

Tour to the Gilmore Car Museum

This is a destination rather than driving tour to the Gilmore Car Museum at Hickory Corners, Michigan. The Gilmore, near Kalamazoo Michigan, is about 560 km / 350 mi or five and a half hours from eastern Mississauga. The tour dates are August 19 - 21. We take a day to drive there, spend a day at the museum and a day to drive back home. Accommodation will be required for two nights at Gull Lake Inn, in Richmond Michigan, a few minutes by free transit bus from the museum. The Inn is not only ideally located very close to the Museum it provides a fire pit, a lodge where we can get together and enjoy ourselves when we are not at the museum. Staying here has significant advantages but there is a downside; we are limited to twelve rooms or twenty four people. That doesn't mean we are limited to twelve cars. Single occupant cars with drivers willing to share occupancy can join.

This tour is going to fill fast. I know that the weak Canadian Dollar has affected some people's decision about travelling to the United States. However consider this; even with a weak dollar the price of gasoline, food, and accommodations is low enough to make this a very good deal. I have discussed the cost of our stay here and have arranged for a discounted price of \$120 USD per night. There is cheaper accommodation in the area, but none that provide the amenities, comfort, character, potential for enjoyment and proximity to the Museum that this place offers. Check it out at <http://www.gulllakeinn.net>. Registration documents and reservation information will be provided soon. If you are interested in joining this tour, call me at (905) 677-9259 or write me at paul_whittaker@rogers.com

For those who have the time or inclination, the Inn offers a fourth night free for three paid nights. Our route takes us through cities where there are other much smaller but no less significant car museums. Flint Michigan hosts the Sloan Museum and Lansing, the R.E. Olds. Close to our destination is the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum in Auburn Indiana (about 1 hr 35 min); and in South Bend Indiana, the Studebaker (about 1 hr 26 min). Our return home could be via Ypsilanti Michigan (the Hudson, about 1 hr 40 min east) and Dearborn the home of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village near Detroit. To visit all of these in one trip might seem excessive even if one extends their time away.



The Gilmore Car Museum as it appears today.

The Gilmore Car Museum

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Gilmore Car Museum is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret the history of transportation in America; to connect people with the heritage and social impact of the automobile; and to provide an understanding of the past, embrace the present, and imagine the future.

History

The Gilmore Car Museum began in the early 1960s when Donald S. Gilmore began collecting vintage automobiles. We know now that some of the first vehicles in his collection included a 1927 Ford Model T, a 1913 Rolls Royce, and a 1930 Pierce-Arrow. Restoring that classic Pierce-Arrow, which is still on display at the museum, ignited a passion. Over the years that followed, Donald continued buying and restoring some of the world's most iconic automobiles, and his collection quickly grew.

To accommodate his collection, he acquired 90 acres of farmland in south-western Barry County, Michigan in a small town near Gull Lake known as Hickory Corners. He also purchased several historic barns, had them dismantled, and moved to the site, a stroke of inspiration that gives the museum its unique character.

It was Genevieve who came up with the idea of turning the collection into a museum, which would allow future generations access to Donald's one-of-a-kind collection. The Genevieve and Donald S. Gilmore non-profit foundation was established and the museum opened to the public for the first time on Sunday, July 31, 1966.

The Gilmore Today

Today, the Gilmore Car Museum's 90-acre Historic Campus includes numerous historic structures, including vintage dealerships, a small-town train depot, a fully-functioning 1941 Silk City Diner, a recreated 1930s Shell Station and so much more. There are more Pierce-Arrows here than in the Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow museum. Tucker's archive is here, and many marque club's have cars on permanent display here. Stroll the grounds and you'll often catch a glimpse of an antique car out for a drive. Along with the exceptional collection of vehicles, you'll also find over 100 restored children's pedal cars on exhibit, plus one of North America's largest displays of automotive mascots. It's truly a place like no other.



GILMORE

CAR MUSEUM

America's Signature Collection™

HISTORIC CAMPUS

Open April 1 - November 30

A GILMORE HERITAGE CENTER

A beautiful facility that is home to our main exhibit galleries, research library, museum store, café and theater.

B STEAM BARN

Here, you'll relive the early history of the industry, from the years of the horseless carriage to 1915, including gas, steam and electric powered vehicles. Connected to the Gilmore Heritage Center.

C FRANKLIN COLLECTION

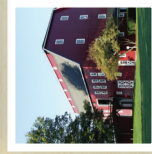
The H.H. Franklin Club has preserved the legacy of America's most successful air-cooled automobile within this re-creation of a circa 1918 dealership. Connected to the Gilmore Heritage Center.

D MODEL A FORD MUSEUM

The Model A Ford Foundation has recreated a 1929 Ford Dealership, complete with gas pumps and service bay, to tell the story of Henry Ford's fantastic Model A.

E CAMPANIA BARN

This 1897 barn was moved more than 45 miles and reassembled board-by-board here, in 1966. Today the upper level houses cars of the 1930s. The lower level showcases the cars of the 1940s. And you'll find a re-creation of Preston Tucker's office and restrooms.



F PIERCE-ARROW

An exceptional presentation of some of the finest American luxury cars produced between 1901-1938.



G CLASSIC CAR CLUB OF AMERICA MUSEUM

Don't miss our unforgettable classics and a fascinating, one-of-a-kind collection of automotive mascots/hood ornaments.

H DEPOT

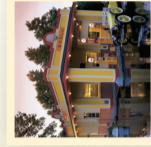
In this replica of an old-time train depot, you'll find our automotive mascot/hood ornament collection that was featured on TV's Antiques Roadshow.

I PEDAL CARS

Come live (or relive) childhood from a bygone era with an exclusive collection of pedal cars and the movie set from Disney's 1967 feature film "The Gnome-Mobile."

J TRAIN SWITCH TOWER

This is the real thing, an authentic train tower moved from downtown Kalamazoo.



K SHELL STATION

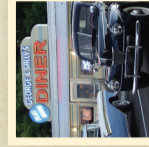
One of our landmarks, this recreated 1930s full-service gas station features original pumps, memorabilia and a work bay. Check today's price at the pump! It even has handicap accessible restrooms.

L MOTORCYCLES

For the biker in all of us, here's a remarkable array of vintage motorcycles from the 1890s through 2006.

M CARRIAGE HOUSE

This is the temporary home for another must-see exhibit, from the Cadillac-LaSalle Club Museum. Construction of a permanent facility for this collection is underway.



N DINER

If there's a focal point of life here, it is George & Sally's Blue Moon Diner. And it's no imitation; it is an authentic 1941 Silk City diner that was moved from Meriden, CT to the museum, then restored in 2004.

For additional information visit GilmoreCarMuseum.org



GILMORE CAR MUSEUM

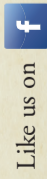
America's Signature Collection™

YEAR-ROUND FACILITIES

Visit the Gilmore Car Museum during the winter and stroll through an exciting array of year-round exhibits, featuring cars from the early 1900s through the 1950s, plus a unique collection of cars built in Kalamazoo and a vintage Franklin dealership. Then, come back April 1 through November 30, when our entire Historic Campus is open. Whenever you visit, you'll get so close to history, you feel as though you're living it.

BECOME A MEMBER

The Gilmore Car Museum offers an array of affordable ways to become a member. Whether you want to join as an individual, a family, or as one of our contributors, there's a great membership plan—with plenty of great benefits—for you. Ask us about joining, at your next visit or find out more information at GilmoreCarMuseum.org.



Like us on

6865 Hickory Road
Hickory Corners, MI 49060
269-671-5089

For additional information visit
GilmoreCarMuseum.org



GILMORE HERITAGE CENTER
A beautiful facility that is home to our main exhibit galleries, research library, museum store, café and theater.



STEAM BARN
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GILMORE
CAR MUSEUM

America's Signature Collection™

The Gilmore Car Museum is OPEN year-round:

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm EST

Saturday & Sunday 9am – 6pm EST

The Museum is *CLOSED* Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

The Historic Campus and outer galleries are open seasonally, April 1st – November 30th

ADMISSION RATES - April 1st – November 30th

Adults (18+) \$13.00

Youth (7-17) \$10.00

Children 6 & under are free

Group Tours* \$11.00/person

Car Clubs* \$11.00/person

**Groups must include 15 people or more, have a prearranged visit, and use one form of payment upon arrival to receive special rate*

2-Day Admission Pass: \$18.00/person

Educational Groups (K-12): Students, FREE ; Chaperones, \$6.00/person

Active Military (with card): FREE

CAR SHOWS/MEETS – GENERAL ADMISSION

Adults \$12.00 per person, children 11 & under are free

Admission includes access to all Museum buildings and exhibits; parking is FREE

CAMPING

\$20.00/night

The Museum offers primitive camping for those who wish to plan an extended visit, with limited electrical hook-up available. Pre-registration for camp sites is not available. Campers must register at the Museum Store. Nightly camping fees do not include admission to the Museum.

ON DISPLAY

The Museum displays approximately 375 vehicles during the summer season and approximately 200 during the winter season. Automobiles displayed at the Museum range from early Steam Cars to cars of the 50s and 60s.

PARTNER MUSEUMS

Classic Car Club of America Museum

Pierce-Arrow Museum

Lincoln Motor Car Heritage Museum

H.H. Franklin Club Museum

Model A Ford Museum

Cadillac-LaSalle Club Museum