



adirondacks, usa

Fall in the Adirondack Mountains - timing of peak fall color

Fall in the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York is one of the most beautiful times of the year. Days are warm, nights are cool, the sun often shines and the leaves are awash with color. Many who visit during the fall hope to schedule their trip to coincide with the week that the leaves are at their most colorful - when the reds, yellows, golds and rich browns against a backdrop of pines and evergreens are at their most vibrant; also known as “peak.”

According to Jane Hooper, communications manager at the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism in Lake Placid, the timing of “peak” color can be challenging to pinpoint. “The Adirondack region in upstate New York is very large, at over 6 million acres, with different elevations, temperatures, landscapes, and weather patterns,” she said. “Generally speaking, the most abundant, beautiful color happens within a 2-3 week window beginning the last week in September through Columbus Day, with higher elevations reaching peak first and the warmer valleys along Lake Champlain and toward the south reaching peak just before mid-October.”

The Lake Placid / High Peaks and Whiteface regions are the first to put on their colorful display. As elevation decreases into the surrounding areas, regions including Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and the communities within the Adirondack Hub region along with Hamilton County are the next areas to reach peak color. Finally the Lake Champlain region, closest to the lake, reaches its peak. Generally, this happens a couple weeks after the higher elevations primarily due to the lake itself, which moderates the temperature in the Champlain valley.

The Adirondack Mountains offer some of the best opportunities for outdoor recreation in a beautiful, natural setting; within a day’s drive for 25% of the entire North American population.