



2026

EcoTravel

Overnight Natural History Tours and Day Trips

New York's Adirondacks

May 28 – 31, 2026



New York May 2026 4 Days

Overview

The Adirondacks have long captivated the hearts of outdoor enthusiasts, nature lovers, and seekers of tranquility. This vast expanse of natural beauty covers more than six million acres, making it the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States. The Adirondacks are renowned for their rugged peaks, serene lakes, dense forests, and diverse wildlife, creating an idyllic haven for all who venture into their midst.

The region's geological history is rich and fascinating, characterized by the towering Adirondack High Peaks that were formed over a billion years ago by the uplifting and folding of ancient rocks. This distinctive landscape offers a haven for hikers and climbers, with trails ranging from leisurely walks to challenging ascents. The Adirondacks are also crisscrossed by pristine waterways, including the legendary Fulton Chain of Lakes and Lake George, where kayakers, canoeists, and anglers can indulge in their passions. Moreover, the region's varied ecosystems support an array of wildlife, from elusive black bears and white-tailed deer to elegant loons and vibrant brook trout.

Beyond their natural allure, the Adirondacks hold a special place in the hearts of conservationists and history enthusiasts alike. The Adirondack Park, established in 1892, represents a pioneering effort in preserving vast wilderness areas for future generations. Rustic villages and towns dot the landscape, offering a glimpse into the area's past and providing a welcoming atmosphere for visitors. From the historic Great Camps, opulent retreats of the Gilded Age's wealthy elite, to the Adirondack Museum, which showcases the region's cultural and natural heritage, there are countless opportunities to immerse oneself in the captivating story of the Adirondacks. Whether seeking adventure, solace, or a deeper connection to nature, the Adirondacks offer an experience that is as unforgettable as it is inspiring.



Itinerary

Although there is a designated itinerary for the trip, the order of activities will vary depending on the weather and group interests. Early June can be delightful, sunny and warm, or it can be uneasy, cool, and damp.

Day 1 D

We'll depart Essex in the early morning, heading towards our lodging in Lake Placid, New York. A birding stop or two may be made along the way, with a stop to eat a picnic lunch and stretch our legs included. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner upon arrival.

Night: Lake Placid.

Days 2 – 3 B

The next two days will be dedicated to birding the Adirondacks and the wide variety of habitats of northern New York. From bogs to mountaintops, we'll search for boreal breeders and recently arrived migrants still setting up territories. The mornings will be filled with bird song as warblers and thrushes defend their prime territory. Some of our main targets will be specialties including **Lincoln's Sparrow**, **Canada Jay**, **Boreal Chickadee**, **Black-backed Woodpecker**, and **Olive-sided Flycatcher**. Territorial warblers can also be expected, with up to twenty species breeding throughout the park.

One day, if weather allows, we'll start early and drive to the top of Whiteface Mountain, searching for the range-restricted **Bicknell's Thrush**. Limited to elevations higher than 3,000', and ranging from the Adirondacks to Quebec, this cryptic thrush was only recently recognized as a separate species from Gray-cheeked Thrush.

In the afternoons, after lunch, we'll have the option to continue birding or have free time to explore downtown Lake Placid, and their myriad of restaurants, breweries, and museums focused on the Olympic history of the region.

Nights: Lake Placid.

Day 4 B

After a relaxing morning, focusing on any birds we may have missed, we'll begin our journey back to Connecticut, making necessary stops along the way. We'll plan to return by late afternoon.



General Information

Tour Cost: \$1,898.

Members: \$1,398.

The above cost is based upon a minimum number of six paying participants traveling together. If there are fewer participants, there will be a small group supplement. Per person Tour Cost is based on two people sharing a room.

Single Room Supplement: \$450.

All rates are calculated at the time of publication and are subject to change due to conditions out of our control (i.e. hotel rates). All passengers will be notified if changes in pricing occur.

Tour Includes:

Accommodations are based on double occupancy, one or two beds. Meals are included as outlined in the itinerary section (B=Breakfast/L=Lunch/D=Dinner). Additional charges for meals may apply if needs are out of the standard offerings. Entrance fees to national parks and sightseeing as specified in the itinerary.

Not Included:

Taxes; costs of obtaining passports and visas; airfare; baggage fees; personal expenses such as room service, beverages, laundry, gratuities for the local guide and housekeeping; personal communications; airport taxes; tax increases or new taxes charged for services that were not taxed at the time the booking was made; excess mileage carried out at the request of the passenger; sightseeing or meals not specified in the itinerary; personal insurance coverage (strongly recommended); and transfers to and from your home airport.



Matt Bell is a graduate of the Ohio State University with BS degrees in both earth sciences and evolution/ ecology. He started birding in May 2013 and became more seriously involved after a trip to Costa Rica. Since then, he helped revive The Ornithology Club at Ohio State and assisted as a volunteer guide for The Biggest Week in American Birding and the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival. He absolutely loves participating in citizen science, tour guiding, chasing rare birds in his free time, and meeting fellow birders from around the globe. Most of all, Matt enjoys sharing his passion for birds and conservation with others and never shies away at taking the time to help beginners start their explorations of the avian world. Matt is the EcoTravel travel specialist and leads day trips and overnight tours.



General Terms & Conditions

Reservations

Early reservations with deposit are essential to guarantee your booking. A **\$500 deposit**, per person, applicable to final payment, is required to reserve space on this trip. Reservations made within 120 days of departure require full payment along with the formal Registration Forms. Final payment for programs is due 120 days prior to departure. Payments can be made by personal check, money order, certified check, or a cashier's check.

Rates and Fares

Prices are accurate as available at the time of publication. Prices do not include airfare unless otherwise stated. The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) reserves the right to alter quoted prices to reflect changes in airline fares, land service, or currency exchange rates. In the event that the number of participants is below the minimum required for the quoted price, a small group surcharge may be added.

Cancellation and Insurance

At the time the EcoTravel Office receives written notice that you must cancel your trip, the following cancellation fees will apply: Prior to 120 days from departure, your payments will be refunded minus **\$250 per person**. At 120 days and less, no refund is granted.

NOTE: In addition to cancellation fees, airline tickets and deposits required to guarantee hotel rooms may be nonrefundable. The purchase of a general travel insurance plan covering baggage, accident/life, and trip cancellation is highly recommended. Give us a call and we can put you in touch with those providers. CAS reserve the right, if registration is insufficient or other reasons out of our control, to cancel, postpone, or offer the trip with a small group supplement. In the event that CAS cancels or postpones, those with reservations will be notified as soon as possible and a credit of payments will be held on file. The Connecticut Audubon Society is not responsible for the refund or credit of additional expenses incurred in preparation for a trip. Any "delay" or "postponing" of departure by tour participants is considered a cancellation and cancellation parameters will be apply relative to the 120-day window. There are no exceptions.

Responsibility

Payment of deposit represents and acceptance of the following terms and conditions by the purchaser: The Connecticut Audubon Society, its affiliates, and all cooperating airlines and agencies act only in the capacity of agents in all matters of transportation and tour operations, and their liability is limited to the terms of the airline tickets and land accommodation contracts. They are not responsible for any delays, inconveniences, accidents, expense, or mishap of any kind whatsoever resulting entirely or in part from the negligence of others or from causes beyond their control. They can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, riot, war, pandemic, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses must be borne by the passengers, as the tour rate provides for arrangements only as describe in the tour brochure. The right is reserved to change tour leaders, substitute hotels, of similar category, and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by unforeseen circumstances. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. No refund can be made for unused hotel rooms, meals, and sightseeing tours unless arrangements are made at time of booking. The right is reserved to decline any person as a tour member for any reason which affects the operation of the tour or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of the other tour members. Any refund of the recoverable land tour services in the limit of The Connecticut Audubon Society and its affiliates' liability.

To make a Reservation:

Send the above stated deposit to hold your reservation. Nonmembers, please add \$45 (single) or \$58 (family) for your annual membership and to take advantage of the member discount.

Send your name(s), address, phone number, email address, name of the trip, your deposit, and membership fee (if applicable) to:

The Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel

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