

IMPRESSIONS: 425,370



At heart of Berkshires trip is the Wynhurst Manor

Jessica Kelly | November 26, 2020

<https://www.timesunion.com/living/article/At-heart-of-Berkshires-trip-is-the-Wynhurst-Manor-15747625.php>

The Berkshires is a perfect year-round destination and a great way to ease back into travel with all of the quaint charm of small cities, combined with the calming presence of the mountains. Take in the fresh air, spending some time outdoors, shopping, dining, and resting your head at a luxurious hotel. At the center of it all is Lenox, Mass.

Checking into The Wynhurst Manor & Club (55 Lee Road, Lenox)

The Wynhurst Manor & Club looks like a castle on the hill. It is aesthetically beautiful as it is comfortable. The rooms are gorgeous and spacious, with comfortable beds. The room where I stayed was sunny and beautiful with views of the mountains. I stayed in the mansion, but you can also check out the Beechers, Barnes, Griswold and McKinley cottages. Wynhurst creates seasonal weekend packages to make your stay more memorable. For example in the fall, the manor puts together activities you can try such as sampling pure maple syrup, riding on the tractor wagon, exploring a pumpkin patch, sipping maple-inspired cocktails fireside while snacking on a charcuterie board or desserts.

Dinner at Frankie's (80 Main St., Lenox)

I enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Frankie's. Delicious appetizers include grilled artichokes with slivered almonds, peppery arugula, and a citrus vinaigrette or the Positano-style baby clams in a broth of white wine, garlic, and parsley. I had to remind myself that I was in public, so I didn't pick up and drink from the bowl. The Aperol spritz cocktails were made perfectly. For the main dish I went with the osso buco served with linguine, vegetables, and topped with tender veal shank with buttery bone marrow. The perfect end to the meal was an affogato made with vanilla gelato, a shot of Amaretto Disaronno, and hot espresso. It was a perfect pick-me-up to end the night.

Check out the area

Lenox has a few shops here and there, but check out the neighboring areas of Lee and Stockbridge. Finders Keepers (53 Main St., Lee) is full of antiques and collectibles, including vintage cookbooks and glassware. I always need a coffee before hitting the road, so I stopped into the Starving Artist Cafe (40 Main St., Lee) to get one of their pumpkin lattes made with actual pumpkin and maple syrup. The Retro Pop Shop (395 Laurel St., Lee) is an antique store that has some fun things to rifle through.

BULLFROG + BAUM

In Stockbridge, Peace, Love, and Chocolate (36 Main St., Stockbridge) has delicious huge truffles and chocolate cherries, in addition to unique boxes of chocolates like one crafted by Tavernier Chocolate box, nearby in Vermont and known for its sweet and savory chocolates made from local dairy and produce. Once Upon a Table (36 Main St., Stockbridge) lured us down the alley with the smell of garlic butter. It has a variety of tasty dishes including escargot pot pie. Check out the Williams and Sons Country Store (38 Main St., Stockbridge) that sells old-school candies like licorice pipes and violets along with fun little toys, home decor, kitchen supplies and candles. The Lost Lamb (31 Main St., Stockbridge) is a great find with a mix of delicious French pastries and bath products. Sidetracks (8 Elm St., Stockbridge) is perfect for some unique gifts, books, calendars, and even clothing, stylish hats and accessories. It is very affordable -- always a plus. Across the street is Nejaime's Wine Cellar (3 Elm St., Stockbridge) with an amazing selection of wine, spirits, ciders and beers with accompaniments like cheeses, pate and jams.

Venture a bit farther and you might see something familiar. We've all been doing our fair share of binge watching during this pandemic, so there's a pretty good chance you've seen the "Unsolved Mysteries" series on Netflix. One of those unsolved mysteries took place in Sheffield at the Thom Reed UFO Monument Park (Covered Bridge Lane, Sheffield). You can see the covered bridge featured on an episode in which locals were convinced that they had a UFO encounter. I can't say I saw any UFOs there, but the bridge is beautiful. The area is close to Great Barrington, which also has quite a few boutique shops, as well, including Griffin (47 Railroad St., Great Barrington) for apparel, Robin's Candy Shop (288 Main St., Great Barrington) that will bring you straight back to your childhood, and an amazing cheese shop called Rubiner's Cheesemongers (264 Main St., Great Barrington).