

Museum Tours for the 2019 NAWCC National Convention
June 27-30, 2019

This year's National Convention offers members and visitors the opportunity to visit some of the premier horological museum's in the country. The first three museums listed are a short one-hour ride from downtown Springfield, MA. We have set up special curated tours and special reduced admission rates for NAWCC members.

The Willard House and Clock Museum

The museum is located at 11 Willard Street North Grafton, MA 01536 (508-839-3500) and is open Wednesday thru Saturday from 10 am until 4 pm and on Sundays from 1-4 pm (www.willardhouse.org). We have arranged to have special curated tours conducted by Robert Cheney (Executive Director and Curator) on Thursday June 27th at 10 am and 2 pm and again on Friday June 28th at 10 am. A special NAWCC admission will be offered at \$5 per visitor.

The house was the ancestral home of Benjamin, Simon, Ephraim and Aaron Willard. They were America's preeminent 19th century clockmakers, making their first clocks in 1766 in their small Grafton workshop. In 1802, Simon Willard obtained a patent for his Improved Timepiece, or "banjo" clock. Today the banjo is considered to be one of the most significant styles of early 19th century American timepieces.

Founded by Dr. Roger and Imogene Robinson in 1969, and opened to the public in 1971, the museum features world's largest collection of Willard clocks. The collection is displayed in period room settings in the 1718 Joseph Willard homestead, the 1766 Benjamin Willard Clock Manufactory and three modern galleries, and also includes: more than 90 Willard clocks; Willard family portraits and furnishings; Colonial, Federal and Empire period furniture; antique Oriental rugs; 19th century women's costumes; 18th century American and English pewter; Victorian dolls and doll furniture; military and hunting weapons; Nipmuc Indian artifacts; and original documents signed by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The Willard House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

There are a number of restaurants for those wishing to have lunch nearby and if groups would like to have a box lunch at the museum, contact the museum in advance.

The American Clock & Watch Museum

The museum is located at 100 Maple Street, Bristol, Connecticut 06010 (860-583-6070) and is open 7 days a week from 10 am until 5 pm (www.clockandwatchmuseum.org). We have arranged to have special curated tours conducted by Tom Manning (Curator) on Thursday June 27th at 10 am and 2 pm and again on Friday June 28th at 10 am. A special NAWCC admission will be offered at \$5 per visitor.

The museum is housed in the 1801 home of Miles Lewis in a historic section of Bristol, CT; one of the early clock manufacturing centers of our country. It is across the street from the original home of Jonathan C. Brown which is still standing. The museum was founded in 1952 by Edward Ingraham then President of E. Ingraham and Company.

Visitors to the museum will find over 1,500 clocks and watches on display including advertising clocks, punch clocks, grandfather clocks, blinking-eye clocks, railroad watches, character watches, and even Hickory Dickory Dock clocks. Enjoy the ticking and chiming sounds of many of these objects as you explore the museum's eight galleries.

The museum's main permanent exhibit is "Connecticut Clockmaking and the Industrial Revolution," which tells the story of Eli Terry's innovative developments that lead to the growth of the clock and watch industries in Connecticut. The collection is mainly comprised of American timekeepers, but features examples of foreign clocks and watches in order to highlight the technological and design influences that were incorporated into American timepieces.

There are many nearby restaurants for visitors including one across the street from the museum.

Old Sturbridge Village

This museum is located at 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566 (800-733-1830) and is open from Wednesday thru Sunday from 9:30 am until 4 pm. It is approximately a one-hour drive from downtown Springfield. The village was founded by the Wells family who began the American Optical Company. It houses the outstanding J. Cheney Wells Collection of New England Clocks. We have arranged for a special NAWCC rate of \$19 for admission (NAWCC card maybe required). Peter Nunes has agreed to curate a tour of the J. Cheney Wells clock collection at 1 pm on Thursday June 27th. Admission allows visitors to explore the entire museum and village and there are restaurants on site.

Old Sturbridge Village, the largest outdoor history museum in the Northeast, depicts a rural New England town of the 1830s. Step inside more than 40 original buildings, and explore homes, meetinghouses, a district school, country store, bank, working farm, three water-powered mills, and trade shops – all situated on more than 200 scenic acres. Talk with authentically costumed historians and see heritage breed farm animals.

Other Museums and Places of Interest

The Waltham Museum

The Waltham Museum is located in the historic Waltham Watch Factory at 211 Crescent Street, Waltham, MA and is open Monday-Friday from 9 am until 5 pm. It is approximately a 90 minute ride from Springfield, MA. The museum displays watches, clocks and machinery and tells the story of the Waltham Watch Company.

Delaney Antique Clocks

The clock shop houses one of the most extensive collection of clocks for sale in the country. It is located at 435 Main Street, West Townsend, MA 01474 (978-597-2231). They are located approximately a two-hour ride from Springfield, MA. They are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9-5 pm or by appointment.

The Springfield and Dr. Seuss Museums

This is located at 21 Edwards St in downtown Springfield. These are a collection of art, history and science museums including a planetarium. The newest museum is dedicated to Theodore

Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss. They are open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm and on Sundays from 11 am until 5 pm. Adult admission is \$25.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

This is located at 1000 Hall of Fame Avenue in downtown Springfield. It is open 10 am -5 pm. The Hall of Fame is home to more than three hundred inductees and more than 40,000 square feet of basketball history. The museum has interactive exhibits that share the spotlight with skills challenges, live clinics, and shooting contests.

MGM Grand Hotel and Casino

The MGM property is located in downtown Springfield and houses a casino, hotel, restaurants and entertainment.