

2023 IDEA CONFERENCE TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

West Baden Springs Hotel is just a short distance from French Lick Springs Hotel. At the turn of the century, upper-crust health seekers and high rollers traveled to French Lick and West Baden Springs, drawn by the healing mineral waters, gambling casinos, and two of the most fashionable hotels in the nation. Indiana Landmarks' guided historic tours immerse you in the grand hotel era of the early 1900s. Hear the fascinating stories of the National Register-listed landmarks and their awe-inspiring rescue and restoration. Explore the rich history and award-winning restoration of the National Historic Landmark once dubbed the "Eighth Wonder of the World" with this guided tour! The duration of the tour is approximately 60 to 75 minutes. The shuttle will leave from French Lick Resort at 3:15 PM.

The Stables at French Lick Resort is nestled behind West Baden Springs Hotel is home to 27 horses who have each been carefully selected and trained by the stables manager for a minimum of two years. Among them are trail horses for the eight miles of scenic horseback riding trails, the resort's two carriage horses and ponies that provide rides for children. The Stables also features a gift shop with western-style items and souvenirs. On this tour you will meet some of the horses, learn about the operations, and have any of your questions answered by our Stables staff. After the stables tour enjoy a short $\frac{3}{4}$ mile guided walk lead by Sam Lovold, Program Coordinator at Montgomery SWCD. He will guide you along a trail from the Stables to West Baden while pointing out notable plants as well as birds that you may see (or hear) on the way. You may then explore West Baden (there is a free museum on site!) or take the trolley back to French Lick Resort. The shuttle will leave from the French Lick Hotel at 2:45 PM.

Orange County Conservation Tour will give you a great opportunity to see conservation in action and the beauty of Orange County firsthand. You will first visit Sulfur Creek Valley Farms, LLC, where you will hear from the landowners about all the conservation practices they have installed over the years and the challenges of farming sustainably on a karst landscape. Next you will travel to Wesley Chapel Gulf, a 187-acre tract of land located in the Hoosier National Forest in western Orange County. The gulf provides a rare glimpse of the Lost River on its subterranean path. Several other karst features are represented in the immediate area of the Gulf including swallow holes, sinkholes, and caves. Pending time, you will also stop by Orangeville Rise, a 3-acre property managed by the Nature Conservancy and is home to one of the largest sinking streams in the country. Passenger vans will leave from the French Lick Resort at 2:45 PM.