

GM Opens Several Facilities to Tourists

In the old days, singer Dinah Shore used to urge Americans to see the USA in their Chevrolet. And this summer GM is telling people they can see the Chevrolet built in the USA.

Several of the automaker's facilities across the country are offering auto plant tours designed to be fun and educational. And they're free.

Here are a few visitor-friendly GM plants and related facilities from the East Coast to west of the Mississippi River.

- Tonawanda Engine Plant, Buffalo, N.Y. (FREE). Those visiting Niagara Falls are urged to take a side trip to see how the engines of some of the best-selling GM vehicles are made.

- Baltimore Operations, White Marsh, Md. (FREE). The Baltimore Transmission Plant – also home to the assembly of electric motors, the heart and soul of electric vehicles – is among GM's most environmentally friendly plants. The nation's capital is nearby, and so is Baltimore National Harbor.

- National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, Ky. This is the exception. A visit costs \$10 adult; \$5 child (age 6-16). Just a half-mile from the Bowling Green Assembly Plant that's the home of all Corvette production, the museum is a tour de force of all things Corvette. And it's just 66 miles north of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn.

- Fairfax Assembly & Stamping Plant, Kansas City, Kan. (FREE). One of the only GM plants where you can see the full assembly process – from the first rolls of metal stamped into body panels, through the body shop, paint shop and into general assembly, where the car is started for the very first time.

On the east side of the Mississippi is the "other" Kansas City



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famous for BBQ, including Oklahoma Joe's. While in Missouri, visitors can tour the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

- General Motors Renaissance Center, Detroit (FREE). The General Motors Global Headquarters at the Renaissance Center features displays of GM's latest vehi-

cles, occasional special vehicle displays and many shops and restaurants.

A short distance away, the American League Champion Detroit Tigers play at Comerica Park and the famed Detroit Institute of Arts is enjoying a rebirth following a major renovation.

Education Helps Businesses

Allan D. Gilmour, president of Wayne State University, will be speaking at a Detroit Economic Club luncheon to be held on the Wayne State campus at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 18.

The topic of Gilmour's speech is how higher education is good for the business world.

Gilmour, who serves on the board of Downtown Detroit Partnership, will talk about how America's higher education system must evolve in a tight economy. He'll also cover how universities, especially research univer-

sities, can contribute to the strength of the nation's businesses.

For more information on the event, visit www.econclub.org.

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