Martin Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Dessert and card party, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., \$5 per person. Information: 812-923-3011.

**September 27**  
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., **Indianapolis**. St. Andrew Fest, candlelight dinner, Mass, 4:30 p.m., dinner, 5:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Taste of St. Rita," 6 p.m.-10 p.m., food, silent auction, \$30 per person. Information: 317-632-9349.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1723 I St., **Bedford**. Oktoberfest, Polka Mass, 5 p.m., German dinner, 6 p.m., games. Information: 812-275-6539.

**September 27-28**  
St. Philip Neri Parish, 550 N. Rural St., **Indianapolis**. Fall Dinner Theater, buffet dinner and play, Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., \$25 per person. Information: 317-631-8746.

**September 28**  
St. Michael Parish, 11400 Farmers Lane, N.E., **Bradford**. Parish festival, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken dinner served, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., picnic, booths, games. Information: 812-364-6646.

St. Mark Parish, 5377 Acorn Road, **Tell City**. Parish festival and picnic,

11 a.m.-5 p.m., ham shoot, chili, quilts, games. Information: 812-836-2481.

Fayette County 4-H Fairgrounds, Expo Hall, **Connersville**. St. Gabriel Parish, Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner, games. Information: 765-825-8578.

**October 3-5**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St., **Indianapolis**. Fall Festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., food, rides, games, entertainment. Information: 317-356-7291.

**October 4**  
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 2222 E. Third St., **Bloomington**. Third and High Streets, Family Fun Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., games, food, music. Information: 812-336-5853.

**October 4-5**  
St. Philip Neri Parish, 550 N. Rural St., **Indianapolis**. Fall Dinner Theater, buffet dinner and play, Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.,

\$25 per person. Information: 317-631-8746.

**October 5**  
Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., **Oldenburg**. Fall Festival, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, booths, games. Information: 812-934-3013.

**October 11**  
St. Lawrence Parish, 6944 E. 46th St., **Indianapolis**. Fall Festival, food, games, music, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-4065.

**October 12**  
St. Mary-of-the-Rock Parish, 17440 St. Mary's Road, **Batesville**. Turkey Festival, turkey dinners, booths, games, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-934-4165.

**October 19**  
St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, 6501 St. Isidore Road, **Bristow**. Fall Festival and Shooting Match, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., food, games. Information: 812-843-5713. †

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# Raw power and beauty

## Trip to Niagara Falls is one-of-a-kind vacation

By John Shaughnessy

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.—Try to picture this: a 63-year-old school teacher approaching Niagara Falls, carrying a barrel that she is determined to ride over the edge.

Imagine Annie Taylor looking at the height of the falls—about 170 feet high, which is also about the average depth of the river below the falls.

Now watch as she gets into the barrel and floats toward the raging waters. With frightening speed, the barrel and Taylor plummet over the edge of the falls and crash into the river. Three hours later, rescuers find Taylor.

Amazingly, she is alive, the first daredevil to ever go over the falls in a barrel.

The year is 1901.

While daredevils are mainly a part of the colorful past of Niagara Falls, people from around the world are still drawn by the breathtaking beauty and awe-inspiring fury of this natural wonder that spans one part of the border of Canada and the state of New York.

Last summer, my wife, Mary, and my daughter, Kathleen, and I joined the more than 11 million people from around the world who visit the Canadian side of Niagara Falls every year.

We arrived on a July morning when heavy gray clouds unleashed a relentless downpour on the area. We thought about leaving, continuing our journey toward Ottawa, Canada, but we decided to give the day a chance.

We were glad that we did, especially when the rain passed and we boarded the *Maid of the Mist*, a boat that takes its 600 passengers into the mouth of the falls. If there's a *must* way to experience Niagara Falls, this ride is definitely it.

The boat ride starts calmly, offering nice views of the Rainbow Bridge, the American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls before turning toward the thunderous Horseshoe Falls.

Closer and closer, the boat slowly cuts through the water toward the fury inside the curve of the falls on the Canadian side. As passengers look up in awe at the raw power of Horseshoe Falls, the water crashing into the river covers the boat in a thick spray which overwhelms the thin royal-blue poncho that each passenger is given

before getting on the boat.

It creates a feeling of being drenched in exhilaration, a feeling that especially rushes through the passengers who stand huddled together in the front of the boat.

While the *Maid of the Mist* is the best way to experience the falls, there are alternatives.

There's a "Journey Behind the Falls" where people can descend 100 feet in elevators to walk through tunnels that show views of the falls or to stand on an open landing that provides the perfect setting for getting soaked, if that's the goal.

Then there's the "White Water Walk," a land path that enables people to get close to the falls and the raging waters that come from four of the five Great Lakes: Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior. The walk also features a photo gallery of daredevils, including Annie Taylor.

Another interesting view comes from the Rainbow Bridge, one of the bridges in the area that connect the United States and Canada. People can drive, walk or bike across the bridge, and the bikers and walkers sometimes pause for photos by a marker that shows one of the borders of the two countries.

Then there's the view from the Skylon Tower. Rising 520 feet above the falls, the tower has places to eat and an observation desk that supposedly offers a view of 80 miles on a clear day.

Botanical gardens and a butterfly conservatory are other nature-related attractions in the area. So is the Bird Kingdom, which features more than 400 birds flying through a rainforest setting that has a 40-foot waterfall.

Then there are the rainbows. When we visited Niagara Falls, a day that began with seemingly no chance of sunshine in the early morning was brightened by the sun and blue skies within several hours, creating rainbow after rainbow in the mist of the 12,000-year-old falls.

While the power and beauty of nature lure tourists to Niagara Falls, the area also reflects the commercialism that naturally comes when 11 million people a year need a place to stay, something to eat or other ways to be entertained after admiring one of the wonders of the world.

Indoor water parks, a haunted house, a casino, dinner theaters, souvenir shops, an IMAX theater and other attractions—including Guinness World Records and Ripley's Believe It or Not—are part of the landscape of Niagara Falls.

So are the efforts to keep the falls a tourist attraction late into the night. Throughout the year, the falls are illuminated in different colors every evening after sunset. From mid-May to late August, there are also concerts and fireworks displays on the nights

of every Friday, Sunday and holiday.

On the day we visited, the nightly illumination of the falls was a major disappointment. Yet it didn't matter. Nearly a year later, the power and the beauty of the falls still linger in the mind.

It's one of those places—one of those adventures—that should be experienced.

American travelers heading to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls should be aware of the identification requirements for entering Canada.

If you are an American citizen, you do *not* need a passport to enter Canada when you are driving there. You *do* need a photo ID and some proof of your citizenship, such as a birth certificate or a certificate of citizenship or naturalization.

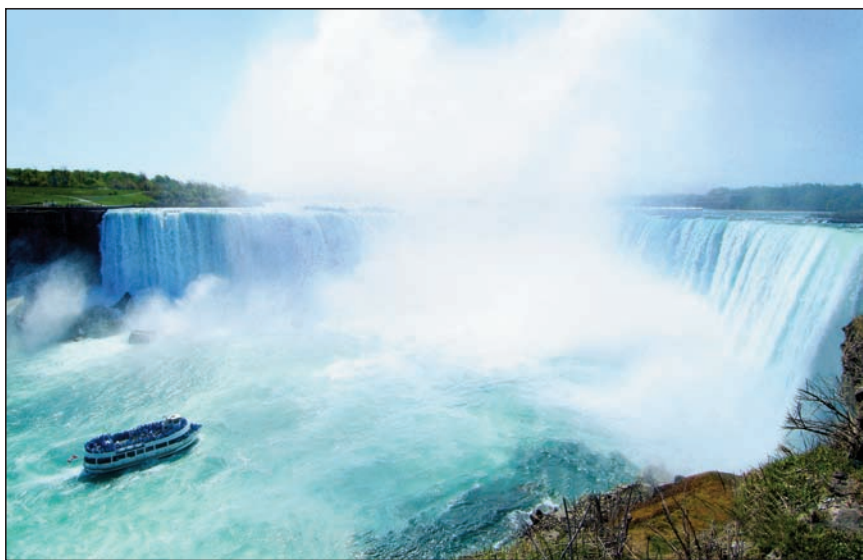
Valid identification is also needed for the children riding in your car. And if you are traveling with children who aren't part of your family, you need a signed consent form from their parent or guardian stating that you have the permission to do so.

A passport is required if you are an American citizen entering Canada by air.

(For more information about Niagara Falls, log on to the Web site at [niagarafallstourism.com](http://niagarafallstourism.com).) †



The raw power and beauty of Niagara Falls draws more than 11 million visitors each year to the natural wonder that bridges Canada and the United States.



Since the days of daredevils using barrels to ride over the edge of Niagara Falls has ended, the best way to experience this natural wonder is on the *Maid of the Mist*, a boat that takes its 600 passengers into the mouth of the falls.

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# PARKS

continued from page 2B

and touched, a visible remnant of the early life of the 16th president of the United States, who was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865, shortly after the end of the Civil War.

The 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth is Feb. 12, 2009. Indiana's two-year birthday celebration for "Honest Abe" began on Feb. 12, 2008, and concludes on Feb. 12, 2010.

## Harmonie State Park

3451 Harmonie State Park Road  
New Harmony, IN 47631  
812-682-4821  
Established in Posey County in 1966  
3,465 acres  
3½ hours and 200 miles from Indianapolis  
2 hours and 130 miles from New Albany  
Where to go to Mass:  
Holy Angels Church  
423 South St.  
New Harmony, IN 47631  
812-838-2535  
Mass time: 9:15 a.m. Sunday

*"In human culture is the preservation of wildness."*

— Wendell Berry

While I admired yellow sundrops blooming along the roadside, my husband, John, kept an eye peeled for a serious cup of coffee.

As we drove toward Harmonie State Park, skirting Evansville, we resisted the temptation to hunt down a coffee shop and eventually found a decent cup of java at New Harmony's excellent Red

Geranium Restaurant.

Harmonie State Park is quite large, covering 3,465 acres. Its boundary bisects the middle of the Wabash River, where it meets the Illinois state line. By road, Illinois is 10 minutes away.

The park boasts a boat ramp, a swimming pool, nature center, cabins, campsites, picnic shelters, fishing, horse trails, bicycle trails and wildlife ponds.

Not being campers, we stayed at New Harmony Inn in the historic town located four miles north of the state park. This was the best of both worlds: wilderness and air conditioning.

Historic New Harmony appeals equally to those in search of history, a spiritual retreat or simply a great meal.

George Rapp founded the town in 1814 as a utopian experiment for German immigrants fleeing religious oppression. When the community failed, he sold the town to Scotsman Robert Owen in 1824.

Owen sought to establish an ideal, although secular, society. He organized the state's first free public school and library to provide equal education for boys and girls as well as America's first kindergarten.

The Workingmen's Institute, established in 1838 by industrialist William McClure, is the state's oldest continuously operating public library. It also serves as a museum and art gallery.

A reconstructed Rappite log cabin village stands in stark contrast to the modernistic visitor's center, the Atheneum, which offers guided walking tours. Golf carts can be rented, but we enjoyed meandering on foot, peering into gardens and reading carved inscriptions on walls.

The town is famous for its non-denominational Roofless Church, a walled garden anchored by a scalloped canopy over a large sculpture of the "Descent of the Holy Spirit."

New Harmony has two labyrinths. The



On a warm weekend at O'Bannon Woods State Park, volunteer Ralph Jackson shows young visitors how to use a pioneer-style, cross-cut saw to cut a log.

Harmonist Labyrinth is a boxwood maze leading to a tiny stone chapel, and the Cathedral Labyrinth is a rose granite replica of the one at the renowned Chartres Cathedral in Paris.

New Harmony is a quiet, charming town. It has three bed-and-breakfast inns and a handful of shops offering antiques, pottery, stained-glass and more, but it is not overly commercial.

The 89-room New Harmony Inn sits on 125 acres with a conference facility and covered swimming pool.

A pine thicket is dedicated to 20th-century theologian Paul Tillich, whose ashes are buried there. The banks of the inn's lake and a grove called "Our Lord's Woods" feature original religious sculptures, including two of St. Francis of Assisi.

(Patricia Happel Cornwell of Corydon is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †



St. Mary's parishioner Mark Rockner of Lanesville is the volunteer blacksmith at O'Bannon Woods State Park. His wife and children also volunteer at the park.

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# Get back to nature

## Outdoor activities abound in Bloomington area

By Mike Krokos

With apologies to new head basketball coach Tom Crean, head football coach Bill Lynch and anyone else associated with Indiana University, there is a lot more to Bloomington than the college and its athletic programs.

Just ask anyone who has spent a warm spring, summer or fall day water-skiing, boating, swimming or fishing at nearby Lake Monroe, or people who have taken advantage of other recreational activities like camping, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, snow skiing and snowboarding in the area.

If you're into extreme sports, Bloomington can be a recreation destination for you, too. The greater Bloomington area offers opportunities for rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, skydiving and even caving.

Pick almost any time of the year, and there is something recreational to do in or around Bloomington.

As one popular outdoor Web site at [www.hikercentral.com](http://www.hikercentral.com) explains, if you live in or near Bloomington and you like the outdoors then you're in luck.

Another tourism Web site, [www.visitbloomington.com](http://www.visitbloomington.com), also touts Bloomington as a great place for outdoor excursions. It cites the area's abundance of natural beauty and its three lakes, the state's only national forest, and its variety of city and county parks.

For Hoosiers hoping that the area's compatibility for outdoor adventure can remain a well-kept secret among Indiana residents, that is no longer a possibility.

Recent recognition that Bloomington received from *National Geographic Adventure Magazine* supports a high rate of visits for outdoor recreational purposes, according to Tosha Daugherty, director of marketing and communications for the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"In 2007, we were recognized as one of the top 50 adventure towns in the country [by the magazine]," Daugherty said in a recent e-mail interview.

She said visitors account for more than \$258 million in economic impact to the Bloomington area each year.

"Nearly 65 percent of those visitors are on a 'short trip' of one to three nights in length," Daugherty explained. "Another 11 percent were on a longer vacation. About 40 percent of visitors to the Bloomington area are on their first trip to the area, with the remaining 60 percent being repeat visitors [many with a connection to Indiana University]. Overall, visitors to the area have taken an average of four trips to the Bloomington area per year."

This abbreviated list features some of the things that make the Bloomington area a recreational haven for people who love to be outside:

- Lake Monroe, a man-made reservoir just southeast of



The beauty of southern Indiana's colorful fall foliage surrounds Lake Monroe and two kayakers paddling across the reservoir in southern Indiana. Tourists can go on a kayak ecotour to explore the far reaches of Lake Monroe and its wildlife.

Bloomington, is the largest lake in Indiana.

Boats with water-skiers in tow are a common site this time of year as people of all ages take advantage of the warmer temperatures to enjoy the outdoors.

You will also see fishermen casting their lines, and kayakers getting a good workout in the water. Swimmers are no strangers to the water this time of year, too.

Camping is available at private, state and federal campsites or at nearby private campgrounds. Boat rental companies, bait shops and two resorts are located on the lake's shores.

Several state recreation areas provide visitor information, nature centers and picnicking options. The Interpretive Nature Center is located at the Paynetown State Recreation Area. For more information, call 812-837-9546 or 812-837-9967.

• Griffy Lake Nature Preserve is a 1,200-acre protected wetlands area located just minutes from downtown Bloomington and the Indiana University campus.

Originally designed to supply the city with drinking water, Griffy Lake is now a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. The lake is 109 acres and has an average depth of 10 feet.

Great hiking is available on several moderately difficult trails that wind through the wooded ridges and ravines around the lake.

Rent a canoe, kayak, rowboat or launch your own boat. Fishing is another option, but no swimming is allowed at Griffy Lake. Call 812-349-3700 for rental and boat-launching information. Boats with gas-powered motors are not allowed on the lake. Privately owned boats may be launched from the ramp located near the boathouse for a small fee.

• Hoosier National Forest is just off State Road 446 in Bloomington. This 200,000-acre national forest encompasses nine counties in southcentral Indiana.

There are more than 230 miles of hiking, horseback and mountain-biking trails in the forest. Trails vary in difficulty and length.

Campgrounds are located adjacent to large lakes, and in conjunction with some trail systems. Five private horse camps are located adjacent to the forest. Call 812-275-5987 for more information.

- Bluespring Caverns Park, located on

*Continued on next page*

*'In 2007, we were recognized as one of the top 50 adventure towns in the country.'*

—Tosha Daugherty

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U.S. 50 southwest of Bedford in nearby Lawrence County, offers spelunking tours that explore the underground world of caves. Tours are available every day from Memorial Day through October. Call Jim Richards at 812-279-9471 for more information.

• Annual events like the Hilly Hundred Bicycle Tour draw thousands of people to the Bloomington area each fall, Daugherty noted, adding that these special recreational activities bring “between 4,500 to 5,000 people to the area.”

Sponsored by the Central Indiana Bicycling Association Inc. and based in nearby Ellettsville, the 41st annual race will be held on Oct. 17-19. For more information, call 317-767-7765 or log on to [www.cibaride.org](http://www.cibaride.org).

(To learn more ways to enjoy outdoor activities in and around the Bloomington area, log on to [www.visitbloomington.com](http://www.visitbloomington.com) or call the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 812-330-4303.) †



Several public beaches on Lake Monroe are available for recreation. This beach is located at the Paynetown State Recreation Area on the east side of the reservoir. Paynetown State Recreation Area also features campgrounds, boat ramps, boat rental, the lake's Nature Center and picnic areas.

Photos courtesy Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau

## More fun travel ideas are online

Want more ideas for where to take your next vacation?

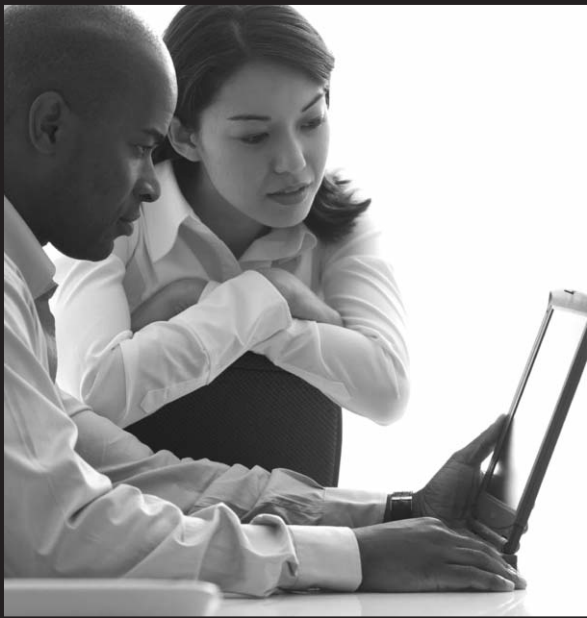
Want to know more about travel “hot spots” in and out of Indiana?

Then log on to our Web site at [www.CriterionOnline.com](http://www.CriterionOnline.com) to get access to the past three years of our Vacation/Travel Supplement, which is published annually in May.

Once you're on our home page, scroll to the bottom to access any of our popular “Special Supplements.”

Read 25 additional travel stories that we have filed since 2005, including eight stories that feature recreational ideas within the Hoosier state.

You can also check the parish festival schedule online for ideas about fun things to do every weekend in the archdiocese. †



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# Water, water everywhere

## Your hotel room travels with you on cruises

By John F. Fink

The last time I tried to count them, I figured that I have traveled to 61 different countries—some numerous times.

I did much of my traveling from 1974 to 1986 when I was vice president for six years then president for six years of the International Federation of Catholic Press Associations.

Then, while I was editor of *The Criterion* from 1984 to 1996, my wife, Marie, and I led tours sponsored by this newspaper to the Holy Land, China, the Soviet Union and European countries.

With all the traveling that I've done over the years, I was late in appreciating the benefits of cruises.

The first cruise we took was at the end of a trip to the Holy Land when we cruised from Haifa, Israel, to Athens, Greece, stopping at Ephesus and Patmos. Later, during another trip sponsored by *The Criterion*, we included the Greek Isles in our trip to Greece.

What's wonderful about cruises is that your hotel room travels with you. You can unpack your luggage once instead of living out of a suitcase, packing and unpacking every day. You avoid those tiring and onerous bus trips since the cruise ship takes you from city to city. Most of the cruise ships offer all the amenities of luxury hotels—fabulous dining, entertainment, sometimes a swimming pool, on-board lectures and more.

Besides the sea-going cruise ships, I recently discovered the pleasure of riverboat cruises.

Three years ago, I enjoyed a cruise on the Yangtze River in China. Two years ago, I went on a cruise on the Nile River in Egypt, stopping to see the ruins of many ancient Egyptian temples.

Last year, we cruised on the Danube River in Europe, stopping to visit Budapest and Estergom in Hungary;

Submitted photo/Bill Heck



The *Europa* cruise ship is docked on the banks of the beautiful Blue Danube River in Budapest, Hungary. Most sea-going cruise ships offer all the amenities of luxury hotels—fabulous dining, entertainment, sometimes a swimming pool, on-board lectures and more. Cruise ships are available on many of Europe's rivers—the Danube, Rhine, Mosel and others. These ships aren't as large as the luxury liners.

Bratislava, Slovakia; Vienna, the Benedictine Abbey at Melk and Linz in Austria; and Prague in the Czech Republic. It sure beat traveling by bus to those places.

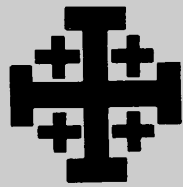
Cruise ships are available on many of Europe's rivers—the Danube, Rhine, Mosel and others. These ships aren't as

large as the luxury liners. The one we took last year could accommodate 144 passengers. It didn't have a theater, pool, multiple restaurants or top-quality entertainment, but it navigated the river just fine.

Some people prefer the large ships because of all the extra amenities they offer, while others like the intimacy of smaller ships. I can't honestly choose one cruise ship over the other.

A cruise to Alaska has become a favorite for many people. Sometimes the cruise is combined with air travel

*Continued on next page*



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either to or from Denali National Park, but the one we took began and ended in Vancouver, Canada, and visited Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. At Ketchikan, we flew in a small sea plane among the Misty Fjords and landed on a lake. At Juneau, we took a helicopter to the top of the glacier there. At Skagway, we took a train up a mountain as gold-seekers once did trying to get to the Yukon.

People take cruises to Alaska only during the summer. Therefore, many of those ships spend the winter in the Caribbean. One year, we caught one of those ships at Los Angeles and traveled with it to three stops along Mexico's western coast, to Costa Rica, through the Panama Canal, then on to Cartagena, Columbia, as well as Aruba and Jamaica.

Another fascinating cruise we enjoyed was along the Yucatan Peninsula—the eastern coast of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras—where we explored Mayan ruins. We rode in small boats on a river through the jungles of Belize, took a plane to fly into the interior of Guatemala, and a long bus ride in Honduras—all to the intriguing historical ruins of the Mayans, who lived there from before the time of Christ through about 900 A.D.

Perhaps the most popular cruises, at least in this hemisphere, are to the islands in the Caribbean. We did that with one of our daughters and her family, starting and ending in Puerto Rico and visiting Barbados, St. Lucia, Saint Martin, the British Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It's hard not to have a good time on cruises in the Caribbean. We usually hired a taxi driver to show us around the various islands, although we rented a car once and took our own tour. Generally, it's best to hire a taxi driver.

One of the challenges that people on cruises often face is the problem of getting to Mass on Sundays. Of course, that's no problem at all if you happen to be traveling with a priest who has brought along a Mass kit. Otherwise, the situation varies considerably.

Some cruise ships have Catholic chaplains, usually retired priests who are given free cruises in return for saying Mass for the passengers, usually in the ship's theater. The most notable of these priests undoubtedly were Holy Cross Fathers Theodore Hesburgh and Ned Joyce, who served as chaplains on Cunard Lines' *Queen Elizabeth 2* on a three-month cruise around the world in 1988 after their retirements as president and executive vice president of the University of Notre Dame.

I've never sailed on the *QE2*, but I've found Catholic

Submitted photos/Bill Heck



An ornate gate features dramatic sculptures that appear to guard a castle outside Prague in the Czech Republic as tourists gather for photographs.

chaplains on other cruise ships. When there is one, I introduce myself and usually end up as his sacristan, lector, altar server and extraordinary minister of holy Communion at his Masses. These chaplains also say weekday Masses at different times, depending on the day's schedule of sightseeing.

When there is no chaplain, you have to find a Mass on one of the scheduled stops, and that adds enjoyment to your cruise experiences. When we found Mass in a church on the island of Rhodes, the pastor asked me to read the Mass readings in English, which I was glad to do.

The church we found in Juneau, Alaska, had a magnificent view of the mountains behind the altar.

Europe has many Catholic churches, of course, but fewer Masses than we have in the U.S. Last year, Marie and I went to Sunday Mass at St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava, Slovakia, which has been the coronation church of the kings and queens of Hungary for more than 250 years. The Mass was celebrated in the Slovakian language. I had read the readings before we went to Mass

so I knew what they were. That didn't help, though, when it came to the homily.

There are occasions when it's simply impossible to get to Mass. That happened two years ago during our cruise on the Nile River in Egypt. In that case, the best I could do was to organize a prayer service in the ship's lounge for Christians who wanted to pray with us. Fortunately, I had brought along a *Missalette*.

I haven't done an Amazon River cruise yet or a small boat cruise in the Galapagos Islands. Who knows? That might happen sometime in the future since I love to travel to new places by land, air and sea.

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.) †



The magnificent architecture of the Benedictine Abbey commands attention from a hilltop in Melk, Austria.



A daring rider performs acrobatic stunts during a horse show near Budapest, Hungary.

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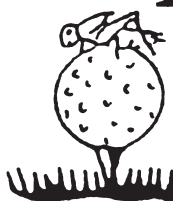
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# Zoo celebrates 20 years

## Koalas get summer vacation at Indianapolis Zoo

By Mary Ann Wyand

What's new at the Indianapolis Zoo?

Two male koalas native to Australia and on loan from the San Diego Zoo flew from California to Indianapolis on a passenger—not cargo—flight on May 13, and are settling into their temporary home at the world-class zoo in White River State Park.

Bamba and Coombah traveled with a zoologist and received special airline accommodations with their cages strapped to passenger seats to minimize stress, according to Judith Gagan, the zoo's director of communications.

Do koalas experience jet lag?

They sleep 18 hours or more a day, Gagan said, so probably took a long nap during the flight. They only eat eucalyptus—which is low in nutrition—so they tire easily.

Since 2000, koalas have been protected as a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Gagan said the Queensland koalas will meet the public in Indianapolis for the first time on May 24 as part of the zoo's 20th anniversary celebration, which begins with the start of the summer season on Memorial Day weekend.

With 3,800 animals representing 320 species, there are always new babies and updated exhibits at the zoo, located at 1200 W. Washington St. near downtown Indianapolis.

Like Australian kangaroos, koalas are marsupials and have a pouch to carry their babies, Gagan said. Originally from the Australian Outback, they have cute faces and resemble Teddy bears, but also have very sharp claws.

She said it's been 13 years since koalas lived at the zoo.

If you want to watch the koalas climb trees and dine on eucalyptus leaves, visit the Forests Biome at the zoo this summer, Gagan said, because Bamba and Coombah will return to San Diego on Labor Day, which is on Sept. 1 this year.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Indianapolis Zoo's 20th anniversary celebration on June 11, which commemorates two decades at White River State Park, Gagan said. On that day, zoo visitors will be able to buy admission tickets at the 1988 prices of \$7 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children—a considerable savings from the zoo's current admission fees of \$13.50 for adults and \$8.50 for seniors and children.

And don't forget to say hello to the koalas. †



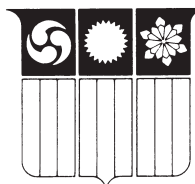
A koala perches in a tree at the San Diego Zoo in southern California. Two of their male koalas are on loan to the Indianapolis Zoo until Labor Day. Koalas are marsupials—like the kangaroo, wombat and opossum—not bears. Baby koalas are called "joeys." Zoo staff members will order weekly shipments of eucalyptus from Florida and Arizona to feed the koalas this summer. For more information, log on to [www.indianapoliszoo.com](http://www.indianapoliszoo.com).



Meerkats first gained fame in the Walt Disney film *The Lion King* then the Animal Planet Channel's "Meerkat Manor" series. They are very social and entertaining for zoo visitors. Zoo admission also covers entrance to the adjacent White River Gardens, which is featuring its popular butterfly exhibit in the Hibert Conservatory until Labor Day.



A moray eel swims in a tank in the zoo's recently renovated Oceans exhibit. They grow as long as five feet and secrete a coating of yellow slime to protect their blue skin, which sometimes makes them appear to be lime green.



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