



# day trippin'

fun family trips to get you out of the house the entire day / by **Lisa Cherkasky**

Looking for a little adventure beyond the walls of your nearest shopping mall? Need some new ideas to keep from bouncing off the walls during the cold weather months? We suggest some out-of-the-way indoor destinations that will thrill the kids for hours. To pack an added punch we include “scavenger hunt” lists. Keeping their eyes peeled for items on their lists will help keep each child’s interest high. A little bit of planning (plus some essential provisions) will get the rubber on the road to your destination. Arm each child with a pad and pencil, put the pedal to the metal, and head on down the highway of fun!

## Before you go:

- \* **Always call ahead to double-check the hours and other pertinent details.** It’s also a good idea to check Web sites for special events that will interest your children, then schedule visits accordingly.
- \* **Do your research before you head out.** Learn a bit about your destination ahead of time. Talk over some interesting facts on your way there.
- \* **Pack snacks, drinks, wipes, Band-Aids and a camera.** Wear comfortable shoes. Kids can carry their own supplies if you give them each a small backpack.
- \* **Before you go, provide each child with a list of unusual things to look for.** Customize the lists according to the age of the child. Surprise them with prizes once they have spotted everything on their “scavenger hunt.” The prizes can match the theme of your trip.
- \* **Don’t forget your camera.** A disposable camera can be a lot of fun for a child, or

a pad and colored pencils for sketching what they see. Look at the pictures later and talk about your trip. You could even make a small scrapbook with pictures, ticket stubs, and other memorabilia.

- \* **Discuss your trip over dinner later the same day.** Is there something you can keep as part of your family lore, a song, anecdote, joke, new word?

## Doing the twist! Intercourse Pretzel Factory

3614 Old Philadelphia Pike  
Intercourse, PA  
717-768-3432  
www.intercoursepretzelfactory.com  
Free  
Saturdays in January, February and March, 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Reach into the past and try your hand at twisting your own pretzel. Do a taste test—plain, cheese, herb, or brown butter? Which is your favorite?

Jellies with cream cheese, sweet smoked bologna, onion relish, sausage and sauerkraut, vintage-era candies, fragrant spices, hand-dipped ice cream (try the delicious Molasses Caramel Crunch) and chocolate-covered pretzels tickle your noses in the well-stocked store. Put together an old-fashioned dinner menu and stock up while you browse. Then peruse the antiques. Your kids won’t believe the trouble moms and dads used to take to put food on the table!

## Things to look for:

The Becker’s Pretzel can (with a pretzel sailor on it)  
Alphabet pretzels  
The button bowl  
Visors  
Antique postcards

## Laissez les bonbons roulez! Asher’s Chocolates

80 Wambold Rd.  
Souderton, PA  
800-438-8882  
215-721-3276  
www.ashers.com  
Free  
Tour hours  
10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Mon.–Fri.

Asher’s, open since 1892, is the oldest family owned and operated candy manufacturer in the United States. Traditional recipes, fresh, pure ingredients, and lots

of TLC are blended to create sweet riches that will bring tears to your eyes. In the Victorian-style store, chocolate-covered potato chips and grahams, creamy caramels, velvety fudge, and pecan-caramel patties all whisper your name.

Self-guided multimedia tours are free and include watching chocolate treats being made right before your eyes.

## Things to look for:

Treasure chest  
Playhouse  
Trolley wheels  
Chester Asher’s picture  
Picture of a sailing ship  
Big, old-fashioned clock  
Chocolate pacifiers

## In living color! Crayola® Factory

30 Center Square  
Easton, PA  
610-515-8000  
www.crayola.com/factory/  
Free  
Tues.–Sun., hours vary.  
Reservations recommended.

The Crayola Factory may not be a real manufacturing plant, but it is a fun and fascinating destination nonetheless. This hands-on discovery center offers continuous live demonstrations of how crayons and markers are made—and that is just the tip of the iceberg. There are loads of unusually imaginative art activities amply supplied with crayons, markers, glue, collage materials, modeling clay, chalk, and more.

The staff at Crayola is happy and helpful, encouraging discovery and creativity for all comers.

## Things to look for:

Mr. Roger’s sweater  
Glass walls to draw on  
Metal sculptures  
Red tunnel  
Light projectors  
The world’s largest crayon  
Emerson Mosler’s shoes

## Snack attack! Herr’s Snacks

Route 272 & Herr Dr.  
Nottingham, PA  
800-637-6225  
www.herrs.com

Free  
Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–Noon & 1 p.m.–3 p.m.  
Fri. 9 a.m.–Noon  
Reservations needed.

Now we’re talkin’ factory! Herr’s—complete with conveyor belts, extruders, fryers, mixers, cutters, and loads and loads of potatoes—is the plant that snacks built, to the tune of 10,000 pounds of chips being produced each hour. Get your fill, and then some, of crispy, crunchy chips, popcorn, pretzels, and cheese curls in all flavors. Even the smallest child will be fascinated by the industry and activity of the factory floor.

## Things to look for:

His & her potato plant  
A covered bridge  
Chipper’s mailbox  
A baked potato  
5-cent chip bag  
Lincoln silhouette  
Herr’s trucks under glass (2 areas)  
A mug pyramid

## On the mooove! Brown Cow at Hope Acres

2680 Delta Rd.  
Brogue, PA  
800-293-1054  
www.thebrowncow.net  
Admission: \$4–\$6  
Tues.–Sat., hours vary,  
Reservations required.

Do not expect to try your hand at milking a cow at Brown Cow. One of the country’s most technologically advanced dairy farms, Brown Cow does its milking robotically, simply a wonder to witness, and quite a surprise to discover in this rural setting. Tours here are guided, thankfully; as you may have questions about the cow waterbeds, back scratchers, and cookies. All guests are treated to a free cone of yummy, superpremium ice cream.

## Things to look for:

Cow back scratchers  
Cow waterbeds  
Cow cookies  
Automatic scrapers  
Electronic cow collars  
Brown Swiss cows

*Lisa Cherkasky practically sleeps in her sneakers so she is always ready for adventure!*