



The Kaaterskill Clove Experience – Leisure 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**, Kaaterskill Clove Lookout, Kaaterskill Falls, Mountain Top Historical Society, Kaaterskill Rail Trail, Kaaterskill Falls Viewing Platform, North-South Lake Campground, Site of the Catskill Mountain House, Mountain Top Arboretum, Hunter Mountain Resort, Pratt Rock - New York's Mount Rushmore, Zadock Pratt Museum, Jon Burroughs' Woodchuck Lodge*

Day One: The Hudson River School of Art

Begin the Kaaterskill Clove Experience at the **Greene County Visitors Center** in Leeds for insider tips on where to go, what to expect and what to see for a relaxing, yet inspiring trip through the mountains.

From the Visitors Center in Leeds, head over the Rip Van Winkle Bridge (Hudson River Skywalk) to the **Olana State Historic Site**, located across the Hudson River from Cedar Grove (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 a variety of art programs offered throughout the summer months.

For your next activity, head back to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge's 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 of 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 Town of Catskill and the **Thomas Cole National Historic Site** on Spring Street. The former home of Cole, renowned as the father of American art, is open from May through October, offering special exhibits, tours, guided hikes and events. Cole's home 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.

Now is a great time to break away from the trail to recharge with lunch. Main Street in **Catskill** offers numerous eateries and cafés perfect for a relaxing meal or a quick bite to take along the trail. The Village of Catskill also offers an array of boutiques and shops filled with jewelry, clothing, books, art galleries and more.

Next, drive to the **Historic Catskill Point and Freightmasters Building** on the Hudson River, an open-air cobblestone plaza and waterfront park ideal for a quiet stroll along the Catskill Creek, a tributary to the mighty Hudson. Also within the plaza, the Freight Master's Building and the Historic Warehouse offers insight into the history of transportation along the river.

Travel west on Route 23A for approximately 10 miles winding further towards the Catskill High Peaks. Drive through the quaint hamlet of **Palenville**, "America's First Art Colony," to arrive at **The Kaaterskill**



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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 on Route 23A through the winding mountains passing the bottom of **Kaaterskill Falls**, the highest cascading waterfall in New York State, for breathtaking views of the falls. There is no parking to the trailhead at the bottom of the falls. You must continue to the **Kaaterskill Falls Viewing Platform**.

From the parking area, continue west on Route 23A toward the **Mountain Top Historical Society** in Haines Falls, a short drive from Kaaterskill Falls. Dedicated to preserving and discovering the unique history of the Catskill High Peaks, the Mountain Top Historical Society maintains the visitor center, as well as an Art Trail Center and the Ulster & Delaware Train Depot. The Mountain Top Historical Society's Art Trail Interpretive Center is a stop along the Hudson River School of Art Trail (along with Kaaterskill Falls and the Thomas Cole National Historic Site), and was a favorite place for Hudson River School painters to ply their brushes to canvas.

This stop is also home to the **Kaaterskill Rail Trail**, a 1.5-mile section of the abandoned Ulster & Delaware Railroad. Feel free to bike or simply walk along this scenic woodland path.

After your bike or stroll, continue on Route 23A approximately one mile and turn on North Lake Road (County Route 18) and head for the **Kaaterskill Falls Viewing Platform**. Either park in the Laurel House Lane parking lot or the Scutt Road parking lot both located on the right hand side of the road. Enjoy an easy .6 mile round trip hike to the top of the falls or hike to the bottom of the falls. Although only 1.5 miles round trip, wearing sturdy footwear and following the trail markers is a must as this steep hike has slippery rocks and unstable ground. The public is prohibited from the water within 150 feet of the falls except on marked trails. Please carry-in, carry-out and Leave No Trace.

Next, continue on North Lake Road, ending at the **North-South Lake Campground**. Pick up a map at the entrance and follow to the campground parking lot closest to the site of the **Catskill Mountain House Site**, which closed during the First World War. Here you will find the short, blue-blazed hike to the historic marker for the Catskill Mountain House, which will take about five minutes from start to summit; short and sweet with a spectacular view. Immortalized 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 mountains of New Hampshire and beyond.

Camp at North-South Lake for a nominal fee (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](#), [Tannersville](#), or [Hunter](#) 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.

Day Two: Hiking to Hymns for Nature

Good morning! Begin your day by heading to the **Mountain Top Arboretum** in Tannersville to explore 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 are held throughout the summer.



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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-life-sized stone carving of **Rip Van Winkle**, Washington Irving's beloved fictional character.

Enjoy a delightful array of lunch options in the area and relax before heading on to the next stop, which lies west on Route 23. Stop at **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 **Prattville** on Route 23, Pratt Rock Park is a must-see.

Wrap up your visit through the past at the **Zadock Pratt Museum**, which depicts the life of Prattville 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.

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.

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