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WELCOME TO WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY

TWO VERSIONS: Full & Short

VERSION 1 - FULL

Welcome.....to Westchester county. Located just north of Manhattan, this remarkable blend of charming villages, suburban settings, and bustling cities, provides a wide diversity of lifestyles and has something to offer everyone - from dramatic re-enactments of the American revolution and quaint wayside inns, to elegant hotels that form a big city skyline and abundant shopping offered by the huge malls located throughout the county.

Bordered by the magnificent Hudson river and Long Island Sound, the area also boasts idyllic river vistas and sweeping New England beaches.

The combination of Westchester's extensive highway and transportation system, including buses and trains make all of the attractions of the county easily accessible. Metro North, Amtrak, and Conrail provide full commuter and long distance train service. The well maintained highway system includes interstate 95 which follows the shoreline into neighboring Connecticut.

Wonderful skiing, camping, and fall foliage tours can be found by following interstate 684 north through the county into the upstate regions. Access to the rest of the county and commuting routes is provided by the Hutchinson River, Taconic, and Saw Mill River Parkways among others.

The corporate headquarters of a large number of national and international firms make their home here, many of them in the county's economic center, White Plains. In Purchase, which is near White Plains, the Westchester County Airport serves both commercial and corporate travelers. In addition to providing hundreds of thousands of jobs the corporations also contribute to the cultural life of Westchester itself.

The Pepsico Sculptural Gardens located in the town of Purchase, and open to the public, feature 114 acres of cultivated gardens with sculptures by such artists as Alexander Calder, August Rodin, and Max Ernst, to name a few.

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The strong economic growth patterns of the area allow small businesses to flourish alongside the many respected financial institutions, insurance organizations and research and development facilities that have been attracted to the region.

For those who love shopping, the big name department stores are well represented in this area. With the glitter of Manhattan only a short distance away, a shopping trip and a Broadway show can make for a very pleasant afternoon. Small, out of the way shops, where unique crafts and antiques wait to be uncovered, may be found in Chappaqua, Katonah, and many of the seaside towns.

Healthcare programs and facilities, always an important consideration, are said to be among the finest on the East coast. The northern Westchester Medical Center and the Phelps Memorial Hospital in Tareytown typify the excellent quality of medicine in this area.

Another vital concern for many is the quality of education. Superior schools, colleges, universities, and special programs are available throughout the county and are widely supported by their respective communities. Private, parochial, and public school systems may be augmented by the offerings of the 25 colleges and universities found here. The board of Cooperative Educational Services furnishes top notch vocational training and special programs for the handicapped.

Many people feel you can't have a proper New England fall without football. Or a real New England spring without little league. The school systems here offer comprehensive interscholastic sports for boys and girls, including basketball, lacrosse and wrestling.

A major concern for many people entering a new area is finding comfortable and affordable housing. In the northern section of Westchester, land is abundant as evidenced by the rolling green hills and open farmland. Here you will find classic farmhouses, ranches, and split level homes, while along the banks of the Hudson river lie stunning French Normandy and Tudor styles. Along the shoreline many old Victorians and some outstanding contemporaries can be found.

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Because it was suburbanized first, the southern portions of Westchester are more populated and land is less plentiful. Here the houses are situated on much smaller parcels of land, and rental apartments units are more expensive. However, the proliferation in recent years of condominiums in all sizes and styles, for sale and rent, make housing available for all tastes.

When it is time to relax, unwind and have some fun, there is no place that offers a greater diversity of recreational resources than Westchester county.

There are hundreds of fine restaurants, movie houses and theaters to enjoy, including the renowned "An Evening" dinner theater in Elmsford. There are scenic boat rides up the Hudson, sailing schools and yachting races.

Playland Amusement Park in Rye, features rides, games, a supervised beach and an 80 acre salt water lake where paddle and row boats can be rented in the summer. Wintertime means skating on one of the three rinks at Playland or perhaps on a frozen pond in your own backyard.

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River, has 4,700 acres of field and forest where you can fish, camp, hike and picnic to your hearts content.

In the romantic Mediterranean gardens of Caramoor, a 100 acre estate and museum in Katonah, an internationally known classical music festival is held each summer. Patrons are invited to come early and stroll the gardens in the twilight.

Cross country skiing, golf, tennis, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, and many other activities are variously offered by the 15,000 acres of parks and play areas, not to mention the 65 miles of shore line that lie within the borders of Westchester.

Each township in Westchester possesses its own unique personality and style. Together they comprise one of the most distinctive and enjoyable locations to live and work in the east. Welcome...to Westchester county.



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VERSION 2 - SHORT

This is Westchester county. Located just north of Manhattan, it's a stunning blend of charming villages, suburban settings, and bustling cities.

You can find absolutely anything you want here. In a single afternoon, I've been to a street fair, an edgy, avant garde, art show and witnessed a dramatic re-enactment of a battle from the American Revolution.

Want to shop till you drop? Everybody who is anybody has a store in this area, but I love noodling around in the small, out of the way shops. Lots of unique crafts and antiques just waiting to be discovered.

There are zillions of fine restaurants, movie houses and theaters including the renowned "An Evening" dinner theater in Elmsford. How about a scenic boat ride up the Hudson? Or a trip to Playland Amusement Park in Rye? You'll recognize the boardwalk there from the movie "Big" where Tom Hanks encounters the carnival amusement machine that turned him into a 12 year old.

Playland also features rides, games, a supervised beach and an 80 acre salt water lake where paddle and row boats can be rented in the summer. Wintertime you can skate on one of the three rinks at Playland or if the season cooperates, up a frozen river to a hot chocolate party and a bonfire.

How about an elegant twist to a romantic night? In the Mediterranean gardens of Caramoor, a 100 acre estate and museum in Katonah, an internationally known classical music festival is held each summer. Patrons are invited to come early and stroll the gardens in the twilight.

And that doesn't even begin to address the killer hotels, from quaint wayside inns to top of the line elegant hotels that form the big city skyline .

Look inside for details on all the delights offered by this charming community.