



BROOKLYN BASED

FOOD CULTURE EXPLORE FAMILY TRENDING EVENTS

A weekend in the Berkshires: Putting the "high" in highbrow

BY MEREDITH CRAIG DE PIETRO



The quaint towns that make up the Berkshires feel straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting. Photo: @later_nyc

You may think of the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts as a vacation spot for highbrow intellectuals. It is. Just about every night of the week during summer, **Tanglewood** has offered outdoor performances by the Boston Symphony, the Boston POPS, and various jazz musicians and chamber players since the 1930s. There is also a literary heritage to the area that would make your head spin. Lately, though, you can feel the Brooklyn vibe, as borough transplants open restaurants and hotels, and more and more New York residents are visiting and investing in real estate. This makes sense: For New Yorkers it's a quick three-hour drive, providing country air as well as a cultural paradise with centers for art, great food, and music venues. In between Tanglewood and the fussy bed and breakfasts, there is also an adorable cheese shop, a perfect dive bar, and a stylized roadside motel, too. It's possible to pivot from skiing on the mountain one morning to spending the afternoon at a top museum. Plus, did I mention a recreational weed dispensary just opened? Here's everything you need to know for a weekend away in the Berkshires.

Where to stay



A renovated roadside motel offers a firepit on the base of a mountain. Photo: @briarcliffmotel

The Briarcliff Motel

When you're looking for a quick getaway that won't break the bank, let me recommend **The Briarcliff Motel**, a 60s style roadside motel that was fully renovated in 2016. Each room is bright and nicely designed with Marimekko bedding and quirky touches throughout. It sits at the foot of Monument mountain, giving easy access to hikes and nature. It's not fancy, but it checks all the cool boxes and is situated conveniently to everything. Mornings include a hearty breakfast in the comfortable lobby while evenings are best spent in front of the firepit talking with the other visitors about which neighborhood in Brooklyn you hail from. *The Briarcliff Motel, at Monument Mountain, Route #7, Great Barrington. Rates around \$240/night for 2 adults. Pets allowed.*