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FALL ROAD TRIP IDEAS

Sample itineraries to help start your Adirondack tour

Driving through the winding and scenic byways of the Adirondacks during the peak of leaf season is an experience that should be on everyone's bucket list. During a year where fresh air and wide-open space is what we are all craving, the region's natural landscape (and 6-million acres to explore) makes it the perfect road-tripping destination. As the fall colors begin to paint the breathtaking mountain views and reflect off the pristine waterways, get out to explore the quaint communities, unique amenities, and one-of-a-kind experiences the Adirondacks deliver.



The following pages outline some sample itineraries to help get your creative juices flowing.

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Insiders' Tips: Mid-week offers the best prices, limited crowds, and quickest service at restaurants and attractions that are serving at limited capacity during this time. Most major attractions are requiring advance registration prior to your visit. We recommend checking with them directly prior to departure.

First Time Visitor Tour

Driving up Route 73 through the towns of Keene Valley and then Keene before reaching your destination of [Lake Placid](#) is a "must-drive" for most first-time visitors to the Adirondacks. Once you arrive at your destination, a little outdoor time is an absolute must! Take the path less traveled and experience one of the hidden hiking gems that will offer a great reward for your effort. Hiking not your speed? Drive to the top of one of the famed 46 High Peaks via the [Whiteface Memorial Highway](#) in nearby Wilmington or experience the new [Sky Ride at the Olympic Jumping Complex](#) right in Lake Placid. Then retreat back to Main Street Lake Placid where the iconic mountain village is ready to welcome you to invent your own perfect day.

Where to stop: Take a quick jaunt along the scenic route to [Tupper Lake](#) and discover [The Wild Walk](#), a platformed trail across the treetops and then spend your day spread out at The Wild Center's 115-acre open-air campus. On your way back to Lake Placid, swing into Saranac Lake, which is rated in the ["10 Best" small food scenes](#) for a bite.

What to eat: On Main Street in Lake Placid, Golden Arrow's restaurant, [Generations](#), is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In keeping with the sustainable philosophy of the Golden Arrow, the menu features many foods that are grown and raised locally. Their goal is to keep it as local and fresh as possible while showcasing the many wonderful farms and products that are grown, raised, and cultivated in New York's Adirondack region.

Where to stay: New in 2020, [The Lake Placid Inn](#) is a boutique hotel featuring 40 beautifully appointed rooms and suites offering majestic lake and mountain views. The property opened its doors this summer and features a cozy private patio with a fireplace opposite Mirror Lake and the public beach in Lake Placid.

Adventure-Seeking Solitude Tour

While there may be iconic locations like Lake Placid, Lake George, and Old Forge that are more well known, others may be looking to find a little piece of the Adirondacks all for themselves. For these adventure seekers, we suggest jumping off I-87 and taking the scenic and heavily forested Blue Ridge Road into the heart of the Adirondacks in Newcomb. From there you can continue along Route 28 to the communities of Long Lake, Blue Mountain Lake,



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and Indian Lake where breathtaking views and short hikes to waterfalls will greet you before connecting back to I-87. If you earmark a little more time, we suggest heading down past “Pig Rock” to Speculator or through the historic hamlet of Raquette Lake to Inlet for even more ways to experience the Adirondacks small towns and big outdoors.

Where to stop: Along the Blue Ridge Road, discover the Tahawus Road which leads you to the [Upper Works Trailhead](#). Upper Works offers a unique option for hikers and visitors looking for an alternative to the traditional northern or eastern access to the [High Peaks Wilderness](#). In addition to hosting plenty of fantastic hikes, this trailhead is steeped in history. It is the location of the former town of Adirondac, is alive with an interpretation of the old buildings, landscapes, and structures that put this mining hub on the map. You will drive by an old blast furnace on the way to the parking lot, signaling the area's rich mining history.

What to eat: Discover the new [Paradox Brewery](#) and tasting room in North Hudson, just a few miles north of their old location in Schroon Lake. The new brewery, located next door to the state's new Frontier Town Campground, Equestrian, and Day Use Area, features a large wraparound deck that provides views of the surrounding mountains while food trucks serve up great eats to pair with the Adirondack brews.

Where to stay: The newly renovated [Inn at Santanoni](#), Located at the entrance to the Santanoni Preserve in Newcomb, couldn't be more convenient and comfortable for your visit to the Adirondacks. From there you can take a 5-mile horse-drawn wagon trip into the Preserve and spend the afternoon learning about this early 1900's Great Camp in the wilderness. Camping more your speed? Just down the road check out the new [Newcomb Cafe and Campground](#).

History and Harvest Lovers Tour

For those seeking out an autumn adventure full of history and locally harvested foods, exploring the Adirondack coast of the [Lake Champlain Region](#) is the route for you. Meander past scenic vistas starting at historic [Fort Ticonderoga](#), and pass through iconic lakeside communities such as Crown Point and Port Henry as you make your way for a farm stay in Westport, NY.

Where to stop: Stop at the [Crown Point State Historic Site](#), on the shores of Lake Champlain. Trails allow you to wander the ruins of two Revolutionary War-era forts. Across the road, at the DEC Campground, you will find the Crown Point Lighthouse and magnificent views of the Crown Point Bridge, which connects the Adirondack mountain range to the Green Mountains of Vermont.

What to eat: It's not a fall road trip without a stop by an orchard. Just up the road from Crown Point State Historic Site, [Gunnison's Orchards & Bakery](#) serves up fresh-baked pastries, bread, cookies, pies, and their famous cinnamon cider donuts, as well as other local food items. End



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your day by checking out [Ledge Hill Brewery](#) for handcrafted ales and lagers mindfully brewed in Westport, NY.

Where to stay: [DaCy Meadow Farm](#) in Westport offers a complete farm stay experience. You can stay at Hostel perched high on a hill with a spectacular view of the Champlain Valley and Vermont, or choose from their beautiful house or cottage offerings. And for those looking for a glamping experience, they have converted their goat barn into one-of-a-kind units to keep you comfortable.

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