



EXPLORING THE  
1850S  
to  
1900S  
GROUP TOURS  
IN JACKSON, MI

experience  
jackson.com





# GROUP TOURS EXPLORING 1850 TO 1900 IN JACKSON, MI

## Discover a Fascinating Time in History!

Your group's first adventure begins in 1850 with a vivid glance into 19th century pioneer life at [Waterloo Farm Museum](#). Nestled into the scenic Jackson countryside, this preserved property includes a farmhouse, rare restored wooden Perkins windmill, log house, working blacksmith shop, and many other buildings that were needed to support this once bustling farm. Costumed guides will show you around the 15-room farmhouse and property reminiscing about its past.

Next, head down the road a few miles to explore the [Dewey School Museum](#). This one-room school house was built in the mid-1800s and was the primary school for many area children for nearly 100 years. Although it closed its doors in 1956, the Dewey School has been preserved to serve as a representation of the past. While here, you'll really get to experience what a typical school day was like as you sit in an antique desk while your guide tells you stories of the past.

**To book a tour or for more information about taking a group tour of Waterloo Farm Museum and Dewey School Museum, contact 517-596-2254.**

## Break for Lunch

After touring Waterloo Farm Museum and Dewey School Museum, take a break for lunch to savor the mouth-watering delicacies you'll only find in Jackson. Every direction you look you'll find [restaurants](#) tempting you with food that's uniquely Jackson.



## Next Stop: The Victorian Era

Head over to the picturesque town of Grass Lake to take a fascinating walk through a Victorian home. Built in the Tuscan Vernacular architectural style, the [Coe House](#) will take you back to the days of corset dresses and wood-trimmed furniture. As you tour this stunning home, you will be truly taken back to the Victorian Era. Each room is fully furnished with furniture, tapestries, and household items from this time. This authentic adventure is perfect for the historian in all of us.

**To book a tour or for more information about taking a group tour of the Coe House, please contact 517-522-8324.**



## Mid-Afternoon Stop: Tracks of History

After the Coe House, your experience of the 19th century wouldn't be complete without a trip to [Jackson Station](#). An important stop on the Underground Railroad, slaves were said to have hopped aboard the cargo trains to reach freedom in Canada. Jackson Station holds a wealth of history that's just waiting for your group to uncover it!

**For more information about Jackson Station, go to [GreatAmericanStations.com](http://GreatAmericanStations.com).**

Have a truly unique experience with a step-on guide to take your group through the [Underground Railroad Landmarks Tour](#). Author of two amazing tales of the Underground Railroad history in Jackson County, Linda Hass will take your group to historic sites that helped change the future of America, including the birthplace of the Republican Party.

**Contact Linda to schedule your tour at: [lahass@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lahass@sbcglobal.net)**



## Check In & Freshen Up

After a day exploring the 19th century, you'll welcome the modern amenities of your Jackson hotel. Check in, freshen up and relax for a bit before heading out to enjoy an entertaining evening in Jackson.



## Evening Entertainment: Illuminated Waterfalls

**The Cascades** has stood as a symbol of Jackson for over 85 years. Widely known as the Jewel of Jackson, the colors in this illuminated manmade waterfall light up the night sky, changing color with the music.

This massive landmark has captivated visitors from around the world for years, watching in awe as thousands of gallons of water flow over the waterfalls every minute. Your group will greatly enjoy the nightly shows, where the falls are set to music, and the weekly summer concerts.

**For more information about The Cascades, go to [ExperienceJackson.com](https://ExperienceJackson.com).**

## DAY TWO

Your group's first stop of the day is **Ella Sharp Museum**. At this iconic Jackson museum your group will find galleries of history, a village set to the Civil War Era, and so much more! The Ella Sharp Museum provides opportunities for everyone to explore, engage in, and enjoy history and the arts.

Nestled within the mature tree of the museum's grounds is the Hillside Farm Lane. Here your group will truly feel like they are living in the Civil War Era as they explore this fully-erect historic village. Highlights include an 1860's log cabin, the Dibble one-room schoolhouse, country store, print shop, doctor's office, wood shop and the Merriman Sharp Farmhouse.

**To book a tour or for more information about taking a group tour of the Ella Sharp Museum, please contact 517-787-2320.**

## Break for Lunch

After touring the Ella Sharp Museum, take a break for lunch. Just minutes from many great Jackson **restaurants**, finding a place to stop for lunch will be easy, but choosing between the savory options will be difficult.





## Next Stop: A Centennial Farm

Walk the grounds at a 187-acre centennial farm in the charming Tompkins Township. The [Tompkins Historical Stewart Farm Museum](#) has preserved the 1800's farm life on this beautifully manicured property. Experience a school day in their little red school house that's complete with a rooftop bell, or see how welding was done over 100 years ago with a blacksmith demonstration. Other features of the museum include the original farmhouse, which has been converted into a museum, rug looms, replica frontier log cabin, and working windmill.



## Mid-Afternoon Stop: Downtown Tour

Spend some time exploring downtown Jackson. With something for everyone, it's a great afternoon activity. Take one of the self-guided tours to explore the area's historic impact and hidden treasures.

The [Walking Tour of Downtown Jackson](#) will show you some local favorites, like the original Coney Island restaurant, a piece by one of the most important figures in American sculpture, and so much more! The Architecture Tour points out fascinating architectural similarities between historic Jackson buildings and iconic time periods.

**For more information about the self-guided walking tours in Downtown Jackson, go to [ExperienceJackson.com](http://ExperienceJackson.com).**



## Relax & Refresh

Head back to your Jackson hotel to relax and refresh before heading out to enjoy an entertaining evening in Jackson.





## Evening Entertainment: A Musical Performance

The [Jackson Symphony Orchestra](#) is a wonderful way to spend the evening, allowing your group to escape into the artful sounds of this musical experience.

Enjoy the familiar sounds of Beethoven and Mozart, as well as works by this century's composers like Philip Glass and Jonathan Bruce Brown. Each of their performances is different from the last, and each season brings a new concert series to enjoy. Summer presents the Summer Pops concert at the Riverwalk Amphitheatre, fall offers an opportunity to celebrate Oktoberfest and the arts, winter brings The Nutcracker in a collaboration with Ballet Chelsea, and so many other musical performances in between.

**For more information about the Jackson Symphony Orchestra and their concert series, go to [ExperinceJackson.com](http://ExperinceJackson.com).**



## DAY THREE

Start your day with a delicious breakfast at one of the many Jackson group-friendly [restaurants](#)! There are several places with great food, plenty of parking, and private rooms available. Just a few minutes' drive from many Jackson hotels and with available bus parking, it's a great way to start the last day of your trip.

The [Mann House](#) is an excellent example of middle-class Victorian architecture. Once the private home of Daniel and Ellen Mann and their two daughters, Jessie and Mary Ida, the Mann House is now a museum. The home is furnished with late 19th century heirlooms including household and personal items belonging to various family members. Unique features of the house include: a marbleized slate fireplace, catch-release doorknobs, and treasures from the sisters' travels in Asia.

**To book a tour or for more information about taking a group tour of the Mann House, please contact 517-373-1359.**







## Year-Round Events

Big events are rolling through Jackson all year long. We've got something for everyone - auto and boat races, beer and wine festivals, historic reenactments, a comic convention, and one of America's top country music festivals. Come, Experience Jackson to make one remarkable trip!

Find more adventures at  
[ExperienceJackson.com/FeaturedEvents](https://ExperienceJackson.com/FeaturedEvents)

## Explore All That is Jackson

Culture, nature, nourishment, art, museums, and trails. There is always something to do in Jackson County. We've got an amazing story to tell. The Republican Party was born here and the first state prison was built here. We have 20-plus golf courses, miles of trails, and so much fishing you might sprout gills yourself. Take a deep breath and get ready to discover what's in store for you.

Explore more of Jackson at  
[ExperienceJackson.com/Things-To-Do](https://ExperienceJackson.com/Things-To-Do)





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