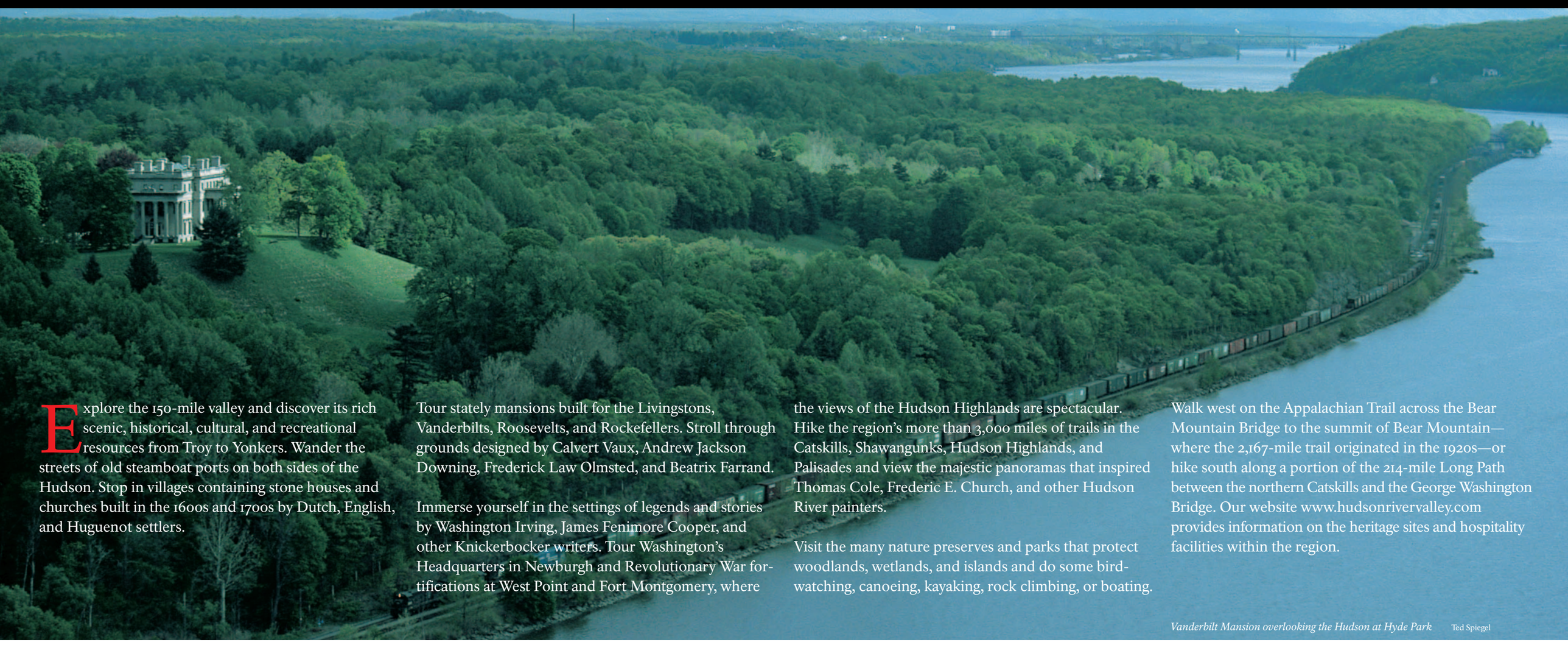
# Hudson River Valley
## National Heritage Area

Hudson River Valley
National Heritage Area, New York
www.hudsonrivervalley.com



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.

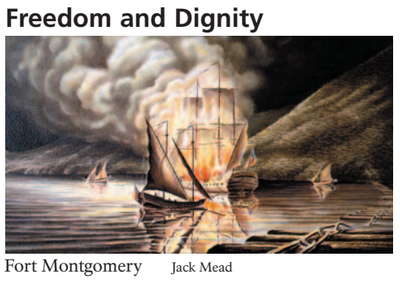
Immerse yourself in the settings of legends and stories by Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, and other Knickerbocker writers. Tour Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh and Revolutionary War fortifications at West Point and Fort Montgomery, where the views of the Hudson Highlands are spectacular. 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 provides information on the heritage sites and hospitality facilities within the region.

*Vanderbilt Mansion overlooking the Hudson at Hyde Park* Ted Spiegel

## 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.

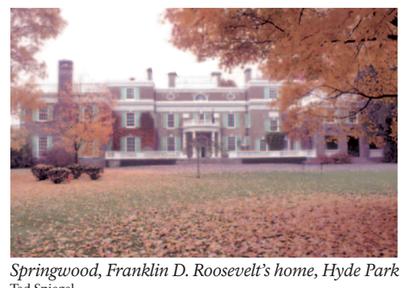
*Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh* Ted Spiegel

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 Courthouse 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*
Ted Spiegel

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

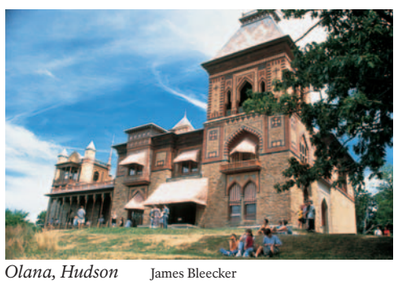
*Farm market at Croton Point Park* Ted Spiegel

*Kayaking on the Hudson at Kingston Point Park* Ted Spiegel

*Rock climbing on the Shawangunks* Ted Spiegel

## 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.



*Olana, Hudson* James Bleecker

*Boscobel, Garrison* Charles Lyle

Today, Cole's Cedar Grove home and studio, near Catskill, and Church's Olana estate, near Hudson, offer glimpses into the lives of the two artists and their legacies as painters and conservationists.

The writings of Washington Irving and other Knickerbocker authors also shaped American attitudes toward nature. Irving, the 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 hydroelectric 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 activities such as the 10-day Great Hudson

*Samuel Morse's Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie* Ted Spiegel

River Paddle in July, Hudson River Valley Ramble Hiking Weekends in September, and Revolutionary War reenactments and commemorations in the spring and summer. For information on these events and other projects of the National Heritage Area, please visit www.hudsonrivervalley.com.

## National Heritage Area

The 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 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.

Iliad by Alexander Liberman, *Storm King Art Center, Mountainville* Ted Spiegel

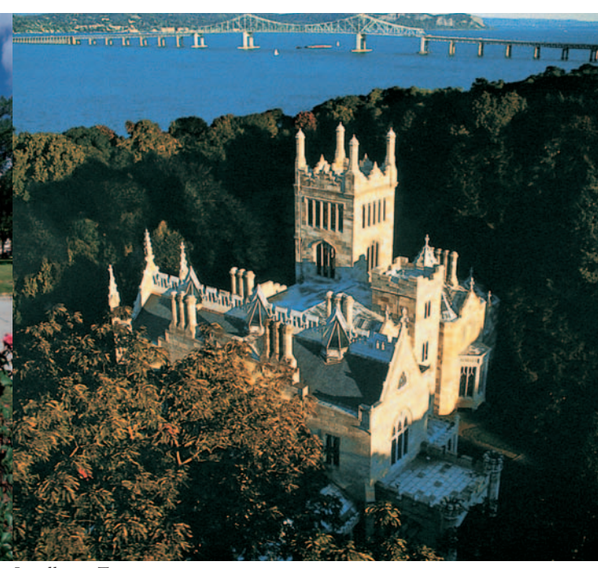
*Hikers above the Hudson* James Bleecker

*Kykuit, Tarrytown* Ted Spiegel

*Huguenot Street, New Paltz* G. Steve Jordan

*U.S. Military Academy, West Point* Ted Spiegel

*State Capitol, Albany* Ted Spiegel



*Lyndhurst, Tarrytown* James Bleecker

2006

# Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

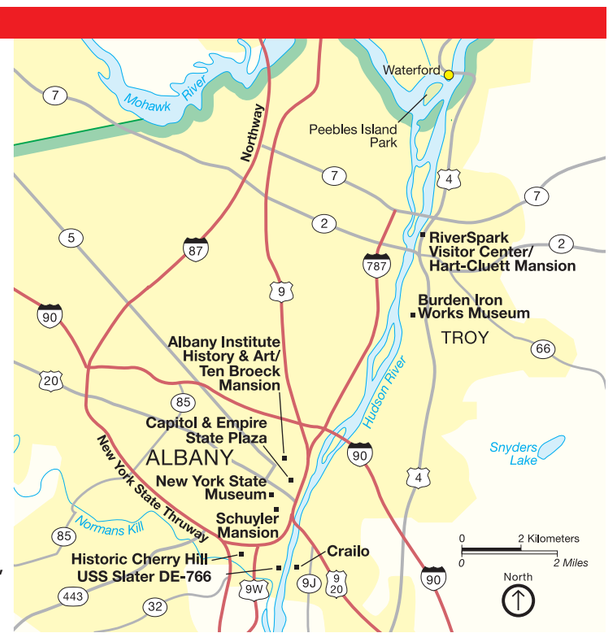
Major highways, such as I-87 (New York State Thruway), I-90, I-84, and the Palisades and Taconic State Parkways, provide access from New York City and the bordering states to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. U.S. 9, 9D, and 9W, the primary travel routes in the valley, connect with a network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

There are 90 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 right from north to south. For more information, visit this website: www.hudsonrivervalley.com

## Upper Hudson

Troy's **RiverSpark Visitor Center** and walking tours celebrate the area's historic sites, including the Mutual Bank Building, scene of an antislavery event sparked by Harriet Tubman.



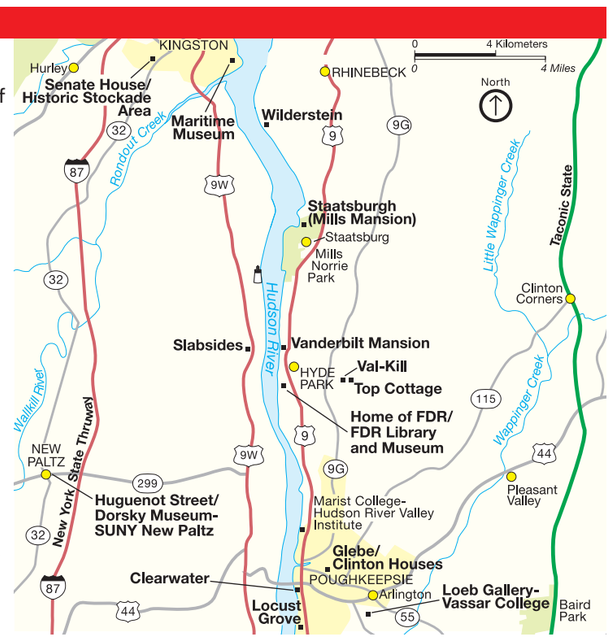

Major sites in Albany include the **State Capitol, Empire State Plaza Art Collection,** and **New York State Museum, Albany Institute of History & Art,** and **Schuyler Mansion.**

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 **Olana**, Frederic E. Church's Persian-style estate, which has been restored with original paintings and furnishings.

From **Cedar Grove**, 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 grounds designed by Calvert Vaux.

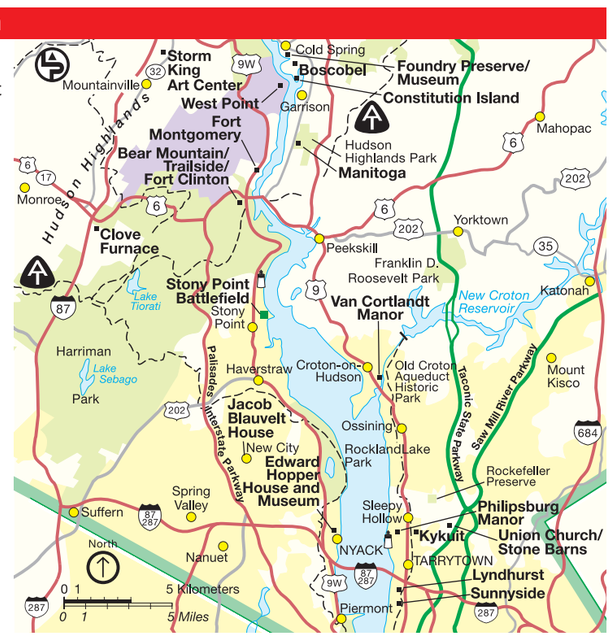
To the south, overlooking the Hudson, are two elaborately furnished, beaux-arts mansions exemplifying America's opulent Gilded Age. **Staatsburgh (Mills Mansion)**, in Staatsburg, was remodeled and expanded to 65 rooms by McKim, Mead & White for Ogden and Ruth Livingston Mills. The same architectural 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 are the **Dutch Reformed Church** of 1835 designed by Alexander Jackson Davis and **Washington's Headquarters**, the first 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 heritage sites shown on this map in bold are operated by federal, state, local, and private not-for-profit organizations. The federal sites—Roosevelt Homes and Library, Vanderbilt, and Van Buren—are open all year except for Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1. Many of the other sites are closed Mondays or Tuesdays and are likely to be closed January through March. Please send map corrections to Hudson River Valley Greenway, Capitol Building, Room 254, Albany, NY 12224; 518-473-3835; fax 518-473-4518 or e-mail hrvg@hudsongreenway.state.ny.us**

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area boundary
Appalachian Trail
Long Path
North
0 1 5 10 Kilometers
0 1 5 10 Miles