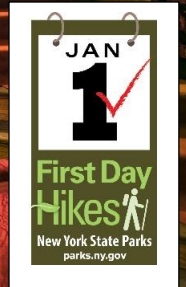


DECEMBER 2024



parks.ny.gov

A Gilded Age Christmas
Staatsburgh State Historic Site
photo by Karl Rabe



TACONIC REGION; COLUMBIA, DUTCHESS, PUTNAM AND WESTCHESTER COUNTIES



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

<p>STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE</p> <p><i>A Gilded Age Christmas</i></p> <p>November 29 – December 30</p>	<p>TACONIC STATE PARK</p> <p><i>Moments with Santa</i> <i>(pet-friendly)</i></p> <p><i>Copake Falls Location</i></p> <p>Friday, December 13 5-7:00 PM</p>	<p>OLANA STATE HISTORIC SITE</p> <p><i>Winter Solstice Celebration</i></p> <p>Saturday, December 21 1-5:00 PM</p>
<p>ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE</p> <p><i>Parks Centennial Exhibit Reception</i></p> <p>Sunday, December 8 1-3:00PM</p>	<p>OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT</p> <p><i>Lenoir Nature Preserve to Untermeyer Gardens Walk</i></p> <p>Sunday, December 15 10 AM</p>	<p>WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON</p> <p><i>Holiday Celebration with Santa</i></p> <p>Sunday, December 1 11AM-2PM</p>

DUTCHESS COUNTY

STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE // 845.889.8851

NATURE

ARTS

FAMILY

HERITAGE



Photo by Karl Rabe

A Gilded Age Christmas

November 29 – December 30

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday;
see Bookeo link below for times and reservations.

Open every day December 26 – 30

Closed December 24, 25 and 31

Enjoy Staatsburgh's beautiful interiors, with their original furniture, art and décor, lavishly decorated for the holiday season. Guests can reserve a timed entry to stroll through the mansion's main floor at their own pace and enjoy the festive decorations. Docents will be stationed throughout the house to answer questions and provide direction. Children on tour can participate in a scavenger hunt and look for decorated mouse houses. The site's shop—filled with wonderful gift items—is available for holiday shopping. Reservations required.

No advance ticket purchase required, but reservations for entry necessary. Special programs, evening hours, and program costs: see <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS> for more information and to reserve!

December 1, 8, 15, 22: 1pm – 2:30pm



The Holiday Whodunit

Children ages 6 to 11 become detectives to solve a history mystery. Costumed interpreters throughout the house provide clues to help the detectives discover “whodunit.” Kids can enter their solution in a drawing for a prize: a gift certificate to Oblong Books & Music.

Timed-entry reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Cost: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/students, children 12 & under are free.



December 13, 14, 20, 21: 6pm – 8pm

Evening Hours at the Mansion

Experience Staatsburgh State Historic Site at night during special evening hours this holiday season.

Guests can reserve a timed-entry spot to stroll through the mansion at their own pace and enjoy live music among the festive decorations. Children can enjoy a scavenger hunt and child-focused decorations. Costumed docents will be stationed throughout the house to answer questions and provide direction. Staatsburgh's popular museum shop will be open for shopping. *Karl Rabe photo.* **Reservations required:** <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Cost: \$ 12/adults, \$ 10/seniors & students, \$2 children ages 3 to 12.



December 27, 28, 29: 10am – 11:30am

Make a Mouse House: kids craft workshop

Children ages 7 – 12 take a brief tour of the mansion to locate mouse houses tucked into different rooms, then create their own mouse house to take home. Materials provided.

Reservations required: <https://MouseHouse.Eventbrite.com/>

Cost: \$10/child or \$25 for family of 3 children



THE STAATSBURGH MUSEUM SHOP offers a wonderful selection of toys, jewelry, gift items and books, and will be open during touring hours and the site's four evening events. To see available entry times for tours, please visit www.Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS



SAVE THE DATE!

STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE & MILLS STATE PARK

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 at 11:00AM

Join park staff for a hike on the woodland trail within Mills State Park (the historic grounds of Staatsburgh State Historic Site). The hike will launch from near the mansion and include a visit to a small, little-known cemetery in the woods. The hike will return near the mansion for optional cocoa, courtesy of the Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh.

Free, minimum age 12, leashed pets welcome, 1.2 miles moderate hike
To register (required), please go to www.Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS



Explore Staatsburgh's beautiful grounds along the Hudson River self-guided walking tour

BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST // 845.831.1001

ARTS

FAMILY

HERITAGE

NATURE



Book your 2025 Tour to Bannerman Island and Castle in the Hudson River Highlands!

The Estuary Steward Tour Boat leaves the Beacon Waterfront Dock, directly across from the Beacon Metro-North Train Station at 2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon, NY May - October 2025. Enjoy a guided, or self-guided tour of the island. Visit the historic Bannerman Castle ruins and gardens and explore the original Bannerman residence, now a museum. For a schedule of events and to purchase tickets or gift certificates, please visit: <https://bannermancastle.org/tours-events/bannerman-island-tour/>

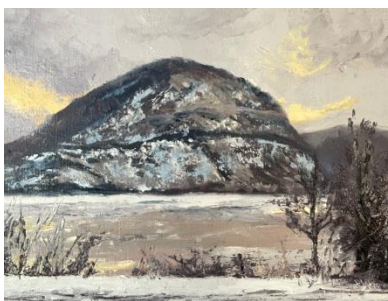


December BCT Exhibitions at Bannerman Island Gallery

150 Main Street, Beacon, NY

Main Gallery: Bannerman Castle Trust's (BCT) 30th Anniversary Exhibition

Featuring artwork, photographs and artifacts from Bannerman Island and the Bannerman Family Collection including Frank Bannerman VI's restored Victorian Desk, featured in his Bannerman catalogues. Art work by contemporary artists and other BCT merchandise is for sale to benefit Bannerman Island. This is an incredible show focusing on the history of Bannerman's Island and the BCT's development since 1994.



West Wall Exhibition:

Virginia Donovan (Paintings) and Mary Ann Glass (Photo- Mixed Media).

Ongoing show features Hudson Valley Paintings & Photography. Art sale proceeds help support preservation projects on Bannerman's Island. Gallery Hours: Saturdays & Sundays, Noon – 5:00pm, weekdays by chance & appointment. Contact: bannermangallery150@aol.com or call 845-831-1001. www.bannermancastle.org

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON STATE HISTORIC PARK // 845.834.2867

NATURE

HERITAGE



Holiday Celebration With Santa

Sunday, December 1 – 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Ulster Welcome Center, Highland

Join us at the Ulster Welcome Center Plaza in Highland on Sunday, December 1 to kick off the holiday season with Jolly Ol' Saint Nick on the World's Longest Elevated Pedestrian Bridge from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

This event is free to attend and no RSVP is required. See the cuddly Brays of Sunshine miniature donkeys, enjoy hot chocolate, and bring the family to take your own festive photos with Santa!



Flag Changing Ceremony

Sunday, December 15, 12-12:30 p.m.

Center Overlook, Walkway Over the Hudson

The American Legion Post 739 organize and present monthly Flag Changing Ceremonies on the Walkway to honor our region's veterans and their service

to our country. These events, organized and presented by these local veterans' organizations, are open to all who wish to attend.

SAVE THE DATE!



WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON STATE HISTORIC PARK

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 at 11:00AM- 2:00PM

Please join us for our 14th Annual First Day Hike. Come see the amazing views of the Hudson Valley from 212 feet above the Hudson River. Two hike distances offered – a short one to the flagpole and a longer one on a modified 360 loop trail. This hike (modified Walkway Loop) will be approximately 3.0 miles. Participants will travel along the Walkway, down the elevator, along the Hudson River, over the Mid-Hudson Bridge and back to the park via Haviland Road. Free, leashed pets welcomed, no registration required, and fun for all ages.

For more information, please contact 845-834-2867

**Poetry
in the Parks**

Ada Limón, U.S. Poet Laureate, at Walkway Over the Hudson (West)

Patricia Spears Jones, NY Poet Laureate, at Walkway Over the Hudson (East).

Poetry in the Parks is a public art initiative that integrates poems in public parks and historic sites.

Poems and poets reflect the diversity of park visitors and celebrate the beauty of nature found in these public places, encouraging exploration and discovery.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT // 914.693.5259

HERITAGE

NATURE



December 1, Sunday at 11 am – Jerome Park Reservoir Park Walk. Free, easy, 2 ½ -mile, 2-hour walk around the Jerome Park Reservoir, which is part of the New Croton Aqueduct system, that can supply 10-30 percent of NYC's water supply. See the beauty of this man-made reservoir, the only one in the Bronx. Learn about the incredible history of the reservoir, the Old Croton

Aqueduct, the New Croton Aqueduct and the surrounding area. The walk starts and ends at Paul Avenue and Bedford Park Blvd. Street parking is available, or take the W4 bus, W20 bus, # 4 train or D train to Bedford Park Blvd. Walk may be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Required: pre-registration: <https://aqueduct.org/events/jerome-park-reservoir-walk>.



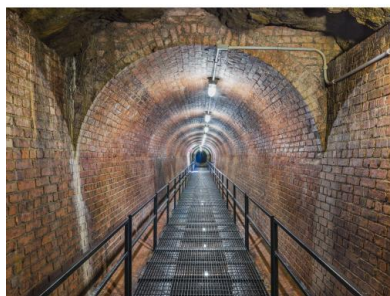
Weir Tour. December 7, Saturday at 10 am Free, easy, 2-hour tour. Meet at the front (upper level/south side) of the Joseph Caputo Center, which is located at 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562, just west of Rte. 9/Highland Ave. at the junction of Croton Ave., Rte. 133 (from Metro-North Ossining Train Station by taxi or 15-minute uphill walk - parking lots nearby). After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842 brick water tunnel and learn its history. Walk may be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Required: pre-registration: <https://aqueduct.org/events/weir-tour-81>



December 8, Sunday at 10 am – Croton Dam Hike. Enjoy a free, easy, 2 miles/hours (total) loop hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam. Meet near the restrooms at the rear (south end) of the parking lot at Croton Gorge Park, Rte. 129, Cortlandt, NY. 10567, GPS Coordinates: 41.22603, -73.85770. The leader of the hike will discuss the history and construction of the Old Croton Aqueduct and the features of the Croton Dam, the trailhead of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail. The Aqueduct was completed in 1842 to supply fresh water to a thirsty New York City. (From Metro-North Hudson Line Croton-Harmon Train Station: 15-minute taxi.) Walk may be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Required: pre-registration: <https://aqueduct.org/events/croton-dam-hike-9>.



December 15, Sunday at 10 am – Lenoir Nature Preserve to Untermyer Gardens Walk. Free, easy, 3 mile/hour walk. Meet at the Lenoir Nature Preserve at 19 Dudley Street in Yonkers, off of Broadway (parking available). Explore the Nature Preserve before heading south from the Preserve for one mile along the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail to Untermyer Gardens. Learn the history of the Old Croton Aqueduct along the way. Tour the exquisitely restored Untermyer Gardens, once among the most famous gardens in the world. View its multi-cultural holiday decorations. Return to the Lenoir Nature Preserve: <https://aqueduct.org/events/lenoir-nature-preserve-untermyer-gardens-4>.



December 21, Saturday at 10 am –Weir Tour. Free, easy, 2-hour tour. Meet at the front (upper level/south side) of the Joseph Caputo Center, which is located at 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562, just west of Rte. 9/Highland Ave. at the junction of Croton Ave., Rte. 133 (from Metro-North Ossining Train Station by taxi or 15-minute uphill walk - parking lots nearby). After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842 brick water tunnel and learn its history. Walk may be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Required: pre-registration: <https://aqueduct.org/events/weir-tour-82>.



SAVE THE DATE!

January 1, Wednesday at 1 pm – First Day of the Year Croton Dam Hike. Start the year on the right foot! Enjoy a free, easy, 2 miles/2 hours (total) loop hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam. Meet near the restrooms at the rear (south end) of the parking lot at Croton Gorge Park, Rte. 129, Cortlandt, NY. 10567, GPS Coordinates: 41°13' 20.46" N -73°51'12.59" W. The leader of the hike will discuss the history and construction of the Old Croton Aqueduct and the features of the Croton Dam, the trailhead of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail. The Aqueduct was completed in 1842 to supply fresh water to a thirsty New York City. (From Metro-North Hudson Line Croton-Harmon Train Station: 15-minute taxi.)

Required: pre-registration: <https://aqueduct.org/events/first-day-year-croton-dam-hike-0>

JAY HERITAGE CENTER // 914.698.9275

210 Boston Post Rd, Rye, NY 10580

FAMILY

NATURE

HERITAGE



Jams at Jay Winter A Cappella Concert

Sunday, December 8 at 3pm

Please join us for a final celebration of our season at our annual a cappella concert. We look forward to reflecting on our full year of programming while enjoying beautiful music from local singing groups. Please visit www.jayheritagecenter.org for more information. All ages welcome!

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT STATE PARK // 914-245-4434

FAMILY

NATURE



SAVE THE DATE!

FDR STATE PARK

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 10:00 AM

Ramble through FDR State Park with your guide Terence Ducey for a fun and fact-filled First Day Hike at 10am. Easy 2-mile hike, no pre-registration, leashed pets only! Dress in warm layers with hats and gloves. Meet up in North end of pool parking lot. Free of charge.

**Poetry
in the Parks**

Andrea Cohen at FDR State Park.
Poetry in the Parks is a public art initiative that integrates poems in public parks and historic sites. Poems and poets reflect the diversity of park visitors and celebrate the beauty of nature found in these public places, encouraging exploration and discovery.

ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE // 914.631.1470

ARTS

NATURE

Rockefeller is a designated State Park Preserve. A Park Preserve is a protected area of importance for flora, fauna, or features of geological or other special interest, which is reserved and managed for conservation purposes. We are recognized as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society and have a diverse population of animal residents. We are also part of the Old Growth Forest Network and are home to a number of rare and protected plants. We welcome passive recreation such as walking, jogging, photography or wildlife viewing but please leave the picnic and park games at home. Thank you!



Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop

December 1 from 12 – 2 pm

Join us for a beginner-friendly wreath-making workshop led by florist and landscape designer, Tania Dainson. We'll supply a variety of natural elements both purchased and collected locally. Feel free to bring some of your favorite decorations or ribbons from home (no glass please). Gardening gloves are advised as some materials will be rough or sharp. Gloves will be provided if needed. No pets please. Max: 10 people.

Cost: \$8. Parking: \$6 per vehicle. RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Sound Healing

TBD from 4 – 5 pm [or] 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Tickets available November 26 at 10 am

Join Dayna Gralla for a therapeutic and restorative sound healing experience. Envelop yourself in the sounds of crystal singing bowls, chimes, and a variety of soothing instruments as you allow your mind to drift from an active state to a relaxed and meditative state. Max: 20 per session. Ages 10+.

Cost: \$8. Parking: \$6 per vehicle until 4:30 pm.

Photo courtesy of Kim Fendrich. RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Stargazing in the Preserve

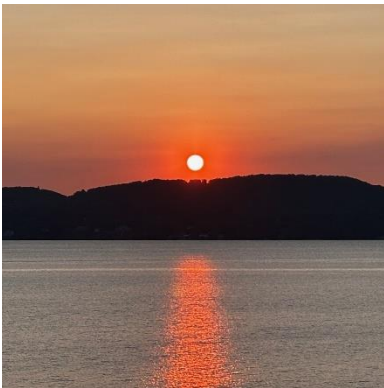
December 4 from 6 – 7:30 pm

Tickets available on November 26 at 10 am

Peer into the cosmos with Vinny Coulehan of the Rockland Astronomy Club. View the night sky through a telescope and observe Jupiter, Saturn, Venus and more!

Max: 20 people. Cost: \$4.

Photo courtesy of Vinny Coulehan. RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Sunset Hike at Rockwood

December 5 from 3:15 – 4:45 pm

Join Melissa for a 2-mile hike and witness the spectacular view of the sun setting over the Hudson and the Tappan Zee Bridge. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Max: 40 people. Cost: FREE, registration required.

Photo courtesy of Guardian Melissa. RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Hike with Mike: Lakeside to Hilltop

December 7 from 9 – 11:30 am

Enjoy a 4-mile hike offering a variety of Swan Lake vistas from both lakeside trails and the surrounding hillsides. Leashed dogs are welcome. Max: 30 people.

Cost: FREE, registration required. Parking: \$6 per vehicle.

Photo courtesy of Jessika Creedon. RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



A Christmas Carol

December 7 time TBD

Ring in the holiday season with a cup of hot chocolate and the classic tale of *A Christmas Carol* told by professional storyteller, David Neilsen. No pets please.

Max: 30 people. Appropriate for all ages.

Cost: FREE, registration required. Parking: \$6 per vehicle.

RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Photo courtesy of Kim Fendrich.

Parks Centennial Exhibit Reception

Date and time TBD

Join us in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the NYS Parks system! After reviewing hundreds of photos taken by park patrons over the years, we have selected 30 photographs to display in the gallery to commemorate this special occasion. Come enjoy refreshments during this community-based event as you admire the selected photography and if you feel so inclined, purchase prints to support the Preserve!

Cost: Free, registration required. Parking: \$6 per vehicle.



Global Trekking Tales & Tips

December 9 from 6 – 7 pm

In this virtual presentation, avid hiker and photographer Gary Goldenberg will share stories of his treks and salient advice gleaned over years of adventuring, with a focus on trekking the Himalaya. Learn about the rich culture in this region and get a taste of what the Himalayan landscape is like, i.e. weather, altitude, trail conditions, and more. If you've considered trekking or backpacking but don't know where to start, this is a great opportunity to learn. Gary will advise on the best time of year to visit, how to choose a guide, what gear to bring, and how to prepare yourself for such a journey.

Cost: FREE. **Registered participants will receive a link to join.**

Photo courtesy of Gary Goldenberg. RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Postural Therapy: Living Comfortably

December 10 from 9 – 10 am

Start your day with movement! Get energized in this virtual session with postural therapist, Joey Zimet, and learn exercises to improve posture and function. The class will incorporate unique standing, sitting, and floor exercises that are gentle and easily adapted to fit your needs. These methods are well-studied and based upon neuroscience, biomechanics, the myofascial system, and other variables. Treat yourself to some maintenance and self-care! **Registered participants will receive a link to join.** Cost: FREE. RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Full Moon Hike: "Cold Moon"

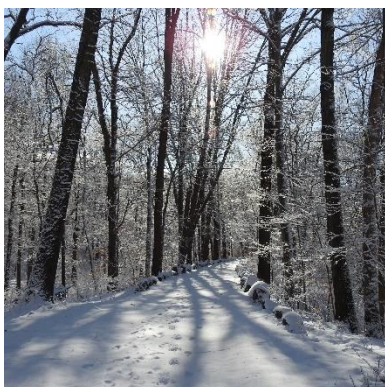
December 15 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Tickets available November 26 at 10 am

Experience the Preserve after dark! Join Shayla, Hailey, and Dave for a 4-mile hike on carriage roads lit by moonlight. We walk at a brisk pace and there will be hills; some hiking experience is recommended. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Max: 40 people. Cost: \$4.

Photo courtesy of Kim Fendrich. RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Forest Bathing: Solstice Celebration

December 21 from 10 am – 12:30 pm

Enjoy a mindful stroll in the woods and connect with nature through sensory exploration inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku, "forest bathing" and finish with herbal tea as you take a moment to reflect. Led by Mindful Outdoor Guide and certified Forest Therapist, Cindy Olsen, this experience will be an opportunity to celebrate the natural world in honor of the winter solstice. The walk is about 1 mile round trip. Max: 20 people. Ages 18+. Cost: \$4. Parking: \$6 per vehicle. Photo courtesy of RangerSu.

RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events



Birdwatching with the Saw Mill River Audubon Society

December 21 and 23 from 8 – 10 am

Get to know our feathered residents! Join an expert from the Saw Mill River Audubon Society on a bird walk around the Preserve. Great for all levels of birding experience, beginners welcome! Binocular loans available upon request. Ages 8+. Max: 25 people. Cost: FREE. Parking: \$6 per vehicle. NYS Residents over 62 park for free on weekdays. *Photo courtesy of Bill Golden.*

Please register at: sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-trips/



ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00AM

Start your New Year with an invigorating 1.5 mile walk along the Hudson River across the beautiful landscape of Rockwood Hall. The hike is guided by Larry Trachtenberg of the Sawmill River Audubon Society, We will keep an eye out for winter birds including both bald eagles and the red tailed hawks often seen in this part of the Preserve. Dress warmly since it is always colder by the Hudson and bring binoculars if you have them. Suitable for ages 6+. No pets please. This hike

is at Rockwood Hall, DO NOT go the main Preserve entrance. If heavy rain/ice/snow or road closures occur, the walk will be cancelled. You will be notified by email the day before. Cost: Free, registration required. Tickets will be available mid-December.

RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events

PHILIPSE MANOR HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE // 914.965.4027

HERITAGE

FAMILY

ARTS



Looking for holiday gifts? Check out the Philipse Manor Hall gift shop, located at the main entrance to the museum and open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Our shop carries unique items with a historical flair in a range of affordable prices. Build a gift set for the tea connoisseur or stationery enthusiast, get stocking stuffers, or load up on hard-to-find books for your favorite history buff or bibliophile. Plus, don't miss out on our selection of unique gifts for kids, including books, musical instruments, games, finger

puppets, and more. All proceeds support educational programs at Philipse Manor Hall.



Saturday, December 7, 2024

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site | Free!

Also known as Sinterklaas, this holiday is based on the Catholic feast day of Turkish bishop St. Nicholas of Myrna, which in the 17th and 18th centuries became a popular Dutch holiday. Join us for a visit from St. Nicholas himself, historical games, ornament crafts, gingerbread decorating, live music, and more!

This program is free and open to the public, sponsored by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall. Registration is not required. Learn more at www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events.



Saturday, December 21, 2024

Family Movie: A Muppet Christmas Carol

12:00 PM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site | Free!

Join us for one of the most accurate-to-the-book films of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This family-friendly movie is one of our favorites and has Hudson Valley connections! Registration is recommended, but not required. To register, call 914-965-4027 or email philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov. Refreshments provided by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall.



Saturday, December 21, 2024

Historical Games

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site

Free!

Stay after the movie for historical games! How did people entertain themselves over the long winter months before the internet, TV, radio, or even electricity? Learn the history behind some of Colonial America's favorite

tabletop games, including Mancala, Shut the Box, Nine Man's Morris, Captain's Mistress, Skittles, Dominoes, Cup & Ball, Yo-Yo, Jacob's Ladder, and more. For children and adults. Free! No registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

TACONIC STATE PARK // 518.329.3993

NATURE

FAMILY



Winter S'more Fun

Sunday, December 8, 2024 // 11:00am-4:00pm

Copake Falls Location

Join us as part of the Copake Falls *Winter Walk in the Wilderness* near our park office for a moment around the fire for a tasty treat. We will have s'more charcuterie available while supplies last. Toast your marshmallow and chat with our staff about what is happening in our local Winter Wilderness.

Event is free of charge. Please note: Supplies will be first come, first serve.



Moments with Santa (pet-friendly)

Friday, December 13, 2024 // 5:00pm-7:00pm

Copake Falls Location

Santa is making a special visit to Taconic State Park at Copake Falls to get some photos taken with kids and pets. This is a pet-friendly event for well-mannered, behaved, and leashed pets who love the holidays and SANTA!

Please note: Event is free, but we will be taking donations for the local Humane Society & Everlasting Hope Animal Rescue. Pet toys, treats, kitten food, cat food, puppy & dog food.



SAVE THE DATE!

TACONIC STATE PARK – COPAKE FALLS

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 1:00PM

Ring in the New Year and join us for a fun-guided, moderate 4-mile, round trip hike out to Bash Bish Falls, from the Copake Falls Park Office. An alternative easy hike will be available for those that want on the day of. Updates will go out on social media. A bonfire and hot chocolate will be served on return to park office. Event is for all ages, leashed and well-behaved dogs welcome.

Event is rain, snow or shine! Consider the weather and potential trail conditions when choosing footwear. Lace up hiking boots are necessary with additional ice spikes or cleats in certain conditions. Stay tuned to our social media for trail condition updates. Meet up at Park Office 253 Rt. 344, Copake Falls, NY 12517.

Advance registration encouraged. Please call 518-329-3993 for inquiries and to register.



CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE // 518.537.4240

NATURE

ART

FAMILY

HERITAGE

Ongoing: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Closed Christmas Day and New Years Day.

On the hour, 11:00am through 4:00pm

Mansion Tours

Take a guided tour of the historic Clermont Mansion! Explore the legacies of the illustrious Livingston family, who called the river-side mansion home for seven generations, and the untold histories of the enslaved and paid staff whose labor made life on the estate possible. View “The Matriarch of Clermont: Margaret Beekman Livingston at 300,” one of two special exhibits on display, in our rotating gallery space on your guided tour. This December, the mansion will be decorated with representations of the holiday traditions of both the Livingston family and the people who worked for them. A troupe of “Merry Monsters,” representing the winter holiday traditions of the people who worked at Clermont in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, will be on view through the new year.

Dive further into the histories of the people of Clermont in our visitor center with our orientation exhibit, “Spero Meliora: Life in The Land of Livingston,” and our special exhibition, “Redefining the Family: The Livingstons and the Institution of Slavery.” After your guided tour, check out our Poetry in the Parks installation on the outer wall of the visitor center, take a stroll through our gardens, go on a leisurely hike on our trails, or take in the beautiful river views.

Please note: Tour tickets for the mansion must be purchased at the visitor center.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and children under 12 are free.



Saturday, December 7, 11 am-1 pm

Merry Monster Madness! A Holiday Scavenger Hunt for Kids Mansion

Enjoy a scavenger hunt through the mansion while learning about the holiday traditions of the people who worked for the Livingstons, from as far away as Japan to as close as Germantown. The “Merry Monsters,” lovingly depicted by local artists, showcase the holiday and cultural beliefs of real people who worked at Clermont in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This will be a great adventure for families with curious kids who love to read or parents who cherish the opportunity to read with their children. End your visit with a snack and a monster mini wreath class inside our historic kitchen.

Please note: Space is limited. **This event is free of charge**, but visitors must register in advance at [bookeo.com/Clermont](https://www.bookeo.com/Clermont)



Saturday, December 14, 2024, 2 pm
'Tis the Season: Holiday Story Hour at Clermont
Visitor Center

Celebrate the December holidays at Clermont with a story hour! Come join the holiday fun with stories about celebration, traditions, and family. Read “A Visit from St. Nicholas” written by Henry Livingston (better known as “The Night Before Christmas,”) and make a festive jingle bracelet.

Please note: This is a children’s program. All children must be accompanied by adults, all adults must be accompanied by a child. **This event is free of charge**, but visitors must register in advance at bookeo.com/Clermont



Saturday, December 21, 2024, 11 am – 4 pm
Holiday Open House
Mansion

Come celebrate the holiday season at Clermont! Explore the mansion at your own pace from 11 am – 4 pm. Take in the rooms, beautifully decorated for the holidays, and listen to live traditional music performed by Tamarack. Our knowledgeable guides, dressed in period costume, will be available throughout the house to answer any questions about the mansion, the Livingston family, or the people who lived and worked on the estate. Enjoy warm cider in the visitor center while you view our special exhibits “Spero Meliora: Life in The Land of Livingston” and “Redefining The Family: The Livingstons and the Institution of Slavery.”

Please note: **This event is free of charge**, but visitors must register in advance at bookeo.com/Clermont

Poetry
in the Parks

Ishion Hutchinson at Clermont State Historic Site.

Poetry in the Parks is a public art initiative that integrates poems in public parks and historic sites. Poems and poets reflect the diversity of park visitors and celebrate the beauty of nature found in these public places, encouraging exploration and discovery.

▶

OLANA STATE HISTORIC SITE // 518.751.0344

HERITAGE

ARTS

FAMILY

NATURE



ONGOING at OLANA

Olana Indoor + Outdoor Tours:
Olana State Historic Site’s 250-acre landscape is free and open to all, every day from 8:00 AM to sunset.

December Tour Hours:
 Regular tour hours: Thursday – Sunday
 11:00 AM – 3:15 PM

The Frederic Church Center for Art and Landscape
 Hours: Thursday-Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The Olana Museum Shop is open:
 Thursday – Sunday: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Image by: Peter Aaron/ OTTO



Olana Eye Skycam:

Virtual visitors can experience the iconic view from Olana's Studio Tower at any time and from around the world at OLANA.org/OLANAEYE. Use the hashtag #OLANAEYE on social media to share your amazing screen captures. Follow us @OlanaFredericChurch.



Virtual Tours:

Learn about Frederic Church's Olana and explore the 250-acre landscape from the comfort of your own home. Virtual tours are available on the Olana website at <https://www.olana.org/virtual-olana/>



Special Exhibition

Olana State Historic Site

November 24, 2024 – March 30, 2025

Exhibition organized by The Olana Partnership

Frederic Church carefully studied the world around him, incorporating those observations into his paintings, guiding the viewer's eye through his

composed landscapes, and encouraging them to take *A Closer Look*. This winter, The Olana Partnership invites you to discover works of art through close looking, observation, and conversation. Unfolding over four months and featuring a series of four themed artwork installations, participants in *A Closer Look* will be encouraged to slow down, open their minds to discover Frederic Church's art in new ways, and spend time in close dialogue with select artworks from the Olana collection.

This winter, heighten your powers of observation and join a series of special 'close looking' conversations.

During 45-minute guided dialogues, learn more about two to three works of art **from Olana's collection** through visual analysis, personal reflection, and historical information. Discover how slowing down and focusing attention can foster deep connections with works of art, artists, and ourselves.

New works of art will be featured each month; no prior knowledge of art is required. Visit

OLANA.org/acloserlook for the full schedule. Second-floor galleries require several flights of stairs and are not ADA accessible. Seating will be provided.



K-12 Field Trips and Virtual Tours – Accepting Reservations!

Explore Frederic Church's masterwork, Olana, through a field trip or virtual tour in any season! During onsite field trips and virtual tours, students learn more about the art, culture, and history of Olana and the Hudson River Valley through place-based learning activities and lessons.

For grades PreK-12 and education groups; \$5-\$15 per student | Learn more by visiting <https://www.olana.org/tour-category/school/>



Warm Up With an OLANA Webinar

Virtual offering – visit olana.org/webinars

As winter approaches, get cozy and learn more about Olana and its history from home with our range of over 50 webinars highlighting the diverse stories connected to Frederic Church, his family, and creation, Olana. Topics range from the popularity of coffee in the 19th century to presentations on Church's unique artist friends and colleagues like Marianne North and Edmonia Lewis to conversations with contemporary artists like Jean Shin and Mark Igloliorte. Visit olana.org/webinars to learn more.



Members Shop & Sip

Saturday, December 14, 2:00-4:00 PM

Olana members are invited to the Museum Shop from 2:00-4:00 PM to receive a 20% discount on unique clothes, jewelry, and more! These deals will pair perfectly with a complimentary bubbly beverage and a beautiful Olana sunset. Just in time for the holidays! Free for members.



OLANA Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 21, 1:00-5:00 PM

Come celebrate the changing of the seasons during this special community day from 1:00-5:00pm on Saturday December 21st. Join us at Olana for a series of free opportunities to take in the winter sky and experience the Hudson Valley's beautiful winter landscape!

Did you know Frederic Church was a star gazer, often including cosmic elements in his landscape paintings? Welcome the winter season by learning more about the way celestial bodies influenced Church. Join sun-gazing with Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association; get a personal astrology reading with Constellation Catskill; and participate in fun sky-centric activities and games.

Other events throughout the day include:

- Free access to Olana's historic interiors.
- Refreshments for purchase provided by Citiot (Catskill) and others.
- Free activities and games led by Olana educators and partners.
- Live set with DJ Jared.
- Visit with everyone's favorite miniature donkey, Hank, back by popular demand!

Sun Gazing

View the sun directly through specially equipped solar telescopes from 1:00 PM until sunset (around 4:00 PM). Amateur astronomers from the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association will help point out sunspots and other solar features using specially designed filters. Please DO NOT attempt to view the sun without a provided specially-fitted telescope as it can cause permanent eye damage or total blindness.

Astrology Readings

Derek James Smith of Constellation in Catskill will share a presentation and discussion around the astrology of Frederic Church and Olana to kick off the afternoon at 1:00 PM. This introduction will study Church's natal chart to provide an introduction to astrology's possibilities for aficionados and beginners alike. From 2:00-5:00 PM, Derek will offer interactive outdoor astrological readings for those curious to learn more about the craft.



SAVE THE DATE!

**First Day Hike with the "Dogs of Olana"
Wednesday, January 1, 10:00-11:00am**

HIKE ONE

Celebrate the New Year with expansive views and your best friend! Channel 19th century artist Frederic Church's taste for exploration during a special pup-friendly hike of the winter landscape at Olana State Historic Site. Explore Olana's 250-acres with your furry friend in tow. Please note, all dogs must be kept on a leash during their time at Olana and the site is a carry-in, carry-out facility.

Begins at the Wagon House Education Center at the historic farm complex at the bottom of the site and covers about 1 mile with an uphill portion; please wear weather-appropriate apparel and comfortable footwear. Check out other #DogsofOlana on our Instagram at @OlanaFredericChurch. Hot beverages (coffee, tea, and hot chocolate) and sketching materials will be provided in the Wagon House Education Center as part of our First Day Hike celebration. FREE, registration required. For more information, please contact education@olana.org or call (518) 751-6938.

Continued....



SAVE THE DATE!

First Day Hike in the Afternoon

HIKE TWO

Wednesday, January 1, 1:00-2:00pm

Celebrate the New Year by exploring expansive views at Olana State Historic Site! Channel 19th century artist Frederic Church’s taste for exploration during this special hike of the winter landscape and explore Olana’s 250-acres. Hot beverages (coffee, tea, and hot chocolate) and sketching materials will be provided in the Wagon House Education Center as part of our First Day Hike celebration.

Begins at the Wagon House Education Center at the historic farm complex at the bottom of the site and covers about 1 mile with an uphill portion; please wear weather-appropriate apparel and comfortable footwear.

FREE, registration required. For more information, please contact education@olana.org or call (518) 751-6938.

LAKE TAGHKANIC STATE PARK // 518.851.3631 **NATURE** **FAMILY**



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association Monthly Star Party

Fri., December 27 @4:00 PM

The Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association hosts a monthly stargazing party in the West Beach parking lot. Bring your own telescopes and binoculars or use those provided by our members. You will be asked to provide your license plate number and make/model car, so park management and police have a record of who will be in park after hours. More info at <https://www.meetup.com/mhastro/events/275468188/>

Registration: RSVP is required at least one day beforehand.

Robert Hass at Lake Taghkanic State Park.
Poetry in the Parks is a public art initiative that integrates poems in public parks and historic sites. Poems and poets reflect the diversity of park visitors and celebrate the beauty of nature found in these public places, encouraging exploration and discovery.

PUTNAM COUNTY

LITTLE STONY POINT CITIZENS ASSOCIATION **FAMILY** **NATURE** **ARTS**
 3011 Route 9D Cold Spring, NY 10516 Connect with us: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

LITTLE STONY POINT AT HUDSON HIGHLANDS

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 11:00AM – 2:00PM

Ring in the New Year with beautiful scenery and fresh air of the Hudson Highlands down at the Hudson River’s shoreline!! Join us on New Year’s Day starting at 11 a.m. for free hot cocoa, coffee, snacks, music, fireside warmth, short naturalist-led hikes around Little Stony Point (about 1 mile), or a hike to nearby historic Cornish Estate (3 miles round-trip). **Little Stony Point Volunteer Center at 3011 NY-9D, Cold Spring, NY 10516**
LSPCA - www.littlestonypoint.org

NYS Parks - <https://parks.ny.gov/events/first-day-hikes.aspx>

Hikes commence at 11:30 am // No fee event //Free snacks, coffee & hot cocoa
 Leashed pets allowed //Easy to moderate terrain //All ages welcome
 Dress warmly and wear proper trail footwear

Featured Trail of the Month

Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve: Arden Point Trail



96 Lower Station Rd, Philipstown, NY 10524

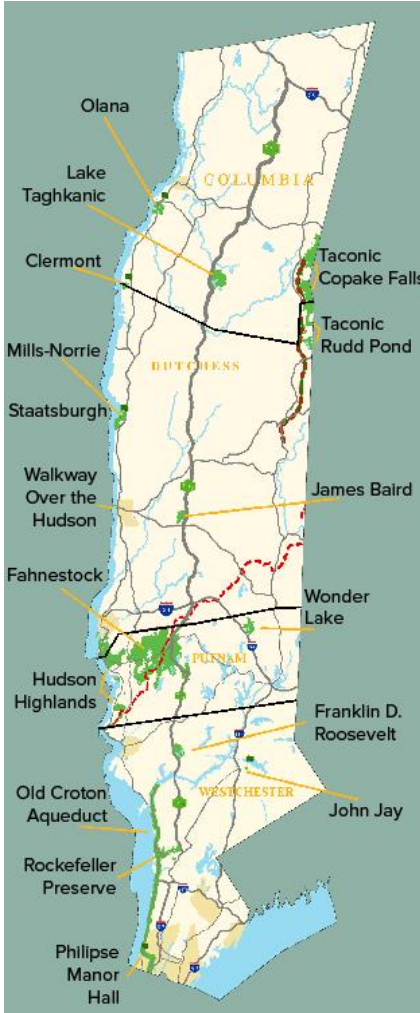
Trail Map: [HudsonHighlandsTrailMapSouth.pdf](#)

Distance: 1.47 miles // Difficulty Rating: Easy

In the Southern section of Hudson Highlands, Arden Point is located just a few steps from the Garrison train station. The trail begins on the southern end of the station parking lot and continues as a flat, easy stroll alongside the Metro North railbed. It eventually crosses over the tracks and leads to a newly rerouted loop trail on Arden Point. This trail flows through rocky outcroppings along the Hudson River that offer fantastic views of West Point and the surrounding Highlands. Wildlife such as bald eagles and osprey are a common site soaring above the river, along with five-lined skinks rustling in the leaves. Arden Point is the perfect trail for a relaxing evening walk to see beautiful views of the Hudson River.

NEW YORK STATE PARKS—TACONIC REGION FACILITY LOCATIONS & PHONE NUMBERS

Please contact the park/site for information regarding fees & availability



STATE PARKS

- Clarence Fahnestock Memorial**
Carmel (845) 225-7207
- Fahnestock Winter Park**
Administration (845) 225-7207
Snow conditions (845) 225-3998
- Franklin D. Roosevelt**
Yorktown Heights (914) 245-4434
- Hudson Highlands**
Peekskill to Beacon (845) 225-7207
- James Baird**
Pleasant Valley (845) 452-1489
- Lake Taghkanic**
Ancram (518) 851-3631
- Margaret Lewis Norrie/
Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills (Mills-Norrie)**
Staatsburg (845) 889-4646
- Rockefeller Preserve**
Pleasantville (914) 631-1470
- Taconic/Copake Falls**
Copake Falls (518) 329-3993
- Taconic/Rudd Pond**
Millerton (518) 789-3059
- Wonder Lake**
Kent/Patterson (845) 225-7207

STATE GOLF COURSES

- Dinsmore**
Staatsburg (845) 889-4071
- James Baird**
Pleasant Valley (845) 452-1489

STATE HISTORIC SITES

- Clermont**
Germantown (518) 537-4240
- John Jay Homestead**
Katonah (914) 232-5651
- Olana**
Hudson (518) 828-0135
- Phillipse Manor Hall**
Yonkers (914) 965-4027
- Staatsburgh**
Staatsburg (845) 889-8851

EDUCATION/NATURE CENTERS

- Taconic Outdoor Education Center (TOEC)**
By Group Reservations Only
Cold Spring (845) 265-3773
- Norrie Point Environmental Center (DEC)**
Staatsburg (845) 889-4745

STATE HISTORIC PARKS

- Old Croton Aqueduct**
Dobbs Ferry (Park Office) (914) 693-5259
- Walkway Over the Hudson**
Highland/Poughkeepsie (845) 834-2867

PROPERTIES OWNED BY NYSOPRHP AND MANAGED BY NON-PROFITS

- Bannerman Island**
Beacon, (845) 831-1001
- Jay Heritage Center**
Rye, (914) 698-9275
- Quiet Cove Riverfront Park**
Poughkeepsie (845) 298-4600



Become a subscriber
Sign up for your monthly
Hudson Valley Event
Calendar. Scan QR code to
subscribe.

As you head out on your next
adventure, take the
CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE!

