

# NY Explore Our Past



**The Official Guide to  
New York State Historic Sites  
& State Historic Parks**

# welcome to the extraordinary



New York's state historic sites and historic parks are a mosaic of special places that tells the story of our rich heritage. Visit our sacred battlefields and impressive forts, our stately homes, magnificent estates, and splendid

gardens. Meet the poets and artists, soldiers and sailors, leaders and heroes, and families and local residents who helped shape our great state and nation. Experience New York's remarkable past through storytelling, exhibits, re-enactments, crafts, and performances.

Helping you along the way is the new Path Through History program, whose signs along major roadways will direct travelers to these notable sites. Let the Path Through History and this guide inspire you and your family to visit an amazing array of historic sites and parks in charming villages, rural communities, and urban settings across the Empire State. Join me and discover the countless ways to explore the past by planning your journey today.

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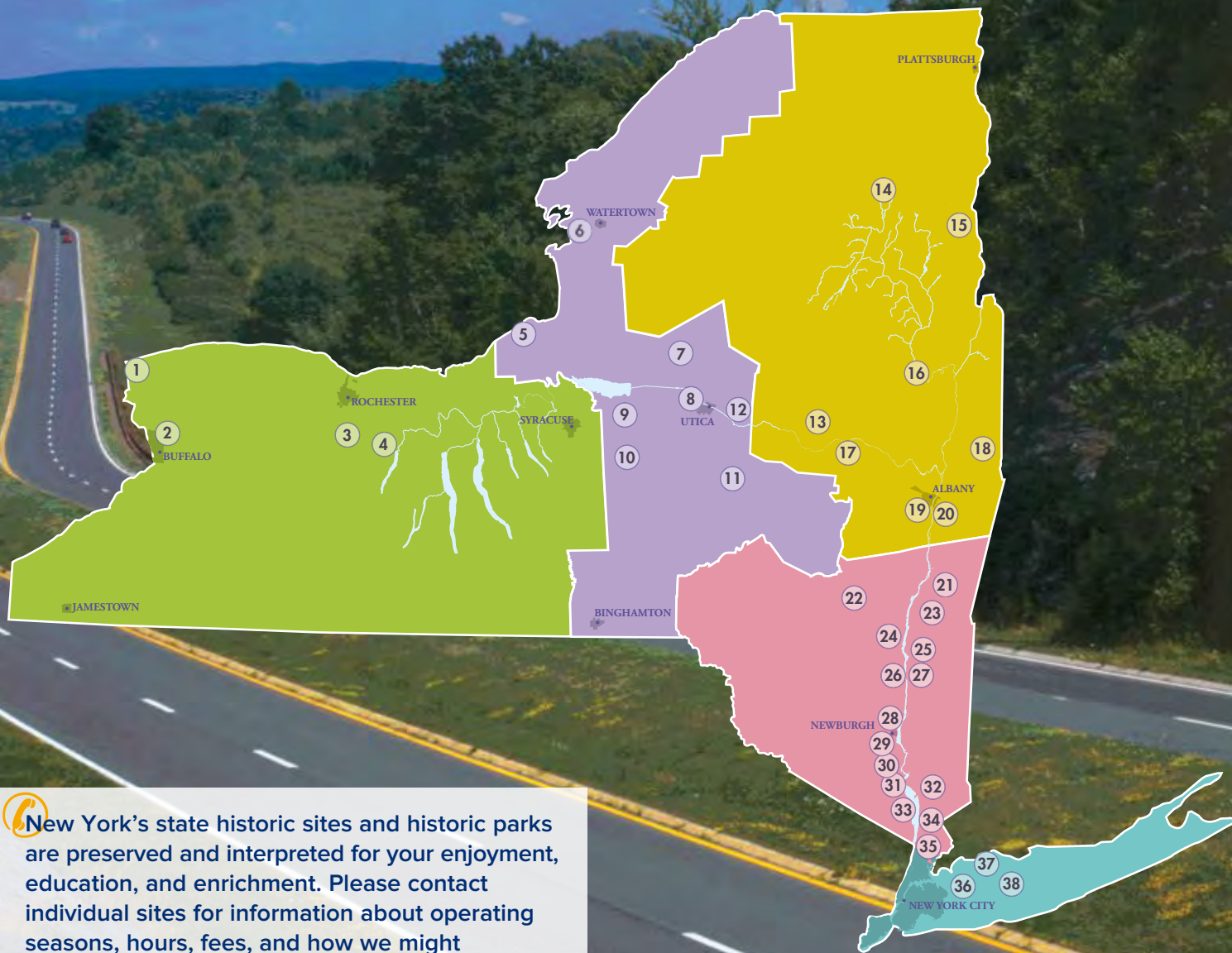
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# Begin Your Journey Today!



 New York's state historic sites and historic parks are preserved and interpreted for your enjoyment, education, and enrichment. Please contact individual sites for information about operating seasons, hours, fees, and how we might accommodate your special needs.

*Front and back cover (clockwise from upper left):  
Olana, Ganondagan (Jack Kidd, Photographer),  
Lorenzo, Washington's Headquarters, and Crown Point.*



## Old Fort Niagara 1

Throughout its history, this fort has been associated with major military conflicts. Built by the French in 1726, it was later occupied and expanded by Great Britain and the United States. Strategically located at the mouth of the Niagara River, the fort controlled access to the Great Lakes and the westward route to the North American frontier. Tour the fort, explore the visitor center, and enjoy special programs.

► Operated by the nonprofit Old Fort Niagara Association, the site is open year-round; call for details.

Four Scott Avenue  
Fort Niagara State Park  
Youngstown, NY 14174

(716) 745-7611   
[www.oldfortniagara.org](http://www.oldfortniagara.org)

## Darwin Martin House 2

Tour one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most celebrated Prairie style homes. Constructed in the early 1900s for the Martin family, the house features Wright's signature low, horizontal design and free-flowing plan. The property, which includes several interconnected buildings and landscape features, is being meticulously restored to its original appearance.

► Operated by the nonprofit Martin House Restoration Corporation, the site is open year-round for tours, shopping, rentals, and events; call for information.

125 Jewett Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14214

(716) 856-3858   
[www.darwinmartinhouse.org](http://www.darwinmartinhouse.org)



Photograph by Biff Henrich, Keystone Film Productions.

## Ganondagan 3

Visit the site of a major 17<sup>th</sup>-century Seneca town and its massive granary. See a full-size replica of a bark longhouse, explore the site's interpretive trails, and learn about the history of the Seneca people, their customs and beliefs, and the destruction of their thriving community, known as the "Town of Peace," in 1687.

► The site is open year-round, the Seneca Art and Culture Center is open from mid-February through mid-January, and special events are held throughout the year; call for information.

7100 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564  
(585) 924-5848 • [www.ganondagan.org](http://www.ganondagan.org)



## Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion 4

Stroll amid the splendors of Sonnenberg's breathtaking grounds and admire some of the region's finest gardens. Discover the beauty and tranquility of the Thompson family's magnificent estate, which was created during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and features a spectacular main house, distinguished outbuildings, and an exquisite landscape.

151 Charlotte Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

(585) 394-4922   
[www.sonnenberg.org](http://www.sonnenberg.org)

► Operated by the nonprofit Sonnenberg Gardens, the property is open from May 1 through October 31 and hosts a variety of special events; the park is also home to the Finger Lakes Wine Center; call for information.







## Fort Ontario 5

Explore the impressive 19<sup>th</sup>-century fort that overlooks the Oswego River and Lake Ontario. From the French and Indian War through World War II, the fort has played an important role in American military history. See exhibits in the Enlisted Men's barracks, enjoy the scenic grounds, and visit the nearby nonprofit Safe Haven Museum, which interprets the post's significance as a refugee center for victims of the Nazi Holocaust.

► *Open mid-May through mid-October; call for details.* 

**1 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oswego, NY 13126**  
**(315) 343-4711**  
**[www.fortontario.com](http://www.fortontario.com)**

## Sackets Harbor Battlefield 6

Visit the command center of American naval and military operations on Lake Ontario during the War of 1812. Find out how Americans held their ground here during a surprise attack by British forces in May 1813. See the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Navy Yard once occupied by commandants and their families. Relax on the picturesque grounds and delight in breathtaking views of the lake.



► *Grounds open year-round; tours, demonstrations, exhibits, and special programs are offered mid-May through Labor Day weekend; call for information.*

**504 West Main Street  
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685**  
**(315) 646-3634**   
**[www.sacketsharborbattlefield.org](http://www.sacketsharborbattlefield.org)**

## Steuben Memorial 7

Journey to the bucolic site that was the late 18<sup>th</sup>-century country retreat of Baron von Steuben, who played a central role in strengthening American troops during the Revolutionary War. See a replica of the simple log cabin where he summured after the war and visit his nearby grave, which is set in a peaceful grove.



Major-General Baron Frederick William August von Steuben (1730-1794), by Ralph Earl, 1786. Courtesy Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, NY.

► *Operated by the National Park Service, the site is open Memorial Day through Labor Day; tours, interpretive programs, and special events are offered; call for information.*

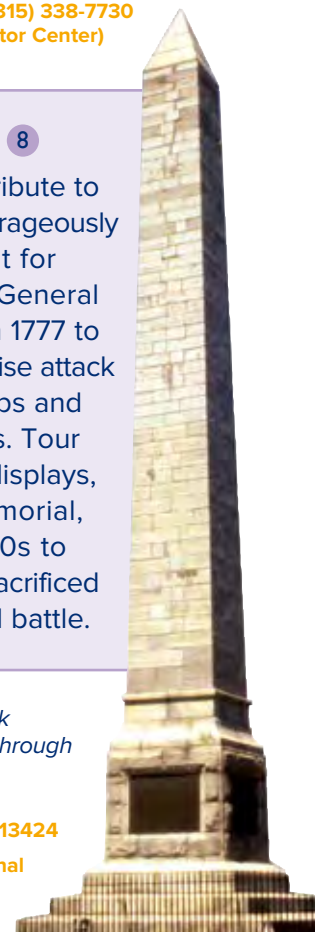
**Starr Hill Road, Remsen, NY 13438 • (315) 338-7730**  
**(Fort Stanwix National Monument Visitor Center)**

## Oriskany Battlefield 8

Come to Oriskany to pay tribute to the soldiers who fought courageously to advance America's fight for freedom. Recall Brigadier General Herkimer's heroic efforts in 1777 to lead his army during a surprise attack by British and Loyalist troops and their Native American allies. Tour the site, view interpretive displays, and see the imposing memorial, which was built in the 1880s to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives during this brutal battle.

► *Operated by the National Park Service, the site is open April 1 through October 1; call for information.*

**7801 State Route 69, Oriskany, NY 13424**  
**(315) 338-7730 (Fort Stanwix National Monument Visitor Center)**





## Old Erie Canal 9

Discover the many recreational opportunities awaiting you at this scenic park. Located along the historic Erie Canal, the 36-mile-long park runs from west of Green Lakes State Park to just outside the city of Rome and offers hiking, biking, picnicking, horseback riding, canoeing, and kayaking. The park also links the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, the Erie Canal Village, and the Canastota Canal Town Museum.

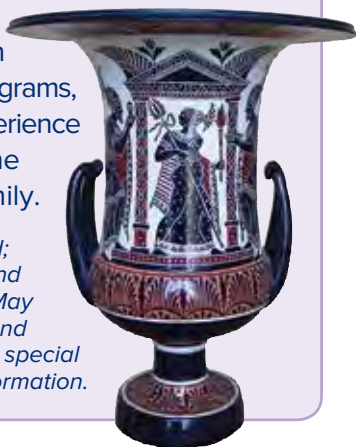
**Andrus Road  
Kirkville, NY 13082  
(315) 637-6111**

► *Open year-round.*

## Lorenzo 10

Delight in the magnificent estate that community founder John Lincklaen created in 1807. Tour the splendid Neoclassical mansion with its elegant rooms, stroll through formal gardens and picturesque grounds, and admire panoramic views of beautiful Cazenovia Lake. Through exhibits, interpretive programs, and special events, experience the life and times of the Lincklaen/Ledyard family.

► *Grounds open year-round; mansion, visitor center, and museum shop are open May through Columbus Day, and reopen in December with special holiday hours; call for information.*



**17 Rippleton Road, Cazenovia, NY 13035  
(315) 655-3200 • [www.lorenzoNY.org](http://www.lorenzoNY.org)**

## Hyde Hall 11

Experience the grandeur of the Clarke family's stunning early 19<sup>th</sup>-century country estate. Tour their spectacular classical style house set on a knoll overlooking tranquil Otsego Lake. The house's fine architectural details, lavish rooms, and picturesque grounds recall the prominence of this influential family.



► *Operated by the nonprofit Hyde Hall, Inc., the site is open mid-May through October; call for details.*

**Mill Road, Springfield, NY 13468  
(607) 547-5098 • [www.hydehall.org](http://www.hydehall.org)**

## Herkimer Home 12

Tour the late 18<sup>th</sup>-century home of Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer, a prosperous farmer and businessman who became a hero during the Battle of Oriskany in 1777. Seriously wounded during the battle, he later died at home. Stop at the visitor center, visit Herkimer's grave, enjoy views of the Mohawk River, and hike or bike along the nearby Erie Canalway Trail.

**200 State Route 169  
Little Falls, NY 13365  
(315) 823-0398 **

► *Open Memorial Day to Labor Day; call for information.*







### Johnson Hall 13

See the grand 18<sup>th</sup>-century estate of Sir William Johnson, one of the Mohawk Valley's most influential European settlers. As the British-appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs, he forged beneficial relationships with Native American leaders, helping to stabilize the region. Tour his Georgian style mansion, explore the picturesque grounds, and imagine what it was like to be a guest in the bustling Johnson family household.

139 Hall Avenue  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-8712 

► *Grounds open year-round; historic house open mid-May through mid-October; programs and events are offered; call for information.*

### John Brown Farm 14

Take a journey to the heart of the Adirondacks to see the farm of John Brown, one of the nation's most famous 19<sup>th</sup>-century abolitionists. He became a martyr to the cause after his assault on the U.S. Arsenal at Harper's Ferry in 1859. Visit the farmhouse and his grave, relax on the grounds, and take in breathtaking views of the High Peaks.

► *Grounds open year-round; house open May through October; interpretive programs available; call for information.*

115 John Brown Road  
Lake Placid, NY 12946  
(518) 523-3900



### Crown Point 15

Come explore the remains of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century French fort and the impressive ruins of the adjacent fort

21 Grandview Drive  
Crown Point, NY 12928  
(518) 597-4666

built by the British. Find out how American rebels briefly captured the British fort at the beginning of the Revolutionary War



Late 18<sup>th</sup>-century British uniform button found on site.

and took a large number of cannons to aid the American cause. Stop at the visitor center, join in special events, bring a picnic, and enjoy spectacular views of Lake Champlain.

► *Museum open mid-May through mid-October; call for details.*

### Grant Cottage 16

Visit the mountaintop retreat where Ulysses S. Grant came to write his memoirs and where he died on July 23, 1885. The cottage remains as it was when Grant and his family stayed there. Guided tours poignantly recall Grant's final days on Mt. McGregor. Stop at the visitor center and enjoy spectacular views of the Hudson Valley.

► *Operated by the nonprofit Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage, the site is open Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day weekend; special programs and events are offered; call for details.*

Mt. McGregor Road  
Wilton, NY 12831  
(518) 584-4353  
[www.grantcottage.org](http://www.grantcottage.org)



Courtesy Library of Congress.



## Schoharie Crossing 17

Marvel at one of the Erie Canal's largest aqueducts and explore the impressive locks that are preserved at this picturesque site. Trace the history of the canal in the visitor center, view exhibits at the canal store, and enjoy a variety of special programs and recreational activities, including hiking, biking, picnicking, fishing, and boating. The site's scenic pathways connect to the Erie Canalway Trail.

129 Schoharie Street  
off NYS Route 55  
Fort Hunter, NY 12069  
(518) 829-7516 

► Grounds open year-round; tours, programs, and visitor center are available May through October; call for information.

## Bennington Battlefield 18

See the site of a Revolutionary War battle fought in August 1777. British troops were defeated here on their way to capture American storehouses in Bennington, Vermont. This American victory played an important role in forcing a British surrender on October 17, 1777, in Saratoga. View interpretive signs and enjoy the scenery.



5179 NY Route 67, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090 • (518) 686-7109  
(518) 279-1155 (general info—Grafton Lakes State Park)

► Open May 1 through Labor Day; Labor Day through Columbus Day, weekends only; and Veterans Day; call for information.

## Schuyler Mansion 19

Visit the elegant home of Revolutionary War Major-General Philip Schuyler and his wife Catharine. See the stylish rooms and experience how one of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Albany's wealthiest and most influential families lived. The Schuylers' house was the hub of local society, and the family hosted key political and military figures. Stop at the visitor center, view exhibits, enjoy a tour, and participate in a variety of special programs and events.



► The house and visitor center are open mid-May through October and by appointment; call for information.

32 Catherine Street  
Albany, NY 12202  
(518) 434-0834 

## Crailo 20

Come to this museum of colonial Dutch heritage in the Hudson River Valley. Housed in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century home of Hendrick van Rensselaer, the museum tells the story of these early European settlers, their impact on local customs and culture, and how they lived together with the region's Native American people. Enjoy a variety of engaging exhibits and see an impressive collection of local treasures, including rare archaeological artifacts.

9½ Riverside Avenue  
Rensselaer, NY 12144  
(518) 463-8738 

► The museum is open mid-May through October and by appointment; call for information.







## Olana 21

Delight in the exotic beauty of the spectacular 19<sup>th</sup>-century estate created by Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church (1826–1900). Stop at the visitor center for an introduction to this extraordinary property. Tour the magnificent Persian style house and studio and marvel at the remarkable interiors. Stroll the splendid grounds and savor the dramatic views of the Hudson Valley that inspired Church’s paintings.

5720 Route 9G  
Hudson, NY 12534

(518) 828-0135   
www.olana.org

► *Open year-round; call for programs, schedules, and information.*

## John Burroughs Memorial 22

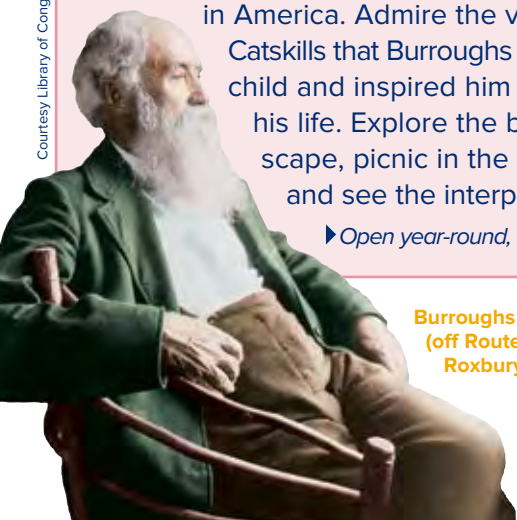
Take a leisurely journey to the hillside grave of John Burroughs, the well-known, 19<sup>th</sup>-century naturalist and writer who played an important role in advancing the conservation movement in America. Admire the views of the Catskills that Burroughs enjoyed as a child and inspired him throughout his life. Explore the bucolic landscape, picnic in the open air, and see the interpretive kiosk.

► *Open year-round, dawn until dusk.*

Burroughs Memorial Road  
(off Route 30)  
Roxbury, NY 12474

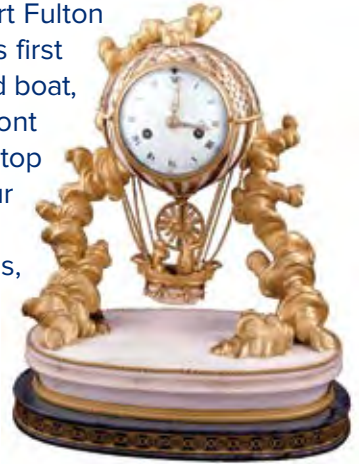
(518) 827-6111  
(general info—  
Mine Kill State Park)

Courtesy, Library of Congress.



## Clermont 23

Explore the elegant estate of the distinguished Livingston family. Chancellor Robert R. Livingston helped to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase and collaborated with Robert Fulton on inventing the world’s first practical steam-powered boat, which docked at Clermont on its maiden voyage. Stop at the visitor center, tour the mansion, and enjoy the picturesque grounds, gardens, and Hudson River views.



► *Grounds open year-round; tours of the mansion are available mid-April through December; call for details.*

County Route 6 (off Route 9G), Germantown, NY 12526   
(518) 537-4240 • www.friendsofclermont.org

## Senate House 24

Visit New York’s first state capital and tour the house that was the meeting place for the newly formed state senate. Learn about the state’s constitution that was adopted in 1777 amidst the turmoil of the Revolutionary War and hear how local residents fled a fierce British military invasion that destroyed the city. See the impressive collection of 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century art and furnishings in the museum.

► *Open mid-April through October and by appointment; call for details.*

296 Fair Street, Kingston, NY 12401 • (845) 338-2786  
www.palisadesparkscnservancy.org





## Staatsburgh 25

Experience what it would have been like to live in the magnificent 19<sup>th</sup>-century Beaux Arts style mansion of successful financier Ogden Mills and his socially prominent wife Ruth Livingston Mills. Hear the stories of the workers who helped to maintain the lavish lifestyle of the Mills family. Visit the gift shop, explore the beautiful estate grounds, and enjoy sweeping views of the Hudson River.

► Grounds open year-round; house tours are offered April through October and off season; call for information.

Old Post Road  
Staatsburg, NY 12580  
(845) 889-8851   
[www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com)

## Walkway Over the Hudson 26

Experience one of the most spectacular historic parks in the country. The late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge has been creatively adapted as a linear walkway and bike path that links the city of Poughkeepsie and the town of Highland. A local nonprofit organization, Walkway Over the Hudson, led this community-based project that transformed the abandoned bridge into an immensely popular scenic and recreational attraction that offers breathtaking views of the Hudson River Valley.

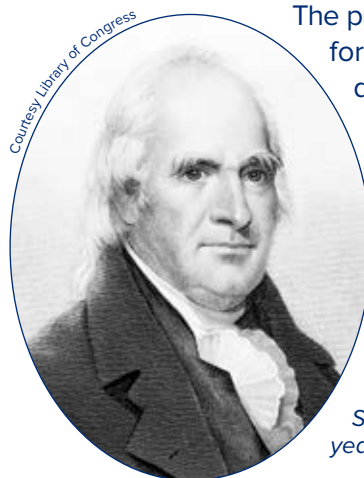


► Open year-round; call for information.

## Clinton House 27

Visit the Franklin Butts Research Library in this rare-surviving, 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone house named in honor of George Clinton, New York's first governor.

549 Main Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602  
(845) 471-1630



The property was actively used for governmental affairs during the 1770s and 1780s when Poughkeepsie was the state capital. This prominent local landmark recalls the city's early settlement and growth.

► Operated by the nonprofit Dutchess County Historical Society, the house is open year-round; call for information.

## Washington's Headquarters 28

See the celebrated 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone house where General George Washington brought the Revolutionary War to a close and helped to form a new republic. Together with Knox's Headquarters and New Windsor Cantonment in nearby Vails Gate, the site tells the story of the dramatic series of events leading up to the end of the war. This national landmark was the first publicly purchased historic site in the country. Visit the museum, explore the grounds, and enjoy wonderful views of the Hudson River.

► Open year-round; hours vary; call for details.



Liberty and Washington Streets, Newburgh, NY 12551  
(845) 562-1195 • [www.palisparkconservancy.org](http://www.palisparkconservancy.org) 





## Knox's Headquarters 29

Discover the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Ellison House, the headquarters for high-ranking officers during the Revolutionary War, including Major Generals Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery, and Horatio Gates, commander of nearby New Windsor Cantonment. Hear the story of Henry Knox, a book merchant well-read in military affairs who became one of George Washington's most trusted generals.

► *Open Memorial Day weekend through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend and by appointment year-round; call for details.*

Forge Hill Road, Vails Gate, NY 12584  
(845) 561-5498 • [www.palisadesparkscservancy.org](http://www.palisadesparkscservancy.org)

## New Windsor Cantonment 30



Come to the site of the Continental Army's final camp at the end of the Revolutionary War and discover how the soldiers, their families, and artisans endured the winter of 1782–83. Hear about the dramatic last months of the

war and the extraordinary events leading up to General Washington issuing cease fire orders at the cantonment on April 19, 1783. Explore the visitor center, enjoy costumed demonstrations, and tour the site's National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

► *Open mid-April through October and by appointment year-round; call for information.*

374 Temple Hill Road, Vails Gate, NY 12584  
(845) 561-1765 • [www.palisadesparkscservancy.org](http://www.palisadesparkscservancy.org)

## National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

Take in the powerful exhibits, view the impressive Roll of Honor, and listen to the moving stories of courage and sacrifice told by many of the Purple Heart recipients. The Hall of Honor pays tribute to all those wounded or lost in combat while serving in the United States military. Co-located at New Windsor Cantonment, it is the first facility in the nation created to collect, preserve, and share the personal stories of Purple Heart recipients.

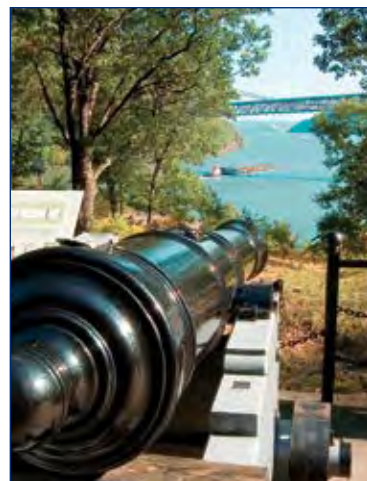


► *Open year-round; closed Mondays; no charge; call for details.*

1-877-28Honor (Toll Free) • [www.thepurpleheart.com](http://www.thepurpleheart.com) 

## Fort Montgomery 31

Visit the site of a Revolutionary War fort built by the Americans and destroyed by the British in October 1777. Overlooking the southern entrance to the Hudson Highlands, the fort was considered a key component of the American defenses early in the war. See exhibits and a dramatic movie in the museum, explore the fort's ruins, and enjoy spectacular views of the Hudson River.



► *Open mid-April through October; call for information.*

690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery, NY 10922  
(845) 446-2134 • [www.palisadesparkscservancy.org](http://www.palisadesparkscservancy.org)



### John Jay Homestead 32

Enjoy the picturesque, 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural retreat of John Jay, one of the country's Founding Fathers, President of the Continental Congress, first Chief Justice of the United States, and second Governor of New York. See the exhibits at the farm complex, learn about the fascinating life and times of the Jay family, take a tour of the main house, explore the spacious grounds, and join in popular seasonal events.

► *Open year-round; call for information.*

400 Route 22  
Katonah, NY 10536  
(914) 232-5651   
[www.johnjayhomestead.org](http://www.johnjayhomestead.org)

### Stony Point Battlefield 33

Visit the site of a spectacular Revolutionary War battle. Stop at the museum and learn about the daring midnight attack that Brigadier General Anthony Wayne led on this British stronghold on July 16, 1779. Discover how he seized the fortifications and ended Great Britain's control of the Hudson River. Follow the interpretive trail that tells the story of the battle, see the oldest lighthouse on the Hudson River, and enjoy breathtaking views from the promontory.

► *Grounds open year-round; the museum is open mid-April through October; call for details.*

44 Battlefield Road,  
Stony Point, NY 10980  
(845) 786-2521   
[www.palisparkscservancy.org](http://www.palisparkscservancy.org)



### Old Croton Aqueduct 34

Explore the scenic 26-mile-long trail that runs along the top of the Old Croton Aqueduct. Interpretive panels at the park headquarters in Dobbs Ferry describe how this incredible 19<sup>th</sup>-century engineering marvel carried much-needed fresh water from the Croton Reservoir to New York City. Walking,



running, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are popular trail pastimes.

► *Open year-round; call for information.*

Park Headquarters, 15 Walnut Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522   
(914) 693-5259 • [www.aqueduct.org](http://www.aqueduct.org)

### Philipse Manor Hall 35

Tour the elegant home of the wealthy Philipse family, owners of a vast estate established by royal patent in 1693. By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Frederick Philipse III and his family enjoyed a lavish lifestyle in their Georgian style mansion. However, the Revolutionary War forced these staunch Loyalists to flee New York for England. The house also served as Yonkers' village hall (1868–1872) and the first city hall (1872–1909).



► *Open year-round; call for information.*


29 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701   
(914) 965-4027 • <http://philipsemanorfriends.blogspot.com>





## Planting Fields Arboretum & Coe Hall House Museum 36

Savor the beauty of this magnificent estate. Created during the early 1900s, the property boasts extensive grounds, rare trees, splendid gardens, greenhouses filled with wonderful plants, and a complex of distinguished buildings. Begin your tour at the visitor center in the Hay Barn and be sure to see Coe Hall, the estate's impressive Tudor Revival style mansion. Engaging programs and special events are held throughout the year.

Planting Fields Road,  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771 

(516) 922-9200 or (516) 922-8678  
[www.plantingfields.org](http://www.plantingfields.org)

► *The arboretum is open daily except Christmas; tours of Coe Hall are offered April through September; call for details.*

## Caumsett 37

Delight in the splendor of the magnificent early 20<sup>th</sup>-century country estate of Marshall Field III, grandson of the department store magnate. With its expansive grounds, impressive estate buildings, diverse natural areas, and breathtaking scenery, the property offers an array of recreational pursuits, including hiking, biking, fishing, and horseback riding.

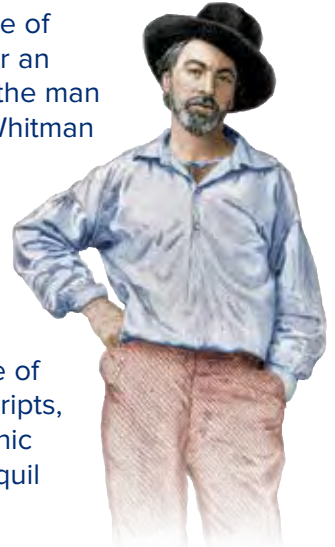


► *Open year-round from sunrise to sunset; call for information.*

25 Lloyd Harbor Road, Lloyd Neck, NY 11743  
(631) 423-1770 • [www.caumsettfoundation.org](http://www.caumsettfoundation.org)

## Walt Whitman Birthplace 38

Visit the birthplace of one of America's great poets for an intimate perspective on the man and his work. Tour the Whitman family's rare-surviving, early 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse, which has been carefully restored. Spend time in the interpretive center and discover a treasure trove of portraits, letters, manuscripts, and artifacts. Bring a picnic and enjoy the site's tranquil setting. Courtesy Library of Congress.



► *Operated by the nonprofit Walt Whitman Birthplace Association, the site is open year-round; days and hours vary; call for information.*

246 Old Walt Whitman Road, Huntington Station, NY 11746   
(631) 427-5240 • [www.waltwhitman.org](http://www.waltwhitman.org)



## Division for Historic Preservation

The NYS Division for Historic Preservation provides a wide range of services and programs that help communities achieve the social, economic, and environmental benefits associated with historic preservation as well as technical support and museum services to New York's state parks and state historic sites.

PO Box 189 • Peebles Island • Waterford, NY 12188  
(518) 237-8643



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