

Mountain Views by Day, Orchestra Lawns by Night — A 3-Day Berkshires Road Trip

A 3-day Berkshires, Massachusetts road trip: the Mount Greylock Scenic Byway, the Norman Rockwell Museum and Hancock Shaker Village, a lawn concert at Tanglewood, and a hike up Monument Mountain.

DURATION

3 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

Late May – September

Summer is the region's performing-arts season, with Tanglewood's outdoor concert series running June through early September and warm, green conditions for hiking and driving the mountain roads. Average highs run in the upper 70s to low 80s; October brings the well-known fall foliage crowds, which this itinerary intentionally avoids.

FROM

\$450 USD / person

for 2 people, lodging + food + activities

Day 1

Williamstown & the Mountain Byway

A drive up to the region's north end for its two best contemporary and classical art museums, then a scenic byway to the highest point in Massachusetts.

Arrival & the Drive In

~2.5-3 hrs from Boston or NYC

The Berkshires sit roughly 2.5-3 hours from both Boston (via the Mass Pike/I-90 west) and New York City (via the Taconic State Parkway, then Route 23 or 102 east). The closest major airport is Albany International (ALB), about 45 minutes to an hour from the southern and central Berkshires.

Clark Art Institute & MASS MoCA

Half day · \$22 and \$25 USD/person admission

Two very different art stops in the north county: the Clark, in Williamstown, for Impressionist and European masters in a striking modern building, and MASS MoCA, in a converted North Adams factory campus, for one of the largest contemporary art spaces in the country.

Mount Greylock Scenic Byway

~1.5 hrs round-trip · free

A winding drive to the summit of Mount Greylock, the highest point in Massachusetts at 3,489 feet, with the War Memorial Tower and five-state views at the top. The road has seasonal closures in winter but is open and clear through the summer season.

Day 2

Rockwell, Shakers & a Lawn Concert

A move south to Stockbridge and Lenox for the region's best-known museum, a working Shaker village, and an outdoor evening at Tanglewood.

Norman Rockwell Museum

~1.5-2 hrs · around \$22 USD/person admission

The largest collection of Norman Rockwell's original art, in Stockbridge, including his actual studio relocated to the museum grounds — the single most iconic stop in the Berkshires for a reason.

Norman Rockwell Museum · +1 413-298-4100 · nrm.org

Hancock Shaker Village

~1.5 hrs · \$20 USD/person admission

A working 18th-century Shaker farm and museum village on the Hancock/Pittsfield line, with the famous round stone barn and heritage farm animals — a quirky, slower-paced counterpoint to the art museums.

Hancock Shaker Village · +1 413-443-0188 · hancockshakervillage.org

Check-In — The Red Lion Inn

Check-in 3pm · from \$129 USD/night

A historic inn on Stockbridge's Main Street operating continuously since 1773 — creaky-floorboard New England charm right in the middle of town.

Evening Lawn Concert — Tanglewood

Evening · lawn tickets typically \$25-75+ USD/person

The Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer home in Lenox, a short drive from Stockbridge — pack a picnic and a blanket for a lawn seat under the open-air shed roof. Ticket prices vary widely by performance; check bso.org/tanglewood for the current season's lineup.

Day 3

Monument Mountain & Great Barrington

A morning hike and a walkable town before the drive home.

Monument Mountain Reservation Hike

~2 hrs · free (parking lot can fill on weekends)

A moderate ~3-mile loop up Squaw Peak with views from Devil's Pulpit, a dramatic rock formation overlooking the valley — managed by The Trustees of Reservations, with the trailhead right on Route 7 between Stockbridge and Great Barrington.

Lunch & Shopping — Great Barrington Main Street

~2 hrs · \$15-25 USD/person for lunch

A walkable Main Street of galleries, bookshops, and local restaurants — Baba Louie's sourdough pizza is the casual lunch pick most locals point visitors toward before the drive home.

Drive Home

~2.5-3 hrs to Boston or NYC

Retrace the Mass Pike or Taconic State Parkway route back; build in extra time on summer weekend afternoons when Route 7 traffic through the Berkshires towns can slow down.