

Useful Tips for our Garden Adventure to the Hudson River Valley:

What to bring:

I recommend packing as though you are taking a trip to northern California in September: it is likely to be warm rather than hot during the day, with cooler evenings and the potential for showers. Layering is always prudent. Usually, the high summer humidity will be over by September.

Please include a **waterproof rain jacket with hood** (you may not be able to use an umbrella in some situations) and **comfortable walking shoes** with good traction for traversing lawns, garden paths and worn stone steps. You may also wish to bring a single pole style walking stick (dual poles will not be allowed in some gardens).

If you like to work out you may want to bring your **gym** and **swim gear** as our hotels have fitness centers including pools.

Please pack as light as possible. You may find a carry-on sized suitcase is sufficient for this trip (even if you prefer to check that bag). There will be opportunities for hand washing items should you need to.

I also recommend bringing the following:

- A re-fillable **water bottle** (let's reduce plastic waste and avoid disposable bottles)
- **Chargers** for your phone, iPad, camera batteries etc.
- A small **notebook and pen** (for plant names, coach departure times etc.)
- Non-drowsy **travel sickness pills** – just in case.

Dress code:

In general, I have found the east coast to be far less casual in their dress code than the west coast, although the HRV is more laid back than the City. Jeans and sneakers would be fine at a pizza place but likely frowned upon in anything classier such as a bistro.

Think '**smart-casual**' for dinner. Smart pants or chinos and a nice top/shirt work well. Ladies may prefer to bring a few mix/match skirts and tops plus a lightweight cardigan as air conditioning often makes restaurants too chilly for me! Gentlemen would only be expected to wear a jacket and possibly a tie at a fine dining restaurant.

General Travel Tips:

You are welcome to download my [free guide](#) if you haven't already done so.

Tipping:

Your hosts will cover the majority of gratuities. However, you may wish to thank the maids who service your rooms during your hotel stay in Tarrytown. (This has been included at Mirbeau).

Return transfer to the airport:

Although it is possible to get from our final hotel in Tarrytown to JFK by train, it is a rather convoluted journey and would still involve an initial taxi to the train station. I therefore strongly recommend using a car service. I used [Majestic Transportation Service](#) recently and was very happy with them. They offer a range of vehicle sizes so could accommodate a small group if a number of you wished to coordinate schedules and split the cost. (877) 811 8400, majestic@mtslimousine.com

Extending your stay:

It takes approximately 1 hour by train into Manhattan from Tarrytown on the Metro-North and costs \$9-20 one way. The Tarrytown hotel concierge can call for a taxi to take you to the train station (or call Uber/Lyft). There is not a hotel shuttle service into town and it is too far to walk.

Places you may wish to research and visit: [this link](#) mentions many of the top attractions. I would add in the [911 memorial](#) and [Little Island](#). Sunday is an ideal day to explore Manhattan due to reduced crowds.

[Dee](#) can assist you in reserving additional nights at our Tarrytown hotel if you wish – or you may prefer to make your own arrangements and transfer to somewhere within walking distance of a train station.