

# 36 HOURS IN RHINEBECK

BY LINDSAY PIETROLUONGO

**T**alk to any of the business owners in Rhinebeck and they'll all tell you the same thing: while locals love everything the sweet town has to offer, the *real* fans of the area migrate down from Upstate New York or up from Lower Manhattan for a weekend getaway that's just a stone's throw from home. Once you drive into the hub of the village, you can park and stroll for practically the entire day. Just about everything is located within walking distance from each other, with the exception of a few scattered parks and activities that are worth the super short journey. Rhinebeck is charming and inviting every month of the year, whether the air is filled with the smell of honey and roses or twinkling snowflakes are raining down. Guests who want to make the rounds to scenic outlooks or bop from eatery to eatery won't have a problem filling in 36 hours in lovely Rhinebeck.

## FRIDAY

The classic, timeless Beekman Arms (6387 Mill Street, 845-876-7077, [www.beekmandelamaterinn.com](http://www.beekmandelamaterinn.com)) is the country's oldest continually operated hotel. While the inn may date from 1776, amenities are refreshingly modern. Each of the 23 vintage-style rooms comes outfitted with a decanter of sherry. Guests of the Olde Rhinebeck Inn (340 Wurtemberg Road, 845-871-1745, [www.rhinebeckinn.com](http://www.rhinebeckinn.com)) enjoy considerate comforts, like complimentary streaming Netflix, eco-friendly toiletries and fresh cut flowers. Rooms at the Veranda House Bed and Breakfast (6487 Montgomery Street, 845-876-4133, [www.verandahouse.com](http://www.verandahouse.com)) are decked out with lace curtains and wooden beds. Breakfast includes orange French toast, berry blintzes and tomato-sausage tarts. If man's best friend is along for the weekend, book a room at pet-friendly Whistlewood Farm Bed and Breakfast (52 Pells Road, 845-876-6838, [www.whistlewood.com](http://www.whistlewood.com)).

After a few hours of traveling, you'll undoubtedly want to take a breather. Head to

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Omega (150 Lake Drive, 845-266-4444, [www.omega.org](http://www.omega.org)) for a yoga class, bout in the sauna, massage, Henna body art application or Micro-exfoliation with crushed diamonds.

All that pampering is bound to make you famished. For dinner, Le Petit Bistro (8 East Market Street, 845-876-7400, [www.lepetitbistro.com](http://www.lepetitbistro.com)) has French delicacies like escargots, frog legs and roast rack of lamb. If your taste buds are craving American cuisine, Foster's Coach House Tavern (6411 Montgomery Street, 845-876-8052, [www.fosterscoachhouse.com](http://www.fosterscoachhouse.com)) has plenty of seafood dishes, sandwiches and pub fare to choose from.

Entertainment for the evening doesn't get more trendy than catching an indie flick at Upstate Films (6415 Montgomery Street, 845-876-2515, [www.upstatefilms.org](http://www.upstatefilms.org)). Rather see the action live? The Center for Performing Arts (661 New York 308, 845-876-3080, [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)) runs a variety of plays throughout the year.

## SATURDAY

Now that you're rejuvenated, squeeze a bit of conditioning in by renting a bike from the Rhinebeck Bicycle Shop (10 Garden Street) or hiking through Ferncliff Forest ([www.ferncliff-forest.org](http://www.ferncliff-forest.org)). If you don't want to break a sweat, it's a short stroll from the parking area to the pond.

Stock up on your favorite New York craft beers at the Grand Cru Beer and Cheese Market (6384 Mill Street, 845-876-6992, [28 WWW.NEWPALTZCHAMBER.ORG THE NEW PALTZ REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE](http://www.grandcru-</a></p>
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Clockwise from top left: Upstate Films; Paper Trail; Bread Alone.

rhinebeck.com). Take a growler back to the hotel room, pick up smoked meats and artisanal cheeses, or sample a pint and a cheese plate in the cafe. Still hungry? One of Rhinebeck's best kept secrets is the beloved Matchbox Cafe (6242 Route 9, 845-876-3911). Try their famous burgers or renowned red velvet cake.

The best time to pick up rare gifts and uncommon items is when you're traveling. At Paper Trail (6423 Montgomery Street, 845-876-8051, [www.papertrailrhinebeck.com](http://www.papertrailrhinebeck.com)), everything from high-priced paper art to unique salt and pepper shakers for \$15 are sold. Artists can invest in new materials at the Rhinebeck Artists' Shop (56 East Market Street, 845-876-4922, [www.rhinebeckartistsshop.com](http://www.rhinebeckartistsshop.com)) as well as novelty gifts and blank journals. Foodies won't want to skip over bluecashew Kitchen Pharmacy (6423 Montgomery Street, 845-876-1117, [www.bluecashewkitchen.com](http://www.bluecashewkitchen.com)), which sells designer cookbooks, exceptional kitchen tools and specialty foods. They also have book signings and chef meet-and-greet events.

Nosh on sushi and Japanese dishes for dinner at Momiji Sushi and Grill (43 East Market Street, Suite 4, 845-876-5555, [www.momijius.com](http://www.momijius.com)) or Osaka Japanese Restaurant (22 Garden Street, 845-876-7338, [www.osakasushi.net](http://www.osakasushi.net)). Leave room for hand-dipped truffles or fresh baked cookies from Calico Restaurant and Patisserie (6384 Mill Street, 845-876-2749, [www.calicorhinebeck.com](http://www.calicorhinebeck.com)) for dessert. Unless you plan on turning in early, stay up late with the Rhinebeck Night Owls, a collection of shops and restaurants that extend their hours for late-night shopping and dining, along with live street music.

## SUNDAY

Wake up early and dine inside or outdoors at Bread Alone Bakery (43 East Market Street, 845-876-3108, [www.breadalone.com](http://www.breadalone.com)). Pair your espresso with whole grain pancakes or crispy toast with an over easy egg right in the center. Breakfast is served until 2 p.m. for later risers.

Step back in time at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome (9 Norton Road, 845-752-3200, [www.olderhinebeck.org](http://www.olderhinebeck.org)) to watch an air show complete with vintage planes and a World War I dogfight overhead. Tour the Wilderstein Historic Site (330 Morton Road, 845-876-4818) for stunning landscape views that rival the glorious 1852 mansion itself.

Since the weekend is winding down, you may as well score some goodies to take back home with you. The Rhinebeck Farmers Market (61 East Market Street, [www.rhinebeckfarmersmarket.com](http://www.rhinebeckfarmersmarket.com)) runs year-round, every Sunday from May to November and every other Sunday during the winter. Sample before you buy at Pure Mountain Olive Oil (23 East Market Street, 845-876-4645, [puremountainoliveoil.com](http://puremountainoliveoil.com)), which sells flavored sea salt, balsamic vinegar and olive oil. Grab a book or CD for the ride at Oblong Books and Music (3797 Montgomery Row, 845-876-0500, [www.oblongbooks.com](http://www.oblongbooks.com)).

Fill your tummy before you embark on your return road trip at Gaby's Cafe (6423 Montgomery Street, Suite 7, 845-516-4363, [www.gabyscafe.com](http://www.gabyscafe.com)), a Mexican grill with all of your favorite guacamole, salsa, and spicy cheese-laden dishes. ■

For more info on what to do in the Hudson Valley, visit [www.newpaltzchamber.org](http://www.newpaltzchamber.org).