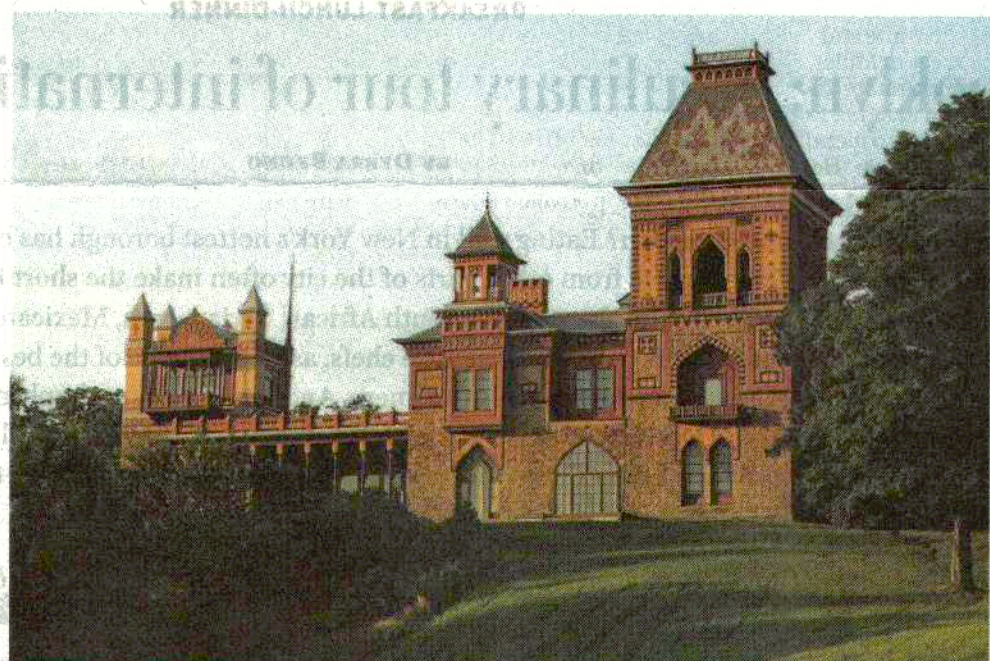


ALON KOPPEL



PETER AARON/OTTO



STAN RIES

## WHERE CANVASES LEAP TO LIFE

Eight-stop trail in the Catskills takes you to scenes that inspired artists

BY BEN YAGODA

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Hudson River School Art Trail takes visitors to places that 19th-century artist Thomas Cole and his followers used as vantage points to create some of their notable paintings. View of the South Facade of the Main House at Olana. Picturesque & Sublime exhibit at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.**

## Nature and culture mix to make Mazatlan an undiscovered gem

BY NECEE REGIS

Our cab ride from the airport was a quick one: less than 30 minutes from the curb to our beachside hotel in the historic district in Mazatlan. Along the route, my husband chatted in Spanish with our driver and I surveyed the passing scene, glimpsing fleets of shrimp boats by the dozens and streets abuzz with commerce.

This was a compromise vaca-

tion. He wanted nature, meaning a wild beach to surf and fish, and I needed culture, a town with interesting architecture, art and a lively dining scene. As we crested a hill and saw the curve of Olas Altas beach — blissfully free of rental chairs and vendors — rimmed by low-key beachfront hotels and streetside restaurants, I began to suspect we had found our place.

Located due east from the tip of the Baja California peninsula,

where the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific Ocean, Mazatlan sprawls along approximately 12 miles of scalloped coastline at the base of the Sierra Madre. First settled by Spanish conquest in the 1500s — the name comes from the indigenous Nahuatl word meaning “place of deer” — the town grew through subsequent waves of immigrants, including German settlers in the 19th century whose decorative buildings still line the old town streets.

By the mid-20th century, movie stars such as John Wayne, John Huston and Gary Cooper arrived for marlin fishing, often staying at hotels along Olas Altas. (As the largest fishing port in Mexico, Mazatlan is home to enormous tuna fleet operations as well as an extensive shrimping industry.) By the 1970s, development expanded north along the coast.

Today, Mazatlan's three distinct sections offer a something-for-everyone approach to tour-

ism. The central Zona Dorada (Golden Zone) is highly developed with gated high-rise condos and hotels directly on the beach, adjacent to a bustling commercial area with bars, clubs and fast-food eateries. To the north, Nuevo Mazatlan is fast on its way to becoming chock-a-block with new developments including two marinas, gated condos, and resorts with private beaches, golf and tennis clubs.

**MAZATLAN CONTINUED ON F6**

My wife and I were standing on a bridge by the side of Route 23A, outside of Catskill, N.Y., a bit more than a hundred miles up the Hudson River from New York City. Cars were whizzing by us in both directions. On the right bank of Catskill Creek was Tatiana's Italian Restaurant; on the left were some dilapidated houses with “For Sale” signs in front of them.

But when I directed my gaze straight ahead out over the creek, I saw much the same landscape that Thomas Cole did when he painted “View on Catskill Creek” in 1833. In my view the distant North Mountain was obscured by clouds, while Cole painted on a sunny afternoon, and the kayaker I spied was way at the back of the creek, as opposed to his boater in the foreground. Otherwise, it was the identical scene, 185 years apart.

My journey to that spot had started about 10 months earlier. My wife, Gigi, and I were on our way back to our home outside of Philadelphia from a trip to Lake George in New York's Adirondack Mountains. On the New York State Thruway I spotted a sign for the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill. I took the exit because a) it was

**HUDSON CONTINUED ON F4**

### NAVIGATOR

What is “travel literacy,” and what's the best way to attain it? **F2**

### HIKING

Tips for introducing babies and toddlers to the great outdoors. **F3**

### OHIO

In Cleveland, finding the proverbial something for everyone. **F5**





BETH SCHNECK PHOTOGRAPHY

## Where artists were inspired

HUDSON FROM F1

time for a break, and b), I am a major fanboy of the Hudson River School of American landscape painting, of which Cole (1801-1848) is considered the founder.

The historic site consists of Cole's house, his barnlike original studio, and a "New Studio," demolished in the 1970s and rebuilt in 2015 as a small museum space. It's well worth visiting, especially since there is always a Hudson River School-related exhibition in the New Studio.

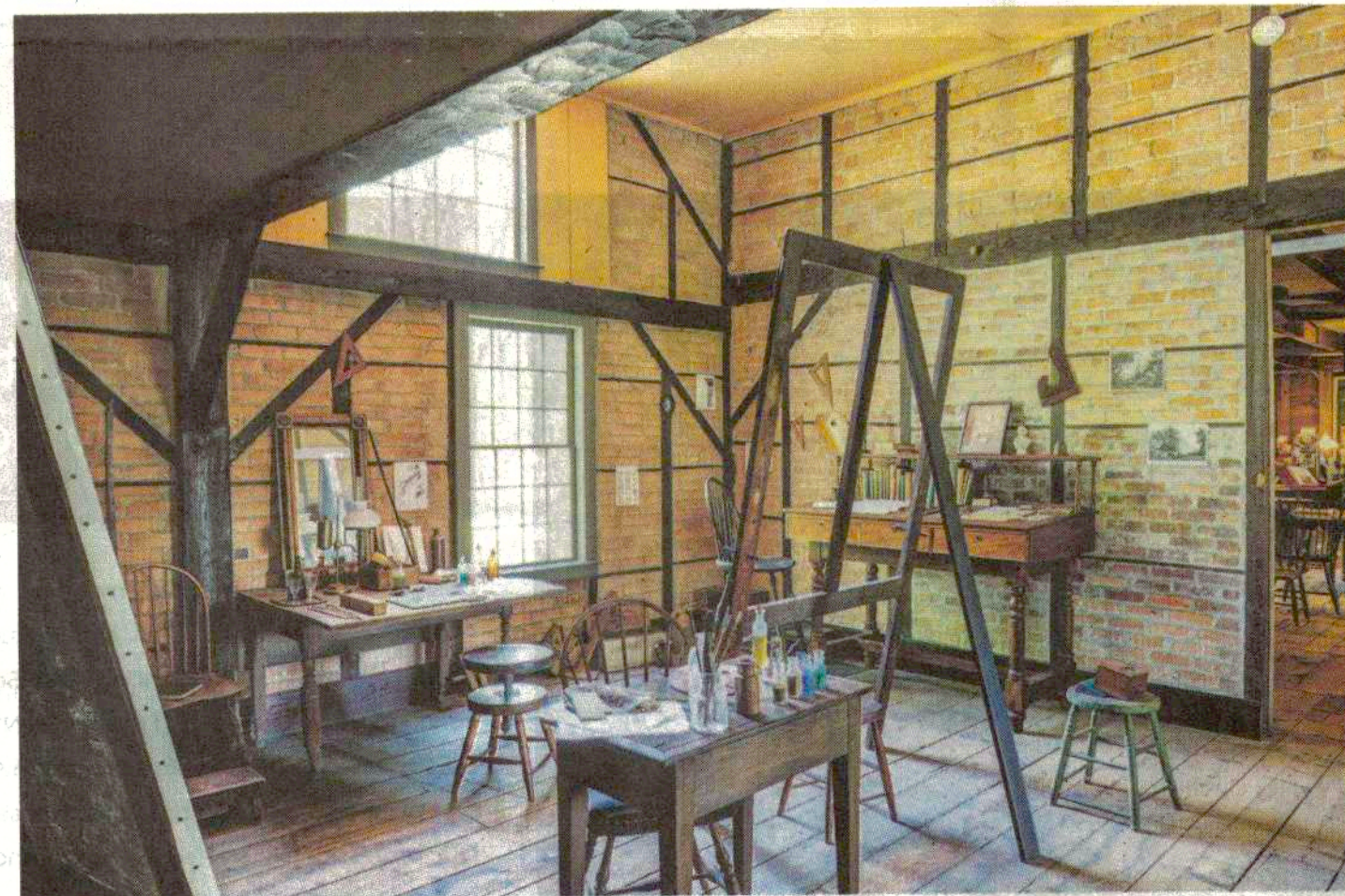
On the way out, I picked up a brochure that intrigued me. It described something called the Hudson River School Art Trail, which, according to the brochure, "takes you to the sites that inspired America's first great landscape artists." Specifically, it listed eight spots — some reachable by car, some by a short hike — that Cole and his followers used as vantage points to create some of their notable paintings. That is, you could stand where they stood and see what they saw. We needed to get back home for dog pickup and other duties, but I determined that I would venture onto the art trail at the first available opportunity.

That turned out to be a weekend in late May. When we set out from home first thing Saturday morning, it was raining. And when we arrived at the Cole Historic Site — which is the unofficial starting point for the art trail — at about 11, it was still raining. So rather than hit the trail, we strolled to the New Studio and took in "Picturesque and Sublime."

That exhibit, which runs through Nov. 4, was compact but enlightening. It explores in works from England (including paintings by John Constable and J.M.W. Turner) and then the Hudson River School the two ideas named in its title. The picturesque can be seen in pictures that show (usually benign) human influence on the landscape: photographic ruins, orderly farmland, tiny men and women out enjoying themselves. The sublime, by contrast, depicts nature as transfixing and sometimes scary in its power and majesty. Part of the genius of the Hudson River School was to take inspiration from the river and the Catskill Mountains, just to the west, and combine the two modes in a new



ESCAPE BROOKLYN



PETER AARON/OTTO

**FROM TOP:** Southern View Panorama from Olana, the No. 2 stop on the art trail, Frederic Church's home and now a museum. A woman walks down the stairs of the main house at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, N.Y. Cole (1801-1848) is considered the founder of the Hudson River School of American landscape painting; other artists include Thomas Doughty and Asher Brown Durand. Old Studio interior at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

way of looking, the American Sublime. So, while "View on Catskill Creek" is mostly picturesque — the creek is so calm that the boater can turn and peer at the reflected clouds in the creek and a deer at the back, gently sipping — the splendid sunset and cloud-piercing mountain hint at the sublime.

When we walked out of the New Studio, it was raining even harder — too hard to embark, for the time being, on the art trail. But it was coming up on lunchtime, so we got in the car and drove via the Rip Van Winkle Bridge to the town of Hudson, which, I had read, has become a weekend destination for New Yorkers who aren't interested in or can't afford the Hamptons.

Maybe it was the pouring rain, but Hudson's reputation seemed to overstate its cuteness, and we walked for several blocks before finding a place to eat — Wm. Farmer and Sons, an inn, restaurant and bar in a restored 19th-century building on Front Street. We scored a table and shared a country ham board and a bowl of split pea soup. On the way back to the car, we happened on a shop called Verdigris Tea & Chocolate, which advertised, and delivered, a cup of superb hot chocolate.

With the rain still coming down hard, we decided to head to stop No. 2 on the art trail — nearby Olana, Frederic Church's home and now a museum. But when I looked on my phone for directions, I learned that it closed at 3 p.m. — just 20 minutes away.

So we put Plan B, or maybe it was Plan C, into effect: Drive the scenic route back to our hotel and see where it took us.

The scenic route was fairly long: I'd waited too late to book accommodations and had ended up with a room in Lenox in Massachusetts's Berkshires, a little more than 30 miles away. About halfway there, next to a small lake outside Chatham, N.Y., I spotted a small parking area and pulled in. It turned out we were in the Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond. An inviting trail to our right went alongside the pond. The rain had pretty much subsided; we took it.

Other than wishing we had Wellingtons on instead of hiking shoes, it was a lovely two-mile walk. The trail circled partway around the water and then ascended to a gazebo, where there was a view of meadowlands, the pond and the Catskills in the distance. A lot of birds were out and about and making noise. My avian identification skills are lacking, but a brochure we picked up said the meadow provides habitat for bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks and northern harriers.

Definitely, a picturesque scene. Sunday morning dawned cloudy but dry. Studying our Art Trail brochure over an early

HUDSON CONTINUED ON F5

### If you go

#### WHERE TO STAY

##### The Wick

41 Cross St., Hudson  
833-843-9425

[thewickhotel.com](http://thewickhotel.com)

The 55-room boutique hotel — built in a converted candle factory — opened in May 2018. It's only a few steps away from Hudson's Amtrak station. Rooms from \$99.

##### Catskill Motor Court

5100 Route 32, Catskill  
518-678-5559

Located about 10 miles west of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, this old-fashioned motel is situated in a pine forest at the base of the Catskill Mountains. Rooms from \$70.

#### WHERE TO EAT

##### Wm. Farmer and Sons

20 S. Front St., Hudson  
518-828-1635

[wmfarmerandsons.com](http://wmfarmerandsons.com)

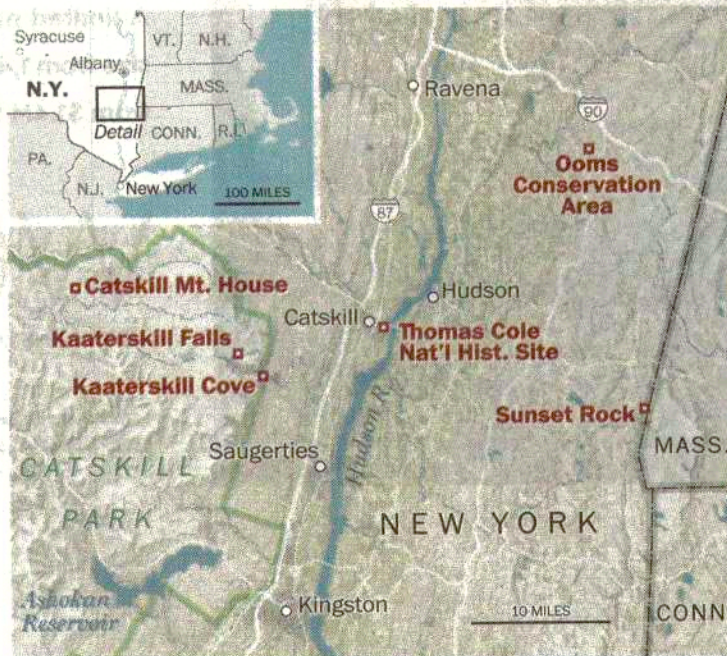
A converted 19th-century building located at the center of Hudson which has been operating as a restaurant, bar and inn since 2015. The eatery specializes in country ham, oysters and local produce. Happy hour and dinner service offered daily except Mondays. Lunch entrees from \$10; dinner entrees from about \$29.

##### Verdigris Tea & Chocolate Bar

135 Warren St., Hudson  
518-828-3139

[verdigrisitea.com](http://verdigrisitea.com)

This coffee bar has dozens of teas, six varieties of hot chocolate and



Source: Maps4News/HERE

house-made baked goods on the menu. Tea and coffee from \$2.25 and hot chocolate starts at \$5.75. Baked goods range from \$1.5.

#### WHAT TO DO

##### Thomas Cole National Historic Site

218 Spring St., Catskill  
518-943-7465

[thomascole.org](http://thomascole.org)

Explore Cole's house, studio and a museum that specializes in Hudson River School-related exhibitions. Hours vary; check website. Admission \$16; seniors and students \$14. Tickets include a guided tour (reservations recommended) or self-guided options. Hudson River School Art Trail brochures and guides are available here, as well as Olana.

##### Olana State Historic Site

5720 Route 9G, Hudson  
518-828-0135

[olana.org](http://olana.org)

Olana, the estate of painter Frederic Church, was restored in the 1960s. Admission to the museum is only by guided tour; reservations are highly recommended. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday, through Oct. 28. Admission \$12; seniors and students, \$10. The grounds are free and open 8 a.m.-sunset daily. The website offers a streamable audio tour.

##### INFORMATION

[hudsonriverschool.org](http://hudsonriverschool.org) offers general information and maps on the trail. For a downloadable map, go to [wapo.st/catskills](http://wapo.st/catskills)

B.Y.



# Why Cleveland? It's a gift that keeps on giving.

Rock Hall, baseball and 'A Christmas Story' home among highlights

BY ALEXANDRA PECCI

A blond, bespectacled boy of about 6 stands alone on a wooden staircase, his arms and legs swimming in an oversize, bright pink bunny costume, complete with long ears that stick straight up from a fuzzy hood pulled over his head. He's looking around impassively, when...

"Give me a pink nightmare!" his mother calls from the foot of the stairs, her cellphone camera at the ready, and the boy immediately folds his arms against his chest and pulls his face into a petulant frown, scowling at his mother over the top of his wire-rimmed glasses.

If this scene feels familiar, it's for good reason. We were in Cleveland, Ohio, inside the house where they filmed parts of the 1983 cult classic "A Christmas Story," and I was watching a doppelganger for the main character, Ralphie, reenact one of the film's most famous moments. This die-hard little fan wasn't the only person in costume, however, as we spotted at least six pink bunnies (mostly adults) over the course of our visit.

"The house is fully interactive," our tour guide, Paige, told the roughly 25 people who had crowded into the house's small living room. "You can try on hats, you can pick up that 'major award' like you won it, you can hide under the sink."

I didn't expect that watching my husband climb gleefully into a wooden cabinet under a kitchen sink would be a highlight of my summer vacation, but I guess Cleveland is nothing if not surprising. After all, when family and friends heard that our big summer plans consisted of a weekend trip to Cleveland, they all asked the same thing: Why?

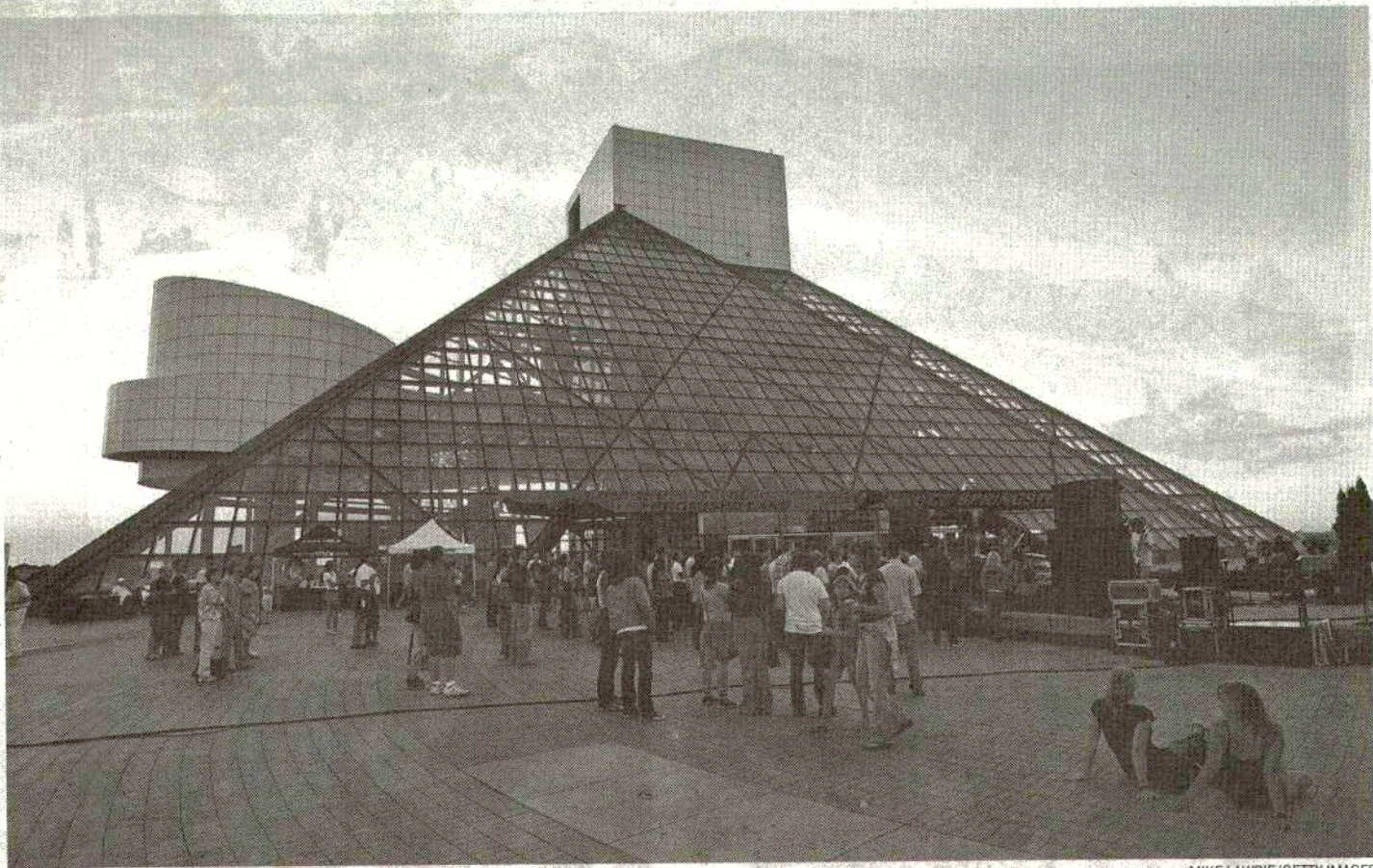
It was a valid question with an easy answer. My husband, Brian, turned 40 earlier this year, so I wanted his Christmas gift to reflect the milestone. When I saw that "A Christmas Story House" had become a tourist attraction dedicated to the movie, a leg lamp illuminated inside my brain. I realized that Cleveland might just provide his ideal weekend, one filled with baseball, breweries, rock-and-roll and a heavy helping of childhood nostalgia.

After a quick, nonstop flight from Boston, we dropped our bags at our hotel and walked a half-mile to the shore of Lake Erie and the glass pyramid of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, where we found the flag at half-staff and Aretha Franklin songs blaring in the outdoor plaza. The Queen of Soul — the first woman inducted into the Rock Hall — had died just hours before our arrival.

Her music accompanied us throughout the day, playing in all of the museum's common areas as we wound through the seven-level shrine to rock. The museum's holdings are extensive and often jaw-dropping, ranging from the iconic (Michael Jackson's rhinestone-encrusted glove, Elvis's Army uniform, John Lennon's round, wire-rimmed glasses); to the ostentatious (David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust costumes, Flava Flav's clock necklace, the Supremes' feathered and sequined gowns). And there was one item that made a tangle of conflicted emotions bubble up in my stomach: Kurt Cobain's death certificate. Taking a picture of it didn't feel right, but I also couldn't help getting down on my knees to read it more closely.

But perhaps nothing tugged at my writerly heartstrings more than seeing handwritten lyrics to songs like "London Calling," "Purple Haze," "God Only Knows" and "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," marred with cross-outs and revisions, and scribbled on paper that was crumpled, stained or ripped hastily from notebooks.

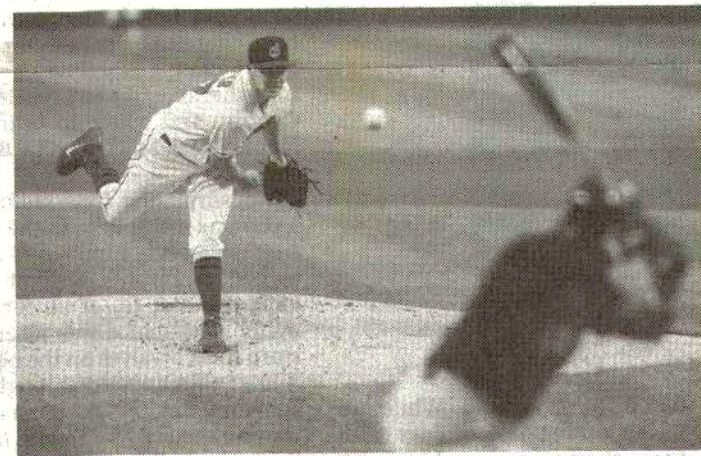
By the time we left the Rock Hall that afternoon, the museum



MIKE LAWRIE/GETTY IMAGES



SCOTT SHAW/ASSOCIATED PRESS



KEN BLAZE/USA TODAY SPORTS



ALEXANDRA PECCI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP:** The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, with artifacts such as Michael Jackson's rhinestone-encrusted glove and John Lennon's wire-rimmed glasses, is a must-see for any music aficionado. East 4th Street is a pedestrian-only thoroughfare lined with restaurants, shops and entertainment venues. At Progressive Field, Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Trevor Bauer throws a pitch to Boston Red Sox designated hitter J.D. Martinez during the first inning on Sept. 21. The home in "A Christmas Story" can also be found in Cleveland, where pink bunny suits are available.

## If you go

### WHERE TO STAY

#### Hampton Inn Cleveland-Downtown

1460 E. Ninth St.

216-241-6600

hamptoninn3.hilton.com

A centrally located hotel between Progressive Field, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and FirstEnergy Stadium. Rooms from \$179.

### WHERE TO EAT

#### The Greenhouse Tavern

2038 East 4th St.

216-443-0511

thegreenhousetavern.com

Creative, locally sourced fare from Chef Jonathon Sawyer. Has a street-level restaurant and rooftop bar and

patio. Dinner menu selections start at \$9.

#### Market Garden Brewery

1947 West 25th St.

216-621-4000

marketgardensbrewery.com

Brewpub with beer flights and local beer on tap, plus flatbreads, sandwiches, tacos and other comfort food entrees. Shareable plates start at \$5.

#### Society Lounge

2063 East 4th Street

216-781-9050

societycleveland.com

Sophisticated, retro-style bar with craft cocktails and a small food menu. Small bites start at \$5.

#### West Side Market

1979 West 25th St.

216-664-3387

westsidemarket.org

Public market with food stalls featuring fresh produce, fish, pasta, flowers, meats, baked goods and favorites like Pierogi Palace, Maha's Falafel, Campbell's Popcorn Shop and J & J Czuchraj Meats.

#### WHAT TO DO

##### Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

1100 Rock and Roll Blvd.

216-781-7625

rockhall.com

The museum celebrates all things rock music and features exhibits dedicated to music and memorabilia from rock legends. Open daily except Thanksgiving and

Christmas. General admission \$26.

#### A Christmas Story House & Museum

3159 West 11th St.

216-298-4919

achristmasstoryhouse.com

A house and museum dedicated to the 1983 film "A Christmas Story." Open daily except major holidays, including Labor Day, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day and, ironically, Christmas. Check website for calendar. Fans can also book overnight accommodations (reservations start at \$395 a night). General admission \$11.50.

#### INFORMATION

thisiscleveland.com

A.P.

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Pecci is a writer based in New Hampshire. Her website is alexandrapecci.contently.com.

## What drew the artists of the Hudson River School to these very sites

HUDSON FROM F4

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It was a well-known spot even in 1828, when dictionary maker

Noah Webster name-checked it in his definition of the Dutch-derived "clove": "a cleft; a fissure; a gap; a ravine. This word, though properly an appellative, is not often used as such in English; but it is appropriated to particular places... as, the Clove of Kaaterskill." The view was nice but not dramatic, which may be why at least two of the several notable paintings of the Clove contained significant inventions by the artists. My favorite is Asher Durand's "Kindred Spirits," which plops an imaginary waterfall at the bottom of the Clove and depicts a fiction-

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For a real waterfall, we had to walk a mere quarter of a mile back down Route 23A to the foot of Bastion Falls. And for real drama, we had to hike a half-mile, almost all of it up, to the foot of the 271-foot Kaaterskill Falls, Art Trail Stop 5. There was already a good selfie-taking crowd there — catskillmountaineer.com describes the trail as the most popular in the Catskills — but if we squinted them out, we could replicate the sublimity Cole ex-

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A couple of miles away, in the town of Haines Falls, we stopped at Selena's Diner for a very decent Reuben sandwich (me) and veggie burger (Gigi). We proceeded into the North-South Lake Public Campground, paid our \$10 daily fee and drove to the north bank of North Lake, from which Cole painted "Lake with Dead Trees" (1825). Frankly speaking, I wasn't much inspired by the scene or (when I looked at it online later) the painting.

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Yagoda is a writer based near Philadelphia. His website is benyagoda.com. Follow him on Twitter: @byagoda.



## In New York’s Catskills, the Hudson River school art trail brings landscape painting to life

By Ben Yagoda  
September 28

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But when I directed my gaze straight ahead out over the creek, I saw much the same landscape that Thomas Cole did when he painted “[View on Catskill Creek](#)” in 1833. In my view the distant North Mountain was obscured by clouds, while Cole painted on a sunny afternoon, and the kayaker I spied was way at the back of the creek, as opposed to his boater in the foreground. Otherwise, it was the identical scene, 185 years apart.

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[An end-to-end walk on the High Line in Manhattan](#)

## **IF YOU GO**

### **Where to stay**

#### **The Wick**

41 Cross St., Hudson

833-843-9425

[thewickhotel.com](http://thewickhotel.com)

The 55-room boutique hotel — built in a converted candle factory — opened in May 2018. It’s only a few steps away from Hudson’s Amtrak station. Rooms from \$99.

#### **Catskill Motor Court**

5100 Route 32, Catskill

518-678-5559

Located about 10 miles west of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, this old-fashioned motel is situated in a pine forest at the base of the Catskill Mountains. Rooms from \$70.

### **Where to eat**

#### **Wm. Farmer and Sons**

20 S. Front St., Hudson

518-828-1635

[wmfarmerandsons.com](http://wmfarmerandsons.com)

A converted 19th-century building located at the center of Hudson that has been operating as a restaurant, bar and inn since 2015. The eatery specializes in country ham, oysters and local produce. Happy hour and dinner service offered daily excepts Mondays. Lunch entrees from \$10; dinner entrees from about \$29.

#### **Verdigris Tea & Chocolate Bar**

135 Warren St., Hudson

518-828-3139

[verdigristea.com](http://verdigristea.com)

This coffee bar has dozens of teas, six varieties of hot chocolate and a wide assortment of house-made baked goods on menu. Tea and coffee from \$2.25, and hot chocolate starts at \$5.75. Baked goods from \$1 to \$5.

#### **What to do**

#### **Thomas Cole National Historic Site**

218 Spring St., Catskill

518-943-7465

[thomascole.org](http://thomascole.org)

Explore Cole's house, studio and a museum that specializes in Hudson River School-related exhibitions. Hours vary; check website. Admission \$16; seniors and students \$14. Tickets include a guided tour (reservations recommended) or self-guided options. Hudson River School Art Trail brochures and guides are available here, as well as Olana.

#### **Olana State Historic Site**

5720 Route 9G, Hudson

518-828-0135

[olana.org](http://olana.org)

Olana, the estate of painter Frederic Church, was restored in the 1960s. Admission to the museum is only by guided tour; reservations are highly recommended. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday, through Oct. 28. Admission \$12; seniors and students, \$10. The grounds are free and open 8 a.m.-sunset daily. The website offers a streamable audio tour.

#### **Information**

[hudsonriverschool.org](http://hudsonriverschool.org) offers general information and maps on the trail. For a downloadable map, go to [wapo.st/catskills](http://wapo.st/catskills)

**The Washington Post**

