STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE

December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
–
The Holiday Whodunit
1:00PM - 3:00PM
Children become detectives to solve a history mystery. Costumed interpreters throughout the house provide clues to help kids find whodunit. Come anytime between 1:00pm and 2:30pm.
Cost: $8 person, $6 seniors/students, children 12 & under are free.

Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam & Westchester Counties

STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE // 845.889.8851

A Gilded Age Christmas

November 29 – December 31
Enjoy lavish turn-of-the-century style holiday decorations while touring the mansion.

Nov. 29 – Dec. 22,
Thursday – Sunday, 11AM– 3PM
Dec. 26 – 31,
Every day, 11AM– 3PM

Closed December 23, 24 and 25
Cost: $8/Regular, $6/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free.
December 6 – Crafty Christmas Preparation! 6:00pm-8:00pm
Get in the holiday spirit, see the decorated mansion, and make a card or small gift. Light refreshments served; gift shop will be open. Suitable for age 12 & up. Reservations required.
Cost: $10 person; $8 Friends of Mills

December 11 – Children’s Story Hour & Holiday Craft; 10:00am - Noon
Pre-school age children are invited to gather around the Christmas tree and listen to stories read by Staatsburg Librarian Lisa Prentiss, and then make a holiday craft. Reservations required.
Cost: Free

December 13 – Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh Holiday Gala; 6:00pm-8:00pm
Join the Friends for cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and musical entertainment in the dining room for an elegant and festive evening at the mansion. Reservations required. Call: (845) 889-8851 ext. 346 or see: https://millsfriends.org/event/gilded-christmas/

December 14 – Christmas Cracker Craft Workshop; 10:30am - Noon
Usher in the season with a craft workshop! Crackers were popular Christmas dinner favors during the Gilded Age. Learn how to make your own! Suitable for adults and children 10 & up. Reservations required.
Cost: $10 person, or $25 family (up to 5 people)

December 20 – Evening Hours at the Mansion; 5:00pm-8:00pm
Spend a festive evening at the fully decorated mansion with costumed guides, live music, a craft, and gift shopping.
Cost: $8 person, $6 seniors/students, children 12 & under are free.
December 27, 28, & 31 – Kids Craft Workshop: Make A Mouse House; 10:30am - Noon
Mistletoe Mouse has inhabited the mansion at Christmas time for many years. For these workshops, children ages 6-10 tour the house briefly to see mouse houses on display, then use craft materials to build their own mouse house to take home. An adult must accompany child; reservations required.
Cost: $8 child or $15 family (up to 3 children)

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON STATE HISTORIC PARK //845.834.2867
Flag Changing Ceremony
December 15 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
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.
Contact: Ross Hartlipp with American Legion Post 739 for information and updates.
Location: Center Overlook of the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park

CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE // 518.537.4240
A Child’s Christmas
Saturday, December 7, 2019 through Sunday, December 8, 2019 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Drop in for stories read by Janet and Honoria Livingston’s nurse Ollie under the Christmas tree and treats for children ages 3-10. Drop In. $4 Per Person

Harvesting History Family Workshop: A Partridge in a Pear Tree: Bird Seed Ornament Workshop
Saturday, December 7, 2019 01:00 PM in Clermont Cottage
Join us and learn how to make beautiful bird seed ornaments for the holidays! Decorate your backyard or make a gift for a friend. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Registration is required: $10 per person, children 12 and under FREE

Candlelight Tours of Clermont
Sunday, December 15, 2019 03:00 PM - 06:00 PM
Tableaux Vivant of Christmas traditions through the ages, glittering decorations, wassail and traditional holiday goodies served in the historic kitchen. Registration: Required
Adults $12/ Friends of Clermont $10, Children 12 and under $5 Tickets

LAKE TAGHKANIC STATE PARK // 518.851.3631
Fri., Dec. 27: Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association Monthly Star Party, 6:00 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. RSVP is required at least one day beforehand. 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. Registration: Required
OLANA STATE HISTORIC SITE // 518.828.0135

ONGOING
NEW TOURS OF OLANA INDOORS + OUT ALL WINTER
Olana has launched new tours of the Main House and Historic Landscape. Tours are offered Friday through Sunday 11 AM to 3 PM. The Olana Museum Store is open Friday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM. The park is open daily 8:30 AM to sunset. To learn more and purchase tickets visit OLANA.org

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD, Katonah, NY 10536 // 914.232.5651

HOLIDAY TOURS
Thursday through Saturday throughout the month of December
1:00pm & 3:00pm

Celebrate the holiday season at John Jay Homestead with a guided tour of John Jay's historic Bedford House focused on the holiday traditions and decorations of the 1820s. Regular admission fees. Advance purchase of tickets is suggested as space is limited.

Thematic Tours: John Jay & George Washington
Thursday through Saturday throughout the month of December
2:00pm

220 years ago, on December 14th, George Washington died at the age of 69. This tour will discuss how John Jay and George Washington worked together to help build the new nation and shape its identity on the world stage. It will also explore the enduring friendship between the two men. Regular admission fees. Advance purchase of tickets is suggested as space is limited.

Holiday Shop
Saturday December 7
10am – 2pm
Browse our expanded selection of merchandise, including many gift items featuring images of John Jay's Historic Bedford House, Bedford Farm, and the newly installed historic wallpaper found in John Jay's Office. Books for history lovers; John Jay Homestead Christmas ornaments; 18th & 19th century toys and games; note cards and housewares are also available. The holiday gift shop is in the Ballroom of the Main House.

Candlelight Tours
Thursday through Sunday, December 12 – December 15
5pm-7pm
Experience John Jay's historic Bedford House as it takes on the glow of candlelight to celebrate the holiday season. These unique guided tours focus on holiday traditions and decorations of the 1820s. Advance purchase of tickets is strongly suggested as space is limited.
$15 adult; $12 senior, student or member; $5 children.
John Jay continued...

Holiday Shop
Saturday, December 14
10am – 2pm
Browse our expanded selection of merchandise, including many gift items featuring images of John Jay's Historic Bedford House, Bedford Farm, and the newly installed historic wallpaper found in John Jay's Office. Books for history lovers; John Jay Homestead Christmas ornaments; 18th & 19th century toys and games; note cards and housewares are also available. The holiday gift shop is in the Ballroom of the Main House.

Candlelight Tours
Thursday through Sunday, December 19 – December 22
5pm-7pm
Experience John Jay's historic Bedford House as it takes on the glow of candlelight to celebrate the holiday season. These unique guided tours focus on holiday traditions and decorations of the 1820s. Advance purchase of tickets is strongly suggested as space is limited. $15 adult; $12 senior, student or member; $5 children.

Holiday Shop
Saturday, December 21
10am – 2pm
Browse our expanded selection of merchandise, including many gift items featuring images of John Jay's Historic Bedford House, Bedford Farm, and the newly installed historic wallpaper found in John Jay's Office. Books for history lovers; John Jay Homestead Christmas ornaments; 18th & 19th century toys and games; note cards and housewares are also available. The holiday gift shop is in the Ballroom of the Main House.

Holiday Shop – Clearance Sale
Saturday, December 28
10am – 2pm
All holiday merchandise is 15% off. The holiday gift shop is in the Ballroom of the Main House.
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Walks & Tours & More are free and do not require prior registration (unless otherwise noted). They are organized/led by the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct. See aqueduct.org for more information about the Aqueduct. Check with the contact for the event for any updates on schedule, weather, etc. and bring water and snacks. We will try to post cancellations in “Upcoming Events.” General questions about Walks & Tours: Co-chair Sara Kelsey, 646-303-1448, saraakelsey@gmail.com. General questions about the Friends: President Mavis Cain, 914-693-0529 or mavisbird500@gmail.com.

December 4, Wednesday at noon – Lenoir Nature Preserve to Keepers House Loop. Meet at the Lenoir Nature Preserve, 19 Dudley St., Yonkers, in the parking lot, and enjoy an easy, less than 6-mile loop walk along the Aqueduct Trail, exploring history and nature. Inclement weather cancels. Inquiries: Hal Kaplan, kapkotours@gmail.com.

December 8, Sunday at 11 am -- Croton Reservoir & Dam Hike -- Easy 2-mile (total) hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam. Meet near the restrooms at the parking lot at Croton Gorge Park, Rte. 129, Cortlandt, NY 10567. 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 Aqueduct Trail. The Aqueduct was completed in 1842 to supply water to a thirsty New York City. (From Metro-North Hudson Line Croton-Harmon Train Station: 15-minute taxi.) BY RESERVATION ONLY: Contact Aram Aslanian-Persico, RSVP via email or text required: aram.dap@gmail.com or text 949-258-7016.

December 14, Saturday at 11 am (Snow or heavy rain date, Sunday, December 15, at the same time) -- Croton Reservoir & Dam to Ossining Weir (one way or loop) tour. Joint walk with Urban Trail Conference -- Easy-to-Moderate hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam, then south along the Aqueduct trail to the Weir in Ossining (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 walk). At the Ossining Weir, you may end your hike or return to Croton Gorge Park. To start, meet near the restrooms at the parking lot at Croton Gorge Park, Rte. 129, Cortlandt, NY 10567. 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 Aqueduct Trail. (Over 5 miles one way, 10 miles loop, 2.5 or 5 hours). Contact: Sara Kelsey, saraakelsey@gmail.com or 646-303-1448.

December 21, Saturday, at 10 am -- High Bridge Tour -- Meet at the front gates of the Morris-Jumel Mansion, 65 Jumel Terrace, NYC. Directions to the Mansion, with transportation/parking suggestions, can be found at: www.morrisjumel.org. (Note: 168th St. stop on the #1 is closed, but 157th St. will do; there is also on-street parking.) We will walk to the High Bridge along the Aqueduct trail, beginning at W. 158th x Edgecombe Avenue. Take in panoramic views of the Harlem River, The Bronx and Manhattan. Marvel at the engineering feat completed in 1848. Learn about the origin of NYC’s water system. Optional side trip up the stairs on the Manhattan side of the bridge to view the tower and the former site of the reservoir. You may wish to take a self-led tour of the Morris-Jumel Mansion (Manhattan’s oldest house – admission $10/$8) after the walk. Without optional side trips, the walk from the Mansion to the High Bridge and back is approximately 2 miles. Bring water & snacks & wear sturdy shoes. Reservations required. BY RESERVATION ONLY: Contact Aram Aslanian-Persico, RSVP via email or text required: aram.dap@gmail.com or text 949-258-7016.

December 28, Saturday at 12:30 pm (Snow date, Sunday, December 29, same time) -- Weirs to Beers: Ossining & the Aqueduct --We start and end in an urban park – but in between, expect Sing Sing village tales, close Hudson River views from a nature reserve, a stroll through the rocky gorge of Sing Sing Kill, a hidden museum and a neat microbrewery... all of it near or on the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail. If you’ve seen Blackkklansman, you know this turf! Some hills, 4 miles, 3 hours (excluding brews). Wear hiking boots and bring water, snacks. This outing is for people who walk regularly. Meet inside Ossining’s Nelson Park, which borders Route 9, on the S. Highland (Route 9) side of the park. Park free along nearby residential streets. (From the Metro-North Hudson Line Ossining Train Station, it is a 1-mile, somewhat uphill walk to the park. PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS WALK. Tour leader is Lesley. Please TEXT ONLY to 914-671-7112.

January 1, Wednesday at 12 Noon — Croton Reservoir & Dam First Day Hike. Greet the New Year with an easy 2-mile total loop hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam. Meet near the restrooms at the parking lot at Croton Gorge Park, Rte. 129, Cortlandt 10567. 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 Aqueduct Trail. The Aqueduct was completed in 1842 to supply fresh water to a thirsty New York City. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Contact: Sara Kelsey, saraakelsey@gmail.com or call or text 646-303-1448.

KEEPER’S HOUSE VISITOR & EDUCATION CENTER: Open every Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 pm. (In case of bad weather, you can call 914-693-4117 to double check if there is a closure message.) The Keeper’s House has
Old Croton Aqueduct continued...

received a Greater Hudson Heritage Network Award for Excellence for its interactive permanent exhibit about the history of the Croton System and the NYC water supply. Located at 15 Walnut Street, Dobbs Ferry, between the Aqueduct Trail and Broadway.

Now on exhibit: HOW NEW YORK BECAME THE EMPIRE CITY.
The exhibit includes architectural drawings, illustrations, maps and photographs illustrating how the Old Croton Aqueduct, completed in 1842, made this transformation possible. Docents are available to answer questions, provide information about walks & tours & more and to sell NYC and Westchester Aqueduct maps, shirts and caps. (From Metro-North Dobbs Ferry Train Station, a 5-10-minute uphill walk).

GO THE EXTRA MILE! The Friends will recognize walkers/runners who complete the Westchester portion or the entire Old Croton Aqueduct with a 26- or 41-mile certificate and patch (free to members). Details and recognition forms are available on the website and at walks and tours. Inquiries: Sara Kelsey, saraakelsey@gmail.com.

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PHILIPSE MANOR HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE // 914.965.4027

**Thursday, December 5, 5:30:** Downtown Yonkers Gallery Hop. Stop by each of the 4 major downtown galleries: Blue Door Art Center, Warburton Galerie, Philipse Manor Hall and the Riverfront Library, the first Thursday of each month to view new and exciting exhibits of arts and culture! Attendees receive a discount for their meal that night at local downtown restaurants!!

5:30PM-7:30pm | Location: Yonkers | Free | Ages: All Ages

**Saturday, December 7, 12:00:** St. Nicholas Day. Join us in a celebration of Dutch holiday traditions as we welcome St. Nicholas to Philipse Manor Hall. Activities include a live performance of music and storytelling about holiday celebrations from around the world, holiday crafts and scavenger hunts, baked goods and refreshments, PLUS a visit from St. Nicholas! Admission is free for the day!

12:00pm-3:00pm | Location: Yonkers | Free | Ages: All Ages

**Tuesday-Saturday from Dec. 9 to Jan 4:** Self-Guided Holiday Tours. On this self-guided tour, come learn about the Manor Hall and the Dutch traditions that the Philipse family observed during the holidays in the 1700’s. Discover the origins of many different modern holiday traditions while also viewing nearly 250 years of the evolution of decorations at the Manor done by the Morsemere Garden Club. There will be no tours on Christmas and New Year’s Day. To schedule a guided tour, please contact us at 914-965-4027.

12:00pm-3:30pm | Location: Yonkers | $5 for adults, $3 for seniors and students. Free for children 12 and under. | Ages: All Ages

**Saturday, December 14, 11:00AM-12:15PM:** Yoga and Meditation Class
Simple chair yoga and meditation practices can help us release stress, relax, feel healthier and calmer. It helps us sleep better, and can ultimately help shift our perspective, enabling us to feel more in charge of our lives, and have a more compassionate, inclusive and empowered view of the world. Class takes place inside the Gothic Chamber and walk ins welcomed. No mats. $10 per class, no reservations needed.

11:00am-12:15pm | Location: Yonkers | $10 | Ages: All Ages

**Saturday, December 14, 2:00 PM:** Gingerbread Spectacular. Presented by the Yonkers Downtown BID and the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall as part of the larger downtown seasonal program that day, from 2:00-4:00, stop by the Manor for a chance to customize and decorate their own Gingerbread cookie! All activities for the day are free but supplies are limited to first come first serve.

2:00pm-4:00pm | Location: Yonkers | Free | Ages: 1-12

**Tuesday, December 17-Saturday 21: 7:00 PM:** Holiday Candlelight Tours. Under the cover of darkness with only candles to light the way, come learn about the Manor Hall and the Dutch traditions that the Philipse family observed during the holidays in the 1700’s. Discover the origins of many different modern holiday traditions while also viewing nearly 250 years of the evolution of decorations at the Manor done by the Morsemere Garden Club. Walk-ins welcomed but reservations encouraged. Please contact us at 914-956-4027 or at Robert.Lee@parks.ny.gov.

7:00pm-8:00pm | Location: Yonkers | $5 for adults, $3 for seniors and students. Free for children 12 and under. | Ages: All Ages
Philipse Manor continued...

Saturday, December 21, 11:00AM-12:15PM. Yoga and Meditation Class
Simple chair yoga and meditation practices can help us release stress, relax, feel healthier and calmer. It helps us sleep better, and can ultimately help shift our perspective, enabling us to feel more in charge of our lives, and have a more compassionate, inclusive and empowered view of the world. Class takes place inside the Gothic Chamber and walk ins welcomed. No mats. $10 per class, no reservations needed.

11:00am-12:15pm | Location: Yonkers | $10 | Ages: All Ages

Saturday, December 28, 3:00PM: Saturday Family Movie: Smallfoot
The fall series of Saturday Family Movie wraps up with a cold blast and a new look at old story in Smallfoot. Legends of the Yeti has existed for centuries in mountainous areas in Asia, but few have heard of the story of smallfoot! Told from the eyes of the Yetis, follow Migo as he sets out to prove to his people that elusive smallfoot; humans, really do exist! All Saturday Family Movies are rated PG and free to attend. Guests are encouraged to bring a blanket and refreshments. Each movie will take place at 3pm inside the Gothic Chamber of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site

3:00pm-4:30pm | Location: Yonkers | Free | Ages: All Ages

ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE // 914.631.1470

Tuesday, December 3: Sensory Hike: a quiet hike through the woods
A quiet lunchtime walk through the woods to focus on letting our senses experience the nature around us. Open to all, leashed dogs welcome, please bring water.
Leader: Ranger Su.

Tuesday, December 10:
Tree Tracking Tuesdays (T³)
Learn how to identify trees across the Preserve with our resident tree tracking expert, Kim Castaldo. Register for this event at www.rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com or by calling Rebecca at 914-631-1470 x106.
Tuesday | 1:00 pm – 2:30pm | Rockefeller State Park Preserve | FREE

Wednesday, December 11: Full Moon Hike
Join us for a full moon hike. This event is free and open to all ages. The hike follows our wide gravel carriage roads and is relatively flat with a few hilly spots (moderate hike). Please bring a flashlight or headlamp! Please come dressed for the weather, will be canceled in case of heavy rain or snow so check your email for updates! Registration for this event is required. Limit 40 participants. Recommended 12 and up
Thursday | 5:00 pm | Rockefeller State Park Preserve | FREE
Saturday, December 14: Hike with Master Story Teller Mike
Let's take a hike on Brook Trail and swing through the pastures. Michael is the Preserve's master storyteller and always happy to share stories of the preserve during the hike.
Saturday | 9:00 am | Rockefeller State Park Preserve | FREE

Wednesday, December 18:
Sensory Hike: a quiet hike through the woods
A quiet lunchtime walk through the woods to focus on letting our senses experience the nature around us.
Wednesday | 12:00 pm | Rockefeller State Park Preserve | FREE

Tuesday, December 24: Pre-Holiday Sensory Hike
The holidays can be fun and joyful. They can also be stressful for some. Let's take a sensory walk through the woods in preparations for the coming holidays and the opportunities of the New Year.
Tuesday | 12:00 pm | Rockefeller State Park Preserve | FREE

Friday, December 27: Sunset Hike: Eagle Hill
Eagle Hill has a spectacular view of the River and the bridge. This hike will leave from the main office and head directly to Eagle Hill in order to watch the sunset over the river.
Friday | 4:00 pm | Rockefeller State Park Preserve | FREE
Please contact the park/site for information regarding fees and 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 (914) 452-1489

**STATE HISTORIC SITES**

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

**EDUCATION/NATURE CENTERS**

Taconic Outdoor Education Center (OPRHP) 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) 831-6346
Clinton House State Historic Site
Poughkeepsie, (845) 471-1630
Jay Heritage Center
Rye, (914) 638-9275