



ADVENTURES
in good company



ADVENTURES IN THE ADIRONDACKS

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayaking on the Moose River and Raquette Lake
- Climbing several Adirondacks Peaks, including Blue Mt and Cascade Mt, one of the Adirondack High Peaks
- Learning about the unique private/public partnership that keeps this area "Forever Wild"
- Enjoying crisp fall air and changing foliage
- Listening to the haunting call of the loon

Phone: 877-439-4042

Outside the US: 970-833-3132

Email: info@goodadventure.com

TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Adirondacks State Park, NY
Activities:	Multisport
Arrive:	At 2PM on Day 1 at the Albany Airport (ALB)
Depart:	At 10:45AM on the last day at the Albany Airport. You can fly out any time after 12PM.

Trip Overview

Adirondack State Park in northern New York is unique. At over 6 million acres of both private and public land, half of it wilderness, larger than Yellowstone and Yosemite combined. Diverse ecosystems exist here: alpine and sub-alpine zones, boreal forest, and lowland lake systems, providing suitable habitat for black bears, deer, bobcats, beaver, fishers, and numerous bird species - even moose are returning to the region. The human history is no less fascinating. Over the years it has been the home of farmers who struggled to scratch a living from thin soil and harsh winters, miners and loggers who participated in the exploitation of its natural resources, Adirondack guides renowned for their skills in the woods, and wealthy industrialists, builders of the famous Adirondack Great Camps. In autumn, after the summer crowds have departed, the invigorating weather and brilliant foliage make the Park an ideal location for a vacation that is both active and relaxing. Maximum group size: 12

Rating

Each day includes 3 to 5 hours of activity and the variety of activities (e.g. hiking and kayaking) require a good all-around fitness level, so this trip requires being in good physical condition. As the hiking trails in the Adirondacks tend to be quite challenging because of their footing and steepness, the difficulty may be greater than the mileage would indicate. The trip is rated 3. Prior to beginning the trip, participants should be engaging in aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week. **Rating:** 1 2 **3** 4 5.

What's Included

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Seven nights lodging in double occupancy rooms, most of which do not have en suite bathrooms
- All activities on the itinerary, including kayak rental and shuttles and a visit to the Adirondack Experience Museum
- All meals from dinner Sunday to breakfast the following Sunday
- Transportation once you arrive in the Albany, NY airport (ALB)

What's not included: Travel to and from Albany, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities, and travel insurance.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Our trip begins today at the Albany, NY airport where we'll pick you up at 2PM. After loading our gear into the vans we'll drive 2.5 hours to the west central part of the Adirondack State Park. This State Park is unique: bigger than Yellowstone and Yosemite combined, it is a mix of publicly and privately owned land, and over half of it is wilderness. We'll only see a small section on our way to Big Moose Lake, just outside the town of Old Forge, NY. Big Moose Lake is big on peace and quiet and incredible Adirondack scenery. After getting settled into our comfortable cabins in the woods, we will go out to dinner, watch our first sunset over the lake, and listen for our first loon calls of the trip. (D)

DAY 2

Wake up to the haunting call of the loon and the mist slowly rising off the lake, and then take your morning drink down by the dock and relax in a traditional Adirondack chair. We will enjoy a hearty and delicious breakfast prepared by the guides, just what we need to get ready for a day of kayaking on the Moose River. The Moose is a slow-moving flatwater river that winds through beautiful, classic Adirondack landscape. You will be surrounded by towering pine trees, low shrubs, and kingfishers darting back and forth across the river. We'll start our paddle with some instruction on the basics of kayaking to help make your trip more enjoyable. We find that even experienced kayakers often benefit from reviewing the correct way to paddle so that you use more of your core muscles and less of your arms. The Moose River is an excellent kayaking river, whether you're a first-time paddler or have years of experience. We'll be on the beautiful North Branch of the Moose River, exploring the Adirondack wilderness, and enjoying the splendid scenery as we paddle along with the gently moving current. Our paddle will be about three hours total and along the way we'll stop to enjoy a picnic lunch.

Depending on our time and energy, on the way back to our cabins we can hike up to the fire tower on top of Bald Mountain. Although only 2 miles round trip, it's a steep hike and leads to stunning views of the Fulton Chain. Fire towers were originally built for the purpose of spotting new fires, a task that is now largely accomplished by aerial surveillance. Many are still open to hikers, however, and their location always assures great views. As the guides cook another delicious dinner, you can relax at our lake side cabin. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

After another morning breakfast by the lake, we pack up our things and drive north to Blue Mountain Lake for some more hiking. Blue Mountain also has a fire tower on the summit, this one with a 360-degree view of the lakes, forests, hills, and mountains - including some of the High Peaks, the area where we'll be in a couple of days. This is a 4-mile round trip hike with an elevation gain of 1550 feet, with some steep areas and a beautiful path that traverses bare rock, large roots, and wet soil. We will hike through spruce, balsam fir, paper birch, mountain ash, and maple, before coming to the clearing and the tower, where a picnic lunch will reward our efforts. We will then drive back to Raquette Lake where we will be staying at the Great Camp Sagamore. Sagamore was the private wilderness estate of the Vanderbilt family from 1901 to 1954. Like all the Adirondack Great Camps, it was designed by William West Durant, a fascinating character in his own right. Although his success as a businessman was up and down, he was known for his ability to design wilderness estates for wealthy families that integrated luxury (for the time) with a rustic feel, a magic that is still apparent today. Tonight, we'll have dinner at Sagamore. Overnight Great Camp Sagamore (B, L, D)

DAY 4

We'll spend today kayaking on Raquette Lake, the second largest lake in the Adirondacks. Our paddle will offer some shoreline cruising, history of the lake, and the camps that grace it. Raquette Lake is known for having 99 miles of shoreline and after you see some of its many bays, inlets, and islands, you'll know it's true. Along the way we'll stop for a picnic lunch and to stretch our legs. Returning to the Sagamore in the afternoon, we'll have time for a tour - with 27 buildings on the National Historic Register, it is a fascinating place. We'll make sure to have some free time to enjoy the wonderful surroundings. After dinner, we'll have a campfire and relax in a traditional Adirondack Lean-to, the perfect setting for telling stories. Overnight Great Camp Sagamore (B, L, D)

DAY 5

After breakfast we leave Sagamore and head north. Our first stop is the Adirondack Museum, widely regarded as one of the best regional museums in the country. It showcases how humans have interacted with the mountains over the years. After spending a few hours there we'll continue to our afternoon hike, Coney Mountain. At 2.2 miles and a relatively gradual incline, this is one of those trails where you are amply rewarded for relatively little effort, including 360-degree views of Tupper Lake and the High Peaks. Tonight, we'll have dinner at a restaurant before continuing to Keene Valley and our new home for the next three nights. Overnight at the Trails End Inn. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

We've now arrived at the part of the Adirondacks with the highest peaks. You may have heard of the High Peaks Wilderness area - this is where most of the higher peaks, including New York's highest, Mt Marcy, are located. To be considered a "high peak", the summit must be over 4,000 feet - and Cascade Mountain is one of those peaks. This is a 4.8-mile round trip hike that will take about 4.5-5 hours, gaining 1940 feet in elevation before reaching the summit at 4098. If it's a clear day the view goes on forever. We'll relax with a picnic lunch on top. If that isn't appealing, another excellent choice is Baxter Mountain, which also offers outstanding views. It's a mostly moderate, 1.2-mile hike to the first summit, beginning at a moderate grade then climbing over switchbacks with a few steep steps to the first open rock. It's an out and back hike, 2.4 miles total with 770 feet elevation gain. Whichever climb you choose; you will have some free time in Lake Placid. You can check out some of the shops on Main Street, visit the Olympic Museum and see the famous rink where the "Miracle on Ice" hockey game took place, or simply enjoy a walk around Mirror Lake. Tonight we'll have dinner in town before returning to Trails End Inn. Overnight at Trails End. (B, L, D)

DAY 7

This is our final full day in the Adirondacks and Rooster Comb Mountain is a fitting finale. A 5-mile round trip hike, it gains 1750 feet of elevation on its way to the summit at 2788 feet so we will feel quite accomplished. Like most of the mountains in the Adirondacks, the hike includes some steep sections, traverses, and a (very) few flat sections with rewarding views at the summit. Tonight, we'll have a final farewell dinner back at Trails End Inn, celebrating our accomplishments and camaraderie of the past week. Overnight at Trails End. (B, L, D)

DAY 8

We hope by the end of the week you have fallen in love with the Adirondacks as much as we have, and you won't be ready to leave. But unfortunately, it's time, and after breakfast we'll pack up for the 2- hour drive back to Albany. We'll have you back by 10:45AM and you can plan to fly out any time after 12PM. (B)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

If you are flying: Fly into Albany International Airport (ALB), prior to 2:30PM to meet the group pick-up at 3PM in the baggage claim area.

If you are driving:

- We recommend leaving your car at the Albany Airport to meet the group in the baggage claim area for the group transfer
- If you prefer to drive to Old Forge, plan to meet the group by 6PM at our Big Moose Lake Cottages
- **Note:** If you drive, you will need to drive for the duration of the trip as we do not return to Old Forge

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

Accommodations

We will be staying at three very different places during this trip. The first two nights will be spent in comfortable cabins on Big Moose Lake. We will then stay at [Great Camp Sagamore](#), one of the original Adirondack Great Camps, in one of the 9-bedroom lodges that we will have to ourselves. We will finish the trip with three nights at [Trails End Inn](#). **Please Note:** These are locally owned Inns and Camps, very indicative of the Adirondacks. There will be a mixture of single and double occupancy rooms, and a mixture of rooms with bathrooms en suite, and bathrooms available in shared hallways. Aside from roommate requests, the rooms will be randomly assigned. On this trip we can offer 2 single supplements which will guarantee a private room throughout. A single supplement will not, however, guarantee you a private ensuite bathroom. We can accommodate a variety of dietary preferences and restrictions but, depending on your specific circumstances, we may ask you to bring supplemental food. Please call the office if you would like help planning.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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