



The Traveling Professor Presents

THE GREAT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY AND THE BERKSHIRE HILLS

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival begins in Albany, New York, the state's beautiful and historic capital. A free airport shuttle is available to bring you to the Desmond Hotel. Settle in, meet your travel partners and tour leader. Dinner is available in the hotel's English-style pub, *The Tavern* or enjoy the casual atmosphere of *Simpson's*.

Hotel: [Desmond Hotel](#), Albany, NY.

Day 2

In the morning tour the impressive Vanderbilt Mansion, a masterpiece of American design by the nation's pre-eminent architect, Stanford White. Go back in time and imagine owners Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt welcoming you into their elegant gilded age home. After a lunch stop, proceed to the estate of one of America's great presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Pay respects at Franklin and Eleanor's gravesite at the Rose Garden before visiting their home and library. A stop at nearby Val-Kill, the private cottage retreat of Eleanor Roosevelt, the only National Historic Site dedicated to a First Lady is on the itinerary.

Hotel: [Mirbeau Inn & Spa](#) located in central Rhinebeck, NY.

Day 3

Olana is the home of Frederick Edwin Church, one of America's most renowned landscape painters. It is perched on a hill overlooking the Hudson River. After visiting, have the opportunity to visit historic Hudson, NY, lined with charming tree-lined streets, auction houses, restaurants, and shops. There is plenty of time upon return to Rhinebeck to explore. Don't forget to dine or have drink at the Beekman Arms, where George Washington and friends like Benedict Arnold and Alexander Hamilton were said to raise many a pint.

Hotel: [Mirbeau Inn & Spa](#) located in central Rhinebeck, NY.

Day 4

Check out and depart Rhinebeck. Head for the Berkshire Hills to Stockbridge, Massachusetts. It is the All-American town, home of Norman Rockwell and setting for many of his works. The Norman Rockwell Museum is dedicated to the study of the artist's work and contribution to society, popular culture, and social commentary. Walk into Rockwell's studio, left just as it was when Rockwell was alive, for fascinating insight into America's greatest illustrator. After lunch, travel across the street to the home of the great American sculptor, Daniel Chester French. Visit the studio where perhaps the most revered monument in America, the statue of Abraham Lincoln, was designed and modeled. It is also the place where the iconic Massachusetts Minute Man statue, cast from Civil War cannons, was conceived.

Hotel: [Red Lion Inn](#), Stockbridge MA. The Red Lion in is famously depicted in Rockwell's "*Main Street Christmas*". There are multiple dining options and evening entertainment available.

Day 5

This morning take the short drive to The Mount, a turn-of-the-century home designed and lived in by famed writer Edith Wharton in 1902. A National Historic Landmark, today The Mount is a cultural center that celebrates the intellectual, artistic, and humanitarian legacy of Edith Wharton. This afternoon upon return to the Red Lion Inn, have free time for lunch. Drinks on the porch of the hotel are a must. In town are shops and restaurants. We recommend a visit to the Schantz Galleries featuring glass works by artists like Dale Chihuly, Lino Tagliapietra and over 40 others.

Hotel: [Red Lion Inn](#), Stockbridge MA.

Day 6

A full day of art and culture. The Clark Institute in Williamstown, MA is perhaps the best small museum in the country. It is best known for work by Impressionists like Monet, Degas, Pissarro and especially Pierre-August Renoir. Famous American artists like Winslow Homer, David Sargent Singer, and Frederick Remington have some of their most famous works on display at the Clark. After lunch it is a change of scenery at MassMoCA. It is a boundary-crossing display of art, film, dance, sculpture, photography and theater that defies classification.

Hotel: [Red Lion Inn](#), Stockbridge MA.

Day 7

After breakfast, check out of the Red Lion Inn and depart for Hudson, NY. Catch the train to New York City. The 125-mile train ride down along the scenic Hudson River past West Point is perhaps one of the most scenic in America.

Additional Features at Your Option:

- Sail the Hudson in Pete Seeger's Hudson River Sloop, the Clearwater (Day 3)
- Spa Experiences at the Mirbeau Spa and Red Lion Inn
- Tanglewood Music Festival/Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Private Tour (Day 5)
- Explore Great Barrington, MA & Dinner (Day 5)

ABOUT OUR SMALL GROUP TOURS

Since each tour is planned with traveler input, your tour may be slightly different. We always add in "off the itinerary" sites of interest. Adjustments may be made for crowd management, weather, special events, or conditions beyond our control.

We travel with a small group of 8-15 active adults. This offers the flexibility to do what we want to do, on our own schedule. Transportation is provided within each city and between cities as well as VIP admission to sites listed on the itinerary. Admission may be provided for sites off the itinerary.

Breakfast is included each day of the tour. Every day we plan a relaxing lunch and dinner. Please join us or go out on your own - we are glad to offer our best recommendations.

Our guide is with us during the day. Tour leaders are with the group 24/7. Unless otherwise noted, we ask travelers to be ready to go at 9:30 a.m. for a full and active day of touring.

Well before departure date, each traveler is supplied with a "final" detailed itinerary along with a complete and detailed information packet. It has advice on packing, money matters, passports, weather, etc. We make sure travelers are well-prepared. And of course, we are always available to personally answer any questions you may have.

We will shortly be presenting additional add-on options for this tour.

For more information, including travel dates and pricing, see
www.travelingprofessor.com