

## A Blast From the Past Sharon Springs, New York

Three Day Tour ~ July 6-8, 2026

Highlights: Two Charming Nights at the Historic American Hotel • Sharon Springs Victorian Historic District • Scenic Saugerties Lighthouse • Quaint Downtown Saugerties • Cascading Artist Falls • Beekman 1802 Kindness Shop • Secret Caverns Underground Waterfall • The Magnificent HBH Clydesdales • Slate Hill Lavender Farm's Twilight Tuesday • The Tepee! • A Walk to Vroman's Nose • Dr. Best House & Medical Museum • All Breakfasts • Two Lunches • One Dinner & One Boxed Charcuterie Picnic • Fully Escorted

A historic Victorian spa village plucked straight out of the past blends 19<sup>th</sup> century charm, artisan shops and idyllic countryside into the perfect summer escape. Travel with us as Oscar Wilde and the Vanderbilts once did to the Victorian era spa town of Sharon Springs, a place frozen in time that was once well known for its healing mineral rich waters. The Native Americans of the Mohawk Valley were first to discover the mystical beauty of Sharon and the healing powers of its sulfur rich mineral springs, so its history spans centuries of time. Walk among the town's Historic District past preserved historic buildings from Greek Revival to Queen Anne style and you'll feel you're among the Victorian age social elite who visited here by the thousands to "take the waters". There are many hidden treasures to discover in this special corner of Upstate New York and we'll reveal them all. We'll descend under the earth in search of a secret waterfall, wander through fields of purple, observe graceful, majestic creatures, and visit a fun, iconic piece of Americana. With scenic views from the tip of a "nose" to the contents of an 1800s medical bag, we'll experience every nook and cranny of beautiful Schoharie County's countryside. So, get a bag packed and ready for a blast from the past as we adventure to a place that's a true reflection of charming small-town New York.

**Day 1.** Our adventure takes us north through the lovely Hudson Valley where we'll find the historic Saugerties Lighthouse set majestically among serene tidal wetlands at the confluence of the Esopus Creek and Hudson River. Luckily it's low tide so we can make our way along the boardwalk through this lovely, undeveloped wetland habitat past strands of willow and maple trees, sparkling tidal pools, and patches of colorful wildflowers straight to the Hudson River where the lighthouse proudly stands. It's here where we'll learn the lighthouse's history, step inside the museum, and grab some river vistas from the tower. Saugerties, one of America's coolest small towns is right nearby so take a wander along its revitalized village center past eclectic antique stores and vintage shops in search for a tasty lunch from the many restaurant choices. As we make our way north, a special hidden gem of the Catskills can be discovered on a short, wooded walk. Cascading Arist Falls tumbles from the Kiskatom Brook into a pool below the scenic Alfred Clark Covered Bridge.



Historic Sharon Springs



Artist Falls

Follow the path to the base of the falls, then up to the covered bridge for all the perfect views. Soon we'll arrive in historic Sharon Springs where we'll check into our charming new home for two nights at the American Hotel. Built in 1840 this lovely historic place maintains its historic character while possessing modern luxuries. Wander Main Street's 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture from grand hotels to mineral bathhouses that once welcomed high society visitors and perhaps pop into the Beekman 1802 Kindness Shop. When it suits your fancy, enjoy an included dinner right here at the hotel.

**Day 2.** Today we head underground to uncover a very special local natural wonder. As we descend 85 feet into the Secret Caverns through a prehistoric passageway dating around 38,000 years, an amazing 100 foot waterfall will be revealed. Take in this rare sight as it's the only underground waterfall in New York State. Now that we've worked up an appetite, let's head back to town for an included lunch at the quaint Black Cat Café. Take some time for a stroll after lunch to walk off the calories or visit any shops during their open hours. Now we're lucky enough to experience the graceful majesty of the beautiful Clydesdales at HBH Farm. Spend some time with these beauties while learning about their care and personalities. This evening we'll be part of a special event, Twilight Tuesdays, at Slate Hill Lavender Farm (\*dependent on lavender blooms) where we can delight in the lavender, walk the farm paths and relax as the sun sets across the fields while enjoying a lovely, boxed charcuterie picnic. Once back home at the American Hotel, have a restful night's sleep.

**Day 3.** As we wave goodbye to Sharon Springs, we can't miss its nearby iconic landmark and roadside attraction! Say hello to The Tepee with views of the distant Mohawk Valley and Adirondack Mountains. Step inside for some fun, unique souvenirs and have a brush with Americana's past. Off to the small town of Middleburgh where we'll pay a visit to the Dr. Best House. As if awaiting the return of Dr. Best from a house call on his horse drawn carriage, this Italianate Victorian home and medical office captures the elegance of the turn of the century. You'll find everything here from a unique collection of thousands of bottles to state of the art medical equipment of the day. There's a great local spot to enjoy one last included lunch nearby, so let's take a break to relax. If you're up for a wonderful walk in nature, an easy trail will take you up to the prominent landmark of Vroman's Nose with spectacular panoramic views of Schoharie County as your reward. This ends the chapter on our blast from the past small town New York adventure and soon we'll be back home sweet home. © 2025 The Educated Wanderer

Departs South Plainfield High School at the end of Lane Ave at 7:30 AM and returns at approximately 7:00 PM

Departs Madison's Kings Road Parking Lot, 62 Kings Rd. at 8:15 AM and returns at approximately 6:15 PM

Departs Ridgewood's Graydon Pool South lot (across Linwood Ave) at 9:00 AM and returns at approximately 5:30 PM

**Price per person is \$1,625 Twin & \$1,995 Single.** No reservations accepted without a deposit of \$150 per person. Make checks payable to Group Tours & Travel and mail to the included address. Final payment is due April 3, 2026. Deposits are fully refundable if cancellation occurs on or before April 3, 2026. There are no refunds if cancellation occurs after April 3, 2026. Travel protection/cancellation coverage is available and highly recommended (approximately 10% of the total cost of the tour) but not included. One piece of luggage per person and one carry-on are permitted. Group Tours is not responsible for any delays, cancellations, injuries or circumstances beyond its control and reserves the right to change this itinerary. All trip components are subject to change in accordance with Government, State and Local guidelines and/or mandates. This tour will run rain or shine. Visit [www.educatedwanderer.com](http://www.educatedwanderer.com) for additional tours and photos.

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Please reserve \_\_\_\_ seat(s). The enclosed check is for \$\_\_\_\_\_ #3384

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Rooming with: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be departing from South Plainfield \_\_\_\_\_ or Madison \_\_\_\_\_ or Ridgewood \_\_\_\_\_

**Email for confirmation of registration and final payment** \_\_\_\_\_