

# DAY TRIPS AND OUTINGS

With a trio of blockbuster attractions that normally bring tourists from around the world, it's no surprise that we typically start our guide to the area with these gems. That Longwood Gardens, Brandywine River Museum of Art and Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library are within 10 miles of each other is another reason to consider these destinations as a group.

These life-list quality sights are certainly worth visiting and revisiting in real life. But until you can explore every nook and cranny, enjoy the many ways each has done a remarkable job of providing a memorable virtual experience.



## Brandywine River Museum of Art

This gem of a regional museum with a world-class collection of American art is gradually reopening, plus its “Brandywine at Home” webpage lets you engage with art. Yes, they have the obvious gallery talks, and curator Amanda Burden does a wonderful job touring the “Votes for Women” exhibit. Staff Picks talks include treasures like Mary Cassatt’s “Head of Adele 1,” something you may have missed at your IRL visits. Subscribe to their YouTube channel to see more.

After watching the video tour of the Wyeths’ studios, we realized video guide with deep knowledge and artistic sensibilities unveils a deeper understanding than our prior quick walk-through. Video *can* be better!

More treats: “Virtual Nature Moments” includes 20 minutes of serene video of the Brandywine Creek on a sunny day. “Crafts and Educational Projects” link lets you download printable coloring sheets of works in the collection. For the kiddos there’s “Doodling with Gene Barretti,” a children’s book illustrator who creates fanciful animals. Blogs from the Brandywine Conservancy cover topics like spotlight on invasive species. And they offer you choice of Zoom backgrounds (covered bridge, Brandywine River).

So, Concerts in the Courtyard may be cancelled, but Art Camp continues, though virtually. You can even get the mushroom soup recipe from the Millstone Café, the onsite restaurant. [BrandywineMuseum.org](http://BrandywineMuseum.org).

## Top Three Must-Sees

### Longwood Gardens

Despite the pandemic-imposed limitations, **Longwood Gardens**, with creativity and extensive resources, created many enticing ways to stay connected—though virtually. Under the theme “Our Garden Your Home,” Longwood has woven together a variety of options for the whole family to enjoy.

At press time plans were to reopen June 18 for members, with later date for non-member access.

From “Listen & Experience” to “Look & Breathe,” you’ll find programs that offer ways to see what’s in

bloom, catch a flower arranging class, have a family plant hunt, or learn the bygone art of pressing flowers. You can even listen to some past summer concerts—from Grammy-winning Cajun music to the 2011 show by the Indigo Girls. Yes, it’s not quite being there, but it can be the next best thing!

The famous fountains may be temporarily closed, the summer performance schedule canceled, but the virtual world of Longwood is vibrantly alive and well. Check it out. [LongwoodGardens.org](http://LongwoodGardens.org).



### Winterthur Museum

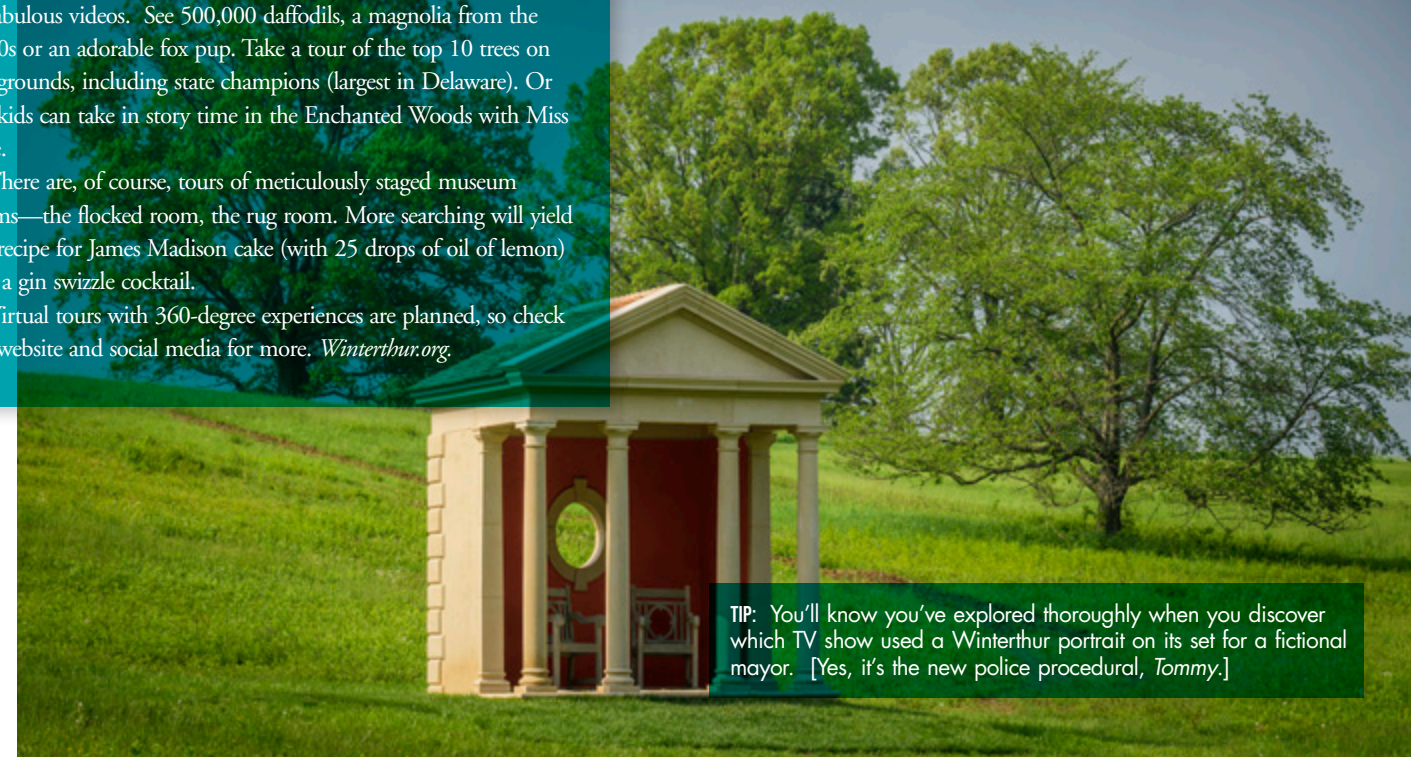
Although the museum and library are closed, the event calendar is in flux, and newlyweds are not filling the grounds every weekend, Winterthur staff have been busy.

Note: For Delaware residents, outdoor gardens have been open for members since June 1, with plans for more access/

Those who have never had the pleasure of an in-person visit to see 90,000 antiques, 60 acres of manicured grounds, plus 1,000 acres of meadows may want to indulge in an afternoon or two of fabulous videos. See 500,000 daffodils, a magnolia from the 1880s or an adorable fox pup. Take a tour of the top 10 trees on the grounds, including state champions (largest in Delaware). Or the kids can take in story time in the Enchanted Woods with Miss Julie.

There are, of course, tours of meticulously staged museum rooms—the flocked room, the rug room. More searching will yield the recipe for James Madison cake (with 25 drops of oil of lemon) and a gin swizzle cocktail.

Virtual tours with 360-degree experiences are planned, so check the website and social media for more. [Winterthur.org](http://Winterthur.org).



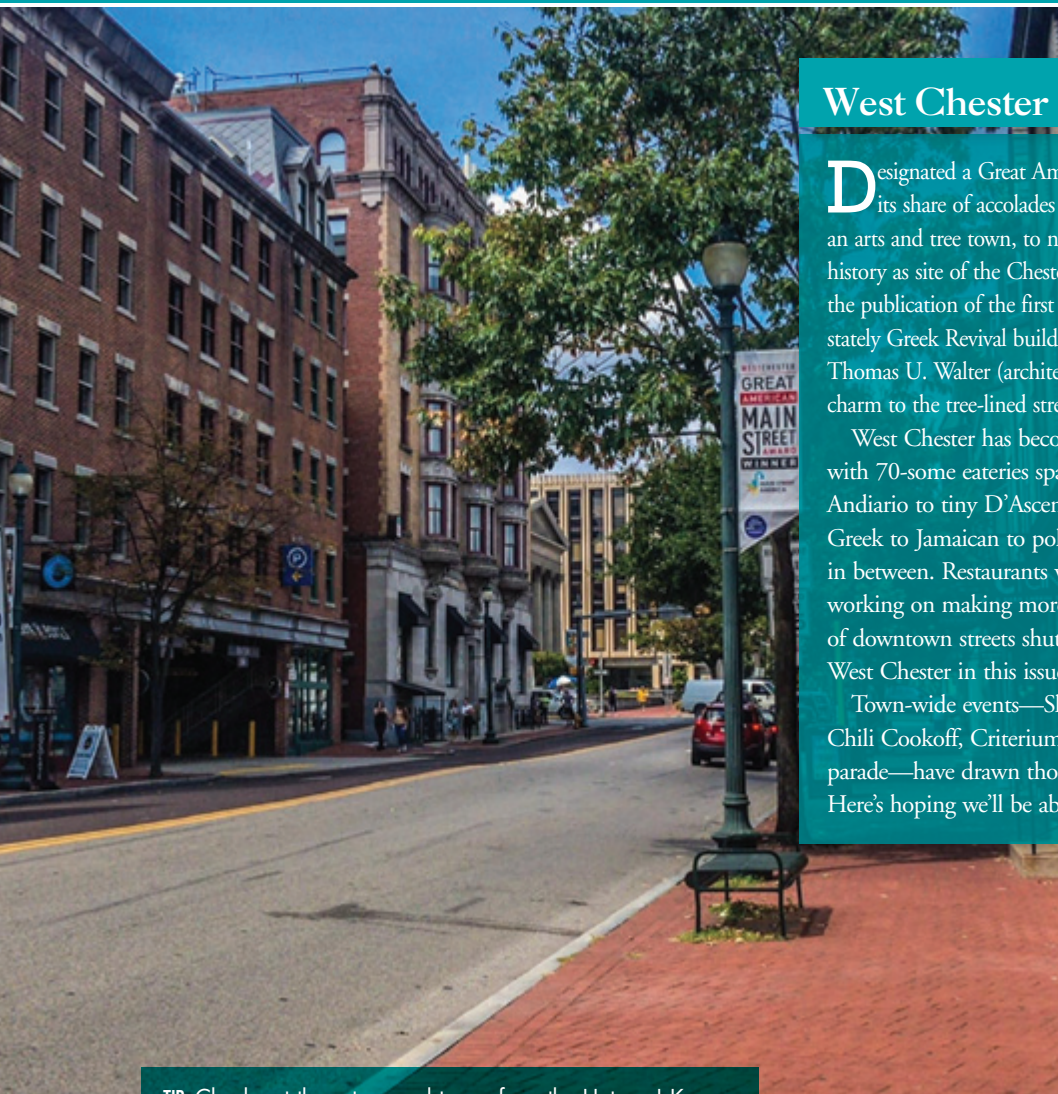
**TIP:** You’ll know you’ve explored thoroughly when you discover which TV show used a Winterthur portrait on its set for a fictional mayor. [Yes, it’s the new police procedural, *Tommy*.]



## EXPLORE CHESTER COUNTY

The fastest growing county in Pennsylvania, Chester County has much to recommend it—a high standard of living, great public and private schools, plenty of preserved open space. And it has a remarkable collection of distinctive towns, from its county seat of West Chester, to several of Philadelphia’s tiny Main Line towns (including Malvern, Berwyn and Devon), plus charming historic towns like Oxford, St. Peter’s Village and Historic Yellow Springs.

Here are four towns interesting enough to merit a day trip and certainly worth exploring and supporting.



### West Chester

Designated a Great American Main Street, **West Chester** has won its share of accolades as perfect small town, best place to retire, and an arts and tree town, to name a few. This county seat is also home to history as site of the Chester County History Center (new name) and the publication of the first biography of Abraham Lincoln. The town’s stately Greek Revival buildings include the Old Courthouse, built by Thomas U. Walter (architect of the U.S. Capitol), and others adding charm to the tree-lined streets with brick sidewalks.

West Chester has become well known as a dining destination, with 70-some eateries spanning Best of Philly white-table-cloth Andiamo to tiny D’Ascenzo’s Gelato. Cuisine options range from Greek to Jamaican to poke to vegan, with a bounty of choices in between. Restaurants were busy offering take out and are now working on making more outdoor dining options available as parts of downtown streets shut down to traffic. See the article about West Chester in this issue.

Town-wide events—Short Film Festival, Restaurant Festival, Chili Cookoff, Criterium Bike Races and a blockbuster Christmas parade—have drawn thousands to the downtown district each year. Here’s hoping we’ll be able to enjoy them all again soon.

**TIP:** Check out the art around town, from the Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center to the annual Gallery Walk tours (Oct. 2), to lamp post banners designed by local artists and the Chester County Art Association.

### Phoenixville

An old iron and steel mill town has emerged from the ashes much like its namesake to create a new life. This now-vibrant town attracts multiple generations to a walkable downtown area to enjoy all Phoenixville has to offer.

Restaurants fueled the town’s renaissance and sparked a busy nightlife. Although early pioneer Majolica closed its doors in late 2019, new eateries like trendy Sedona Taphouse fill the expanding main drag along Bridge Street. The historic Columbia Hotel houses the welcoming Great American Pub, while newer construction across the street is home to Vintner’s Table.

Independently owned shops add to the town’s flavor. Sample goodies from Bridge Street Chocolates or buy a book at newly opened Reads & Company. The classic and recently renovated Colonial Theatre offers films, live performances and 20 years of hosting its annual Blobfest in July, to commemorate that 1950s cult movie that includes some scenes shot locally.

Also notable: Phoenixville has more breweries per square foot than anywhere else in the U.S., so be sure to visit one while you’re there. Drink there or take out.



**TIP:** Walk the loop along Bridge Street in Phoenixville and spot several colorful murals depicting the town’s history. And mark your calendar for the Burning of the Phoenix before Christmas, a major community event.



### Kennett Square

Yes, it’s the Mushroom Capital of the World, producing over a million pounds of the product a day. And the town holds an annual Mushroom Festival as well as drops a lit mushroom-shaped ball on New Year’s Eve. A shop named the Mushroom Cap sells predictable souvenirs and most restaurants in town include food with fungi on their menus. But there’s more to this lively community near Longwood Gardens.

State Street is lined with independently owned shops—from Square Pear art gallery to charming boutiques. Yet eateries fill even more storefronts—there’s Aimee Olexy’s famed Talula’s Table, Molly Johnson’s delish Nomadic Pies, and Jack and Sam Mavraj’s beloved La Verona among many others.

And off the main street lie other discoveries. Beer fans will enjoy sampling Braeloch Brewing, Kennett Brewing, Victory Brewing or the beer garden at The Creamery, with the option to throw axes at the Chop Shop. Those looking for artisan goods should head for The workS, a curated showcase of one-of-a-kind locally made goods.

**TIP:** First Fridays in Kennett have hosted Art Strolls. Here’s hoping they return, along with the Kennett Brewfest in October—a chance to sample local and national breweries from tiny plastic mugs, all for a good cause.

### Malvern

A great place to live, work and play, Malvern is a small town village with its center just off busy Lancaster Ave. This Main Line town is home to a key Revolutionary War battle, commemorated at the Paoli Battlefield (yes, the name is confusing). The town is also the site of General Mad Anthony Wayne’s home, Waynesborough, a house museum and national historic landmark.

Beyond its historic roots—reflected in bold murals around town—Malvern hosts street festivals, parades (the longest running Memorial Day parade, started in 1868), and Third Thursday Strolls along King Street. Strollers can browse boutiques like Posh, Giny’s and Malvern Saddlery, along with a wide variety of restaurants.

Mainstay Restaurant Alba has been a fixture for years, serving up farm-to-table goodness before moving to take out. Malvern Buttery soon became a community hangout attracting the faithful with fabulous pastries and breads. Newly arrived Brick and Brew was packing them in before social distancing happened. Be sure to support these and other Chester County restaurants.



**TIP:** Attractions outside downtown Malvern include acclaimed repertory theater, People’s Light, 19th-century crossroads town at Historic Sugar-town, and Radnor Hunt, site of an annual steeplechase race attracting 20,000+ fans for a good cause.



Although many of our readers live in or visit Delaware often, too many others have not explored the First State. This neighboring destination—close enough to be an easy drive, yet distant enough to feel like a getaway—has much to recommend it.

There's history, gardens, cultural attractions, tax-free shopping, plus beautiful beaches (see Recent Discoveries in this issue). Here are a few highlights to entice to do Delaware soon.



## Mt. Cuba Center

One of the many former du Pont properties, Mt. Cuba's 500 acres of gardens, ponds and local flora are now a public garden focused on native plants. With display gardens, research facilities, and a recent feature in the *New York Times*, the Center is best known for its spectacular wildflowers.

The gardens opened first to members, who got a preview of what they've been missing while Mt. Cuba was closed. Ticket holders will be able to again enjoy the gardens, starting June 17, while observing safety protocols (contactless ticketing, one-way traffic, mask, social distancing and limits on numbers of guests).

## Nemours Mansion & Gardens

Yet another former du Pont residence, Nemours' stately formal gardens and classical French mansion are in stark contrast with Mt. Cuba. The former home of Alfred I. du Pont, who built the 77-room chateau-like home to woo his future wife, Nemours is modeled on Versailles and boasts the largest formal French gardens in North America, at 300 acres.

Though currently still closed to the public, videos tours are a wonderful way to catch a glimpse of the Temple of Love, colonnade, maze and magical water tower. Among other things, you'll learn about the original owner's special connection to ice cream.

Check social media for the planned reopening in early to mid-July. This is a garden worthy of your life-list!



## Delaware Art Museum

For over a hundred years, the Delaware Art Museum has been a major arts and cultural institution in Wilmington's leafy suburbs. With its world-class collection of British Pre-Raphaelite paintings and extensive works by Wilmington native Howard Pyle and other American artists, it would be a destination even without its welcoming sculpture gardens and free Sunday admission, thanks to DuPont.

Now art fans can celebrate the museum's reopening July 1 for members and July 15 for the public, with safety procedures in place (masks, distancing, and the usual precautions). Even so, it's still in-person viewing.

The past months have seen a variety of ways the museum has kept the public engaged with art: weekly Art Chats, Virtual Drawing and Painting classes, Virtual DelArt Readers Book Club Zoom meetings and musical performances. These creative efforts have kept this grand institution relevant to its community.



## Riverwalk & JAM Trail

Places to walk have become increasingly popular as we've been staying mostly at home and social distancing.

Wilmington's Riverwalk is a great place to stretch your legs and enjoy a water view. The local eateries (most offering outdoor dining), Constitution Yards beer garden, and charming collection of unique birdhouses built by Thomas Burke combine to make this fun for the whole family.

The new JAM (Jack A. Markell) Trail adds another attraction for walkers, cyclists and runners. Connecting Wilmington's Riverfront to Historic New Castle, the flat JAM Trail is worth exploring.

Start your JAM at Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park, and head for the DuPont Environmental Education Center and Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge via an elevated boardwalk above the Christina River. You'll find an Industrial Track along the New Castle & Wilmington Railroad, then a Suburban Section before arriving at the Heritage Trail along the Colonial-era streets of Historic New Castle. Celebrate your journey with a pint at historic Jessup's Tavern.

The truly ambitious can continue on the East Coast Greenway that extends from Maine to Florida. Or enjoy another pint at Jessup's.



**TIP:** For a bit of small town charm, we suggest a stop at Centreville, just south of the Pennsylvania border. Browse the Shops at Centreville, stop at the Centreville Cafe and visit the delightful Collier's Wine Cellar for curated selections beyond the usual choices.



After a few months at home, even a short road trip can feel like an adventure. That's a great reason to consider a daytrip or weekend excursion to nearby Lancaster County.

With rolling Amish farmlands, wide open spaces and timeless places, outdoor recreation options and roadside stands, Lancaster County attracts visitors with its simple goodness. So whether it's just a chance to drive and put some space between you and your stay-at-home spot or a more organized photo excursion to capture nature's beauty, here's a destination to consider.

## Pick a Region

Consider exploring one (or more) of the five diverse areas in Lancaster County, each with its own flavor. The **Amish and PA Dutch** area in the eastern portion of the county is the closest to most of us and perhaps the best known, offering a glimpse of a different time. To the north, the **Antiques Capital**, around Adamstown, has an astounding collection of antiques shops with treasures for any budget. The **Small Towns and the Northern Countryside** region is very much as the name implies—a bit of Norman Rockwell atmosphere in towns like Ephrata, Mt. Joy and Lititz.

**Lancaster City**, the county seat and the only real city, is located in the center of the county and is a surprisingly cosmopolitan destination, with lively arts and restaurant scenes. And finally, to the west along the Susquehanna River, you'll find **the Riverlands**, with plenty of history to accompany a variety of outdoor recreational activities. Find out more in our April issue article "Spring Getaways in Lancaster County."



## Covered Bridge Tour

For a quintessential Lancaster County experience—and perfect for social distancing—explore some of the 25 covered bridges that mix charm and romance. The romance part comes from the name "kissing bridges," another term used to describe these structures where many couples have strolled and paused to ... reflect on the remarkable architecture.

Choose one of five driving tours, each with directions, a bit of history and suggestions for places to stop and things to do along the way. (Check to make sure the tempting restaurants and other attractions recommended are open.) Or BYOP (bring your own picnic).



## Hiking, Biking and More

Lancaster County's open space is an ideal setting for outdoor fun. Parks and preserves offer a variety of scenic trails, whether you're wearing sneakers or hiking boots broken in on the Appalachian Trail.

For example, the Susquehanna Heritage area draws visitors to 40 parks, trails and nature preserves. Enjoy flowering fields, verdant woods and views of wildlife. You can even hike the famous Mason-Dixon Trail.

Rolling hills and back roads attract cyclists looking for a scenic ride. Established bike trails are also available for those who prefer a guided tour of lush farmlands, river views and plenty of fresh country air. There's even a bike route that takes you through covered bridges.

And yes, there are scooter tours in Strasburg, rock climbing at Chickies Rock, and kayaking on the Susquehanna River. *DiscoverLancaster.com*.

Finally, the Wolf Sanctuary in Lititz is worth adding to your itinerary. For nearly 40 years the Darlington family has provided a refuge for gray wolves and wolf-dogs. This educational facility on 80-some acres offers guided tours to let visitors meet the Wolves of Speedwell. Can't visit for the Full Moon Fundraiser event? Book a professional photography session or adopt a wolf to help support this nonprofit. *WolfSanctuaryPA.org*.

## Things to Do from Home

Much like other tourist attractions, Lancaster County has been busy finding ways folks can enjoy what they have to offer, but virtually.

If you've tried every educational resource from local sources, then check out the STEM offerings from The North Museum, with new material added each week. Hands-on engaging activities are available to download. Try the Geology or Dinosaurs sessions for Pre-K for \$5.

A fan of Sight and Sounds shows? Buy DVDs of popular shows to watch at home. Available exclusively through the theater and filmed in front of a live audience, the *Jesus* DVD includes director's commentary. Other shows—*Johan*, *Joseph*, *Noah*, *Ruth* or a collection—also available.

For train fans, tune in to the webcams and Google Streetviews at the Strasburg Rail Road to see what's happening there. *StrasburgRailRoad.com*.



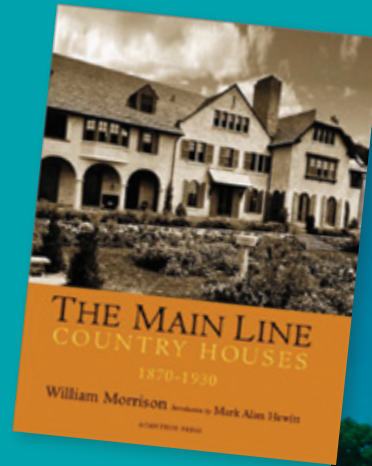
**TIP:** Just for fun, learn to speak like the Amish people with online lessons at [AmishFarmAndHouse.com](http://AmishFarmAndHouse.com). A new word is posted each day, and you can review prior posts to expand your vocabulary. Heemet = home (pronounced hay-met), pannhass = scrapple, rock = dress. You'll also learn about Amish culture, e.g. Amish women wear dresses every day, and the dresses are long, of solid colors, without designs or ornament.



What is the Main Line? The traditional definition comes from the Pennsylvania Railroad. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the railroad’s executives and their friends built “summer cottages” east from Bala Cynwyd and west to Paoli. It is—or was—basically a land of mansions, opulent gardens and country clubs served by the main line of the PA Railroad.

Now there’s the looser definition of the area used by real estate agents and others. It’s broader, ill-defined, and includes Newtown Square, Chesterbrook, Malvern, Frazer and King of Prussia. Perhaps Main Line Adjacent?

No matter how you define it, the Main Line is a distinctive suburb worth a driving tour or a visit, conditions permitting.



## The Cottages and their Gardens

Some of the old railroad mansions and grounds are gone, carved into smaller estates and housing developments. But lovely examples remain.

On Dodd’s Lane in Gladwyne, for instance, is the former home of Joseph Pew, founder of Sun Oil. Another, on Laurel Lane, belonged to Clement Griscom, an owner of the Titanic. Yet another, on Berwyn-Paoli Road, was owned by J. Gardner Cassatt, a relative of a president of the Pennsylvania Railroad and of artist Mary Cassatt.

And there are many others you can read about in *The Main Line: Country Houses 1870-1930*. Great house porn!

The mansions themselves are, of course, generally closed to the public but some have shared their gardens with the public, either free or for fundraisers.

The 12-acre **Barnes Arboretum**, now managed by St. Joseph’s University, once belonged to Dr. Albert and Laura Barnes, donors of the Barnes Foundation. The arboretum in Merion has more than 2,500 varieties of plants.

The Haas family, of Rohm & Haas, donated **Stoneleigh**, their 42-acre estate in Villanova to Natural Lands. The gardens and main house blend horticulture, ecology and history based on designs by Frederick Law Olmsted’s sons.

**Jenkins Arboretum** in Devon is home to many rare plants, including unusual azaleas, rhododendrons and kalmias. The Jenkinse weren’t wealthy, but enjoyed the land immensely and bequeathed it to the community. Noted landscape architect George Patton developed the site plan.

Wayne’s **Chanticleer Garden** was donated by Adolph Rosengarten, head of Merck Pharmaceuticals, and his wife, Christine. On the National Register of Historic Places, it consists of a dozen separate gardens, an open-air porch, and includes more than 5,000 plants. It’s been called the “most romantic, imaginative, and exciting public garden in America.”

We suggest you see them all for yourself.



## Bicycling in Montgomery County

History, art attractions, trails, shopping, restaurants, breweries and wineries ... If you’re thinking of touring the Main Line by bike, now is a great time! The Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Bureau has posted 8- and 14-mile routes on [ValleyForge.org](http://ValleyForge.org) for cycling the inner Main Line—basically Bala to Ardmore—and promises more to come. Do it now while the traffic is still light!



**TIP:** In October, **Aronomink Golf Club** in Main-Line-adjacent Newtown Square will host the KPMG Women’s PGA Championship, adding to its long list of championships. Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson and Arnold Palmer have played the course. Designed in 1926 by Donald Ross, it’s ranked #9 in the U.S. and #36 in the world by the Platinum Club.



## Valley Forge National Park

George Washington slept here. Really. In fact, he had a nice house: a two-story affair. His 12,000 soldiers meanwhile slept in dirt-floor log huts, 12 to a cabin, about 1,800 of them. Many replicas of the Revolutionary War quarters have been built. Go for the history.

Another reason to visit the park is for the space and nature. The Valley Forge National Park offers 3,500 acres of rolling hills and green space, ideal for jogging, biking and enjoying. And remember: the heroes of Valley Forge did it for you.

## Golf and Cricket Clubs

Ardmore’s **Merion Golf Club’s** East Course, the five-time site of the U.S. Open, is ranked 7th in the U.S. and 14th in the world and is maintained in virtually the same condition as when it was created in 1912—including the colored wicker baskets (instead of flags) to mark the holes. Many great players—Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Phil Mickelson, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods—have played there. With about a \$70 thousand initiation fee and \$6 thousand in annual dues, that’s only the beginning of getting in—you’ll still have to get a member referral. It’s all about tradition.

**The Merion Cricket Club** is over 150 years old. Like many Philadelphia area buildings—the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Baldwin School (formerly the Bryn Mawr Hotel)—it was designed by Frank Furness. It’s hosted cricket, squash and tennis tournaments of state and national caliber, as well as croquet and paddle tennis plus events and galas in its grand ballroom.

Though it’s hosted a few, the **Philadelphia County Club** in Gladwyne reportedly eschews big-name golf championships, styling itself as a “family place.” Besides golf, it sports a beautiful swimming pool, tennis, paddle and squash courts—it’s hosted international squash tournaments—trap and skeet shooting, a fitness center, four dining rooms, a bridge club ... and a hefty admission fee. Historical note: Grace Kelly announced her engagement to Prince Ranier III of Monaco at PCC’s Bala facility, a year before it moved to Gladwyne.

## King of Prussia Mall

Minnesota’s Mall of America wins with 2.9 million feet of space. But at 2.8 million square feet, the KOP Mall is America’s second largest and a major shopping hub and attraction.

But what will our future mall experiences be like? Will our favorite stores be open? Time will tell. Some stores with exterior doors have started opening at press time. Keep checking the websites for updates.

Early news reports from parts of the country less affected by the pandemic where malls have reopened, show food courts with less seating, floor decals showing traffic flow, fewer entrances and limits on the number of shoppers (1 per 50 square feet). Masks, contactless payment and frequent sanitizing are also likely.

So, shop local?



## [ Day Trips and Outings ]

# HEAD FOR MARYLAND

Maryland spans ocean beaches to the east and Appalachian Mountains to the west. Here we focus on the nearby Chesapeake Bay area, running up the middle of the state, and all within three hours of Chester County.

This area is a 4,500-square-mile estuary that's practically fresh water in the north and ocean salty in the south, home to blue crabs, oysters and clams—each core to Chesapeake cuisine—as well as ospreys, herons, eagles, ducks, geese and other waterfowl. A nature-lovers delight!



## Tour by Bike

One of the best ways to visit the Chesapeake Bay area is by bicycle. The landscape is mostly flat, so there's no panting while peddling. You can cycle the 30-mile towpath along the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal and maybe spot a large ship making the passage from the Bay to the Atlantic.

Try navigating the 40-mile stretch from Georgetown to the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Or bike from the Blackwater National Wildlife Preserve, which has a 20-mile loop connecting to a 25-mile loop from the nearby town of Cambridge. Enjoy the wildlife!

In between, tour picturesque towns, like St. Michaels, Oxford, Easton and Tilghman Island. In fact, you may want to take a tour. Check out *CarolinaTailwinds.com*.



## By Water

Many would prefer to see the Chesapeake Bay like oystermen do, from the water. At a minimum, try a kayak or canoe. Launch it virtually anywhere—the Choptank River, Blackwater River, Tilghman Island are considered excellent launching points. But there are hundreds.

Get a map at *Maryland.maps.arcgis.com*, paddle up one of the many creeks and guess which stately mansion was the home of Russian spies.

Or choose to explore by sailboat. Wednesday nights are for races in Annapolis Harbor. During the rest of the week, the Bay is filled with all manner of sailboats, from small dinghies to antique schooners.

St. Michaels, Rock Hall, Baltimore, Solomons Island ... You can charter a sailboat at many places, e.g., South River Boat Rentals or Dream Yacht Charters.

If your seamanship skills are wanting, try a refresher at the Annapolis Sailing School or J World. Or, if you're in need of a captain or crew, there are many to hire. Try Annapolis Bay Charters to begin.



**TIP:** Come November, you can still see bald eagles here. At Conowingo Dam, between Cecil and Harford Counties, bald eagles congregate. Watch them in the trees, soaring over the water, spearing their quarry. Not bad when you think that 50 years ago these magnificent birds were almost extinct.