

Tours:

Bringing your group to Tomah is an easy decision; choosing one of our itineraries is not! Pick a specific themed itinerary or ask for one to be customized. We do all the work for you.

Cranberry Tour

Our famous Cranberry Tour is an experience your group will never forget. Learn how this little berry became Wisconsin's state fruit and made Wisconsin the leading state in cranberry production. During early summer the cranberry vines blossom with delicate little flowers in the shape of a crane head (the cranberry was originally called the crane-berry by Native Americans). See honey bees pollinate the blossoms that form into the deep crimson berries. This process gives bee keepers the one-of-a-kind cranberry honey.

September & October brings beautiful fall foliage and the cranberry harvest season. Your group will watch the cranberry marsh workers gently beat the berries off their vines creating a sea of red and blue. See how the berries roll through 100-year old sorting machines and pass under the latest computer scanners technology has to offer. Your group has the opportunity to purchase berries right at the cranberry marsh.

Following your stop at the marsh your next stop will be at the Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center. The only center in the nation dedicated to the preservation of the heritage of the cranberry industry. The Center's 4,800-square foot exhibit hall details the history of the state's cranberry industry, from the days when Native Americans gathered fruit in the wild to today's unique growing and harvesting methods. Browse the specialty gift shop area featuring a large selection of cranberry specialty products from Wisconsin and across the continent. Cranberry wine, mustards, syrups, toppings, sweetened dried cranberries and a variety of other items on hand. The retail area also features one of the most diverse collections of hand-blown cranberry glass in the area.

Now that you know how cranberries (crane-berries) received their name learn more about the whooping and sandhill cranes at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge's success in preserving and restoring habitat for wildlife is evident by the sights you will see from the designated viewing areas. An experimental release of whooping crane chicks started at the refuge in 2001 called "Operation Migration". The goal is to restore a self-sustaining population that migrates in Eastern North America.

The Refuge is also home to the famous Karner blue butterfly, bald eagles, gray wolves, thousands of birds including scaup, wigeons, swans, ring-necks, canvasbacks, mallards, teal, Canada geese and shorebirds. Learn about the Refuge's partnership with the International Crane Foundation and much more about this beautiful, natural 43,656-acre refuge.

Finish up your cranberry tour by enjoying some local cranberry cuisine offered at one of our distinctive restaurants.