



The Mount: Edith Wharton's Cultural Center

Wednesday, September 2

9:15 am – Park and meet the bus at the South Lot of the Naismith Hall of Fame, Hall of Fame Ave.

9:30 am sharp – Depart for Lenox.

10:30 am – 12 pm – **Estimated arrival at The Mount in Lenox**, the elegant country estate of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edith Wharton. Designed by Wharton herself in 1902, the house and its grounds reflect her deep knowledge of architecture and landscape design - principles she later captured in her influential book *The Decoration of Houses*. She famously called The Mount her "first real home," and it remains the place where she did some of her most productive writing.

Enjoy a guided tour of the grand mansion, where beautifully restored rooms and immersive exhibits reveal not only Wharton's life and literary achievements, including classics like *The Age of Innocence*, but also the stories of the servants who kept the estate running. Learn about Wharton's humanitarian work during World War I, when she organized relief efforts in France, earning recognition from the French government.

12 pm – **Group lunch on The Terrace. Menu from The Mount Café to be announced.**

1 pm – **The Formal Gardens and Juried Sculpture Exhibit** - Stroll the formal gardens, designed in the European style Wharton admired, and discover an exhibition of contemporary outdoor sculpture set against sweeping Berkshire views. Edith Wharton envisioned her gardens as an elegant series of outdoor rooms in harmony with the house and the surrounding natural landscape. Today, we can experience much of Wharton's original design for the gardens - The Sunken Italian Garden, the French Flower Garden with fountain and the Rock Garden, complete with molded grass steps cut into a sloping hill. In addition, we'll explore this year's juried exhibition features large-scale, contemporary outdoor sculptures exploring the theme of "FLOURISH," focusing on growth and community.

Visit The Mount Gift & Bookstore featuring a selection of jewelry, stationery, books, hats, candles, cards, teas, toys, and unique finds from artisans and makers around the world.

3 pm – **Depart for Springfield with an estimated return by 4 pm.**

What to bring: water and snacks for the bus; Bring a hat and comfortable walking shoes for walking in the gardens. Please note that temperatures may vary on the bus, inside the Mansion and outdoors in the gardens. Water is provided on the return home.

Cost: \$129, Members, \$152, nonmembers; includes guided tours, lunch, bus transportation and gratuities.

Cancellation Policy: A \$15 fee is deducted for all cancellations. No refunds for cancellations received fewer than 2 weeks prior to August 19, unless you find a replacement. Call **413-314-6482** if you need additional information.