

***Small Historic Towns across America.*** as presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: [www.fpeusa.org](http://www.fpeusa.org)



### **Brief History of Goshen, Indiana**

Goshen was established in 1831. It was named after Land of Goshen. The Land of Goshen is named in the Bible as the place in Egypt given to the Hebrews by the pharaoh of Joseph.

The city is known as a center of manufacturing for recreational vehicles and accessories, the home of Goshen College, a small Mennonite liberal arts college, and home to the Elkhart County 4-H Fair, the second largest county fair in the United States.



When you come to the “Maple City” you can come shop at the unique little stores in downtown Goshen, or even ride the Public Trolley. All of downtown buildings were built in the early 1900s and are still used today for businesses or apartments on the top part of the building. There are many festivals and activities that the town of Goshen does and have done for many years such as first Friday and 4H festivals.

### **Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).**

Goshen is located between Elkhart, and Middlebury Indiana. The closest major airport is in South Bend which is about forty minutes away. Get on US-20 E/US-31 S in Portage from Mayflower Rd for 4.1 miles. Then follow US-20 E for 21.1 miles to US-33 S/S Main St in Elkhart. Take exit 96 from US-20 E . Follow US-33 S for 7.6 miles. to S Main St in Goshen.

### **Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time.**

When Goshen was founded in 1831 President Andrew Jackson was in office. At this time political parties were just starting to form and Andrew Jackson was becoming the leader

of the democratic party.

### **Oldest Businesses/Largest Business today.**

The Elkhart County Court House which is still in operation today was built in 1980, and is still fully functional. I personally have been it a couple times and it is still quite old fashioned on decor, but quite beautiful on the inside.



### **City government.**



Mayor Allan J. Kauffman was elected Mayor of the City of Goshen on April 1, 1997, following the resignation of Mayor Mike Puro. Prior to this, Mayor Kauffman served on the City Council for sixteen years. The mayor's term of office is four years with no restrictions on the number of terms served.

### **Historic Attractions in the area. Festivals and events.**

Every month on the first Friday of the month the town showcases the little town with events. First Friday is an event where there is food carts, little tents selling all kinda of things and stores hand out fliers and things. Each month has a designated theme and they are as follows: January-fire and ice festival, February- sweet indulgences, March- live and local, April- green day frolic, May-taste of Goshen, June-sweet summer kick off,



July-Goshen crusin' reunion, August-sandblast, September-high fashion, October-homecoming, November- Goshen arts tour, December-hometown holiday.



Some of the other events held in Goshen are the 4H county fair, annual Maple City walk, annual pumpkin trail bike ride, and The Gathering of the 5 medals.

### **Where can we stay if we visit Goshen?**

When you visit “The Maple City” you have a couple hotels to choose from including the Holiday Inn, The Comfort Inn, and the Best Western Inn all located on Lincoln way East which is just a short drive from downtown Goshen. They all average about \$80-\$90 a night and have a very modern homey look to them.



Holiday Express Link:

[http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/goshen/gshgo/hoteldetail?cm\\_mmc=GoogleMaps--ex--USEN--gshgo](http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/goshen/gshgo/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--ex--USEN--gshgo)

Comfort Inn Link:

<http://www.comfortinn.com/hotel-goshen-indiana-IN296?source=gglocalai>

Best Western Link:

[http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/US/IN/Goshen-hotels/BEST-WESTERN-Inn/Hotel-Overview.do?propertyCode=15039&cm\\_mmc=PTI--local--feed--15039](http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/US/IN/Goshen-hotels/BEST-WESTERN-Inn/Hotel-Overview.do?propertyCode=15039&cm_mmc=PTI--local--feed--15039)

## Why would I want to visit this historic small town.

This small town is a very historic Town that is full of its own culture and very old and beautiful buildings. It is a very unique and interesting town, from the Amish community, to the Spanish community, and to the unique history Goshen is definitely one to put on your list of places to travel.



## A little bit about the Amish community.

The Amish community makes up a big chunk of the population of Goshen. They have their own schools and shops although some do tend to go to normal public school. There are a lot of horse and buggies on the streets in Goshen and also at almost every public place there are tie ups for the horses. Most of the Amish families have shops they own



and their family and friends normally go into working there once they are old enough. The women wear dresses and bonnets while the men prominently wear overalls and black pants, and sometimes top hats. Once a man becomes married they let their beard grow out and are not allowed to cut it.

Through out all of the lives of women they never cut their hair or use heat on it. The men keep their hair in a bowl cut shape style for most of their lives.



The Amish children only go to school until they are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and then they drop out, after such time when they become of 16 years of age they have a two year period where they are allowed to act and dress however they want. They are pretty easy to spot because of the name brand clothing, sparkly pants or belts, and the dyed hair or piercings. Once they turn 18 however they are made to choose whether they want to continue this life of an un-Amish person or if they want to return to being Amish. Depending on how strict of a church the Amish family belong to, if a child of 18 decides no longer to be Amish they will be shunned from their family. If they return however they will go into the family business and turn in all their clothes and piercings

for the traditional overalls once again. Again the strictness all depends on the church the family belongs to because the Amish way of life is very focused on family so more times then not the 18 year old kid who decided to leave the Amish way of life will just end up moving out but will still be in touch with their family members.

<http://www.amishcountry.org/explore-the-area/area-history/amish-culture>

**Links you may wish to visit.**

<http://cityonthego.org/> (watch the video on the main page)

<http://www.goshen.org/>

<http://www.goshenindiana.org/>