



Lorain County

north central ohio

underground railroad & african-american heritage itinerary



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DAY ONE

9:30am FIRST CHURCH IN OBERLIN



Built in 1842 and included in the National Register of Historic Places, First Church served as the meeting site for the first Anti-Slavery Society. Funeral services were held at First Church for a four-year-old runaway slave child, who is now buried in Oberlin. Also the site of the memorial service for John Copeland and Shields Green of Oberlin who were hanged for their participation in John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry.

10:30am OBERLIN HERITAGE CENTER

Tour the Shurtleff/Monroe House-home of two noted abolitionists, The Little Red Schoolhouse-Oberlin's first public, integrated school. Tour the Jewett House-listed on National Register of Historic Places. The tour also includes an exhibit on the development of aluminum.

12pm LUNCH at unique local eatery customized to your group's needs. Choices include special catered lunch at local church, soul food restaurant, Italian restaurant or traditional American fare. African storytelling can be arranged for mealtime entertainment.



1:30pm DRIVE-BY TOUR OF OBERLIN

Enjoy a city tour of Oberlin as you view monuments, parks and homes significant to the Underground Railroad. Includes stops at the Underground Railroad Sculpture, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and an optional stop to view Oberlin's Underground Railroad quilt.

2:30pm WESTWOOD CEMETERY

Here lie former slaves, abolitionists and many who have become known as Oberlin's faces of change. The natural beauty and park-like atmosphere combine with its rich history for a reflective and ethereal look into the spirit of the Abolitionist movement.

3:30pm SHOPPING IN OBERLIN

Oberlin has a variety of unique shops that feature imported African merchandise: oils and incense, nag champa, African masks, African antiques, textiles, tapestries, rugs and ethnic skin care; unusual clothing, jewelry, accessories, unique, contemporary, ethnic designs; a working fiberarts studio and art galleries.



6pm DINNER AT LOCAL HOTEL

Dinner at local hotel. Performance or entertainment may be arranged for your group.



DAY TWO

10am ALLEN MEMORIAL ART MUSEUM, OBERLIN

World-famous college art museum includes important and exciting works by African and African-American artists.

11:30am LUNCH ON THE LAKE AND ROSE GARDEN TOUR,

Tour the spectacular, restored Lakeview Park and Rose Garden in Lorain. Dining includes stunning views of Lake Erie, documented to be the last stop to freedom in Canada for many fugitive slaves.

1pm UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MONUMENT AND REFLECTIVE GARDEN, BLACK RIVER LANDING

On Saturdays, in warm weather months, there is also the opportunity to browse a farmer's market here. Gorgeous views of the Bascule Lift Bridge.

1:45pm BLACK RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM OR VISIT A LOCAL WINERY FOR WINE TASTING

3pm BURRELL HOMESTEAD

Take a tour of this 1820 stately brick house that served as a branch school for the Oberlin Collegiate Institute and later was a station on the Underground Railroad. Home is now operated by the Lorain County Metro Parks.

Please note: Above is a sample itinerary. Visit Lorain County can customize an itinerary based on the needs of the group.



Juneteenth Festival in Oberlin. Held every June.



Shopping in Oberlin



location & lodging

Located in North Central Ohio, between Sandusky and downtown Cleveland, Lorain County features more than 25 miles of Lake Erie shoreline. We are conveniently located off I-90, I-80 and I-480. We have many great lodging options whether your group is spending a few days here or just passing through.