MAKE AN EVENING OF IT!

Why not make these FREE Town Tours & Village Walks your excuse for a summer getaway? Some of Brandywine Valley's most charming B&Bs and inns offer special package rates. Many are historic properties so you can extend your experience of times past as you enjoy our countryside for an overnight or even a long weekend.

Many of our restaurants will feature "early bird" specials for pre-tour suppers or other dining values for after your TTVW.

To request a copy of our newspaper, call the Brandywine Valley Tourist Information Center at 1-800-228-9933.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- JUNE 4 WEST CHESTER
- JUNE 11 PARKESBURG
- JUNE 18 PENNHRST CENTER
- JUNE 25 COVENTRYVILLE
- JULY 9 MALVERN
- JULY 16 HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS
- JULY 23 ST. PETERS VILLAGE
- JULY 30 no tour
- AUGUST 6 COATESVILLE
- AUGUST 13 PRIZER MILL COMPLEX
- AUGUST 20 DOWNTOWN
- AUGUST 27 OXFORD

During Independence Day Week no walks are scheduled, but many communities celebrate with parades & festive events. Call 1-800-228-9933 for details.
WEST CHESTER - JUNE 4
A very special tour!
It has been 150 years since the Chester County Court House, designed by Thomas U. Walter, opened on George Washington's birthday, February 22, 1848. Begin your June 4th evening with a tour of the Court House—you will see mid-nineteenth century features and the handsome court room without being a prisoner in the dock.
Then our guides will conduct a variety of walks—your choice—about the downtown and the fine nineteenth-century streets of West Chester, with varying mixes of social and architectural history. Many coffee-houses and restaurants await you.
Tour Hosts: Board of Architectural Review
Reservations: 610-431-7010 or 431-1238

PARKESBURG - JUNE 11
Parkesburg, named after prominent local land owners, was incorporated in 1872. However, it was the original site of the Fountain Inn, a colonial tavern and stopover for Lancaster farmers taking their livestock and produce to Philadelphia. Parkesburg was modeled after the prosperous European industrial towns and was home to the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad repair shops and the Parkesburg Iron Company. Visit a 19th century country store and enjoy the ambiance of an old fashioned ice cream parlor. Stroll past historic Italianate and Second Empire commercial buildings.
Hosts: Parkesburg Area Business Association and the Greater Octavia Historical Society
Reservations: 610-857-1458

COVENTRYVILLE - JUNE 25
Coventryville, a quiet village of 18th and 19th century homes near French Creek, in its earliest days, was a hub of industry and dairying, with the Coventry Forge turning out both useful and decorative iron works, and later, ammunition for the Revolutionary War. Rebecca Grace, wife of ironmaster Robert Grace and close friend of Benjamin Franklin, entertained officials of the Continental Army at Coventry Hall where the first Franklin stove had been installed in 1792. The world-famous Coventry Forge Inn, is the site of the old Rising Sun Inn which had opened for business in 1750.
Tour Hosts: South Coventry Township and Historical Coventryville
Reservations: 610-469-0444

MALVERN - JULY 9
Stroll on King Street, the section of King Road that passes through Malvern, where most of the businesses in the borough are located. Malvern, a quaint market town, was developed because of the railroad. So, the tour will start at the 1893 railroad station. Along the route, guides will be posted at lovely late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century buildings. See shops, shops and buildings occupied by a carriage factory, a platinum works and private homes. The historic business district has been impressively revitalized.
Tour Hosts: Borough of Malvern Historic Commission
Reservations: 610-644-2602

HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS - JULY 16
Visit the site of an elegant health spa west of Philadelphia in the 1820's. Meet Mrs. Margaret Holman, forekeeper, and learn how the spa grew to its Golden Era. Learn from Mr. John Knight about Black Creek, evidences as he sought to cure his throat ailment. Elegantly designed greens will tell of their social life and model the "proper" attires to "take of the mineral waters." Whether visiting for health or social reasons, life at the Yellow Springs Spa was interesting and exciting in the beautiful Chester County countryside.
Tour Hosts: Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.
Reservations: 610-827-7414

ST. PETERS VILLAGE - JULY 23
St. Peters, originally known as Falls of French Creek, is a colorful Victorian village situated at the north end of a deep ravine cut by the French Creek. The ravine is filled with granite boulders from a collapsed section of theridge that runs through the area. The quaint village has always been defined by its creek and ridge. Many buildings, most constructed during the 1880's to serve miners and quarry workers, are now shops and part of an evening tour.
Tour Hosts: St. Peters Businesses and Warwick Township Historic Commission
Reservations: 610-469-3809

COATESVILLE - AUGUST 6
This city, so influenced by iron and steel, has the second largest original Philadelphia and Lancaster Railroad constructed between 1792 and 1794. The tour begins at impressive Graystone Mansion, the home of the huson family, owners of the Lukens Iron and Steel Works. See the town's unique 19th century Italianate Richardsonian architecture in its commercial buildings; found no where else in our County. Hear the stories about locally made bricks, the early iron industry, and why many properties were owned by women here in Chester County's second-largest National Register Historic District.
Tour Hosts: Graystone Society and the Coatesville Historic Commission
Reservations: 610-384-9282

PRIZER MILL COMPLEX - AUGUST 13
The industrial cluster, located between Seven Stars and Hares Hill Roads and Mill Lane in East Pikeland Township, is what was once a thriving mill complex. Included in the evenings itinerary is perhaps the oldest Kimberton house, the miller's stone house, possibly built before 1790. Next area are remains of a three-story grist mill, mill race, Prizer's Victorian house, a converted barn, three mill complex houses, a unique cistern and the scenic French Creek, crossed by the very photogenic Kennedy Covered Bridge.
Tour Hosts: Pikeland Historical Society and East Pikeland Township Historic Commission
Reservations: 610-933-1770

DOWNTOWN - AUGUST 20
Dowtown, Chester County's oldest town, offers an assortment of local folklore with its historic buildings. Just why was the George Washington Inn, c. 1761, built and is there really a leg in the walls of the John House, c. 1804? See Bierswamy Court, home of Governor Curtin's daughter, and Downtown Friends Meeting, c. 1806, with its traditional Quaker cemetery. Enjoy the tranquility and setting of the fieldstone John Taylor Farm, c. 1738, from which the Borough of Downingtown was carved.
Tour Hosts: Downtown Historic and Parks Commission and the Downingtown Historical Society
Reservations: 610-269-0344, ext. 287

OXFORD - AUGUST 27
Enjoy a guided tour past large well-preserved homes constructed 1870-1905 by builders Wallace, Sloan and others. A story of Hoods Tavern stagecoach stop between Philadelphia and Baltimore, now Oxford Hotel, refurbished as senior housing. Revisit post Civil War times when the Oxford area Dickey family founded Lincoln University and promoted Oxford as a railroad center exporting local bricks, tools, timber, and tobacco from the well-preserved brick Grain and Hay Mill.
Tour Hosts: Oxford Historic Commission
Reservations: 610-932-2300

1998 TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS
At a Glance
JUNE 4 - WEST CHESTER, 431-7010 or 431-1238
JUNE 11 - PARKESBURG, 857-1458
JUNE 18 - PENNHRST CENTER, 933-4424
JUNE 25 - COVENTRYVILLE, 469-0444
JULY 9 - MALVERN, 644-2602
JULY 16 - HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS, 827-7414
JULY 23 - ST. PETERS, 469-3809
JULY 30 - no tour
AUGUST 6 - COATESVILLE, 384-9283
AUGUST 13 - PRIZER MILL COMPLEX, 933-1770
AUGUST 20 - DOWNTOWN, 269-0344 ext. 287
AUGUST 27 - OXFORD, 932-2500