

The Baker Street Irregulars: “Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire”

July 29-31, 2022 at the Bear Mountain Inn, NY

Empire Conference Information Packet

Last Updated: March 29, 2022

Conference Program

We have an agenda that ranges as widely as the Empire in Holmes’s day: from India to Canada to Africa; from journalism to telegraphy to dining; from women in Empire to warfare to whist; and many other interesting and entertaining topics. In addition, conference registration includes 3 meals on Saturday and 2 meals on Sunday.



Conference Location

The Bear Mountain Inn and Conference Center is a splendid place for an event like ours. The facilities surround Hessian Lake at the Bear Mountain State Park, a one-hour drive up the Hudson Valley, north of New York City. Our conference proceedings and associated social activities will take place in the Inn itself at the south end of the lake, in the large, sunlit meeting spaces that fill the south side of the facility.

The on-site lodgings are varied and pleasant — from the large rooms and suites on the second floor of the Inn (with the luxurious [Bear Mountain Spa](#) on the third floor), to the comfortable conventional rooms in the Overlook Lodge about a mile away at the north end of the lake (just a five-minute drive from the Inn), to the recently updated and redecorated Stone Cottages in between (each with six private rooms with private baths, surrounding a private common room with a fireplace and a porch overlooking the lake).

And for those who plan to stay an extra day or two (or who are with someone who will not be attending the conference sessions), there are numerous opportunities for historical, cultural, and scenic investigations nearby including the United States Military Academy at West Point, as well as plenty of dining and shopping. See below for restaurant details. There is a meals-only option on the registration form for spouses or significant others who do not want to attend the conference sessions.

Special Considerations

Please note that **proof of vaccination against COVID-19 is required to participate in all BSI events**. By completing the BSI registration form, you agree to adhere to this requirement. The latest details, including any changes, are online at:

<https://files.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-covid-19.pdf>

When sending us your registration form, please be aware of the commitment you are making, because **we will be unable to provide refunds**.

**“Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire” (July 29-31, 2022 at the Bear Mountain Inn, NY)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Why do I need to contact the BSI before ordering Lodging at the Bear Mountain Inn?

While the BSI has taken ALL rooms at the Bear Mountain Inn for Friday/Saturday nights, there is limited room availability and you need to confirm in advance that your desired room type is still available.

What are the BMI Stone Cottage Rooms?

Cottages have 6 rooms, with each room having its own bathroom, a queen bed, and locked door. There is a shared living area in the cottage outside of the rooms. See [Stone Cottage photos and a video](#).

How far are the Stone Cottages and the Overlook Lodge from the Main building?

The Cottages are a 0.6 mile walk to the Main building where the conference events are held. The Overlook Lodge is about 1 mile from the Main building. See photos and video of the [Main Inn](#) or the [Overlook Lodge](#). There is plenty of parking right next to the Cottages and the Overlook Lodge, so you can easily drive to and from the Inn, if you like.

Is lodging available at the Bear Mountain Inn before or after the BSI dates?

The BSI has special group rates for only Friday and Saturday night. If you want additional nights, please do the following:

- 1) Confirm availability of your room type for Fri./Sat. via <EventReg@BakerStreetIrregulars.com>
- 2) After we reply, complete our conference registration form and mail it with your check (which will include payment for the conference and your room for Friday and Saturday night) to us
- 3) Call Bear Mountain Inn directly at 845-786-2731 (extension 0) to reserve a room of the same kind for any additional days you want before or after the conference. You should do this promptly because the BSI has exclusive rights only for Friday and Saturday.

Please note that a room of the same kind might not be available. However, if you are able to reserve a room of the same kind for additional days, you will be able to use that same room for your entire stay. Room rates for additional days will vary, and might be lower than our special Friday-Saturday night group rate. Payment for additional nights should be made directly to Bear Mountain Inn.

Can I get a room at the Bear Mountain Inn for only Friday or only Saturday night?

The BSI group rate is only available as part of a combined Friday-Saturday two-night package.

Do I have to stay at the Bear Mountain Inn in order to attend the conference?

No, but to attend the presentations and get conference meals, you must purchase the Full Conference Package. In addition, if you need to park a car, the Bear Mountain Inn will charge \$10/day for parking.

Is parking included if you are staying at the Bear Mountain Inn?

Yes, if you are paying for a room at the Bear Mountain Inn, there is no charge for parking one car.

When does the conference program start and end?

Breakfast opens at 7:30am on Saturday, July 30, and the first speaker starts at 9am. The final presentation ends on Sunday, July 31, at 3pm. On Friday between 4pm and 10pm, you should check in at the conference registration table in the Appalachian Room at the Inn (look to your left when you are standing at the Inn's registration desk). Friday evening is free time for you to make your own plans.

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Send questions to <EventReg@BakerStreetIrregulars.com>.

Bear Mountain Inn: Location, Directions and Travel Options

Where is the Bear Mountain Inn?

See <https://visitbearmountain.com/about-us/maps-directions/> or this [Google Map](#)

How do I get to the Bear Mountain Inn?

By Car: see the Bear Mountain Inn website's [Driving Directions](#)

By Bus

You can take a bus from the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City directly to the Bear Mountain Inn, and back. The bus schedule is limited, so you should make sure your other travel plans coordinate with the available bus times.

Go to the Coach USA website: <https://www.coachusa.com>

- 1) Origin: type or select "Port Authority Bus Terminal - New York, NY"
- 2) Destination: type or select "Bear Mountain Inn - Bear Mountain, NY"
- 3) Click on the search button that looks like a magnifying lens (Sherlock is everywhere!).

This will take you to a screen where you can see the bus route and click on links to see schedules and fares.

For the return trip south after the conference, you'll want to switch your origin and destination.

Note that as of March 3, 2022, Coach USA tickets are not guaranteed reservations on a specific bus even if you enter an intended travel time. For details and the latest policies, click the "?" button on the Coach USA website page and search for "reservations."

By Train

You can take a train from Grand Central Terminal in New York City to Peekskill, NY, and then a cab from Peekskill to the Inn.

Go to the "Metro-North Railroad" section of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) website: <https://new.mta.info/agency/metro-north-railroad>

This page has links you can click to see schedules and fares.

Take the "Hudson Line" from Grand Central Terminal in New York City up to the Peekskill Station.

The MTA site page with Peekskill Station may include information on taxis or local transport.

Where to eat near the Bear Mountain Inn

Registration for the Full Conference Package includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Those not attending conference sessions can order the “Meals Only” option. For meals before or after that, you will need to fend for yourself. Fortunately, there are plenty of places at which to dine, including:

The Bear Mountain Inn

The Inn has [its own restaurants](#), and maintains a list of [other recommended nearby eateries](#) (PDF).

Recommendations from Sherlockians who live in the area (descriptions in parentheses, with Sherlockian reviews quoted, when available). You will need a car or other transport to get to any of these restaurants.

[Cinnamon](#), 51 East Market St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572; 845-876-7510 (“Excellent Indian restaurant.”)

[Deising’s Bakery](#), 111 North Front St., Kingston, NY 12401; 845-338-7505 (One of the best bakeries in the Hudson Valley, also serves breakfast and lunch.)

[Eveready Diner](#), 14184 Route 9, North Hyde Park, NY 12538; 845-229-8100 (Retro-style diner, very good food.)

Fin & Brew, 5 John Walsh Blvd., Peekskill, NY 10566; 914-788-4555 (In The Factoria at Charles Point; fresh seafood and local craft beer served in casual, riverfront digs with an enclosed patio.)

[Garvin’s Gastropub](#), 215 Huguenot St., New Paltz, NY 12561; 845-255-7888

[Hudson House River Inn](#), 2 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516; 845-265-9355

Le Canard Enchaîne, 276 Fair St., Kingston, NY 12410; 845-339-2003 (Laid back French restaurant, great food. Reservations recommended.)

[Le Petit Bistro](#), 2 East Market St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572; 845-876-7400 (“Our favorite restaurant in the area. Despite the name, much more than French cuisine, all of it good. Dinner W-Sat, Sunday brunch. Online reservations almost always needed.”)

[The Roundhouse](#), 2 E Main St., Beacon, NY 12508; 845-765-8369 (“very good”)

[Valley Restaurant](#), In The Garrison, 2015 U.S. 9, Garrison, NY 10524; 845-424-3604 (“very good”)

General recommendations from Sherlockians.

“The [Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park](#) has several restaurants — participants should explore them online.”

“A fun day would be going to the [Dia Beacon Museum](#) and the other galleries and eating in Beacon. (Fairly close to Bear Mountain).” See the info at Trip Advisor for [Beacon Restaurants](#).

“There are several good places on the [Newburg Waterfront](#). But that is about 25 minutes by car from the Inn.”