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Walk In the Steps of History

Centennial Inn Suites offers new weekend package for history buffs.

FARMINGTON, Conn. – April 1, 2009 – Look no further for the juiciest scandals; it's all in Connecticut's Farmington Valley. The original witch hunts weren't in Salem- they occurred here in Connecticut, with the last execution of a Farmington woman occurring 30 years *before* the first Salem accusation. The Farmington people became radicals when fugitive slaves sought refuge in the village- they hid thousands of slaves seeking help along the Underground Railroad. And then there's the "Lost Eight Months," a thrilling story about a "mutinous" group of Africans who had taken over a little ship called the *Amistad*. While awaiting a decision on their fate, the captives were embraced by the Farmington community. Scandalous as these stories may be, they're merely part of Farmington's early history and just a few of the stories you'll learn about with Centennial Inn Suites' new Farmington Historical Package.

Walk in the steps of presidents past, freed slaves, infamous artists and the men and women who forged our country. Walk through two magnificent museums that will entice you to experience life as it was then. Walk in an ancient cemetery with an uncommon history, and learn the secrets of the names carved upon the antique headstones. Walk through the doors of a 300-year-old mill to enjoy a decadent lunch in the spot where Farmington's coveted flour was produced.

"Most people don't realize how much history we have in this area," said Pete Fortune, general manager of the Centennial Inn Suites Hotel. "This package is a great opportunity for people to learn all about it."

The Centennial Inn Suites' Farmington Historical Package includes overnight accommodations in a Studio Suite, two tickets to the Stanley-Whitman House, two tickets to the Hill-Stead Museum, a tour of the Memento Mori Cemetery, lunch for two at the Grist Mill Restaurant and a walking map of the historical sites of Farmington.

The Stanley-Whitman House is a National Historic Landmark, featuring a living history program, tours, museum highlights and details about the 18th century home it is located within. The Hill-Stead Museum, set on 152 hilltop acres, was built by pioneering female architect Theodate Pope Riddle in 1901 to showcase the Impressionist masterpieces amassed by her father, Cleveland iron industrialist Alfred A. Pope. The intact collections include original furnishings, paintings by Monet, Degas, Manet, Whistler and Cassatt, as well as numerous works on paper and Japanese woodblock prints.

(more)

Memento Mori Cemetery, known for its compelling name and intricate carvings, dates back to the 1600s. The Grist Mill Restaurant was originally used for wheat grinding and its flour was so popular, Presidents Washington, Taft and Coolidge ordered their whole wheat flour from the renowned mill. Today, the restaurant serves fine cuisine in a spectacular setting overlooking the Farmington River.

This package is available daily starting April, 2009. Prices start at \$199 for two people and include breakfast at the Centennial Inn Suites. Located at 5 Spring Lane, Farmington, CT 06032, the Centennial Inn Suites is just off of Route 6, minutes from Hartford and Interstate 84. Museum hours vary; please visit our website for times. Rates are exclusive of taxes, gratuities and fees. For more information or to book this package, guests can call (800) 852-2052 or visit www.centennialinn.com.

About Centennial Inn Suites

Dating back over 200 years ago, the Centennial Inn Suites was built as a family farmhouse and stable. The property was established as a hotel over 20 years ago using the original, restored buildings. The Centennial Inn Suites is a 96 room all-suite hotel located in the Farmington River Valley of Connecticut and enjoys a wonderful reputation among our returning guests. The inn has large, spacious and clean rooms, a wooded 12-acre property with a babbling brook, and warm, friendly New England hospitality. Managed by the Simon Konover Hotel Corporation, Centennial Inn Suites is one of 22 hotels to serve you across Connecticut and the Midwest.

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