Guide to Historic Sites of the Hudson River & Champlain Region
In celebration of the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's and Henry Hudson's exploration of New York—and their encounters with Lenape and Iroquoian peoples—the editors of American Heritage have selected the top historic sites along the watercourses they gave their names to.

See our 400th Anniversary Calendar on page NY 10—chockfull of exciting events!
ALBANY COUNTY

Historic Cherry Hill
Home to the Van Rensselaer-Rankin family—one of the clans known as the “Hudson River manor lords”—from 1787 to 1963, the Georgian-style estate contains more than 20,000 objects and 30,000 manuscript documents amassed over five generations. Visitors can take guided tours of the mansion or participate in programs, such as the “Behind-the-Scenes Murder Investigation Tour,” which examines the 1827 murder of John Whipple at Cherry Hill. (518) 434-4791 or www.historicherryhill.org

Ten Broeck Mansion
Completed 209 years ago by Gen. Abraham Ten Broeck, the New York Militia commander at the Battle of Saratoga in the fall of 1777, the Federal-style home has since undergone two major renovations in the Greek and Victorian styles. Visitors touring the 12-room house can see family portraits, period furnishings, and walk the lush gardens. (518) 436-9826 or www.historicherryhill.org

USS Slater
Moored on the Hudson River, the 1,200-ton, Cannon-class vessel is the only World War II destroyer escort still afloat in American waters. Complete with original battle armament and configuration, the onboard museum spreads across four decks—more than 80 percent of the ship—and gives visitors a sense of a sailor’s daily life through the display of artifacts and memorabilia donated by sailors and their families. (518) 436-9826 or www.historicherryhill.org

CLINTON COUNTY

The Alice T. Miner Museum
Alice, the wife of railroad industrialist William H. Miner, purchased the 1824 stone house in the early 1920s as a place to store her collection of artwork of the Colonial Revival Movement, which flourished in the late 19th century. Collections include a display of miniature furniture—a gate legged table, chairs, and a chest—silhouettes, War of 1812 muskets, and historic scenes of the Battle of Plattsburgh. (518) 846-7336 or www.minermuseum.org

Battle of Plattsburgh Interpretive Center and War of 1812 Museum
On September 11, 1814, American Gen. Alexander Macomb stopped the British advance into the northern states at Plattsburgh, New York. The on-site museum contains original works of art related to the Battle of Plattsburgh and the War of 1812 along with rotating exhibits. A five-by-fifteen-foot diorama depicts the battlefield from September 6 through the 11, when British and American troops clashed on land and sea. (518) 566-1814 or www.battleofplattsburgh.org

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Clermont State Historic Site
In 1777 British troops burned the home of fervent patriot Robert R. Livingston Jr., but his wife rebuilt it between 1779 and 1782 as an agricultural showplace. Guided tours of the estate’s formal gardens, bridle paths, and exhibition galleries leave from the visitors center. (518) 537-4240 or www.nyshistoric.org

FASNY Museum of Firefighting
Funded by the Fireman’s Association of the State of New York, the 50,000-square-foot museum features 90 historic fire engines, along with equipment, and memorabilia representing more than 300 years of local firefighting history. A new exhibit, Lest We Forget: Honoring the Memory of the Firefighters of September 11, 2001, features personal artifacts of 9-11 firefighters. (888) 347-3687 or www.fasnyfiremuseum.com

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Lindenwald, a 36-room, restored Federal-style house, was home to President Martin Van Buren following his retirement in 1841. Visitors can take a ranger-guided tour through the house museum, which
contains original wallpaper and furnishings, as well as campaign memorabilia from Van Buren’s presidency and thousands of other objects. (518) 758-6986 or www.nps.gov/vama

**Olana State Historic Site**

Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church lived in the two-story, Persian-style villa between 1861 and 1900. Visitors can view the art that Church collected, including paintings by Martin Johnson Heade and Arthur Parton, and bronze, plaster, and marble pieces by sculptor Erastus Dow Palmer. The villa also contains furniture and art that Church purchased during his trips to the Middle East and Europe. (518) 828-0135 or www.olana.org

**Shaker Museum and Library**

The museum celebrates Columbia County’s strong heritage of Shakers, an 18th century religious sect most noted for the violent shaking that took place during worship, as well as the hymn, “Simple Gifts.” Visitors can see Shaker furniture, textiles, tools, and agricultural machinery. (518) 794-9100 or www.shakermuseumandlibrary.org

**DUTCHESS COUNTY**

**Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site**

In the two-story, stucco cottage located on the 180-acre campus, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt helped run Val-Kill Industries, a furniture factory that provided rural men with work during the Great Depression. After Val-Kill closed in 1936, the cottage served as a retreat, and ultimately as her home after FDR’s death. Visitors can now tour the cottage, the only National Historic Site devoted to a First Lady. (845) 229-5302 or www.nps.gov/elro

**Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site**

This 300-acre site includes Springwood, Roosevelt’s life-long home, the first U.S. Presidential Library, a museum, gardens, and trails. The visitors center features a 22-minute introductory video. Ranger-guided tours of the historic home are available. A short bus ride takes visitors to Top Cottage, the home Roosevelt built as a retreat from Springwood. (800) 337-8474 or www.nps.gov/hofr

**ESSEX COUNTY**

**Crown Point State Historic Site**

During the French and Indian War, Fort Ticonderoga served as a critical French bastion guarding against British incursions to the north. Destroyed by the retreating French in 1759, the British occupied the peninsula and built a new and much larger fort adjacent to the old one. The visitors center features exhibits on the fort’s history and military artifacts from archaeological excavations. (518) 597-4666 or www.nysparks.com

**Fort Ticonderoga National Historic Landmark and the King’s Garden**

The French began building Fort Carillon on the Ticonderoga Peninsula in 1755 as a means of maintaining military control over Lake Champlain. A relatively small garrison here defeated a much larger British force that attacked it in July 1758 during the French and Indian War. During the Revolution a bold attack by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold brought the fort, now called Ticonderoga, into American hands. The powder magazine and warehouse now contain the new Deborah Clarke Mars Education Center, where visitors can attend lectures. The museum contains examples of the fort’s extensive collection of firearms, powder horns, maps, and documents. Visitors can also tour the King’s Garden, a recreation of the early-20th-century Colonial Revival gardens. (518) 585-2821 or www.fort-ticonderoga.org

**John Brown Farm State Historic Site**

Radical abolitionist John Brown and his two sons purchased the 244-acre farm in 1849, before leading an assault on the U.S. Arsenal at Harper’s Ferry on October 16, 1859. Brown was buried at the farm after his trial, conviction, and execution for treason against the state of Virginia. The house has been restored to its condition at the time of Brown’s death with some original furnishings. (518) 523-3900 or www.nysparks.com
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12. ‘Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area’ (Frederick, Maryland Tourism): Civil War trails, Antietam, South Mountain and Monocacy battlefields, museums, events and more. (800) 999-3613, www.HeartoftheCivilWar.org


14. Hudson River Valley: Follow the Hudson River Valley and Join in the Quadricentennial Celebrations. For more information, contact:


17. Orange County Tourism: (845) 615-3960, www.OrangeTourism.com


23. Morris County Visitors Center: 300 years of history that shaped America, only 30 miles from New York City; home of Morristown National Historical Park, our nation's first designated national park. www.MorrisTourism.org


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**GREENE COUNTY**

**Hudson-Athens Lighthouse**
The still-operational, 46-foot-tall Second Empire lighthouse, located between Athens and Hudson, guided cargo ships along the busy Hudson River beginning in 1874. Visitors can see the bunk in which the keeper once slept and examine modern navigational techniques used to guide ships around the dangerous shoals known as the Middle Ground Flats. (518) 828-5294 or www.hudsonathenslighthouse.org

**Thomas Cole National Historic Site**
Nineteenth-century American painter and founder of the Hudson River School of Art, Thomas Cole, lived at Cedar Grove from 1825 to 1848. Park rangers offer guided 40-minute tours of the home and studio. The Hudson River School Art Trail, located just 15 miles from the estate, winds through stunning woods and peaks of the Catskills that inspired his romantic landscapes. (518) 943-7465 or www.thomascole.org

**NEW YORK COUNTY**

**Ellis Island**
From 1892 to 1954, the nation’s largest immigration station processed more than 12 million steamship passengers from all over the world. Housed in the 40,000-square-foot Great Hall, located 10 minutes from Battery Park or State Park by ferry, the museum features the history of American immigrants, including printed materials, interactive displays, oral histories, and genealogical records. (212) 363-3200 or www.nps.gov/elis

**Governors Island**
A half-mile south of the tip of Manhattan, the strategically-located 172-acre island served by turns as a naval fortress, military prison, and supply base for the United States between 1783 and 1996. Visitors can take guided walking tours, interact with living history characters, and rent bicycles to explore the island’s scenic views. A 10-minute ferry ride leaves from the Battery Maritime Building every hour. (212) 825-3045 or www.govisland.org

**New York Historical Society**
New York’s most distinguished historical society exhibits treasures from its 60,000-artifact collection at the Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture on the Upper West Side. On permanent display are John James Audubon’s watercolors for The Birds of America, Hudson River School masterpieces by Thomas Cole and Asher Durand, and 132 ornate, stained-glass Tiffany lamps from the Neustadt Collection. Visitors can also learn about New York’s regional history and art through audio guides, information plaques, and interactive computer terminals. (212) 873-3400 or www.nyhistory.org

**South Street Seaport Museum**
Boasting 30,000-square-feet of exhibit space, the museum located on the East River waterfront in Lower Manhattan’s 12-block historic district contains a 19th-century print shop, paintings by John Rubens Smith, whalebone carvings, over 1,000 ship models native to New York, and a 20,000 volume maritime library. Berthed at the pier outside are eight tall ships, including Peking and Wavertree. The 1885 schooner Pioneer offers two-hour cruises that leave from Pier 17. (212) 748-8786 or www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org

**Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site**
The Women’s Roosevelt Memorial Association purchased the land and rebuilt Theodore Roosevelt’s birthplace and boyhood brownstone home. Thirty-minute guided tours lead through the five period rooms, decorated with the original home’s furnishings. Two museum galleries contain Roosevelt’s personal belongings. (212) 260-1616 or www.nps.gov/thrb

**NEW JERSEY**

**Historic Speedwell**
Stephen Vail, owner of Speedwell Iron-works, purchased 275 acres here in 1733. Today, seven-and-a-half acres of the mid-19th-century original estate remain and contain a reconstructed factory building, the facility where Vail and Samuel Morse first tested the electric telegraph, a granary featuring exhibits on early farm machinery, and a 1849 carriage house. (973) 285-6550 or www.morrisparks.com

**ORANGE COUNTY**

**Constitution Island**
Across from West Point sits the former island fortress that served as the northernmost anchorage for the 80-ton Great Chain that stretched south across the river...
I really did sleep here.

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Ford Mansion, military headquarters for George Washington during the winter of 1779 – 1780.

“I cannot tell a lie…”
400th Anniversary Events Not to Miss!

Many festivals, exhibits, parades, boat trips, and living history experiences will mark the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s and Samuel de Champlain’s arrival in this history-rich region, which stretches 275 miles north from New York City to Plattsburgh near the Canadian border. The events featured here represent only a small fraction of the festivities, so we recommend that you log on to our website at heritagesites.us or www.exploreny400.com for more information. Please remember to call ahead as venues and dates can change. Enjoy! —The editors of American Heritage.

2/7 – 1/3/10, Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture – Albany
Albany Institute’s exhibition features 200 historical artifacts, archival documents, and works of art. (518) 463-4478 or www.albanyinstitute.org

3/13 – 3/21, The Hudson River Quadricentennial Concert – Albany, NYC, Oswego, Peekskill
Three New York musician-composers will perform a blend of jazz, hip hop, and classical music written for the Quadricentennial with spoken word interludes. (212) 220-1459 or www.tribecapac.org

3/15 – 5/15, The Day Peckinpaugh – Albany to New York City
New York State Museum’s 87-year-old Day Peckinpaugh, a 259-ft-long riverboat, will motor down the Hudson River, docking frequently to let visitors see its exhibits about explorers Champlain and Hudson. (518) 474-5877 or www.nyom.ny.gov

4/24 – 4/26, American Revolutionary Weekend – Morristown, NJ
A weekend of America Revolution-related special events at Morristown National Historical Park includes reenactments and living history demonstrations. (973) 984-2182 or www.nps.gov/morr

5/1 – 6/7, The Glory of Dutch Bulbs: A Legacy of 400 Years – Bronson
Inspired by the gardens of Amsterdam’s Keukenhof Park, the New York Botanical Gardens will force more than 50,000 Dutch tulips, daffodils, and hyacinth bulbs. (718) 817-8700 or www.nybg.org

5/8 – 5/10, 61st Annual Tulip Festival – Albany
Albany celebrates the blooming of 100,000 tulips with Dutch heritage activities, including the Tulip Ball and scrubbing of streets, a ritual of traditional Dutch hospitality. (518) 434-2032 or www.albanyevents.org

5/8 – 5/9, 9/30, Independence Parade & Garlic Festival – Saugerties
In honor of its Dutch heritage, Saugerties will host the Hudson River Garlic Festival, various outdoor art exhibits and concerts, and an Independence Day parade featuring historically-themed floats. (845) 246-8412 or www.village.saugerties.ny.us

5/9, 100 Voices with Albany Pro Musica: The River – Albany
Daron Hagen’s new symphony, The River, brings the changing seasons along the Hudson River to music. (518) 463-4755 or www.albanyсимphony.com

5/24 – 10/31, Tappan Zee Bridge Exhibit – Rockland County
The exhibit commemorates the opening of the Tappan Zee Bridge in 1955 and chronicles the subsequent transformation of the agricultural county into a New York suburb. (845) 634-9629 or www.rocklandhistory.org

5/25 – Sept., Catskill Outdoor Art Festival – Catskill
A Henry-Hudson-themed event features outdoor displays of more than 60 feline statues painted by prominent Hudson River Valley artists. (518) 943-9089 or www.welcometocatskill.com

5/29 – 5/30, Quadricentennial Watch Fires – Piemont Pier
At midnight, the Rockland County Veterans Service Agency will light bonfires along the Hudson River for 24 hours in honor of war veterans. (845) 638-5244 or www.rockland.org

6/5 – 6/13, River Day – Albany
In honor of Henry Hudson’s voyage, a parade of 400 historic ships will sail from New York Harbor to the Albany Corning Preserve for a daylong celebration. (518) 434-1217 or www.exploreny400.com/riverdays.aspx

6/13 – 1/10/09, Dutch New York: Hudson Valley Culture – Yonkers
The Hudson River Museum’s new exhibit features paintings, photographs, and decorative arts of New York’s Dutch heritage. (914) 963-4550 or www.hrm.org

6/14 – 7/19, Great Champlain-Hudson Sojourn
Participants kayak 340 miles from Canada to Manhattan, visiting heritage sites and community festivals along the Hudson River, Lake George, and the Champlain Canal. (518) 473-3835 or www.hudsongreensway.state.ny.us/gshp

6/18 – 6/20, French-Canadian Heritage Festival – St. Albans, VT
Musical performances, historical exhibits, recreation, arts displays, and genealogy search demonstrations at Taylor Park explore francophone history in the Americas. (802) 524-5632 or www.envoyeamaison.org/st_albans.htm

6/20 – 6/21, Ethan Allen Days & Colonial Fair – Bennington, VT
Festivities at Gogate Park include a colonial fair and reenactments of battles fought by Vermont’s Revolutionary War hero, Ethan Allen. (802) 362-1788 or www.hildene.org

6/27, French & Indian War Grand Encampment – Ft. Ticonderoga
Thousands of reenactors assemble at Fort Ticonderoga where Champlain and his Algonquin allies fought Mohawk Indians on July 30, 1609. In addition to reenactments, historian John Ross, author of the upcoming War on the Run: The Epic Story of Robert Rogers and the Conquest of America’s First Frontier (Bantam Dell 2009), will give a talk on Rogers’ Rangers. (518) 505-2821 or www.fort-ticonderoga.org

7/2 – 7/14, International Waterfront Festival – Burlington, VT
The 11-day festival features music, film, comedy, and theatre. A parade and fireworks will be held on July 11th. www.champlain400.com

7/7 – 7/12, Quadricentennial Event – Schaghticoke
Schaghticoke’s 18th-century Knickerbocker Family Mansion will host special military reenactments and programs on writer Washington Irving. (518) 692-2374 or www.knickmansion.com

7/25 – 7/26, The Namesake Celebration – Hudson
Hudson celebrates its namesake with a parade, tours of a replica of his ship, Half Moon, and fireworks in the Waterfront Park. (518) 828-3378 or cityofhudson.org

8/8 – 8/9, Native American Heritage Festival – Bear Mountain
More than 1,000 Native American artisans and educators gather for the festival, which features Indian food, music, art, and dancing. (718) 696-9297 or www.redhawkcouncil.org

9/12, Crailo Harvest Faire – Rensselaer
Old-fashioned agricultural festival features period reenactors, music, bateau rides, and a live oxen team. (518) 463-8738 or www.nysparks.com

9/19, Return of the Ship Half Moon to Albany
At the Hudson River Waterfront in downtown Albany, the New Netherland Museum offers tours of the replica of Henry Hudson’s ship, which contains 17th-century navigational equipment and marine tools. (800) 258-3582 or www.newnetherland.org

9/19 – 9/20, Stuyvesant Quad Celebration – Stuyvesant
Two-day celebration features the Peoples Parade, geology talk with Prof. Robert Titus, 17th-century-costumed reenactors, and fireworks over the Riverview Park. (518) 758-6248 or www.stuyvesantny.us

9/26, Hudson 400 Celebration – Albany
Albany’s Corning Preserve will offer 17th-century food, living-history demonstrations, and music and dance performances. (518) 434-2032 or www.albany.com
In full dress gray, West Point cadets march over The Plain, the campus center since the Academy’s inception in 1802.

to Fort Arnold during the Revolutionary War, preventing British warships from sailing upriver. Visitors can hike the 280 acres of wooded trails and visit the 250-year-old Warner mansion that was home to Anna Warner, author of the hymn “Jesus Loves Me,” and her sister, Susan, who wrote The Wide, Wide World.

Bennington Battlefield
On August 16, 1777, the Continental army under Gen. George Washington delivered a significant defeat to the British army under Gen. John Burgoyne, which was attempting to capture military supply stores nearby. In Bennington, Vermont, four miles east of the New York border, visitors can climb a 306-foot stone monument commemorating the important victory. (518) 686-7109 or www.nysparks.com

Burden Ironworks, RiverSpark Visitors Center
The 19th-century iron works and industrial complex, wedged between the Hudson River and Wynantskill Creek, housed the 250-ton Burden Water Wheel, the most powerful vertical water wheel of its kind ever built. The visitors center contains an interactive exhibit about the famous wheel and the iron industry. The walking RiverSpark Tour leads through seven industrial communities, which were all once thriving centers of the iron and textile industries. (518) 270-8067 or www.troyvisitorcenter.org

Crailo State Historic Site (Fort Craill)
Completed in the early 18th century, the two-and-a-half story brick manor house of the influential Van Rensselaer family sits at the center of what was once a 700,000-acre estate, the first and only successful Dutch patroonship established in America. British and American troops camped here during the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars, and legend has it that British army surgeon Richard Schuckburgh composed “Yankee Doodle” while quartered upstairs. The museum will re-open this summer with new exhibits featuring artifacts from excavations of nearby Fort Orange, a Dutch trading fort dating from 1624. (518) 463-8738 or www.nysparks.com

Oakwood Cemetery, Uncle Sam’s Grave
More than 60,000 Troy area residents, including “Uncle Sam” Wilson, the 18th-century meat-packer who served as the inspiration for America’s national symbol, are interred at this 400-acre rural cemetery with sweeping views of the Hudson Valley.
ROCKLAND COUNTY

Bear Mountain Bridge and Tollhouse
When completed in 1924, the 1,641-foot-long edifice was the largest suspension bridge in the world, and paved the way for the larger George Washington and Golden Gate Bridges. The Tudor-style tollhouse, located on the Hudson River’s west shore at the bottom of Camp Smith Trail, provides tourist information for Bear Mountain’s parks. (914) 734-1087 or www.townofcortlandt.com

DeWint House
Gen. George Washington used the house as his military headquarters on four separate occasions, most notably to authorize Maj. John André’s execution. The Grand Lodge of New York Masons, of which Washington was a member, meticulously restored Rockland County’s oldest structure to the Colonial Dutch style in which it was built; the Lodge also maintains exhibits and artifacts that relate to Washington and André. (845) 359-1359 or www.dewinthouse.com

Historical Society of Rockland County
Comprised of four structures, a 7,200-square-foot museum of Rockland history and three restored farm structures—the 1832 Blauvelt House, barn, and carriage house—the society facilitates exhibits on Haitian and Irish immigrant heritage, tours, and craft and cooking demonstrations that recreate 19th-century Anglo-Dutch colonial life. (845) 634-9629 or www.rocklandhistory.org

SARATOGA COUNTY

The American victory over Gen. John Burgoyne’s British forces at Saratoga in late 1777, marked a crucial turning point in the Revolutionary War.

Visitors can also explore the preserved 19th-century Victorian gatehouses and gothic chapels. (518) 272-7520 or www.oakwoodcemetery.org

Saratoga National Historical Park
In the fall of 1777, the Continental Army delivered a crippling defeat to the British at Saratoga, an action that cemented America’s pivotal alliance with France. The visitors center on the grounds of the four-square-mile battlefield contains a theater showing a 20-minute orientation film, a fiber-optic map, and displays of military artifacts. Just north in the town of Victory, visitors can survey the park from atop the Saratoga Monument, a 153-foot granite obelisk built 100 years after the battle. (518) 664-9821 ext. 224 or www.nps.gov/sara

Saratoga Spa State Park
Renowned for its curative mineral springs, Saratoga County has attracted tourists since the mid-19th century. Visitors can relax in restored European-style bathhouses once frequented by the nation’s elite, and explore the 2,200-acre park’s many spas and natural geysers. The park is also home to the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, where the New York City Ballet and Philadelphia Orchestra hold regular outdoor performances during the summer. (518) 584-2535 or www.saratogaspastatepark.org

Grant Cottage State Historic Site
On July 23, 1885, shortly after completing his memoirs at the four-room Adirondack cottage, President Ulysses S. Grant died of throat cancer. The rooms and their furnishings remain nearly untouched since his residence. Visitors can view his personal items, deathbed, and floral arrangements from the funeral. (518) 587-8277 or www.nysparks.com

National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame
Located directly across from the Saratoga Race Course, home to the oldest thoroughbred horse race in the U.S., the 17,000-square-foot museum celebrates America’s legendary jockeys, trainers, and horses. Visitors can experience the interactive “Ready to Ride” exhibit that simulates racing from a jockey’s point of view, and see trophies, uniforms, and other memorabilia spanning three centuries of equestrian sport. (518) 584-0400 or www.racingmuseum.org

Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center
Congressman Hugh White’s 1830 Greek-revival homestead, located near the Champlain Canal Tiepath, contains two Victorian period rooms, the George and Annabel O’Connor Library for Local History, and an exhibition on local history spanning from the town’s beginning as a Dutch trade center to its emergence as an important gateway from the Hudson River to the Champlain Canal in 1823. (518) 238-0809 or www.waterfordmuseum.com
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Delaware and Hudson Canal Museum
Nearly 4,000 artifacts, maps, models, paintings, and documents relating to the canal’s 185-year history are on display in the 19th-century Gothic Revival chapel, including a wall-sized map of the 108-mile canal and portraits of Delaware and Hudson president John Wurts and New York governor Dewitt Clinton. An adjacent one-half mile nature trail, known as the Five Locks Walk, leads to locks 16 through 20 of the original canal.
www.canalmuseum.org

Hudson River Maritime Museum
New York’s only museum devoted to Hudson River maritime history, located in a boat shop on the historic Kingston harbor, features indoor and outdoor exhibits, including maps, a five-foot-long model of the Staten Island ferry, maritime antiques, such as ice yachts and a steam hoisting engine, and the still-operational 19th-century tugboat Mathilda. Guides offer seasonal daily boat rides to the 94-year-old Rondout lighthouse. (845) 338-0071 or www.hrm.org

Saugerties Lighthouse
Completed in 1869 at the mouth of Esopus Creek, the Coast Guard lighthouse was abandoned in 1954 and later restored by the Saugerties Lighthouse Conservancy in 1990. Today, the 46-foot-tall lighthouse is accessible by a one-half mile nature trail; its keeper offers personal tours of the lighthouse and its two guest rooms (if not occupied).

The Bennington Museum
The 28,000-square-foot museum, which owns more than 60,000 artifacts from southern Vermont and the surrounding area, contains the Grandma Moses Gallery, the largest collection of Mary Robertson’s (Moses’s) paintings of nostalgic rural American life in the country. Visitors can view her self-decorated 18th-century tilt-top table, which she used as an easel, and the original, relocated schoolhouse that she attended. The Battle of Bennington exhibit documents the American victory over the British in 1777 through rare military artifacts, such as the Battle of Bennington Flag, one of the oldest battle flags in existence, and Vermont-manufactured firearms. (802) 447-1571 or www.benningtonmuseum.org

Chimney Point State Historic Site
Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison frequented the modest tavern, which was completed in the mid-1780s. By the 19th century, the property had evolved into a hub of commerce, including a farm, post office, ferry service, and store. Today, the tavern houses a museum containing one of the nation’s earliest complete tap...
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
Located at Basin Harbor off Lake Champlain, the museum contains artifacts from some of the 200 documented shipwrecks in Lake Champlain. Visitors can see a handcrafted bateau modeled after the watercraft used by Robert Rogers in the French and Indian War; and watch a 15-minute video about the Battle of Valcour Island in 1776. Opened in 2001, the Maritime Research Institute is the research center for the museum, and contains the Conservation Laboratory, which is responsible for the treatment of recovered artifacts. (802) 475-2022 or www.lcmm.org

Mount Independence State Historic Site
Built by American patriots across Lake Champlain from British-held Fort Ticonderoga in 1775, Fort Independence fell when British General John Burgoyne’s troops attacked it in the summer of 1777. Today, marked trails provide scenic views of Lake Champlain as well as access to the remains of barracks, hospital, batteries, and a small monument where the fort used to stand. The visitors center provides a video history and displays military artifacts from archaeological excavations. (802) 948-2000 or www.historicvermont.org

The Shelburne Museum
More than 150,000 works of art are on display at the 45-acre museum campus, spread throughout 39 exhibition buildings. Twenty-five of the buildings date from the 18th- and 19th-centuries, such as the light-house from Colchester Reef on Lake Champlain, Shelburne village distillery, built in 1800 which is now home to the internationally known collection of quilts, and the restored 220-foot steamboat Ticonderoga, the only walking beam side-wheel passenger steamer still surviving. (802) 965-3346 or www.shelburnemuseum.org

Chapman Historical Museum
Located in the 1865 Victorian Delong House, the museum focuses on the history of Glens Falls and the southern Adirondacks. The Stoddard Gallery contains approximately 3,000 photographs by Seneca Ray Stoddard of Adirondack landscapes and communities. (518) 793-2826 or www.chapmanmuseum.org

Fort William Henry Museum
Built in 1755 during the French and Indian War as a staging point for sorties against French Fort Carillon, the British stronghold fell to French forces in 1757 and was destroyed. The subject of Cooper’s The Last of the Mohicans, the battle ended with the murder of some surrendered British soldiers by Native Americans. Rebuilt for tourists in the 1950s, the fort devotes three barracks to the exhibition of artifacts from the on-site archaeological excavation. Guided tours and living history events offer children the opportunity to wear 18th-century-style uniforms and participate in military drills. (518) 668-5471 or www.fwhmuseum.com

The Hyde Collection
Paper mill owners Louis and Charlotte Hyde furnished their Italian Renaissance house with 2,800 paintings, sculptures, and pieces of decorative arts by Cézanne, Picasso, van Gogh, Eakins, Homer, and Ryder. Highlights from the collection are Degas’s bronze Horse at Trough and a sketch of the Mona Lisa attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, viewable by appointment. (518) 792-1761 or www.hydecollection.org

Submerged Heritage Preserve Program
Eight warships from the French and Indian War in the 18th century lie more than 25 feet beneath the surface of Lake George, scuttled by their British crews in 1758. Among them, marked by buoys and open to divers, are seven of the 900 bateau used during the British attack on Fort Carillon in the summer of 1758, as well as the 50-foot-long radeau Land Tortoise, the oldest intact war vessel in North America. (518) 897-1276 or www.dec.ny.gov/lands/315.html
Philipsburg Manor
In the late 17th century, the Anglo-Dutch Philips family of merchant-farmers established the manor in present-day Tarrytown, New York, acquiring 23 enslaved Africans to operate its holdings. Today, actors recreate a northern manor slave’s daily life, emphasizing daily chores, methods of resistance, and the few means of recreation available. Guided tours of the manor house and working grist mill are available. (914) 631-3992 or www.hudsonvalley.org

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery
Founded in 1849, the 90-acre cemetery contains the final resting places of its many luminaries, including Andrew Carnegie, Walter Chrysler, William Rockefeller, Elizabeth Arden, Leona Helmsley, and Washington Irving. Across the street, a sculpture of the Headless Horseman pays tribute to Irving’s enduring legacy. (914) 631-0081 or www.sleepyhollowcemetery.org

Union Church of Pocantico Hills
In 1963, David Rockefeller commissioned Marc Chagall to produce nine biblically-themed stained glass windows to flank the nave of the family church. The church also contains the last work of French artist Henri Matisse, the eight-petalled rose window above the chancel. Visitors can sign up for guided 30-minute tours. (914) 332-6659 or www.hudsonvalley.org

Washington Irving’s Sunnyside
Washington Irving, author of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” lived in the early 19th-century stone colonial Dutch cottage from 1835 until his death in 1859. The riverfront home contains a large collection of the author’s possessions, including his writing desk and book collection. Guides in Victorian dress provide 45-minute tours of the dining room, study, kitchen, bedrooms, and the 10-acres of pastoral grounds that blossom with wildflowers in the spring. (914) 591-8763 or www.hudsonvalley.org

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Rogers Island Visitors Center
The island served as a base camp for the famous irregular fighter Maj. Robert Rogers and his Rangers during the French and Indian War. The visitors center houses exhibits documenting the Native American occupation, the history of nearby Fort Edward, and the Little Wood Creek Archaeological Site, once a Native American village area. (518) 747-3693 or www.rogersisland.org

Skene Manor
In 1874 New York Supreme Court Judge Joseph Potter built the three-story Victorian Gothic-style manor out of sandstone quarried from Skene Mountain. Converted into bar and restaurant in 1946, the home and gardens are open for tours. (518) 499-1906 or www.members.tripod.com/skenemanor

Lyndhurst
The sprawling Gothic manor was previously home to former New York City mayor William Paulding, Jr. and robber baron Jay Gould, who built the nation’s first steel-framed conservatory on its lawns. Visitors may wander the narrow halls lined with vaulted windows and 19th-century landscapes, or rest under the shade of linden trees in the 67-acre park designed in the English naturalist style. (914) 631-4481 or www.lyndhurst.org

Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts
The 90-acre former estate of attorney and investment banker, Walter Rosen, hosts world-class music concerts year-round. The open-air Venetian Theatre, among three on-site performance venues, is home of the annual Caramoor International Music Festival. Southeast of the theatre is the Rosen House summer villa containing entire rooms imported from European palaces, which serve as galleries for a lavish collection of Renaissance, 18th-century, and Eastern art. (914) 232-5035 ext. 221 or www.caramoor.org

Hudson River Museum & Glenview Mansion
The two-floor, restored 1876 mansion contains an extensive collection of 19th- and 20th-century American art, including works by Hudson River School painters Jasper Cropsey and Albert Beirstadt. Contemporary collections spill into the 15,000-square-foot addition. The Andrus Planetarium is also on site. (914) 963-4550 or www.hrm.org

Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate
An eight-minute shuttle ride north from Philipsburg Manor takes visitors to Kykuit, the six-story, 40-room mansion of John D. Rockefeller. After viewing a 10-minute presentation on the Rockefeller family history, visitors can choose one of four guided tours, including the three-hour Grand Tour through the interior, containing original paintings and sculpture by Auguste Rodin, Alexander Calder, and Pablo Picasso among others. Nearly three times the size of the mansion, the barn contains a collection of carriages and antique cars such as a 1924 Ford Model T. (914) 631-9491 or www.hudsonvalley.org

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

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