

INSPIRATIONAL TOUR

West Bend, IA - Grotto of the Redemption

<u>Time</u>	<u>Tour Itinerary & Description</u>
10 minutes	Arrive in West Bend at the <u>Grotto of the Redemption</u> and meet your Guide. Take time to use the facilities.
30 minutes	Meet in the <u>Rock Studio</u> for an introduction to the site and a short lesson in geology. The magnificent structure of the Grotto covers more than one city block and includes hand-carved Italian marble statues, petrified wood, quart crystals and semi-precious stones from around the world.
60 minutes	Split into two groups. Each guide will take you to the three sites: The <u>Grotto Museum</u> includes a large display of precious and semi-precious stones from throughout the world. Early pictures and news articles have been reproduced for your viewing. The Museum also includes personal affects and tools used by Father Paul Dobberstein in the construction of the Grotto. <u>Sts. Peter and Paul Church</u> – In 1927, Father Dobberstein built the Christmas Chapel in which he placed some of the finest mineral specimens thought to be too delicate to be used in the out-of-doors grottos. Also see the Ascension mural painted by his brother, Bernard in 1929, and an 1893 award winning, hand-carved bird’s eye maple altar. <u>Grotto of the Redemption</u> – A composite of nine separate grottos, each portraying a scene in the life of Christ. The Grotto includes the largest collection of precious stones and gems found anywhere in one location. The artistry must be seen to be appreciated, plus the message it silently tells is beyond words. It is frequently considered the ‘Eighth Wonder of the World’ and is often described as a ‘Miracle in Stone’. Father Paul Dobberstein began the work in 1912.
60 minutes	Enjoy a two-meat buffet lunch in the <u>Grotto Café</u> . (Marinated Chicken Breast, Roast Beef, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Fresh Buns, Dessert, Coffee & Lemonade). Lighter fare is also available.
30 minutes	After the tour, spend time at special areas of interest to you, enjoy the lakeside setting watch the Trumpeter Swans or visit the <u>Grotto Gift Shop</u> .
<u>Depart the Grotto and travel 5 blocks to:</u>	
70 minutes	<u>Historic Museum and Sites</u> – Take a stroll down memory lane while your Guide takes you through the replica sod house, post office, country school and newly built museum. Sample and learn the history behind the delicious fruit-filled pastry, ButterBraid, manufactured by Country Maid right here in town (product samples).
60 minutes	Split into two groups. Each group will experience: <u>The Villager</u> in downtown West Bend offers one of the few remaining old-fashioned soda fountains in Iowa serving a variety of sodas. Enjoy a specialty soda. <u>Skoglund Meat Locker</u> showcases their facility and provides meat samples of products sold.

**The cost of this awe-inspiring tour & lunch is \$22/pp. A group of 30+ will include 2 comps.
If only visiting the Grotto (guided tour and buffet) \$17/pp**

Attractions
Nearby

Travel to Algona to see the POW Museum & Nativity Scene (20 mi.) 515-295 3719, 515-295-7519, www.pwcamp.algona.org or Wild Rose Casino in Emmetsburg (23 mi.)

For overnight accommodations contact Park View Inn & Suites located one block from the Grotto www.parkviewinnandsuites.com 877-612-5366