

Family Vacations

America's First Folklife Festival Still Sets The Standard

(NAPSA)—The past is always present at what's considered by many to be America's premier folklife festival.

For the last 52 years, a festival that has celebrated everything that's Pennsylvania Dutch has been celebrated in Kutztown, PA—and this year's Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival continues the tradition.

A family-friendly showcase of food, crafts and living history, the Festival also offers one-of-a-kind quilts and fine arts that appeal to serious collectors.

Located in Southeastern Pennsylvania, the festival is just a short trip by car or bus from New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other parts of the Northeastern United States. However, its reputation has made it a destination for families and fans of folk art and crafts from the world over.

This year's event demonstrates just how far the Festival has come from the modest original event that began in 1950.

This year's Festival—designated one of the top 100 events in the country by the American Bus Association—will gather together 200 of America's finest traditional craftsmen from June 30 to July 8.

Demonstrations will run the gamut from farming and gardening to churches and weddings. Other exhibits will focus on Penn-



The Festival's Quilt Barn features a display of over 1,000 quilts and wallhangings.

sylvania-Dutch dialect and folklore, spinning and weaving, country cooks, blacksmiths, furniture, candles, and more.

The Quilt Barn will display 1,000 locally handmade quilts and wallhangings on display and for sale during the entire festival. In addition to quilting demonstrations, quilt lovers are expected to come from around the world to attend the opening day auction of 30 prize-winning quilts.

The Festival is also known for its great food, much of it prepared in the Pennsylvania Dutch fashion. Visitors can watch an ox roasting on the spit before enjoying an ox roast platter or sandwich.

There's also an all-you-can-eat family style supper served each day—with potpie and shoo-fly pie—along with country chicken



Smoked meats, funnel cake and shoo-fly pie are just a few of the Pennsylvania Dutch specialties visitors can enjoy.

dinners, strawberry shortcake, funnel cakes and ice cream.

Or, visitors can buy a loaf of bread as it comes out of an 18th century oven or stop at a farmer's market where they can purchase sausages, cheeses and baked goods.

For the children there are special rates and special events such as the Children's Farmyard Theater, a horse-drawn carousel and a petting zoo. The Festival features special programs for seniors as well.

New to this year's event is the spectacle of hot-air balloons and an expanded selection of acts on the Festival's concert stage.

To learn more about the festival or accommodations in the area visit www.kutztownfestival.com.