

KAATERSKILL FALLS HIKES

This is the highest waterfall in New York State. Higher than Niagra. It falls in several sections and there are two hikes... one at the top of the falls and one at the bottom. The top hike is short, very easy, and has a great view. But you can't really see the waterfall itself because you are right at the edge of the top (and it's 150 feet down if you fall!). You can crawl to the edge of the rocks and look down but you won't see the falls themselves. The lower hike is more climbing on a trail about a half a mile long which has been created out of rocks and carved steps. If it has been raining very recently it can be slippery. You can't see the "real" falls from a car. You drive by the base of the falls and see the final couple of "drops" but to see the high falls you have to hike to them. But the "pay off" is great with you standing at the bottom of the falls looking up at them.

TO GET TO THE FALLS

Take a right out of Adrienne Lane onto George Sickle road and drive 1 mile to Hwy 212

Take a right on 212 and drive 3 miles to the stop light just before crossing over I-87

Take a left at the light onto Hwy 32 North.

Drive about 5 miles or so and there is a flashing light where Hwy 32 goes to the right and Hwy 32A goes straight. Take Hwy 32A STRAIGHT and drive to the stop light at Hwy 23A.

Take a LEFT on 23A and drive up into the mountains. When you hit a VERY sharp turn in the road and a little bridge you will see the bottom of the falls on your right. Drive up about 1/8th of a mile and you will see a parking lot on your left. Park there and walk back down the highway to the falls where you will see the trail on the other side of the little bridge. THIS IS THE HIKE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE FALLS.

To get to the hike at the TOP OF THE FALLS continue up 23A past the falls and into the tiny town of Haines Falls. There will be an intersection with Hwy 18 where you take a right. Follow Hwy 18 until you see a small road called "Laurel House" Road. Take a right and drive to the parking at the end of the road.



OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN HIKE

This is an old jeep road so it's easy on the feet and two people can walk side by side. The roundtrip from the parking area to the top and back is about 5 miles. With no breaks it would take you about two hours. But you should count on maybe four as you will want to stop and enjoy the scenery and also spend some time at the top where there is a fire tower that you can climb for a truly spectacular view of the Catskills and Hudson valley. You also pass by the ruins of an old never finished hotel. One of many grand "mountain houses" that existed throughout the Catskills.

Sneakers are probably ok for shoes but it's always best to wear hiking boots if you can.

To get there take a LEFT out of Adrienne Lane onto George Sickle Road.

Then drive 9/10ths of a mile and take a left on Fite Road when you reach the stop sign.

Drive 20 feet and take a right on Fish Creek Road

Drive 500 feet and take a right at the stop sign on Glasco Turnpike.

Driving on Glasco you will reach a stop sign at Highway 212 (turning left would take you into the town of Woodstock and turning right would go back toward Saugerties)

GO STRAIGHT across Glasco and drive awhile (not sure of the distance but it's probably 3 or 4 miles) until you hit the next STOP SIGN. This is Rock City Road.

(historical note.... This intersection is also one of two rumored but never authenticated sites of the famous Bob Dylan motorcycle accident that changed pop music history)

Turn right on Rock City Road and drive UP the road staying on the main road as other smaller ones angle off in other directions. After about a mile you will see a Tibetan Buddhist Monastery on your left. Right across the road is a parking lot for the trailhead for the hike up Overlook.

