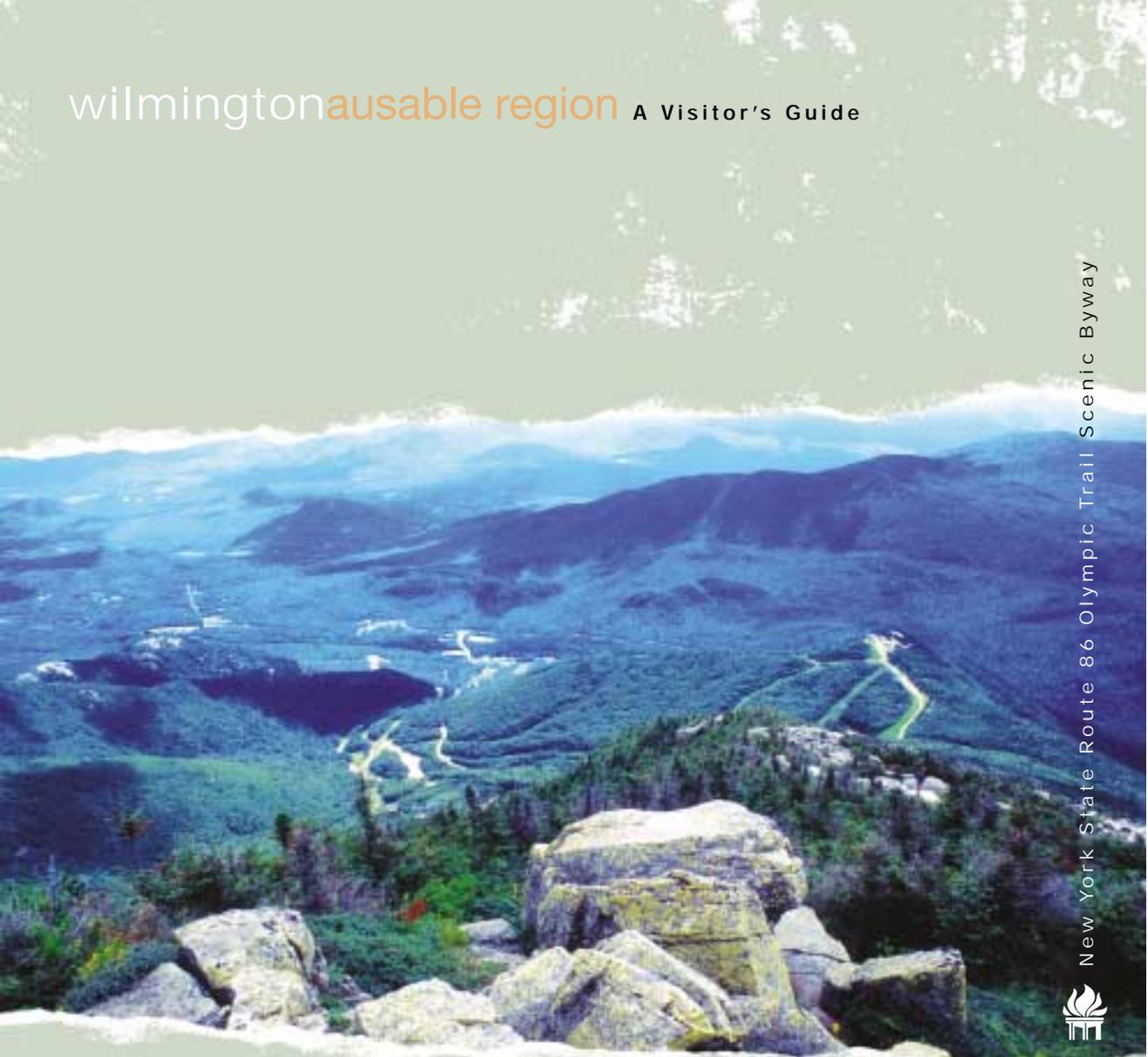
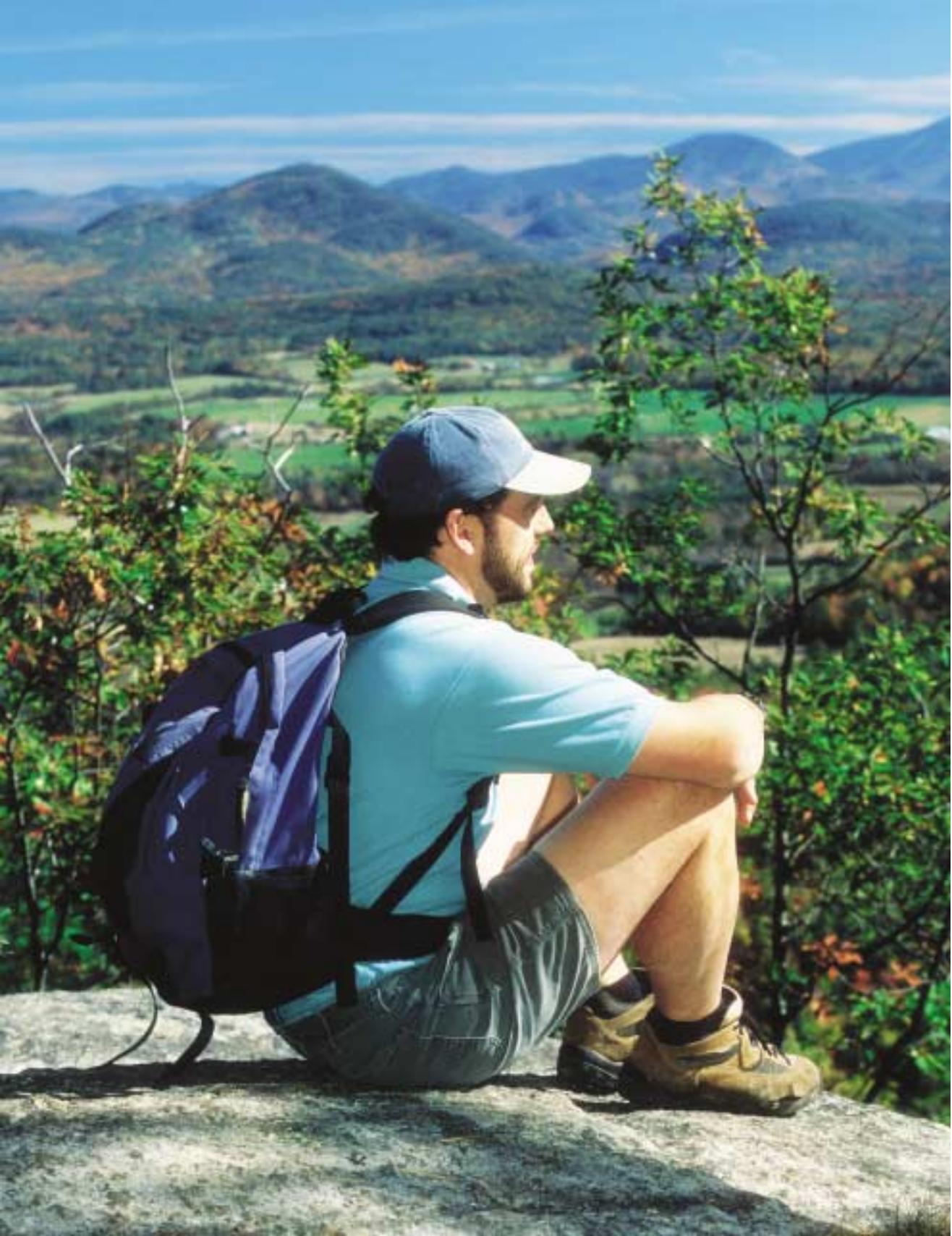


wilmington **usable region** A Visitor's Guide



New York State Route 86 Olympic Trail Scenic Byway





welcome to the **wilmington**ausable region



Where the mountain and the river meet lie special treasures of the Adirondack region. Action lives here year-round ■ ski our mountains and our backcountry trails ■ fish our lakes, ponds, and rivers ■ bike our challenging terrain ■ paddle our tranquil waters ■ hike our miles and miles of trails ■ in other words...



...leave the remote at home.



CONQUER some of the best SKYLINE around.

Whiteface is unique in American winter resorts. Where else can you retrace the tracks of Olympic legends? You can't help but get goose bumps as you turn into our entrance. From the international flags commemorating the 1980 Winter Olympic Games to the mountain peak rising into the Adirondack sky, our unique legacy has created the most enjoyable and diverse winter experience you'll find anywhere.



Whiteface

downhill | telemark

Mountain Stats

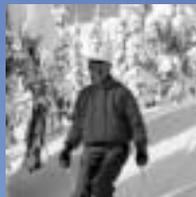
base elevation 1,220 ft
summit 4,867 ft
vertical drop 3,430 ft
skiable acreage 220 acres
average annual snowfall 168"
trails 73
lifts 10
snowmaking 95%

Contact Information

whiteface 518 946 2223
snow phone 1 877 SKIFACE
www.whiteface.com

While our vertical of 3,430 ft. is by far the greatest in the East, that doesn't begin to tell the Whiteface story. Kick it up a notch on the summit steeps of Skyward, Cloudspin and the Slides, with 35 acres of ungroomed wilderness skiing. Or cruise one of the longest continuous trails in the East, 3.5 miles of intermediate terrain that winds from the summit to the base of the mountain.

With our altitude of 4,867 ft. and no on-mountain development, you're surrounded by Adirondack vistas that redefine over-used expressions like "pristine" and "breathtaking". If you're lucky enough to visit us midweek, you may find yourself on a trail with the mountain as your sole companion.



Ranked #1 in the Eastern U.S. 3 years running! -SKI MAGAZINE 2001, 2002, 2003

BLAZE

your OWN trail





Backcountry

cross-country | snowshoe

If there's anything that can compete with skiing Whiteface, it just might be spending a day within reach of its shadow. With miles of trails and endless opportunities to create your own, there's just no excuse for staying indoors.

Snowshoeing or skiing the backcountry can give a whole new meaning to the phrase "peak experience". You might spend all day without seeing another human...but rabbit, fox, deer, and numerous species of birds are likely to make an appearance or leave evidence of passing just ahead. Pines painted thick with snow, the murmur of streams not yet iced over and mountains gentled with a buffer of several feet of snow will each have their effect on you. They will drop those shoulders and make you wish you never had to leave this behind.

These descriptions are brief summaries that will give you an overview of what the area has to offer. We recommend you obtain a good map and guidebook before taking to the trails.

B1 | Bear Den Mountain Trailhead: Off the west side of Route 86, approximately one mile north of the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area. Trail Length: Over 3 miles of trails.

B2 | Cooper Kiln Pond Trailhead: Off Franklin Falls Road just over 0.5 mile from Route 431 (Whiteface Memorial Highway). Trail length: Approximately 5.5 miles round trip to Cooper Kiln Pond, and approximately 6 miles to Bonnieview Avenue. Suitable for intermediate cross-country skiers, or better.

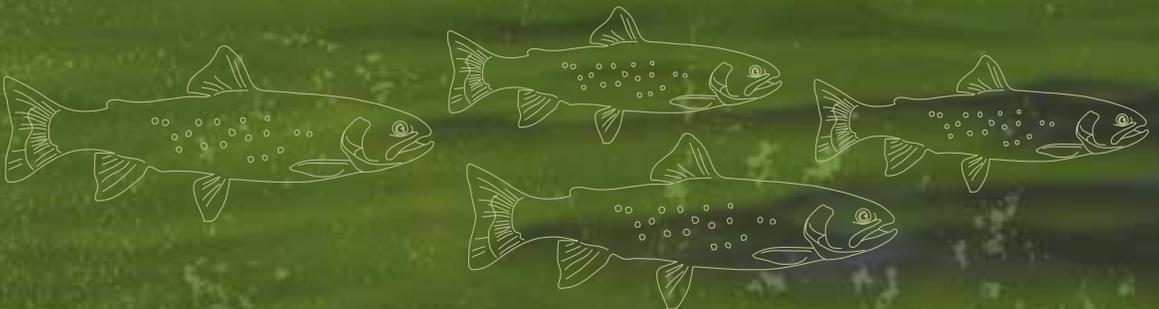
B3 | Owen, Copperas and Winch Ponds Trailheads: Two approaches off Route 86 approximately 3 and 4 miles south of the entrance to the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area. Trail Length: Longest distance to Winch Pond is approximately 4 miles round trip.

B4 | Whiteface Mountain via Connery Pond Trailhead off Route 86 just west of the bridge crossing the West Branch of the Ausable River, approximately 6 miles south of the entrance to the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area. Trail Length: Approximately 12 miles round trip. Suitable skiing for novices as far as Whiteface Landing and back, cutting the total length to approximately 6 miles round trip. Elevation: Connery Pond-1,455 feet, Whiteface Mountain summit-4,867 feet (ascent 3,232 feet).

B5 | Whiteface Mountain Veteran's Memorial Highway Follow the five-mile road from the historic Tollhouse to the Castle Summit for a great panoramic view. Great cross-country skiing!

FORGE

a relationship With a Few good FiSH...



Fishing

fly fishing | pond fishing

When it comes to trout fishing, the legendary West Branch of the Ausable River is considered one of the best streams in the East, with the town of Wilmington sitting on some of its best water. There is probably no river in America that offers so much diversity to the visiting angler. With miles of pocket water, vast stretches of slow moving water, deep pools and long channels, the West Branch provides opportunities for anglers unequaled anywhere. In addition to the West Branch, the region offers many opportunities for pond and lake angling.

Contact Information
NYS DEC Region 5
Ray Brook
518 897 1200

Area outfitters and
flyfishing shops.

C1 | Ausable River, Trout

C9 | Winch Pond, Trout

C2 | Big Cherry Patch Pond, Trout

C10 | Moose Pond, Salmon, Trout

C3 | Franklin Falls Pond, Bass,
Walleye, Pike

C11 | Taylor Pond, Salmon, Trout

C4 | Connery Pond, Trout

C12 | Union Falls Pond, Bass, Pike

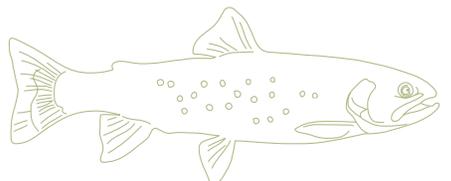
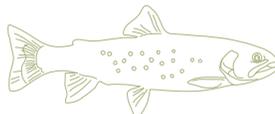
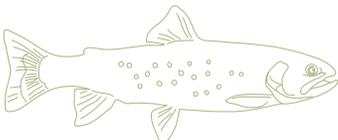
C5 | Lake Everest, Trout

Steven's Pond, at the tollhouse to Whiteface Mountain's Veterans Memorial Highway, is a special pond reserved for fishing by youngsters and the disabled. Two fishing derbies are held here each spring.

C6 | Holcomb Pond, Trout

C7 | Owens Pond, Trout

C8 | Stevens Pond, Trout



Biking

mountain biking | road touring

Mountain Biking is an inherently dangerous sport. Care should be taken when riding any new and unfamiliar trails. Always wear a helmet and never ride alone.

There are many opportunities for mountain biking in the Wilmington area. For downhillers, the best choice is the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area. Experts can take the Whiteface gondola to the top of Little Whiteface and come down a hair-raising 2,432 vertical feet. For beginners and intermediates, the lower part of the mountain offers a great deal of varied terrain.

For a cross-country experience, you can access the Wilmington Wild Trail System (WWTS) by taking one of two trails from Kids Kampus. The lower trail (Trail A) is the easier of the two trails. It follows the West Branch of the Ausable down a gentle slope towards the Flume Parking Lot. Once you leave the Ski Area, there are many inter-connecting trails providing all levels of ability.

Whiteface Mountain Biking Center

- D1 | Trail 20 Easy/Intermediate
- D2 | Trail 19 Intermediate/Expert

Wilmington Wild Trail System

- D3 | Trail A Easy
- D4 | Trail B Easy
- D5 | Trail C Easy/Intermediate
- D6 | Trail D Easy/Expert
- D7 | Trail E Intermediate/Expert

Bike Touring

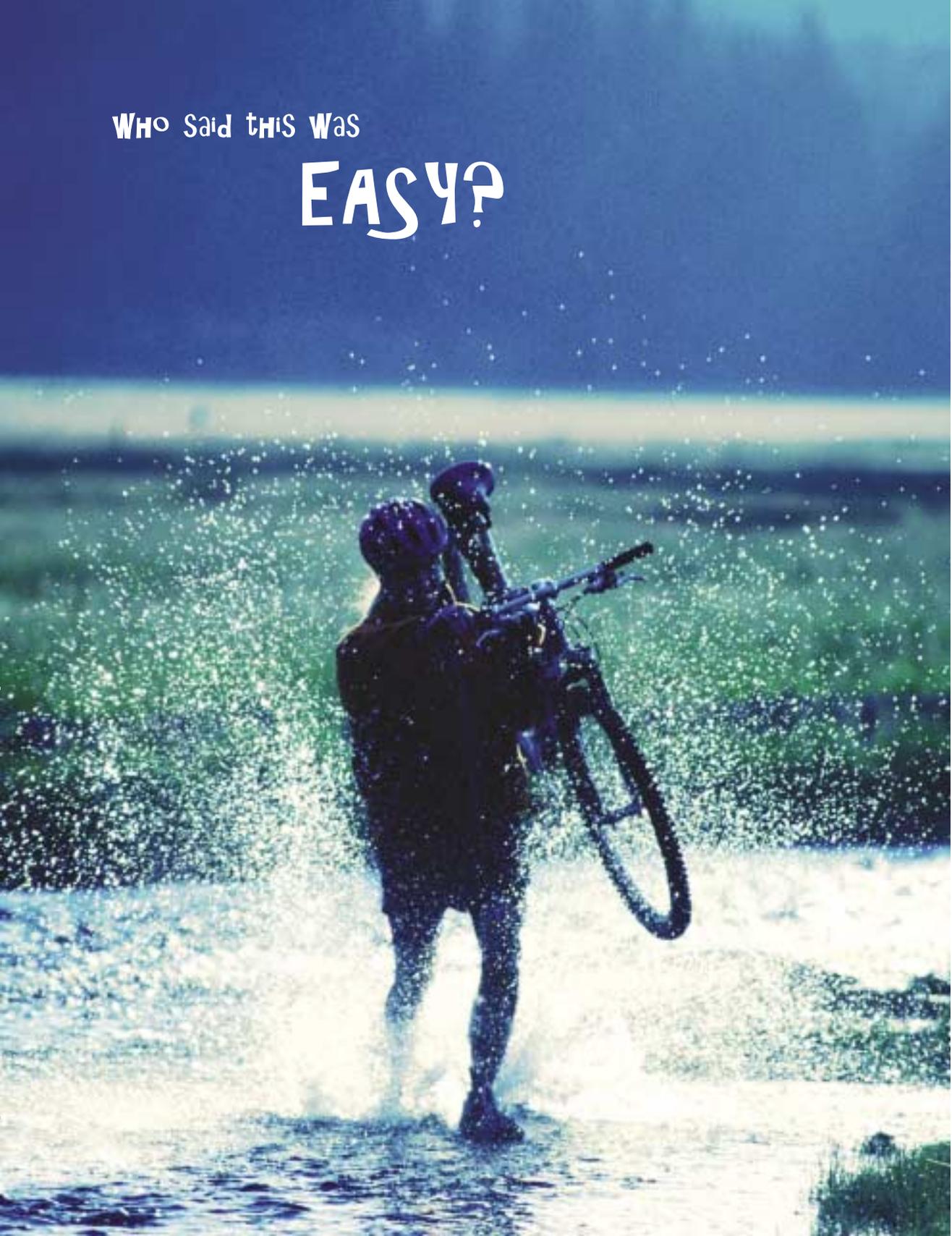
- D8 | Jay-Ausable Forks, 18.5 miles
- D9 | Jay-Upper Jay, 7 miles
- D10 | Lake Everest Loop, 5.6 miles
- D11 | Wilmington-Black Brook, 14.5 miles
- D12 | Wilmington-Upper Jay-Jay, 14 miles



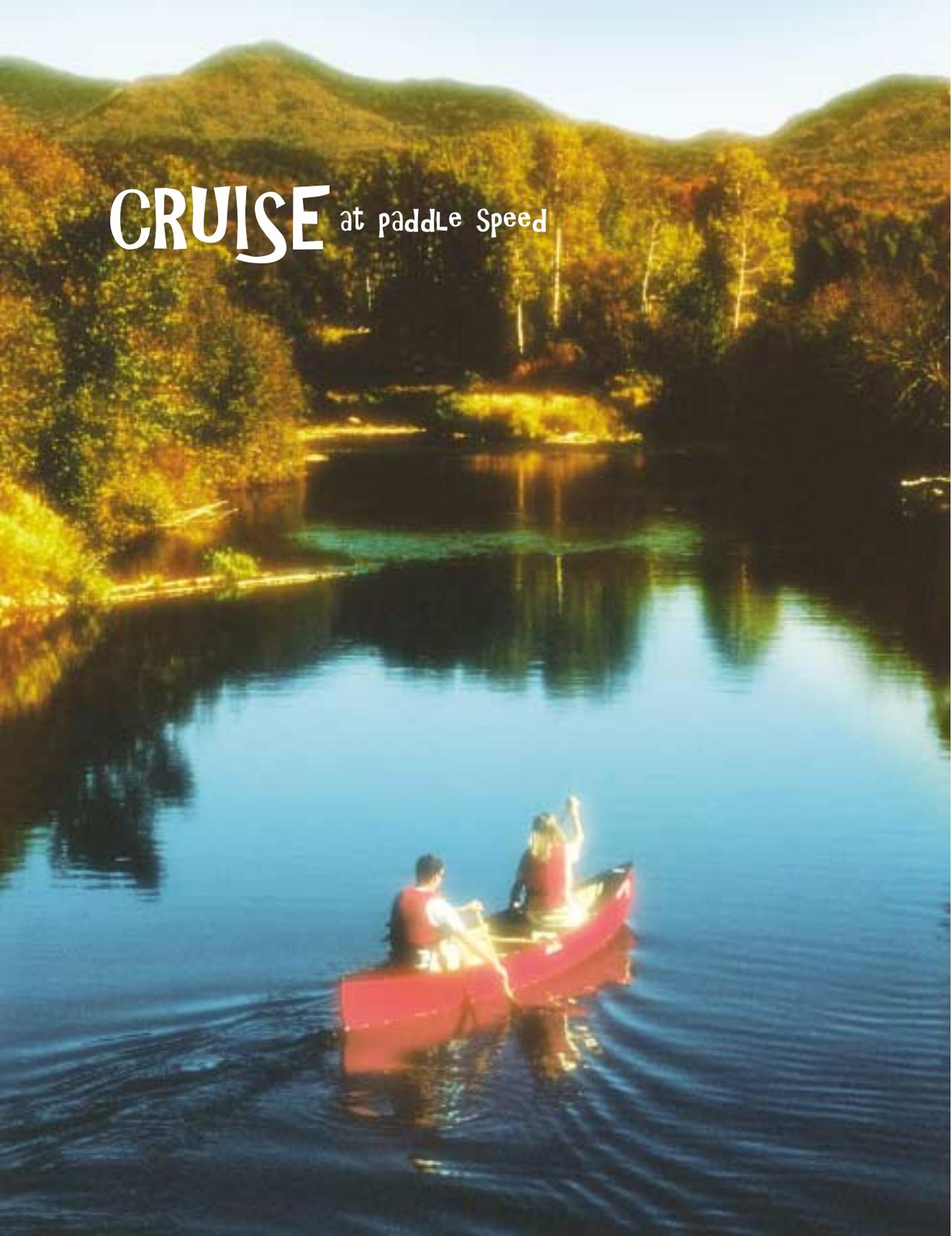
Wilmington Wild Trails Systems

WHO SAID THIS WAS

EASY?



CRUISE at paddle Speed



Paddling

kayaking | canoeing

Take a look around and imagine floating through all this at a speed of your choosing. Some of us have been known to take an hour or two to paddle a few feet along a quiet shore. For those with more energy, the area also offers opportunities for challenging whitewater. At such a fast pace you may not notice much of the breathtaking scenery, but you'll end the day exhilarated and eager for more.

E1 | Ausable River, West Branch The West Branch of the Ausable River offers river canoeing and kayaking challenges. The best place to put in is at the Iron Bridge on River Road just a few miles east from Route 86 or at the Route 86 bridge. The river can be floated from either of these locations to the pool just above Monument Falls. Beyond this point, the river is tricky and dangerous and should not be attempted.

E1 | Ausable River, East Branch The East Branch of the Ausable River is slow moving shallow water perfect for the beginning canoeist or kayaker. During the spring with high water, it can be a fun trip for the more experienced canoeist or kayaker, but during the summer, it's just a fun float trip for the whole family. You can put in at a number of locations along Route 86 between the village of Jay and Ausable Forks.

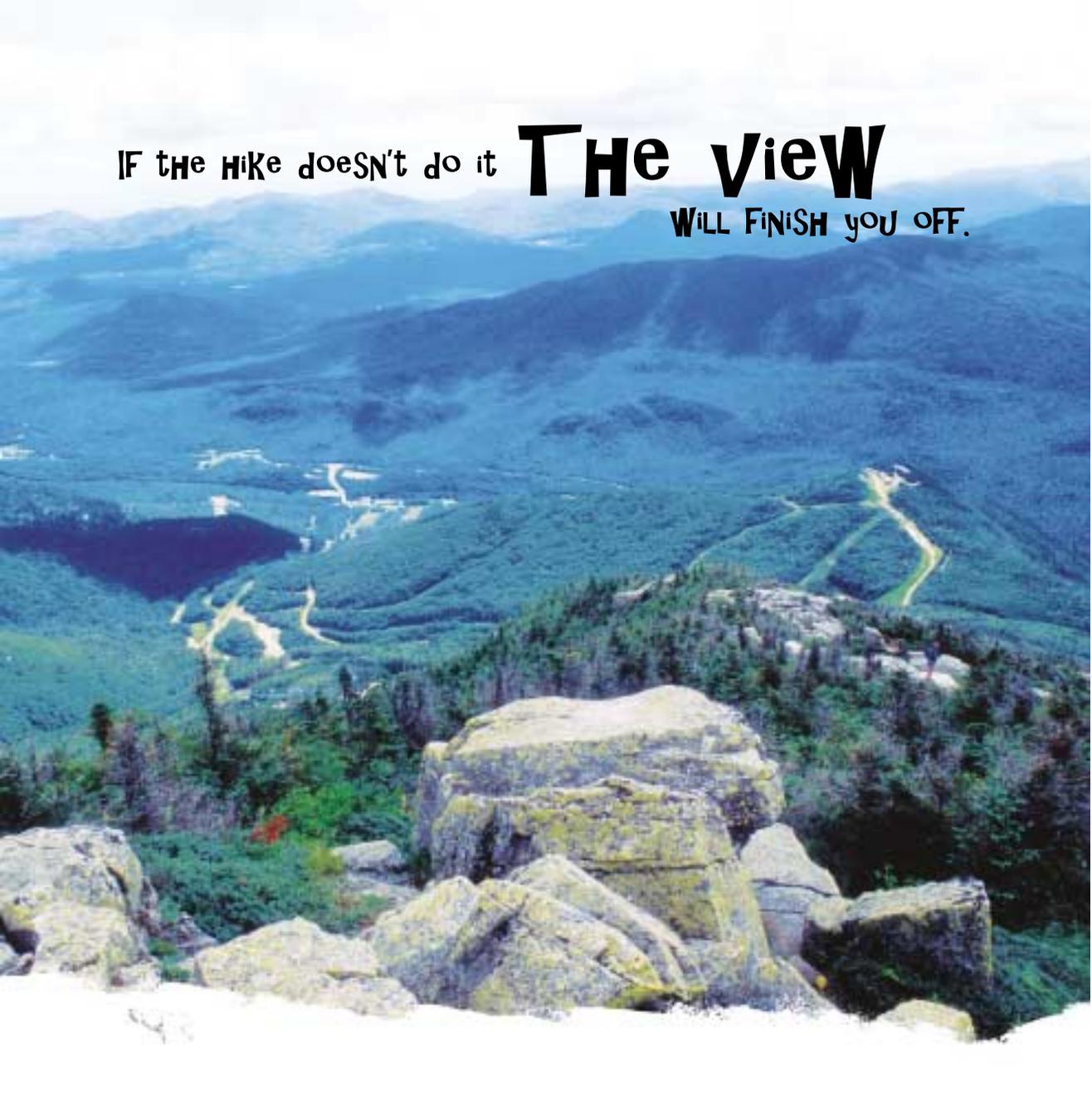
In Ausable Forks, the West Branch and East Branch meet. From here down to the I-87 bridge at Keeseville, the river consists of slow moving water with no major challenges. It is a good float trip for fishing because some of the holes in this part of the river harbor lunker trout. Closer to Lake Champlain, you will come to Ausable Chasm, a beautiful natural wonder.

E2 | Lake Everest The best put-in for Lake Everest is at the boat ramp at the Wilmington Town Beach. This area provides flat-water canoeing/kayaking on the impoundment behind the Wilmington Dam. There is also interesting canoeing/kayaking through backwater runs and abandoned beaver dams. Many opportunities exist for wildlife viewing along these routes.

E2 | Franklin Falls and Union Falls Ponds Franklin Falls Pond and Union Falls Pond can be reached by taking Route 431 from the intersection of Route 86 with Route 431 and County 19A in the hamlet of Wilmington. Follow Route 431 until it becomes County 18A. It continues over and down the backside of Whiteface Mountain. As you continue on 18A you will come to a small hydroelectric dam. The river below the dam is Union Falls Pond and the water behind the dam is Franklin Falls Pond.

E4 | Saranac River The Saranac River starts out as slow-moving flatwater with one section of up to Class III water at Permanent Rapids just before Franklin Falls Pond. The adjacent road provides access to the river before the rapids. A .4-mile carry connects you to Union Falls Pond.

These descriptions are brief summaries to give you an overview of what the area has to offer. We recommend you obtain a good map and guidebook before taking to the trails.



IF THE HIKE DOESN'T DO IT **The view** WILL FINISH YOU OFF.

F1 | Bear Den Mountain, 3 miles, moderate Off the west side of Route 86, approximately one mile north of the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area. Over 3 miles of trails. Great hike up to rock ledges overlooking the valley!

F2 | Clintonville Pine Barrens (easy) This 900-acre pitch pine-heath barren is one of the best examples of this natural community in New York and is found north of Route 9 near Ausable Forks. It is home to two rare plants and two rare moths. A short trail traverses the area and a trail guide is available at the trailhead.

F3 | Cooper Kiln Pond (5.5 miles, moderate) Off Franklin Falls Road just over 0.5 miles from Route 431 (Whiteface Memorial Highway). Approximately 5.5 miles round trip to Cooper Kiln Pond, and approximately 6 miles to Bonnieview Road.

F4 | Lake Stevens Tree Trail (perimeter of pond, very easy) The trail offers a self-guided ten-minute walk around the pond named for 1932 Olympian bobsledder Hubert Stevens. All 34 species of trees native to the northern Adirondacks (fourteen conifer and twenty hardwoods) can be found on this short nature trail near the Toll House at the entrance to the Whiteface Memorial Highway.

Hiking

hiking | backpacking | camping

There are several NYS DEC-maintained trails in the Wilmington area, offering spectacular views of Whiteface Mountain and the surrounding peaks. If it's drama you're looking for, make the climb of Whiteface your destination. As the 5th-highest peak in the Adirondacks, on a clear day Whiteface Mountain offers views as far away as Montreal.

F5 | Owens, Copperas and Winch Ponds (4 miles, easy) Two approaches off Route 86 approximately 3 and 4 miles south of the entrance to the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area. The longest distance to Winch Pond is approximately 4 miles round trip. Excellent trails for hiking with children!

F6 | Whiteface Mountain via Connelly Pond (12 miles, difficult) Trailhead off route 86 just west of the bridge crossing the West Branch of the Ausable River, approximately 6 miles south of the entrance to the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area. Approximately 12 miles. Elevation: Connelly Pond-1,455 feet, Whiteface Mountain summit-4,867 feet (ascent 3,232 feet).

F7 | Wilmington Trail (10.4 miles, difficult) On your way up the eastern slope of Whiteface Mountain, look for the remains of the old Marble Mountain Ski area, and again above timberline, along the edge of a glacial arete. Walk only on the marked trail and rocks to protect the area's fragile alpine vegetation and be prepared to see a goodly number of tourists. Thanks to the fantastic 360-degree views, you will be sharing the summit with many others who have driven the Whiteface Memorial Highway to reach the summit.

G1 | Taylor Pond Public Campground (30 campsites, open April-October)

G2 | Wilmington Notch Public Campground (54 campsites, open April-October) At the base of Whiteface Mountain, the campground is strategically located to take advantage of numerous area activities, particularly its easy access to what is considered to be one of the best trout fishing rivers in the eastern U.S., the west branch of the Ausable River.



Seek UNdiscovered
Treasures



Sightseeing

car touring | bird watching | historical sites

Routes 86 and 9N are the main routes in the area but don't be shy about grabbing a local map to explore some of our county roads. Each one yields undiscovered treasure for impromptu picnic sites, scenic vistas and historic exploration.

H1 | Whiteface Mountain Veterans Memorial Highway As the only mountain of the Adirondack High Peaks accessible by car, the ride to the top of Whiteface Mountain is a truly breathtaking and unforgettable experience. Nowhere else is the beauty and vastness of the Adirondacks so apparent and so easily accessible. The paved road rises over 2,300 feet in five miles from the Toll House. Along the road, numerous parking areas are indicated, allowing for the leisurely enjoyment of the many scenic vistas. At the summit itself, a number of surprises await—including a castle built from native stone, an elevator deep inside the mountain top, and a truly spectacular 360-degree panorama of unparalleled beauty. Open May through October.

H2 | SUNY Atmospheric Sciences Research Center
Whiteface Mountain Field Station
110 Marble Mountain Lane,
Wilmington
518 946 2142
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Monday-Friday 9a.m. to 4 p.m.
Along with displays of current research projects, the research center has maps and historical photos and information on the original ski area on Whiteface..

H3 | Wilmington Bridge
Route 86 Wilmington
Built in 1935, this arch bridge is representative of bridge architecture and aesthetics in the early automobile era.

H4 | Rolling Mill Hill Bridge Au Sable Forks This is a Pratt Through Truss iron bridge built in 1879, one of the oldest bridges of this type in New York State.

H5 | Village of Keeseville
Keeseville's early history can be viewed through its historic buildings and bridges: The Ausable Horse Nail company buildings c. 1847; Old Brewery, c. 1850; Grange Hall, c. 1856; Masonic Lodge, c. 1852; Upper Bridge, c. 1878, a Pratt Through Truss Bridge, the oldest of its kind in NYS; Swing Bridge, c. 1888, an iron suspension bridge, one of only ten ever built and one of two surviving; and Stone Arch Bridge, c. 1843, an arched sandstone masonry bridge, 110 feet long, the largest single span stone arch bridge in the US, as noted by the National Park Service.

H6 | Jay Covered Bridge This historic covered bridge, the largest of its kind in New York State, spans the East Branch of the Ausable River in Jay. The bridge is currently undergoing restoration.



Area Map



Events

February

Empire State Games-Lake Placid

March

March Madness at Whiteface-Wilmington

May

Ausable River Two-fly Contest-Wilmington

June

Whiteface Mountain Uphill Foot Race-Wilmington; Whiteface Mountain Uphill Bike Race-Wilmington

July

Ironman Triathlon-Lake Placid

Additional Information

Lake Placid/Essex County Visitors Bureau
Olympic Center, 216 Main Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
800-447-5224
www.lakeplacid.com

Plattsburgh / North Country Chamber of Commerce
7061 Route 9, P.O. Box 310
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518-563-1000
www.northcountrychamber.com

Adirondack Regional Tourism Council
P.O. Box 2149
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518-846-8016 / 800-487-6867
www.adirondacks.org

Lake Champlain Visitors Center & Champlain Valley Heritage Network
814 Bridge Road
Crown Point, NY 12928
518-597-4646 / 866-THE-LAKE
www.lakechamplainregion.com

Adirondack Scenic Railroad
19 Depot Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
518-891-3238
www.adirondackrr.com

Friends of the North Country Area
1A Mill Street
Keeseville, NY 12944
518-834-9606

Town of Jay
www.jayny.com

Regional Information

Whiteface Mountain Regional Visitor's Bureau
P.O. Box 277
Wilmington, NY 12997
888-WHITEFACE (944-8332)
518-946-2255
www.whitefaceregion.com

Adirondack Mountain Club
P.O. Box 867
Heart Lake Road
Lake Placid, NY 12946-0867
800-395-8080
www.adk.org

Lake Champlain Bikeways Clearinghouse
c/o Local Motion Trailside Center
1 Steele Street #103
Burlington, VT 05401
802-652-BIKE phone/fax
www.champlainbikeways.org

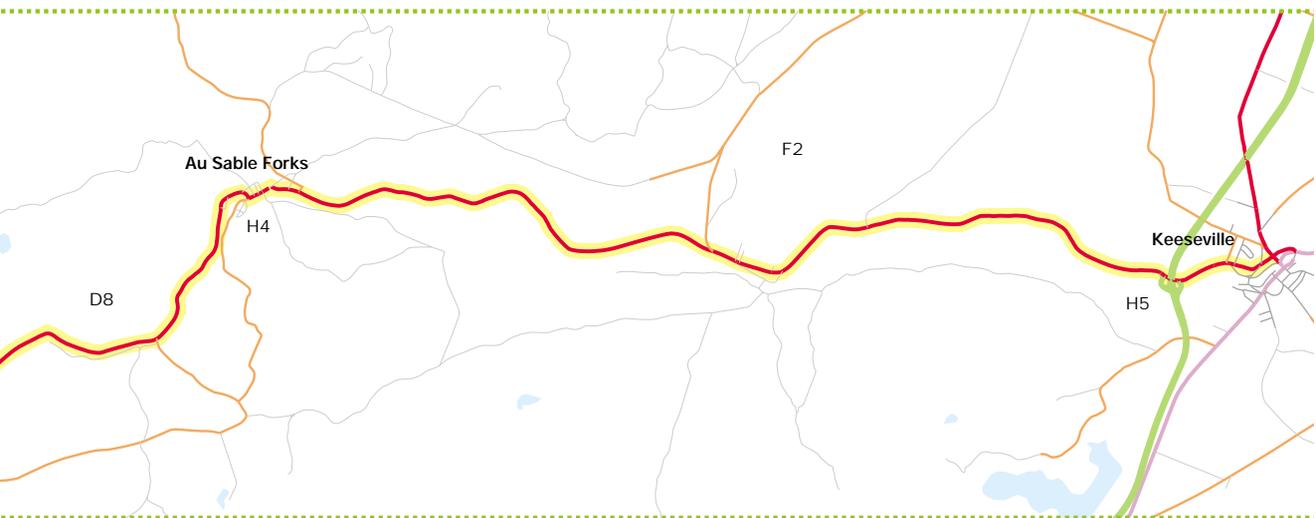
NYS Tourism
1-800-CALL-NYS
www.iloveny.com

www.adirondack.net
www.adirondacklinks.com
www.bikeadirondacks.org

New York State Agencies

NYS Adirondack Park Agency
www.apa.state.ny.us

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
www.dec.state.ny.us



■ DOWNHILL / TELEMAR SKIING

A1 Whiteface Mountain, 73 trails

■ BACKCOUNTRY

- B1 Whiteface Mountain via Connery Pond, 6 miles
- B2 Owens, Copperas and Winch Ponds, 4 miles
- B3 Bear Den Mountain, 3 miles
- B4 Whiteface Mountain Veteran's Memorial Highway, x miles
- B5 Cooper Kiln Pond, 5.5 miles

■ FISHING

- C1 Ausable River
- C2 Big Cherry Patch Pond
- C3 Franklin Falls Pond
- C4 Connery Pond
- C5 Lake Everest
- C6 Holcomb Pond
- C7 Owens Pond
- C8 Stevens Pond
- C9 Winch Pond
- C10 Moose Pond
- C11 Taylor Pond
- C12 Union Falls Pond

■ BIKING

- D1 Wilmington Wild Trail System, Trail A, Easy
- D2 Wilmington Wild Trail System, Trail B, Easy
- D3 Wilmington Wild Trail System, Trail C, Easy/Intermediate
- D4 Wilmington Wild Trail System, Trail D, Easy/Expert
- D5 Wilmington Wild Trail System, Trail E, Intermediate/Expert
- D6 Whiteface Mountain Biking Center, Trail 20, Easy/Intermediate
- D7 Whiteface Mountain Biking Center, Trail 19, Intermediate/Expert
- D8 Jay-Ausable Forks Bike Route, 18.5 miles

D9 Jay-Upper Jay Bike Route, 7 miles

D10 Lake Everest Loop Bike Route, 5.6 miles

D11 Wilmington-Black Brook Bike Route, 14.5 miles

D12 Wilmington-Upper Jay-Jay Bike Route, 14 miles

■ PADDLING

- E1 West Branch, Ausable River (above Route 86 bridge at River Road), mostly flat water
- E2 Franklin Falls Pond, flat water
- E3 Union Falls Pond, flat water
- E4 Saranac River, mostly flat water with sections of whitewater

■ HIKING

- F1 Bear Den Mountain, 3 miles, moderate
- F2 Clintonville Pine Barrens, easy
- F3 Cooper Kiln Pond, 5.5 miles, moderate
- F4 Lake Stevens Tree Trail, perimeter of pond, very easy
- F5 Owens, Copperas and Winch Ponds, 4 miles, easy
- F6 Whiteface Mountain via Connery Pond, 12 miles, difficult
- F7 Wilmington Trail, 10.4 miles, difficult

■ CAMPING

- G1 Taylor Pond Public Campground, 30 campsites
- G2 Wilmington Notch Public Campground, 54 campsites

■ SIGHTSEEING

- H1 Whiteface Mountain Veterans Memorial Highway
- H2 SUNY Research Center, Wilmington
- H3 Wilmington Bridge, Wilmington
- H4 Rolling Mill Hill Bridge, Au Sable Forks
- H5 Historic Buildings and Bridges of Keeseville
- H6 Jay Covered Bridge, Jay

The general location information portrayed on this map has been collected and provided by several sources. To verify specific locations and access to features on this map, please contact one of the sources of additional information listed on facing page.



The main route through the Wilmington area, New York State Highway 86, is part of the NYS Olympic Trail Scenic Byway stretching 170 miles along Routes 3, 86 and 9N from Lake Ontario to Lake Champlain. This guide was designed to highlight natural attractions and outdoor recreation opportunities that exist along the Wilmington-Ausable stretch of the corridor. We invite you to use this handy guide to enhance your visit to the region.

Enjoy your stay!



CREDITS: This guide is the product of a cooperative effort of the NYS Adirondack Park Agency, the Town of Wilmington, and others. It was made possible by a grant to the Agency from the NYS Scenic Byways Program through the Federal Highway Administration and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century of 1998, administered by the NYS Department of Transportation.

Special thanks to the Lake Placid Visitors Bureau for the use of images used in this guide, for all their work in gathering images for this guide, and to Kathi Tevlin of In the Woods Design Studio for design and layout.