

# Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway

*Visions of Vanished Centuries*



4 Days/3 Nights, Optional Day 5

Gateway City: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Some of the most beautiful scenery and historically significant sites in the Mid-Atlantic lie nestled in a quiet and unassuming corner of Delaware. Starting at Rodney Square in Wilmington, DE, and following Route 52 and Route 100 to Kennett Square, PA, the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway tells the story of the road intertwined with the story of the DuPont family, whose legacy left us with sprawling estates, world renowned gardens, extraordinary art collections, libraries, museums, hotels, education centers, and cultural institutions. Nearly 100 years later, that same landscape inspired the Brandywine School of Art, a uniquely American style of illustration that emphasizes the natural environment influencing painters like N.C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish, and Norman Rockwell. This unforgettable journey through vibrant, pedestrian-friendly villages and the gentle rolling hills of the Brandywine Valley landscape is a true Delaware original. No other corridor in Delaware so clearly and directly depicts the relationship between transportation, the regional economy, culture, and the story of this very famous family who changed the course of American history, several times over. With an unparalleled concentration of historic sites, magnificent estates, and glorious gardens, the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway in Delaware abounds with visions of the vanished centuries waiting to be explored.



### **Touring the Byway**

We recommend starting your journey in Philadelphia, before traveling to Wilmington, the largest city in Delaware and one that was heavily influenced by the duPont family. If you have not traveled to Philadelphia before, you can spend a day exploring locations very significant in American history. Once in Wilmington, Rodney Square, the center of the city, is like a history lesson in Dupont lore. After exploring a bit of the square, visit the Delaware Museum of History to get your bearings about Delaware's unique history, before venturing out to the Hagley Museum and Library that tells the story of the earliest duPont ventures in Delaware.

After a good night's stay at the elegant Hotel Dupont, on Day Two, explore the very elegant Nemours Estate, have lunch at the Delaware Museum of Art and tour the museum, before settling in at the Inn at Montchanin.

On Day Three, you'll be off to three contiguous locations that were originally part of a duPont dairy farm: Brandywine Creek State Park, the Delaware Museum of



Nature and Science, and Winterthur, which holds one of the best collections of Americana in the United States. Tuck in at the Inn at Montchanin for a second night.

On Day Four, you'll be headed north on the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway through the quaint town of Centerville, on your way to Longwood Gardens and the Brandywine River Museum, featuring the collections of the Wyeth family.

After a night at the Fairville Inn, on an optional Day Five, you can travel west to visit Mt. Cuba, your final duPont estate on the trip. From there, we wish you a safe passage if you're traveling on another Delaware Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



## DAY ONE



### **Philadelphia**

Walking the streets of this very historic and well preserved city, it is hard to imagine that once at the water's edge, women “had lighted their fires on the bare earth and slung their kettle between two poles on a stick traverse,” outside of the caves they lived in. It's even harder to imagine that the part of the city laid out by William Penn, now only encompasses a few blocks amidst the thriving metropolis. It must have been rousing when the delegates and townspeople cheered as the Declaration of Independence was read and the Liberty Bell rang out. If you have not previously visited Philadelphia, be sure to tour Independence National Historical Park and the world-renowned Philadelphia Museum of Art, with lunch at the Reading Terminal. It's a very short distance from Philly to Wilmington, DE.



## **Wilmington**

This largest and most populous city in the state of Delaware was built on the site of Fort Christina, the first Swedish settlement in North America in 1638. It evolved through a Dutch period beginning in 1655 and British colonization in 1664, and finally granted a charter by the English King in 1739. Wilmington found its foothold as a major American city when E.I. duPont began making gunpowder in a mill on the Brandywine River just outside of Wilmington in 1802.

The DuPont company became a major supplier of explosives to the U.S. military and subsequently had a profound impact on Delaware, fueling the economy for decades. In addition to being first in production of gunpowder, by 1868, Wilmington was producing more iron ships than the rest of the country combined, plus ranked second in carriages and leather. Post-war prosperity introduced residences west of the city, creating the beginning of "suburban development".

Over the years, the duPont family and their affiliates continued to act as devoted patrons of the arts and dedicated conservationists. Today, the former grand homes and properties located throughout Wilmington and the surrounding Brandywine Valley have become cultural attractions with international appeal on their own.





## **Rodney Square**

Start your visit to Wilmington with a stroll around Rodney Square, named after Caesar Rodney, who rode through the night to cast the tie vote that ensured Delaware would support the Declaration of Independence. The square bounded by Market, King, 10th and 11th Streets, is surrounded by the DuPont Building at 1007 North Market, Wilmington Public Building, 1000 North King, Wilmington Free Library, 10 East 10th Street, Nemours Building at 1007 North Orange Street and the Post Office/Court House/Custom House at 1100 North Market, all listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



## **Delaware History Museum**

Housed in the former F.W. Woolworth 5-and-10 cent store, the Delaware History Museum features a landmark exhibition on 300 years of Delaware history, plus two new exhibitions: Delaware: One State, Many Stories and Journey to Freedom and a striking two-story glass corridor connecting to Old Town Hall with the Museum and the Mitchell Center. Completed in 1798, Old Town Hall functioned as the center of political and social activities during the height of the mercantile-milling economy in Wilmington until 1916 when the city government sold it to the Delaware Historical Society.

504 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-656-0637



## **Hagley Museum and Library**

Located on 235 acres along the banks of the Brandywine, Hagley is the site of the gunpowder works founded by E.I. DuPont when he immigrated from France. The property has been restored and fitted with interpretation in the mill buildings, a worker's community, the ancestral home, and gardens, revealing the story of this very innovative family who brought a whole new industry to America. Explore the fascinating history of American business, technology, and innovation, and its impact on the world that took place in this small community.

298 Buck Road, Wilmington, DE 19807, 302-658-2400, Daily 10AM-4PM, Adults \$8





### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Hotel DuPont** 42 W. 11th Street, Wilmington, DE, 19801, 302-594-3100 Once the headquarters for the DuPont Company, the building is a landmark example of Italian and Renaissance architecture, where guests are transported back to the Gilded Age of elegance.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Le Cavalier** 42 W. 11th Street, Wilmington, DE, 19801 302-594-3153 Located inside the Hotel DuPont, Le Cavalier is a new school, modern brasserie. Reservations recommended.

**Chelsea Tavern**, 821 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 302-482-3333, Popular gastro pub using only the freshest local ingredients complemented with craft beers.

**Big Fish Grill at the Riverfront** 720 Juston Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 302-652-3474 Highly rated local seafood.

**Banks Seafood**, 101 South Market Street, Wilmington, DC 19801, 302-777-1500 More great seafood.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Riverfront Market**, 3 South Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

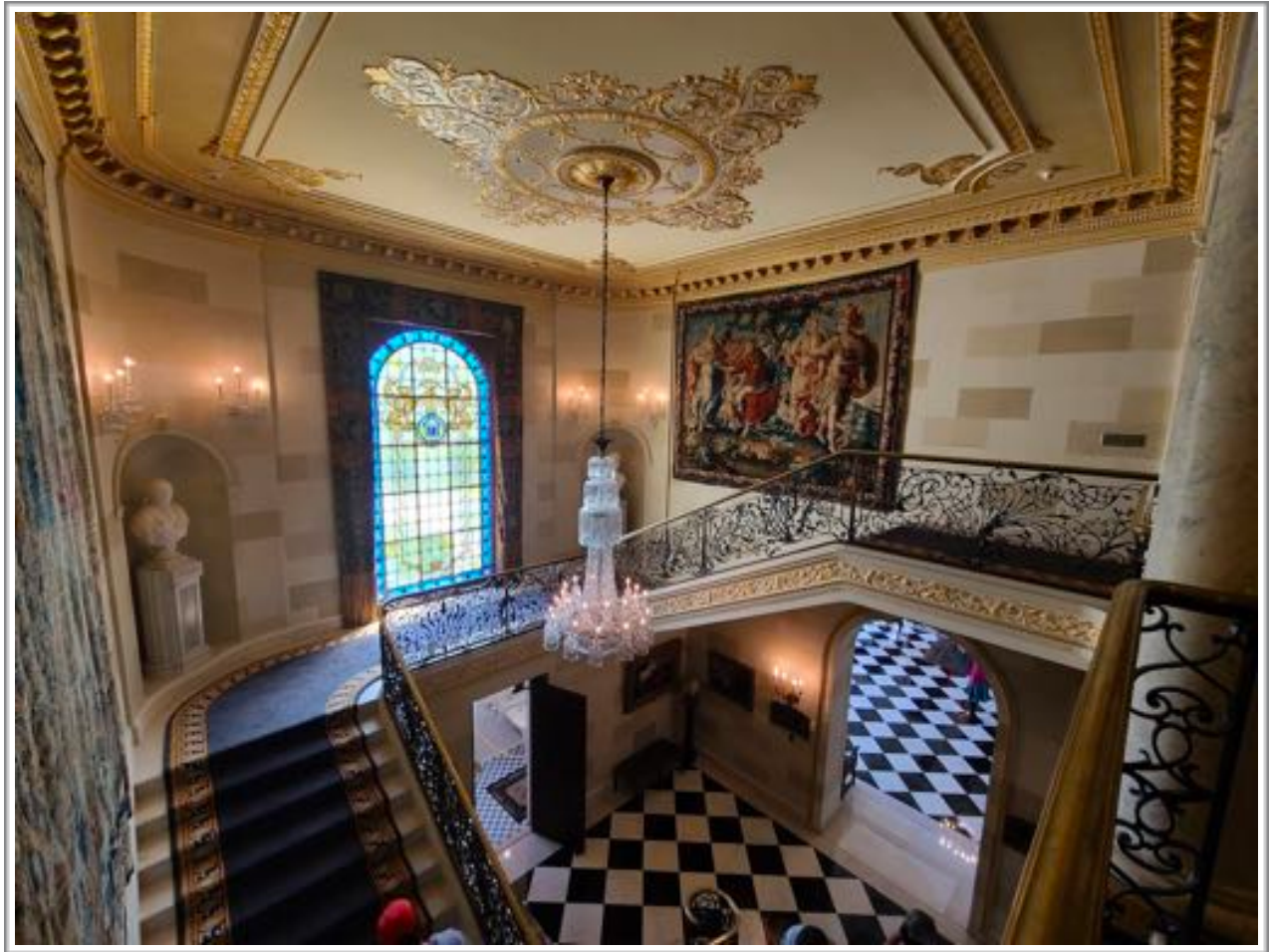
**A.R. Morris Jewelers** 802 Market St., Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-888-2436 A wide selection of engagement rings, wedding bands, jewelry, watches, and other fine gifts.

**Town and Shore**, 221 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-648-4516 Clothing, accessories, luxury handcrafted leather goods.

**Morgan's of Wilmington**, 222 Delaware Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-658-0968 Women's boutique.



## DAY TWO



### **Nemours Estate**

Alfred I. DuPont loved showering his new wife with gifts, including building her a 47,000 square foot French neoclassical home, complete with “jardin a la francaise” formal gardens, with 105 rooms spread out over five floors, surrounded by 3,000 acres. Even though the home is classic architecture, it was equipped with the latest technology available in 1907. Nearly 160 jets at the center of a one-acre pool in the spectacular garden, shoot water 12 feet into the air. When they are off, the entire “Long Walk” extending from the mansion to the reflecting pool is reflected in the water.

1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803, 302-651-6912, Tu-Su 10AM-5PM, Adults \$12





### **Delaware Art Museum**

The museum features 12,000 works of art that were produced, exhibited and collected in the Brandywine region, including historical and contemporary American art, British pre-Raphaelite art, American illustration and storytelling, the 9-acre Copeland Sculpture Garden, and the Helen Farr Sloan Library and Archives. Highlights include significant holdings of work by John Sloan, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and Howard Pyle. Enjoy lunch at the Kaffina Cafe, either before or after your visit.

2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806, 302-571-9590, W, F-Su  
10AM-4PM, Th 10AM-8PM, Adults \$1



### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**The Inn at Montchanin Village & Spa** 528 Montchanin Rd, Montchanin, DE 19710  
302-888-2133 Discover the natural beauty and gracious hospitality at this Historic Hotel of America with peaceful grounds, stunning gardens, and luxury accommodations.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Krazy Kats at the Inn at Mountchanin**, 528 Montchanin Rd, Montchanin, DE 19710  
302-888-2133 Savor an elegant dinner at the Inn.

**Buckley's Tavern**, 5812 Kennett Pike, Centerville, 19807 302-656-9776  
Well-prepared classic comfort food.

**The Copper Dram**, 3826 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE 19807 302-356-0535  
Local pub with hand crafted cocktails and great food.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Indulgence Jewelers**, 4001 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807

**Chaddsford Winery** 632 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA, 19317, 610-388-6221

Headquartered in a renovated 17th century colonial barn, this premium winery produces 30,000 cases of wine yearly.

**Brandywine River Antiques Market** 878 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA, 19317,  
610-388-2000 A multi-dealer co-op offering a selection of antiques, estate furniture, accessories,  
and collectibles in various styles and periods.

## DAY THREE



### **Brandywine Creek State Park**

With blue gneiss stone walls built in the late 1800s, much of the park was part of a duPont family estate and dairy farm. Today, more than 14 miles of trails and remnants of old-growth forest, rolling meadows host native pollinators, nesting birds and rare native plants. If you're a birder, expect to see American Kestrels, Blue Birds.

41 Adams Dam Road, Wilmington, DE 19807 302-577-3534, 8AM-Sunset, Daily

### **Delaware Museum of Nature and Science**

Learn more about the landscapes you're been enjoying at the newly reframed Delaware Museum of Nature and Science, exploring Delaware's most famous dynamic and diverse ecosystems. Plus, go back in time to the Cretaceous Era and meet dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures.

4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807, 302-658-9111, 9:30AM-4:30PM  
Daily, Adults \$12.95





### **Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library**

This incredible estate is more than a historic home. The former residence of Henry Francis DuPont, renowned antiques collector and horticulturist, holds one of the most important collections of Americana in the United States, displayed in 175 period rooms, filled with 90,000 objects. The collection, spanning 1640 to 1860, contains some of the most important pieces of American furniture and fine art in the world. The Winterthur Library includes more than 87,000 volumes and approximately 500,000 manuscripts and images, mostly related to American history, decorative arts, and architecture. The mansion is surrounded by gardens that reflect the artistic vision of DuPont, spread over nearly 1,000 acres of forests, meadows, farmland and waterways, a masterpiece of color and design with a year round succession of blooms. Enjoy the gardens on foot or on a narrated tram ride. 5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE 19735, 800-448-3883, Tu-Sun 10AM-5PM, Adults \$20

## DAY FOUR



### **Centerville**

This quaint 18th century village listed on the National Register of Historic Places is surrounded by country estates, nestled deep in the Brandywine Valley.



## **Brandywine Conservancy and River Museum of Art**

Housed in a converted nineteenth century mill with a dramatic steel and glass addition overlooking the banks of the Brandywine River. This museum, often referred to as the Wyeth, showcases the work of renown artist Andrew Wyeth and his family. In addition, the museum's permanent collection features American illustration, still life works, and landscape painting by Jasper Francis Cropsey, Harvey Dunn, Peter Hurd, Maxfield Parrish, Howard Pyle, William Trost Richards, and Jessie Willcox Smith. The glass-wall lobby overlooks the river and rolling countryside that inspired the Brandywine School earlier in the early 20th century. The museum campus is also home to the separate studios of N.C. Wyeth and Andrew Wyeth, and Kuerner Farm, the source of much of Andrew Wyeth's inspiration.

One Hoffmans Mill Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317, 610-388-2700, Adults \$18  
Guided tours of the Studios and Kuerner Farm are available.





## **Longwood Gardens**

Featuring over 1,007 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows in the Brandywine Creek Valley, Longwood, another DuPont estate, is one of the premier horticultural display gardens in the United States. Enjoy native and exotic plants, horticulture, events, performances, seasonal and themed attractions, as well as lectures, courses, and workshops.

1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348, 610-388-1000, Th-F 10AM-9PM, Sa 10AM-4:30PM, Su-M 10AM-6PM, Adults \$25





## **Kennett Square**

The charming borough of Kennett Square dates from 1686, when Francis Smith acquired 200 acres at the mouth of Pocopson Creek, making the township in honor of his home village. is nestled in the rolling hills of Chester County's countryside. The first mention of the township was in 1705, and the borough was formed from the township in 1855. Now, the town that has been in existence since before the Declaration of Independence was signed, boasts 507 buildings constructed between 1875 and 1924 in a variety of architectural styles including Colonial Revival, Victorian, and Federal listed on the National Register of Historic Places.





### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Fairville Inn**, 506 Kennett Pike, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 610-388-5900

Stay in 18th century elegance.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Talula's Table** 102 W State St, Kennett Square, PA 19348, 610-444-8255 A gourmet market by day and an artisanal destination dinner experience by night.

**Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen** 108 State Street, Kennett Square, PA 1934, 484-886-4154 Featuring modern American food, craft beers and cocktails, a great rooftop patio, and live entertainment.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Thomas Macaluso Rare & Fine Books** 130 S. Union St., Kennett Square, PA 19348, 610-444-1063 Thousands of carefully selected used books.

**McLimans Fine Furniture & Antiques** 940 West Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA 19348, 610-444-3876 Quality antiques and fine pre-owned furniture.



## OPTIONAL DAY FIVE

### **Mt. Cuba Center**

The former estate of Lammot DuPont Copeland is now a botanical center that produces some of the most spectacular displays of wildflowers in the mid-Atlantic region. With over 500 acres of natural lands surrounding the gardens and managed landscapes, the grounds consist of steeply rolling hills, stream valleys, rock outcroppings, and deciduous forests. Educational programs and science-based research projects focus on restoration and conservation of the area's natural lands. 3120 Barley Mill Road, Hockessin, DE 19707, 302) 239-4244, W-Su 10AM-6PM, Adults \$15.

