

Vanderbilt Grounds Tour - Vanderbilt Mansion

Walk the historic landscape at the Vanderbilt Historic Site and learn about 200 years of stewardship on one of the oldest existing American country places. The walk concludes in the beautiful Italian Gardens maintained by the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association volunteers. Bring your camera! Suggested clothing and equipment: walking shoes, sun screen, and bug spray. Walking will be on lawn and gravel paths. Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. One and a half hours.

The Vanderbilt Landscape Tour-Vanderbilt Mansion

This moderate hike takes place at the Vanderbilt National Historic Site and features walking on park roads, through forest, up steep hills and rewards with magnificent views of the Hudson River. Suggested clothing and equipment: walking shoes, sun screen, and bug spray. Walking will be on lawn and gravel paths. Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. One and a half hours.

For The Love of Springwood- A Historic Site Grounds Tour

Join a Park Ranger to explore some of the “nooks and crannies” on the estate where FDR was born and raised and experience the places that were special to him. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. Two hours.

That Magical Place Called Val-Kill - A Historic Grounds Tour

“The peace of it is divine,” Eleanor Roosevelt wrote of the place she named Val-Kill. This Ranger led tour focuses on the grounds of the property and why this “magical place” was so special to Mrs. Roosevelt. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. One and a half hours.

Pressing Engagements: Apples to Cider at the FDR Farm

Join a Park Ranger for a talk about FDR’s farm where apples were an important crop and were consumed out of hand, as sauce, butter, pies and cider. Apple pressing and cider making are part of this fun presentation. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One and a half hours.

Eleanor’s Woodland Walk and Nature Study at Val-Kill”

Explore the wilds side of Val-Kill as you walk through the same woods that Eleanor Roosevelt explored every day. Look at how she wrote about her woodland adventures in her “My Day” columns and then create a nature guidebook with bark rubbings, leaf tracing, and animal track identifications. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. Limited to 10 participants. Please call 845-229-6214 to make a reservation. 1 hour.

The Val-Kill Loop Hike

This easy hike takes place in the woods and on the grounds of Val-Kill, the home of Eleanor Roosevelt and replicates one of the First Lady’s favorite walks. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. A one mile loop. One hour.

Out of the House and Into the Woods

Hike into the woods on the estate that FDR grew up on and loved. The hike will feature stops at the ice pond, Meriches Kill Creek and Roosevelt Cove. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. The hike is 1.75 miles long and is steep in sections. Two and one half hours.

It's a Good Day for a Hike from Val-Kill to Top Cottage

Be one of the first to experience a hike through the woods from Eleanor Roosevelt's retreat to FDR's retreat on the newly opened Top Cottage Trail. The trail is steep in some areas. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. One and a half hours.

FDR's Excellent Streamside Adventure

Take an exploratory trip to the Meriches Kill Creek for an in depth fun and scientific look at this ecosystem during this hour and a half program. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One and a half hours.

Kill In Dutch Means Stream, So Who Lives In The Fall Kill?

Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt loved to picnic along the Fall Kill, a stream so beautiful that Eleanor eventually built her retreat there. Take a scientific look at the Fall Kill ecosystem and its inhabitants. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. Age 5 and up. One hour.

Be a Reading Ranger: Stories at the Roosevelt Education Center

Stories will be read about the Roosevelt animals and pets, farming and the lifestyle of people of the Roosevelt era. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One hour.

FDR's Boyhood Tour

Tour the estate and learn about young Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the future President. An hour filled with fun and activities! Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One hour.

Roosevelt's Dairy, from Grass to Butter

Did you know the Roosevelt estate was also a working dairy farm with Alderny cows? Join a Park Ranger and learn about dairy farming, practice "milking" our model cow and make some butter. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One and a half hours.

Flower Power! FDR's Love of Flowers, a Puppet Show

Join a Park Ranger for a puppet show which includes a visit from FDR himself (as a hand puppet) along with Sunny the flower. Learn about the parts of a flower and tour the 1907 Roosevelt greenhouse. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One and a half hours.

Be a Reading Ranger: Kipling Stories at the Val-Kill Doll House

Eleanor Roosevelt had many children as guests at Val-Kill to whom she would often read her favorite Kipling stories. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy as Kipling is read again under the shade trees at the Val-Kill Dollhouse. Meet at the Val Kill Visitors Center and Bookstore. Age 5 and up. One hour.

19th Century Games!

An afternoon without videogames, television or an iPod? Play like children did in the 19th century with Jacob's ladder, jump ropes or the Hoop and Stick. Dress to be outside, long pants and sneakers are recommended. These games are suitable for children 4 and up and for big kids of all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One hour.

Eleanor Everywhere!

Eleanor Roosevelt seemed to be everywhere! Learn about the countries Mrs. Roosevelt visited—what she saw, the native dress, foods and what she brought back as gifts. A story from one of the countries will be read. Will it be India? Israel? Russia? Or maybe Japan? Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. Ages 5 and up. One hour.