

Plan to see Centre County during Ag Progress trip

UNIVERSITY PARK — If you're planning a trip to Penn State's Ag Progress days at University Park Aug. 20 to 22, you might want to take some time out to see the rest of campus and more of Centre County.

An excellent way to see the campus is to take a free bus or walking tour. The tour includes stops at many University buildings, including the Agricultural Administration Building, Old Main, and the ever-popular Creamery.

The Ag Administration Building, which anchors the section of campus known as "Ag Hill," will have special appeal to farmers visiting Ag Progress Days. This building houses the college of agriculture's administrative offices, and the skeleton of Old Coaly, a mule that carried stones to form the foundation of Old Main is displayed in the north lobby. The college is also home for the Cooperative Extension Service which serves all 67 Pennsylvania counties.

At Old Main, visitors will see frescoes painted by mural artist Henry Varnum Poor in 1940 and 1949. Earphones are provided inside the front doors so guests can listen to descriptions of the frescoes as they look at them. This building also houses the president's office.

Visitors will also stop at Tyson Building, which houses the horticulture and agronomy departments and the University's greenhouses, where plants and flowers are sold to the public.

Some museums included on the tour are the Anthropology Museum, which houses a Central American Collection of materials excavated by Penn State anthropologists; the Museum of Art, which contains a growing permanent collection and traveling exhibitions; and the Frost Entomological Museum, where a half million species of insects are displayed.

No campus tour would be complete without a stop at the Nittany Lion Shrine, a favorite spot for picture taking, and a pause at the University Creamery for a refreshing cone of homemade

Penn State ice cream.

Not included on the tour, but worth checking out are the Football Hall of Fame, where all the trophies are exhibited, and the flower gardens, which are in full bloom now.

Anyone interested in scheduling a tour should contact the office of special events at 814-865-2501. Perspective students and their parents can schedule campus tours which include dorm room and orientation sessions through the office of admissions at 814-865-5471.

More ambitious visitors may want to expand their touring to off-campus areas. Centre County offers a number of attractions for historical buffs.

The Aaronsburg Historical Museum in Aaronsburg features materials dealing with the history of Penns Valley, including clothing and hand tools. The museum is open Monday through Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

Boalsburg is the home of the Christopher Columbus Family Chapel, which belonged to the Christopher Columbus family in Spain and was brought to Centre County in 1919 by relatives of the Boal family. The chapel holds Renaissance and Baroque art, religious items, and a sea chest and explorer's cross that belonged to Columbus himself. Visitors can also tour the Boal Mansion and three museum buildings. Tours of the chapel are available daily between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., but the chapel is closed on Tuesdays.

Also located in Boalsburg is the 28th Division Shrine, commemorating the achievements and sacrifices of the men of America's oldest army division of modern composition. The shrine's 28 acres of grassland are dotted with monuments and memorials. Displays include a World War II tank, artillery pieces, World War I mortars and Civil War cannons. The shrine is open from sunrise to sunset.

The county offers some beautiful natural attractions as well. Visitors can stop at the Bear

Meadows Natural Area, which consists largely of a swamp comparable to the glaciated areas further north. Described as a botanist's paradise, the area is home for many specimens of trees and shrubs.

Several natural caves are also nestled in the county's hills, including the state's largest cave,

Woodward Cave. This cave, which features five rooms and two levels, is located along Route 45. It is open to visitors from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the summer.

Centre hall boasts the state's only all-water cavern, Penn's Cave. Visitors can take a 50-minute guided motorboat tour of the cave.

Additional information about the places listed above and other locations in Centre County is available at the information tent at Ag Progress. Don't forget to stop by the Lion Country Visitors and Convention Bureau's exhibit to plan your travel schedule.

"Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own." — Johnson



Indeed, farming can be a richly rewarding profession. But it can also be a very risky one. For the farmer is subject not only to the changes in the marketplace, but to those of nature as well.

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