



Weekend Itinerary by Mifflin County Commissioner Kevin Kodish

The Kishacoquillas Valley, known as Big Valley, MUST be a significant part of any first time visitor's time here. The scenery is awesome... gently rolling hills of some of the best farmland in America. The Valley is home to a large Amish and Mennonite population. You will see dozens of horse and buggies, carriages, and wagons on the local roads. See Amish farmers leading teams of horses to plow fields, tend or harvest crops. From the planting of corn in May, to the harvesting of wheat and construction of wheat shocks in July to the Indian Tepee corn shocks in the autumn, each season has much to offer. Enjoy roadside fruit and vegetable stands, orchards, and visit Amish cottage industries such as bakeries, furniture makers, quilt shops, chair caning, dry goods stores and more. Below is a list of destinations not to miss.



Peight's Store. Buy everything from bulk packaged foods, to cold cuts, pots and pans to children's toys. 136 Peight Store Lane, Belleville 17004, 717-935-2922.

The Wood Lathe Shop. The shop is located at the home of Amish Bishop, Joseph Peachey II, and his family. The workshop is famous for their natural edge furniture, burl bowls and unique wood gift items. Ask to see his son's handmade canoe—if it's still there. Open dawn to dusk, Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday and don't even try. 70 Rolling Hill Lane, Allensville 17002. If shopping, bring cash.

Big Valley Dry Goods Store. Also known as an Amish Walmart, this shop is owned and staffed by an Amish family

and stocks everything an Amish family would need to purchase. Shop by sunlight or lamplight because there's no electricity in the building. If shopping, bring cash. Located on Sunrise Lane, Allensville. It's a white metal building in the middle of a field. If you pass the church, you've gone too far.

Kishacoquillas Valley Historical Society. Visit a collection of early American artifacts, furniture and collectable with a strong German background native to the Kishacoquillas Valley. The museum includes a rebuilt PA Bank Barn that houses antique farm equipment and a genealogical library. 138 E. Main St., Allensville 17002. Limited hours. Must call in advance. 717-935-2440, 717-483-6525.



Whitehall Store. A general store dating back to the 1820's. Walk on the same wooden floors patrons have tread upon for nearly two centuries. Buy some fresh bacon cut from the slab, a delicious hand dipped ice cream cone or one of the hoagies they're known for. 2517 Route 655, Belleville 17004. 717-483-6662.

Mifflin County Mennonite Heritage Center.

Displays of the history and culture of the Amish and Mennonite people in our county. Open April–Dec., Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am–noon. Other times by appointment. 3922 W. Main St., Belleville 17004, 717-935-5574.

Allensville Volunteer Fire Company. Home of a beautifully restored 1934 American LaFrance Fire Engine. By chance or call to be sure someone will be there. 161 E. Main St., Belleville 17004, 717-483-6866.

Big Valley is filled with opportunities to connect with a country way of life. Come and see for yourself!

