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Press Release

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[Metro-North](#)

IMMEDIATE

"Staycation" Deals Abound with Metro-North's Discount Rail and Admission Packages

Pick-your-own fruit with Metro-North's Family Fun Farm Days, tour West Point and the Hudson Highlands or kayak in the Hudson at Storm King. These are just three of dozens of ways to have some summer fun - and save with Discount Getaways.

Metro-North's Discount Getaways are fun, convenient, affordable and best of all, these unique, guided tours are just a relaxing train ride away. For all the dates and details, visit www.mta.info/mnr and click on travel. Then click on getaways.

Back by popular demand, is Dutchess County's Family Fun Farm Days Saturdays, August 15 & 22, and Sundays August 16 & 23. The day starts with a relaxing train ride up the Hudson River to Beacon where a shuttle bus will take you to Barton Orchards. You'll pick your own fruits and vegetables, and enjoy hayrides, a petting zoo, and other family activities. Explore a larger-than-life corn maze and check out the 214-year-old white oak tree at the center of this sprawling orchard. Then it's off to Fishkill Farms, with plenty of pick-your-own fruit orchards, a bakery, and a farmer's market. Your day ends with a visit to Main Street Beacon, where you can visit the many art galleries, eateries, and specialty stores, including the Hudson Beach Glass studio, in a historic 1890 firehouse. Reservations for the Farm Fresh shuttle are required at least 48 hours in advance by calling 800-382-3818.

The majesty of the Hudson River Valley surrounds you on the West Point & the Hudson Highlands Tour. On August 22 and September 5 & 26, a West Point Tours' guide and bus will meet you at Cold Spring Station for a 25-minute, narrated drive to West Point. Next is a one-hour tour of West Point that includes the Main Cadet Chapel, Trophy Point, Battle Monument, and the Plain, with time for visits to the Visitors Center, and the West Point Museum and Gift Shop. Then board the bus back to Cold Spring and spend the afternoon browsing the antique stores and boutiques, and grabbing a meal. Reservations are required and should be made at www.westpointtours.com or by calling 845-446-4724. (At West Point everyone 16 yrs. and over is required to bring a government-issued photo ID).

If hiking, biking, and kayaking is your thing, then you'll want to go on the Storm King Kayaking Tour. Saturdays August 15, 22 & 29, learn a bit of the history of Storm King Mountain while viewing the magnificent Hudson Valley with an expert guide. You'll hike, bike, and kayak your way through a fabulous day on the river. Reservations must be made in advance for this package by calling 845-534-7800.

Take the train to Beacon Station, where a shuttle bus awaits.

Experience the Sheffield Island Lighthouse Tour on weekends through September 27 (except September 5 & 6). The tour begins when you board the Seaport Association's 42-foot G.W. Tyler Ferry for a cruise to the island. Then tour the lighthouse, observe wildlife in their natural habitat, hunt for sea shells along the beach, dine on a picnic lunch or play on the lawns around the lighthouse. It's a short walk from the South Norwalk train station to the ferry.

If you're a history or river buff the Bannerman Island Cruise is for you. Now on Saturdays and Sundays through October 31, 2009 board the ferry Pollepel near Beacon Station for a scenic cruise along the Hudson, including a narrated film. The 30-minute ride will take you from the ferry dock at Beacon Station to Bannerman's Island, where you will receive a 1½ hour guided tour of the island's mysteries and mystique. Tours depart from the dock, rain or shine, at 1:30 p.m. For more information call 845-220-2120 or visit www.prideofthehudson.com.

Dozens of other Discount Getaways packages can be purchased at Metro-North ticket offices and at full-service ticket machines, including those at Grand Central Terminal. Packages are not sold on board trains and are not available at ticket offices or ticket machines at the event's train station. For example, the package to Empire City Yonkers Raceway, is not available at Fleetwood Station ticket office or ticket machines.

All packages include discounted round-trip rail fare and discount admission. Purchase your "Discount Getaway" package online and receive an additional 5 percent off the already discounted rail fare. Packages are on sale now.

"Discount Getaways" brochures, with a complete listing of packages, are available at Grand Central Terminal, all Metro-North ticket offices, and at hotels and visitor centers throughout Manhattan, or, visit us on-line at www.mta.info, where you'll save an additional 5 percent off the already deeply discounted rail fare portion. To receive additional information about discount Getaways packages throughout the year, sign up for "Discount Getaways News" by e-mail.

For more information about packages or to receive a free brochure, call 212-532-4900.