

Day Trips and Outings

A good starting point for your tour is the three most popular attractions—Longwood Gardens, Brandywine River Museum of Art, Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. Then we'll take you to other stops worth a quick visit or a leisurely tour. Your choice.

TOP TIP: The Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport gives admission to 12 major sights for a flat fee (\$45/adults, \$95/families), BrandywineTreasures.org. The BIG news is local libraries have a FREE museum pass program. Check online for details.

TIP: Blue Star Museum programs offer active-duty military and their families free admission. Check at Arts.gov/National/Blue-Star-Museums.



TIP: Time your visit to enjoy a seasonally inspired, locally sourced meal prepared by new Chef Mike Kline at the on-site Millstone Cafe. You'll also get a stunning view of the Brandywine River from floor-to-ceiling windows.

Top Three Must-Sees

Longwood Gardens

Although open year-round, Longwood Gardens truly shines in summer when the 1,083-acre legacy of founder Pierre S. du Pont attracts a good portion of the million-plus annual visitors.

We think summer is the best time to enjoy the Main Fountains at **Longwood Gardens**, now in their second season as part of the "Festival of Fountains." Dazzling daily fountain shows featuring 1,719 jets of water, glorious gardens, live music and special events make the dancing fountains, light shows and five nights of fireworks (July 1 & 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 1 & 29) a top stop. Fountain shows through September 30.

Fabulous fountains aren't the only reason to visit what *National Geographic Traveler* calls a "National Wonder." The Italian Water Garden, aquatic garden, meadows, woodlands, new allee and grotto plus formal gardens invite leisurely strolls.

Longwood is also an entertainment venue, hosting 400 performances a year. For family-friendly theater, see The Brandywiners performing *The Music Man*, July 26–28 and August 2–4. Classical music buffs should reserve seats for the Kennett Symphony's "A Midsummer Night's Concert" on August 18.

Picnic in designated areas or enjoy a Victory brew at the Beer Garden to extend your stay. Open daily. Rts. 1 & 52, Kennett Square. LongwoodGardens.org.



PHOTO COURTESY ALBEE LARRY



PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL TRAUB

Brandywine River Museum of Art

For a garden on a smaller scale, plus a world-class museum, next up is a visit to the **Brandywine River Museum of Art** on the banks of the Brandywine River. Home to works by three generations of Wyeths—N.C., Andrew, Jamie—plus regional art, American landscapes, still-life paintings and illustrations, the museum is surrounded by an extensive native plant garden studded with sculpture.

This summer, see 13 artists' depictions of the fierce magnificence of nature in "Natural Wonders: The Sublime in Contemporary Art" through October 21, and explore the social function of portraits,

from the traditional to the witty in "The Serious and the Smirk: Portraits from the Collection" from July 14 through October 28.

The site is also home to the Brandywine Conservancy, which conserves and protects the land, water, natural and cultural resources of the Brandywine-Christina watershed. The Conservancy hosts events like the July 14 Tip-A-Canoe and Barbecue, Too outing, July 25 Summer Garden Walk and September 22 Bike the Brandywine ride. Open daily, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. BrandywineMuseum.org.

Winterthur Museum

One of 36 stops on the newly created Delaware History Trail, **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library** is our number three top stop and home to American decorative arts displayed in a stunning mansion set in a landscaped 1,000-acre park, once the home of Henry F. du Pont. In addition to an astonishing 90,000-piece collection, you'll find a Touch-It room for kids.

This year's major attraction, "Follies: Architectural Whimsy in the Garden," features 13 whimsical garden structures—from a faerie cottage to a Gothic Tower (in photo)—on view through January 5, 2020. Summer events include music, a beer garden and tram tours. Find out more online at CountyLinesMagazine.com.

Visitors may prefer to tour the gardens in a tram or meander across acres of rolling hills, streams, gardens and forests as you search for the reflecting pond, glade, azalea woods and pinetum.

For kid-friendly fun, there's the Enchanted Woods, a three-acre fairy-tale style garden including a Tulip Tree House. Open Tues.–Sun. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. Winterthur.org.

TIP: Visit 18 stops on the Delaware History Trail and get a free copy of Landmarks and Legacies. Download your passport at VisitDelaware.com/History



PHOTO COURTESY ROB CARDILLO PHOTOGRAPHY

Catch Up On Local History

Brandywine Battlefield State Park

The rolling hills and lush vineyards now disguise the site of one of the deadliest battles of the Revolutionary War. Take in some American history at the **Brandywine Battlefield State Park**, site of this pivotal battle and now a beautiful 52-acre park. General Washington and his troops suffered a crushing defeat here at the hands of British General Howe on September 11, 1777.

Enjoy the park at special events like raspberry picking on Wineberry Days through July or Colonial Dancing on July 21, Aug. 18 and Sept. 22. Come back Sept. 11 for Remembrance Day with costumed reenactments and the ringing of the 9/11 bells.

Drive through the park and find a picnic spot among the rolling hills and shady woods or catch a 20-minute film and historical artifact exhibits at the Visitors Center. *Open Tues.–Sun. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. BrandywineBattlefield.org.*



Chester County Historical Society

A complete tour of the county must include a stop at the **Chester County Historical Society** in West Chester—a repository of 300 years of local history and a great place to trace your family roots at a genealogy workshop. Through Dec. 31, learn about Chester County's diverse roots and how it became the melting pot that it is today in the exhibition, "Many Nations | Chester County." *Open Tues.–Sat. 225 N. High St., West Chester. ChesterCoHistorical.org.*

While you're in **West Chester**, check out this Great American Main Street Award-winning town that mixes the best of history with its charm. Stretch your legs and browse the boutiques then sample the 60+ restaurants for dining that ranges from fine to fun. *Learn more in "Embracing Change & Empowering Our Future" at CountyLinesMagazine.com.*



Chadds Ford

Chadds Ford is a charming celebration of our local and national roots. Start with a visit to a period-perfect reproduction fieldstone barn/museum and headquarters of the **Chadds Ford Historical Society**, plus two 18th-century restorations: the **John Chads House** and the **Barns-Brinton House**, both on the National Register of Historic Places. *1736 N. Creek Rd., ChaddsFordHistory.org.*

Art lovers will enjoy the **Chadds Ford Gallery**, specializing in Wyeth prints, *1609 Baltimore Pk.*, while antiques lovers should browse the **Pennsbury-Chadds Ford Antiques Mall**, *640 Baltimore Pk.*

You'll also find wineries to visit here. Check out the many summer events and stylish tasting room at the **Chaddsford Winery**, *632 Baltimore Pk.*, or sample **Penns Woods'** wine—light and fruity traminette and sauvignon blanc to Italian-style Bordeaux. *124 Beaver Valley Rd.*

Although the popular annual Chadds Ford Days is on hiatus for 2018, be sure to catch the Great Pumpkin Carve, Oct. 18–20.

TIP: The Christian Sanderson Museum is a quintessential Chester County gem. The eight-room house is full of idiosyncratic artifacts from 200 years of one man's life in Chadds Ford and a special view of our nation's history. *1755 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford.*



PHOTO COURTESY CRISSY EVERHART PHOTOGRAPHY

Historic Sugartown

Six or so miles away is a living museum in the form of a preserved 19th-century rural village. **Historic Sugartown** provides a window on life at that time, with several preserved buildings, including an 1880s general store, 19th-century schoolroom exhibit, bank barn, inn, carriage museum and book bindery.

Take a bookbinding or scarf marbling workshop or visit for Shugart's Sunday on Sept. 16 with BBQ & Blues and country-style family festivities. *Guided Tours Sat. & Sun. 690 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. HistoricSugartown.org.*

American Helicopter Museum

Had enough history? How about a hands-on, modern museum named the best science museum for kids by *Philadelphia Magazine*? Then a visit to the **American Helicopter Museum** is for you. With a mission to preserve rotary-wing aviation history and the life-saving role of helicopters, the museum lets you get into a real 'copter, operate the controls and fly a flight simulator. Although you missed a chance to take Dad for a ride on Father's Day, check the website for fun and programs like the robotics workshop on July 14 and the Girls in Science and Technology Program during the school year. *Open Wed.–Sun. 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. AmericanHelicopterMuseum.*



Visit Wilmington

» **N**EXT, ON TO DELAWARE, WITH A FIRST STOP IN WILMINGTON, a city that's growing and evolving at a rate not seen in decades. Cultural attractions, the burgeoning Market Street district, Art Loop, Riverfront—plus restaurants, brewpubs, a meadery, theater row, a music scene and tax-free shopping—make it a top tourist destination. «

Summer Fun

Wilmington makes the most of the summer weather by hosting a full calendar of summer fun. From the 24th annual People's Festival tribute to Bob Marley, July 28, to the Delaware Burger Battle, August 25. Find more events in our "Wilmington's Big City Revival" at CountyLinesMagazine.com.



PHOTO COURTESY LESLIE KIPP

Delaware Art Museum

Start with one of Wilmington's crown cultural gems, the **Delaware Art Museum**, set on 12 acres that include the outdoor Copeland Sculpture Park and Labyrinth. Although you can browse the world-class permanent collections online—from Pre-Raphaelites to contemporary pieces—this right-size museum set in a leafy neighborhood is worth a visit IRL.

Summer exhibits include "Impermanence: Mystery, Transformation, Light," through Aug. 5; "African American Art: Migration and Modernism," through Sept. 2; and "Danny Lyon: Memories of the Southern Civil Rights Movement," through Sept. 17. Plus there's yoga in the garden on first and third Saturdays through August. *Open Wed.–Sun. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy. DelArt.org.*



PHOTO COURTESY LESLIE KIPP

Riverfront Wilmington

A visit to Wilmington without a stop at the Riverfront would be ... well, a mistake. Stroll the 1.3 mile Riverwalk, enjoy drinks or dinner on a restaurant patio or deck, play mini-golf, catch the **River Taxi**, tour the tall ship **Kalmar Nyckel** or kick back at the **Constitution Yards** beer garden for a brew and round of corn hole.

Museum lovers can visit **The Delaware Contemporary**, 200 S. Madison St. DEContemporary.org, and **The Delaware Children's Museum**, 550 Justison St. DelawareChildrensMuseum.org, while nature

lovers will head for **DuPont Environmental Education Center** on the 212-acre Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge, home to bald eagles, beavers, dragonflies, turtles, butterflies and other wildlife. *1400 Delmarva Ln. DuPontEEC.org.*

Sports fans will enjoy **Daniel S. Frawley Stadium**, home to the Wilmington Blue Rocks, a top minor league baseball club, and to the **Delaware Sports Museum & Hall of Fame**. Check website for schedule and special theme nights. *801 Shipyard Dr. BlueRocks.com/Stadium; DESports.org.*



More Delaware Highlights

Delaware Museum of Natural History

A few stops outside downtown Wilmington will round out the tour of the First State. Want to see the state's only permanent dinosaur collection and the second largest birds eggs collection in North America? Then head for the **Delaware Museum of Natural History**. Discover the natural world and see science in action as you explore investigation labs.

The summer's special exhibit, "Mystery of the Mayan Medallion," encourages visitors to solve a Mayan mystery by following video clues left by a team of missing archaeologists that disappeared from an excavation site in Palenque, Mexico. Through Sept. 3. *Open Mon.–Sun. Extended hours on Thurs. Rt. 52, S. of Centreville, DE. DelMNH.org.*



Hagley Museum

Many sights in this area are connected with the du Pont family, in addition to Longwood Gardens and Winterthur mentioned earlier. We suggest two more stops.

Hagley Museum is the site of the first du Pont black powder mills and home to generations of the family. Learn some history of American industry, the du Pont family and DuPont corporation (inventors of nylon, Teflon and Kevlar) through exhibits and working models. Explore French-style and Italianate gardens along the Brandywine River or join the "Bike & Hike & Brews" tours every Wed. through Aug. 29. Bring your canine companion on June 27, July 25 and Aug. 29 for Dog Days of Summer. Sept. 16 is the Hagley Car Show, with 500 antique and restored cars. *Open daily. 200 Hagley Rd., Wilmington (for GPS). Hagley.org.*



PHOTO COURTESY JACKIE KANE

Nemours Mansion

Nemours Mansion is a 300-acre country estate that Alfred I. du Pont (1864-1935) had built for his second wife in the late 18th-century style. With almost a hundred meticulously preserved rooms on five floors filled with fine antique furniture, art from many periods, and bric-a-brac, the interior is a stunning showcase of a bygone lifestyle. The grounds are equally impressive, housing the largest formal French gardens in North America, with features such as the long walk, reflecting pool, temple of love and the maze. A chauffeur's garage houses an impressive collection of vintage cars. *Open Tues.–Sun. 850 Alapocas Drive, Wilmington. NemoursMansion.org.*



PHOTO COURTESY LESLIE KIPP

Delaware Park Casino

Winning is always in play says **Delaware Park Casino**, home to live thoroughbred racing on the track and slot machines and table games (blackjack, roulette, craps, poker) in the casino, plus online gaming, well, online. You'll find live entertainment and dining choices for all tastes, and even a world-class 18-hole championship golf course at the White Clay Creek Country Club. *777 Delaware Park Blvd., Wilmington. DelawarePark.com.*



Surprising Lancaster County

JUST TO OUR WEST, BACK IN PENNSYLVANIA, is Lancaster County, a place that may surprise you. Home to America's oldest Amish settlement, the county has plenty of horse and buggies, windmills, tidy farms and Amish cottage industries.

But there's also bustling Lancaster City, outlet shopping, American history sites, unusual museums, theaters galore, and trendy restaurants and distilleries.

We think Lancaster should be on your list of summer destinations. Details for the attractions in this section can be found at DiscoverLancaster.com.



Shopping

Shopping options run the full gamut in Lancaster County—from iconic Amish quilts, crafts and hand-built furniture to top national brands and luxury items at **Rockvale Outlets** and **Tanger Outlets**.

Antiques lovers may head for **Adamstown**, home to over 5,000 dealers in what's called the Antiques Capital. It's a true pickers' paradise at **Renninger's Antiques Market** for everything from vintage clothes to military memorabilia. Or pick a small shop to visit and browse.

Two fun shopping destinations in Lancaster City are the **art galleries on Prince Street** and historic **Central Market** housed in a beautiful 1889 building. Enjoy the bounty of the county as you walk the aisles lined with offerings from 60 local vendors.



Lancaster City

As the county seat, Lancaster City has energy and attractions for all ages. Sample the art and history museums—**DeMuth & Lancaster Museum of Art** and **North Museum of Nature and Science**—or browse local art galleries that host fun **First Friday** open houses along Gallery Row and elsewhere in this “authentic arts town.”

Learn about Pennsylvania's only American President at **LancasterHistory.org** (that's the name and Web domain) and visit **President James Buchanan's Wheatland** estate.

Follow that up with a **Historic Lancaster Walking Tour** for a closer look at the city or a **Tuktuk Tour** on a motorized three-wheel rickshaw.

You can even tour a meadery for honeyed wine and some axe throwing (it is period appropriate) at **Meduseld Meadery**. Or for harder stuff, try a tour and tasting of craft rye whiskey at **Thistle Finch Distillery**.

Trains & More Trains

Train lovers must stop at Strasburg for train-themed restaurants and motels, plus a 2000-square-foot **Strasburg Train Shop**, a super store for railroadiana. Strasburg is also home to the **Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania**, housing one of the world's most significant collections of historic railroad artifacts.

Other stops include the **Strasburg Rail Road**, where you can ride a historic coal-burning steam train, and the **Choo Choo Barn**, one family's 70-year creation of an animated, hand-crafted toy train exhibit.

True fans will make a side trip to the **National Toy Train Museum** in Ronks with its world-class collection of toy trains from the mid-1800s to present for kids of all ages.



Farms & Tours

Looking for a farm experience? Try the **Farm Tours at Verdant LView** in aptly named Paradise or a farm stay at **Old Windmill Farm** in Ronks where you can milk a cow, gather eggs, take a hay ride or pitch in with other chores. **Cherry Crest Adventure Farm** offers 60 agritainment attractions, including a popular corn maze in the fall.

For hearty farm-fresh Amish food try the **Bird-In-Hand Family Restaurant and Smorgasbord**, with 50 years of Smucker family hospitality.

If sightseeing is more your taste, try an Amish buggy ride, available almost everywhere. Or **Strasburg** offers **scooter tours**, **Smokehouse** has **helicopter tours**, and **Bird-In-Hand** is home to the **US Hot Air Balloon Team**.



More Towns to Tour

From Blue Ball to Intercourse to Paradise, Lancaster County does not lack colorful town names. We suggest you explore. Find a favorite.

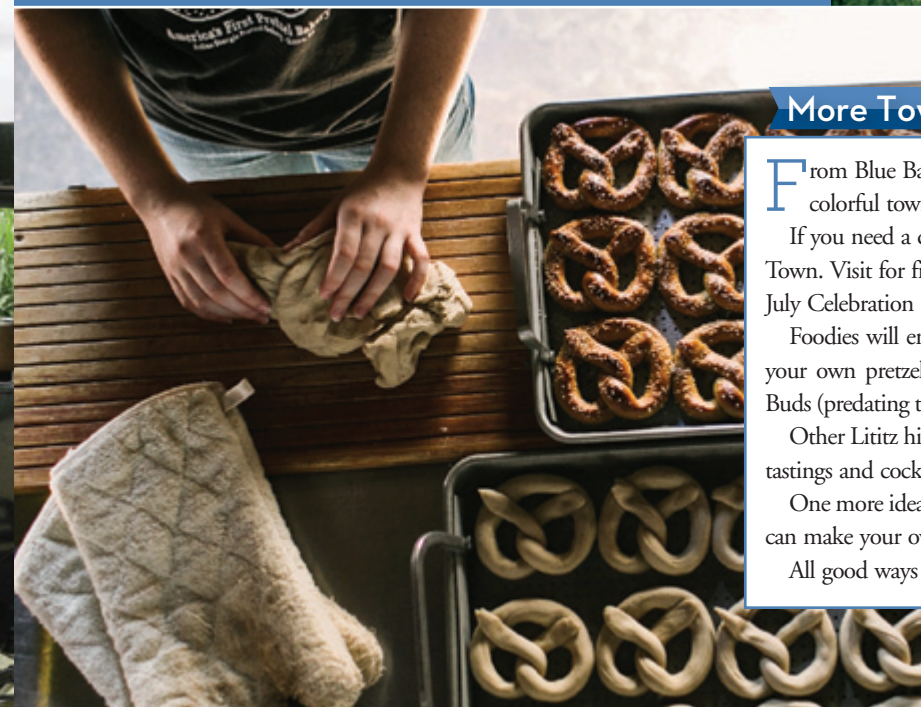
If you need a destination, then try **Lititz**, known as America's Coolest Small Town. Visit for fireworks at their signature event: the 201st Continuous 4th of July Celebration (since 1818) at **Lititz Springs Park**.

Foodies will enjoy the **Sturgis Pretzel Bakery**, where you can roll and knead your own pretzels, and **Wilbur Chocolate Factory** to taste the famed Wilbur Buds (predating the Hershey Kiss!) in addition to a variety of tempting restaurants.

Other Lititz highlights include the new **Stoll & Wolfe Distillery**, offering tours, tastings and cocktails. And there's even a wolf sanctuary. Enough said?

One more idea: check out the **Turkey Hill factory tour** in Columbia, where you can make your own ice cream flavor and experience tea from around the world.

All good ways to end your visit to surprising Lancaster County.



Head for Cecil County

➤ **N**OW ON TO MARYLAND AND CECIL COUNTY, OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTHWEST, at the top of Chesapeake Bay, midway between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Discover charming small towns, parks with miles of trails, specialty and antique shops, award-winning restaurants, and cozy inns and B&Bs. Plenty of attractions—like the July 20-28 **Cecil County Fair**, Prime Outlet shopping and Maryland's first casino—make this a destination. *See SeeCecil.org.* ➤

The Chesapeake Bay

For outdoor fun you can hike, bike, camp, bird watch, horseback ride, or drop a fishing line. Explore five rivers, the **Chesapeake Bay** and the **C&D Canal** by boat or by land. Enjoy panoramic views from Turkey Point Lighthouse on a bluff overlooking the Bay or from the banks of the C&D Canal where ships from around the globe cruise.



Fair Hill

Beyond its fame as an equestrian destination for Fair Hill Races in May and a 3-Day Eventing Competition, October 18–21, the over 5,000-acre **Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area** is known for beautiful meadows, lush woodlands, historic sites and natural beauty. Once owned by William du Pont Jr., who used the property for cattle, fox hunting and steeplechase racing, the land welcomes hikers, anglers, archers and history buffs in search of Mason Dixon markers and covered bridges.

Chesapeake City

Visit a classic town, like **Chesapeake City**, a historic town on the National Register of Historic Places boasting 19th-century Victorian homes and shops that suggest a step back in time.

Outside of town and set in an early 19th-century pump house, the **C&D Canal Museum** tells the story of the 14-mile-long man-made waterway connecting the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. Started in 1824—when workers were paid 75 cents a day to dig the 10-foot-deep, 66-foot-wide original canal—the canal, now 35-foot deep and 450-foot-wide, is the third busiest in the world and busiest in the U.S., serving 15,000 vessels a year, from pleasurecraft to transatlantic ships. *Open Mon.–Fri. and weekends through Labor Day.*

And don't forget to enjoy a sunset view before heading home.

PHOTO COURTESY KEVIN QUINLAN



Sample Maryland's Eastern Shore

➤ **M**ARYLAND MERITS ANOTHER STOP FOR THE FULL CHESAPEAKE EXPERIENCE, SO HEAD FOR THE **Eastern Shore**, across the Bay, about two hours from Chester County. At **Kent County's** Eastern Shore you'll find an area that's unspoiled, with charming waterfront towns, stretches of rolling farmlands, and miles of scenic landscape. Watch watermen hauling in their catch, cyclists cruising on untrafficked roads, and everyone from antiques lovers to Maryland blue crab lovers enjoying the special flavor of the Eastern Shore. ➤

Here are three must-see destinations, and more choices at *Kent County Tourism Office, KentCounty.com.*

Chestertown

Chestertown, a former Colonial port, is now a well-kept historic treasure on the scenic Chester River. Take a walking tour along red-brick sidewalks past the second largest collection of 18th-century structures in Maryland. Chestertown was named by the National Trust as one of a "Dozen Distinctive Destinations," an annual list of unique, preserved communities. Visit the **Geddes-Piper House Museum** (c. 1784), 101 Church Alley, the **Charles Sumner G.A.R. Hall** on Queen Street (one of four Civil War Trail sites), and **Washington College's** historic campus—one of the ten oldest liberal arts colleges in the country and one with links to George.

Enjoy performances at **Princes Theatre** and shopping at the **Chestertown Farmers' and Artisans' Market** on Saturdays, plus special events on First Fridays in a town that's a designated **Arts and Entertainment District**. *For more, visit Chestertown.com.*



Rock Hall

To celebrate Independence Day, head southwest and find the sky full of fireworks at **Rock Hall**, a fishing village—aka the "Pearl of the Chesapeake"—nestled between the Chesapeake Bay and Chester River. Once a tobacco port, then a fishing and crabbing center, the town now thrives as a sailing, boating and tourist destination and was named a best small town to visit by *Southern Living Magazine*. You'll find Eastern Shore flavor and character throughout the town in B&Bs, inns and shops featuring local artwork, crafts and antiques. Don't miss the many restaurants serving the freshest seafood.



Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Nature lovers will want to make time for **Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge**, for wildlife, waterfowl, birding and fantastic observation decks and walking trails, many of which lead to the water. Be sure to visit the Butterfly Observation Deck for a panoramic view of Chesapeake Bay. A birders' paradise, the refuge is sanctuary for more than a hundred thousand bald eagles, ducks, geese and swans, along with migratory songbirds and shorebirds. *1730 Eastern Neck Rd., 6 miles S. of Rock Hall, Fws.gov/Northeast/EasternNeck.*



Along the Main Line

MANY DISAGREE ABOUT WHAT TOWNS are included in the 20 square miles of Philadelphia's western suburbs known as the Main Line. Although some extend the area out to West Chester and Media, most agree that about 20 towns make up the Main Line neighborhoods of old money, great shopping, fine dining and outstanding schools and universities, along with some of the county's wealthiest zip codes and best collection of Welsh town names (Bala Cynwyd, Bryn Mawr, Berwyn).

In last year's guide we shared the mnemonic—Old Maids Never Wed And Have Babies—for the train stations for the eastern Main Line, representing Overbrook, Merion, Narberth, Wynnewood, Ardmore, Haverford, Bryn Mawr. Ready for a new memory aid for the western towns of Rosemont, Villanova, Radnor, St. Davids, Wayne, Stafford, Devon, Berwyn, Daylesford and Paoli? Try Really Vicious Retrievers Snap Willingly, Snarl Dangerously ... Beagles Don't, Period. Though even that leaves out Bala Cynwd, Gladwyne and Malvern.



Used as a setting in literature in the 1951 *Catcher in the Rye* and 2015 *Luckiest Girl Alive*, and spared (so far) from being part of the *Real Housewives* television franchise, this 15-mile stretch, mostly along Lancaster Avenue (Route 30), got its name because it parallels the Pennsylvania Railroad's former main rail line from Philadelphia to Chicago. Railroad shareholders built lavish homes in the area, creating the core of still-highly-desirable neighborhoods.

Even now a tour of the area is a perfect diversion for those with a weakness for house porn. Roam the leafy lanes and search for a glimpse of the ten most expensive homes for sale on the Main Line—mostly in Gladwyne and Villanova—ranging from \$4.6 to \$21 million and including both historic and new construction. One even has a batting cage.

Some of the best local shopping and dining options are available along the Main Line. Check out Lancaster Ave.'s assortment of unique boutiques, fashionable eateries and new brewpubs. From dining with history at **Black Powder Tavern** to the latest Cali-inspired **Main and Vine**, there's something for every taste. See our "Best of the Best" dining coverage at CountyLinesMagazine.com.

For shopping, browse specialty shops along Lancaster Ave. in Wayne and Bryn Mawr, or stop in the shopping-centric developments of **Eagle Village Shops** and new-ish **Bryn Mawr Village** for destinations like **Kirma Zabete** and **Athleta**. Farther east is one of the country's first shopping malls. **Suburban Square** continues to evolve, offering everything from an **Apple** store to **West Elm**, and **Lily Pulitzer** to **Soul Cycle**, plus a new **Life Time Athletic** gym/spa/shared work space.



PHOTO COURTESY WIL MOORE



Area Gardens

Ready for a stroll? Visit one of several sublime public gardens in this leafy enclave. Wayne's **Chanticleer Garden**, a former private residence now known as "a pleasure garden," is a popular destination, as is Devon's **Jenkins Arboretum** with its collection of native plants, as well as Merion's **Barnes Foundation Arboretum** with specimen and rare plants. ChanticleerGarden.org; JenkinsArboretum.org; BarnesFoundation.org; VisitMerion.org. The **Haverford College** campus, which is open to the public, is home to a charming arboretum of stately historic trees along with a pinetum by the peaceful 2.2-mile nature trail. Haverford.edu/Arboretum.



Stoneleigh

The newest addition, just opened in May, is Villanova's **Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden**. The 42-acre piece of paradise was once the Haas family home (of Rohm & Haas) and was left to the community to enjoy. Under the stewardship of Natural Lands, the property has been revived, showcasing the stately trees, winding pathways and lush gardens that were designed by notable landscape architects over the past century—including the Olmsted Brothers, sons of Frederick Law Olmsted. StoneleighGarden.org.



PHOTO COURTESY ADAM HRIBAR

Visit Valley Forge

Although no battles were fought there, Valley Forge has a singular place in the story of the American Revolution. And so **Valley Forge National Park** preserves the heroic story of George Washington and his beleaguered Continental Army during the 1777-78 winter.

Take a ranger-led tour for an in-depth understanding on this place where history marches off the page. A walking tour from the Muhlenberg Brigade huts follows in the footsteps of the soldiers who fought to survive that terrible winter. Or a 90-minute trolley tour will give you an overview of the park's many highlights. If you have more time, a bike tour gives an even more expansive view on a five-mile loop.

Self-guided tours are another option, allowing you to choose from seeing the **Visitors Center**, **Muhlenberg Brigade huts**, **National Memorial Arch**, **General Wayne's statue**, **Washington's Headquarters** and more. Outside the park is another worthwhile stop, the beautiful 1917 **Washington Memorial Chapel** with its 58-bell carillon. In a nearby log cabin you'll find the **Chapel Cabin Shop** offering Revolutionary-themed gifts, artwork, books and snacks.

The Visitors Center offers maps, self-guided driving tours, ranger-led walking tours, trolley tours, podcasts and more. ValleyForge.org.



Nature is mixed with history and 75 miles of interconnected trails, including 20 miles in the Park, perfect for jogging, running, biking and horseback riding. With plenty of open space and picnic areas, the Park is meant for summer days filled with soaking up sunshine and history.

As you might expect, each year the park throws a massive community picnic on July 4th with a cookout, games, artillery demos and a reading of the Declaration of Independence. *Park grounds are open year-round, dawn to dusk. Days and times vary by attraction. ValleyForge.org.* ♦

TIP: Join Healthy Parks Healthy People for the '78 Mile Challenge—78 in honor of 1778 and Washington's army. Run, walk, bike, hike or paddle along the trails, roads, and waterways in Valley Forge National Historical Park. Reach 78 miles and earn a prize.

See "More Great Places for Outings" in this Guide and check CountyLinesMagazine.com for the Best Local Events this month and every month.

