MAKE AN EVENING OF IT!

Not only are all TT&VWs free of charge, but we've some other great reasons to visit - just ask for our Summer Specials guide.

Inns and restaurants convenient for each village feature discounted Early Bird pre-tour dinners and Thursday Menu offers for later casual or fine dining.

These Thursday TT&VWs are a perfect excuse for a summer get-a-way. Some of Brandywine Valley's most charming B&Bs, hotels and campgrounds offer special rates.

- Many are historic properties so you can extend your experience of times past as you continue to enjoy our countryside for a day or a long weekend.

Request your copy of TT&VW Summer Specials from the Tourist Information Center at 1-800-228-9933.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

West Chester — June 6
Parker Ford — June 13
Phoenixville — June 20
Marshallton — June 27
Historic Yellow Springs — July 11
Downington — July 18
Glenmoore — July 25
Kimberton — August 1
Fairville — August 8
St. Peter's Village — August 15
Kennett Square — August 22
Coatesville — August 29

On July 4th - Independence Day - there are no scheduled walks, but many communities celebrate with parades & festive events. Call 1-800-228-9933 for details.
JUNE 6 WEST CHESTER

Right: West Chester Boarding School for Boys, built 1830.

This year the county sponsors a Walking Tour centers on the Marshall Square Park in the tree-shaded northwestern section of the borough. Laid out in 1848 by Dr. William Darlington and others as an Arboretum, it contains examples of trees from all over the world which they felt could be grown in our climate. Tours will begin at the Summer House in the center of the park. Guides then stroll with groups into the nearby residential neighborhoods to homes of historical and architectural interest. Brick and wrought iron predominates and buildings date from the early 1800s onward.

Information: 610-436-9010
Tour Hosts: Board of Architectural Review

JUNE 13 PARKER FORD

Below: Parker's Tavern, built 1776

Turn back the hands of time and visit Old Parkers Tavern, the site where General George Washington and his 12,000 troops crossed the Schuylkill River on their way to Philadelphia on September 19, 1777. From this tiny hamlet, stroll alongside the Schuylkill Canal, opened in 1824, as it passes through East Vincent Twp. You will see the remains of Lock No. 57 and the aqueduct over the stream. It is part of the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor.

Information: 610-633-4224
Tour Hosts: East Vincent Twp. Historic Commission

JUNE 2 PHOENIXVILLE

Below: Phoenix Iron Company, photo c. 1918

Iron and textiles created Phoenixville's bustling economy. Tour neighborhoods of company-owned nineteenth century worker housing, the largest collection in Chester County. Contrast these with the larger proprietor homes. Brick and stone for the Phoenix Iron Company Offices, Mansion House, the Reading Railroad station, and in the mill race, a mill, create pleasing architectural streetscapes.

Information: 610-935-7646
Tour Hosts: Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area

JUNE 27 MARSHALLTON

Left: Bradford Monthly Meeting, built 1765

This nearly untouched village, named for botanist Humphrey Marshall (born 1722) was an important stop on a freight and drover's road. There are two hotels in town and one outside, dating back to 1765. Among the outstanding features of this village was a Quaker Meeting dated 1730 (present building 1765), a cradle factory and more grain mills and scythes, a blacksmith shop, a pump maker, a cigar factory, oysterman shop, a cooking store, a bakery, a plowing business, a restaurant, in 1805 a post office, and in 1829 a Methodist Church.

Information: 610-269-4174

JULY 11 HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS

Below: Manse House, built c.1840 (left); Lincoln Building, built c.1889 (right)

The village of Yellow Springs (now Chester Springs), is owned and maintained by Historic Yellow Springs, Inc., a non-profit association. It combines the vitality of a living community and center for the arts with the charm of a picturesque rural landscape. Historic buildings and grounds—the Inn, the Lincoln Building, the Jenny Lind Spring House, the Water Gardens, and their historic ruins on the Revolutionary War Hospital, with an 18th century Herb Garden—welcome visitors today as they have for over two and a half centuries. Once a spa, it was here in the 1950s the cult classic sci-fi film The Blob, was made.

Information: 610-827-7419
Tour Hosts: Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

JULY 18 DOWNTOWN

Below: Downtown Friends Meeting, built 1806

Downtown, Chester County’s oldest town, offers an assortment of local folk and art, and its historic buildings. Just why was the George Washington Inn, c. 1761, built and is there really a jug in the walls of the Jug House, c. 1804? After touring the John Taylor Farm, c. 1738, from which the Borough of Downingtown was carved, enjoy a Quaker wedding at the Downingtown Friends Meeting, c. 1800. Create your own souvenir with cemetery stone rubbings.

Information: 610-269-2685, 1 - 7 p.m. only
Tour Hosts: Borough of Downingtown Historic Commission and Downingtown Historical Society

JULY 25 GLENMORE

Below: Railroad Station, photo c. 1895

In the 1850s construction of the East Brandywine and Wyomissing Railroad changed the hamlet located on the scenic east branch of the Brandywine Creek. First known as Norwood, this thriving village, renamed Glenmore, supported a store, a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright, a creamery, a grist mill, worker housing and of course, the railroad station. Most have now been adapted to 20th century use. But retain the charm of the past. Hear the story of how Creek Road, Rte. 282, was laid out to resolve a controversy.

Information: 610-942-2880
Tour Hosts: Wallace Twp. Historic Commission

AUGUST 1 KIMBERTON

Right: Christians Mill, built 1796

Start at Centennial Lutheran Church and explore Kimberton with a painted display of Kimberton's heritage. On display are examples of fine "plum pudding" storefronts and grew as a crossroads village with the advent of the Black Bear Tavern, c.1768. Actually 1996 can be considered Kimberton's Bicentennial as in 1796 Christians' mill started operating across from the tavern. You'll also see Emmor Kinbner's 1818 French Creek Seminary for Females, and the railroad station, marking Kimberton's growth. Then it's back to the renowned Kimberton Inn.

Information: 610-935-1377
Tour Hosts: East Pikeland Twp. Historic Commission, Pikeland Historical Society and Historic Architectural Review Board

AUGUST 8 FAIRFIELD

David Jones House, built c. 1700

An architecturally intact crossroads village of late 18th and early 19th century, Fairville began as a service and market center on the Kennett Pike. Rte. 52, about 1744. While the Fairville Inn accommodated travelers passing through the village, the Fairville Tapestry, a store post office and cobbler shop fulfilled the needs of the residents while the school educated its children. See the large Shapleigh building and tour the Phillip du Pont mansion estate with its own chapel.

Information: 610-388-7323, 9-1-30
Mon.-Thurs. Tour Hosts: Pennsylvania Twp. Historic Commission

AUGUST 15 ST. PETERS VILLAGE

Below: St. Peter's Inn and streetscape, built c. 1880s

St. Peters, originally known as Falls of French Creek, is a colorful Victorian village situated at the northern end of a deep ravine cut by the French Creek. The ravine is filled with huge granite boulders from a collapsed section of the ridge that runs through the area. The quaint village has always been dependent on the creek and ridge. Many buildings, most constructed during the 1800s, are now shops and part of this evening's tour. They originally serviced miners, quarry workers and then tourists. The Inn still offers sustenance.

Information: 610-469-3809
Tour Hosts: Warwicks Twp. Historic Commission and St. Peters Businesses

AUGUST 22 KENNEDT SQUARE

Right: Edith House, photo c. 1890

Site of British and Hessian encampments prior to the Battle of the Brandywine in 1777, and later a "station" along the Underground Railroad, Kennett Square has a long and fascinating heritage. Gently sloping hills create many pleasant vistas as one enjoys a leisurely stroll along cool, shaded, tree-lined streets. Of particular interest are the many ornate and beautiful porches—elegant examples of the artistic talents of long ago builders and carpenters. The town's architectural styles range from Federal through Italianate and Queen Anne Revival to early 20th century revivals.

Information: 610-444-0774
Tour Hosts: Borough of Kennett Square Historic Committee

AUGUST 29 COATESVILLE

Below: Graystone Mansion, built 1889

This city so influenced by iron and steel, straddles the original Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike constructed between 1792 and 1794. Begin the tour at impresario Graystone Mansion, the home of the Huston family, owners of the Lukens Iron & Steel Works. See the town's unique 19th century Italianate, Romanesque Revival, and Victorian architecture in its commercial buildings, found nowhere else in our County. Hear the stories about locally made products, the early iron industry and why many properties were owned by women here in Chester County's second largest National Register Historic District.

Information: 610-388-0380
Tour Hosts: City of Coatesville

Tour Hosts: Borough of Kennett Square Historic Committee