

# DRIVE LOCAL

## 3 SCENIC ADVENTURES JUST A SHORT DRIVE AWAY

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August 21, 2007 -- IT IS amazing how much there is to see just a short drive from New York City - start exploring, and we all but guarantee you'll be wondering why you waited so long.

Here, three NYP Travel-tested road trips, where the adventure begins just a short distance from the city line.

### CROSSING THE BORDER

What it is: This rewarding drive links Pennsylvania's Lancaster County with the pastoral Brandywine Valley, ending up on a side of Wilmington, Del., you didn't know existed.

Directions: Begin your journey on Route 23 West, at I-76. As soon as the Pennsylvania Turnpike fades from your rear-view mirror, you're miles from the modern world and passing into picture-perfect farm communities such as Churchtown. Follow all the way into Lancaster, notable for its attractive, revitalized downtown core.

Check out the shops and cafés of Prince Street, before heading out of town on Route 340, which takes you through the tourist heartland of the region (Hooray for Intercourse!) and all the way to Route 82, just north of the old mill town of Coatesville. Follow the signs for 82 all the way down to the attractive village of Kennett Square.

Sticking with 82, you quickly end up in the woods, and before you know it, you're in Delaware's DuPont country, with all the mansions, preserve lands and golf course/horse farm prettiness you'd expect.

Where to stay: Like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, the pleasingly unique (not to mention historic) Inn at Montchanin Village sits right where Route 82 comes out of the woods and enters Wilmington (from \$179, [montchanin.com](http://montchanin.com)). Turn this trip into a two-nighter by staying at Lancaster's likeable new Arts Hotel, which occupies (in part) an old tobacco warehouse. Bonus: Local brews on tap at the bar (from \$169, [lancasterartshotel.com](http://lancasterartshotel.com)).

What to do: See how at least one of the du Ponts lived by touring the Winterthur estate, most impressive (we think) for the 60 acres of gorgeous garden (5105 Kennett Pike). It's hard to know which is more impressive - the Delaware Art Museum (2301 Kentwood Pkwy) or the neighborhood that surrounds it. Stop in for a thick chocolate shake and fries at the Charcoal Pit (2600 Concord Pike).

### NASSAU COOL

What it is: A road trip that starts on Northern Boulevard in Queens? Don't laugh. By the end of this tour of Nassau's North Shore, you'll be amazed at all the cool places you saw.

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