

Photo Destination: Fall in the Adirondack Park

by Photographer Raymond Klass

The Adirondack Park resides in Northern New York State, and is the largest American park outside of those in Alaska. It is operated not by the national government, but rather by the State of New York through various agencies that oversee the public and private lands within the park's boundaries.

The Adirondacks encompass approximately 8 million acres, or more land than the Everglades, the Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Yellowstone parks combined. It is a unique area dotted with pristine lakes, mountains, and unique towns with a deeply unique cultural heritage.

This fall I spent several weeks exploring much of the park while working on an upcoming documentary about their struggle to make the park a sustainable place. This balance between economy, ecology, and community is not an easy one to achieve, and I think we could all learn from both their failures and successes.

While driving around the park, and during several days spent with my friends in Arietta, I was able to put the video camera aside to shoot some stills of the beautiful fall color. This article is meant to

introduce you to some of the fantastic areas within the park, by no means is it a comprehensive guide..

One of the truly hidden gems within the park are the Southern areas near Piseco Lake and Canada Lake. I would start out just driving along Route 10 north from Canada Lake and stop at the pull-offs along the road - there are many to choose from, and they all offer a unique experience.

One of the special aspects of the Southern part of the park is that there tend to be less people. On





these quiet mornings it isn't uncommon to hear the cry of the Loon, or see a family of Mergansers swimming through the drifting fog.

Heading further North in the park, the area of Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake offer a nice mix of mountains and water, without the heavy tourism of areas like Lake Placid or Old Forge. Just South

of Tupper Lake on Route 30, there are several nice pull-offs along the road that allow easy access to the banks of both large and small coves.

Heading West from Tupper Lake, the quaint town of Cranberry Lake sits in one of the most remote and wild areas within the park. One resident explained the population to me this way - on any given



afternoon you just might be the only boat on the water.

While much of the park is accessible via pull-offs from the main roads, a trip to the Adirondacks wouldn't be complete without taking at least a short hike. A good set of maps is a must - I recommend National Geographic's Trails Illustrated series, as they provide mileage, contour lines, and are coated with a waterproofing material to make them more durable.

A quick visit to any one of the park's visitor centers can provide you with some great recommendations of the right trail for you. There are literally hundreds of miles of terrain, from level strolls alongside brooks and streams, to the steep climb to the top of Mount Marcy - the park's highest peak.

If you arrive at the park with an open mind and a thirst for adventure, this uniquely wild place won't let you down. Everyone I've met there cares deeply about preserving the delicate balance between public and private land that makes the Adirondacks what it is today. The park is not a place that you can see in a day, a week, or perhaps even a lifetime - enjoy the time you spend there, no two trips will even be the same.

