

Great Day! Scheduled Tour Summary

**HOLIDAY DINNER IN A GORGEOUS 1920's BANK VAULT
CANDLES TO CASTLE TO BUDDY THE ELF**

THUR DEC 7, 2017

Departures, as applicable, from Willoughby, Beachwood, Independence, Middleburg Heights, North Olmsted.

This tour has again been upgraded to include one of the greatest places we've found for a holiday dinner . . . or any other "special occasion". Back in 1925 the United Bank and Trust, whose origins go back to 1880, opened a grandiose building in what is now part of Ohio City. The 1920's architecture and gorgeous detailing were immediately apparent, with intricately-carved ceilings towering nearly 40-feet overhead. It was one of the last of a series of classical bank buildings constructed in Cleveland during the "Golden Age for the City's Banking Industry". The architects who designed this building were also involved with the design of Severance Hall, Municipal Stadium and Public Auditorium. At the time, it was in vogue to build impressive, stone-columned banks to give the impression that the depositor's money would be safe and that these banks "could not fail".



The beautiful 1920's bank is impressive, then and now, with copper-topped green marble pillars, rows of arched stone-framed windows, original walnut details, ornate tiling and even a turn-of-the-century bank vault. During the renovations to turn this into one of the area's most popular dining locations, a mural that would become a focal point for the restaurant was discovered. This mural depicts a Renaissance-era marketplace scene, complete with merchants trading produce. Unfortunately for the bank, it opened not too many years

before the stock market crash and the Great Depression hit in the late 1920's and it closed, but the building remained in a most refurbishable condition . . . which the owner has done in a most impressive way. The building represents the city's most prosperous area and your luncheon today will be top-shelf as we prepare for the upcoming holiday season.

Our day actually begins at the A.I. Root Candle Company with an informative video on the company and its products. Started in 1869 by Amos Ives Root, this industry-leader is still

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All tour details are anticipated at the time that the Scheduled Tour Brochure was prepared and specific stops and/or other inclusions are subject to change or elimination without notice. This tour typically departs mid-morning with the exact time shown on the itinerary you will receive approximately one to two weeks prior to the tour departure. Tour typically returns about 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM, although this may vary.

family-owned and is now in its fifth generation. The craftsmanship that goes into these candles, and other gifts, are known around the world.

Our next stop will be at a castle, decorated for the holiday season and merged with the miracle of Christmas to create a “one-of-a-kind museum”. Created by a successful artist who bears a striking resemblance to Santa himself, who sculpted and designed Christmas angels and other designs . . . it’s a “masterpiece in the form of a museum” and almost parallels the theme of the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life”. It is most difficult to describe a place that has so many movie props, the original window displays from New York’s Macy’s and Bloomingdales, Will Ferrell’s familiar green coat, the Buddy the Elf suit from the movie “Elf” and even a full-sized recreation of Jim Carrey’s “The Grinch”. No one will want to miss seeing Cousin Eddy’s infamous RV on display outside or the giant slide in the main display room.



We will then travel to A Christmas Story House in the Tremont area. There probably aren’t too many people who haven’t heard of the nine-year-old who dreams of a “200-shot, range-model, air-rifle . . . with a compass in the stock and this thing that tells time”, or when Flick sticks his tongue as the result of a double-dare, or a father who wins a lamp in the shape of a woman’s leg. This house has been restored to the splendor of the movie and, during our visit, we will also be seeing toys from the Higbee’s windows.



And, just in time for Christmas, you’ll have some time to visit the Christmas Story House gift shop. As the afternoon sun sets, and we’ve visited the decorated Terminal Tower Concourse, we will re-board the coach to see the holiday lights in the downtown area as well as the chandelier that adorns the intersection in Playhouse Square.

\$144 per person

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