



Welcome to the wilderness north of the city, the first great destination for the tired masses, the oasis that inspired artists from around the world: the Catskills of New York.

What did your mother used to tell you when you were underfoot? Go play outside. As an adult, you owe it to yourself to be outside as much as possible, just as you owe it to yourself to spoil your dinner with cookies if you so wish. So head to the Catskills to tackle the mountains, conquer the rivers, and smell the wild air and dance under the stars – all without having to drive too far or leave Wi-Fi at the city limits.

Begin in Palenville at the outskirts of the Kaaterskill Wild Forrest and head toward Hunter, winding up Route 23A. Stop for paddling and hiking at North-South Lake State Park, and hike to Sunset Rock and the Former Site of the Catskill Mountain House. The hiking trail continues on to Kaaterskill Falls, the highest cascading waterfall in New York State and one of the most breathtaking natural wonders in the entire Catskill Region.

At Hunter Mountain, visitors can take a zipline canopy tour on the "highest, fastest, longest zipline canopy tour in the country," any time of the year. Hiking and outdoor music festivals abound in the summer, followed by world-class skiing and riding in the winter.

West of Hunter, fishing is the name of the game and anglers are invited to to cast a line on the same waters where North American fly fishing began. Fishing season begins April 1 in New York State and the Catskills offer more than 1,000 miles of trout streams and waters to fish, including Neversink River, Beaverkill River and the Willowemoc Creek.

For equestrians, Bear Spring Mountain State Park in Highmount offers 7,100 acres of trails specifically dedicated to horseback riding thought mountain bikers, hikers, Nordic skiers and snowmobilers will find outstanding outdoor recreation year-round.

From Highmount, Belleayre Mountain is 35 miles west on Route 30, offering alpine skiing and riding throughout the winter, and an awesome beach to hang out at in summer. A short drive away in Roxbury, Plattekill Mountain offers a fun family atmosphere. The Catskills big terrain equals great skiing and riding in winter, and outstanding mountain biking, summer through fall.

One of the Catskills' top outdoor recreation outings is floating down the Delaware River. Indian Head Canoes in Barryville offers canoe and kayak rentals, as well lodging options including tent camping and cabin rentals.

To experience the unparalleled outdoor recreation of the Catskills, check out the Catskill Park, a New York State-designated "Forever Wild" area set aside and preserved for the exclusive use of outdoor enthusiasts. Explore more than 280,000 acres of fishing streams, mountain biking and hiking trails, paddling routes and camping areas in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

These are just a small sample of the many adventures that await outdoor recreation enthusiasts in the Catskills. Find more at VisitTheCatskills.com