

Explore Your World

Kankakee County Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Spring, Summer, Fall

Bullets:

- Travel millions of miles into space
- See the inner workings of a radio production
- Paddle along the Kankakee River, one of the cleanest rivers in the Midwest
- Enjoy a picnic on the river in a woodland setting

Description:

Explore your potential in Kankakee County. The campus of Olivet Nazarene University is home to Strickler Planetarium and Shine FM radio. This unique tour allows you to experience both the planetarium show and the inner workings of a radio station. Then get back to nature on a canoe trip down the Kankakee River. Complete your day with a picnic and nature walk at Perry Farm Park, with wooded trails along the river.

Itinerary:

Day 1 - Start your adventure on the Olivet Nazarene University campus, 225 acres of beautiful scenery that is also home to a radio station and planetarium. A visit to Strickler planetarium includes seeing state of the art digital projection of the night sky, one of only three planetariums in Illinois have this system. The Digistar system's stellar database means that simulated travel through space is more than simple special effects — it's an actual journey through an accurate model of our stellar neighborhood. After the show, get an up close visit with this unique technology. Then walk over to the studios of ShineFM, a radio station founded to offer a positive media alternative. A tour of the station includes studios and behind the scenes production; so you can really see how a radio station operates. Plenty of on-campus and nearby restaurant offer a wide variety of dining choices and lodging is conveniently located near the area's main shopping centers.

Day 2 – Check out of your hotel and dive into a canoe trip on the Kankakee River. Offering a variety of trips from 2-6 hours in length, Reed's Canoe Trips is suitable for canoers of all ages and experience levels. Offering unparalleled views of the Kankakee River, paddle down one of the few natural and unspoiled waterways in the northern half of Illinois. Delight in the wooded views of deer, raccoons, beavers, and other smaller species of wildlife along the banks. After your trip, recharge and grab a picnic lunch from one of the nearby eateries. Outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds find enjoyment in the wide array of activities Perry Farm Park offers including four miles of fully accessible paved paths that wind through natural prairie, woods and riverfront. Nature preserve areas highlight Indian Caves along the Bourbonnais Creek making this stretch of the Kankakee River and its shores as beautiful as any in our state.