

adirondacks, usa

Unique Ways to Leaf Peep in the Adirondacks

We're forgoing the through-the-windshield leaf peeping experience and highlighting unexpected ways to view the spectacular Adirondack fall foliage. In doing so, we're putting you in the passenger seat of a float sea plane and sending you down the Hudson River on a raft. Check out the following 10 suggestions on how to experience the showiest of seasons.

By plane: Flying above the leaves for a bird's-eye view of the Adirondacks in a sea plane is always jaw dropping, but once the landscape is fully engulfed with brilliant leaves in shades of red, orange and yellow, an aerial tour becomes an absolute must. [Plane excursions](#) take off and land in Long Lake and Inlet.

By train: Amtrak brings its only [dome car](#) to the Adirondacks for the 2018 leaf-peeping season. The car features an upper level with windows on all sides and overhead to better admire the changing leaves in the Adirondacks and the deep-blue Lake Champlain, as you travel from Albany across the Canadian border to Montreal.



(photo courtesy of Amtrak)

By boat: Channel your inner Gilded Age millionaire and [cruise and dine](#) around Raquette Lake aboard the W.W. Durant tour boat. Learn about the region, which was the playground for millionaires and home to wilderness retreats for JP Morgan, Alfred Vanderbilt, the Carnegies, and other prestigious families. Most cruises include a delicious meal.

Via [Olympic venues](#): You can take an elevator to the top of the 120-meter ski jumps (that's 26 stories) for a panoramic view of the color-drenched Adirondacks. Or, drive to the summit of Whiteface Mountain or ride the gondola for amazing views. The 4,867-foot mountain is the only Adirondack High Peak with a road to its summit, meaning that you can take in the views with little effort.



Whitewater rafting: Experience fall foliage in the Hudson River Gorge. A [rafting trip](#) allows you to view peak fall colors in a wilderness setting. This is a quiet time to be on the river — at times you may feel like you and your guide have the river to yourselves.



At a historic site: [Fort Ticonderoga](#) is situated between New York's Adirondack and Vermont's Green Mountains and was of strategic importance during the 18th-century colonial conflicts. For leaf peeping, it's got it all — scenic vistas of the Champlain Valley from the fort or atop Mt. Defiance, a boat tour of Lake Champlain and the surrounding fall foliage, and a six-acre corn maze.

On two wheels: Not accessible by car is the architecturally-significant [Great Camp Santanoni](#). An old carriage road is perfect for peddling through the forest and ends at a 12,900-acre complex that epitomizes rustic elegance. With rolling hills, lake views, apple orchards and farms, the [Adirondack Coast](#) of Lake Champlain offers some of the best biking in the region, especially when there are [apple cider doughnuts](#) involved.

Take a hike: The Adirondack Park has over 2,000 miles of hiking trails and 46 peaks over 4,000 feet. We're spoiled for choice, but perhaps try [Mt. Van Hoevenberg](#), which offers incredible vista of the High Peaks.



Paddle: There are [endless waterways](#) that wind through forests and fields with gorgeous mountain views. Glide along while taking in the unfolding scenery. No kayak? No problem. We have plenty of outfitters and guides.

Above the treetops: At [The Wild Center](#), traverse a path above the trees of swinging bridges and platforms that leads you to a vantage point with views of the Adirondack forest.



Foliage Reports:

Visit adirondacksusa.com for updated fall foliage reports, beginning Sept. 12. Each year, an army of foliage spotters provide us weekly reports about the current status of spectacular scenery throughout the Adirondacks. This link brings you to the region reports, events, driving tours and more. **Don't miss these**

2018 fall events:

August-October: Great Adirondack Corn Maze: <http://www.saranalake.com/blog/2018/07/great-adirondack-corn-maze>

Fort Ticonderoga's Heroic Corn Maze Adventure: <http://www.lakechamplainregion.com/events/fort-ticonderogas-heroic-corn-maze-adventure>

Sept. 15: Adirondack Harvest Festival: <http://www.lakechamplainregion.com/events/adirondack-harvest-festival>

Sept. 22, 23: Whiteface Mountain Oktoberfest: <http://www.lakeplacid.com/events/whiteface-mountain-oktoberfest>

Sept. 22, 23: Adirondack Marathon Distance Festival: <https://www.schroonlakeregion.com/events/adirondack-marathon-distance-festival>

Sept. 22, 23: Great Adirondack Moose Festival: <http://www.adirondackexperience.com/events/great-adirondack-moose-festival>

Sept. 30: Tupper Lake's OKTupperfest: <http://www.tupperlake.com/events/oktupperfest>

Oct. 6, 7: Flaming Leaves Festival: <http://www.lakeplacid.com/events/flaming-leaves-festival>