



The Kaaterskill Clove Experience – Adventure Itinerary

Stops Along This Route:

Greene County Visitor Center, Kaaterskill Clove Lookout, Kaaterskill Falls, Mountain Top Historical Society, Kaaterskill Falls Viewing Platform, North-South Lake Campground, Escarpment Trail at North-South Lake, Catskill Mountain House Site, Hunter Mountain Resort and Pratt Rock - "New York's Mount Rushmore"

Day One: From Visitors Center to Forest Preserve

Begin the Kaaterskill Clove Experience at **the Greene County Visitor Center** in **Leeds** for insider tips on where to go, what to expect and what to see for an enriching adventure in the mountains.

Continue west on Route 23A for approximately 10 miles, winding further towards the Catskill High Peaks. Drive through the colorful streets of **Palenville** 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 that used to bring travelers to the mountaintop for summer vacation.

Next, continue on Route 23A to **Kaaterskill Falls**, the highest cascading waterfall in New York State and the setting for several Hudson River School paintings. Continue on 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.

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.

Now is a great time to break away from the trail to recharge with lunch. Route 23A in the Village of **Tannersville** offers a variety of eateries and cafés perfect for a meal or a quick bite to take along the trail. The Village of Tannersville also offers an array of boutiques and shops filled with jewelry, clothing, and more.

After lunch, head back towards North Lake Road towards the entrance of **North-South Lake Campground**, the biggest and most popular state campground in the Catskill Forest Preserve. From the campground, you will have access to many outdoor recreation opportunities - from swimming, to fishing, to boating. You will also find access to the **Escarpment Trail at North-South Lake**, the next stop on the Kaaterskill Clove Experience.

The Escarpment Trail is a 23-mile long trail offering challenging terrain and breathtaking, ever-changing views. The entire trail can be hiked in two days from the Scutt Road parking lot, located outside the



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entrance to the campground. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear, bring the necessary overnight gear, and hiking maps to ensure a safe hiking journey. Please carry-in, carry-out and Leave No Trace.

The Escarpment Trail can also be accessed from North-South Lake parking lot, near North Lake. The trailhead also takes you to popular hiking destinations like Boulder Rock, Artist Rock, Sunset Park and the site of the **Catskill Mountain House**. The short, blue-blazed hike to the historic marker for the Catskill Mountain House – which closed during the First World War – 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.

Return to North-South Lake Campground and pitch a tent at a campsite for a nominal fee (reservations are recommended ahead of time as sites sell out quickly in the summer), or find a cozy inn, B&B or hotel in one of the nearby towns. Plus, you can enjoy easy access to local dining and entertainment options. Be sure to check out our [lodging packages](#) for specials available on your trip.

Day Two: Escarpment Trail and Beyond

Begin the next day by heading to **Hunter Mountain Resort** to explore the many outdoor recreational opportunities available. Take a ride on the **Scenic Skyride** to the summit. Once atop the summit follow the 4-mile hiking trail to the highest fire tower in NYS, **Hunter Mountain Fire Tower**. Be prepared with the proper footwear and gear. Pack a light snack and have plenty of water.

Wrap up your day of adventure at **Pratt Rock** - “*New York’s Mount Rushmore*,” homage to the life and work of Prattsville founder Zadock Pratt, Pratt commissioned the carvings to commemorate his achievements. Located just outside of **Prattsville** on Route 23, Pratt Rock Park is a must-see.

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