

40 Fascinating Facts You Never Knew About The Amish - Part 3

Sarah C

21. And they're ahead of us when it comes to sustainable living, too

Gwyneth Paltrow may have an organic makeup range, and Shailene Woodley may make her own toothpaste, but they aren't the first to have taken steps toward leading a more down-to-earth lifestyle. The simple living of the Amish has stood the test of time in North America, and they could teach all of us a lot about living a more responsible, sustainable existence.



22. They're leading the way in fashion

Remarkably, the iconic Amish facial hair is said to be partly behind the hipster beard movement of the last few years. Furthermore, garments similar to Amish hats, suits and dresses are becoming popular in fashion editorials across the world as well.



23. They dig their graves by hand

Amish funerals are traditionally very plain and simple. For example, there are no hymns, and you won't find any flowers or photos, either. There's just a simple pine coffin and a grave dug over the course of three days by the deceased's friends and family.



24. There's a little luck involved in becoming an Amish leader

Leaders of the Amish church are picked using a process called "the lot." They are nominated by members of the community, and each nominee is then given a randomly selected hymn book. One hymn book will have a piece of paper inside it with a Bible verse written on it, and that book's owner then becomes a church leader.



25. Breaking up will get you excommunicated

It's not unheard of for Amish couples to separate after marriage. However, as the Amish consider wedding vows to be in place for life, divorce will get you banned from the community. Married couples are therefore encouraged to work things out with each other rather than separate.



26. You can't join the Amish religion, no matter how many markets you attend

With a history of isolation from the modern world and the shunning of non-members, it makes sense that the Amish do not try to recruit. In fact, even the most enthusiastic fans of the Amish cannot become members of the church. And so within the community not only is marriage and reproduction religiously celebrated, but it is vital to the survival of the religion.



27. They sell their handiwork at their world-famous markets

Amish communities invite the general public to their markets, where they sell handmade furniture, food and textiles. And in the last few years these markets have

become highly publicised and immensely popular. Attracting tourists and businesses alike, new markets now open to rave reviews from visitors across the world.



28. You can find Amish workers in everything from accounting to taxidermy
The Amish have rules about living a simple life that does not involve technology. In the 21st century, though, they have found ways to run various businesses that don't interfere with their religious principles. Indeed, Amish men actually provide for their families as construction workers and factory workers and in a range of other professions you wouldn't expect.



29. Farming isn't the number one occupation
To the wider world, farming is among the most iconic and memorable parts of Amish culture. Yet while many communities are still self-sustaining from their farms, less than 10 percent of Amish households actually make their money from agriculture. In

fact, farming as a form of income has been in decline since the 1960s – one of the most dramatic culture changes the community has undergone.

