

The Most Beautiful Places in Upstate New York

Get outta town and explore them all.

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The Upper Falls at Letchworth State Park | [JIM VALLEE/SHUTTERSTOCK](#)

As we carry on in this strange there-but-not-quite-there stage of the pandemic, we may still be baking zeitgeisty loaves of banana bread but we're not holding ourselves hostage either. With the COVID vaccine rollout underway, big vacations are on the horizon and now is the time for easy escapes to help us remember that just because the future feels uncertain, it doesn't mean weekends have to be.

From bird sanctuaries and hiking on a treetop trail, to secret sidewalks or finding safe haven at a historic estate, getting lost in the most beautiful places of upstate New York—from the Catskills to Rochester—has never been better. And while the State of New York has returned to a new normal, check the following destination websites for the latest updates and stick to the CDC’s recommendation to wear masks and continue social distancing.



TROUTBECK

Troutbeck

Amenia

Follow in the footsteps of Hemingway, Hughes, Thoreau, and Emerson, by visiting the Troutbeck, a timeless cool kids club for creatives, forest bathers, and those who appreciate laid-back luxury (especially when it’s affordable). Since 1765, the property has served as a country inn, a tavern, and the site of two meetings that would lead to the formation of the NAACP. Today, in a new era of workations, it’s not the mountains but this romantic 250-acre historic estate that’s calling. The myriad book nooks are intoxicating; the farm-to-table restaurant alone merits the two-hour train ride; the new wellness facility is like a shot of serotonin; and the activities are top-notch in any season—think tennis, swimming and riverside hammocks in summer and axe-throwing, falconry excursions, and après-ski in winter. But the true beauty of Troutbeck is how quickly you’re able to simply relax. And out of office or not, don’t be surprised to find yourself dabbling with a pen and sipping an old-fashioned like it’s your job.