



Explore the 150-mile valley and discover its rich scenic, historical, cultural, and recreational resources from Troy to Yonkers. Wander the streets of old steamboat ports on both sides of the Hudson. Stop in villages containing stone houses and churches built in the 1600s and 1700s by Dutch, English, and Huguenot settlers.

Tour stately mansions built for the Livingstons, Vanderbilts, Roosevelts, and Rockefellers. Stroll through grounds designed by Calvert Vaux, Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Beatrix Farrand. Immerse yourself in the settings of legends and stories by Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, and other Knickerbocker writers. Tour Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh and Revolutionary War fortifications at West Point and Fort Montgomery,

where the views of the Hudson Highlands are spectacular. Hike the region's more than 3,000 miles of trails in the Catskills, Shawangunks, Hudson Highlands, and Palisades and view the majestic panoramas that inspired Thomas Cole, Frederic E. Church, and other Hudson River painters. Visit the many nature preserves and parks that protect woodlands, wetlands, and islands and do some bird-watching, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, or boating.

Walk west on the Appalachian Trail across the Bear Mountain Bridge to the summit of Bear Mountain—where the 2,167-mile trail originated in the 1920s—or hike south along a portion of the 214-mile Long Path between the northern Catskills and the George Washington Bridge. Our website [www.hudsonrivervalley.com](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com) provides information on the heritage sites and hospitality facilities within the region.

Overlooking the Hudson at Boscobel Nick Verducci Photography / iStock

Freedom and Dignity



Fort Montgomery Jack Mead

Several sites along the Hudson River commemorate the American Revolution, the abolition of slavery, and Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt. Together, they underscore the nation's struggles to honor the basic human rights of liberty, equality, and dignity.

New Yorkers met at the Senate House in Kingston in 1777 and formed a new governmental system that continues to guide the state today. The patriots thwarted British attempts at controlling the Hudson by fortifying the Hudson Highlands at West Point and installing two massive chains across the river.



Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

In October 1782, a year after the British surrendered at Yorktown, Gen. George Washington moved his army of 7,000 men to New Windsor, where the soldiers lived in log huts until June 1783. Maj. Gen. Henry Knox moved into the Ellisons' house nearby while Washington established his headquarters at the Hasbroucks' farmhouse in Newburgh. It was there that Washington defused a potential mutiny by officers, made plans to disband the army, and awarded three badges of Military Merit that would become the Purple Heart in the 20th century.



Sojourner Truth Sojourner Truth Library SUNY at New Paltz

In the 1800s, the valley played an important role in another epic struggle as fugitive slaves made their way north along the river. Harriet Tubman, who led countless southern slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad, visited Troy, where in April 1860 she incited a riot to protect a fugitive slave, Charles Nalle. At the Ulster County Court-house in Kingston, Sojourner Truth made an eloquent appeal that rescued her son from slavery.

In the 20th century, President Franklin D. Roosevelt led the United States out of the Great Depression and through the turmoil of World War II. Roosevelt was born at Springwood, the family estate in Hyde Park. Though it remained his lifelong home, Roosevelt felt the need for greater privacy and solitude while he was President and



Springwood, Franklin D. Roosevelt's home, Hyde Park National Park Service

designed a small stone house that was constructed on Dutchess Hill. He used Top Cottage as a personal retreat and as a place for family gatherings and to entertain kings, queens, and other dignitaries. During the Great Depression, Eleanor Roosevelt and a few friends operated a small furniture factory at another Hyde

Park retreat. She closed the factory in 1936 and converted it into a residence, which she called Val-Kill Cottage. After her husband died, she lived there for 17 years while engaged in her humanitarian causes. Next to Springwood is the first presidential library, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum, which celebrates the legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt through its extensive collections and informative exhibits.



Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's retreat, Hyde Park National Park Service



Clearwater at Catskill James Bleecker



Revolutionary War reenactors at Kingston Ted Spiegel



Garden at Olana, Hudson Suzy Allman



Kayaking on the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail John Resch



Birding at Slabsides, West Park Suzy Allman

Nature and Culture

America's vision of itself as a wild, untamed wilderness is rooted artistically in the Hudson River Valley. Varying in style from the realistic to the allegorical, Thomas Cole, Asher Durand, Frederic Church, and many other 19th century artists depicted landscapes with a dramatic sense of light and atmosphere. Cole's home and studio in Catskill and Church's Olana estate, near Hudson, offer



Olana, Hudson New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



Hudson River School Art Trail Melissa Gavilanes

glimpses into the lives of the two artists and their legacies as painters and conservationists. Today, visitors can explore the views that inspired the artists by following the Hudson River School Art Trail. [hudsonriverschool.org](http://hudsonriverschool.org)

The writings of Washington Irving and other Knickerbocker authors also shaped American attitudes toward nature. Irving,

author of *Rip Van Winkle* and other stories, built Sunnyside as his retreat in Tarrytown.

The U.S. environmental movement began in earnest in the 1960s when grassroots organizations launched a 17-year campaign that saved Storm King Mountain from becoming the site of a mammoth hydro-electric project. The court decision provided the framework for the first National Environmental Policy Act.

Today, the Hudson River provides recreational opportunities for kayakers, canoeists, and other boaters. The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area supports the development and expansion of the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail, activities such as the Hudson River Valley Ramble in September, Path Through History in June and October and various reenactments and commemorations throughout the year.



Empire State Trail, Albany Courtesy Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

The 750-mile Empire State Trail welcomes bicyclists and hikers to explore New York State's extraordinary experiences, people, and places. The Hudson River Valley Greenway Water Trail is a 256-mile paddler's dream, extending from northern Saratoga County in the Adirondack Park and northern Washington County at the head of Lake Champlain, to Battery Park in Manhattan.

National Heritage Area

The Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was established by Congress in 1996 to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant history and resources of the valley for the benefit of the nation. This four-million-acre heritage area between Waterford and the northern



Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Sleepy Hollow Sleepy Hollow Cemetery



Samuel Morse's Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie Ted Spiegel

border of New York City is a partnership of local, state, and federal sites with the Hudson River Valley Greenway serving as its manager. The National Park Service provides technical and financial support. For information on these events and other projects of the National Heritage Area, please visit [www.hudsonrivervalley.com](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com).



Kykuit, Tarrytown Gryffindor



Huguenot Street, New Paltz G. Steve Jordan



U.S. Military Academy, West Point Ted Spiegel



State Capitol, Albany gnagel / iStock



Lyndhurst, Tarrytown Kirkikis / Adobe Stock



# Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Major highways, such as I-87 (New York State Thruway), I-90, I-84, and the Palisades and Taconic State Parkways, provide access from New York City and bordering states to the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. U.S. 9, 9D, and 9W, the primary travelroutes in the valley, connect with a network of country roads leading to places of interest.

There are 107 heritage sites designated in the Hudson River Valley, and all are shown on this map in bold.

A few of the valley's heritage sites are described at the right from north to south. For more information see our Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Heritage Site Guidebook or visit [www.hudsonrivervalley.com](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com)



## Upper Hudson

The Underground Railroad Education Center researches and preserves the local and national history of the Underground Railroad movement, its international connections, and its legacy to today's social justice issues, thereby empowering people of all ages to be agents of change toward an equitable and just society.

Major sites in Albany include the State Capitol, Empire State Plaza Art Collection, and New York State Museum, Albany Institute of History & Art, and Schuyler Mansion.



In Old Chatham, the Shaker Museum and Library displays boxes, furniture, and other items created by the Shakers. The city of Hudson offers a walking tour of its historic district. Nearby is Olan, Frederic E. Church's Persian-style estate, which has been restored with original paintings and furnishings.

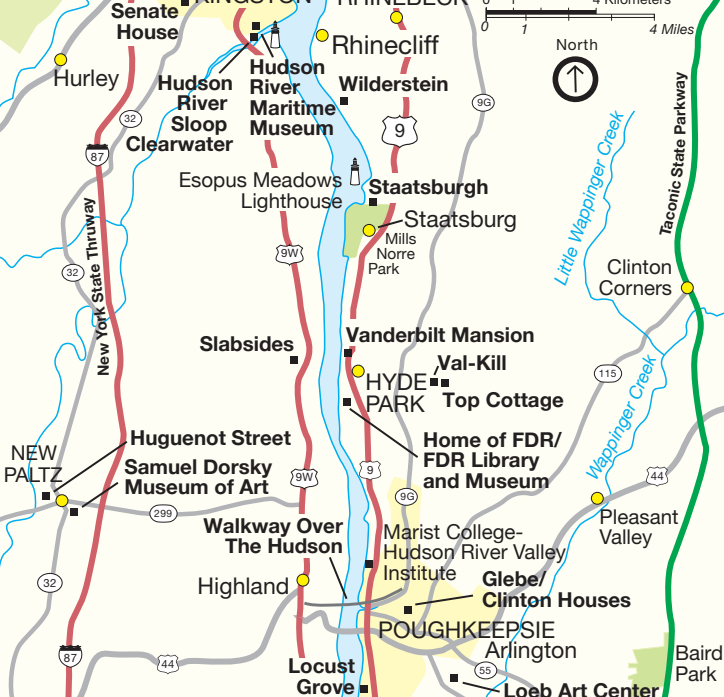
From Thomas Cole National Historic Site, across the river in Catskill, Thomas Cole could see the high Kaaterskill escarpment that figured prominently in his paintings. Trails in the Catskills take hikers along the escarpment and past old hotel ruins, mountain lakes, and the 260-foot Kaaterskill Falls.

After his Presidency, Martin Van Buren returned to Kinderhook, where he spent the rest of his life as a gentleman farmer at Lindenwald, a Federal-style mansion that has been restored by the National Park Service.

## Mid-Hudson

Clermont was the Germantown home of the Livingstons from 1730 to 1962. In 1777 the British burned the original manor house of the independence-minded family.

South of Clermont is Montgomery Place, an estate that was founded in 1802 by Janet Livingston Montgomery. Architect Alexander Jackson Davis enlarged the house into a 23-room mansion, and Andrew Jackson Downing designed the gardens and grounds.



Kingston offers a walking tour reflecting its Dutch roots, the Senate House representing New York's governmental origins, and the Hudson River Maritime Museum interpreting the river commerce story.

At Rhinebeck, the Suckley family's Wilderstein mansion features interior decorations designed by Joseph Burr Tiffany and ornamental gardens designed by Calvert Vaux.

To the south, overlooking the Hudson, are two elaborately furnished, beaux-arts mansions exemplifying America's opulent Gilded Age. Staatsburgh (Mills Mansion), in Staatsburg, was remodeled and expanded to 65 rooms by McKim, Mead & White for Ogden and Ruth Livingston Mills. The same architectural firm designed the 50-room Vanderbilt Mansion, in Hyde Park, for Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt.

Hyde Park commemorates Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt at the Home of FDR, his birthplace and their primary home; the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum; Val-Kill, Mrs. Roosevelt's retreat; and Top Cottage, the President's hilltop retreat.

Artist-inventor Samuel F. B. Morse's Poughkeepsie villa, Locust Grove, features historic gardens, paintings, and early telegraph equipment.

Huguenot Street in New Paltz, with its stone church and houses, commemorates the village's settlement in the 1690s by French emigrants. West of New Paltz, the Minnewaska State Park Preserve and the Mohonk Preserve offer hikers numerous trails in the Shawangunk Mountains.

## Lower Hudson

Marlboro's Gomez Mill House, the oldest surviving Jewish homestead in North America, tells the stories of five successive families who lived there from the 1700s to the 1980s.

In Newburgh stands Washington's Headquarters, the oldest publicly owned historic house museum in the United States, where the commander in chief stayed for 16 months at the close of the Revolutionary War. Nearby, at Vails Gate, are the New Windsor Cantonment, where Washington's troops stayed, and General Knox's Headquarters.



More than 120 sculptures—by Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, Mark di Suvero, Isamu Noguchi, David Smith, and others—are exhibited outdoors at the 500-acre Storm King Art Center in Mountainville.

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point offers guided tours of its grounds and a museum with a vast collection of military items. Forts Putnam, Clinton, and Montgomery and Stony Point Battlefield commemorate Revolutionary War events.

Boscobel, in Garrison, is an early 19th century mansion that was saved from demolition in the 1950s. Besides featuring Federal period decorative arts and extensive gardens, Boscobel is host to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival every summer.

Bear Mountain State Park and Harriman State Park offer opportunities for hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, swimming, boating, and fishing. Visit the Trailside Museums and Wildlife Center and take a ride on the merry-go-round.

Such skills as blacksmithing, hearth cooking, and brickmaking are demonstrated at Van Cortlandt Manor, which includes an 18th-century tavern and tenant farmer's house. Nearby is Kykuit, the Rockefellers' hilltop estate, which features an extensive art collection, terraced gardens, and outdoor sculptures. Kykuit tours begin at Philipsburg Manor, an 18th-century farm and gristmill in Tarrytown.

Lyndhurst, a castle-like mansion designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, contains elaborate furnishings, artwork, and stained glass. And Sunnyside, with its many gables and weathervanes, exhibits the imagination of Washington Irving, author of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government. © 2022