

# experience the berkshires & beyond

Lenox, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, Williamstown



blank**canvastours**  
TRIPS THAT ENGAGE YOUR CREATIVE SIDE





# experience the berkshires

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## 2019 trip dates

- June 23–28
- July 14–19
- July 21–26
- August 4–9

## what's included

- Expert trip leaders
- Lodging
- Meals (with exception of alcohol and three “explore on your own lunches”)
- Snacks and beverages between meals
- Entry to all venues
- Luxury van transportation
- Comprehensive travel planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours through museums and other historical venues
- Exclusive access to performances
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Baggage transfer and portage

## getting to the berkshires

- Albany International Airport (1 hr from Stockbridge)
- Boston Logan International Airport (2 hr from Stockbridge)
- Bradley International Airport (1 hr 10 min from Stockbridge)
- Amtrak runs many services to nearby NY locations including Albany, Hudson and more.
- Week long parking will be available for those who choose to drive

## weather

- Average annual temperatures High 78/Low 58

## pricing

- \$3,498 per person for double occupancy
- \$4,998 for single occupancy.

*Featuring quaint New England vibes, intimate galleries, powerful theatre performances, elegant music and stunning views, this is summer how you always imagined.*

## about this trip

- Over six days and five nights you will visit three different inns, explore four quintessential Berkshires towns, take in four plays/performances, two concerts and visit four museums.
- Three expert trip leaders will give you an insider's tour of the Berkshires. These leaders will handle everything from baggage and transportation to food and wine recommendations.
- Blank Canvas provides detailed trip planning to give you options and choice, while making sure you have the best seats, private tours and insight at top museums, theatres and concert venues.
- Transportation will be in luxury vans, with ample room and individual seating.

**Call now to reserve your trip: 1.833.641.0855**

# berkshires summer trip 2019

*Please note that this itinerary will be updated once performance details are announced for the 2019 season. Small changes to the schedule may be made as a result.*

## day 1: sunday

### 11:30am: Arrival at The Red Lion Inn

Welcoming travelers to the Berkshires for more than two centuries, the Red Lion Inn offers individually decorated guestrooms, onsite dining options, live entertainment nightly, and is located right in the heart of downtown Stockbridge. Our trip leaders will greet you at the entrance, take your luggage and give you time to explore and settle in. Parking for the week will be available at the Inn for those driving.

### 12:00pm: Welcome Lunch

Our leaders will welcome you to Blank Canvas Tours, give you a rundown of what to expect for the week and introduce other guests. A private buffet lunch will be served at The Red Lion Inn in the Hitchcock Room.

### 2:00pm: Performance at Jacob's Pillow

The oldest internationally acclaimed summer dance festival in the United States, Jacob's Pillow is tucked into the scenic mountains of the Berkshires. With a wide array of modern dance offerings in the famed outdoor stages, Jacob's Pillow has been called a "hub and mecca of dancing" by *TIME Magazine* the "dance center of the nation" by the *New York Times*. We'll take a private guided tour of the grounds, see a matinee performance and have a chance to speak with the dancers following the performance – exclusive for Blank Canvas guests!

### 6:00pm: Dine at the The Old Inn on The Green at Jacob's Pillow

The Old Inn on the Green, led by renowned Executive Chef Peter Platt, is a AAA 4-star, Zagat-rated restaurant well-known for creative, farm-to-table American cuisine. This restaurant offers table service with a lovely view of the Ted Shawn Theatre at Jacob's Pillow, offering full-service dining and specialty hand-crafted cocktails in a grand, open-air summer tent.

### 9:00pm: Evening Entertainment at the Lion's Den

Enjoy the acoustics of the famed bar at the Red Lion Inn to close out your evening.

*Accommodations for the night at The Red Lion Inn*



## day 2: monday

### 7:30am: Breakfast at The Red Lion Inn

Served in the Main Dining Room, you can dine at your leisure that morning.

### 10:00am: Visit to the Norman Rockwell Museum

You will be taken on a private guided tour to see many of the 998 original Rockwell paintings and drawings at the museum. The Norman Rockwell Museum is home to the world's largest and most significant collection of Rockwell art, and you will have time to explore the grounds on your own after the tour.

### 11:45am: Picnic lunch at the Norman Rockwell Museum

After you finish exploring the museum, we will serve a picnic lunch overlooking the Housatonic Valley on the patio.

### 12:30pm: Chesterwood and Berkshire Botanical Gardens

#### Option A: Take a guided tour of Chesterwood

Visit historic Chesterwood, the country home, studio and gardens of America's foremost sculptor of public monuments, Daniel Chester French. This impressive estate provides a unique look at a historic sculptor. A guided tour will be followed by time to explore the grounds on your own.

#### Option B: Explore the Berkshire Botanical Gardens

A 15-acre botanical garden that contains over 3,000 species and varieties of plants, with an emphasis on plants that thrive in the Berkshires. Guided tours will give guests insight into indigenous plant species and a close-up view of the Berkshires premier botanical gardens.



### 3:30pm: Return to the Birchwood Inn

The Birchwood Inn is a quaint New England Bed & Breakfast located walking distance to downtown Lenox. Your luggage will be in your room when you arrive, where you can relax on the front porch or living room and enjoy a beverage or a snack.

### 6:00pm: Dinner at Table Six Restaurant

Start with a cocktail on the veranda overlooking the hills of Lenox, then enjoy world-class locally-inspired dishes inside this Gilded Age mansion turned restaurant.

### 8:00pm: Tanglewood

The famed summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Tanglewood is a Berkshires landmark. Tanglewood's 524-acre grounds include the Tanglewood Music Center and Seiji Ozawa Hall, two of the top ranked concert halls in the world, and has played host to legendary acts including James Taylor, Leonard Bernstein, Yo-Yo Ma and more. The Boston Symphony Orchestra led by Andris Nelsons will perform at the famed Ozawa Concert Hall at Tanglewood for Blank Canvas guests.

*Accommodations for the night at The Birchwood Inn*



### 11:45am: Outdoor Lunch on the Terrace

Lunch will be served on the Terrace of the Mount for you to enjoy the views of the garden and the grounds.

### 1:00pm: Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio or Shopping

#### Option A: Take a guided tour of the Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio

Visit the home of American abstract artists George L.K. Morris and Suzy Frelinghuysen, set on a 46-acre estate in the heart of Lenox, Massachusetts. View their paintings, frescoes, and sculpture; experience their exquisite collection of American and European Cubist Art, including a Picasso collection.

#### Option B: Explore the shops in downtown Lenox

Visit the many retail shops and local artisans in downtown Lenox. Enjoy an afternoon coffee or tea, and walk at your leisure to the nearby Birchwood Inn.

## day 3: tuesday

### 7:30am: Full American Breakfast at the Birchwood Inn

Served in the dining room, you can dine at your leisure.

### 10:00am: Edith Wharton's "The Mount"

The home of Edith Wharton, The Mount is a scenic Berkshires landmark with sprawling gardens over 113 acres in Lenox. You will receive a guided tour of the author's home and have time to explore the gardens.

### 3:00pm: Relax at the Birchwood Inn

Read a book or take a nap in the afternoon to wind down, and take this time to get ready for dinner and a memorable evening performance!

### 5:15pm: Dinner at Bistro Zinc

A modern French bistro that boasts locally-inspired cuisine and warm atmosphere, within walking distance of the Birchwood Inn.



## 8:00pm: Performance at Barrington Stage Company

The fastest growing art venue in the Berkshires, Barrington Stage has recently been lauded as a “jewel” by the Boston Globe and as “one of America’s top regional musical-comedy producers” by the Wall Street Journal. Barrington Stage gained national prominence in 2004 with the world premiere of *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* by William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin. The musical, a runaway hit at Barrington Stage, later moved to Broadway and won two Tony Awards. With newly opened space in the Berkshires, Barrington Stage’s 2019 productions are expected to be some the best yet.

*Accommodations for the night at The Birchwood Inn*

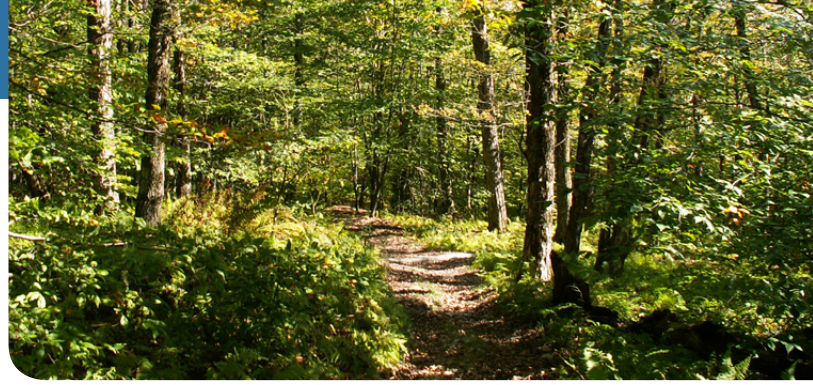
## day 4: wednesday

### 7:30am: Full American Breakfast at the Birchwood Inn

Served in the dining room, you can dine at your leisure.

### 10:00am: MASS MoCA

Experience a private guided tour of more than 250,000 square feet of visual contemporary art. The expansive museum includes one of the largest open space exhibits in the world, all in a uniquely renovated historic mill building. Explore the vast museum on your own, and grab lunch at the museum’s café at your leisure.



## 12:45pm: Enjoy a hike, a round of golf or more time exploring the museum

### Option A: Guided hike at Hopkins Memorial Forest

Explore the 2,600 acre reserve in MA/NY/VT managed by Williams College Center for Environmental Studies to facilitate, research and undergraduate teaching activities while preserving/monitoring forest resources.

### Option B: Golf at Taconic Golf Course

One of the top courses in Massachusetts, Taconic provides golfers with a magical combination of spectacular scenery, a classically challenging course, and superb playing conditions.

### Option C: Explore the Mass MoCA Complex

With indoor and outdoor installations, MassMoCA is almost impossible to cover in a single day. Take a break and enjoy a beer at the Bright Ideas Brewery or grab a coffee at Tunnel City Coffee – both located within the complex.

## 3:00pm: The Porches Inn

Your luggage will be waiting in your room, where you can relax on one of the many porches at this Inn. With an expansive view of Mass MoCA, this row of beautifully detailed 19th Century Victorian row houses pays homage to generations of mill worker families who once called them home.

## 5:30pm: Dinner at Loom

A new restaurant from James Beard-award winning chef Cortney Burns, this figures to be an unforgettable dinner. Located in a former church, this restaurant will offer unique and interesting locally-sourced dining options.

## 7:30pm: Williamstown Theatre Festival

Since 1955, the Williamstown Theatre Festival has brought America’s finest actors, directors, designers, and playwrights to the Berkshires. From Bradley Cooper and Neil Patrick Harris to Blythe Danner and Matthew Broderick, the WTF has played host to well known Hollywood actors who come each year to experience the Berkshires. We’ll take in a play at WTF’s more intimate Nikos Stage.

*Accommodations for the night at The Porches Inn*



## day 5: thursday

### 7:30am: Breakfast at the Porches Inn

Enjoy breakfast at your leisure at the Porches in their main building.

### 10:00am: The Clark Art Institute

You will receive a private, guided tour of the permanent collection on view at this world famous art museum, which will be followed by time to roam and experience the three summer exhibitions in the other galleries. The Clark sits on a unique 140 acre ground and features European and American paintings, sculpture, prints, drawing and decorative arts from the Renaissance to the early twentieth century. The collection is especially rich in French Impressionist and Academic painting, British oil sketches, drawings and the work of American artists Winslow Homer, George Inness and John Singer Sargent.

### 12:30pm: Lunch

Lunch will be available in the museum's café, which we encourage you to enjoy beside the three-tiered reflecting pool in the rear of the museum. You will have further time to explore the galleries or walk the scenic trails behind the Clark.

### 2:00pm: Williamstown Theatre Festival

We'll take in a matinee of the mainstage performance at WTF. This performance will likely feature noted actors or actresses. More details will be announced in early 2019.

### 4:00pm: Relax at The Porches Inn

Enjoy the outdoor pool, firepit or sit on the patio to relax for the afternoon. A variety of beverages and snacks will be available in the early evening.

### 8:00pm: Mezze Bistro

Dinner will be served at Mezze Bistro, an exquisite home-turned restaurant with a focus on farm-to-table food and fine dining.

### 10:30pm: WTF Late Night Cabaret

One of the most unique moments of the trip, a troupe of actors from WTF will put on an intimate and raucous cabaret performance, including song, dance, improv and more.

*Accommodations for the night at The Porches Inn*

## day 6: friday

### 7:30am: Breakfast at the Porches Inn

Enjoy breakfast at your leisure at the Porches in their main building.

### 10:00am: Williams College Museum of Art

Enjoy a guided tour of the museum. Located on campus, the WCMA is one of the premier college art museums in the country with unique exhibits and hands-on learning exhibits for students and visitors.

### 11:30am: Explore Williamstown

Following the museum tour you will have time to explore the shops of Williamstown and grab lunch at one of the many spots on Spring Street.

### 12:30pm: Depart for Stockbridge

Following a week of fun, we'll make the trip back to Stockbridge and say our goodbyes.

