

The Woodlands Spa provides massages and other treatments, including the Water Path, a hydrotherapy using a pebble-filled pool and water of varying temperatures to promote circulation and well-being.

WHERE: 60 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. Tel 724-329-8501; fallingwater.org. **When:** closed Jan–Feb; daily except Wed, mid-Mar–Nov; weekends in Dec and early Mar. **KENTUCK KNOB:** Chalk Hill. Tel 724-329-1901;

kentuckknob.com. **DUNCAN HOUSE:** Polymath Park. Tel 877-833-7829; franklloydwrightovernight.net. **Cost:** entire house from \$299, sleeps 6. **NEMACOLIN WOODLANDS RESORT:** Farmington. Tel 866-344-6957 or 724-329-8555; nemacolin.com. **Cost:** Falling Rock from \$299 (off-peak), from \$699 (peak). **BEST TIMES:** Fri and Sat in May–Aug for Fallingwater’s special sunset tours, which include hors d’oeuvres served on the terrace.

Charm with a Capital “C”

NEW HOPE & BUCKS COUNTY

Pennsylvania

Located on the western bank of the Delaware River, New Hope has only four main streets crisscrossed by cobblestone alleys and fronted by historic buildings—some 150 of them on the National Register of Historical Places.

Originally owned by William Penn, the site became an important mill town and ferry point across the Delaware, but by the end of the 19th century, the town’s economy began to shift from industry to aesthetics. Seduced by its gorgeous landscapes, painters moved to the area, and in the 1930s members of the New York literati, among them Dorothy Parker, Pearl S. Buck, and Oscar Hammerstein, followed. In 1938, a group that included playwright Moss Hart purchased the old New Hope Mills and converted it into the Bucks County Playhouse, which remains one of America’s foremost regional theaters. As the decades passed, antiques stores, galleries, restaurants, B&Bs, and all the other accoutrements of a small arts town began to pop up, until New Hope achieved its current status as a weekend getaway spot that’s getting a lot of love. Take in the scene, take in some history (the Parry Mansion, dating from 1784, is filled with period furnishings), or have a little touristy fun on a mule-drawn canal barge, complete with music and historic narration. After

a short stroll along the towpath, cross the bridge to Lambertville, New Hope’s New Jersey twin; a few miles to the south, both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey sides of the river have state parks commemorating George Washington’s famous crossing of the Delaware on Christmas night 1776.

New Hope is known for its plethora of welcoming inns and charming B&Bs, perhaps best epitomized by the nine-guest room Pineapple Hill. The converted farmhouse is surrounded by 5 acres of well-tended grounds, which offer respite and shade, as well as a small pool. Across the river, the Lambertville House, with an equally fine reputation, was built as an inn and stagecoach stop in 1812. Of its 26 rooms, 21 have a gas fireplace, marble bath, and a mix of period antiques and reproductions.

Heading deeper into Bucks County, Route 202 is lined by antiques shops and seasonal flea markets. In Holicong, just beyond Peddlers Village (a collection of gift and crafts shops), the 1740 Inn at Barley Sheaf Farm, once owned by playwright George S. Kaufman,

is today a luxurious inn, restaurant, and spa located on a peaceful 100 acres.

About 10 miles southwest of New Hope, Doylestown offers more Bucks County charm. In the early 20th century, all-around Renaissance man Henry Chapman Mercer constructed the Mercer Museum, a veritable castle that houses a collection of preindustrial American vehicles, folk art, furnishings, and implements, including upward of 40,000 tools representing 60-odd early American crafts and trades, plus Conestoga wagons and Native American implements dating back 10,000 years. Down the road, another Mercer enterprise, the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, produced handcrafted tiles during the Arts and Crafts movement. It's still in operation today, and offers tours and an apprentice program. The Fonthill Museum, Mercer's third great Doylestown building, was his 44-room home, built from his own design and decorated with his handcrafted tile designs.

WHERE: 44 miles north of Philadelphia. *Bucks County visitor info:* Tel 800-836-BUCKS or 215-639-0300; visitbuckscounty.com. *Lambertville–New Hope visitor info:* Tel



Stroll down the streets of New Hope and visit some of its many restaurants and antiques shops.

609-397-0055; glnhcc.org. **BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE:** New Hope. Tel 215-862-2121; bcptheater.org. *When:* Apr–Dec. **PINEAPPLE HILL:** Tel 888-866-8404; pineapplehill.com. *Cost:* from \$155. **LAMBERTVILLE HOUSE:** Tel 888-867-8859 or 609-397-4400; lambertvillehouse.com. *Cost:* from \$190 (off-peak), from \$210 (peak). **INN AT BARLEY SHEAF FARM:** Holicong. Tel 215-794-5104; barleysheaf.com. *Cost:* from \$250. **MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE:** Doylestown. Tel 215-345-0210; mercermuseum.org. **MORAVIAN POTTERY:** Doylestown. Tel 215-348-6098; buckscounty.org/government/MoravianPotteryTileworks. **BEST TIME:** fall for scenic beauty.

A Passion for Sharing the Beauty of Art

THE BARNES FOUNDATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Albert C. Barnes was an up-by-your-own-bootstraps type, born in 1908 in a working-class Philadelphia neighborhood. He left to study medicine and then founded a pharmaceutical company that made him very wealthy.

Like many new millionaires, he began collecting art. But unlike many, he remembered where he had come from. First, he hung some of the paintings he had acquired in his factory, inviting his employees to discuss the works. Then, he began offering them free educational seminars. Eventually, he came to share his passion with

the wider world through the establishment of the Barnes Foundation, which has become one of the world's premier private art collections.

Barnes's displays, which often grouped works from different cultures and periods in unorthodox juxtapositions, were intended to illustrate universal stylistic and thematic