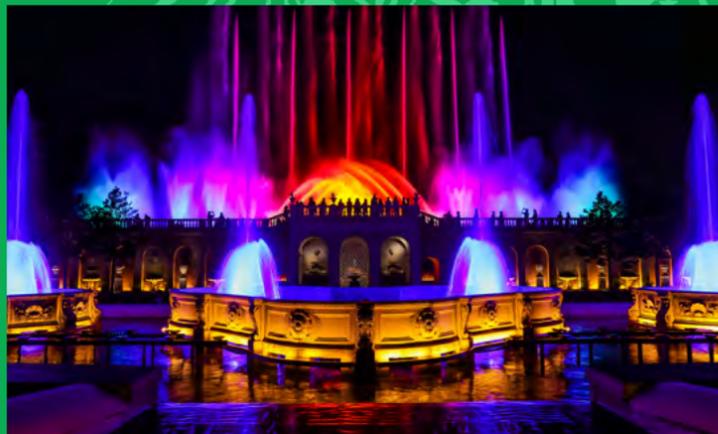


Welcome to County Lines Country



**2024-2025
Guidebook**



Day Trips & Outings

Start with the Big Three

There's no better way to appreciate the wonders of our area than by touring three world-class attractions: Longwood Gardens, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, and the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art. Let's start there!



PHOTO CREDIT: BECCA MATHIAS



PHOTO CREDIT: CAROL D'ACUNSEPI



PHOTO CREDIT: DANIEL TRAUER

LONGWOOD GARDENS

"Horticultural splendor at every turn" is one way to describe Longwood Gardens, a top destination both locally and nationally, on 1,100 acres and anchored by a magnificent four-acre conservatory. Its brilliant summer blooms, lush landscapes and stunning vistas add to a summer to remember with new garden spaces, the popular Fireworks & Fountains Shows, dazzling Illuminated Fountain Performances and fun performances under the stars (The Brandywiners present *Seussical*, July 24–27).

The Festival of Fountains (through October 27; timed tickets sell out quickly) is perhaps the biggest draw, featuring the dramatic Fireworks & Fountains Shows (see details in our Picks feature). Six spectacular shows with dazzling fireworks and fountains choreographed to music by The Beatles, Adele and Prince. The Illuminated Fountain Performances dance, soar and delight in the Main Fountain Garden

on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings with music from classic to pop.

Gather the family on Festival Fridays (July 12 is "You've Got a Friend in Me") for quality time set to music, fountains and more. Enjoy Circus Arts, Family Nature Strolls, Chimes Tower climbs and concerts and the Illuminated Fountain Performance, "To Infinity and Beyond" (check website for playlist from animated movie faves) and more. The August 16 program is "Come Together" for all things Beatles.

Wondering about the status of the massive Longwood Reimagined project? The opening of the 32,000-square-foot conservatory/glass

house on the 17-acre site is planned for November 22, 2024, featuring two weeks of festivities, so mark your calendar.

Longwood offers several dining options: full service at 1906 Restaurant, a la carte at the café (salads, mushroom soup) with indoor and outdoor tables, and a Beer Garden serving up pizza and pretzels with your brew. Plus there's a picnic area with grills and 70 tables outside the main part of the gardens for BYO folks. And tempting options are nearby in Chadds Ford and downtown Kennett Square.

Allow three to four hours for your tour. *Routes 1 & 52, Kennett Square. Longwood-Gardens.org*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LONGWOOD GARDENS

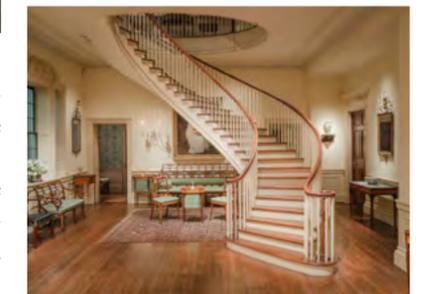
WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library is so much more than a 175-room former du Pont mansion holding over 90,000 objects in the country's finest collection of American decorative arts and material culture. And that's saying *quite a lot* about this gem in northern Delaware.

To tour the collections, first-timers may opt for a self-guided Introductory House Tour. Dive deeper with a Guided Gallery Walk to focus on a special exhibit, like "Transformations," showcasing contemporary art with 30 nationally recognized artists whose work draws inspiration from the historic collections of Winterthur. Or chose a Closer Look Tour in which guides share favorite objects, exhibit floors or rooms in the museum, making each tour unique. Scholars may want to visit the Library to view the rare books, manuscripts and archives there.

Tour the meticulously maintained 1,000-acre grounds at Winterthur, with 10 miles of roads and 25 miles of paths and walking trails. There's an Introductory Tram Tour, with 30-minute narration, starting at the Visitors Center. Or choose the Estate Tram Tour to see the dairy farm and landscape views. Getting in your steps is another way to enjoy the grounds and gardens, with both guided and self-guided options. Combine your walk with a picnic — BYO food or purchase at the Visitors Center — with a stop on Sycamore Hill or in the Enchanted Woods, a favorite kids' spot.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY



BTW: Kiddos are welcome to visit spots such as the Touch-It Room and the Hands-on History Cart, both on Saturdays, and the three-acre Enchanted Woods with Acorn Tearoom, giant Birds Nest and more. Terrific Tuesdays offer demos, crafts and stories geared to the little ones.

And come for the events. Highlights in July include touring the Hydrangea Collection on July 3, Birding Walk on July 17, and the Artisan Market, July 19–21, showcasing quality local makers and crafters creating works in textiles, ceramics, glass, woodworking, antiques, gardening and more (reservations required). Each month offers both recurring tours and new topics, like the Art of Beekeeping on August 14. *5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE. Winterthur.org*



BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY & MUSEUM OF ART

The aptly named Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art preserves and presents elements of art and nature that highlight the extraordinary beauty of the Brandywine region in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The Conservancy focuses on conservation of land, water, natural and cultural resources of the Brandywine-Christina watershed, while the Museum of Art engages audiences through its collection of American art, showcasing artworks by the Wyeth family and other artists of the Brandywine region.

The Museum is housed in a converted 19th-century mill with a modern glass-and-steel addition providing three floors of intimate exhibit space along with an onsite cafe and gift shop. It's the perfect size for visitors to thoroughly enjoy both the galleries and the grounds along the Brandywine (more so when the current construction is completed).

Although the popular "Jamie Wyeth: Unsettled" exhibition headed for other museums in mid-June (online tours are still available), this summer offers more art to enjoy. "Every Leaf & Twig: Andrew Wyeth's Botanical Imagination" includes 40 watercolors and drawings (many never before exhibited) on view through September 15, and a new exhibition opens June 30 called "Frank Stewart's Nexus: An American Photographer's Journey, 1960s to the Present." This 100-photo retrospective of Stewart's work centers on world cultures and Black life — including music, art, travel and dance. Long-term planners should note the October 12 opening for "The Crafted World of

Wharton Esherick," father of the studio furniture movement with a dedicated museum in Malvern.

Families will enjoy the Museum Explorers program (kids 3 to 10) on Thursday mornings, July 11 to August 1, to discover new treasures in art and nature on scavenger hunts through the galleries and campus followed by art projects. And grownups can join Concerts in the newly renovated Courtyard. On July 10, listen to traditional jazz and swing music by Parlour Noir from Mt. Airy and on August 23, an all-female mostly bluegrass trio called Wicked Sycamore, on guitar, mandolin and cello.

For those who can't be separated from their phone, the Museum has a new free app used by 400 other museums and cultural groups. Bloomberg Connects gives you info — audio and text — before, during and after your visit, with entries on planning your visit, highlights, new and past exhibitions, and acquisitions. We love it! *Route 1, Chadds Ford. BrandywineMuseum.org*

PHOTO CREDIT: MARK GOMEL



Hike Through Chester and Delaware Counties

CHESLEN PRESERVE

Natural Lands has 20 nature preserves, wild-life refuges and public gardens in our region. All are worth a visit, especially ChesLen Preserve. At 1,282 acres, ChesLen is the largest privately owned nature preserve in Chester County. There you can explore over nine miles of hiking trails, traversing shady woodlands, flower-filled meadows, farm fields and stream valleys. Leashed dogs are welcome, and many trails are open to horseback riding.

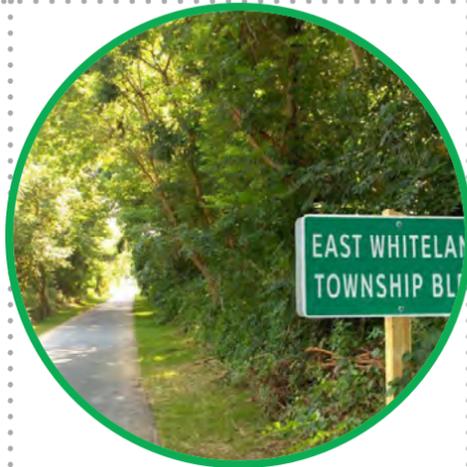
The 2.8-mile Peter O. Hausmann Trail starts by the south parking lot and passes through open space, row crops, woodlands and wetlands, with several scenic overlooks. Kids will love Ollie Owl's NaturePlayGround near the Lenfest Center pavilion. Here youngsters can climb logs, build stick teepees, hunt for bugs and explore small streams.

ChesLen Preserve also hosts special events throughout the year, including the Friday Night Lights outdoor concert, July 12, and Pints on the Preserve, July 20. *Open Fri. to Wed., dawn to dusk. 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. NatLands.org/ChesLen-Preserve*



PHOTO CREDIT: MAE AXELROD

Our region ranks high for its natural beauty, and there's no shortage of fresh air and open space in Chester and Delaware Counties! A perfect way to enjoy nature is to be out in it — engaging in forest bathing or a more Western variation, perhaps while getting in your steps. So here are a few of our favorite spots to take a scenic hike — or bike or horseback ride — this summer. All are free, and all welcome



CHESTER VALLEY TRAIL

For running, jogging, dog-walking, biking, inline skating and, weather permitting, cross-country skiing, check out the Chester Valley Trail. This paved, ADA-accessible trail is currently 18.6 miles long, with 13.5 miles in Chester County, from Exton to Tredyffrin Township. In Montgomery County, a 3.8-mile extension opened last year that connects to the Schuylkill River Trail in Norristown. Another planned extension will add five miles west to Downingtown.

The trail generally follows the Chester Valley Railroad, a 19th-century rail corridor that once stretched 22 miles from Downingtown to Bridgeport. History buffs may know that parts of the trail coincide with movements by Washington's Continental Army and General Cornwallis's British troops following the Battle of Brandywine. This includes an area called "Battle of the Clouds," where an impending battle was canceled for torrential rain, near Phoenixville Pike and Swedesford Road.

Open daily, half-hour before sunrise to half-hour after sunset. Trailheads and parking at 101 E. Commerce Dr., Exton; 132 Church Farm Ln., Exton; 125 N. Phoenixville Pk., Malvern; 209 Conestoga Rd., Malvern; 1055 Westlakes Dr., Berwyn. Chesco.org/4643/Chester-Valley-Trail

friendly, leashed dogs. Just be sure to pick up after them!

For more great places to walk your pup, check out the Delco Trails & Tails pass. Sign up online, check in on your phone at dog-friendly trails, and earn points toward free swag — stickers, bandanas for dogs and "wooder" bottles. Learn more at VisitDelcoPA.org/Trails-And-Tails.

OKEHOCKING PRESERVE

Willistown Township is home to several great hiking locations — including Willistown Conservation Trust's four nature preserves (see our May issue for details). Okehocking Preserve, owned and operated by Willistown Township, is no exception.

At this 180-acre preserve, you'll find diverse habitats, including meadows, uplands, Ridley Creek riparian areas and mature woods. There are over seven miles of mowed and wooded natural surface trails, much of which are open to leashed dogs as well as horseback riding. Hike to an 18th-century stone bank barn, find 140 bird species in the meadows surrounding Delchester Run, and find stunning views of the preserve from a lookout platform atop rolling hills. Plus, your pup can run wild in the leash-free field.

Wondering about the name? The preserve is part of a 500-acre land grant from William Penn to the Okehocking band of the Lenni Lenape tribe, the first Native American land grant in the colonies. *Open daily, dawn to dusk. 5316 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square. Willistown.PA.us*



History buffs may come for the three-century-old working mill, but the outdoorsy among us know Newlin Grist Mill for its 160-acre park.

RIDLEY CREEK STATE PARK

Delco's only state park is a perfect place to take in the best nature has to offer. Encompassing over 2,600 acres of woodlands and meadows bisected by Ridley Creek, the park is home to many large, old-growth trees, some dating back to colonial times, and plenty of wildlife.

Hike over 17 miles of trails, with varying scenery and difficulty. Loop around the historic gardens and mansion on the mile-long, beginner-friendly Mansion Gardens Trail. Take in woodland views on the more challenging Blue Trail (2.3 miles), which loops around one of the park's 12 picnic areas. Or try to spot a great blue heron along the creek on the 1.7-mile Orange Trail.

The park also has a paved, 4.2-mile Multi-Use Trail for hiking, biking and horseback riding, which travels through the woods, by agricultural fields and next to the creek, offering great views and fishing opportunities. *Open daily, sunrise to sunset. 1023 Sycamore Mills Rd., Media. DNCR.PA.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/RidleyCreekStatePark*



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID SADDLER

NEWLIN GRIST MILL

History buffs may come for the three-century-old working mill, but the outdoorsy among us know Newlin Grist Mill for its 160-acre park. Its 8.5 miles of trails offer a unique blend of natural beauty, environmental diversity and cultural history.

Trails pass through diverse habitats, from upland grasslands to river-bottom wetlands. You'll find both native species and specimen trees, as well as a wide range of wildlife, including resident and migratory birds. Seasoned and beginner ornithologists alike enjoy free monthly Bird Walks led by naturalists from Wild Birds Unlimited — next one on July 27 at 8 a.m. Remember to bring your binoculars!

You'll also discover evidence of past industry, agriculture and transportation along the trails. The 1.6-mile Industrial Trail follows the Octorara Railroad, passing the Markham Station Visitors Center, railroad bridges and the site of a cannery and creamery. On the 0.9-mile Mill Race Trail, explore the dams, gates and races (canals) that deliver water to the mill's water wheel. *Grounds open daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 219 S. Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. NewlinGristMill.org*



THE SCOTT ARBORETUM OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Swarthmore College's idyllic campus is more than just 19th-century stone buildings. It's also a 350-acre arboretum. A self-described "garden of ideas," Scott Arboretum displays over 4,000 of some of the best ornamental plants for Delaware Valley gardeners.

While you can spend hours strolling through the arboretum's gorgeous gardens and plant collections — the Hydrangea Collection is in bloom in summer — hikers will enjoy the trails of Crum Woods. Encompassing 220 acres of mostly forested land, the woods contain 3.5 miles of trails. Hike alongside the Crum Creek on the 1.7-mile Valley Walk and take a detour on Wister's Garden Walk. In springtime, take the Bartram Path past the outdoor amphitheater to the Rhododendron Collection.

For a longer hike, take the 2.2-mile Leiper-Smedley Trail, which connects the historic Leiper House & Park in Wallingford to Springfield's Smedley Park and passes through Crum Woods. *Open daily, dawn to dusk. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. ScottArboretum.org. Swarthmore.edu/CrumWoods*



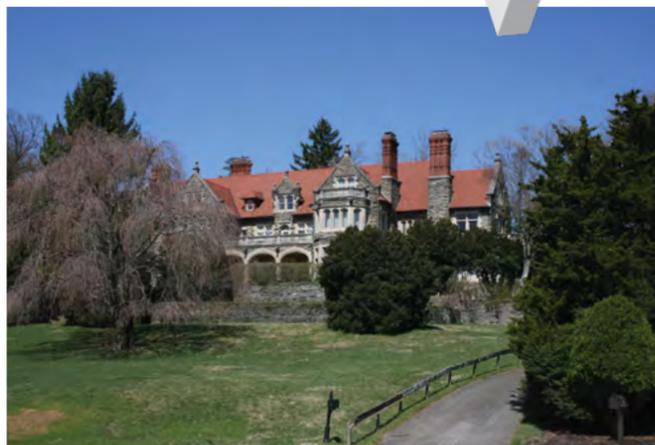
PHOTO CREDIT: SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Take a Driving Tour of Main Line Mansions

A favorite pastime of many locals is to ogle grand old estates of the Main Line. Alas, many have been demolished, lost except in local historical society libraries. But some are still standing. Some — Chanticleer in Villanova and Stoneleigh in Villanova — are perhaps even more famous for their public gardens. (Read about the gardens in last July's issue online, "Enjoy Nature on the Main Line.") This year, we suggest a driving tour of the Main Line, focusing on some of these "found" mansions that have not been lost to neglect or development. Our tour begins near Devon. From there, we head east, visiting Villanova, Bryn Mawr and Haverford.

GREY CRAIG

We begin at Grey Craig, designed in 1902 by noted architect William Price. It was a hunting lodge for James Patterson, whose family founded the Patterson Whiting Paper Company. No longer commanding 76 acres, Grey Craig is now surrounded by modern homes. But the main house, still stands and is a private residence. *680 Wetherby Dr., Devon*



ARDROSSAN

Perhaps the best-known Main Line mansion is Ardrossan, because of its connection to Helen Hope Scott (née Montgomery), who lived there and inspired the 1940 film *The Philadelphia Story*. A captivating socialite and equestrian, Hope entertained notables of society, government and the arts, and was a principle organizer of the Devon Horse Show as well as director of the U.S. Equestrian Team. She was considered the epitome of the Main Line high society.

The Georgian Revival mansion was designed by famed architect Horace Trumbauer in 1911, and its 750 acres were assembled by Col. Robert Montgomery, founder of the investment firm Janney Montgomery Scott. The 50-room mansion is still standing, but the land has been subdivided and is being developed with luxury homes, though less grand than "the big house," which is attached to only 17 acres now. *807 Newtown Rd., Villanova*



THE WILLOWS

This 47.5-acre estate, now known as The Willows, was built in 1910 by renowned architect Charles Barton Keen. Originally called Rose Garland, the mansion was built for John Sinnott, a wealthy distillery owner. It was later purchased by Clarence Geist for his daughter Mary and her husband, Alfred Zantzing, Vice President of the Suburban Water Company, who lived there for over 30 years.

The Zantzingers deeded the property to Radnor Township in 1973. With views of water, meadows, woodland and gardens, it's now a public park. The mansion had fallen into disrepair, but renovation began in 2019 and is currently used for weddings, private parties, concerts, educational programs and similar purposes. *490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Villanova*



HILLTOP HOUSE

Our second stop is Hilltop House, located on 23 sunny south-sloping acres. Initially called Idlewild Farm, the mansion was built for chocolatier William Nelson Wilbur, son of the developer of those tasty Wilbur Buds. He sold in 1919, and the estate later went into foreclosure during the Depression.

During its next chapter, Hilltop House was owned by a Drexel University professor, whose wife was an heir to the Heublein Distillery fortune. Since 2005, the mansion has been used as an event space. The southern view, with walkways, benches, lawn and trees, remains spectacular. *570 Beaumont Rd., Devon*

DOLOBRAN

As you go east on Montgomery Avenue, you'll pass several notable buildings. There's Rathalla, built in 1891, now part of Rosemont College (1400 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr). Farther east you'll see The Baldwin School (701 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr), originally the Bryn Mawr Hotel, built in 1890 and designed by famed architect Frank Furness.

A few miles farther east, the Merion Cricket Club (325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford), also a Furness design, is located on land adjacent to Cheswold, the estate of Alexander Cassatt, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad and brother of Impressionist artist Mary Cassatt.

Turn left on Grays Lane and find Laurel Lane. Less than a quarter mile in is Dolobran, built in 1880. It's yet another Furness-designed mansion. Currently a private residence, the property, once 150 acres in all, belonged to shipping magnate Clement Griscom, who helmed a shipping conglomerate that owned, among other ships, *The Titanic*. *231 Laurel Ln., Haverford*



KNOLLBROOK, AKA CAMELOT

Back on Grays Lane, heading down the hill toward Mill Creek Rd., on the left you'll pass the high gates of Knollbrook, now renamed Camelot. Still a private residence, the mansion is set atop a hill on 13 acres.

Knollbrook was remodeled by architect William Woodburn Potter for J. Howard Pew, President of Sun Oil. Enlarged gradually to include neighboring estates — at Pew's death it reached 65 acres — the property was developed to include a pool, putting green, rock garden, fountain, bridges and greenhouse. It's one of several Main Line estates — Rocky Crest, Skylands, Glenmede, among others — once owned by the Pew family. *Grays Ln., Haverford*

Thirty Years of Town Walks — Success in Historic Preservation

Celebrating its 30th year, the Chester County Town Tours & Village Walks program is a free event featuring Chester County's cultural heritage through a series of lectures and evening strolls. You'll come away with an increased awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscape. Tours are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



July 11 – West Bradford — Highland Orchards

Highland Orchards has been a long-time staple in the West Bradford Township community since 1941. Visitors will be guided on wagons through 200 acres of orchards and farmland to learn about agribusiness and how it has enabled the preservation of land, structures and viewsheds. *Park: 1000 Marshallton Thorndale Rd., West Chester.*

July 18 – East Whiteland

Explore the Village of White Horse, mapped and settled since the early 18th century. Primarily an agricultural and limestone mining area in 1777, the Village became associated with the Battle of Brandywine, the Battle of the Clouds and Paoli, and was a prime military and supply center. *Park: 969 (Home of the Sparrow) or 967 (adapted barn) E. Swedesford Rd., Exton. Volunteers will direct you.*



East Whiteland

July 25 – Uwchlan

Tour the Baird House/Uwchlan Township Building and grounds. This property dates from 1735 with a log house that remains inside, existing alongside its other early additions. The grounds will be open for exploration and contain connecting ponds, outbuildings, log house replica, gardens and the Veterans' Memorial. *Park: 715 N. Ship Rd., Exton.*



Upper Uwchlan

August 1 – Tredyffrin

The tour will focus on the Baptist Church in the Great Valley, founded in 1711 by Welsh settlers. Visitors will tour the 1805 structure, as well as learn the stories of burial ground residents, including Rev. David Jones (d. 1820), chaplain to Gen. Anthony Wayne, and Rev. Leonard Fletcher (d. 1859), leader of the anti-slavery Chester County Wilberforce Society. *Park: 945 N. Valley Forge Rd., Devon.*

August 8 – North Coventry

Enjoy a village walk at Coventry Woods. Multiple programs will be offered and focus on the Lenape presence in Chester County, the early iron industry in northern Chester County, "Free Love Valley" and the Battleaxe Movement, and Hopewell Big Woods, Camp Fernbrook and today's Coventry Woods. *Park: 1954 St. Peter's Rd., Pottstown.*

August 15 – Historic Yellow Springs

In 2024 Yellow Springs celebrates the 50th anniversary of their founding organization and continuous participation in Town Tours and Village Walks. The program features costumed characters from over 30 years, focusing on the eras of history evident here and the continued promotion of preservation goals of the organization's founders. *Park: 1701 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Follow signs to park at the Chester Springs Library. Doors open at 5:30.*



Historic Yellow Springs

More at ChesCo.org/TownTours