

Eco-Friendly Tour Itinerary

Erie County is home to many attractions that are environmentally friendly, or “green.” Through certain guidelines, materials and practices, eco-friendly attractions produce less greenhouse gas emissions making them less harmful and more helpful to the Earth. Discover our region’ green attractions and book your group for a tour.

Day One

The Erie Art Museum

The Art Museum’s 2015 building addition was Erie’s first attraction with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, the second-highest level of sustainability achievement according to the U.S. Green Building Council. The museum’s green features include water-efficient fixtures, high competence heating and cooling system and recycled, rapidly renewable, low-emitting and certified construction materials.

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF)

LEAF is a tree museum inside Frontier Park with more than 1,000 trees. They promote environmental wellness for children, families and individuals with educational opportunities and outdoor experiences. LEAF is currently working on a project called ReLeaf, aiming to plant one tree for each citizen of Erie County outside of Frontier Park.

Lunch – Stay downtown for lunch and take in the beautiful waterfront views indoors or outside at the Bayfront Grille at the Sheraton Hotel where fresh regional cuisine with locally sourced ingredients make their menus anything but typical compared to most hotel restaurants. If you have history lovers in your group, make a reservation at the Brewerie at Union Station, located in an actual functioning train station. In addition to a variety of local in-house brewed craft beers, The Brewerie is known for its casual fare including their beer battered pickles and the mammoth sandwich, appropriately named the “Train Wreck”.

The Erie Zoo and Botanical Gardens

End your first eco-friendly day with a trip to the Erie Zoo and Botanical Gardens. The Zoo strives to foster a greater sense of awareness, stewardship and conservation of animals and plants. The water systems in some animal exhibits use recirculated water and the Zoo composts the herbivorous animal waste as well as kitchen scraps from animal diets. Most of their concession products are made from biodegradable or recyclable materials and the Zoo Gift Shop is bag-less.

Day Two

Presque Isle State Park and TREC

Presque Isle State is a National Natural Landmark with miles of beaches and outdoor recreation. In 2021, Park officials announced a new climate and sustainability plan to bring the Park to net zero energy. The Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) is an educational and research center about Presque Isle. TREC’s green features include a floating floor to hide utilities, renewable resources, plant-based material floors, natural sunshade windows, solar panels and rainwater filters.

Lunch – Bring the group to Sara’s Diner, located at the entrance to Presque Isle for Erie-made Smith brand foot-long hot dogs, orange/vanilla twist cones, milkshakes and burgers. Enjoy traditional favorites made with fresh ingredients at The Colony Pub and Grille, a long-time Erie staple located in The Shops at the Colony Plaza. The Colony specializes in traditional comfort foods, salads, burgers and steaks.

Asbury Woods

After lunch, travel south of the city to Asbury Woods Nature Center. Through conservation of natural places, outdoor recreational opportunities, and environmental education experiences, Asbury Woods strives to appreciate and protect natural spaces. The Andrew J. Conner Nature Center was designed with sustainability in mind including a geothermal heating and cooling system, vegetative “living” roof, natural lighting and solar heating.