



WHAT TO DO AT THE BEST PLACE TO SEE IN THE ADIRONDACKS The Wild Center

Tupper Lake, NY - One of the top destinations in New York. Described by *The Boston Globe* as “the place to go” in the Adirondacks. You’ll see the true nature of the Adirondacks at The Wild Center, a new kind of museum where the wild world opens before your eyes. Live animals surround you in the main hall where you can watch otters cavort, great fish swim above you and birds call across the exhibits. “Stunning” is the word *The New York Times* used to describe this beautifully executed facility where you can see more of the Adirondacks than was ever possible before. The Center has an outdoor campus with trails, its own river frontage and private pond, and its main exhibits housed in a 54,000 square foot building mix up the indoors and outdoors with enviable results.

The Wild Center expertly helps its visitors see the surrounding Adirondacks. This is not a stuffy museum, and visitors praise it for letting them explore on their own terms. Want to watch the fish swim over your head? Feel free. Want to watch Carl Heilman’s '*Wild Adirondacks*', a soaring wide screen homage to the wilderness twice? Go ahead. Do the children want to open boxes of bones in the magnificent **Naturalists Cabinet**, or handle a really sophisticated sound system built by Cornell University that helps them mimic bird calls? It’s all theirs. The Center was designed by the same firm responsible for the National Air & Space Museum in Washington, D.C and it shows. You enter The Wild Center through a soaring rotunda with floor-to-ceiling windows that offer unusual waist-high views of the pond that laps against the outside of the building. There’s a lean-to in the Great Hall and a massive moving glacial ice wall that describes how the last ice age carved the modern Adirondacks.

Pass the glacier and you’re on the **Living River Trail** - passing lakes, bogs, streams, rivers, waterfalls and forests to the summit of a High Peak. When they say ‘living river’ they mean it. There are more than 2,000 live creatures in and around the Pataki Hall of the Adirondacks.

Nature infuses the Hall, including the sounds of cascading water from the plunge pool at the dramatic 20-foot-high **Otter Falls**. Here you can watch The Wild Center’s resident otters show you exactly why they have a reputation for playful behavior.

There are plenty of interactives. You can feel how cold the earth was when the glaciers were two miles deep over the Adirondacks, or run your hands through a cloud.

Relax in the **Flammer Panoramas Theater** and watch one of the visually stunning movies shown throughout the day on the unique wide-screen. '*A Matter of Degrees: The True History of the Adirondacks*', narrated by

Sigourney Weaver and filmed in high definition on location in the Adirondacks and Greenland takes viewers on a journey through time showing the story of the Adirondacks as a powerful lesson in how climate shapes our lives. There are a variety of other short films shown throughout the day.

Planet Adirondack opened in Summer 2012 and features an interactive Earth where you can see how our world really works. The guided experience lets visitors ask the questions and watch the Earth answer in an amazing display of images and ideas.

Now that you've learned more about the nature of the Adirondacks, go **outside** and actually explore it first-hand. **Wild Walk** removes the ceiling and walls from a traditional museum experience and transforms the forest into a living, breathing, learning landscape through nature-driven activities and carefully designed observation points. Wild Walk's trail across the treetops experience includes a four-story twig tree house and swinging bridges, a human-sized spider's web hovering 24-feet off the ground, and a spiral walk inside a 'dead' tree's thriving core. There's even an over-sized bald eagle's nest at the highest point where visitors can imagine life as one of the raptors that have made such an astounding comeback in the Adirondacks.

There are three main trails to explore and discover. Take **The New Path** to learn how The Wild Center's many green practices led it to be the first museum in New York to receive LEED certification - LEED is the international benchmark for green buildings. Take some ideas home to make your own house greener, and a healthier place to live. Venture down through the woods to **Oxbow Overlooks** to discover the wildlife living on the marsh. Join one of the **daily naturalist-led hikes** and ask as many questions as you like!

During the summer there are **daily naturalist-led canoe and stand-up paddleboard** trips around the Oxbow.

When you're re-energizing with a snack at the **Waterside Café** you'll start to see why the Wild Center is setting records for the time people are spending with its exhibit and why the Center already has more than 5,000 members. Stop by **The Wild Supply Co.** and pick up a unique Adirondack gift.

This is a new kind of museum. See it. Feel it.

For additional information on the Wild Center, visit www.wildcenter.org or call (518) 359-7800.

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