



**Kykuit – The Rockefeller Estate, NY, Trip Notes**  
**Thursday November 5, 2019**

What? Another Brookdale Tour and Talk  
 With Tom and Kathy too

Time? 7:15am depart home for arrival at BCC 7:30am  
 8:00am bus departs  
 5:00pm bus returns to BCC

Description? Experience a docent-led tour of the grand home built by John D. Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil and in his day, the richest man in America. A majestic paradise with sweeping river views, Kykuit boasts elegant rooms showcasing marvelous collections of Chinese and European ceramics, fine furnishing and exquisite artwork throughout the house and splayed in galleries.

The coach barn houses a collection of carriages and classic autos. Discover the stories of four generations of Rockefellers who called this hilltop estate home.

381 N Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, NY

Eats? Enjoy a delicious hot buffet in the museum shop café on the grounds.

From <https://hudsonvalley.org/historic-sites/kykuit-the-rockefeller-estate/>

A majestic paradise with sweeping river views. Kykuit was home to four generations of the Rockefeller family, beginning with the philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil. His business acumen made him, in his day, the richest man in America. Now a historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this extraordinary landmark has been continuously and meticulously maintained for more than 100 years.

Classic Tour - Great for first-time visitors. Your visit will include the main floor of the house, art galleries, Inner Garden, golf room, and Coach Barn.  
 The tour is 2 1/4 hours, including the shuttle bus ride.

Grand Tour - Includes everything in the Classic Tour, plus extra time in the gardens and art galleries, as well as a visit to the second floor of the home.  
 The tour is 3 hours, including the shuttle bus ride.

Timesaver Tour - This tour includes the main floor of the house, Inner Garden, and West Terrace.  
 The perfect choice for those with busy schedules.  
 The tour is 1 1/2 hours, including the shuttle bus ride.

**My notes and pictures:**

That John D Rockefeller was rich like no one else. Rich and not having to pay taxes in those days either, so costs didn't count. It shows. He bought a hilltop, shaved it off, and built and collected. I'm sorry that no pictures were allowed inside as lots of it was dramatic, expensive, interesting.

He named his estate Kykuit which means "look out" and it's said that at times one can see as far away as 25 miles. His father was a con man (and maybe he had some of that too) and his grandson became a big shot politician. They were always generous with donating land to parks and historical sites, but of course they had plenty to spare.



From the front door looking at the huge dramatic fountain.



If you think there are a lot of nudes, well, it wasn't just my choice of pictures. There were a lot. This Henry Moore looking bronze was a he and she both and my favorite of all.



The fountain like a cave was composed of staliglites and staligmites from a cave in Italy. Surely not legal now.

The second stop was the carriage house, once a horse barn and now with a car collection included. Complete with Tiffany lamps!



**Pictures from the web** – and interestingly there were very few so they protected the inside from the public:



If you like modern art and especially Picasso, the corridors which wrapped around underground, were a true museum. Those Picasso's were tapestries created from some of Picasso's famous art work.



See more at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kykuit>