



The Kaaterskill Clove Experience – Complete Itinerary

Stops Along This Route:

Greene County Visitor Center, Olana State Historic Site, Rip Van Winkle Skywalk, Thomas Cole National Historic Site, Historic Catskill Point and Freightmasters Building, Dutchman’s Landing Park, Kaaterskill Clove Lookout, Kaaterskill Falls, Mountain Top Historical Society, Kaaterskill Rail Trail, North-South Lake Campground, Catskill Mountain House Site, Escarpment Trail at North-South Lake, The Huckleberry Trail, Mountain Top Arboretum, Hunter Mountain Resort, Pratt Rock – “New York’s Mount Rushmore,” Zadock Pratt Museum, Jon Burroughs’ Woodchuck Lodge

Begin Your Adventure

Begin the Kaaterskill Clove Experience at the Great Northern Catskills of **Greene County Visitors Center** in Leeds where you’ll find insider tips on where to go, what to expect and what to see for an enriching journey in the mountains.

From the Visitors Center in Leeds, head over the Rip Van Winkle Bridge to the **Olana State Historic Site**, located across the Hudson River from Cedar Grove (Hudson River School of Art founder Thomas Cole’s name for his home) in Hudson. Olana was the former home of Cole’s star pupil Frederic Edwin Church. Designed in the Persian architectural style, the 250-acre estate is just as picturesque inside as it is out. See the paintings, sculptures and furnishings of Church and his wife Isabel, tour the grounds and participate in an array of art programs offered throughout the summer months.

For your next activity, head back to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge parking area to enjoy a leisurely walk across the **Rip Van Winkle Skywalk**. One of two pedestrian crossings over the Hudson River, the Skywalk provides panoramic views over the lush landscape of the Catskill Region. Capture the view with your camera or smartphone and share on our social channels before heading to the next stop on the Kaaterskill Clove Experience.

Continue back across the bridge toward the Village of Catskill and the **Thomas Cole National Historic Site** on Spring Street. The former home of Thomas Cole, renowned as the father of American art, is open from May through October, offering special exhibits, tours, guided hikes, and events. The home and grounds with views of the Catskill Mountains is the first stop on the Hudson River Art Trail, a series of hiking trails that lead to vistas made famous by painters of the Hudson River School.

After, head to Main Street to the **Historic Catskill Point and Freightmasters Building** on the Hudson River to enjoy the picturesque views of the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. This open-air cobblestone plaza and waterfront park is an ideal spot to enjoy a quiet stroll along the Catskill Creek, an outlet of the mighty Hudson. At one point this location was used as a docking area for boats bringing visitors to American’s First Vacation land and then transporting them by horse and buggy to the Mountain Top. Nearby, **Dutchman’s Landing Park** provides a great place to play or enjoy a picnic lunch on the river. Feel free to bring your boat or kayak as there is easy access at the public boat launch. The kids will enjoy the playground, and if you visit during the summer months, you can enjoy the annual ‘Music in the Park’ concert series.



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Break for Lunch

Main Street Catskill offers a variety of boutiques and cafés perfect for shopping or relaxing over a delicious lunch. The Village of Catskill and its surrounding communities also offer an array of shops filled with jewelry, clothing, books, and much more. Looking to stay overnight in this area? Be sure to check out our lodging packages ideal for enjoying all that Greene County has to offer.

Continue your Experience

Travel west on Route 23A for approximately 10 miles winding further towards the Catskill High Peaks and gaining altitude. Drive through the quaint hamlet of Palenville, America’s First Art Colony, to arrive at **Kaaterskill Clove Lookout**, a 1.8 mile hike with views of the clove. This hike is on the New York - New Jersey Long Path, the same trails as the horse trails used to bring travelers to the mountain top for summer vacation. Next, continue west on Route 23A through the winding mountains to **Kaaterskill Falls**, the highest cascading waterfall in New York State and the setting for several Hudson River School paintings. The parking lot is on Route 23A just northwest of the trailhead entrance and Bastion Falls. Once you park, carefully walk down Route 23A behind the guardrail, over the Spruce Creek Bridge (just below Bastion Falls) to the trailhead. Enjoy a moderate, 1.47 mile round-trip trek to the base of Kaaterskill Falls for a breathtaking view up the falls. Be cautious when hiking along the path as erosion and water can create slick conditions. Be sure to wear proper shoes and exercise caution when hiking near the waterfall.

Continue west on Route 23A to Haines Falls and park at the **Mountain Top Historical Society** to discover the unique history of the Catskills’ High Peaks, and to get maps of the Escarpment Trail and Hunter Mountain. These were America’s first hiking trails and the beautiful views were immortalized by celebrated novelist James Fenimore Cooper and poet William Cullen Bryant. Guided hikes around the Visitor Center are available throughout the summer and fall.

This stop on the Kaaterskill Clove Experience is also home to the **Kaaterskill Rail Trail**, a 1.5-mile section of the abandoned Ulster & Delaware Railroad; which were used to transport travelers from New York City to the Mountaintop for their summer vacation. This is the first completed section of a multi-phase, ongoing project. Feel free to bike or simply walk along this scenic road and woodland path.

Next, continue west on Route 23A to North Lake Road, ending at the **North-South Lake Campground**. At the campground parking lot near North Lake, follow the blue-blazed trail to the historic marker for the **Catskill Mountain House Site** – which closed during the First World War. It will take about five minutes from start to summit; short and sweet with a spectacular view. Commemorated by famed American author James Fenimore Cooper, the vista from this summit offers views across the Hudson River Valley, the river winding like “a curled shaving,” and the hills of New Hampshire beyond. Camp at North-South Lake for a nominal fee (though be sure to reserve a spot ahead of time as they sell out quickly), or find a cozy inn, B&B or hotel in one of the nearby towns such as Palenville or Tannersville where you’ll enjoy easy access to local dining and entertainment. Be sure to check out our lodging packages for specials available on your trip.



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Up Next

Feeling up for a larger hike? Head to the Scutt Road parking lot located outside the entrance to the campground where you will find the entrance to the **Escarpment Trail at North-South Lake**. The 23-mile long trail offers challenging terrain and breathtaking, ever-changing views. The entire trail can be hiked in two days, or you can explore it partially and head back to your car. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear and bring the necessary overnight gear and hiking maps to ensure a safe hiking journey.

Next stop on the Kaaterskill Clove Experience is **The Huckleberry Trail** located on Lake Road, next to Lake Rip Van Winkle, in the Village of Tannersville. The trail was designed from the former railroad right-of-way originally owned by the Ulster & Delaware Railroad. Currently the trail starts in the east at Clum Hill Road, next to Cortina Valley in Haines Falls, then travels around part of Lake Rip Van Winkle and exits at Bloomer Road for 2.3 miles. This is a great time to bike, walk, cross-country ski or snowshoe along the trail.

Travel next to Mountain Top Arboretum, located on Route 23C in the Village of Tannersville. The Arboretum is one of Greene County's coolest sanctuaries of native and exotic trees and shrubs. Open dawn to dusk, year-round, the Arboretum features three main areas: East and West Meadow, Woodland Walk and the Black Spruce Glen. Known as a "living museum" the Arboretum is an excellent introduction to the flora and fauna of the Catskills, offering peaceful activities amid breathtaking surroundings. Special programs such as "Fairy House and Garden Day" are held throughout the summer.

Now is a great time to break away from the trail to recharge with lunch. Route 23A from the Village of Tannersville to Hunter offers a variety of eateries and cafés perfect for a relaxing meal or grabbing a quick bite to take along the trail. Continue on to **Hunter Mountain Resort** for history and a bit of adventure where you can take the Summer and Fall Scenic Sky Ride chairlift to the summit and enjoy outstanding views across the Great Northern Catskills of Greene County. Feel like exploring a bit? The summit also boasts the highest fire tower in New York State at 4,040 feet, as well as a larger-than-lifesized stone carving of Rip Van Winkle, Washington Irving's beloved fictional character. Want to fly through the mountains? The New York Zipline Adventure Tour is the highest, fastest, and longest zipline canopy tour in North America and the second largest zipline in the world. Arriving in the evening, not a problem, you can take a night zip tour under the stars.

Hunter offers a lovely array of lodging options, from the upscale, to family-friendly, to cozy inns and B&Bs. Enjoy a sumptuous dinner and rest up for the final stops along the Kaaterskill Clove Experience. Be sure to look for [lodging packages](#) for specials available on your trip.

Good Morning, Let's Get Going!

From Hunter, continue west on Route 23 toward *Pratt Rock - New York's Mount Rushmore*. The monument is carved into a cliff as homage to the life and work of Zadock Pratt, who commissioned the carvings to commemorate his achievements. Located just outside of Prattsville on Route 23, Pratt Rock is a must-see.

Wrap up your visit in Greene County through the past at the **Zadock Pratt Museum**, which depicts the life of Prattsville founder, Zadock Pratt. Explore cultural and historical exhibits offering a glimpse into early American life through the lens of the tanning industry and railroad expansion.



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Your final stop on the Kaaterskill Clove Experience is renowned naturalist **Jon Burroughs' Woodchuck Lodge** in Roxbury. The lodge is a National Historic Landmark, and the place where Burroughs honed his essays on the natural world. You're invited to step inside the author's sanctuary and enjoy one of the many [events](#) offered throughout the summer and fall.

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