

TRAVEL

## Why the Adirondacks Are the Ultimate New York Getaway

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It's hard to imagine the Adirondacks could fly under the radar—this vast wilderness region in northern New York is the birthplace of the American vacation, after all. Yet despite its sprawling glacier-carved mountains, towering conifer forests, and over 3,000 sparkling lakes and ponds, the 'ADKs' retain an undiscovered quality that their trendy Catskills neighbor to the south has arguably lost. The park (also the largest protected area in the continental U.S.) was established in 1892 and at six million acres is larger than Yellowstone, Everglades, Glacier, and Grand Canyon national parks—combined. Within this natural splendor lies a network of sleepy towns linked by scenic byways with outdoor activities, farm-to-table provisions, and architectural masterpieces.

For history lovers, the 'forever wild' Adirondacks preserve is a bastion of Gilded Age travel, best exemplified by the Great Camps. These grand log mansions, designed to blend in with their wild surroundings, embodied the American naturalism movement and were the brainchild of iconic magnates of the time. "The Great Camps were built when cities were expanding and notable families of the era (e.g. Vanderbilts, Astors, Guggenheims, and Rockefellers) were all seeking a rustic escape to get out of the city," Joe Maiurano, general manager at The Point Resort says. "Using native timber and Adirondack granite hauled by horses from the fields, these estates were built and to this day embody the romantic, 19th-century notion of 'roughing it' as a true Adirondack staple."



The boathouse at The Point Resort. Courtesy of The Point Resort

## Where to Stay

As mentioned, the Adirondacks are regarded for their rugged Great Camps that had a building boom spanning from the 1880s to 1920s. Though many fell into disrepair after The Great Depression, several still stand—and a select few, including The Point Resort on Upper Saranac Lake, still book out rooms. “The Point was built for William Avery Rockefeller II from 1929 to 1933 and offers a glimpse into what the Rockefellers desired when escaping from the hustle and bustle of New York City,” Maiurano says, with outdoor activities including hiking, boating, canoeing, and fishing in the summer, to snowshoeing, ice skating, and more in the winter. The all-inclusive property was the first Relais and Châteaux hotel in North America and has 11 bedrooms.