



Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide

FALL 2026 EDITION



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Welcome to the Adirondack-Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide, your source for news, events, and other information from the Lake Placid, Wilmington and Jay area! Here you'll find information about current and upcoming events so you can catch all the incredible opportunities this region has to offer and plan for your stay at our home.

We look forward to your visit!



In Autumn, most visitors enjoy hiking our many trails or going for a ride on the Whiteface Mountain gondola to view the incredible Fall colors. Fishing and paddling in the AuSable River and nearby lakes is also fantastic and a perfect way to view the natural beauty and wildlife the Adirondacks has to offer.

There are many special events in the Fall season including [Oktoberfest](#) at Whiteface Mountain Ski Resort, [Flaming Leaves Festival](#), and so much more!

Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



Lake Everest

Wilmington Activities

Lake Everest at Wilmington Town Beach, on Bowman Lane off Rte 86, is beautiful with a kayak launch, playground, BBQ grills, pavilion and short walking path. It's dog friendly at the far end and a fantastic place to take the family for an afternoon of fun!

Santa's Workshop, is taking a short break this fall while the park undergoes renovations and improvements. While it will be closed during the fall season, the North Pole plans to welcome visitors back in November 2026, just in time for the holiday season!

Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



Whiteface Mountain

Wilmington Activities (cont.)

Take the gondola ride to the top of the mountain at [Whiteface Mountain Ski Resort](#) and enjoy breathtaking views. The adventurous can also enjoy the zip line! Play disc golf at the bottom of the mountain or hike on one of the many trails. [Oktoberfest](#) at Whiteface Mountain will be held 9/26 and 9/27. There's German beer and food, bounce houses, pumpkin painting, and crafts.

Drive up [Whiteface Memorial Highway](#) to Whiteface Mountain for breathtaking 360 degree vistas and then hike up the remaining half mile to the observation deck, or take the mountain elevator. There's a restaurant and gift shop. Closes 10/12/26.

View impressive waterfalls and rock formations at [High Falls Gorge](#) along a scenic walkway. Open 5/02/26 to 10/25/26 (re-opens Fridays to Tuesdays 12/19/26 to 12/24/26).

Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



Lake Placid Activities

Skate or take in exciting sporting events at the Lake Placid Olympic Center. The 2026 World Figure and Fancy Skating Championships will be held 10/7 to 10/11 and Adirondack Winter Invitational will be held 11/27 to 11/28.

The Olympic Ski Jumps on Cascade Rd is also worth a visit. Take the gondola and/or elevator to the top and imagine yourself skiing from that vertical drop! And if that's not enough, try the Sky Flyer Zipline. The view of the surrounding Adirondack Mountains is spectacular! Soaring Saturday on 9/5 to watch ski jumping competitions at 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

Mark your calendar for the Flaming Leaves Festival on October 11 to 12. The festival has music, food, crafts, beer and loads of Fall color! Skiers will be jumping overhead, for an amazing show!

Area golf courses include Lake Placid Links, Whiteface Golf Course, Craig Wood (public). And for mini golfing fun, head to Boots and Birdies!

Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



Lake Placid Activities (cont.)

Stroll Main Street in downtown Lake Placid for shopping and dining. There are many fantastic waterfront restaurants and unique specialty shops to enjoy. An afternoon of pampering more your style? Relax and rejuvenate at the [Mirror Lake Inn Spa](#).

Picturesque Mirror Lake on Main Street is the perfect place to kayak and stand-up paddle board. There's a kayak launch at the beach end. Rentals available at EMS and at One Main Park. Mirror Lake is dog friendly near the kayak launch.

And for that occasional rainy day?

No resort town would be complete without a classic movie theatre! Check out the Palace Theater for the latest movies in this historic building.

With bowling and arcade games, [Big Z's Hangout](#) is fun for the whole family!

Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



Mt. Van Hoevenberg

Lake Placid Activities (cont.)

The Lake Placid Classic Half Marathon & 10K takes place on Saturday, October 11, 2025, starting at 8:00 a.m. from the North Elba Horse Show Grounds.

Celebrate cinema, November 5 to Nov 8th. The Lake Placid Film Festival, held in late fall, brings film lovers, directors, and producers alike to view current, provocative features and short film selections.

Visit Mount Van Hoevenberg for its Cliffside Coaster, rock climbing wall, Bobsled Experience and Legacy Tour. You can also go mountain biking (bikes available for rent), hike or take in events such as:

- UCI Mountain Bike World Series 10/2 to 10/4/26

The only MTB world cup races in the U.S. this year!

Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



Dining

There's plenty of great dining in Wilmington, Jay and Lake Placid!

In Wilmington, check out the [Hungry Trout](#), [Fratelli's](#), and [Twisted Raven](#). Stop by the [Little Supermarket Deli](#) to pick up sandwiches for your day of adventure!

We recommend the [ADK Coffee Company](#) in Upper Jay for breakfast and lunch and the [Ice Jam Inn Restaurant](#) for dinner. Also great for lunch and dinner is the farm-to-table [Forty-Six](#) and the [AuSable Inn Restaurant](#), famous for their Hungarian Mushroom Soup.

In Lake Placid, [The Cottage at Mirror Lake](#) is a great spot for food and views and [Simply Gourmet](#) is fantastic for lunch, both on-premises and to-go!

Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



AuSable Chasm

More Ideas!

Not far, but a little further afield, is incredible [Ausable Chasm](#), open for rafting, rappelling, rock climbing, hiking and a zip-lining. The chasm is vast and deep with a beautiful, well-maintained path surrounding it.

The [Wild Center](#) in Tupper Lake is fun for all ages! It's open 10 am to 5 pm from Memorial Day through October. Open on the weekends from November to March. It features a Wild Walk, a trail of bridges through the Adirondack forest tree tops. There is also a museum with fascinating exhibits, lectures, and walking trails for exploring the vast and beautiful property. Catch a glimpse of wildlife on a Raquette River canoe trip with a naturalist guide.

There is tons to do at [Paul Smith's Visitor Interpretive Center](#) ("the VIC")! Enjoy workshops, hiking trails, and guided nature walks. The Center also has a butterfly house, and canoeing (check website for details).

Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



There is so much to do and see in this area during the gorgeous Autumn season!

With the colors of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park like a spectacular painting, visitors come here to relax, take in nature and enjoy the outdoors. With the cooler weather, enjoy hiking trails from easy to strenuous and everything in between. Kayaking and canoeing in our many pristine lakes is amazing but go prepared with warmer gear.

Check the forecast as snow can fall as early as Thanksgiving! Weather dependent, you may wish to bring (or rent) your sled, Nordic skis and snowshoes so you can enjoy early winter activities. Many supplies can be rented at [Cunningham's](#) in Lake Placid, or at High Falls Gorge.

We hope you enjoy your stay and return next season or next year. The Adirondacks are an incredible natural playground year-round!



Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide



Luxurious Stay in the ADKs

We are always delighted to welcome - and welcome back – our guests!

Please contact us for our other seasonal guides with information about what's on when you plan to be here, as well as our beautiful vacation rental homes.

Best wishes for a wonderful visit!

Your friends at Adirondack Vacation