



Blackfork Inn

Our Top Ten List

Innkeeper Sue Gorisek, a travel writer by trade, offers her Top Ten insider's list of wonderful things to see and do while you are staying at the Inn:

1

Experience the natural wonders (away from the crowds). Hike the North Rim Trail at [Mohican State Park](#). The trail head's only a mile from the inn, but it *feels* like a whole new world, with its steep hills and wonderful views over the gorge.



2

See Ice Age scenery at [Brown's Lake Bog](#) preserve between Loudonville and Shreve, where glaciers dug the waterways thousands of years ago, and rare prehistoric plants abound today.

3

Admire the views from Mt Jeez, the highest point in these parts, and while you're there, be sure to enjoy the fabulous food at [Malabar Farm Restaurant](#), where they're doing great things with locally raised produce.



4

Learn about the Amish. Drive the back roads in Holmes, Wayne and Tuscarawas Counties. Visit the Amish-owned bulk-food stores and wood-working shops. Visit the [Behalt Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center](#) (the museum that explains the Amish-Mennonite cultures). Take an Amish culture tour that includes dinner with an Amish family in their own home.



5



Fish the [Clear Fork River](#), one of Ohio's true trout streams. We'll show you the best places, where the water runs fast and clear. We can't guarantee the fish, but we can guarantee the fun!





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6

See the quirky castles built by our most famous local multi-millionaire, Jim Landoll, at [Landoll's Mohican Castle Resort](#), just a few miles south of the village. Hike the trails, too, to see his glacial gorge and pioneer cemetery. And keep an eye out for the ever-present handyman in the flannel shirt and tool belt. *That's* the millionaire.



7



Bring your bikes. Ohio's most challenging mountain-bike trail begins just down the road from the The Blackfork Inn B&B. For flat-land cyclists, try three lovely "Rails-to-Trails" bike paths that run between Danville and Mount Vernon, or Millersburg to Fredericksburg (horse-drawn Amish buggies share this route), or from Butler to Mansfield. Don't worry; we have maps of all four.

8

Plan a cold-weather trip, too. Everybody knows about our famous summertime fun -- canoeing, biking, hiking -- but we also shine in the wintertime, with two downhill ski lodges and an abundance of scenic cross-country trails at Mohican and Malabar Farm State Parks. Downtown Loudonville has an ice rink tucked in among the Victorian-style red-brick stores. And Amish Country provides a whole new venue for holiday shopping -- for those of us who are bored with the malls.

9

Catch a movie at our unique Victorian Opera House, just down the street. Shop the pretty little stores. There's a great art gallery, and a funky salvage store, crammed full of junk (and bargains). Visit the Four Seasons Shop for their fresh flowers and clever home-decor designs. See Creative Outlet for treasures from the South West. Finally, set aside an hour or so for Amish Oak, the area's largest purveyor of Amish-made furniture. Have lunch at West Main Street Cafe and dinner at Sojourner Cafe. You'll be amazed to find such sophisticated dining in a town of 2,000 people!



10

My best advice of all: Slow down. Relax. Enjoy the peaceful change of pace. Lounge on our front porch, or in the gardens across the street. Sit a spell on the park benches on Main Street. Don't be surprised if the locals smile at you and say hello. And, don't be surprised if the stores close at 6 -- because that's the way it's always been done, here in Loudonville, and that's the way it is now. For city folks, Loudonville really *does* seem like a whole new world.