



Wednesday, September 4, 2024 Gloucester: Sargent House & Beauport, Sleeper-McCann House

7:15 am – Meet the bus at the Springfield Museums State Street parking lot. Park and board the bus.

7:30 am – Departure for Gloucester with one rest stop on the way.

The Sargent House - For over 100 years, the Sargent House was the home of sea merchants, patriots and community leaders. A fine example of high-style Georgian domestic architecture, the house was built in 1782 for Judith Sargent Murray (1751-1820), a philosopher, writer and an early advocate of women's equality. As we tour the home, we'll learn about Judith Sargent, and explore the home's small collection of original works by the great portrait painter, John Singer Sargent (1856-1925). A descendant of Judith Sargent, John Singer Sargent's roots trace back to Colonial Gloucester as his father Fitzwilliam Sargent was born in Gloucester in 1820. He loved the house and its ties to Post-Revolutionary Gloucester.

12 pm – Lunch is included. Menu to be announced

2:00 pm – Meet the bus and depart for **Beauport, Sleeper-McCann House**, the summer home of one of America's first professional interior designers, Henry Davis Sleeper. We'll have a guided tour of the two floors of the house and the gardens.

Sleeper became well known for his unique designs, and subsequently designed home for several celebrities, including Joan Crawford and Henry Francis du Pont (Winterthur wing). Overlooking beautiful Gloucester Harbor, the home's fairy-tale exterior is an amalgam of Arts and Crafts, gothic, medieval, and early colonial architecture. The interior of the house contains Sleeper's lifetime collection of more than 10,000 objects and furnishings with a special fondness for salvaged architectural artifacts. Each of the forty rooms is distinguished by an historical or literary figure, theme, color, shape, or object. No two rooms are the same, with each more visually dazzling than the last. The house is framed by terraces that include intimate garden rooms with dramatic views of Gloucester harbor.

3:30 pm – Depart for Springfield with estimated return by 6 pm.

What to bring: Water, snacks for the bus. Dress in layers as temperatures can vary on the bus and at our destination. Water is provided for the return to Springfield.

Cost: \$154, Members; \$180, nonmembers; includes guided tours; lunch; bus transportation and driver tip.



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