

SUMMER IN THE BERKSHIRES

A REGION OF FINE SCENERY. PURE AIR AND GOOD ROADS.

Towns Colonial in Type Easy of Access - Attractions of Lenox, Pittsfield and Other Resorts - Beauties of the Housatonic and the Nearby Mountains

The conductor does not need to tell you when the Berkshire Hills country is reached. You know by merely looking out of the window.

On either side stretch long rows of hills that melt into each other and blend with the misty sky. They rise like the outer ramparts of a fortress and are covered with feathery foliage. It seems as if they shut out the noise and stress of the world and invited you to tarry a while.

Such is the visitor's first impression of the Berkshires. A stay in any of the pretty towns and summer resorts which abound deepens the impression of peace and relaxation. The picture of the birch trees, all leaning one way as the winter wind has bent them, will remain with you when vacation is over.

No place in the Berkshires is hard to reach. The accessibility of the region lends much to the pleasure of summering there and the route through the valleys of the Housatonic and the Shepaug presents a panorama of which the eye never tires.

The centre and the most attractive portion of the Berkshires is closely identified with the Housatonic River, which flows from north to south through the entire western section of Connecticut. This river, running through the heart of the hill country, has its source almost under the shadow of ancient Greylock in the north, and ministers to towns and villages such as Pittsfield, Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington.

There are many interesting places which attract summer visitors. One of these is Litchfield at the northern terminus of a branch of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. The village is of the Colonial type. Its streets are lined with old elms, and old houses meet the eye everywhere.

About three miles to the southwest lies Bantam Lake. From Prospect Hill there is a fine view of the surrounding country. Washington, the main town in the Shepaug Valley, is a favorite vacation resort for New Yorkers. The air here is exceptionally fine, while the walks and drives about the township are interesting.

Speaking of drives, there are no finer roads for horseback riding or automobile driving to be found anywhere than in the Berkshires. An automobile trip through the towns is a pleasure not soon to be forgotten, while a pleasant way to spend the vacation there is to put in a good deal of time in walking trips.

The mountain enclosed town of Canaan is a good place to make the base for a walking trip. The Canaan Mountain rises its head abruptly over the valley. Norfolk is not far away and here are some larger hills that make interesting climbs. Westward from Canaan you reach the township of Salisbury. The picturesque main street of the village lies in a pocket formed by two high hills. Lakes Washington and Washinee and the Twin Lakes of the Wood are additional attractions to visitors here.

Lakeville is the largest of the villages which compose what is called the Salisbury section and lies near the western shore of Lake Waconnescoopus, which is Indian for "Smile of God." Sheffield is another pretty town. The Housatonic River and lesser streams and the overhanging hills add to the picturesqueness of the district.

It would be hard to find in all New England a more attractive town than Great Barrington. It holds a wealth of historic, traditional and personal associations. In the north, Monument Mountain, celebrated by William Cullen Bryant, rises from the bank of the Housatonic River, while Bear Mountain overlooks the town from another side.

Going north from Great Barrington one reaches Stockbridge and then Lenox. The rivers surround this town and here it was that the Rev. Jonathan Edwards wrote "The Freedom of the Will." Lenox is a town of historical associations. Elizabeth Sedgwick lived here and also Fanny Kemble. The summer home of Henry Ward Beecher in Lenox was a farm occupying a hill on the highway from Lenox to Lee. It is only six miles from Lenox to Pittsfield, the county seat of Berkshire county. The main street runs from Lentsos Lake to Lenox on the heights and has many fine homes.

It would be hard to pick out the most attractive spot in the Berkshires. Summer visitors will vary in their accounts, according to individual likings.

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