

Security Savings Bank Travelers Embark on a Mystery Trip

A group of 24 curious travelers from Security Savings Bank set out on an unforgettable Mystery Trip on May 6, 7, & 8, 2025, blending culinary delights with artistic exploration. Organized with the spirit of adventure, the participants; Diane Anderson, Heather & Marcia Anderson, Sue Anderson, Johanna Baedke, Nancy Burger, Becky Comp, Jeanette Courter, Cheryl Decker, Kay Detweiler, Diane Engquist, Wanda Hade, Lisa Kieffer, Renae Lane, Barb Langner, Denise Lehmer, Dawn Loseke, Becky Lundberg, Jan Peterson, Pat Peterson, Gina Schultz, Jeannie Streit, Kathy Swanson, and Diana Vangilder, had no idea what awaited them but were promised three days of surprises.

The first stop on the trip was the Filling Station, a beloved local eatery known for its warm hospitality and classic American fare nestled in the heart of Davenport. Travelers indulged in a delectable lunch that featured house specialties as conversations bubbled with excitement as the group speculated about their next destination.

Our first highlight of the trip came in the form of an artistic journey to the studio of an American artisan and sculptor, Isabelle Bloom, crafting exquisite concrete sculptures since its founding in the 1950s. Upon arrival in Davenport, we were greeted by the studio's staff, who shared insights into the fascinating history of Isabelle Bloom and her creative process. Our group was treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the



sculpting process. We watched as artisans skillfully shaped raw concrete into works of art, transforming humble materials into remarkable pieces filled with character and emotion. We headed to Peoria, Illinois arriving just in time for supper. We enjoyed a unique dining experience at Obed's & Isaac's Microbrewery and Eatery, a beautifully restored 1889 church. Guests indulged in a soul-warming meal, rich in flavor and steeped in local tradition, while the historic charm of the building added a unique touch to the experience.

The next day brought an artistic twist to the itinerary, with a visit to J'Draper Glass Studio. Here, our group explored the intricate art of glassblowing, creating our own stunning ornaments that captured creativity and imagination. The hands-on experience left us with unforgettable, handcrafted souvenirs.



Continuing our exploration, we visited the Caterpillar Visitor's Center. This state-of-the-art facility provided an engaging glimpse into the legacy and future of Caterpillar, showcasing the company's impressive machinery and global impact. After fueling our curiosity, visitors discovered a few leisurely hours in the charming Village of Peoria Heights. Strolling through the quaint streets. As the day wound down, we gathered for a memorable supper at Blue Duck Tavern, known for its delectable dishes and warm hospitality, Blue Duck Tavern served as the perfect finale to the day's adventures.

The final day of the much-anticipated Mystery Trip began with a visit to the renowned Picker's Store in LeClaire, Iowa as seen on TV. Known for its vintage charm and fascinating array of treasures, the store offered travelers a unique opportunity to explore rare finds steeped in history. As the morning adventures concluded, participants boarded the Celebration Belle for a delightful lunch cruise on the iconic Mississippi River. With picturesque views of the water and a gentle breeze to accompany our meal, we enjoyed a serene and relaxing experience. On our way home, we made a stop at the Iowa 80 Truckstop in Walcott, IA. This rest stop is famed for being the largest truck stop in the world. As the day wound down, we made our way back to Gowrie wrapping up the Mystery Trip with smiles and stories to share. The final leg of the journey allowed participants to reflect on the scenic stops, engaging activities, with new and old friendships built or renewed along the way.

We always look forward to this special time together during the first week in May— it's a tradition we enjoy. On behalf of all of us, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Security Savings Bank for making this unforgettable trip possible.

