

RECOMMENDED HIKES OUTSIDE THE ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Trails in the eastern High Peaks, to the Dix Mountains, and to Giant Mountain are often crowded, ruining the Adirondack wilderness experience. The trails below provide quality hiking and great scenic views, much like the High Peaks, but without the crowds!

High and Rugged (All coordinates are in decimal degrees using NAD83/WGS84 datum.)

Rocky Peak Ridge:* East Trail in Giant Mountain Wilderness extends 6.7 miles and ascends 3,600 feet from the trailhead on Route 9N to the 4,420-foot summit of Rocky Peak Ridge and its 360 degree view. Much of the trail is along an open rocky ridge with constant views of the mountains, forests and waters to the north, east and southeast. Stop and enjoy the magnificent surrounding scenery at several renowned points along the way, including Blueberry Cobbles, at the 1.9 mile mark; Bald Mountain at the 3.9 mile mark; and the remote and picturesque Marie Louis Pond at the 6.1 mile mark. The summit provides views of the Sentinel Range, Hurricane Mountain, Lake Champlain and the surrounding valley, the Green Mountains of Vermont, Dix Mountains, the Great Range, eastern High Peaks, and nearby Giant Mountain. (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.1499°N, 73.6268°W)

Whiteface Mountain:* Whiteface Landing Trail in McKenzie Mountain Wilderness extends more than 6.0 miles and ascends 3,320 feet from the trailhead on State Route 86 to the 4,867-foot summit and its 360 degree views. The first 2.5 miles ascends a gradual 310 feet from the trailhead to Whiteface Landing, on the shore of scenic Lake Placid. Continuing on to the summit rewards you with views of Lake Champlain, Lake Placid, the Green Mountains of Vermont, the High Peaks region, and a large portion of the northeastern Adirondacks. Those seeking a much shorter hike to the summit can drive the recently renovated Whiteface Mountain Veteran's Memorial Highway (fee required) to a parking area near the summit. Then, hike the 0.15 mile trail ascending 200 feet to the summit. (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.3002°N, 73.9302°W)

Owl Head Lookout: North Trail in Giant Mountain Wilderness extends 2.5 miles and ascends 1,110 feet from the trailhead on State Route 9N to a 0.1-mile spur trail that ascends another 150 feet to a 2,530-foot lookout point. The lookout provides scenic views of Hurricane Mountain, the Boquet River Valley, Lake Champlain and the surrounding valley, the Green Mountains of Vermont, and nearby Giant Mountain. (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.2119°N, 73.6788°W)

Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain: Observer's Trail in Taylor Pond Wild Forest extends 1.9 miles and ascends 1,280 feet from the trailhead off State Route 9 to the 2,162-foot summit with 360 degree views and a fire tower. Views from the summit include the Lake Champlain, the Green Mountains of Vermont, and much of the northeastern Adirondacks. The trailhead is just 5 miles south of Exit 33 of the Northway (I-87). (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.4019°N, 73.5029°W)

Catamount Mountain: This trail in Taylor Pond Wild Forest extends 1.8 miles and ascends 1,540 feet from the trailhead on Forestdale Road to a 3,168-foot bedrock summit. The hike includes one steep and exposed scramble. The view from the summit includes Taylor Pond, Silver Lake, Union Falls Pond, the Wilmington Range, the Stephenson Range, and Whiteface Mountain. (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.4431°N, 73.8799°W)

*Do not hike when Muddy Trail Advisory is in effect

Short and Sweet (All coordinates are in decimal degrees using NAD83/WGS84 datum.)

The Crows: This trail in Hurricane Mountain Wilderness extends 0.9 mile and ascends 845 feet from the Hurricane Road Trailhead to the 2,535-foot summit of Little Crow Mountain. The summit of 2,815-foot Big Crow Mountain is located 0.6 mile and 280 feet higher up the trail. You'll find numerous scenic views from ledges along the way. Both summits provide views of the East Branch Ausable River Valley and the High Peaks. Hikers can descend 0.5 mile from Big Crow Mountain to their vehicle parked at Crow's Clearing Trailhead, or hike O'Toole Road and Hurricane Mountain Road for a 3.5-mile loop hike back to the Hurricane Road Trailhead. (Trailhead Coordinates: (Hurricane Road: 44.2583°N, 73.7529°W) (Crow's Clearing: 44.2609°N, 73.7330°W))

Bear Den Mountain: This trail in Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area extends 1.6 miles and ascends 1,160 feet from a trailhead near the parking area for the Kid Campus of the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area, to the 2,400-foot summit of Bear Den Mountain. Enjoy spectacular views of Whiteface Mountain including the ski trails and summit. The trail is part of the Flume Trail Network and is open to the public for day use free of charge. Bikes are allowed on the first 0.4 mile of the trail. The summit provides views of the West Branch Ausable River Valley, the Sentinel Range, and the Stephenson Range. Parking at Kids Campus is free. Overnight parking is prohibited. (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.3595°N, 73.8576°W)

Silver Lake Mountain: This trail in Taylor Pond Wild Forest extends 0.9 mile and ascends 900 feet from the trailhead on Silver Lake Road. The summit offers views of Silver Lake, McKenzie Mountain, Moose Mountain, Taylor Pond, Catamount Mountain, Whiteface Mountain, and the Wilmington Range. (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.5110°N, 73.8483°W)

Whiteface Landing: This 2.5-mile trail is the first portion of the Whiteface Mountain Trail. It only ascends 310 feet from the trailhead to the shore of Lake Placid, where you can view McKenzie Mountain, Moose Mountain, Moose Island, and the surrounding wilderness lands across the lake. (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.3002°N, 73.9302°W)

Copperas & Owen Ponds: This trail in Sentinel Range Wilderness extends 1.7 miles between two trailheads located on State Route 86. The trail ascends 450 feet for 0.5 mile to the clear waters of Copperas Pond and then continues 0.7 mile to Owen Pond. The trail provides access to scenic wilderness ponds and their picturesque shorelines and surrounding mountains. (Trailhead Coordinates: 44.3349°N, 73.9003°W or 44.3259°N, 73.9107°W)

Cobble Lookout: This trail in Wilmington Wild Forest extends 1.3 miles with little change in elevation from a trailhead on Gillespie Drive (aka Franklin Falls Road) to a large rocky ledge with views of nearby Whiteface Mountain, and across the Ausable River Valley to Jay Mountain, Hurricane Mountain, and many other peaks. Trailhead Coordinates: (44.4040°N, 73.8789°W)

Brewster Peninsula Nature Trails: This trail system located on the southwestern shore of Lake Placid consists of three trails loops – Boundary Trail, Ridge Trail, and Lakeshore Trail – bisected by an old dirt roadway. The trails wind over gently rolling terrain and are self-guided nature trails that may be explored using the brochures provided at the trailhead by the Lake Placid Garden Club. Trailhead Coordinates: (44.2996°N, 73.9948°W)

More hikes and links to more information and maps can be found on the Hikes Outside the High Peaks webpage. (www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9163.html)