



The Kaaterskill Clove Experience – Family Itinerary

Stops Along This Route:

Greene County Visitor Center, 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, Kaaterskill Falls Viewing Platform, North-South Lake Campground, Catskill Mountain House Site, Mountain Top Arboretum, Hunter Mountain Resort, Pratt Rock – “New York’s Mount Rushmore,” Zaddock Pratt Museum, Jon Burroughs’ Woodchuck Lodge

Day One: River Banks to Ledge Rocks

Begin the Kaaterskill Clove Experience at the **Great Northern Catskills of 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.

Next, head to Spring Street to the **Thomas Cole National Historic Site**, the former home of Cole, the renowned father of American art. Open from May through October this site offers special exhibits, tours, guided hikes, and events. The home and grounds with views of the Catskill Mountains are the first stop on the Hudson River School Art Trail, a series of hiking trails that lead to vistas made famous by painters of the Hudson River School. Be sure to pick up your very own sketch booklet from the gift shop to do a pencil rubbing of the medallion located at each art trail stop.

Head to Main Street in the Village of **Catskill** to the **Historic Catskill Point and Freightmasters Building** on the Hudson River. The Point is home to many seasonal events from May through October. This open-air cobblestone plaza and waterfront park is an ideal spot to enjoy a quiet stroll along the Catskill Creek, a tributary to the mighty Hudson. 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.

Now is a great time to break away from the trail to recharge with lunch. Main Street in **Catskill** offers a variety of 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, art galleries and the annual “Cat n Around Catskill” public art displays.

Then, head into the mountains toward Palenville and arrive at the **Kaaterskill Clove Lookout** parking area, just before the ‘Entering Catskill Park’ sign. Park in the lot and venture off on 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 through the winding mountains passing the bottom of **Kaaterskill Falls**, the highest cascading waterfall in New York State, for breathtaking view 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**.



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Continue on 23A to **the Mountain Top Historical Society**, located in **Haines Falls**, to explore the Society's Art Trail Center and the Ulster & Delaware Train Depot on its Haines Falls campus. 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. Feel free to bike or simply walk along this scenic road and rail bend woodland path.

Camp at **North-South Lake State Campground** 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, shopping and entertainment.

Day Two: Campsite to Cabin

During the summer season, **North-South Lake Campground** provides an ideal retreat from the heat. Enjoy swimming, boating and fishing as well as camping on two pristine lakes. Canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, paddleboards and rowboats are available for rent. This is home to some of the best hiking trails, including the trail to one of the most celebrated vistas in the Great Northern Catskills of Greene County: the former site of the **Catskill Mountain House Site**.

At the campground entrance secure a map and follow to the parking lot closest to the site of the Catskill Mountain House. Here you will find the short, blue-blazed hike to the historic marker for the Catskill Mountain House site – which closed during the First World War. This will take about five minutes from start to summit; short and sweet with a spectacular view. This is an ideal for families with young kids.

Next stop on the Kaaterskill Clove Experience is **The Huckleberry Trail** located on Lake Road, next to Rip Van Winkle Lake, 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 Rip Van Winkle Lake 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.

Enjoy a delightful array of food and beverage options in the area and relax before heading on to the next stop. Main Street in the Village of **Tannersville** offers a variety of eateries and cafés perfect for a relaxing meal or a quick bite to take along the trail. The Village of Tannersville also offers a variety of boutiques and shops filled with jewelry, clothing, and much more.

Next, connect to Route 23C from Route 23A and head to the **Mountain Top Arboretum** in Tannersville to explore one of Greene County's coolest sanctuaries of local 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.

Then, the aerial adventures begin! Drive into the mountains toward Hunter for about 7 miles. At **Hunter Mountain Resort**, you can take the summer and fall **Scenic Skyride** chairlift to the summit and enjoy outstanding views across the **Great Northern Catskills of Greene County**. Feel like exploring a bit? The



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summit features a larger-than-life-sized stone carving of **Rip Van Winkle**, Washington Irving’s beloved fictional character. In addition to a spectacular view, you can also enjoy a simple picnic at one of the tables or read a book in one of many Adirondack chairs spaciouly placed under trees.

At the Summit, hike to the **Hunter Mountain Fire Tower**. Located at the highest elevation of any fire tower at 4,040 in New York State. This moderate four-mile round trip hike is a must see.

Once you catch your breath, continue west on Route 23A to Route 23 toward **Pratt Rock** - “*New York’s Mount Rushmore*,” homage to the life and work of Zadock Pratt, who commissioned the white carvings to commemorate his achievements. Located just outside of **Prattsville** on Route 23, Pratt Rock is a must-see.

Wrap up your visit through time 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.

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 this author’s sanctuary!

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