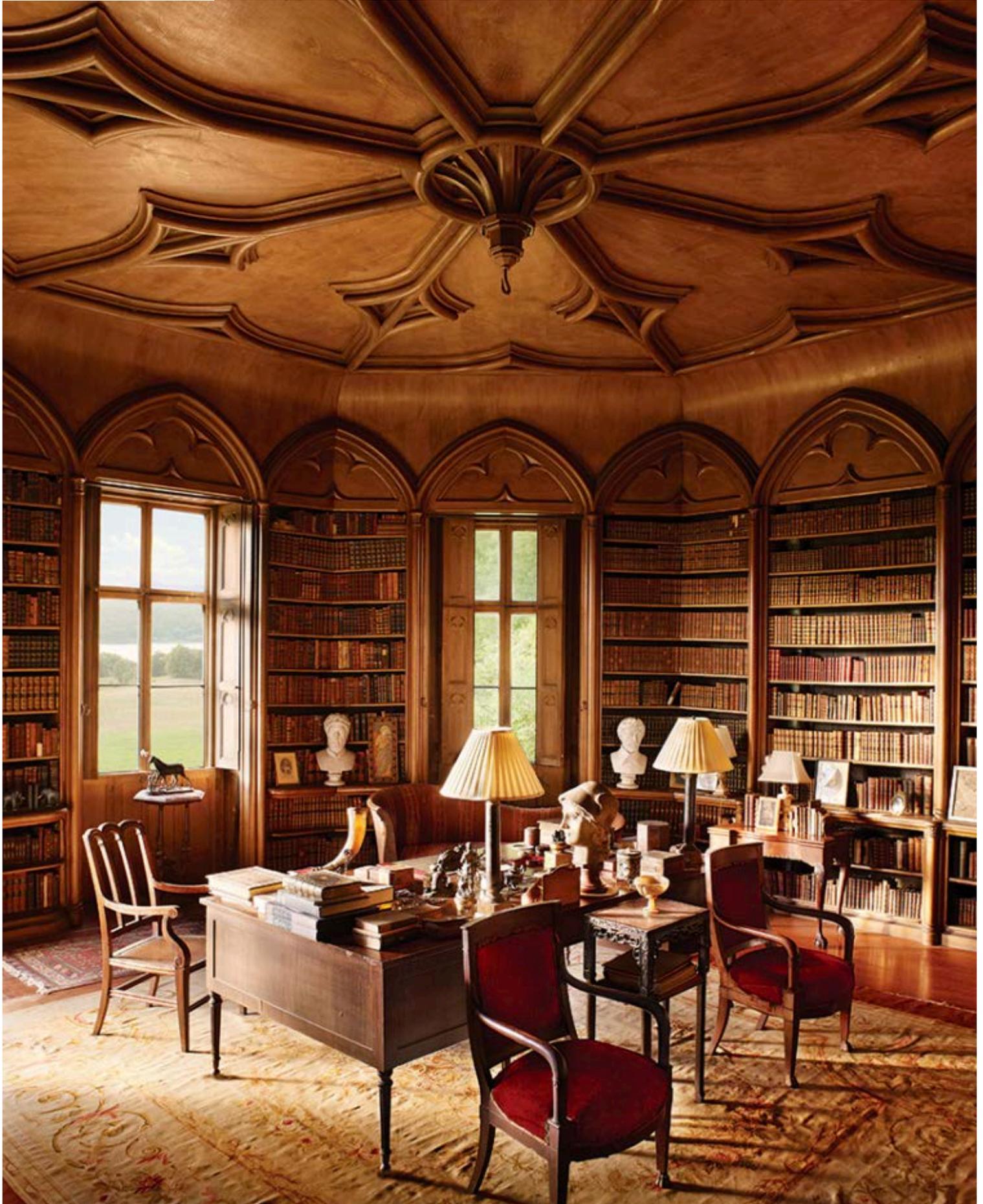




The Architecture of the Hudson Valley



Join **Preservation North Carolina Travels** on an architectural exploration of New York's famed Hudson River Valley.

The historical allure of the Hudson Valley begins with its early Lenape history and Dutch settlement. It was refined by its strategic importance during the American Revolution, and later through its role as a gateway for trade and expansion along the Erie Canal and the New York Central Railroad to the Midwest. Its cultural and artistic legacies were enhanced through the creative works of Washington Irving, Thomas Cole, and Frederick Church. Today, ancient winding roads take you by picturesque farms, Victorian villages, and country estates built by New York's elite.

With the help of our Hudson Valley experts, we'll explore nationally important tour sites along the 30-mile scenic route from Hudson to Rhinebeck that represent American art and design. We are pleased to offer access to several of the region's prominent private homes not open to the public, like Rokeby - famously known as the home of the "Astor Orphans" - and Staats Hall, home of photographer and author Pieter Estersohn.

We'll stay in the posh new [Pocketbook Hudson Hotel](#), recently profiled in [Elle Décor](#). Conveniently located to Albany and New York City by train, Hudson is evolving from a period of disinvestment to a haven for creative, metropolitan young people seeking a small-town life. Hudson has become an epicentre of wonderful innovative food, luxury lodging, renowned antique shops and diverse cultural institutions.



TRIP AT-A-GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 21-25, 2026

4 NIGHTS, 3 TOUR DAYS

\$3900 PER PERSON

MONDAY 9/21

ARRIVE AT THE POCKETBOOK HUDSON HOTEL

Evening Welcome and Trip Orientation

TUESDAY 9/22

TOUR OLANA, MONTGOMERY PLACE, ROKEBY

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included

WEDNESDAY 9/23

**TOUR THOMAS COLE HISTORIC SITE,
EDGEWATER**

Breakfast & Lunch Included

THURSDAY 9/24

**TOUR CHURCHTOWN DAIRY, STAATS HALL,
WILDERSTEIN HISTORIC SITE**

Breakfast & Dinner Included

FRIDAY 9/25

DEPART

MEET THE EXPERTS



Pieter Estersohn is a leading photographer of architecture and interiors who resides at Staats Hall, built in 1839 in Red Hook, New York. He serves on the boards of Historic Red Hook, and the Calvert Vaux Preservation Alliance where he is working on creating a school for the preservation trades at The Point, the country estate designed for the Hoyt-Livingston family. He also belongs to the Edgewood Club in Tivoli, New York, founded in the 1880s by the original owners of many of the homes in his book, *Life Along the Hudson*. His work regularly appears in major shelter magazines, including *World of Interiors* and *Elle Décor*, and he has written and photographed over sixty-five books on architecture, design and preservation.



John Winthrop Aldrich is a Livingston and Astor descendant who resides at Rokeby, a 200-year-old stucco mansion in the Hudson River landscape district. He was the former New York State Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation. A graduate of Harvard College who served as an Army officer in Vietnam, Wint held posts from 1974 until 2010 on the executive staffs of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In retirement, he continues his life-long activism in land conservation and historic preservation, especially in the Hudson River Valley. Wint has served as a consultant to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, a unit of the National Park Service.



Kevin Cherry is Vice President of the Richard Hampton Jenrette Foundation where he helps shape RHJF's educational vision. Collaborating with partners, he spearheads the development of immersive and innovative learning opportunities to serve public, professional, and academic communities. Prior to joining RHJF, Kevin served for nearly ten years as North Carolina's State Historian and Director of Archives and History, overseeing historic sites, museums, and historic preservation efforts. He led the digital learning initiative, NC ECHO, and assisted in development of the National Digital Stewardship Residency Program for the Library of Congress. Previously, he served as a senior program officer for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In 2010, he earned his Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Benjamin Briggs began his role as President and CEO of Preservation North Carolina in 2023. Prior to joining PNC, he was Executive Director of Preservation Greensboro for two decades where he helped lead annual tour groups around the world with Studio Traveler. Travel is his passion, and he has visited 48 states, 41 countries, seven continents, and all 100 counties in our home state. His experience with the Australian Heritage Commission in 1995 drew his attention to world heritage sites, and he remains a card-carrying member of ICOMOS. He holds degrees in Architecture and Sociology from North Carolina State University. He encourages tour attendees to read *Carolinian on the Hudson: The Life of Robert Donaldson* ahead of our trip!





TOUR ITINERARY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: ARRIVAL

Welcome to Hudson! PNC Travelers will make their own travel arrangements to Hudson. You'll check in at the **Pocketbook Hudson Hotel**, a historic brick factory that has been reimagined as a boutique hotel and our home for four nights. This evening, you'll gather at the hotel with your fellow PNC Travelers for a welcome orientation, followed by dinner on your own.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

We'll kick off day one bright and early as we board our private coach to **Olana**, Frederic Church's masterpiece. We'll enjoy a boxed breakfast as we take in this breathtaking 250-acre artist's estate, a National Historic Landmark and state historic site. Next we'll travel down to **Montgomery Place at Bard College**, improved upon by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, where we'll tour and have lunch. For our final stop of the day, we'll be welcomed into the private home, **Rokey**, colloquially named "The Astor Orphans Home," where we'll meet John "Wint" Aldrich, a descendant of the Livingston and Astor families. After returning to the Pocketbook, we'll gather for a group dinner. *B/L/D included*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

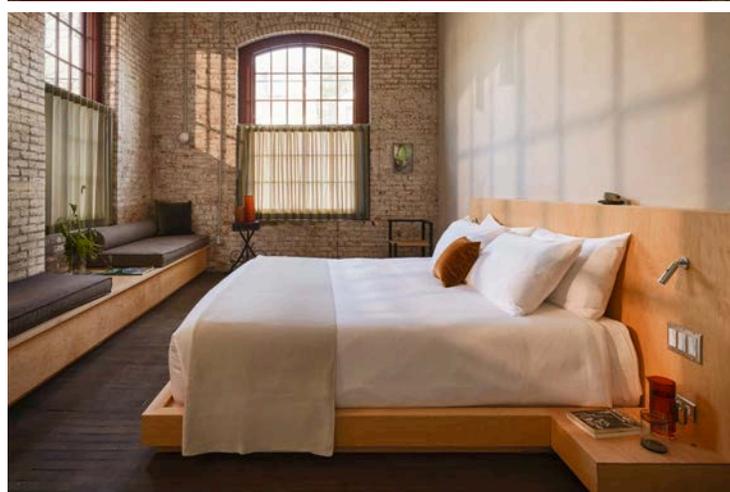
We'll begin day two with breakfast at the **Thomas Cole National Historic Site**, home of 19th-century artist Thomas Cole, founder of the influential art movement known today as the Hudson River School of American landscape painting. Next, we'll head to **Edgewater** where you'll have lunch at the private riverside estate and enjoy an immersive tour with Kevin Cherry of the Richard Hampton Jenrette Foundation which owns the property. Upon our return to the hotel, guests will have dinner on their own. *B/L included*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

PNC Travelers will fuel up for day three with breakfast at the Pocketbook before boarding the coach to **Churchtown Dairy**, started by environmental activist Abby Rockefeller. The sustainable farm's centerpiece is the awe-inspiring Round Barn, capped off by a dome of star-shaped skylights. We'll stop in Rhinebeck for some exploration and lunch on your own before heading to **Staats Hall**, the private home of photographer and author Pieter Estersohn who will give us an exclusive tour. Our final tour stop will be **Wilderstein Historic Site** which translates to "Wild Man's Stone" in reference to a Native American petroglyph found on site. PNC Travelers will conclude the trip with a final group dinner. *B/D included*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: DEPARTURE

PNC Travelers make their own travel arrangements.



ACCOMMODATIONS

THE POCKETBOOK HUDSON HOTEL

This historic textile factory originally built in 1885 was converted to manufacture pocketbooks in the late 1930s. Today it has been reimagined and fully renovated as a boutique hotel. Featured in *Elle Décor*, highlights of the Pocketbook include a communal bathhouse, an open-fire restaurant, café and bar, a subterranean nightclub, galleries, and a street-level market.

All rooms have one queen or king bed.

PRESERVATION NORTH CAROLINA



travels

The Architecture of the Hudson Valley September 21-25, 2026

Reserve your spot today at
[PreservationNC.org/events](https://www.PreservationNC.org/events).

For reservation questions,
call 919-832-3652 ext. 238.

IMAGES & CREDITS

COVER Rokeby. The 1858 octagonal Gothic revival library, with a faux bois-painted plaster ceiling, was the favorite retreat of William Backhouse Astor Sr. (1792-1875).
Credit: Pieter Estersohn

P2 Wilderstein Historic Site
Credit: wilderstein.org

P3 Olana Historic Site
Credit: olana.org

P4 Churchtown Dairy Round Barn
Credit: churchtowndairy.org

Thomas Cole House Entry Hall
Credit: thomascole.org

Rokeby Reception Room
Credit: Pieter Estersohn

Montgomery Place
Credit: Pieter Estersohn

Staats Hall
Credit: Pieter Estersohn

Edgewater
Credit: wsj.com/Richard
Hampton Jenrette Foundation

P5 Credit: Pocketbook Hudson Hotel

P6 Staats Hall
Credit: Pieter Estersohn for
Architectural Digest

Thomas Cole Historic Site
Credit: thomascole.org

P7 Thomas Cole, Landscape With
Clouds, 1846-47
Credit: thomascole.org



TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tour Cost: \$3,900 per person; all rooms have one King or Queen bed

Excludes Flights & Ground Travel: Airfare and ground transportation to Hudson, NY are not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air and ground transportation arrangements. Suggested arrival and departure details will be provided.

Tour Inclusions: 4 nights at The Pocketbook Hotel as per itinerary; 3 full tour days and meals with non-alcoholic beverages as indicated in the itinerary; 3 breakfasts (B); 2 lunches (L), 2 dinners (D); daily transportation by private coach to all tour locations as per itinerary; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; taxes and service charges; academic tour leadership of Benjamin Briggs and other guides; services of a Preservation North Carolina tour director; gratuities to local guides and drivers; bottled water daily on coach.

Tour Exclusions: Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport and hotel portorage; airport transfers upon arrival and departure; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler's free time; alcohol consumption at any meal or tour, including dinner; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; travel insurance or personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Activity Level: Unfortunately, this trip is not handicap-accessible. Very good overall mobility is required. Daily activities may involve up to two miles of walking unaided, over varied terrain (uneven or unpaved walkways, steep staircases). Participants must be physically capable of this level of activity without assistance from tour staff.

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to confirm all trip details, itinerary is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

To reserve a spot on this tour, a non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person is required, of which \$250 is a tax-deductible donation to Preservation North Carolina. The remaining \$750 is for booking and planning fees.

Payment Schedule:

- First Deposit Due Upon Registration: \$1,000 per person
- Balance Due by July 15, 2026: \$2,900 per person (no refunds after this date)

Terms and Conditions: Upon receipt of registration and payment, registrants will receive a Participant Registration Form detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be submitted to Preservation North Carolina before participant registration is considered complete, and any arrangements can be confirmed.

Cancellations & Refunds: Cancellation must be made in writing to Preservation North Carolina and is effective only upon acknowledged written receipt by Preservation North Carolina. The \$1,000 deposit is non-refundable, regardless of cancellation date. If written cancellation is received on or before July 15, 2026, registrant will be refunded any remaining portion of trip that has been paid, less the initial \$1,000 deposit. No refunds will be made after July 15, 2026. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If Preservation North Carolina has to cancel the tour for any reason before July 15, 2026, registrants will be refunded in full, less the \$1,000 deposit.

Travel Insurance: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost and is the sole responsibility of participants.

