



Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide

Winter 2025 - 2026



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Welcome to the Adirondack Vacation Seasonal Attractions Guide!

Your go-to source for news, events, and must-see happenings in the **Lake Placid, Wilmington, and Jay** area. Inside, you'll find everything you need to make the most of your stay — from upcoming festivals and outdoor adventures to local favorites and seasonal highlights.

We can't wait to welcome you and hope you enjoy your Adirondack vacation!



Winter in the Adirondacks

When winter blankets the Adirondacks, adventure comes alive! Enjoy alpine skiing at **Whiteface Mountain**, or explore miles of scenic trails for **snowshoeing**, **cross-country skiing**, and **winter trekking**. Glide across outdoor **ice-skating rinks**, experience the thrill of **dog sledding**, or take a ride down the famous **toboggan chute**—there's excitement for everyone!

Don't miss our signature seasonal events, including the **CAN/AM Challenge Cup**, **Miracle Holiday Classic**, **Empire State Winter Games**, and the **U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame** celebrations—plus many more that make this region a true winter wonderland.

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Wilmington Activities

Whiteface Mountain Ski Resort

Whiteface Mountain is known for its reliable snowfall, with **nightly snowmaking starting in December** (weather permitting). All our homes are conveniently located **within a 30-minute drive** of the mountain—many are just **15 minutes or less** away!

Lift tickets are available for purchase online at [Whiteface.com](https://www.whiteface.com).

Santa's Workshop - Wilmington, NY

Since **1949**, [Santa's Workshop](#) has been spreading holiday cheer in the heart of the Adirondacks. This **Christmas-themed village** delights families with festive shows, visits with Santa, live reindeer, and charming rides for all ages.

For the **2025 season**, Santa's Workshop will be open for **Winter Weekends** on **Saturdays and Sundays from November 15 through December 14**, plus **Friday, November 28**, from **10:00 AM – 3:30 PM**.

Don't miss the magical "**Village of Lights**" experience on **December 1, 7, and 14–21**, from **4:30 PM – 8:00 PM** — a holiday tradition that brings the spirit of Christmas to life!

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Wilmington Activities (cont.)

High Falls Gorge

Discover the natural beauty of High Falls Gorge, where **four spectacular waterfalls** tumble through a **billion-year-old granite canyon**. Open year-round, this awe-inspiring destination offers **sturdy bridges and walkways** that make it easy and safe for visitors of all ages to enjoy the views.

In winter (mid-December through March), experience the magic of the season as icy formations transform the gorge into a sparkling wonderland. Guests can explore with **provided traction gear** or **snowshoe** along the peaceful one-mile nature trail. After your adventure, warm up by the campfire with **hot chocolate and marshmallows**, or relax at the cozy **River View Café**.

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Lake Placid Activities

Winter Fun in Lake Placid

For a true Adirondack thrill, take a ride down the Toboggan Chute **on Mirror Lake** — a favorite winter tradition! The entrance is conveniently located **across from the Post Office on Main Street**.

If you love to skate, glide across the Olympic Speed Skating Oval in front of the Lake Placid School (rentals available), or enjoy indoor skating next door at the **Olympic Center**. When conditions allow and the ice is thick enough, you can also skate **directly on Mirror Lake or Lake Everest in Wilmington** for a classic outdoor experience.

Looking for something unforgettable? Try dog sledding on Mirror Lake — a fun and family-friendly adventure that captures the magic of winter in the Adirondacks!

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Lake Placid Activities (cont.)

Cross-Country Ski in a Winter Wonderland!

Glide through the beauty of the Adirondacks on countless scenic trails! For world-class **Nordic skiing on perfectly groomed tracks**, head to the **Olympic trails at Mt. Van Hoevenberg** — a favorite for both beginners and seasoned skiers.

While you're there, feel the **rush of Olympic speed** on the bobsled run or take an exhilarating ride down the Cliffside Coaster.

Looking for indoor adventure? Challenge yourself on the **30-foot top-rope climbing wall** at Mt. Van Hoevenberg. And don't miss the iconic Olympic Ski Jumps on Old Military Road — ride the elevator to the top for breathtaking **360° views** of the Adirondacks and, if you're lucky, catch ski jumpers in action!

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Winter Carnival

Saranac Lake Winter Carnival

Mark your calendars! The [2026 Saranac Lake Winter Carnival](#) takes place **February 6–15, 2026** — a beloved **10-day celebration** that has been warming up winter since **1897**.

At the heart of the carnival stands the breathtaking **Ice Palace**, hand-built from ice blocks harvested from **Lake Flower** and illuminated each night with a dazzling display of color. Throughout the week, enjoy lively **parades**, **fireworks**, **winter sports**, and a variety of **unique local traditions** that capture the spirit of the Adirondacks.

Recognized by **National Geographic** and other top travel outlets, this one-of-a-kind event is a **must-see winter experience** for visitors of all ages!

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Dining

Great Dining in Wilmington, Jay & Lake Placid

The Adirondacks are full of flavor, and you'll find plenty of delicious options throughout **Wilmington, Jay, and Lake Placid!**

In **Wilmington**, enjoy dinner with a view at The Hungry Trout, classic Italian fare at Fratelli's, or tavern dining at the **Twisted Raven**. For a quick bite or picnic provisions, stop by the Little Supermarket Deli for freshly made sandwiches.

Head to **Upper Jay** for coffee and breakfast at ADK Mountain Coffee, or cozy dinner at the charming Ice Jam Inn Restaurant. Also nearby, Forty-Six offers delicious farm-to-table dishes, while the AuSable Inn Restaurant in Keene Valley is famous for its hearty **Hungarian Mushroom Soup**.

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Lake Placid Holiday Village Stroll

December 12–14, 2025

Celebrate the magic of the season during the **Lake Placid Holiday Village Stroll**, when our mountain town transforms into a true **winter wonderland**. Enjoy festive activities including a **tree-lighting ceremony**, **caroling**, **horse-drawn wagon rides**, and special **holiday dining and shopping events** throughout the village. It's the perfect **family weekend getaway** to experience the warmth and charm of the Adirondacks during the holidays.

November 2025 Highlights

Skate America International Figure Skating

November 14–16 | Olympic Center

Watch world-class skaters compete at this premier international event, right here in Lake Placid.

Adirondack Health 5K Turkey Trot

November 27 | 8:30 AM | Lake Placid

Start your Thanksgiving morning with this beloved community tradition — a flat, family-friendly 5K run/walk supporting local food pantries and wellness programs.

Wild Lights at The Wild Center

Fridays & Saturdays, November 28, 2025 – February 28, 2026

Experience the Adirondacks in a whole new light! Stroll through dazzling outdoor displays that illuminate the trails and exhibits at The Wild Center.

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More Winter Events:

December 2025

- Santa Sunday:
December 14, 2025 8:30am-4:00pm, Whiteface Mountain
- FIL Luge World Cup
MT. Van Hoevenberg): December 19-20, 2025

January 2026

- ISI Championships:
January 2 to 4, 2026 at the Olympic Center
- US Cross Country National Championships:
January 4-9, 2026 at Mt. Van Hoevenberg

February 2026

- Empire State Winter Games (Olympic Center):
Feb 5 to Feb 8 2026 at the Olympic Center
- IBU Cup:
February 26-28, 2026 & March 1, 4-8, 2026 at Mt. Van Hoevenberg

March 2026

- Saranac Lake St. Patrick's Day Parade:
March 14, 2026
- FIS Cross Country World Cup Finals:
March 19-21, 2026 at Mt. Van Hoevenberg



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Winter Adventures Await in the Adirondacks!

Step outside and discover endless ways to enjoy winter in the Adirondacks! From **snowshoeing, skiing, and winter trekking** to simply unwinding in a **hot tub, sauna, or by a crackling fire**, there's something for everyone to love.

Need gear? Rentals are available at **EMS** or **Cunningham's** in Lake Placid, as well as at **High Falls Gorge**. Feeling adventurous? Try something new and sign up for **ice climbing** or **mountaineering classes** at EMS in Lake Placid!

We hope you enjoy your stay and return soon — whether next season or anytime during the year. The **Adirondacks' natural beauty and endless activities** make it a destination for all seasons!



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Luxurious Getaway in the Adirondacks

We're thrilled to welcome new guests and warmly greet our returning friends.

Reach out for our seasonal guides, packed with events and activities for your visit dates, plus details on our stunning vacation rental homes.

Wishing you an unforgettable stay!

Your friends at Adirondack Vacation

