



**Olana estate of Frederic Church – Hudson Valley
June 15, 2017**

This was a day trip through local college. It was a day after having arrived home from Slovenia.

Olana State Historic Site - Wikipedia

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olana_State_Historic_Site

Tour highlights:

Frederick Church's Masterpiece, Olana State Historic Site - Tour of Historic Landscape, Main House & Sharp Gallery

Frederick Edwin Church, landscape painter and member of the Hudson River School was a mid-nineteenth century celebrity. The 250 acre estate features an elaborately stenciled Persian inspired mansion designed by architect Calvert Vaux (co-designer Central Park, Grand Army Plaza, Museum of Natural History). Olana is filled with original sketches, studies and paintings by one of the mid-19th century's most famous artists. A diverse decorative arts collection includes objects from around the world. The property is developed in much the way Church created his canvasses with strategically revealed vistas of one of the most strikingly beautiful places in the Hudson Valley. We'll break mid day in the farm area of Olana for a delicious and refreshing lunch in the Wagon House. Comfortable shoes necessary - guided walk is about one mile in length and one hour in duration. End.

It was good, but was it good enough? Probably YES.

This college is pretty inconsistent in the quality of their trips. They choose locations of interest well but they lack some organization. For instance:

- The drive up north to the Hudson River Valley took 3 3/4 hours instead of the expected 2 1/2 hours. I'm not sure why because when the driver got lost it shouldn't have cost us that much time.
- Though we got to the start 10 to 15 minutes before the stated time, the bus was already pretty fully loaded and only because of one kind lady did we get to sit near to each other.
- I understand this day trip should be full of retirees but honestly I do believe that the average age was 90 and the average weight was 200. Yet there were a few old folks who had tried to take care of themselves and fix their hair and their make-up and their lipstick but they still looked old. They might've been our age. Gads but getting old is tough. Acknowledging it is tougher yet.
- Then it also should be no surprise but I swear that everyone had weak bladders and it seemed there was always a line at the Toilets and/or we were waiting to load till everyone was out.
- The din of chatter on the bus was enough to cause Tom to create earplugs. But they got quiet for the educational video.

- One big bus and only four men. Good thing I brought my own. I like men.
- I was clearly advised that once you have a bus seat that the unspoken rule is you cannot change. Is that schoolhouse childish?
- We were so behind on schedule that we were asked to rush our lunch to 30 minutes. Then there were insufficient number of seats -- which turned out fine when we found a park bench outside.

We have a friend who says "I don't do bus trips" and we think she's the smart one.

But we do get new ideas, we get guided and fed, we learn a lot, and we don't have to drive.



It was a near perfect day weather-wise.



Tom always finds the ladies.



One of the walk through art exhibits within the grounds.



Everything had been left intact from his living there.



Views, doorways, and more views. To the Hudson River and over the lake too.



