



THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information NEW YORK



Adirondack Natural Wonders

(A CHASM, A GORE, A CAVE)

Ausable Chasm
21449 Route 9
Ausable Chasm, NY
518 834 7454
ausablechasm.com

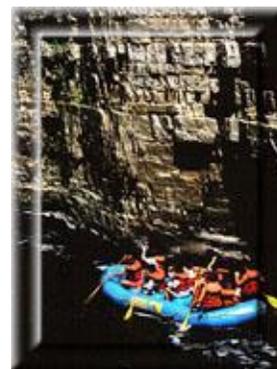
High Falls Gorge
4761 NYS Route 86
Wilmington, NY
518 946 2278
highfallsgorge.com

Natural Stone Bridge & Caves Park
535 Stone Bridge Rd,
NY Pottersville, NY
518 494 2283
stonebridgeandcaves.com

Ausable Chasm



One of the oldest attractions in the United States (est. 1870), the sites of the Chasm are breathtaking. Formed nearly 500 million years ago during a time geologist's call the Cambrian period. View the famous Elephants Head and Rainbow Falls and take a family raft adventure through the Grand Flume and Whirlpool Basin.



Visitors enjoy walking along towering cliffs and through a primeval forest, peering into the gorge and floating the legendary waters of the Ausable River. Guests may ride an inspiring one-mile stretch of the Ausable River on a river raft, kayak or inner tube. Those touring the Chasm by foot have a stunning view of this great geological wonder.

Ausable Chasm is open from mid-May through mid-October, with trails open off-season (weather permitting), and is located just off Interstate 87, 12 miles south of Plattsburgh on Route 9.

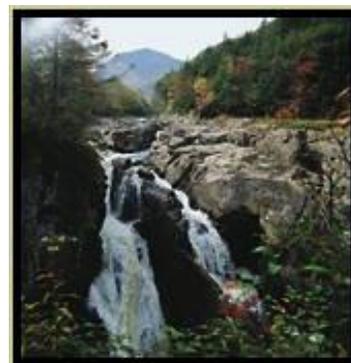
High Falls Gorge



One of the Adirondacks most breathtaking 30-minute walks. In the shadow of Whiteface Mountain, visitors to High Falls Gorge in Wilmington take a nature walk to view the Ausable River as it spills over ancient granite cliffs, formed over a billion years ago by the forces of ice, water and wind. Sturdy bridges,

walkways and groomed paths allow visitors to enjoy self-guided tours to view the beautiful waterfalls, dark pools and one of New York's largest pot holes.

In the winter, come for a nature walk and see the spectacular ice formations on all four waterfalls. The beginner to intermediate





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ADIRONDACK (Continued)

snowshoeing program, separate from the waterfalls, includes a one-mile trail and easy-to-use snowshoes for rent and sale. An in-house ski shop also rents alpine skiing equipment for use at Whiteface Mountain Ski Center.

Located at 4761 Route 86, 8 miles east of Lake Placid, High Falls Gorge is open all 4 seasons

Natural Stone Bridge & Caves



For over 200 years, Natural Stone Bridge & Caves has been a favorite of nature-loving families. Jacob Van Benthuyzen, an ancestor of the current owners, received the site in the 1700's for his Revolutionary War service. Today's visitors begin their self-guided tour at the site of the sawmill he erected on the river. They follow Trout Brook as it flows under the massive Stone Bridge, roars through Noisy Cave, disappears into mysterious Lost Pool Cave, and emerges into tranquil Artist's Gorge.

GEOLOGY & NATURE SELF-GUIDED EXPLORATION TOURS

The massive stone bridge arch - the LARGEST marble cave entrance in the east - dominates this spectacular display of ancient Adirondack geology from rock over one billion years old. Take a walking stick, map, and camera and set out on a self-guided, above-ground, natural stone step nature trail and experience up-close the many unique rock features, such as potholes, grottos, a gorge and mill site waterfalls. Descend into lighted surface caves with raging waterfalls or tranquil dark pools.



ROCK SHOP

Amethyst cathedrals, Mexican Geodes, Large Quartz Crystals, and hundreds of other rock and mineral specimens are available to view or to purchase. For over 40 years we have been building up this rock collection to offer something for everyone, from 10¢ to \$10,000.00.

Geode Cutting

For over 35 years we have been cutting Mexican Geodes and other rocks such as Thunder eggs using diamond saws. With 8 saws, including a large one with a 24 inch blade, the beautiful inside patterns and crystals of the rocks are revealed – and you get to keep both halves!



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ADIRONDACK (Continued)

Geode Popping

If you want a more natural look, choose to have your geode “popped”. Many time crystals that would have been cut using the rock saw are preserved.

Fluorescent Rock Display

A display of colorful rocks that come alive under ultraviolet light.

Extensive Rock and Crystal Collection

A rockhound paradise! From amber to topaz, hundreds of different natural and polished minerals and crystals from all over the world are available.



Large Quartz and Amethyst Specimens

We offer one of the most extensive inventories in the Northeast. That’s because although we travel all over searching for rocks and are a stopping point for many rock dealers, we also buy direct from mines. Therefore you will see some truly great deals.



Healing Rocks

Scientists have known for many years that crystals such as quartz and tourmaline have electrical and other properties that make them useful for items such as watches and transistors, but more recently others have discovered that each crystal may have effects on our physiology and health. Lots of fascinating crystals are awaiting discovery, so come on and explore.

Fossils

New fossils continue to be discovered almost daily and are constantly changing our knowledge of the past. Today scientists think that some dinosaurs were probably warm blooded, had feathers and their descendants are flying around us everyday as birds. We have all grades of fossils from a real Cave Bear Skull, Dinosaur bones and eggs, large Trilobites, Ammonites and Crinoids to small ferns and fish.



Meteorites, tektites and moldavite

If you like the extraterrestrial, a large meteor from Namibia is on display (not for sale) along with many smaller ones you can purchase. Or perhaps you would like a bit of a pretty green moldavite tektite from the Czech Republic?