

IRD Ladies Tour Itinerary

Cost to the Ladies going on tour \$50.00

We need a minimum of 10 Ladies, count is needed by April 16th at the latest.

9:30 am Meet AIO guide/escort – Place of pick-up TBD

Visit the Town of Lititz

Just nine miles north of Lancaster, PA, a little town sits tucked quietly into the bosom of Mother's Earth's fertile fields and underground limestone rivers. The sound of horses hooves clatter along the tiny streets, the town's locals busily sweep their sidewalks. Hands raise in greetings, smiles cross faces as neighbors pass each other on the streets. Mothers and their children feed the fat ducks as they float down the park's canal. This scenario, played over and over since the early 1700s, still happens every day in Lititz. Lititz, you see, is the hometown everyone wishes was theirs!

Although they have Amish and Mennonite neighbors, it was the Moravian people who settled in Lititz as early as the 1740s. Originally hailing from Bohemia and Moravia, what we now recognize as the Czech Republic, these peaceful, pious people, trying desperately to elude persecution as far back as the 15th century, found their way to Saxony, Germany and through missionary work, eventually to the "colonies," specifically the Warwick Township, Pennsylvania area, where their new settlement would be named "Lititz" in 1756.

Short Guided tour of the town with our guide

10:30 am *Wilbur Chocolate factory store/museum shop*

The present company originated with Mr. Henry Oscar Wilbur, in Philadelphia, PA. and the Kendig Chocolate Company, in Lititz, PA.

Back in 1865, Mr. H.O. Wilbur was successfully operating a hardware and stove business in Vineland, N.J. The chance of uniting with Samuel Croft in the confectionery business in Philadelphia, PA. seemed to offer a larger opportunity, and they became partners under the name of Croft & Wilbur, starting in the candy business at 125 North Third St., Philadelphia, PA. They produced largely molasses candies and hard candies, which were sold to the railroad company for train boys to sell. Confectionery manufacturing equipment at that time consisted of a kettle, with a coal or coke fire, some buckets, and a marble slab.



Their business flourished, making it necessary for them to seek larger quarters, at 1226 Market St., Philadelphia, PA. The business continued to grow, and it was necessary for the company to build a separate factory for the production of their chocolate requirements.

In 1884, it was decided to separate the business into the manufacture of cocoa and chocolate, as apart from the manufacture of candy. The company of H.O. Wilbur & Sons was formed for the manufacture of chocolate products, while Mr. Croft and a Mr. Allen continued the candy business under the name of Croft & Allen.

In 1887, larger quarters were again required, at which time H.O. Wilbur & Sons moved to their last location in Philadelphia, at Third, New and Bread streets. The business continued successfully, making it possible for Mr. H.O. Wilbur to retire at 59 years of age, which placed the full responsibility of operating the business on his two sons, William Nelson Wilbur and Harry L. Wilbur. The third son, Bertrand K. Wilbur, was a medical doctor who practiced in Alaska. He returned to Philadelphia at the death of his brother, Harry, in 1900 and assumed supervision of production in the chocolate plant.

During the early 1890's, Mr. W.N. Wilbur brought his two brothers from France, Steve and Mass Oriole, both experienced chocolate makers, who contributed much to the famous Wilbur Chocolate items.

In 1905, a third generation of Wilburs entered the picture in the person of Lawrence H. Wilbur. He was trained in Germany and tutored in the manufacture of chocolate by Steve Oriole. He later developed the machine to foil-wrap the famous Wilbur Buds®, which were first introduced in 1894. The firm was incorporated under the name of H.O. Wilbur & Sons in January, 1909.

The company continued to prosper and additional facilities were required. On April 17, 1913, the directors authorized the construction of an additional building, between the two original buildings, in Lititz, PA. This was a five-story building and all materials and labor were obtained locally.

In 1927, negotiations were started with Suchard Societe Anonyme, of Switzerland. On February 17, 1928, the company name changed to Wilbur-Suchard Chocolate Company, Inc. The negotiations included a merger with Brewster-Ideal Chocolate Co., of Lititz, PA and Newark, NJ.

The three factories continued to operate in Newark, Lititz and Philadelphia, producing a complete line of chocolate items, concentrating on items sold directly to the public (consumer goods); particularly, Suchard foiled squares, vending machine tablets and bars, in various attractive packages and labels. Beginning in August 1930, the Philadelphia manufacturing operations were moved to Lititz, which was completed in August 1933, and the Newark plant was sold back to Albert E. Brewster in 1934. The production and sale of Suchard items was continued until December 31, 1958, and the corporate name of the company was then changed to Wilbur Chocolate Co. The company became a wholly-owned subsidiary of MacAndrews & Forbes Company on October 18, 1968. Beginning in 1980, the company was sold four more times in 12 years, most recently in 1992 to Cargill, Incorporated. Cargill is one of the largest private companies in the United States with offices and facilities worldwide. Their main business is trading grains and processing agricultural commodities.

2002 proved to be a big year for Wilbur Chocolate Co. as two new companies joined the Wilbur family. In June of 2002 Wilbur Chocolate Co. purchased Omnisweet, located in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. The company is a division of Cargill Limited and

Omnisweet was renamed Wilbur Limited. Wilbur Limited manufactures specialty compound products such as chunks, coatings, low melt ice cream flakes and ice cream coatings for the North American Market. In October of 2002 Wilbur Chocolate Co. purchased Peter's Chocolate from Nestle USA of Glendale, California. Peter's is a leading supplier of premium chocolates with a loyal customer base throughout North America.

Wilbur was and still is noted for its fine quality Chocolate Coatings. The manufacturing plants currently produces over 240 million pounds of chocolate products, and other various food ingredients each year

11:00 am *Begin Guided Farmlands Tour as you travel from place to place*

11:30 am *Lunch at Hershey Farm – full Smorgasbord*

1:00 pm *Depart for Bird-In-Hand Bakery (on the way to Candle Barn)*

1:20 pm *Bird-In-Hand Bakery*

1:40 pm *Depart for Candle Barn*

2:00 pm *Drop group at Kitchen Kettle located in Intercourse, Pa.*

Although Kitchen Kettle Village boasts 42 shops, 2 restaurants and 17 lodging rooms, like most homes in Lancaster County, the hub of activity around here is our family-run kitchen. Here the locals cook up homemade Pennsylvania Dutch sweets like jelly, jam and butter, fresh baked goods like pie and cookies, and delicious canned goods like relish, salsa and pickles. And they do it all right before your eyes!

In Lancaster County we're known for our strong work ethic and wholesome food. So let us do the cooking, and you can relax, sample some pepper jam and whoopie pies, and find plenty of delectable food gifts to take home to delight your family and friends.

Group will be greeted by a Kitchen Kettle representative and given maps. The greeters will point out the bathrooms and the two restaurants.

Candle Barn is on the right side of the Kitchen Kettle Parking Lot

Free time
3:30 pm Depart drop guide on the way home.

4:30 pm *Time to be back at Crown Plaza*