

Berkshire Cottages Tour

October 12 - 14, 2020

Early Booking Discount: \$15 per person

3 Days, 2 Nights

Monday ♦ Stockbridge, MA

After a morning of travel, we'll arrive in beautiful Stockbridge, Massachusetts to enjoy lunch on our own in this "picture postcard" town, home of the painter/illustrator Norman Rockwell. You'll want to stop in at the Red Lion Inn to see the antique furniture and the Inn's famous teapot collection, consisting of hundreds of teapots from all over the world. After lunch we'll tour Chesterwood, the home and studio of renowned sculptor Daniel Chester French, creator of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC and many other well known historic monuments. Dinner is included this evening at our hotel or at a local restaurant. (D)

Tuesday ♦ Cottages Tour

This morning we'll enjoy breakfast at the hotel before meeting our local guide and heading out for our driving tour of the Berkshire Cottages. Known as the Inland Newport, the Berkshires attracted Gilded Age millionaires like Andrew Carnegie, George Westinghouse, Harley Proctor of Proctor and Gamble, and younger Vanderbilts, who built their grand estates before income and estate taxes ended the era. Our guide knows the inside stories about these members of the American Aristocracy and their fabulous houses.

Later we'll tour The Mount, home to the first American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, New York aristocrat Edith Wharton. Wharton designed and furnished The Mount herself, chronicling the process in a best selling book. Now a National Historic Landmark, the house features three floors of elegant formal and private rooms. Highlights include her extensive library, newly restored bedroom suite and the old kitchen. A recent TV episode of *Ghost Hunters* showed extensive ghostly sightings at The Mount, perhaps the spirits of some of the many guests Mrs. Wharton famously hosted during bygone summer weekends.

We'll be on our own for lunch in Lenox, a lovely New England town with an eclectic collection of artistic and upscale shops to browse or shop. A variety of restaurants offer an array of menu choices and price ranges designed to please visitors and locals alike.

After lunch we'll tour Ventfort Hall, the summer cottage of Mr. and Mrs. George Morgan. This Jacobean Revival mansion was built in 1893, the height of the Gilded Age. The exterior of the house portrayed St. Cloud's Orphanage in the Academy Award-winning movie, *The Cider House Rules*. As a special treat, an elegant afternoon tea will be served to us at Ventfort Hall on delicate china plates with real silver utensils, just as if we were paying a call on George and Sarah!

After our tea, we'll visit Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne named the grounds Tanglewood, and you'll soon see why. We'll visit the world-famous indoor amphitheater deliberately built to resemble a cow barn. Known for its acoustical perfection, it is one of the premier sites in America to enjoy classical music. We'll also look in at Highwood, the first cottage to be built in the Berkshires that is also reported to be the most haunted! (B, D)

Wednesday ♦ Travel Home

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll depart with our guide for the Norman Rockwell Museum, The First Church, The Children's Chimes Chapel, and the village cemetery, where the first slave to be legally freed in America is buried. Our guide knows many stories about the town's founders, visiting historical figures and many other points of interest. Lunch in Stockbridge today is on your own.

We'll depart for home around 2:00 PM. (B)

Package Includes

- Deluxe coach transportation
- 2 Nights lodging
- 2 Breakfasts
- 2 Dinners
- Sights & attractions as listed
- Baggage Handling
- Local guide gratuity
- Driver gratuity
- C and Bea Tours Escort

Price Per Person

\$719 Double Occupancy

\$709 Triple Occupancy

\$849 Single Occupancy

Deposit: \$150 per person

Optional Trip Cancellation Protection

\$80 pp due with deposit

For Reservations Contact:



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