

A Day-Trippers' Guide to the Catskills

Lodging with a Twist: To Airbnb or not to Airbnb

Along the Slopes

Out & About in Catskill Country

& More!



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A DAY-TRIPPERS' GUIDE tothe



Photo from Candlestock Facebook

By Alyshia Korba

For the Holidays

With over 30 shops and 20 eateries, Woodstock in Ulster County is a great option for a day of shopping, especially during the holiday season. Some popular stops include:

The Tea Shop

7 Maple Lane, Woodstock,

Wednesday–Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Stop by The Tea Shop to grab something for the tea-lover on your list. The shop carries every type of tea you can think of along with mugs, infusers, sweeteners and more.

Candlestock

16 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock, every day 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Candlestock offers a wide variety of candles from classic tealights to novelty shapes and detailed designs. Candlestock is also known for the infamous "Candle Mountain" that is prominently displayed in the center of the store.

Crafts People

262 Spillway Road, West Hurley, Saturday, Sunday 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Crafts People would have been the perfect one-stop shop for everyone on vour list, but with over 500 artists contributing to its stock it had to be spread across two buildings. Because everything is handmade, each piece is different from the next, making it a great

THE PARTY

Photo from Crafts People Facebook A delightful casserole by Hodaka.

> place to shop for that person who has everything.

Tinker Toys 5 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock, Friday, Monday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. This eccentric toy store is packed with unique gifts for children young and old.

Browse classic games, new toys and unusual finds in an ever-changing collection.

When you need a break from shopping, check out some of these Woodstock gems:

Bread Alone Bakery Café and bakery at 22 Mill Hill Road. Woodstock, open 7 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Peace, Love & Cupcakes A cupcake shop at 54 Tinker Street, Woodstock, open 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekends.

Woodstock Artists Association

and Museum

Art gallery at 28 Tinker Street, Woodstock, open noon-5 p.m. Thursdav-Sundav.

The Harana Market

A Filipino restaurant and market at 603 Wittenberg Road, Woodstock, open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

Selection of baked goods offered at Bread Alone.

stings go to www.CatskillCountry.con

CATSKILL COUNTRY FALL/WINTER 2022

Photo from Bread Alone Facebook

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For the Artist

While the Catskill region is filled with artistic attractions, many of them can be found throughout **Sullivan County.** Some spots you may consider include:

Jitterbug

67 Main Street, Livingston Manor, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday–Saturday

11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Pick up supplies for your arts and crafts projects or some new records for your collection at Jitterbug. Along with art supplies and music, the store also carries toys and games.

Catskill Art Society 48 Main Street, Livingston Manor, Sunday 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Monday, Thursday–Saturday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.



Photo from CAS Art Center Facebook Gallery space at the Catskill Art Society Center.

View of Blue Hill Catskill's museum, brewery, and event center.

Visit the Catskill Arts Society Arts Center to experience a diversity of art forms including musicians, dancers, visual arts and more. The arts center hosts events, exhibits and classes for the public. Find programming updates at catskillartsociety.org.

Liberty Museum & Arts Center

46 South Main Street, Liberty,

Wednesday–Saturday noon–4 p.m. At this historic building you can find both arts and history programming. Along with its annual members art show, the museum has a constant rotation of exhibits featuring local artists.

Blue Hill Catskills

1471 Denning Road, Claryville, Thursday, Friday 3 p.m.–8 p.m., Saturday

noon-8 p.m., Sunday noon-6 p.m. This restaurant, brewery and lodge is

also home to the Claryville Arts Center. The center houses the works of Russianborn American contemporary artist Alexander Kaletski. Along with this permanent installation, the center rotates exhibits of local artists' work.

While you are in the area, stop by these attractions:

Main Street Farm

A cafe and market at 36 Main Street, Livingston Manor, open 10 a.m.– 6 p.m. Monday–Saturday and 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Sunday.

Catskill Brewery

672 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, open 3 p.m.–7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday; 1 p.m.–8 p.m. Friday; noon–8 p.m. Saturday; and noon–7 p.m. Sunday. A La Mexicana Mexican restaurant at 58 S Main Street, Liberty, open 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Saturday and 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Sunday.

Liberty Heights Trampoline and Adventure Park

Entertainment park in the ShopRite Plaza, 1939 State Rt. 52, Liberty, open noon–5 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m.–5 p.m. Saturday and noon–7 p.m. Sunday.

Chocolicious Candy shop at 1855 State Rt. 52, Liberty, open 10 a.m.–9 p.m. Sunday–Tuesday and Thursday, and 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Friday.

For the Bookworm

If you are looking for a book-lover's paradise, look no further than *Hobart in Delaware County* — aptly nicknamed the "book village."

Creative Corner Books 607 Main Street, Hobart, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. weekends; daily from Memorial Day to Columbus Day This shop specializes in cooking, crafting and DIY books, but you can also find handmade gifts by local artisans.

Adam's Antiquarian Books 608 Main Street, Hobart, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. weekends; daily from

Memorial Day to Columbus Day

With three floors of bookshelves, this is the ultimate one-stop bookshop. The owners are always happy to offer you a cup of tea while you shop the wide array of genres.

(Left) Photo from Blenheim Hill Books Facebook

New York Books & Ephemera

615 Main Street, Hobart, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. weekends; daily from Memorial Day to Columbus Day

Staying true to its name, you can find a variety of books relating to New York including history, geography, biographies, local authors and more at this stop. Along with local books you can find local farm products and handmade goods.

Liberty Rock Books

678 Main Street, Hobart, 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. weekends; daily from Memorial Day to Columbus Day Along with the collection of used and new books, this shop also doubles as an art and collectors gallery. Here you can find rare book finds as well as a collection of jazz records and CDs and 40,000 vintage New York postcards.

Blenheim Hill Books

698 Main St., Hobart, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. weekends; daily from Memorial Day to Columbus Day The collection found in this shop



NOVE

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Photo from Lion Eyes Facebook Lion Eyes Books, Hobart.

has been curated by the owners to reflect their individual interests including poetry and history, women's studies, children's and young adult books, and gardening and cooking guides.

Lion Eyes Books

722 Main St., Hobart,

11 a.m.–5 p.m. weekends; daily from Memorial Day to Columbus Day

Find collections of art, philosophy, psychology and spiritual books at Lion Eyes Books. Discover new lesser-known writers or rediscover some classics.

More Good Books

645 Main Street, Hobart, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. weekends; daily from

Memorial Day to Columbus Day. One of the newer shops in the book village, this store specializes in books on railroads, ships and boats, automobiles, games and sports, hobbies and pets.

Once you stock your bookshelf in the village, explore some shops and eateries in the area:

The Sheep's Nest

Shop at 45 Main Street, Hobart, open Thursday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Coffee Pot Café and restaurant at 581 Main St., Hobart open 6 a.m.– 1:30 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday and 6 a.m.–11 a.m. Sunday.

Mac-A-Doodle's

Restaurant and ice cream shop at 33 Harper Street, Stamford, open Tuesday–Sunday 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m. and Monday 10:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

Harpersfield Cheese Cheese shop at 1677 County Highway 29, Harpersfield, open 11 a.m.–4 p.m. daily.

For the History Buff

Known as the "breadbasket" of the American Revolution, **Schoharie County** is one of the most historically significant in the Catskills region and offers a bounty of learning opportunities for the aspiring historian.

The Iroquois Museum

324 Caverns Rd., Howes Cave, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday and noon–5 p.m. Sunday through Oct. 31; 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Thursday–Saturday

and noon – 4 p.m. Sundays in November. Closed December to March. Before its role in the history of Europe-



Photo from Old Stone Fort Museum & Schoharie County Historical Society Facebook Historical reenactors stand in front of the entrance of the Old Stone Fort during Stone Fort Days in 2019.

an settlement in the Americas, Schoharie was home to the Kanien'kehá'ka, or Mohawk, people. Discover the history of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois, and learn about life in a longhouse at this museum.

Old Stone Fort Museum

145 Fort Rd., Schoharie. Open by appointment. Call 518-295-7192 to schedule a visit.

This fort was built in 1772 and was originally a High Dutch Reformed Church. The building was made into a fort in 1777 and attacked by the British army in 1780. At the fort, you can see thousands of historic artifacts from the revolutionary war period.

Palatine House Museum

102 Warner Hill Road, Schoharie,

Noon-4 p.m. weekends

or by appointment.

The Palatine House is the oldest building in Schoharie County having been built in 1743 by Palatine Germans who settled the area. The house, built for Minister Peter Nicholas Sommer, is now a living history museum operated by the Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association.

Schoharie Valley Railroad Museum

207 Arrow Lane, Schoharie,

Noon-4 p.m. weekends.

Learn the history of local railway transportation at this museum where you can see the original 1875 station house, freight shed, weigh station and mill building along with two small whistle-stop stations and the Borden's Creamery building. You can also see a restored 1891 passenger car from the Middleburgh and Schoharie Railroad and a 1917 wooden caboose.



Photo from Palatine House Museum Facebook

New York State Historic Markers

If you keep an eye out for the blue and gold New York state historical markers, you will find that Schoharie has no short-



New York state historic marker for Swarts Tavern, Schoharie.

age of historic sites. Within the county there are 52 historic markers including sites from Native American history, German settlement of the land, the American Revolution and more. Visit sites like the Old Blenheim Bridge, reported to be the longest single span wooden bridge in the world.

While you discover the history of Schoharie County, enjoy some its present-day marvels like:

The Carrot Barn

Farm market and cafe at 5605 State Rt. 30, Schoharie,

open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

Apple Barrel

Restaurant and country store at 115 State Rt. 30A open 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday–Thursday and 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Wayward Lane Brewing

Brewery at 255 Ward Lane, Schoharie, open 4 p.m.–9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; noon – 9 p.m. Saturday and noon–7 p.m. Sunday.

Middle Village Pasta & Grill

Italian restaurant at 334 Main Street, Middleburgh, open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. weekends.



The Out & About calendar of events is a (by county) list of events that were available at the time of publication. To check for weekly updated event listings please visit www.catskillcountry.com

Delaware County

• Oct. 1: Delhi Harvest Festival 2022

The Delhi Harvest Festival provides a fun-filled shopping experience for all. Take a walk down Main Street and visit Delhi's local shops, then visit the vendors on Courthouse Square selling jewelry, home decor, baked goods, and so much more. Festivities commence at 10 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m.

• Oct. 1: Music on the Delaware concert series

In-person at the historic Walton Theatre, presenting high-quality regional and international performers. The lineup is sure to please music lovers of all genres. Concerts occur on select Saturday nights: Oct. 1 & 29, Feb. 11, March 11, and April 29. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. For more information and tickets, visit musiconthedelaware.org.

• Oct. 6-Nov. 3: The Monthly Make

On the First Thursday of each month, The Monthly Make at the Headwaters Arts Center, Stamford,

offers the opportunity to gather with friends and fellow community members to work on creative projects while in great company. For more information, visit roxburyartsgroup.org.

• Oct. 8 & 9: Footy Fest 2022

NYC Footy is New York City's most iconic recreational soccer league with a community of over 13,000 players. Off the pitch, NYC Footy hosts seasonal parties, soccer viewings, and the Footy Fest. For more information, visit footyfest.com.

Oct. 8 & 9: Taste of the Catskills Festival

A family-friendly event that showcases the food, beer, crafts, and wine of our region at Maple Shade Farm, Delhi. Saturday's events will culminate with a harvest dinner paired with craft beer, prepared entirely from local ingredients. Weather permitting, there will be a bonfire during the day. For more information, visit tasteofthecatskills.com.

Oct. 9: Kittel & Co. at West Kortright Centre

Kittel & Co. is a premier American acoustic band led by Grammy-nominated composer Jeremy Kit-

tel. They will perform at the West Kortright Centre in East Meredith at 7 p.m. For more information, call 607-278-5454 or email info@westkc.org.

• Oct. 10: Several Species: Mycology and Herbalism Meet-up

A chance for herbalists, mycologists, foragers, growers, medicine makers, and those curious to gather and talk, geek out on plants and fungi, host teach-ins and demos, and potentially expand into drop-in community clinics, educational walks for the public, guest lectures, and collaborative site visits and meetups with Bushel's New Grange farm club. Located at the Bushel Collective in Delhi. For more information, visit buschelcollective.org.

• Oct. 15: The Argus Quartet

A string quartet with a strong focus on contemporary music. Coinciding with the weekend of chamber music in the Catskills organized by Stamford Friends of Music. Located at the West Kortright Centre at 7 p.m. For more information, call 607-278-5454 or email info@westkc.org. *continued on page 20*



McKeegan & McKeegan

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Renovated rentals - former firehouse, church, caboose transformed to getaways

By Alyshia Korba

Following a rise in tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic, short term rental properties have sprung up throughout the Catskills. Rural towns, abundant in the area, rarely have hotels, and short term rental properties found on sites like Airbnb or Vrbo have filled the niche.

Many people visit the Catskills to immerse themselves in the serenity of the mountains, and one of the best ways to do that is to book a stay at a working farm, a secluded cabin or maybe a "glamping" tent in the woods.

While short term rentals are a great option for visitors, their rise in popularity has caused concerns among residents in those destinations. A major concern has been the effect on the housing market. The availability of affordable housing may suffer as a result of people buying up properties to rent on short term rental platforms or from former long term rental landlords shifting to a short term rental business. One study from researchers at Carnegie Mellon University showed that communities with Airbnb properties experience a slight decrease in the number of long-term rental properties available.

One of the benefits of living in the Catskills is the peaceful atmosphere something residents value. An influx of visitors has some residents and municipalities worried about noisy parties, littering, overcrowding and crime.

There are also many benefits to these properties, especially for the local economy. Short term rentals open up new



towns and villages for visitors that previously did not have lodging available. Along with financially benefiting the property owners, guests help support local businesses. Also, landlords are not the only ones who profit from their property — cleaning services, property managers and real estate photographers have also begun to take advantage of this growing industry by marketing their services to lodging owners.

Some localities have implemented local laws regarding short term rental properties to regulate the industry and ensure safety for both renters and residents. Shandaken in Ulster County has created a local law requiring lodging facilities to acquire an operating license which involves an inspection and consultation with neighbors. The law prohibits lodging facilities from hosting

Photo from Rise Again Glamping, Hipcamp listing

gatherings of more than 20 people, sets a two-person limit on each bedroom and limits the number of rentals owned by non-residents to 150. Other municipalities like the village of Stamford, town of Kingston, town of Jewett, the town of Athens, and others, have proposed similar laws or are in the process of doing so.

One of the major draws for people to stay in a short term rental property as opposed to a traditional hotel is the unique experiences available. Lucas Hoeffel, owner of Rise Again Glamping, started his glamp site to allow others to experience camping in the Catskills without sacrificing modern conveniences.

"We help bridge that gap — we give people this ease into the forest without having to be too far from creature comforts."

Background photo from Rise Again Glamping, Hipcamp listing



Photo from Dharma Dome, Airbnb listing

Rise Again Glamping is a lakefront campsite for two people in Woodridge, Sullivan County. The site features a 16-foot canvas bell tent with heat and a queen-size bed. With these amenities, the property offers guests a luxury camping experience all year long.

Another option for people who are not quite ready to brave a New York winter from a tent but still want to feel close to nature is a farmhouse or cabin. **Homegrown Farmstead in Delhi**, Delaware County, has a shared farmhouse and private studio apartment available for rent near the top of Bramley Mountain. Its 25 acres are filled with trails and creeks to explore, and in the warmer months you can take advantage of the berry patches and fruit tree orchards on the property.

In Accord, Ulster County, you can find **Mr. Ed's Cabin** which allows three guests to stay on a 27-acre horse farm. The farm houses horses, chickens, rabbits, dogs, cats and other animals, and

invites visitors to bring their dogs, cats or horses as well. The trails throughout the property are ideal for snowshoeing or cross country skiing in the winter.

The Catskills also offer plenty of opportunities to stay in renovated historic buildings, like a **former firehouse in Cobleskill**, Schoharie County. The four-person apartment is located in the upstairs portion of a 1930 building that was once a firehouse, a police department and a jail. These days, the lower part of the building is home to Bells & Whistles Nutrition, a health food store.

For an especially unique experience, you can stay in a restored 1922 train caboose in Windham, Greene County. **The Cozy Caboose** is a two-person rental located in the heart of Windham within walking distance of several businesses and shares the property with

a movie theater.

Another historic option is Mc-Bride's Heavenly Getaway in Arkville, Delaware County. This 4-bedroom rental is located in a restored Methodist church built in 1892. Along with the b e a u t i f u l stained-glass windows, the Photo from Dharma Dome, Airbnb listing

site contains antiques like an old chairlift from Belleayre Mountain.

The **Dharma Dome in Rochester**, Ulster County, offers another kind of spiritual stay for two people. The home is located next to a pond and features an outdoor shower, firepit and hammocks. The real highlight, however, is the geodesic dome with its 20-foot ceiling and natural lighting.

People who are considering renting a property in the Catskills can take several measures to ensure a quality experience for all parties and to help mitigate the potential effects on local economies: Be considerate of neighbors and the land; support local businesses during your stay; educate yourself on local laws especially regarding parking, gatherings and noise limits; and respect the rules put in place by the property owner.

> Photo from Cozy Caboose, Airbnb listing

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ALONG THE SLOPES

By Alyshia Korba

The Catskills' many ski centers are a major draw for tourism in the winter months, but that is not all the area has to offer. With a robust community of farmers, artisans and artists, there is no shortage of things to do when you want a break from the slopes.

Attractions near Hunter Mountain Resort, Windham Mountain, Plattekill Mountain and Belleayre Mountain:

Berbert's Condiments Cafe & Gallery

1164 Main St., Fleischmanns

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday

Berbert's Condiments Cafe & Gallery offers a unique culinary experience to Fleishmanns with Moroccan cuisine, drinks and condiments for sale. Berbert Attias, a chef born in Morocco, co-founded the business with his partner Diane Adzema. The pair produce their own line of Moroccan condiments and spices which can be purchased at the cafe along with dishes like smoked trout, couscous and coconut macaroons for dessert.

Catskills Harvest

27905 State Rt. 28, Andes

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

"The Harvest" is a restaurant, wine bar, local foods market and music venue supporting over 350 local businesses and performers. Find seasonal dishes featuring food from producers in the Catskills. Check www.catskills-harvest. com to see seasonly updated menus and musical performances.

Watershed Café

53470 State Rt. 30, Roxbury,

7 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – noon Sunday.

Grab a warm drink and a snack to fuel up (and warm up) for a day on the slopes. The cafe has an extensive drink menu with coffees and teas as well as sandwiches, small plates and pastries made fresh daily. If you are in a hurry, order online at www.watershedroxbury. com for curbside or in-store pickup.

Magic on Main

5428 State Rt. 23, Windham. Updated showtimes available at www.magiconmainwindham.com.

Located in a historic Windham building, Magic on Main offers an interactive magic show with magician Sean Doolan. Doolan shares his personal story of becoming a magician through his parlor show which is designed to give an upclose storytelling experience. Reservations are required as shows are limited to 10 people, although larger groups can be accommodated at other locations.

Shandaken Historical Museum

26 Academy <mark>Street, P</mark>ine Hill, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday – Monday.

Discover the rich history of this town through historical artifacts, newspaper clippings, postcards from Shandaken and more. At the historical museum, you can learn about the town's origins, important local figures and the area's history as a tourist destination.

Prattsville Art Center & Residency

14562 State Rt. 23, Prattsville, 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday – Sunday. Find a diversity of art forms at the art center including visual art, writing, music and film. The center is home to The Music Box which is a playable architectural feature of the building. Stop in to see the exhibits or attend one of the many classes and workshops held at the art center. The building also contains a library and a coffee bar.

Birch Creek Mercantile 270 Main St., Pine Hill,

5 – 7 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday

This mercantile carries a selection of Catskill-made products, foods, clothes and gifts. Along with the shop, the mercantile has a small bar with local beers, ciders, wines, spirits and specialty cocktails.

Bones & Stones

5977 Main St., Tannersville

10 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday. This unique shop specializes in pieces like jewelry, knives and decor made with bones, antlers, stones, taxidermy and other natural materials. Here you can find truly one-of-a-kind gifts or a conversation piece for your home.

The Knitting Room

11111 State Rt. 23, Windham, noon – 5 p.m. Thursday – Sunday.

This shop carries a wide variety of yarns and knitting supplies, but it is also a place to learn and share the passion for knitting. The Knitting Room offers classes and workshops as well as a space to work on your projects and meet other knitting enthusiasts.

Attractions near Holiday Mountain Ski and Fun Park:

Bernie's Holiday

277 Rock Hill Dr., Rock Hill

4–9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday; 4–10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Bernie's Holiday is the ideal spot for an upscale dinner after a day of skiing, having been named one of the best steak and seafood restaurants in the area by OpenTable. The menu features fresh ingredients and sources them locally whenever possible.

Forestburgh Playhouse and Tavern

38 Forestburgh Rd., Forestburgh

6–11 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday–Saturday; 1–11 p.m. Wednesday; 2–6 p.m. Sunday.

Known as the "miracle of the fores," this theater has been bringing quality performances to the Catskills since 1947. Nearly 35,000 people visit the playhouse each year to see shows at the theater and cabarets at the tavern. Check www.fbplayhouse.org for updated show information.

Monticello Bagel Bakery

475 Broadway, Monticello

4:30 a.m.–3 p.m. weekdays, 5 a.m.– 3 p.m. weekends.

This bagel shop offers classic bagels along with specialty bagels for holidays. Top your bagel with hand-mixed cream cheeses or get it as a breakfast sandwich. The bakery also carries deli sandwiches, hot sandwiches and pastries.



ULSTER COUNTY GETAVAAYS In and around Phoenicia

By Mary A. Crisafulli

Many people travel to the Catskills and land in well-known areas - near top-rated resorts, ski lodges, or lakefront inns. A bit off the beaten path is Phoenicia, a small hamlet built for the outdoor enthusiast or dog lover.

The neighborhood, in the town of Shandaken, is tucked along Esopus Creek - which flows south into the Ashokan Reservoir - and borders over 47,000 acres of wilderness.

Just 20 minutes up the road from Woodstock, Phoenicia has little cell service and lots of trees. For an adventurous group, it's the perfect weekend expedition.

Nestled beside the Slide Mountain Wilderness area with 35 miles of trails there are several beautiful sights that fall foliage and open winter views will enhance. Hiking and camping are available year-round and most trails are dog friendly.

The wilderness area is named for its most popular hiking trails on Slide Mountain. There are two trails to its 4,180 foot summit, making it the tallest mountain in the Catskills. The 9.75mile loop, Burroughs Range Trail, is considered challenging, with 3,620 feet of elevation gain, the trail traverses three peaks: Wittenberg, Cornell, and Slide mountains. A more direct route to Slide starts at Oliverea Road South parking area for a total of 5.4 miles round trip. Hikers will follow the Phoenicia East Branch Trail to its juncture with Burroughs Range. Slide Mountain is a popular hike and is a required hike for membership in the Catskill 3500 Club.

For those looking for seclusion, Giant Ledge is a must. The ledges have two ascending trails, **Fox Hollow Trail**, accessed from Woodland Valley campground, is approximately 6.8 miles round trip. Another trail, that starts at Oliverea Road South parking area, is 3.2 miles in and out. Both routes meet the Giant Ledge-Panther Mountain trail. The trail is rock-lined, some strategically placed as stepping stones in steep areas. Those rocks can make the hike difficult in spots and scaling is called for. However, the path is considered great for snowshoeing, along certain portions, as it is open year-round.

Dogs are welcome off-leash making it a fun experience for four-legged friends. Fresh water is available from a spring just off the trail about halfway up marked by signs.

At the top of Giant Ledge, narrow paths weave around the summit leading to several secluded views. On a crisp winter's day, hikers may find themselves in a snow globe featuring a rock cliff that lines the edge of the mountain and a view of the rolling Catskill Mountains. Its complete seclusion with hidden overlooks makes it one of the most unique hikes in New York.

A local hiker - while at the summit said the views are some of the best in the area. "This hike is better than Slide," he said. Social media has put this gem on the map for weekend travelers, the hiker explained, which is why weekdays are the best time to use the trail.

In the winter, he added, the leafless views are spectacular.

While vistas are expanded in the winter, the feeling of seclusion remains with trail-adjacent evergreens.

Mary A. Crisafulli/The Reporter A great place to sit and have lunch at the top of Giant Ledge.

Background Image by Mary A. Crisafulli/The Reporter Cliff faces at the top of Giant Ledge.



For more event details and latest listings go to www.CatskillCountry.com



Mary A. Crisafulli/The Reporter A challenging portion of the Giant Ledge trail where use of hands might be required.

Camping is permitted at the summit of Giant Ledge. There are 24 primitive campsites and three lean-tos in Slide Mountain Wilderness area. Campers are permitted to pitch a tent in any location as long as it's 150 feet away from the nearest road, trail, or body of water.

If looking for a place to stay with more

accommodations the **Phoenicia Black Bear Campground** has RV and tent sites along Esopus Creek. The campground is pet friendly.

Those searching for a more restful environment after the day's happenings can visit the **Phoenician Belle Bed & Breakfast.** The establishment features breakfast following a stay in one of their restored Victorian-style rooms.

Another local hotel is **The Graham & Co.** at the foot of **Hunter Mountain** with some trail heads nearby. The lodging is resort-like offering a swimming pool, hammocks, a badminton court, a fire pit, picnic areas, and bikes to explore with.

Phoenicia makes for a great day trip. **The Phoenicia Diner** is a local favorite serving breakfast all day from Thursday to Tuesday. If doing some shopping on Main Street, **Sweet Sue's Phoenicia** is another breakfast spot right in the heart of Phoenicia. For dog lovers, **Brio's** and **Sportsman's Alamo Cantina** are the places to go. Their outdoor areas welcome dogs. Visitors should not be fooled; the two eateries are actually one. Food and drinks can be ordered at Brio's, a number is given, and the food delivered to the table. Dining is very casual and family-friendly.

Phoenicia's lack of traditional hotels and commercial attractions make it a fantastic place to escape and explore nature.



Contributed by Phoenicia Diner Facebook The famous Phoenicia Diner on a cold winter's day.

CALENDAR CONT. FROM PAGE 6

Delaware County

• Oct. 16: Jordan Bak & Ji Yung

Award-winning Jamaican-American violist Jordan Bak and pianist Ji Yung Lee will perform at the Stamford United Methodist Church from 3-5 p.m. Registration is required through email at FOM-Admin@friendsmusic.org or call 518-918-8003. For more information, visit friendsmusic.org.

• Oct. 22: Adeem the Artist

A seventh-generation Carolinian, a makeshift poet, singer-songwriter, storyteller, and bluecollar artist, Adeem Maria will perform at the Roxbury Arts Group. For more information, visit roxburyartsgroup.org.

• Nov. 12: Treehouse Shakers present "Hatched"

Treehouse Shakers return to Roxbury with Hatched, a performance created for the child in us all. A beautiful tale told through exquisite visuals, music, and the exploration of baby animals on the farm. For more information, visit roxburyartsgroup.org.

• Nov. 20: Neave Trio

Violinist Anna Williams, cellist Mikhail Veselov, and pianist Eri Nakamura will perform at the Stamford United Methodist Church. Registration is required through email at FOMAdmin@ friendsmusic.org or call 518-918-8003. For more information, visit friendsmusic.org.

• Dec. 4-18: Holiday Concert

Robin Lacey, Zelos Quartet look to connect with a variety of audiences to show the wide range of sounds and colors of the saxophone. They will perform at the Stamford United Methodist Church. Registration is required through email at FOMAdmin@friendsmusic.org or call 518-918-8003. For more information, visit friendsmusic. org

Greene County

• Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2: First Fridays Catskill Businesses in the village of Catskill come together for an all-day celebration of our community with specials like extended hours - many shops open until at least 8 p.m. - sips and snacks, pop-ups, discounts, music, and FUN on the first Friday of every month. Visit firstfridayscatskill.com to see what's happening at each business.

• Oct. 21-23: Halloween in the Catskills

A vendor and oddities market at 348 Sunside Road in East Durham. If you wish to vend something unusual and fascinating for Halloween, weird creations and curators of the marvelous oddities of Halloween will make it a weekend of incredible fun. For more information, visit blackthorneresort.com.

• Nov. 11-13: Festival of Trees

The Fortnightly Club of Catskill announces celebrating 26 years of the Festival of Trees with this year's event opening Friday from 7-10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Anthony's Banquet Hall in Leeds. Beautifully decorated trees and wreaths can be purchased through a silent bid. There will be plenty of food, vendors, and gift ideas with live entertainment and of course, Santa. Reservations are suggested to ensure your spot. COVID guidelines will be followed. All proceeds of this fundraiser go to the local community. For more information, visit Festival of Trees, Fortnightly Club of Catskill's Facebook.

• Nov. 19 & 20: Chilly Willy Winter's Eve Tours These special content tours, hosted by The Bronck Museum, are designed to provide visitors with a small taste of winter living in times past, long before the comfort and convenience provided by central heating and artificial light made winter life much easier. A costumed guide will lead visitors through the interiors of the venerable Bronck houses decorated for the celebration of the late fall and early winter holidays of Martinmas, St. Nicholas Day, and St. Lucia Day. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased at gchistory. org/chilly-willy-tours.

• Dec. 10: Athens Annual Victorian Stroll

Families and friends gather for a free, fun-filled day to stroll up and down the historic village's Second Street, Athens Riverfront Park, and all around the village. Businesses, residents, and community organizations host family-friendly activities, free goodies to eat, and entertainment galore, with nods to Athens' past. Family Ice Skating Rink at Athens Riverfront Park - bring your own skates. For more information, visit athensculturalcenter. org.

continued on page 23











WWW.HOMEFOAMINSULATION.NET HOMEFOAMINSULATION@YAHOO.COM

Visit some of the Catskill's best Breweries, worthwhile wineries, and charming cideries

By Elizabeth DeFalco

Sullivan County

Bashakill Vineyards: As Sullivan County's first farm winery, opened in 2005, Bashakill Vineyards quickly became a must-stop in Sullivan County. All estate grapes are grown organically, using fertilizer made from grape pressings. All wine is crafted on-site, including rosé, Chardonnay, semi-sweet whites, and rich Cabernet Franc reds, with local craft beers on tap as well. If neither wine nor beer piques interest, Bashakill

Vineyards also offers cocktails made from locally distilled spirits, fresh fruits and herbs, and craft mixers. The vineyard is located in Wurstboro, along the Bashakill Wetlands. Hours: Friday, 2-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 12-6 p.m., with live music starting at 2 p.m. Dog, hiker, and gluten-free friendly. 845-888-5858, 1131 S Road, Wurtsboro.

Callicoon Brewing Company: Located in the sleepy hamlet of Callicoon in the newly renovated Olympia Hotel, the brewpub overlooks the Delaware River

where visitors can pop in, sip on the many local craft beer and ciders available on tap, and enjoy the view. Callicoon Brewery is known for their incredible Rueben sandwiches; visitors are encouraged to pair their drink of choice with something from the kitchen. Hours: 12-11 p.m., seven days a week. 845-887-5500, 15 Upper Main Street, Callicoon.

Roscoe Beer Company: Located in what was once a firehouse, Roscoe Beer Co. quickly put themselves on the map as a top Sullivan County brewery. A group of Roscoe locals took their passion for craft beer, combined with their deeprooted passion for their hometown, and created the well-known brewing company it is today. Trout Town American Amber Ale was the first brew produced, in April 2013. Since then, the company produced 11 additional brews available at their main location, 145 Rockland Rd, Roscoe. Open for service Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Mondays 12-6 p.m.

Catskill Brewery: Since 2014, the owners of Catskill Brewery have served "honest, hardworking beer" made using pure Catskill Mountain water, brewed in a 5,000 square foot, single-story steel structure dedicated to brewing beer the clean way. The stunning taproom and beer garden are open Sunday noon to 7 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 3 to 7 p.m., Friday 1 to 8 p.m., and

ciders, there is something delicious for everyone's taste buds at Ommegang Brewery. The brewery is open Sunday, 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 12 to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday 12 to 9 p.m. Visit the dedicated staff at 656 County Hwy 33, Cooperstown.

Delaware County

Awestruck Ciders: As a team of young, passionate cider-crafters, Awestruck Ciders is one of Delaware County's favorite success stories. The co-founding pair, Patti Wilcox and Casey Vitti, now operate



Saturday noon to 8 p.m., giving visitors plenty of opportunities to taste their 10 on-tap beers, including IPAs, farmhouse ales and lagers, updated often so there is always something new to try. Visit the beautiful Catskill Brewery, 62 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor.

Otsego County

Brewery Ommegang: Brewery Ommegang opened in 1997 with Ommegang Abbey Dubbel, an 8.5% traditional Trappist-style dark ale. Since their soft introduction to the Catskills, the ambitious brewery has opened a visitor center, kicked off an annual series of summer concerts held at a natural amphitheater, and expanded to accommodate a 20-tap bar, 10-tap tasting room, enlarged café and kitchen, covered patio and expanded store. From brews to Street, Walton. The brewery offers a variety of fruity ciders on tap, ready to free-flow and tickle your taste buds, including a dry apple and oak cider, and a community favorite, a refreshing hibiscus ginger rosé cider. Visit the lively team at either location Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

a two-location brewery, with

their main location at 8 Win-

kler Road, Sidney, and their

Awestruck Mill at 34 Howell

Greene County

The Vineyard at Windham: As one of the few operating wineries in the Catskill region, The Vineyard at Windham opened their taproom to bridge the gap between local wine connoisseurs and the best rated wines, including their own and from the most well-known regions in New York state; Hudson Valley, the Finger Lakes and the North and South Forks of Long Island. The Vineyard's menu features a collection of wines from Rieslings and rosés, to Merlots and Cabernets, to be enjoyed while taking in the natural, lush beauty of the Catskill Mountains. The Vineyard is open Friday-Sunday, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.; make a reservation and treat your taste buds at 11 Mt. View Estates Road, Windham.

CALENDAR CONT. FROM PAGE 20

Schoharie County

• Oct. 15: Red Wagon Live

The Red Wagon rolls back into Rockland Cider Works in Gilboa with their infectious brand of good-time music. Ciders and beers, awesome food, beautiful surroundings, lawn games, and a guaranteed good time. For more information, visit rocklandciderworks.com.

• Oct. 15: Second Annual Pumpkin Festival

Empty Pockets Ranch's second annual pumpkin festival will feature vendors, you-pick pumpkins, candied apples, bounce houses, and animals. For more information, visit facebook.com/epranchny.

• Oct. 16: Mananahama Duo Concert

Rockland Cider Works welcomes back Bob Naumowicz and David Smith Jr. Their talent is unique, blending classic rock, blues, and popular music. For more information, visit rocklandciderworks. com.

Oct. 22: Fall Foliage and Tree Identification Walk

Autumn has come, and the leaf colors are changing. Take a walk at Landis Arboretum in Esperance and enjoy the fall foliage and the gorgeous views of the Schoharie Valley. Explore what's going on with the change in leaf color and do a little tree identification. For more information, visit landisarboretum.org.

• Oct. 23: Erin Harkens Performance

Local artist Erin Harkens performs at Rockland Cider Works in Gilboa. The power of her voice and the emotion that comes through her lyrics make you want to sit and listen to every word. Erin's lyrics tell stories of her life, sung through a big voice that's often compared to Janis Joplin. For more information, visit rocklandciderworks.com.

Oct. 29: Annual Halloween Owl Prowl

Landis Arboretum hosts its annual Halloween Owl Prowl at the Meeting House from 7-8:30 p.m. Learn about the owls of the Arboretum woods as we listen for and explore these nocturnal birds of prey. For more information, visit landisarboretum. org.

• Oct. 29: Halloween Costume Party featuring Lex Grey & The Urban Pioneers

These guys are an ever-evolving musical family. Teaming with a variety of top musicians and multi-instrumentalists, including writer/musician Ed Wasliewski, sonic innovator Brian Dewan, drummer and percussionist Ted Boburka, and more. Each performance, recording, and show is custom crafted with a fresh approach to rock, blues, and beyond. For more information, visit rocklandciderworks.com.

Nov. 10: 8th Annual Outdoorsman's Night Out

At SUNY Cobleskill, Bouck hall/gym/pool from 6-10 p.m. for more information, visit fieldpost. com or email NY0222@ducks.org.

• Nov. 11: Landis Shopping Day

It's the Landis Arboretum Annual Shopping Fundraiser at Grapevine Farms from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. For more information and tickets, visit landisarboretum.org. • Nov. 26: Decorating With Native Greenery Nothing says the holidays like the look and smell of gorgeous greenery styled into wreaths and swags. The registration fee includes greenery, ribbon, and decorations; bring any additional decorative elements you'd like to place in your creations. For more information, visit Landisarboretum.org.

Sullivan County

Oct. 14: Jo Koy and Friends

Jo's uniquely relatable comedy pulls inspiration from his colorful family that has reached all kinds of people and has translated into sold-out arenas around the world. He will perform at the Resorts World Catskills in Monticello at 8:30 p.m. For more information or tickets, visit rwcatskills.com/ event/io-koy-and-friends.

Oct. 21-23: Catskills Fall Weekend Getaway

Experience a relaxing weekend retreat in the peaceful environment of the Catskills at Kadampa Meditation Center New York. Refresh your mind through guided meditation. For more information or tickets, visit kadampanewyork. org/autumngetaway.

• Oct. 23: Denning History Afternoon

Have conversations and reunions while viewing rich collections from Claryville and the town of Denning that bring life to the history of the Upper Neversink and Upper Rondout valleys. The free event includes a special program on the history of the Hardenburg Patent by Museum Trustee Lynn Priebe; at the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville. For more information, visit timeandthevalleysmuseum.org.

Nov. 6: Cabaret: An Evening with Liz Callaway

Join hosts Scott Samuelson and Eddie Dudek for a revival of The Bradstan's famous New York City-caliber cabaret series, taking center stage at The Eldred Preserve in Eldred. The Emmy Awardwinning actress, singer, and recording artist Liz Callaway is scheduled to perform at the 2022 Bradstan Coming Home Cabaret Series at 8 p.m. For more information, visit theeldredpreserve. com.

Nov. 6: Medicine During the American Revolution

Professor Emeritus of Biology Don Terpening will present various medicines, implements, and techniques that were used by physicians during the Revolutionary War, as well as discuss the role that doctors played and their social standing during this period. In-person and virtual attendance is available. A Zoom link will be provided at timeandthevalleysmuseum.org.

Nov. 13: Forestry Past & Present: A Catskill Mountain Perspective

Catskill Forest Association's Ryan Trapani will discuss the overall "health" or state of the Catskill forest, as well as some of its histories that have led us to our present condition. He will also cover some things you might easily do on the small scale to improve forest conditions going forward. For more information, visit timeandthevalleysmuseum.org.

• Nov. 19 Santa Paws Pet Photos

Pet Pictures with Santa Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Animal Hospital of Sullivan County in Ferndale. Donations of \$20 are accepted for Warrior Companion foundation, which supports veteran companion animal programs. For more information, visit ahofsc.com.

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Meal & Gratitude Meditation

Enjoy Thanksgiving in the relaxed company of a kind community, overlooking the woodlands, streams, and gardens of Kadampa Meditation Center New York in the Sullivan Catskills. Start with an inspiring guided meditation in the World Peace Temple, followed by a delicious gourmet Thanksgiving vegetarian meal in the Temple's World Peace Cafe. For more information or reservations, visit kadampanewyork.org/ foodforthought.

Nov. 26: Buddhist Meditation Class: Learn how to stop anger

Learn the art of acceptance. Patient acceptance is not gritting our teeth and putting up with things. This Guided Meditation Workshop, at Kadampa Meditation Center in Glen Spey, is perfect to help you learn meditation and gain practical experience in maintaining a peaceful, happy mind in daily life. For more information or reservations, visit kadampanewyork.org/foodforthought.

Dec. 9: Food for Thought: Meal & Meditation in Sullivan Catskills

Friday Night Meditation & Meal Start with a relaxing guided meditation in the World Peace Temple, followed by a delicious three-course vegetarian meal in the Temple's World Peace Cafe. Enjoy your dinner overlooking the woodlands, streams, and gardens. It'll be easy to put the stresses and tensions of daily life behind you as you enjoy an evening of relaxation with a gourmet vegetarian meal in the company of a kind community.

Overnight Accommodations are available. Held at the Kadampa Meditation Center in Glen Spey. For more information, visit kadampanewyork.org/ foodforthought.

• Dec. 11: Cabaret: Karen Mason, The Christmas Show!

Join hosts Scott Samuelson and Eddie Dudek for a revival of The Bradstan's famous New York Citycaliber cabaret series, taking center stage at The Eldred Preserve in Eldred. The legendary Karen Mason will perform the 2022 Bradstan Coming Home Cabaret Series as she takes the stage to complete her legendary tribute to the holiday season, "The Christmas Show!" at 8 p.m. For more information, visit theeldredpreserve.com.

• Dec. 26-31: Buddhist Meditation Retreat: Medicine Buddha Empowerment

With Buddhist Monk Gen Samten Kelsang, the Healing Buddha functions to cure physical sickness and alleviate mental pain. During this unique empowerment ceremony, a deep connection with Medicine Buddha will be achieved, enabling healing. For more information, visit kadampanewyork. org/indepthretreats.

Ulster County

Oct. 16: Third Capital to Capital 5K run/ walk

The Rotary Capital to Capital 5K commemorates the human story of the Burning of Kingston, when, in October, 1777, over 2,000 Kingston refugees fled to the town of Hurley as British soldiers burned their city to the ground. For more information visit burningofkingston.com.

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24 FALL/WINTER 2022/23 CATSKILL COUNTRY





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CALENDAR CONT. FROM PAGE 23

Ulster County

Oct. 16: 25th Annual Rosendale International Pickle Festival

Get your pickle on at the Rosendal International Pickle Festival. Head to the pickle tent for hundreds of varieties of pickles. There's also a home pickling contest and a Pickle Triathlon that offers a pickle eating contest, pickle juice drinking, and a pickle toss. Cultures of many countries are represented with food and music, and vendors offer a variety of wares. Children ages 12 and under are free. For more information call 845-204-8827 or visit rosendalepicklefestival.org.

• Oct. 22, 23, 29, & 30: Catskill Mountain Railroad Pumpkin Express

Take a spectacular journey along the former Ulster and Delaware Railroad corridor and see the natural beauty of the Catskills from Ulster County's only scenic train. On the Pumpkin Express train, riders get the added bonus of selecting their own pumpkin to take home and decorate. For more information visit catskillmountainrailroad.com/ event/catskill-fall-flyer-pumpkin-express.

• Nov. 5 & 11: Fall for Art

Fall for Art Juried Art Show, Sale & Community Fundraiser sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ulster County will celebrate 26 years. Hosted



on Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 11 at 5 p.m. with free admission. Thirty-six Hudson Valley artists will show & sell their beautiful jewelry, mixed media, ceramics, fiber, water color, oil, wood, photography, fused glass, handmade greeting cards, and children's books, in their virtual galleries. Proceeds benefit the participating artists, Federation and local human service organizations Circle of Friends for the Dying, Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, Hudson Valley LGBTQ, Jewish Family Services, Oncology Support Program, and People's Place. For more information visit fallforart.org.

• Nov. 25-Dec. 18: A Frosty Fest

This family-fun holiday light spectacular displays over one million lights and includes 12 holiday attractions; live theatrical entertainment, photos with Santa, a stage show, gift shops, and more. Reservations are required at afrostyfest.com. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving and ending Dec. 18 at the Headless Horseman Haunted Attractions in Ulster Park.

• Dec. 2: 10th Annual Snowflake Festival

Presented by the Kingston Uptown Business Association in Uptown Kingston, the Snowflake Festival offers fun for the whole family, with main stage performances, fire twirlers, jugglers, ice carving, a stilt band, fiddlers, dancers, singers, a Christmas tree lighting, and a visit from Santa Claus. From 6 to 8 p.m. For more information visit kuba.network.



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Watershed Agricultural Council nycwatershed.org





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