

Frequently asked Questions

Can I take pictures with the Amish families?

No. Photographs are against their beliefs; please no photos.

What day of the week is best to plan a visit and shop the Amish stores?

While all stores are closed on Sunday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's are also not a prime time as these are days they often use for celebrations.

Do the Amish stores accept credit or debit cards?

No. They accept cash & check transactions only.

Are tourist groups allowed?

Yes. Although we highly suggest calling the chamber to coordinate these kind of visits. This will ensure they are properly prepared.

Can homemade Amish meals be purchased?

Yes. There are some families that love to cook for others. Call the chamber office to make your request and we will make contact and help you coordinate.

Will the Amish give horse and buggy rides?

Most likely. You are best to ask while you are visiting their store, or contact the chamber and we can help you plan it ahead of time.

Why are Amish-made products popular?

Products made by Amish attract buyers for different reasons. Some view them to be of higher quality than comparable products. Others appreciate the "story" behind the product. A perception that they are handmade or more "authentic" than competing products may also add to their appeal. Some people like to purchase from the Amish because it allows them to interact with Amish people.

Do the Amish have phones?

Amish are allowed to have phones only if they own and operate a business per their community rules. These numbers are not published but the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce can assist you in reaching out to them if necessary.

History of the Amish

In the 1940's Amish families from Indiana wanted a fresh start as they had a difference of opinions regarding the new rules coming about requiring higher education or school attendance to the age of 16.

Moses J. Schrock had grown up in the southern part of Missouri in Poplar Bluff and Sikeston Areas and although living with the Indiana (Jay County) Amish community with his wife, never had quite forgotten the state of Missouri. He suggested to Jacob J. Miller, a minister and leader of the group seeking relocation, "Why not consider MO?" After some deliberation, it was decided to try Bowling Green in Pike County.

Jacob wrote a letter to the postmaster at Bowling Green asking for the name of a reliable real estate agent. He soon received a letter from O.K. Williams and exchanged many letters explaining who they were and what the group was looking for, such as several family farms fairly close together so as to be able to drive together with horse and buggy, etc.

They soon made a trip to Missouri and made contact with other Amish groups that shared the same difference opinions on the new rules. While on their visit they looked at farms ranging from \$42 to \$80 per acre.

After visiting other surrounding areas it seemed as though everyone had their sights set on Bowling Green. They spoke with the state superintendent about having their own parochial schools and what would be required of them in that way. The right to teach their own children what they wanted them to learn was granted.

In December of 1947 the first Amish families moved in and shortly after the other families followed. In that time curious but friendly towns people came to look at these strange people over for they had never seen Amish people before, some asking about their beards.

As time has passed, the Bowling Green Amish families have really made a name for themselves and continue to offer their amazing talents to the locals and visitors alike.

The information in this excerpt was gained from the Missouri Amish Directory 2010. Abana Books Ltd, 6523 Township Road 346, Millersburg, OH 44654 and written by Tracy Brookshier.

Since the 1940's the Amish Communities in our area have flourished and bring many visitors from near and far.

They have become quite the tourist attraction as people love to come to witness their way of life, shop their homemade baked goods & spices, greenhouses and wood working projects.

They assist our local economy and businesses as visitors coming for this special experience will spend time in our local shops, diners and often spend the weekend enjoying what Bowling Green, Missouri has to offer.

Use this brochure and map to assist you on your Amish venture and call the Chamber of Commerce to learn more!



This brochure sponsored and produced by the Bowling Green, Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

Questions?
573-324-3733
www.bgchamber.org
facebook@bgchamber
Updated 5/2023

Amish Community Map



Pike County Missouri

VISITORS WELCOME

- 1** **Schwartz General Store & Buggy Shop**
Cookware, quilting supplies, baskets, hoes, vitamins, in season candy and more.
- 2** **ELS Spices & More / JJ Construction**
Bulk foods and spices. Roofing, framing and decks.
- 3** **Eicher Farm Store & Footwear / Eicher & Son's Construction LLC**
Footwear, farm supplies, machinery repair shop.
- 4** **M&W Barnwoods LLC**
Reclaimed barnwood, flooring, mantels, custom doors, barn tin, beams, tables and more
- 5** **Marcus & Verna's Seasonal Mums**
Mums (August - October)
- 6** **Henry Eicher Seeds / Andrew Eicher Fertilizer**
Grass, corn and alfalfa seed. Garden fertilizer, pellet and lime
- 7** **Pike Amish Community School Building**
Auction Building. Auctions 2nd Sat. May, 1st Sat. Oct.
- 8** **D&L Bakery**
Bakery (April- December)
Candy (November-December)
- 9** **Girod Builders LLC / Midwest Tool**
New home and pole barn construction. Honda engines, air tools, compressors, welders, belts, pulley's and more.
Evenings are best for visiting
- 10** **Eicher Bros Cabinet Shop**
Custom Kitchen Cabinets
- 11** **Hilty's Bee Yards & Custom Meats**
Honey, Hilty's home made and bulk food, retail and wholesale, Custom meat and processing.
moving soon
- 12** **Eicher Kitchens / Bulk Food & Eggs**
Bulk food & eggs. Custom kitchen cabinets & vanities

