

Delaware route 52 & route 100

BRANDYWINE VALLEY

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

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BRANDYWINE VALLEY

SCENIC BYWAY

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...where the DuPont legacy unfolds



Project Coordinator

One of only 126 roads in America that
qualify as a National Scenic Byway





Delaware route 52 & route 100

BRANDYWINE VALLEY | SCENIC BYWAY

Discover the beauty of the renowned Brandywine Valley Byway, where the du Pont legacy began over two hundred years ago when French immigrant Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours and his sons made the banks of the Brandywine River their home.

Through industrial ingenuity, civic pride and philanthropy, the family's lasting influence on the region can still be seen along the road they helped to create, from historic downtown Wilmington-Delaware's largest city-through the rolling hills of the Brandywine Valley where many of their country estates remain intact.

Often referred to as Chateau Country, this distinct Byway traverses through an unparalleled concentration of fabulous gardens, a gorgeous river valley, 19th-century mills and magnificent mansions now home to some of the nation's best museums and art collections. This journey is a true Delaware original where natural beauty, world-class cultural attractions, superb restaurants, hotels and inns and a thriving riverfront with cafes and outlet shops draw visitors back each season.

Travel by bus, train or automobile to get to the Brandywine Valley and experience a legacy that continues to stand the test of time, and where history awaits and endless activities abound.

ATTRACTIONS

There's so much to enjoy! This unique Byway experience is the setting for numerous historic sites, country estates and research libraries, gardens and captivating museums guaranteed to satisfy any cultural craving.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK DARKE

1802

The du Pont legacy begins with land purchased along the Brandywine River, used to establish a successful gunpowder mill.



History

The du Pont legacy began in 1800 when Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours (1739-1817), noted economist, author and editor, emigrated to the U.S. from Paris with his family. In 1802, persuaded by son Eleuthère Irénée (E.I.), who worked as a teen in Parisian gunpowder mills, the du Ponts purchased land along the Brandywine River to establish a successful gunpowder operation and become one of the richest families in America after the mill opened in 1804. The du Ponts' generous philanthropy and passion for preservation helped shape the character of the Brandywine Valley Byway that we enjoy today.

Horticulture

From the beauty of Gibraltar Mansion, the English country-style garden designed by well-known landscape architect Marian Cruger Coffin (1876-1957), to the 60-acre naturalistic garden at Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, founded by antiques collector and horticulturist Henry Francis du Pont (1880-1969), flora thrives all along the Byway.

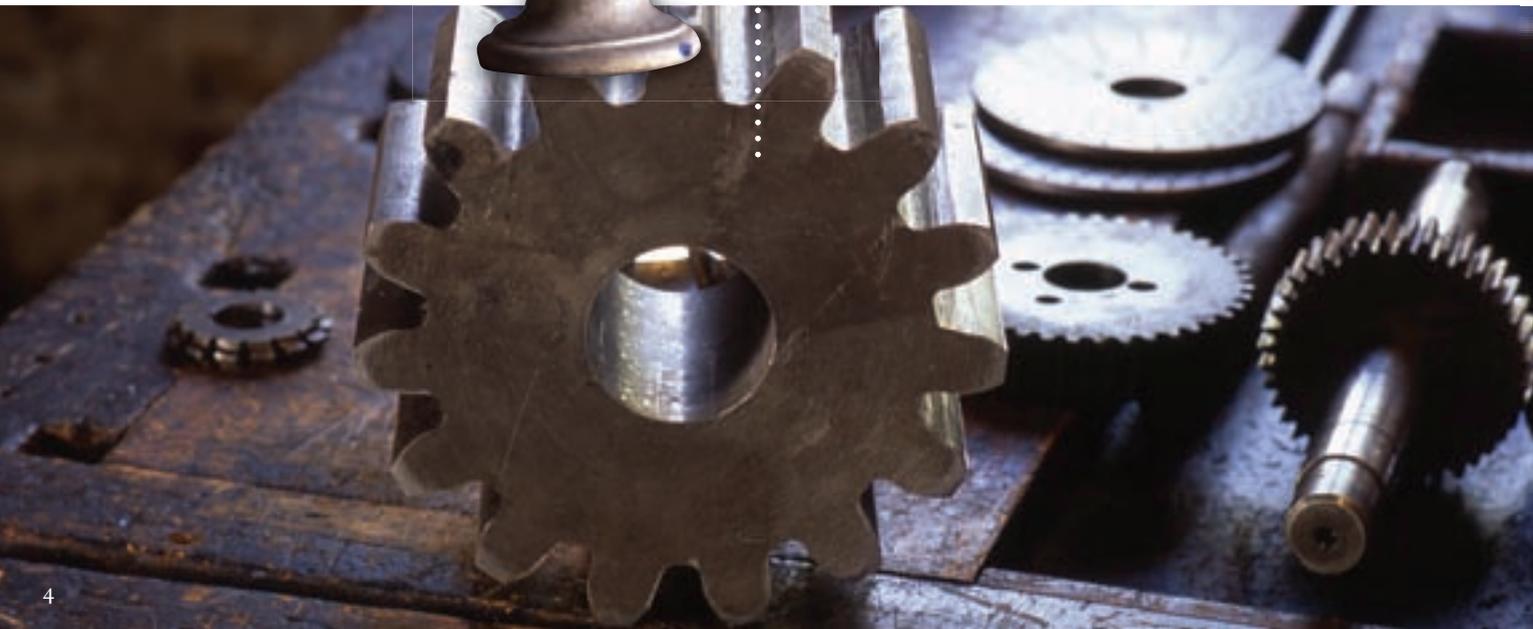
And, just over the Delaware border, the premier horticultural displays of Longwood Gardens, established by Pierre S. du Pont (1870-1954), feature 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands and meadows. Unique historic gardens can also be seen at Hagley, Nemours, Goodstay Center and Mt. Cuba Center.



Art

At the Delaware Art Museum distinguished collections of American painting, illustration and contemporary art appear alongside the country's best collection of English Pre-Raphaelite art.

The Brandywine River Museum is internationally known for its unparalleled collection of art by three generations of Wyeths and for its collection of American illustration, still life and landscape painting. Each year the museum celebrates the holiday season with an extensive O-gauge model railroad. It is also home of the Brandywine Conservancy.





Americana

Americana still thrives along the Byway, thanks to resolute preservationists and forward-thinking artists, educators and collectors. At Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, Henry Francis du Pont created more than 175 period rooms to house historic architecture and showcase his world-class antiques collection celebrating America's past. At Hagley Museum and Library, the history of American industrial enterprise is collected, preserved and interpreted.



Antiques

The Byway boasts numerous fine antiques shops along with Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, the former home of Henry Francis du Pont (1880-1969), devoted antiques collector and horticulturist. Along with the 60-acre naturalistic garden, this estate highlights du Pont's love of American decorative arts. On exhibit are more than 85,000 objects from about 1600 to 1800, including furniture, textiles, craftsmen's tools, metalworks, ceramics and paintings. Shoppers will delight in the reproductions for sale in the onsite store across from the museum. Other grand mansions like Eleutherian Mills and Gardens at Hagley and the Nemours Mansion on the Byway include antique collections not to be missed.



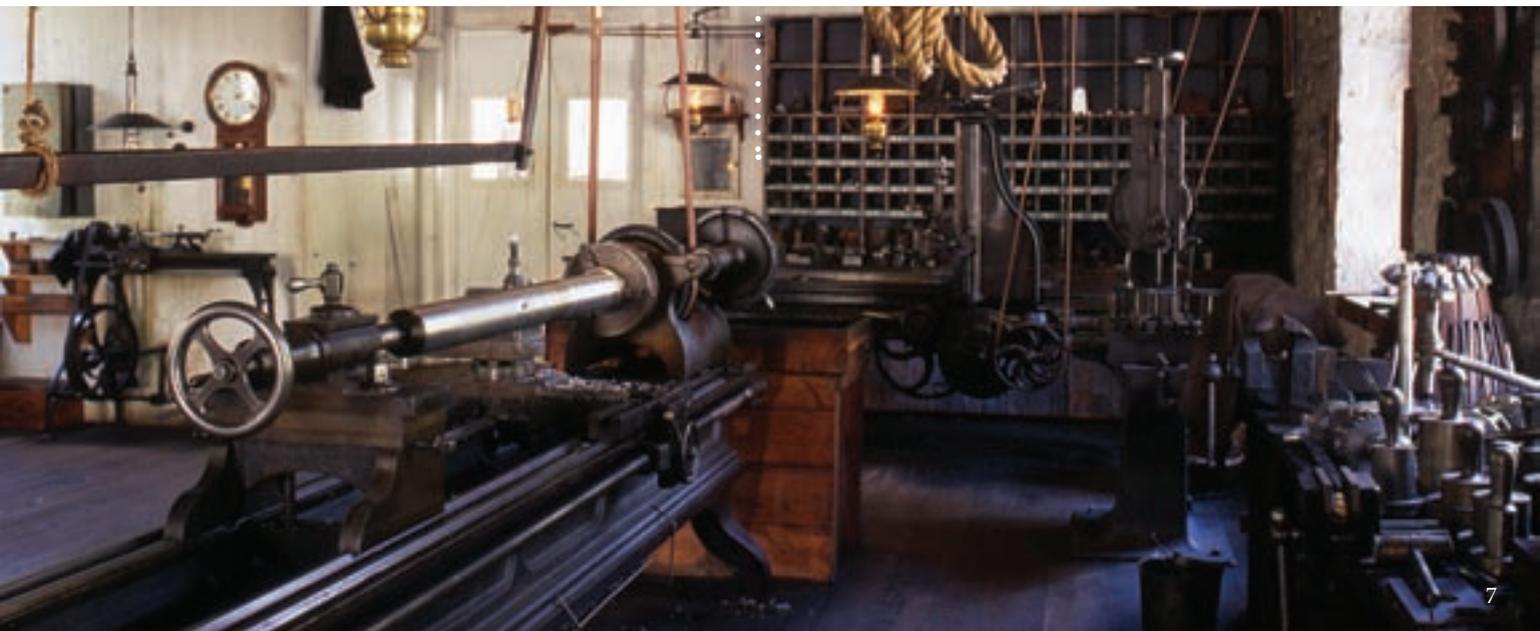
Pristine Estates

All along the Byway, gardens are budding with lush vegetation surrounding pristine neighborhoods and elegant estates, many created and maintained by heirs to the du Ponts. At Hagley, Longwood, Winterthur, Gibraltar and Nemours, visitors are encouraged to explore the breathtaking gardens and wander throughout the magnificent mansions.

From gun powder to glorious gardens
and grand estates
1832

Scientific Discovery

Discover how the du Ponts perfected production of gunpowder at Hagley Museum and Library, birthplace of the DuPont company, where examples of early American industry include restored mills, a workers' community and the first du Pont estate and gardens. And see for yourself why the Delaware Museum of Natural History's collection of over 220,000 lots of mollusks (shells) ranks among the top ten shell collections in the United States. The museum's collection reflects the original interests of its founder, John E. du Pont, who collected shells and birds, and includes the second largest collection of birds' eggs in North America.





WINTERTHUR MUSEUM AND COUNTRY ESTATE

Driving Tour of Byway

At the start of the Byway in downtown Wilmington is Rodney Square, developed as a center of civic activity in the early 20th-century and symbolic of the international stature that major corporations like DuPont had brought to the city.

Traveling north from downtown along the Byway just past I-95, but still in the City of Wilmington, the Byway passes the Delaware Children's Theatre; late 19th-century houses of worship such as Church of the Holy City (Swedenborgian), Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church; and early 20th-century planned neighborhoods including Wawaset Park, Kentmere Parkway (designed by Frederick Law Olmstead), Bancroft Parkway, Rockford Park, Highlands, Gibraltar Mansion and Goodstay.

Leaving Wilmington, the picturesque, preserved landscapes of numerous American country estates come in view. The estates, created and maintained by heirs to the du Ponts, feature large, elegant mansions, outstanding gardens, stone walls and other "edges", gatehouses, tenant houses, and pastureland.

Today, these estates remain largely intact and greatly enhance the Byway travel experience. Visitors can explore rooms full of antique furnishings, discover what life was like decades ago and participate in exciting, educational activities. Travelers can visit the grounds of du Pont family estates and parks now available to the public. These include prominent cultural institutions such as the Hagley Museum and Library, Nemours, Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, Delaware Museum of Natural History and Longwood.

In the Byway corridor, landscaped gardens are a vital component of the historic landscape associated with country estates of the early 20th-century. Noted landscape architects such as Marian Cruger Coffin (1876-1957) designed elegant formal gardens at estates such as Mt. Cuba, Winterthur and Gibraltar. Unique historic gardens are also found at Hagley, Nemours, and Goodstay Center. One of the best-known gardens in the corridor is the internationally famous Longwood Gardens just over the state line. The institutions that evolved from former country estates are now the stewards of a large portion of the Byway landscape.

Along the Byway in the quaint villages of Greenville, Centreville and Fairville, distinctive shops and boutiques and outstanding restaurants and cafes are a welcome diversion. And, the vistas at the Methodist Country House, Wilmington Country Club, Delaware Museum of Natural History and Winterthur represent the beautiful images that are typical of the Brandywine Valley landscape. Here the social, economic, horticultural and artistic history of America will be laid out before you as you travel the rolling hills of the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway.



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK DARKE



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK DARKE

Points of Interest



Named after Caesar Rodney, **RODNEY SQUARE** is the center of downtown Wilmington.

1 RODNEY SQUARE In downtown Wilmington in the early 20th century, the DuPont Company oversaw development of Rodney Square, named after Caesar Rodney. This center of civic activity included the monumental Hotel DuPont, the Wilmington Institute Free Library, the Federal Courthouse, and the U.S. Post Office (now Wilmington Trust). At the time, the square was symbolic of the international stature that major corporations such as DuPont brought to the city. Today, it is the start of the scenic Byway. www.ci.wilmington.de.us/attractions.htm

2 HOTEL DU PONT/DUPONT THEATRE Built in 1913 on Rodney Square as part of the DuPont Company headquarters, the landmark hotel was conceived by Pierre S. du Pont. With its elegant old world lobby, opulent Gold Ballroom and ornate Green Room, it is considered one of the finest examples of European craftsmanship in N. America. It incorporates the DuPont Theatre, presenting Broadway shows and paintings by world-renowned Brandywine artists. It received the AAA Four Diamond Award. www.hoteldupont.com

3 DELAWARE HISTORY MUSEUM This museum exhibits two centuries of DuPont influence and Delaware history and includes detailed displays and stories like the one about how P.S. DuPont led the development of the world's first divided highway, and how the work of a DuPont scientist led to the discovery of GoreTex. www.hsd.org/dhm.htm

4 DELAWARE CHILDREN'S THEATRE Since 1973 the Delaware Children's Theatre has staged live family entertainment in their historic century-old theatre house conveniently located off exit 7 from Interstate I-95 in Wilmington, Delaware. www.dechildrenstheatre.org

5 DELAWARE ART MUSEUM The Delaware Art Museum was founded in 1912 with the help of Louisa du Pont Copeland and Samuel Bancroft to preserve and exhibit the works of Howard Pyle. Bancroft, a textile mill industrialist, donated land in 1935 for a new museum and his collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings, now the largest collection in the U.S. www.delart.org

1913 Hotel du Pont is considered one of the finest examples of European craftsmanship in North America

The **HOTEL DU PONT** offers luxurious suites and fine dining.

The **DELAWARE ART MUSEUM** is home to Delaware's first Sculpture Park.

Live family productions are featured at the **DELAWARE CHILDREN'S THEATRE**.

The **DELAWARE HISTORY MUSEUM** is in a renovated art-deco Woolworth store where changing interactive exhibits detail the state's history.





BLUE BALL BARN houses folk art capturing Delaware's diverse communities and heritage.

GOODSTAY CENTER features beautifully landscaped Tudor gardens.

6 GIBRALTAR MANSION AND GARDENS Preservationists and horticulturists Hugh Rodney Sharp and his wife Isabella du Pont Sharp, purchased Gibraltar in 1909 and built the du Pont mansion of today. It incorporates an exquisite historic formal garden featuring a pavilion, statuary, and plants collected from trips abroad. One of America's best known female landscape architects, Marion Cruger Coffin, designed Gibraltar's garden, as well as the formal garden at Winterthur. www.preservationde.org

7 GOODSTAY HOUSE AND GARDENS The property was the home of Ellen du Pont Wheelwright and her landscape architect husband Robert, who created a serene horticultural gem featuring a reflecting pool, magnolia walk and boxwood-lined garden rooms and a natural woodland garden with a stream.

8 BLUE BALL BARN & NORTHERN DELAWARE GREENWAY Built in 1914 by Alfred. I. du Pont at Nemours, it was one of the first state of the art concrete barns built in the U.S. and housed his prize cattle. Named after the Blue Ball Tavern, an inn and meeting house that was once located on the property, this recently restored barn now stands as the Gateway to Brandywine Hundred and the centerpiece of Alapocas Run Park. It is an outstanding example of adaptive reuse of an historic structure and was restored as a green building with LEED certification. www.destateparks.com/blueball/index.asp In addition, a paved stone pathway leads hikers/walkers/bikers to the Northern Delaware Greenway from the Blue Ball Barn. It connects to Rock Manor Golf Course, Rockwood Park, Bringhurst Woods and Bellevue State Park to the East, and to the Brandywine River and the City of Wilmington to the West in Alapocas State Park; a pedestrian bridge connects with Bancroft Mills on the opposite shore. www.delawaregreenways.org

9 NEMOURS MANSION AND GARDENS Nemours, the 300-acre estate of industrialist and philanthropist Alfred I. du Pont (1864-1935), is among the finest examples of French-style gardens in the United States. The modified Louis XVI French chateau, built in 1910, contains 102 rooms filled with fine European and American furniture, rare rugs, tapestries, and art. Nemours underwent a \$39 million restoration completed in 2008. www.nemoursmansion.org

1909
Gibraltar's garden was designed by famed American landscape architect Marion Cruger Coffin

GIBRALTAR'S six-acres of formal gardens showcases series of intimate garden settings.

The NEMOURS GARDEN is the largest formal French garden in North America and features an 800,000-gallon reflecting pool.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEL PLOTKIN

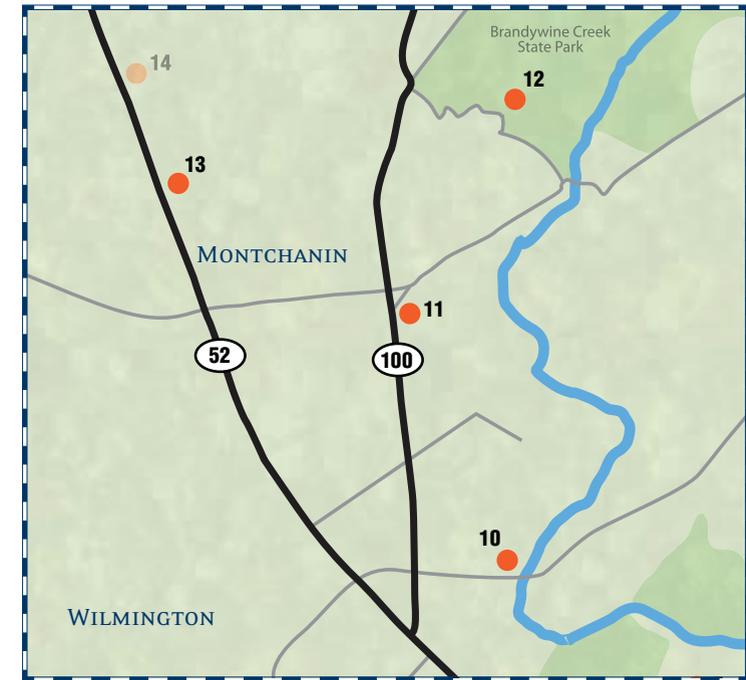


1965

Brandywine Creek State Park offers some of the Brandywine Valley's best views, bird watching, trails and nature preserves.

BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK was once a dairy farm owned by the du Pont family in the late 1800s.

DELAWARE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY'S collections have a strong emphasis on mollusks (shells) and birds.

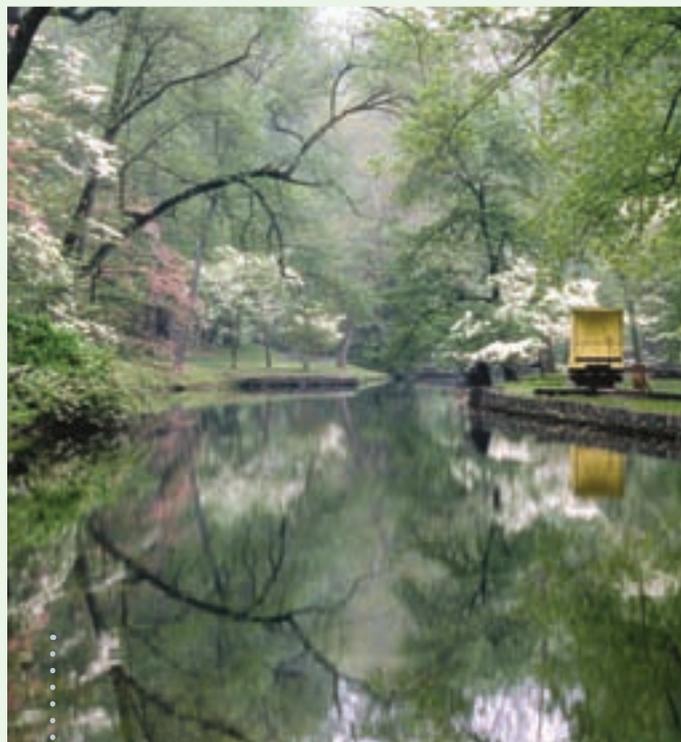


10 HAGLEY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY The birthplace of the DuPont Co., Hagley is where the du Pont industrial story began in 1850. A whole chapter in American history comes alive at the first du Pont home, Eleutherian Mills and Gardens, a stunning National Park Service site on the riverside. Enjoy a stroll and take-in live demonstrations of early industrial community life. Just outside Hagley is picturesque Henry Clay Village. www.hagley.org

11 HISTORIC INN AT MONTCHANIN VILLAGE The historic Inn at Montchanin Village was established as a settlement for laborers who worked at nearby DuPont Powder Mills. The hamlet and rail station is on the National Register of Historic Places and was restored by du Pont family members. A first-class accommodation experience, the Inn at Montchanin Village provides a unique setting of cottage guest rooms, a stylish restaurant, and conference center. It is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World. www.montchanin.com

12 BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK Once a dairy farm owned by the du Pont family, this 933-acre retreat is a Piedmont paradise and naturalist's dream. Brandywine Creek Park became a state park in 1965, one of the first in the nation to be purchased with Land and Water Conservation Funds. The park offers some of the Brandywine Valley's best views, bird watching, nature preserves, and 14 miles of trails through woodlands, meadows, and stream banks. www.destateparks.com/bcsp

13 DELAWARE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY Created by John du Pont, who sought to promote wildlife protection through educational and interpretive exhibits, the Delaware Museum of Natural History's collection includes over 117,000 bird specimens, including the second largest collection of birds' eggs in America, and one of the top ten shell collections in the U.S. www.delmnh.org



HAGLEY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY is located on 235-acres along the Brandywine River.



The INN AT MONTCHANIN VILLAGE includes 11 restored buildings built from 1799 to 1910.



1,050
acre Longwood Gardens is one of the world's premier horticultural displays, created by industrialist Pierre S. du Pont



14 WINTERTHUR MUSEUM & COUNTRY ESTATE

This former home of devoted antiques collector and horticulturist Henry Francis du Pont (1880-1969) houses an unparalleled collection of historic American furnishings, metalworks, textiles and ceramics. The 1,000-acre estate is a masterfully designed naturalistic landscape that includes a children's garden delighting all who visit. www.winterthur.org

15 CENTREVILLE VILLAGE

Established by Quakers in the 17th century, this charming village includes 15 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Take a stroll, bike, dine, shop and stop by the farmer's market selling local produce one day each week in season. www.centrevillede.info/visit10pt

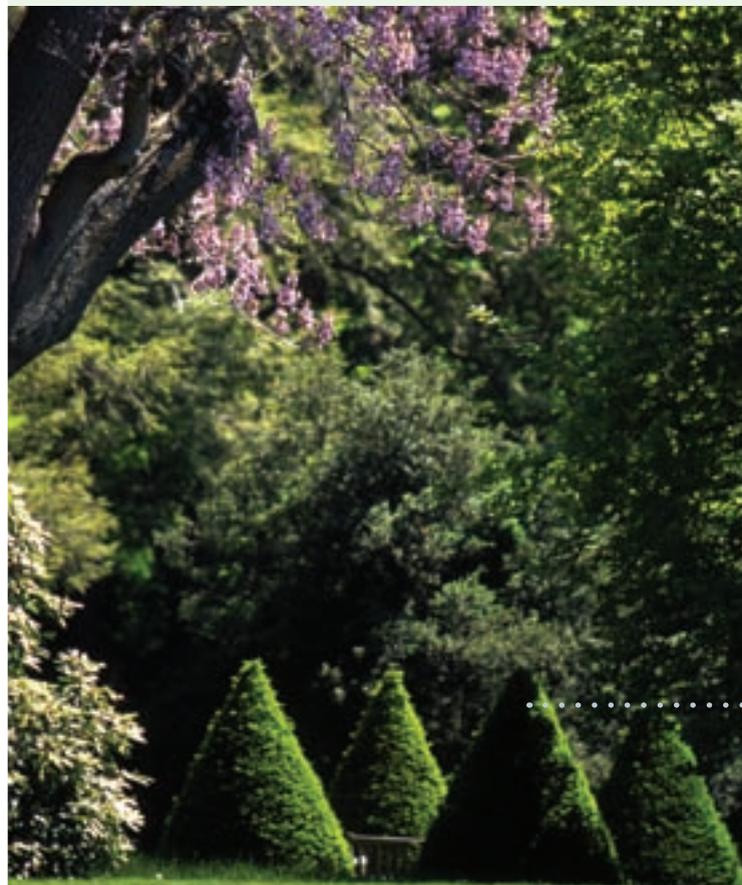
16 LONGWOOD GARDENS Created by industrialist Pierre S. du Pont in 1906 to preserve its trees, Longwood Gardens is one of the world's premier horticultural displays. This garden wonderland is a grand-scale 1,050-acre horticultural showplace with elaborate fountains, landscaped meadows, a massive conservatory, breathtaking exhibits and du Pont interpretive displays. www.longwoodgardens.org

17 BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM Several du Ponts founded the Brandywine River Museum to embrace the artistic heritage of the Brandywine Valley. Showcased in the rustic setting of a Civil War era grist mill is the largest and most comprehensive collection of works by N.C., Jamie, and Andrew Wyeth. The Brandywine Conservancy is here too. www.brandywinemuseum.org

18 MOUNT CUBA CENTER Mt. Cuba Center, former estate of Mr. and Mrs. Lammot du Pont Copeland, is the region's finest naturalistic garden recognized for its commitment to ecologically sound landscaping practices and woodland wildflower gardens. The 650-acre non-profit horticultural institution offers native plant education, research and conservation. Open to the public by appointment only. <http://www.mtcubacenter.org>

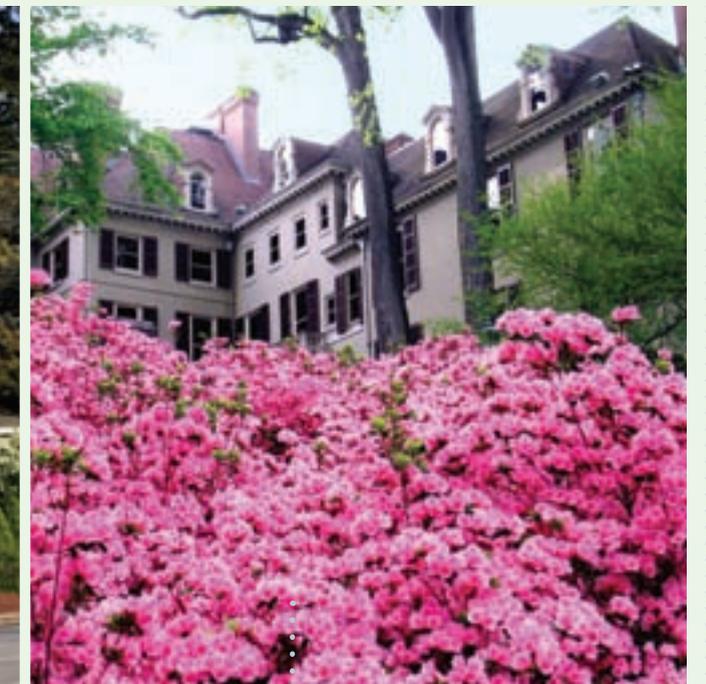


Tulip-poplar trees emphasize the vertical structure of this wooded garden, providing opportunities for native shrubs and wildflowers to thrive in the understory at Mt. Cuba.



Elegant formal gardens and seasonal displays are featured at LONGWOOD GARDENS.

BUCKLEY'S Tavern is in the heart of Centreville Village.



Rolling hills and select naturalistic gardens surround WINTERTHUR MUSEUM & COUNTRY ESTATE.

Located along the banks of the Brandywine, THE BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM's collection includes three generations of Wyeths.



“No privilege exists that is not inseparably bound to a duty.”
-Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK DARKE

STEWARDSHIP COUNTS

There are about 126 routes nationwide that qualify as National Scenic Byways, and the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway stands out with a high concentration of must-see visitor attractions amid thousands of acres of preserved land.

But, this national treasure will only be preserved through the continued good stewardship of residents, businesses, institutions and visitors alike. Working together with our elected officials and preservation organizations we can keep this special place as scenic and significant as it is today.

We should all take pride in living and working in this pristine setting kept alive by the dedicated stewardship and conservation ethic of those who have come before us. Now it is our turn to preserve it for the future.

As residents and businesses you can help preserve this national Byway by:

- Planting and maintaining roadside trees and gardens
- Picking up trash and taking your trash with you
- Planting native species
- Using materials indigenous to the Brandywine Valley when building fences, walls, gates or other landscape elements
- Limiting tree cutting by utility companies along the Byway corridor to preserve mature trees
- Asking DelDOT to use context sensitive design when planning road changes
- Preserving old historic roadside elements such as stone walls, gates and landscaping
- Using context sensitive design when building new structures
- Limiting signage and using natural materials in signs

Visitors, Travelers and Commuters can help too!

- Pick up trash and take it with you
- Take care not to damage historic structures and elements such as stonewalls, gates and fences
- Treat the collections and gardens with care
- Park in designated areas and abide by posted speed limits
- Report any acts of vandalism
- Support our museums and businesses by visiting often

With your good stewardship this National Scenic Byway can endure for generations to come. Make your legacy count!



DELAWARE GREENWAYS... YOUR BYWAY ORGANIZATION 302-655-7275. | WWW.GREENWAYS.ORG

For information on area attractions, lodging, recreation, dining and shopping, contact Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitor's Bureau:
 web: www.visitwilmingtonde.com | phone: 302/295-2210 or 800/489-6664 | email: info@wilmcvb.org

Delaware Tourism Office: web: www.visitdelaware.com | phone: 302/739-4271 or 866/284-7483
 For Byway Museum & Garden information visit www.brandywinetreasures.org
 For National Byway information visit www.byways.org the national byways website

driving directions to the BRANDYWINE VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY

FROM INTERSTATE 295/DELAWARE MEMORIAL BRIDGE FROM NJ (8 MILES, 12 MINUTES) Take I-295 and cross the Delaware Memorial Bridge and travel approximately 2.5 miles and merge onto Interstate 95 North. Take I-95 North and take Exit 7 and follow signs to Delaware Avenue. At Delaware Avenue turn left to Brandywine Valley Attractions. For downtown attractions including Hotel du Pont/Rodney Square turn right onto 11th Street and bear left where the road splits at Jefferson Street. Hotel du Pont will be ahead on your right. Hotel du Pont Parking Garage: before Hotel, turn left onto Orange Street. Enter second parking garage.

FROM NORTHBOUND INTERSTATE 95 (0.2 MILES, 2 MINUTES) Take I-95 North from Delaware State Line for approximately 15 miles. Take Exit 7 and follow signs to Delaware Avenue. At Delaware Avenue turn left to Brandywine Valley Attractions. For downtown attractions including Hotel du Pont/ Rodney Square turn right onto 11th Street and bear left where the it splits at Jefferson Street. Hotel du Pont will be ahead on your right. Hotel du Pont Parking Garage: before Hotel, turn left onto Orange Street. Enter second parking garage.

FROM AMTRAK TRAIN STATION/WILMINGTON, DELAWARE (0.15 MILES, 3 MINUTES) From the Amtrak Train Station take Dart Bus Route 10 (Delaware Avenue/Kennett Pike) to Greenville and Centreville. Bus stop is outside the train station on Martin Luther King Blvd.

18 Mt. Cuba

1 Rodney Square **2** Hotel DuPont/DuPont Theatre **3** Delaware History Museum **4** Delaware Children's Theatre **5** Delaware Art Museum **6** Gibraltar Mansion and Gardens **7** Goodstay House and Gardens **8** Blue Ball Barn and Northern Delaware Greenway **9** Nemours Mansion and Gardens **10** Hagley Museum and Library **11** Inn at Montchanin Village **12** Brandywine Creek State Park **13** Delaware Museum of Natural History **14** Winterthur Museum & Country Estate **15** Centreville Village **16** Longwood Gardens **17** Brandywine River Museum