

Partner Tours during NEASDA

We invite you to bring along your partner or spouse to enjoy the beauty of the Pioneer Valley in Spring! In addition to being welcome to attend the events and meals we have planned for the group at large, we have planned a selection of events just for the “Plus 1’s”!

When registering, indicate the desire to participate in the Partner Tours and members of our MDAR Team will take it from there.

Tuesday, June 9

- 8:30 am Depart Inn on Boltwood, Amherst
- 9:00 am Smith College Botanic Garden, Northampton
- 10:30 am Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield
- 12:00 pm Lunch at Deerfield Inn, Deerfield
- 2:00 pm Yankee Candle, South Deerfield
- 4:30 pm Return to Inn on Boltwood, Amherst

Wednesday, June 10

- 9:00 am Emily Dickinson Estate Tour

Descriptions

Tour of [The Lyman Plant House and Conservatory](#) at Smith College

The Smith College landscape was designed over 100 years ago as a botanic garden, to be of aesthetic as well as scientific value. Today, the Botanic Garden functions as a living plant museum that presents and utilizes its plant collection for education, research, display and conservation. A diverse plant collection is maintained at the historic Lyman Conservatory and on the 125-acre campus with a collection of over 7,000 labeled and mapped plants. Conservatory collections include cacti and succulents, ferns, epiphytes,



orchids, fragrant plants, economic crops, carnivorous plants, and other tropical plants. Outdoor collections feature woody trees and shrubs, a rock garden, systemics garden, perennial garden, and herb garden.

The Botanic Garden of Smith College has achieved the highest level of arboretum accreditation—Level IV—from [The Morton Arboretum's](#) ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to recognize arboreta that achieve particular standards of professional and collection excellence.

Black Birch Vineyard

Tour and tasting at [Black Birch Vineyard](#), a boutique winery located in Hatfield. With over 19,000 vines stretching across 12 acres of rich Connecticut River Valley soil, and more than 10 varieties of grapes, winemakers Ian and Michelle are part of every stage of winemaking from growing and harvesting, to aging and bottling wines to provide high quality wine highlighting the best of what the Northeast terroir offers.



Established in 2012, the vineyard was founded on the belief that truly great wine should be an art form, requiring much more than lab specialists and computerized fermentation charts. Since then, they have created 5 award-winning wines using the best grapes from the cooler Northeast region, like Traminette and Cabernet-Franc.

Historic Deerfield Inn

Open since 1884 when guests arrived on stagecoach, carriages and on horseback, [the Deerfield Inn](#) remains on its original site on Old Main Street in a village now listed as a National Historic Landmark and surrounded by period houses, working farms, and beautiful open countryside.



Yankee Candle Village

With ample time to explore and shop at [Yankee Candle Village](#), our visit will include the Candle Bar Experience, an immersive, hands-on creative experience that invites guests to design and craft a candle that is uniquely their own. During the experience, each guest selects and blends three favorite fragrance oils to create one personalized scent, resulting in a custom candle that reflects individual preferences and creativity. Guests are guided through the process by a knowledgeable team, making the experience both engaging and easy to follow for first-time creators. The Candle Bar is designed to be interactive, memorable, and enjoyable, offering a meaningful takeaway that guests can bring home as a reminder of their visit.



Emily Dickinson Museum

We'll enjoy a brief (8-10 minute) walk through Amherst to the [Emily Dickinson Museum](#) for a guided tour of two historic homes: The [Homestead](#) where Emily Dickinson was born, died, and did most of her writing, and [The Evergreens](#), home of the poet's brother, sister-in-law, and their three children.



The Homestead: c.1813, the home where Emily Dickinson penned her nearly 1,800 poems. Explore the historic spaces and learn from tour guides about Dickinson's life and writing process. In 1963, in response to the growing popularity of Emily Dickinson, the house was designated a National Historic Landmark.

The Evergreens: c.1856, home to Austin and Susan Dickinson. Explore the historic spaces and learn about the family and friends who shaped the poet's daily life and posthumous publication.

The houses are replete with authentic 19th-century decor, including many highlights from the Museum's collection of 8,000 original family objects. Beyond the walls, groups may experience the beautiful landscape that inspired Emily Dickinson's poetry. Guests are welcome to stay for a self-guided audio tour of the garden after the house tours. Guests will leave with Dickinson's verses ringing in their ears and a deeper understanding of her cultural context, daily life, formative relationships, and vibrant personality.

Back to the Inn on Boltwood by 12:30 for a 12:45 lunch