

Chapter 1 : Great Estates of the Hudson Valley | History | Historic Hudson River Towns

The Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston features exhibits on this period of the river's history. Steamboats, including the steam tug "Mathilda" are the major focus of this museum, which highlights their place in commerce, industry and leisure.

When threatened by extinction in the early decades of this century, this Federal Domestic style mansion was dismantled, stored, and finally reassembled piece by piece in its current location. The house is filled with a comprehensive collection of American Federal period antiques and art. The well appointed grounds include a rose garden with scores of different varieties. Many special events and performances are held every year at Boscobel, including the renowned Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, held every summer on the front lawn of the estate. Visit the Boscobel website. Clermont Germantown, NY Clermont has been occupied by seven generations of the influential and affluent Livingston family, including Robert R. His first mansion, a brick Georgian, was burned by the British troops advancing up the Hudson in 1779. The interior boasts the intact belongings of the Livingston family, including a collection of portraiture of a great variety of styles and media, and sculptures from near and abroad. The roster of special events at the site include croquet tournaments on the lawns, antique shows, and the Heritage Blues Festival. Visit the Clermont website. The restored Victorian mansion, completed in 1860, is a restoration work in progress. Glenview is recognized as one of the best examples of Eastlake interior styling, including extensive stenciling and woodwork inspired by motifs of nature. Thus far, four rooms have been restored to their turn of the century condition, including the magnificently tiled Great Hall. Visitors can also experience the five galleries of exhibits in the Hudson River Museum, and the regular schedule of events held at the Andrus Planetarium. Visit the Glenview website. Separate tours of the gardens and sculpture are offered to highlight this collection. Visit the Kykuit website. Van Buren purchased an existing estate in 1805 and immediately had it remodeled from the "old fashioned" Federal style to the popular Italianate revival style. Lindenwald hosts an extensive museum collection, including textiles, furnishings, and a large collection of historic wallpaper. Several archeological sites on the property have produced artifacts that are on display. Visit the Lindenwald website. Morse, an accomplished artist and inventor, is best known for inventing both the telegraph and Morse Code. In 1825, Morse purchased an estate complete with a Georgian-style mansion he quickly converted to a Tuscan Villa with the help of architect A. Later owners added to the structure and interiors, while striving to preserve its 19th century flavor. Collections of art and furnishings of both families fill the home, including the Morse Exhibition Room, which features a copy of the original telegraph model. A haven to wildlife, the property includes miles of walking trails, spectacular river views, and stands of trees that have stood since Morse walked the grounds. Box 100, Poughkeepsie, NY 12551, Admission fee. Visit the Locost Grove website. Davis constructed a Greek Revival fortress of massive proportions. Subsequent owner George Merritt hired Davis again to add a four story tower and other additions to the castle. Railroad Magnate Jay Gould purchased the estate years later, making his own changes to the house and grounds. Now a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Lyndhurst is surrounded by classic estate landscaping that includes a magnificent greenhouse and aviary. Visit the Lyndhurst website. The estate they left behind is a monument to the Gilded Age of society and wealth at the turn of the last century. Built around an existing inherited mansion in 1840, the 65 room Autumn Residence of the Mills family showcases Beaux Arts neoclassical styling and elaborate French and English furnishings. The Mills were the center of New York society, and the opulence of their surroundings echoed their position. Visit the Staatsburgh website. Davis created this magnificent Federal mansion, while Mrs. Montgomery established a profitable nursery. Montgomery Place features elaborate gardens, a restored greenhouse, and an orchard where visitors can still pick their own fruit. Trails wind through the estate, creating enchanting views at every turn. Visit the Montgomery Place website. Exquisite paintings by Frederic Church, and his teacher Thomas Cole, are juxtaposed with worldly artifacts in an interior whose stencil-work and paint make it an artwork in itself. Visit the Olana website. The property includes a Dutch-style stone manor house, barn and a restored gristmill. Tours and demonstrations are offered, as well as special events throughout the year. Route 9, Sleepy

Hollow, NY Visit the Philipsburg Manor website. Roosevelt, was born here, lived much of his life here, and was buried here after his death in . The burial site of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt is graced with a simple monument in a lovely rose garden. Formal busts of FDR and contemporary sculptures are tucked into scenic spots throughout the landscape. Also on the site is the F. Library and Museum, which contains many historic documents and belongings of the President and First Lady. Special educational and historical programs are offered. Visit the Springwood website. He also settled here, in his Dutch Plantation style home, Sunnyside. Built around an existing cottage in , the house evokes the Dutch architecture of his native New York City, but with a fanciful touch. The entrance is framed in wisteria planted by Irving, as was the English Ivy that covers much of the structure. The grounds are landscaped in the Romantic style, flowing out of the surroundings. Visit the Sunnyside website. Built in , this fieldstone home was to become her sanctuary from the hectic pace of the presidency, as well as refuge from the formality of the main house on the estate. No small share of dignitaries passed through its doors, including Khrushchev, Winston Churchill, and Haile Selassie. Historical programs serve to educate visitors about this most influential first lady. Visit the Val-Kill website. The stone manor is flanked by a rebuilt tavern, and restored tenant house. Demonstrations of period activities including cooking, spinning, weaving, and brickmaking bring the site alive with activity. Tours of the manor by costumed guides include many original period furnishings and a spacious kitchen with a traditional open hearth and beehive oven. Visit the Van Cortlandt Manor website. Vanderbilt Mansion Hyde Park, NY Built by the third generation of Vanderbilt millionaires, this neoclassic style mansion was completed in . Long accustomed to wealth, Frederick Vanderbilt had his home designed by the best architects in New York, and furnished it in fabulous artifacts from abroad mixed with period reproductions. The estate, inside and out, offers a great perspective of the wealth and excess of the Gilded Age and one of its most prominent families. From the columned porch at the rear of the mansion, one can view one of the most majestic river views in the area. Several species of enormous, old trees grace the grounds, and formal gardens on the property have been recently restored to their former splendor. Visit the Vanderbilt Mansion website. Its circular tower soars five stories above a landscape created by noted American Romantic landscape artist Calvert Vaux. The library is host to incredible stained glass pieces by J. The last member of the Suckley family to call Wilderstein home, known to friends as "Daisy" was a cousin and lifelong confidant of Franklin D. Roosevelt, serving as his archivist and companion. Her papers and memorabilia, along with that of her family, create an intimate and social history of past times. Visit the Wilderstein website.

Chapter 2 : THE 10 BEST Museums in Hudson River Valley - TripAdvisor

The Hudson River is a mile (km) river in New York. The river is named after Henry Hudson, an Englishman sailing for the Dutch East India Company, who explored it in , and after whom Canada's Hudson Bay is also named.

Names[edit] Discovery of the Hudson River, Albert Bierstadt , The river was called Ca-ho-ha-ta-te-a "the river" [1] by the Iroquois , and it was known as Muh-he-kun-ne-tuk "river that flows two ways" by the Mohican tribe who formerly inhabited both banks of the lower portion of the river. The Delaware Tribe of Indians Bartlesville, Oklahoma considers the closely related Mohicans to be a part of the Lenape people, [2] and so the Lenape also claim the Hudson as part of their ancestral territory, naming the river Muhheakantuck "river that flows two ways". Other occasional names for the Hudson included: It is believed that the first use of the name Hudson River in a map was in a , in a map created by the cartographer John Carwitham. The Algonquins lived along the river, with the three subdivisions of that group being the Lenape also known as the Delaware Indians , the Wappingers , and the Mahicans. They lived a similar lifestyle to the Lenape, residing in various villages along the river. They traded with both the Lenape to the south and the Mahicans to the north. As such, the three subdivisions were able to communicate with each other. Their relations with each other were mostly peaceful. The Mohawks would sometimes raid Mahican villages from the west. One major fortress was called Navish, which was located at Croton Point , overlooking the Hudson River. Other fortresses were located in various locations throughout the Hudson Highlands. Villagers lived in various types of houses, which the Algonquins called Wigwams. The houses could be circular or rectangular. Large families often lived in longhouses that could be a hundred feet long. They also scavenged for other types of plant foods, such as various types of nuts and berries. In addition to agriculture, they also fished for food in the river, focusing on various species of freshwater fish, as well as several variations of striped bass , sturgeon , herring , and shad. Oyster beds were also common on the river floor, which provided an extra source of nutrition. Land hunting consisted of turkey, deer, rabbits, and other animals. Verrazzano sailed all the way to New York Harbor, which he thought was the mouth of a major river. Verrazzano sailed his boat into the harbor, and possibly sailed over what is now Battery Park Battery Park was created with landfill. However, Verrazzano never sailed up the Hudson River, and left the harbor shortly thereafter. The extent of his explorations in the bay is unknown. Yet as Charles H. Winfield has noted, as late as , there was a tradition among the First Nations that the Spanish arrived before the Dutch, and that from them it was that the natives obtained the maize or Spanish wheat. During this attempt, Henry Hudson decided to sail his ship up the river that would later be named after him. As he continued up the river, its width expanded, into Haverstraw Bay, leading him to believe he had successfully reached the Northwest Passage. He docked his ship on the western shore of Haverstraw Bay and claimed the territory as the first Dutch settlement in North America. He also proceeded upstream as far as present-day Troy before concluding that no such strait existed there. This voyage determined that the fur trade would be profitable in the region. As such, the Dutch established the colony of New Netherland. New Amsterdam , Wiltwyck , and Fort Orange. That outpost would later become Kingston. Fort Orange was the outpost that was the furthest up the Hudson River. That outpost would later become known as Albany. The Natives began to trap furs at a quicker pace and then sold them to the Dutch for luxuries. This trade would eventually deplete the supply of those animals in their territory, decreasing the food supply in the process. The focus on furs also made the Natives economically dependent on the Dutch for trade. At first, the colony was made up of mostly single adventures looking to make money, but over time the region transitioned into maintaining family households. New economic activity in the form of food, tobacco, timber, and slaves was eventually incorporated into the colonial economy. He found the colony in chaos due to a border war with the English along the Connecticut River, and Indian battles throughout the region. Stuyvesant quickly cracked down on smuggling and associated activity before expanding the outposts along the Hudson River, especially Wiltwyck at the mouth of Esopus Creek. Stuyvesant attempted to establish a fort midway up the Hudson River. However, before that could be done, the British invaded New Netherland via the port of New Amsterdam. At these manors, landlords rented out land to their tenants, letting them take a share of the

crops grown while keeping and selling the rest of the crops. They also held immense political power in the colony due to driving such a large proportion of the agricultural output. Meanwhile, land west of Hudson River contained smaller landholdings with many small farmers living off the land. In order to export the grain, colonial merchants were given monopolies to grind the grain into flour and export it. The subject of the meeting referred to tensions between the British and the French and the prelude to the French and Indian Wars. At the meeting, residents of the city of Albany were able to come into contact with people from the rest of the colonies, which was an interesting experience for many citizens of the city. The plan included 7 of the English colonies in North America. Although this plan was never ratified by the colonial governments, the plan created a framework for later efforts to create a unified continental government during the American Revolution. The Hudson River was important for a few reasons. The British knew that total occupation of the colonies would be unfeasible, which is why this strategy was chosen. The armada then sailed across the Narrows to a waiting Continental Army. As expected, the British badly defeated the continentals at the battle and nearly crushed the rebellion. The army then marched north to Harlem. The British would turn New York City into its headquarters for the war, and occupy it for the rest of the war. The harbor would later be used for prison ships to hold the captured American soldiers. Washington was just finishing a report about the Battle of Long Island when the British began to advance on his position. Washington then counterattacked the British with a plan of his own. Washington ordered a feint in order to fix the British army into a favorable position. Once this was accomplished, Washington ordered Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton, his rangers, and other units to flank around the right side of the British and attack from the rear. The plan almost worked, but some of the Continental troops attacked too early, allowing the British to retreat and await reinforcements. Once those reinforcements began to arrive, Washington called off the attack. Although not a complete defeat of the British attacking force, the battle was nonetheless a Continental Army victory, the first of the war. This fact greatly enhanced troop morale. Washington set up defensive positions in the hills around the village. Once the British managed to reach the top of the hill, Washington was forced to retreat. The main positive for Washington after this battle was that he managed to avoid being enveloped by the British Army. As a result, the Continentals started building Fort Clinton on the other side of the river from Fort Montgomery. In the year 1781, Washington expected General Howe to sail his army north to Saratoga in order to meet up with General Burgoyne. This would result in the Hudson River being sealed off. However, Howe surprised Washington by sailing his army south to Philadelphia, conquering the Patriot capital. Washington was out of position and sought to defend Philadelphia, but to no avail. Along the way, the army looted and pillaged the village of Peekskill. The Continentals fought hard at the battle, but they were badly outnumbered and were fighting in unfinished forts. In the end, the British took the fort, as well as taking Philadelphia around the same time. However, Clinton and his men returned to New York City soon afterward. The chain that was by the forts was simply circumvented by the British army via attacking on the shores. The new chain, designed by engineer Captain Thomas Machin, could have theoretically been lowered in order to let friendly ships sail down the river, but the chain was never tested, and was later discarded after the war. Burgoyne and his army advanced southward from Canada towards Albany. Meanwhile, an army led by General Barry St. Leger marched east along the Mohawk River towards the same location, [36] taking Fort Ticonderoga along the way. This fort was and is located at the southern end of Lake Champlain, and thus was seen as critical in defending Albany. Philip Schuyler punished Burgoyne for this mistake. He and his army chopped down trees and littered the pathway that Burgoyne would have to take through the swampy wilderness of the area. The lack of supplies and the surrender of his column severely weakened his army. Ledger during the Siege of Fort Stanwix. This had the effect of preventing a British army from attacking the rear of the American troops during the Battle of Saratoga. Burgoyne still expected assistance from Henry Clinton, so his army dug in and waited. This battle would later be known as the turning point of the war. In addition, this battle convinced the French that the American Continentals could beat a European army. As a result, the French joined the war on the side of the Americans. Boat travel was still the fastest mode of transportation at the time, as automobiles and rail transportation were still being developed. In order to facilitate boat travel throughout the interior of the United States, numerous canals were constructed between internal bodies of water in the country. These canals would

transfer freight throughout the inland US. For about a hundred years, various groups had sought to have a canal built between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River. This would link the frontier region of the United States to the Port of New York, a significant seaport during that time period as it is today.

Chapter 3 : THE 15 BEST Things to Do in Hudson River Valley - (with Photos) - TripAdvisor

Vernon Benjamin has lectured on the history of the Hudson Valley at Marist College and Bard College since He holds a Masters in Literature from Long Island University and a Bachelors in Sociology from Siena College.

Jan 31, Stephen rated it really liked it Recommends it for: If I were to recommend one, just one, book about Hudson Valley history, this would be it. For any particular epoch of history, better treatments can be found. Yet no one has put so much entertaining and, yes, enlightening, material into a single work as has Vern Benjamin in this one. It does digress at times, for example, into Civil War actions in Virginia that have only a slight connection to Hudson Valley residents. There is also a half-page on the heroic Maj. John Sedgwick, whose only link to the Valley is that there is a statue of him at West Point. The book is chronological from the Ice Ages to the end of the Civil War. A vast bibliography makes this a good reference book. Relationships between colonizers and Indians is one see p. This volume takes up geology, war, politics, industry, culture, daily lives and more. It even has the first game of golf in America, played on the ice at Fort Orange in p. Here are a few haphazardly-chosen sections that I especially like, to represent the hundreds of other like them. Some are pure trivia that appeals to me; others, broader, like the chapters about slavery and abolition. Weir of West Point was father of impressionist J. Often the usually colorful details come too fast, as in a recitation of which counties mustered how many companies of what kind of soldiers for the Civil War. Sometimes the vignettes are gossipy, but seldom mean. The writer focuses his criticism on institutions more than individuals; he does not bring out all the dirty laundry that he could. There is a pastiche flavor to some parts, but I did not mind that a bit, being so keen on the whole arena. Some are stylistic, others matters of fact or opinion. Boughton was pardoned soon after being jailed with a life sentence. He lived another forty years. She did attend Oberlin. The author is a friend of mine, but I bought my copy at the local bookstore and he did not ask me to review it.

Chapter 4 : Hudson River Facts for Kids: Interesting Facts You Probably Never Knew

The concluding volume of Vernon Benjamin's acclaimed history of the Hudson River Valley, spanning from the post-Civil War period, through the twentieth century, and into the present day.

Hudson thought he found what he was looking for when he entered New York bay and what is now the river named for him. He and his crew of men, sailing on a ship called the Half Moon , traveled about miles up the river near what is now Albany before realizing it would not lead them to their destination of choice. Hudson had been hired for the journey by a Dutch trading company, the Dutch East India Company, and his explorations led to the area first being settled by the Dutch. Early maps and sailing journals tell us that the area was viewed as inhospitable, with wild animals, poisonous snakes, mountains and thick forests too dense to traverse. The river itself was seen as treacherous, especially in the stretch known as the Hudson Highlands. This area begins about 50 miles north of New York City and extends for about 15 miles, between what is now Peekskill and Newburgh. Here the hills rise up more than 1, feet along either shore and fierce currents and strong winds made sailing extremely difficult and dangerous. The s saw the influx of colonists and the area, first known as New Amsterdam, became part of New York, controlled by Britain. As the quest for independence from the crown began to unfold, the Hudson River played a major role. In , the Americans decided they must fortify the area, protecting the river used to transport troops and supplies. Had the British been successful in gaining control of the river, it would have literally broken apart the American forces. It was in that the Great Chain was forged of iron links, each two feet long weighing between and pounds. Anchored to the shore by huge blocks of wood and stone, the chain was attached to logs and floated out into the river, where it ran between West Point and Constitution Island. The Americans had earlier constructed a similar chain further south on the river, from Fort Montgomery to the eastern shore of the Hudson, but it was broken by the British soon after. The Great Chain was never tested, as no British ship got that far up the river after its creation. Benedict Arnold, the Turncoat Benedict Arnold posed the last real threat to the security of West Point, attempting to pass the plans for the fort to the British in He made contact with a British officer after marrying a Tory sympathizer and was promised 20, pounds sterling if he could help the British take control of the Hudson River. Arnold narrowly escaped capture after being discovered as a spy. He was captured while trying to get the plans, hidden in his boot, to British headquarters in White Plains. At the time, the Croton River served as the dividing line, with the British controlling areas south and the Americans in control of areas north. The plans were recovered and the officer, Major John Andre, was tried and hanged. The historical museum also features Native American artifacts, items from early Dutch history, archaeological artifacts, Revolutionary War items, items from both world wars, firearms, jewelry and much more relating to the history of the Hudson Valley. George Washington Sets Up Headquarters Washington moved his headquarters to Newburgh in , where he remained through the end of the Revolutionary War, setting up shop in the home of Jonathan Hasbrouck. After seeing the effects on his troops from a lack of properly trained officers, Washington pleaded with the newly formed government for the formation of a military academy. The West Point Museum in the U. Military Academy Building features a history of military events and personalities, a collection of weapons, military artifacts, paintings, American and European uniforms and much more. Bus tours and self-guided tours of the scenic campus and its many monuments also are featured. And visitors can also see the restored Fort Putnam, used by the Colonial army during the Revolutionary War, and the site of Fort Montgomery where American and British forces fought for control of the Hudson. Steamboat Travel After years of military, strategic and economic importance, the Hudson River gained another use after the invention of the steamboat in -- one of leisurely travel. The steamboat offered a fast and affordable way to travel, and by there were approximately of these vessels making their way up and down the river. Estimates say these boats carried as many as a million passengers. Steamboats, including the steam tug "Mathilda" are the major focus of this museum, which highlights their place in commerce, industry and leisure. As Americans were struggling to form their own sense of identity and culture, the Hudson Valley became a focal point, with stories and scenes from the Revolution mixed with the Dutch folklore of its earliest settlers. The Delaware and

Hudson Canal Historical Society Museum in High Falls offers plenty of information on the building of these former waterway connections. Housed in an Protestant church, the museum features canal-related documents, maps, photographs, diaramas, scale models and artifacts from canals and canal operations. Cruises on the Hudson are still very popular from May through October. He was captured by the scenery and began a sketching trip through the Valley. His subsequent paintings celebrating nature launched other artists to do the same and their style became known as the Hudson River School of Painting , another avenue that helped make the area a popular one for tourists. Church, along with dozens more lesser-knowns, attracted international attention for the next 50 years. The museum is housed in an early 19th century home and features not only this collection of artwork but also period furnishings, toys, ship models of Hudson River crafts and local historical archives, photographs and artifacts. An Industrial Past Cold Spring, a small town on the east side of the river across from West Point, is known today for its quaint village atmosphere, its unique shops, its dozen or more antique shops and its magnificent scenery. But the town was once a bustling industrial center, home of the West Point Foundry. Established by President Madison during the War of , the foundry was one of four in the nation selected to manufacture pipes, cranks, gears, cotton presses, railroad engines and cannonballs. The church is now fully restored, serves a non-denominational congregation and is open to the public. Even as railroads began to replace ships, the foundry and Cold Spring, a stop along the east-shore railroad, continued to thrive. Finding Fresh Air in the Hudson Valley As tuberculosis and other dangerous diseases began to spread in New York City in the mids, the Hudson Valley took on another personality -- a health retreat. Until the early s, city folk flocked to the Valley to experience the therapeutic powers they believed it to hold. The mountains, fresh air and evergreen forests were thought to offer the perfect conditions for good health and they were within close proximity to the city. In the early s, however, the Adirondacks and areas further away became more desirable. Cornwall on the west side of the Hudson became especially popular as a health retreat, offering numerous boarding houses and many conveniences of the day, including accessibility to the railroad and steamboats, as well as a telegraph office and large library. Nathaniel Parker Willis, one of the Knickerbocker writers, enjoyed the time he spent here so much he bought property in Cornwall, establishing a country home he called Idlewild. His many writings on the area helped make Cornwall a popular spot for health-seekers. Shifting attitudes toward a more healthy lifestyle began to make the Hudson Valley popular for outdoor activities and exercise. Hiking, rowing, swimming, fishing, hunting and biking all contributed to the development in the area of summer camps as well as the notion of the summer vacation. Today Cornwall is the home of the Museum of the Hudson Highlands, featuring preserved fishes, reptiles and amphibians as well as live animals, Indian artifacts and geological specimens indigenous to the Hudson Valley. The Storm King Art Center in Mountainville, near Cornwall, is an art museum and outdoor sculpture park featuring the work of 20th century American and European artists. Visitors stroll the acres near Storm King Mountain to view the work. A Home for Grand Estates In the mids wealthy New York businessmen began to buy property in the Valley for summer and weekend retreats. The railroad even made commuting into the city a realistic possibility. Politicians, bankers, railroad magnates and other well-known professionals began to make their marks here. The Vanderbilt Mansion Historical Site in Hyde Park was built in the late s in a Beaux-Arts style with an interior designed by turn-of-the-century decorators. The mansion features furnishings, tapestries, rugs and porcelains from this period, as well as a coachhouse, formal garden and, of course, a magnificent view of the river. The most famous homes in Hyde Park are those of the Roosevelt family. Roosevelt Library Museum contains the personal papers of the former president, as well as government records, photographs, movies, gifts from heads of states, campaign items and personal and family memorabilia. The home of Franklin D. Roosevelt is also open to the public, featuring its original furnishings, ancestral portraits, a rose garden and the gravesites of the former president and first lady. Another stately mansion, Boscobel , is located in Cold Spring. The Georgian mansion was originally built further south along the river in Crugers in by Mr. But a group of concerned citizens had the house dismantled piece by piece and reconstructed on a acre site in Cold Spring. The mansion now sits feet above the river opposite West Point and contains New York neo-classical furnishings, a spring house and period herb garden. The federal government created a Division of Forestry and the first national parks were created. Bear Mountain and the Appalachian Trail The Palisades Interstate Park

Commission was one of the first cooperative efforts to protect and conserve an area along the Hudson. The beautiful high cliffs running along the lower reaches of the western side of the river, called the Palisades, were being destroyed by quarries. The commission proceeded to buy up the land from Fort Lee, N. At the same time there were numerous efforts to make much of the Highlands a forest preserve, all of which were unsuccessful until the state tried to relocate Sing Sing Prison to Bear Mountain. It was then that some of the wealthy businessmen who had made homes in the area went to work. Harriman, he and other businessmen donated land as well as substantial sums of money for the purchase of other properties in the area. Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park became a reality in 1909. By 1910, estimates showed more than a million people a year coming to the park. Camping became popular here, with the average stay logged at eight days, and it was a favorite for Boy Scouts. Bear Mountain remains popular today, welcoming more visitors every year than Yellowstone National Park. Hiking, boating, picnicking, swimming, camping, cross-country skiing, sledding, ice skating as well as a zoo and several buildings with historical and nature displays continue to draw families to the park. The Bear Mountain Inn, built in 1909, offers visitors all the comforts of home, for those who like the scenery but want to skip the camping. And various festivals and craft shows are held throughout the year. It opened on Oct. 1, 1909. Preservation But while the movement for environmental preservation was taking place, the need for modernization also became apparent. The Storm King highway, which met with major opposition, became one of the first highways built for automobile use. The Bear Mountain Bridge opened in 1924, built on the same spot in the river where the Americans strung their first iron chain to keep the British from advancing. On the day the bridge was opened, cars followed the West Point band from Peekskill for the first public crossing. In the mid 1930s the federal government, now led by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was embarking on its own plan to preserve the environment and the Depression-era public works programs began projects at Bear Mountain State Park. Pumphouses, reservoirs, sewer systems, vacation lodges, bathrooms, homes for park staff, storage buildings and an administration building were all built. A scenic drive to the top of the mountain, called Perkins Memorial Drive, was also constructed -- almost totally by hand. And to keep these new buildings in the same design as the lodge, constructed in 1909, workers used stone, boulders and timber to construct them, a process which took five years. Although conservation efforts were now on a roll, the onset of World War II brought everything to a halt. Modern Environmentalism is Born But in 1955, a year legal battle began that launched modern-day environmental activism. Con Edison proposed building a giant hydro-electric plant on the river at Storm King Mountain near Cornwall. Despite pressure from local residents, Con Ed went forward with its plan, applying to the Federal Power Commission for a license to operate such a facility. Three years later, after hearings and appeals and more hearings, the U.

Chapter 5 : Hudson River Valley| About | Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

In short, the twentieth-century Hudson River Valley was a hotbed of wealth, influence, and culture, a vibrant scene of American development as significant as any our country has seen. By taking his narrative all the way into the post-September 11th present moment, Vernon Benjamin finishes his engaging, readable, and comprehensive history of one.

In the Hudson Highlands, the river enters a fjord cut during previous ice ages. To the west lie the extensive Appalachian highlands. In the Tappan Zee region, the west side of the river has high cliffs produced by an erosion-resistant diabase ; these cliffs range from 600 feet in height. During the last ice age, the valley was filled by a large glacier that pushed south as far as Long Island. Near the end of the last ice age, the Great Lakes drained south down the Hudson River, from a large glacial lake called Lake Iroquois. Large sand deposits remain from where Lake Iroquois drained into the Hudson; these are now part of the Rome Sand Plains. The Algonquins lived along the Hudson River, with the three subdivisions of that group being the Lenape also known as the Delaware Indians , the Wappingers , and the Mahicans. They lived a similar lifestyle to the Lenape, residing in various villages along the river. They traded with both the Lenape to the south and the Mahicans to the north. As such, the three subdivisions were able to communicate with each other. Their relations with each other were mostly peaceful. The Mohawks would sometimes raid Mahican villages from the west. One major fortress was called Navish, which was located at Croton Point , overlooking the Hudson River. Other fortresses were located in various locations throughout the Hudson Highlands. Villagers lived in various types of houses, which the Algonquins called Wigwams. The houses could be circular or rectangular. Large families often lived in longhouses that could be a hundred feet long. They also scavenged for other types of plant foods, such as various types of nuts and berries. In addition to agriculture, they also fished for food in the river, focusing on various species of freshwater fish, as well as several variations of striped bass , sturgeon , herring , and shad. Oyster beds were also common on the river floor, which provided an extra source of nutrition. Land hunting consisted of turkey, deer, rabbits, and other animals. Verrazzano sailed all the way to New York Harbor, which he thought was the mouth of a major river. Verrazzano sailed his boat into the harbor and possibly sailed over what is now Battery Park Battery Park was created with landfill. However, Verrazzano never sailed up the Hudson River and left the harbor shortly thereafter. The extent of his explorations in the bay is unknown. Yet as Charles H. Winfield has noted, as late as 1609, there was a tradition among the First Nations that the Spanish arrived before the Dutch, and that from them it was that the natives obtained the maize or Spanish wheat. During this attempt, Henry Hudson decided to sail his ship up the river that would later be named after him. As he continued up the river, its width expanded, into Haverstraw Bay, leading him to believe he had successfully reached the Northwest Passage. He docked his ship on the western shore of Haverstraw Bay and claimed the territory as the first Dutch settlement in North America. He also proceeded upstream as far as present-day Troy before concluding that no such strait existed there. This voyage determined that the fur trade would be profitable in the region. As such, the Dutch established the colony of New Netherland. New Amsterdam , Wiltwyck , and Fort Orange. That outpost would later become Kingston. Fort Orange was the outpost that was the furthest up the Hudson River. That outpost would later become known as Albany. The Natives began to trap furs at a quicker pace and then sold them to the Dutch for luxuries. This trade would eventually deplete the supply of those animals in their territory, decreasing the food supply in the process. The focus on furs also made the Natives economically dependent on the Dutch for trade. At first, the colony was made up of mostly single adventures looking to make money, but over time the region transitioned into maintaining family households. New economic activity in the form of food, tobacco, timber, and slaves was eventually incorporated into the colonial economy. He found the colony in chaos due to a border war with the English along the Connecticut River, and Indian battles throughout the region. Stuyvesant quickly cracked down on smuggling and associated activity before expanding the outposts along the Hudson River, especially Wiltwyck at the mouth of Esopus Creek. Stuyvesant attempted to establish a fort midway up the Hudson River. However, before that could be done, the British invaded New Netherland

via the port of New Amsterdam. At these manors, landlords rented out land to their tenants, letting them take a share of the crops grown while keeping and selling the rest of the crops. They also held immense political power in the colony due to driving such a large proportion of the agricultural output. Meanwhile, land west of Hudson River contained smaller landholdings with many small farmers living off the land. In order to export the grain, colonial merchants were given monopolies to grind the grain into flour and export it. The Hudson River was important for a few reasons. The British knew that total occupation of the colonies would be unfeasible, which is why this strategy was chosen. Washington set up defensive positions in the hills around the village. Once the British managed to reach the top of the hill, Washington was forced to retreat. The main positive for Washington after this battle was that he managed to avoid being enveloped by the British Army. As a result, the Continentals started building Fort Clinton on the other side of the river from Fort Montgomery. In the year 1781, Washington expected General Howe to sail his army north to Saratoga in order to meet up with General Burgoyne. This would result in the Hudson River being sealed off. However, Howe surprised Washington by sailing his army south to Philadelphia, conquering the Patriot capital. Washington was out of position and sought to defend Philadelphia, but to no avail. Along the way, the army looted and pillaged the village of Peekskill. The Continentals fought hard at the battle, but they were badly outnumbered and were fighting in unfinished forts. In the end, the British took the fort, as well as taking Philadelphia around the same time. However, Clinton and his men returned to New York City soon afterward. The chain that was by the forts was simply circumvented by the British army via attacking on the shores. The new chain, designed by engineer Captain Thomas Machin, could have theoretically been lowered in order to let friendly ships sail down the river, but the chain was never tested, and was later discarded after the war. The Troy and Greenbush Railroad was chartered in and opened that same year, running a short distance on the east side between Troy and Greenbush, now known as East Greenbush east of Albany. When the Poughkeepsie Bridge opened in 1882, it became the longest single-span bridge in the world. Construction was slow, and was finally completed in 1884; the New York Central purchased the line the next year. During the Industrial Revolution, the Hudson River became a major location for production. The river allowed for fast and easy transport of goods from the interior of the Northeast to the coast. Hundreds of factories were built around the Hudson, in towns including Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Kingston, and Hudson. The river links to the Erie Canal and Great Lakes, allowing manufacturing in the Midwest, including automobiles in Detroit, to use the river for transport. In 1807, the North River Steamboat later known as Clermont, became the first commercially successful steamboat. Tourism became a major industry as early as 1809. With convenient steamboat connections in New York City, and numerous attractive hotels in romantic settings, tourism became an important industry. Early guidebooks were providing suggestions on their itinerary. An 8-mile section was built from Ossining to Peekskill, now part of U. Route 9; the rest of the highway was never built due to local opposition. The area is associated with the Hudson River School, a group of American Romantic painters who worked from about 1825 to 1875. Hudson River School landscapes are characterized by their realistic, detailed, and sometimes idealized portrayal of nature, often juxtaposing peaceful agriculture and the remaining wilderness, which was fast disappearing from the Hudson Valley just as it was coming to be appreciated for its qualities of ruggedness and sublimity. In gathering the visual data for their paintings, the artists would travel to extraordinary and extreme environments, which generally had conditions that would not permit extended painting at the site. During these expeditions, the artists recorded sketches and memories, returning to their studios to paint the finished works later. He hiked west high up into the eastern Catskill Mountains of New York State to paint the first landscapes of the area. It is a pedestrian walkway over the Hudson River that opened as part of the Hudson River Quadricentennial Celebrations, and it connects over 25 miles of existing pedestrian trails.

Chapter 6 : A Brief History of the Hudson River - Hudson, NY Bed and Breakfast

The History of the Hudson River Valley has 26 ratings and 5 reviews. Stephen said: This book is not flawless, but is truly enjoyable, full of events an.

It has been used for many things from trade to transportation to navigation. Explore some uncommon facts about this historical body of water and ponder the importance of it in our present day and age. You may have heard of the river and know something about it because it is truly rich in history and an important sailing route for many. The length of the Hudson is miles km , and the main source of the Hudson is the Lake Tear of Clouds in the Adirondack Mountains. The Hudson is smaller in size compared to the other major rivers in America such as the Mississippi River and the Ohio River. Throughout history, the Hudson has been used for trade and as a travel route and has attracted people from all walks of life to its splendor and beauty. Many important industries are presently located around the Hudson as it continues to serve as an important trading route. Hudson was looking for a passing to the Asia when he discovered the river. In , the Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano first entered the Hudson but mistook it for an estuary. The Hudson River flows both North and South. Near the Atlantic, the river flows north, and near its origin in Lake Tear of the Clouds, it flows south. It actually means "the water that moves both ways". The Hudson River valley played an important role during the French and Indian war in s and the American Revolutionary war. In the s, the British army made the Northern part of the Hudson Valley their defense against the invading French from Quebec. During Colonial times from the 17th century to , the Hudson River supported a very important and profitable fur trade. The Hudson Valley at this time was used for wheat and timber, which was taken to New York and from there made its way to the entire western world. The Hudson is surrounded by incredible beauty. Another name for the southernmost portion of the Hudson is the North River. This refers to the area between Manhattan and Hudson County. Tapan Zee is the widest part of the river. The cost of moving goods was reduced as well as the time it took to transport them. This was very important for America as it created an increase in the trade of goods and gave the economy a big boost. Later, the boat was to be called the "Clermont". Railroads were built along the Hudson in the s, which increased the number of tourists in the area greatly. The Hudson River Rail Road was built along the shores of the river, and travelers could see the amazing beauty surrounding the river like never before. Many artists and writers would try and capture the beauty in their art as well as in poetry and stories. Durand, and Frederick Church. These artists created marvelous paintings of the natural beauty surrounding the Hudson, which was then sold in New York art galleries. The first internationally known American author, Washington Irving, drew his inspiration from the Hudson and wrote many stories about the people and the places surrounding the Hudson. Tappan is the name of a Native American tribe that lived near the Hudson while Zee comes from the Dutch word for "wide expanse of water". West Point is the oldest military academy in the United States that started in and is situated along the Hudson. So, how many of these interesting facts did you already know? The government has taken action and passed laws to stop this pollution. However, some companies still continue to pollute the river, which causes the death of the animals that live in the Hudson. We must all make an effort to stop this from happening and save this beautiful and historical river from being polluted.

Chapter 7 : Art Along the Hudson | Smithsonian Journeys

A Brief History of the Hudson River. The source of the Hudson River is the poetic-sounding Lake Tear of the Clouds, in the Adirondacks. Running for miles, it empties into Lower New York Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

Settled by the Dutch, and then the English, the region became a magnet for immigration. Central in importance during the American Revolutionary War, the British campaign strategy to gain total control of the river failed. The natural beauty of the valley gave birth to the Hudson River School of Painters, the first great American art movement. The Industrial Revolution helped build some of that wealth, but also caused environmental damage that inspired a conservation movement that continues today, led by a coalition of government and non-government groups. Through a partnership with the National Park Service, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area collaborates with residents, government agencies, non-profit groups and private partners to interpret, preserve and celebrate the nationally-significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley. In this way, we encourage public stewardship for these resources as well as economic activity at the local and regional level. To improve awareness of these resources, we have established a network of designated Heritage Sites , classified by theme and amenities. This network helps us to better interpret the individual sites and also helps us to better interpret the "big picture" story of the entire region and how those individual sites have worked together to shape our national history. They are owned and managed by the organizations listed in the site descriptions. The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area partners with the National Park Service to provide grant opportunities to heritage sites, non-profits, and local governments. These grants are intended to provide seed money to organizations for the purposes of: Hudson River Valley Ramble The Hudson River Valley Ramble is an annual event series that celebrates the history, culture and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, as well as the amazing landscape, communities, and trails throughout the region. The 18th Annual Ramble will take place on September , , , and September October 1, ! The Hudson River Valley Greenway the "Greenway" , as established in the Greenway Act, is an innovative state sponsored program created to facilitate the development of a regional strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources while encouraging compatible economic development and maintaining the tradition of home rule for land use decision-making. The Greenway Act created two organizations, within the executive department, to facilitate the Greenway process: The Greenway Communities Council the "Greenway Council" was established to coordinate with local and county governments the development and enhancement of local land use planning techniques and the creation of a voluntary regional planning compact for the Hudson River Valley. Appropriated funding to the Greenway Council makes available to Greenway Communities planning grants, compact grants and technical assistance through the "Greenway Communities Program". The Greenway Conservancy is a public benefit corporation that works with local and county governments, regional, local, private and public organizations, and individuals. The Greenway Conservancy coordinates efforts to establish a Hudson River Valley Trail system, promote the Hudson River Valley as a single tourism destination area, assist in the preservation of agriculture and strengthen state agency cooperation with local governments. The Conservancy Trail Grant Program provides grant funding for trail planning, construction, and interpretation. Its mission is to study and to promote the Hudson River Valley and to provide educational resources for heritage tourists, scholars, elementary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public. Its many projects include the publication of the Hudson River Valley Review and the management of a dynamic digital library and leading regional portal site. National Heritage Areas National Heritage Areas NHAs are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. NHAs are lived-in landscapes. Consequently, NHA entities collaborate with communities to determine how to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs. NHAs are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Leveraging funds and

long-term support for projects, NHA partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic. NHAs are not national park units. NPS does not assume ownership of land inside heritage areas or impose land use controls.

Chapter 8 : Hudson Valley Historic Sites | Hudson Valley Historic Walking Tours | Hudson Valley Tourism

The Hudson River has been a vital artery in New York's history, an essential tool for travel and transport, survival and inspiration for generations of Native Americans, European settlers, British and American soldiers, and those who ultimately call it home.

Overview Full Screen Print Experience the blazing fall colors of the Hudson River Valley and visit fine museums and historic homes of literary, artistic, and political figures during this popular and unique cruise. Highlights Include New York City: View the extensive American art collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Enjoy private tours of Lyndhurst, a Gothic Revival mansion; the Union Church of Pocantico Hills; and Kykuit, the palatial estate of the Rockefeller family, featuring a superb art collection and garden. Walk through historic Hyde Park, Franklin D. View the impressive art collections at Vassar College and visit the U. Military Academy at West Point. This trip was beyond my wildest dreams. Perfect in every way. I loved the tour so much that 3 days after we returned home I signed up my husband and myself for another trip. One of the most interesting and beautiful trips I have ever taken. The trip included history, natural beauty, art, and architecture! Plus we got meet some amazing fellow travelers. For all these reasons, we truly loved the experience. Art Along the Hudson is a core trip in the Smithsonian Journeys repertory. Jason LaFountain brings not only a detailed survey of the Hudson River School painters but elegantly weaves contemporary thought and artists into his lectures and commentary. The trip was a mini-masterclass in art history and criticism. If you thought you knew the Hudson River valley, think again. This trip will reset your sights on the treasures just outside New York. To see itinerary, please click on an option below. In the evening, enjoy a welcome reception at the hotel followed by dinner on your own. There will be time to peruse other galleries featuring one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of American paintings and sculptures in the world. This afternoon, embark your ship and enjoy lunch and an afternoon of cruising the Hudson with the splendid fall colors in the background. On 67 acres overlooking the Hudson River, Lyndhurst has an extensive collection of Victorian decorative arts. Following lunch, visit Kykuit, the palatial estate that was home to three generations of the Rockefeller family. Return to the ship for dinner as we cruise to West Point. End the tour with a walk through Trophy Point. Walk through the historic home, including the room from which he gave his famous fireside chats. Tour the galleries of the Hudson River School painters. In the afternoon, enjoy the spectacular palisades of the Hudson River Valley sparkling with fall colors as we cruise to Troy. Next visit the Empire State Plaza Art Collection, featuring an amazing group of midth-century abstract paintings and sculptures, on display in public areas throughout the Empire State Plaza. Depart Catskill and enjoy magnificent views of foliage along the river. This afternoon visit Storm King Art Center, spread over acres of stunning fields, hills, and woodlands, and is the setting for nearly carefully sited sculptures, created by some of the most acclaimed artists of our time. This evening, enjoy a festive farewell dinner onboard the American Star. B Included meals are denoted as follows:

Chapter 9 : Explore The Hudson Valley's Rich History | | Historic Hudson River Towns

The Hudson Valley (also known as the Hudson River Valley) comprises the valley of the Hudson River and its adjacent communities in the U.S. state of New York, from the cities of Albany and Troy southward to Yonkers in Westchester County.