



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Historic Estates of the Hudson River Valley

with Alice W. Schwarz, Lecturer

April 22 – 27, 2025



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

TRAVEL with **Alice W. Schwarz**, a historic homes scholar with more than 40 years of experience lecturing at The Met, as she leads this magical spring journey through the Hudson River Valley

WALK in the footsteps of Gilded Age elite as you **go behind the scenes of the lavish, marvelously preserved estates** of the Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, and other storied dynasties, including Hyde Park's lavish **Vanderbilt Mansion**

TAKE exclusive guided looks at the well-preserved 19th-century residences and studios of Hudson River School landscape painters: founder Thomas Cole's **Cedar Grove** and Frederic Edwin Church's **Olana**, with its blend of Victorian and Middle Eastern styles

STEP into the world of America's first female self-made millionaire at Madam C.J. Walker's **Villa Lewaro**, with a private tour of this grand estate that once hosted Zora Neale Hurston, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Langston Hughes

DISCOVER the Gothic Revival splendor of **Lyndhurst**, one of America's finest such mansions, with behind-the-scenes access to rarely seen rooms and collections

EXPERIENCE the legacy of an American political dynasty at **Val-Kill**, Eleanor Roosevelt's personal retreat and the only National Historic Site dedicated to a First Lady

ENJOY a private, curator-led tour of the stunning Rockefeller residence **Kykuit** and its museum-quality modern art collection featuring works by Picasso, Calder, and Warhol

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Alice W. Schwarz has more than 40 years of experience at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and is a master at the art of gallery-based teaching. She co-created award-winning *Murder at The Met: An American Murder Mystery* and has taught and trained staff at numerous historic house museums. She is also on the faculty at Bank Street College of Education in the Museum Education Graduate Program and the School of Visual Arts in the Art History and Critical Studies department. She has a B.A. triple-major in Art History, History, and Studio Art with a minor in Theater and an M.S. in Museum Education.



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Dear National Trust Traveler,

Step into a beautiful region that has shaped American history since colonial times in New York's Hudson River Valley. Experience why landscape artists flocked here in the 19th century, witnessing the region's spectacular rolling hills, sweeping forests, and blooming wildflowers that inspired America's first major art movement. Go behind the scenes of the extravagant Gilded Age estates built here by wealthy New York families like the Vanderbilts and Rockefellers.

In April 2025, please join the National Trust and lecturer **Alice W. Schwarz**, a historic homes scholar with more than 40 years of experience as a museum educator at The Met, for this exclusive journey through the Hudson River Valley. With Alice's expertise, learn the secrets of the region's most dramatic historic residences.

You'll feel as if you're walked right into a landscape painting with exclusive access to the homes of Hudson River School founders. At Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove, a Federal-style farmhouse from 1815, explore the artist's studio and original paintings. Then visit painter Frederic Edwin Church's Olana, his 1872 home blending Victorian and Middle Eastern styles.

Uncover the Roosevelt family's deep roots in the Hudson Valley with a guided look at Springwood, FDR's birthplace and lifelong home in Hyde Park, or Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's rustic retreat. Walk into the opulent world of America's Gilded Age elite with guided access to the Vanderbilt Mansion, the lavish Beaux-Arts masterpiece designed by McKim, Mead & White, and wander the 211-acre grounds featuring manicured Italian gardens.

Revel in one of America's finest Gothic Revival mansions, Lyndhurst, and have an inside look at Villa Lewaro, a 34-room Italianate mansion owned by Madam C.J. Walker, a Black woman who became America's first female self-made millionaire. Conclude with a special tour of Kykuit, the opulent Rockefeller estate, home to Nelson Rockefeller's extensive private modern art collection with works by Picasso, Warhol, and Calder.

Reserve your place on this program today by calling National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785. Rest in comfort at the Mirbeau Inn & Spa in Rhinebeck, where Old World Parisian charm meets modern style, and at the Castle Hotel & Spa in Tarrytown, a medieval-style fortress perched above the Hudson River. We hope that you join us for this enchanting appreciation of the Hudson River Valley's beauty, history, and culture.



Kykuit, Sleepy Hollow

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Perez
Director, National Trust Tours

 Find us on
Facebook

Activity Level: Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels [here](#).

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

Historic Estates of the Hudson River Valley

April 22 – 27, 2025



Thomas Cole House, Catskill

TUESDAY, APRIL 22: ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK CITY / RHINEBECK

After your independent arrival in New York City in the morning, gather at Penn Station's Amtrak lounge for your scenic train journey to **Rhinebeck**, a charming Hudson Valley town dating to 1686. Transfer to the **Mirbeau Inn and Spa**, which was inspired by Claude Monet's home in Giverny. Settle into your room this afternoon and join the group for a welcome reception at the hotel this evening. R

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23: RHINEBECK / CATSKILL / HUDSON

This morning, meet an expert for an inside look at the roots of America's major art movement. In Catskill, go behind the scenes at **Cedar Grove (Thomas Cole House)**, the 1815 Federal-style mansion once home to the British-born founder of the Hudson River School of painting. See some of Cole's original paintings that inspired this movement of 19th-century landscape artists and take a perusal of the studio where he painted many of his canvases.

Afterwards, transfer to **Hudson**, a former whaling port founded in 1785, and enjoy free time to explore Warren Street's 19th-century architecture. Browse Hudson's antique shops housing treasures from 18th-century furniture to mid-century modern pieces.

In the afternoon, join a guided tour of yet another spectacular historic residence of a Hudson River School artist: Frederic Edwin Church. Visit **Olana**, his hilltop mansion that strikingly blends Victorian, Moorish, and Persian architectural styles. Admire its Persian-inspired exterior with its intricate patterns and colors. Inside, view Church's paintings and furnishings, then stroll the 250-acre grounds, taking in the same Catskill Mountain views Church painted. Savor a special dinner at a local restaurant this evening. B,L,D

THURSDAY, APRIL 24: RHINEBECK / HYDE PARK

Today, venture to **Hyde Park** for an immersion of the world of one of America's most storied political families, the Roosevelts. Rise for a guided morning visit to **Val-Kill**, Eleanor Roosevelt's modest personal retreat and the only National Historic Site dedicated to a First Lady. Tour the stone cottage where she wrote, entertained world leaders, and developed her social initiatives.

Alternatively, take a guided tour of **Springwood**, the lifelong home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Explore this 1826 Federal-style mansion filled with family heirlooms and political mementos. Take a glimpse inside FDR's boyhood bedroom and the room where he was born in 1882.

Stop for lunch at the prestigious **Culinary Institute of America**, a premier chef training school since 1946. Then travel to the Roosevelts' family church, **St. James Episcopal Church**, built in 1811. View the pew where FDR worshiped and the graves of Roosevelt family members in the churchyard. Enjoy an evening at leisure in Rhinebeck. B,L

FRIDAY, APRIL 25: RHINEBECK / HYDE PARK / NEW PALTZ / TARRYTOWN

This morning will be devoted to one of America's most prominent Gilded Age dynasties with a guided look at the **Vanderbilt Mansion**, a Beaux-Arts masterpiece designed by legendary architectural firm McKim, Mead & White between 1896 and 1899. Explore 54 lavishly furnished rooms, including the two-story dining room with its 1,000-pound table. Admire the mansion's Italian gardens, including a rose garden with more than 2,000 vintage bushes, and Hudson River views.

Cross the Hudson River to **New Paltz**, founded in 1678. Enjoy lunch at your leisure in this college town known for its eclectic eateries. Then walk **Historic Huguenot Street**, a 10-acre district preserving 300 years of history, including seven stone houses dating from 1705. Check into your hotel in Tarrytown this evening and gather for dinner at a local restaurant. B,D



Jean Hasbrouck House, Historic Huguenot Street, New Paltz



Mirbeau Inn and Spa

ACCOMMODATIONS

MIRBEAU INN & SPA, RHINEBECK

Balancing wellness with indulgence, the Mirbeau combines Old World Parisian chic with modern comforts. Relax in their Signature Rooms, with a variety of features including a fireplace and a large bathroom equipped with a walk-in shower, soaking tub, and double sinks. Unwind in the spa, with its aqua terrace and 12 treatment rooms in the lower level. This hotel is within walking distance of numerous shops and restaurants in the heart of Rhinebeck.

CASTLE HOTEL & SPA, TARRYTOWN

This stunning historic property, resembling a medieval castle, offers breathtaking views of the Hudson River, elegant accommodations, fine dining, and a world-class spa. Enjoy its many other upscale amenities, including a seasonal outdoor pool and beautifully landscaped gardens.



Castle Hotel & Spa, Tarrytown

SATURDAY, APRIL 26: TARRYTOWN / IRVINGTON / SLEEPY HOLLOW

In Irvington, go behind the scenes of **Villa Lewaro**, the 34-room, the 20,000-square-foot mansion built in 1918 for Madam C.J. Walker, a Black woman who became America's first female self-made millionaire. Admire the Italianate-style architecture designed by Vertner Tandy, New York's first Black licensed architect.

Learn about Walker's hair care empire in this mansion that hosted Harlem Renaissance icons like James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Langston Hughes. A highlight in this sprawling residence will be the music room with its Louis XV-style furnishings and Estey pipe organ.

After lunch, meet your expert guide for a breathtaking look at **Lyndhurst**, a Gothic Revival castle designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1838. Walk through rooms filled with original furnishings, including an 1859 Herter Brothers parlor suite. See the country's first steel-framed conservatory and the 1894 bowling alley.

Then prepare to be dazzled on a guided tour of **Kykuit**, the Rockefeller family estate completed in 1913. Explore the six-story Beaux-Arts house, viewing rooms adorned with Tang Dynasty ceramics and 18th-century European porcelain. In the basement galleries, see Nelson Rockefeller's world-renowned collection of 20th-century art, including Picasso tapestries commissioned between 1955 and 1975. Stroll through terraced gardens featuring more than 70 sculptures by artists like Calder, Noguchi, and Moore. Later, gather for a festive farewell dinner. B,L,D

SUNDAY, APRIL 27: TARRYTOWN / NEW YORK CITY / RETURN

After breakfast and checking out of the hotel, transfer back to New York City for your return home. B

DISCLAIMER: *The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

Front cover: Lyndhurst, Tarrytown, photo by Mark Liflander
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PROGRAM RATES

\$6,599 per person, double rate

\$7,599 single rate

RATES INCLUDE

- Five nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at welcome and farewell dinners
- One-way group train journey via Amtrak on April 22 (New York-Rhinebeck)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: Airfare; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

INSURANCE: National Trust Tours strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance. For more information on policy options, visit <https://my.travelinsure.com/nationaltrust/plan/> or call 1-800-937-1387.



Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt statue, Springwood, Hyde Park

RESERVATION INFORMATION

To secure your place, please call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785**.

A deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) is required.



Vanderbilt Mansion, Hyde Park