

Area Activities and Sightseeing

Minnewaska State Park Preserve

A global destination for hiking, rock climbing, bouldering, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, technical rock climbing, camping, swimming and more.

Located in Ulster County, NY, Minnewaska State Park Preserve is situated on the Shawangunk Mountain ridge, which rises more than 2,000 feet above sea level and is surrounded by unique and stunning terrain. The park features numerous waterfalls, three crystalline "sky lakes," hardwood forests, sheer cliffs and ledges, beautiful views and clear streams. There are 35 miles of carriage roads and 50 miles of footpaths on which to bike, walk, hike and enjoy nature.

Ongoing investigations of the park have revealed the part known as Sam's Point Preserve once featured a thriving berry-picking community. Sam's Point also includes the park's famous Ice Caves.

The address is 5281 Route 44-55, Kerhonkson, NY 12446. Phone 845-255-0752. The park is about 30 miles from Resorts World Catskills. https://parks.ny.gov/parks/127/details.aspx

Neversink River Unique Area

This protected swath of 4,881 acres offers 11 miles of trails and a pair of famous waterfalls: Denton Falls and High Falls. Easy access and parking at the end of Katrina Falls Road off exit 109 on Route 17 (Rock Hill). The park was ranked one of the "Last Great 75 Places" in the Americas and the Pacific region by the Nature Conservancy. The river is famous for fishing (but there is no camping allowed). http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/104402.html

Lake Superior State Park

The park offers nearby lake fishing opportunities – from the shoreline or aboard rental paddle boats. There is a maintained beach area for swimming. Located at 342 Dr. Duggan Road, Bethel, NY 12720. Phone 845-794-3000 ext. 5002. https://parks.ny.gov/parks/87/details.aspx

Harriman State Park

Harriman State Park at 47,527 acres (192.33 km2) is one of the largest parks in New York. Located in Rockland and Orange counties, it is about 60 miles from Resorts World Catskills. Activities include a seasonal swimming beach, with lifeguards, and camping.

There are 200 miles of hiking trails, including sections of the Appalachian Trail, which runs from Maine to Georgia, and the regional Long Path Trail that begins at the George Washington Bridge in New Jersey and runs north through Harriman State Park on its way to New York's Capital district – a total 357 miles. The address is Seven Lakes Drive/Bear Mountain Circle, Ramapo, NY 10974. Phone 845-947-2444. https://parks.ny.gov/parks/145/details.aspx

Rail Trails

The Hurleyville O&W Rail Trail offers a newly remade parking area (and access to Hurleyville's shops, eateries and arts center) for a paved stretch of what will eventually become a 25-mile reconstituted railroad bed. The trailhead is directly across from the new Hurleyville Arts Centre, 12 Railroad Ave., Hurleyville, NY, about 8 miles from Resorts World Catskills.

The old rail grades are being remade on both sides of the Hudson River, with Hurleyville's serving as a perfect example of the nature and history they offer. The Hurleyville section is paved, with a bridge across a stream, which makes it accessible for strollers and wheelchairs. The Dutchess Rail Trail (on the east side of the Hudson River), the Hudson Valley Rail Trail and the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail are also part of this trend. The website http://hvrailtrail.com/ offers information on several trails.

Walkway Over the Hudson

In 2016 nearly 550,000 people took in the Hudson River and its environs from a remade railroad bridge between the Hudson River communities of Poughkeepsie (east bank) and Highland (west bank). The span is 214 feet above the river. The website with events information is http://walkway.org/ Depending on the route, the bridge is 50-60 miles from Resorts World Catskills.

Famous Domiciles

The region is rich in the homes of noteworthy persons, from the Rockefeller family's estate in Sleepy Hollow, called Kykuit (and including the family's impressive car collection), to the Moorish mansion of artist Frederic Church overlooking the Hudson River near Hudson, NY. (Many sites offer hiking and picnicking. Church's Olana has several miles of walkable carriage trails on its 250 acres.)

George Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh, NY, also overlooks the Hudson River. From here, Washington directed the final year of the Revolutionary War.

The list of notable homes (some of which include artist studios) includes the Federal style mansion called Boscobel in Garrison, NY, and the remains of the Karo Corn Syrup mansion – called Orak – within Harriman State Park (mostly vanished except for the foundations). Hyde Park, NY, offers the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and the FDR Presidential Library and Museum. Cedar Grove, which is the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, NY, offers insights into the founder of the Hudson River School of artists and trail maps to find the sites where regional masterpieces were painted.

The website http://www.hudsonriver.com/ offers a list of more than 15 historic homes worth visiting.

Gone Fishin' in Roscoe

When it comes to trout fishing (season starts April 1), Roscoe, NY, is considered the top destination in the East and the home to American fly fishing. The town is nicknamed "Trout Town USA" and its official website – http://roscoeny.com/ – places fishing front and center. No fewer than four fishing outfitters are located in town and five of America's top trout streams are nearby. Roscoe is 30 miles northwest of Resorts World Catskills on Route 17.