

# 6 STOPS IN WASHINGTON IRVING'S SLEEPY HOLLOW

- Philipsburg Manor
- Sculpture of the Headless Horseman
- The Headless Horseman Bridge
- The Old Dutch Church and Burying Ground
- Sleepy Hollow Cemetery
- Sunnyside

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## Notes

*Double-check opening times before you travel to Sleepy Hollow. At the time of writing, locations like Sunnyside and Philipsburg Manor are open Wednesday to Sunday, May to early November.*

*Looking for public restrooms along the way? Plan for stops at Philipsburg Manor, Tarrytown station and Sunnyside.*

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Take the CROTON-HARMON STATION bound Metro-North Train from Grand Central Terminal and get off at Philipse Manor. The Metro Transport Authority estimates that one-way travel to Sleepy Hollow usually takes less than one hour. Plan your schedule on the MTA trip planner website.

## Philipsburg Manor

381 N Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, New York. Located 0.7 miles/ 1.1 kms from the Philipse Manor train station. A 15 minute walk.

Start your Sleepy Hollow adventure at the Philipsburg Manor Visitor Center. Here you should purchase a copy of *Tales of The Old Dutch Burying Ground*, which includes a fold-out map guiding you to locations at The Old Dutch Church and Burying Ground, such as the Van Tassel graves.

While at Philipsburg Manor, be sure to see the Headless Horseman monument, a 1974 bas relief depicting Ichabod Crane being chased by the Headless Horseman. Prior to 1996, Sleepy Hollow was named North Tarrytown. The monument reminds visitors that Irving's haunted story was based on real places in this area.

Philipsburg Manor, which was active as a mill and trading center from 1693 until 1779, recreates that era with exhibits & demonstrations. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow was set in 1790, not long after the Philipsburg Manor estate was sold at auction in response to the owners' allegiance to the British during the American Revolution. Some visitors estimated 1.5 hours to tour the manor.

The shuttle bus to tour Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate, is also located at the Philipsburg Manor visitor center.

Built in 1913, Kykuit was the home of oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller. Depending on which Kykuit tour you choose, you'll want to set aside 1.5 to 3 hours (includes a shuttle bus to the location). Book on the Historic Hudson Valley website.

## Sculpture of the Headless Horseman

362 Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, New York

After purchasing the guidebook *Tales of The Old Dutch Burying Ground* from Philipsburg Manor, walk towards the Old Dutch Burying Ground. There are several photo opportunities along the way.

Approximately 300 feet (100 metres) up the road you'll find the sculpture of the Headless Horseman. This sculpture was created for those visiting Sleepy Hollow to help us explore and relive the town's rich heritage, keeping the legend alive.

## The Headless Horseman Bridge

*"Over a deep black part of the stream, not far from the church, was formerly thrown a wooden bridge; the road that led to it, and the bridge itself, were thickly shaded by overhanging trees, which cast a gloom about it, even in the daytime; but occasioned a fearful darkness at night. This was one of the favorite haunts of the headless horseman; and the place where he was most frequently encountered.*

*-The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Washington Irving"*

There really was a "Headless Horseman" bridge in Sleepy Hollow when Irving wrote *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, but the wooden structure rotted away long ago. Still, you will find several other indications of this famous place:

- The approximate location of the original Headless Horseman Bridge is marked by a formal signpost where a contemporary bridge crosses the Pocantico River near the Old Dutch Church.
- Within the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is a picturesque wooden bridge that traverses the Pocantico River. This bridge offers a good photo opportunity and credible similarity to the original bridge. You can find this bridge to the right when you enter Sleepy Hollow Cemetery from the southern entrance.
- While neither of these bridges mark the original location, VisitSleepyHollow.com provides descriptions of the original wooden bridge location.

*"The bridge became more than ever an object of superstitious awe; and that may be the reason why the road has been altered of late years, so as to approach the church by the border of the mill-pond.*

*-The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Washington Irving"*

## The Old Dutch Church and Burying Ground

430 Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, New York. 3-minute walk from Philipsburg Manor

*“The sequestered situation of this church seems always to have made it a favorite haunt of troubled spirits. It stands on a knoll, surrounded by locust-trees and lofty elms, from among which its decent, whitewashed walls shine modestly forth, like Christian purity beaming through the shades of retirement. A gentle slope descends from it to a silver sheet of water, bordered by high trees, between which, peeps may be caught at the blue hills of the Hudson. To look upon its grass-grown yard, where the sunbeams seem to sleep so quietly, one would think that there at least the dead might rest in peace. On one side of the church extends a wide woody dell, along which raves a large brook among broken rocks and trunks of fallen trees.*

*-The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Washington Irving“*

After visiting the Headless Horseman sculpture and sign by the bridge, cross the bridge to The Old Dutch Burying Ground. This is the location where the Headless Horseman pursues Ichabod, as Ichabod charges towards the bridge.

The booklet Tales of the Old Dutch Burying Ground, described earlier, provides helpful directions to the final resting places of the Van Tassels. The unmarked grave of the Jäger’s headless corpse said to have inspired the character of the Headless Horseman, is supposedly buried here.

If you are here during the month of October, check out the Visit Sleepy Hollow website. There are numerous Sleepy Hollow themed events that will help you immerse yourself in the legend.

### **Sleepy Hollow Cemetery**

540 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, New York

Exit the Old Dutch Burying Ground and follow the meandering paths through the adjacent but technically separate Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Here you will find the grave of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow author Washington Irving. Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is also the resting place of several other famous people, including:

- Elizabeth Arden: founded a major American cosmetics empire
- Walter Chrysler: founder of Chrysler Corporation
- William Rockefeller: co-founder of Standard Oil. Standard Oil was split by the United States Supreme Court to become ESSO (now Exxon) and SOcal (now Chevron).
- Andrew Carnegie: In the late 1800’s, led the expansion of the American steel industry.

As previously mentioned, there is a rustic bridge crossing the Pocantico River in this cemetery, found by following the stream on the right of the cemetery property as you enter the southern entrance.

After your walk through Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, make your way back to the train station, where the tour continues. You can exit from the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery northern entrance if you’ve walked through

the cemetery. If not, double back the way you came in, through the southern entrance.

### **Sunnyside**

3 W Sunnyside Ln, Irvington, New York

From Sleepy Hollow, take the train two stops south, past Tarrytown, to the Irvington Station. From this station make your way to Sunnyside, Washington Irving’s home.

Washington Irving is best known as the author of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle, but most of his writing had a profound influence on American literature, as well as on other authors. For example, did you know Clement Clarke Moore, the author of ‘Twas The Night Before Christmas, borrowed the concept for Saint Nicholas from his friend Washington Irving? And have you read Washington Irving’s descriptions of Christmas traditions in The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon? It’s interesting to note the descriptions were written 23 years before A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. A tour of Washington Irving’s home, complete with guides in period costumes, will take you through Irving’s study, most bedrooms, dining room, parlour and kitchen. You will see a large collection of Irving’s original furnishings, or replacements from the Irving family, which aid the imagination of what it would be like living in the home during Irving’s time.

Sunnyside was originally part of a property owned by the Van Tassel family, which was auctioned after the American Revolution and later purchased by Washington Irving in 1835. Except for a few years in Spain, Washington Irving lived at Sunnyside until his death in 1859.

[Some visitors on TripAdvisor suggest that on a nice day, the walk from Irvington station to Sunnyside is a pleasant half hour walk, but also note it’s a packed dirt trail. Others suggest calling a taxi or renting a car. Based on the weather, what your fitness level is and whether you’re travelling with kids, alone or with friends and family, will determine the route you take to reaching Sunnyside.]

If walking to Sunnyside, don’t miss the Rip Van Winkle statue along Main Street, between Ferris St and Grinnell St, across from the fire station. If you feel like a slight detour (and have time to add another 10-20 minutes to your walk), a Washington Irving Memorial is located on the corner of Broadway and West Sunnyside Lane. The memorial includes sculptures of Rip Van Winkle and King Boabdil, with a bust statue of Washington Irving in between.

With your tour of Sunnyside complete, it’s time to make your way home by train. If you have a moment for a meal, enjoy the character of the town of Irvington, that Washington Irving would have once called home.

