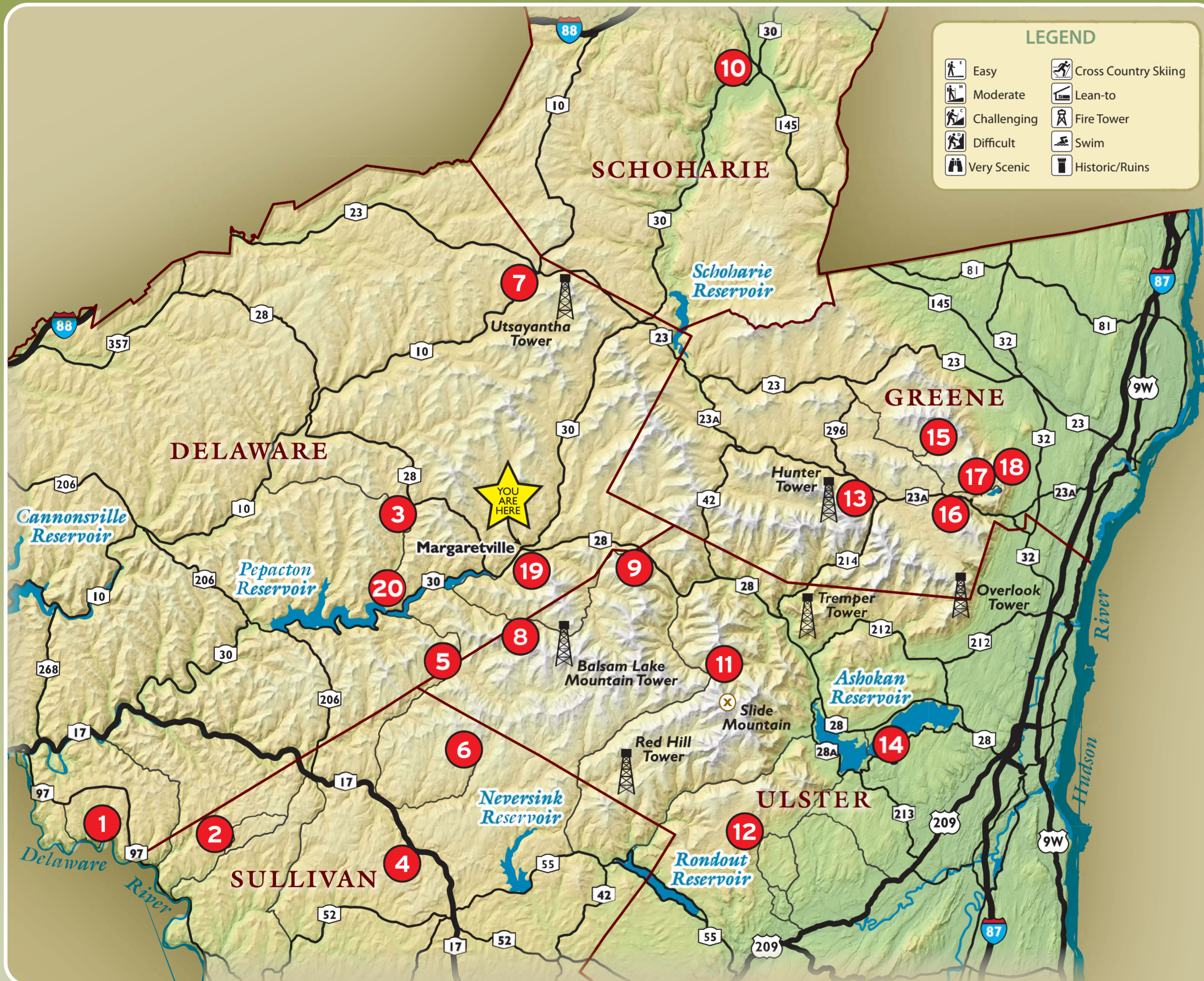


20 Great Catskills Hikes

SOURCES: Catskill Mountain Club,
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and
Watershed Post's Catskills Outdoor Guide

NYNJTC's Catskill Trails map set: nynjtc.org
Catskill Mountain Club: catskillmountainclub.org
The Catskills Outdoor Guide: watershedpost.com



Here are a few of the best hikes from the hundreds of trails crisscrossing the Catskills, chosen and described by the Catskill Mountain Club. For more information about hiking in the Catskills, visit catskillmountainclub.org.

Thanks to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for providing this map, which is adapted from their Catskill Trails map set that shows all designated trails within the Catskill Park and is available in print and on mobile devices.

The Trail Conference supports parks by mobilizing thousands of outdoor-loving volunteers who create, maintain, and protect 2,000 miles of public trails. Support trails and the work of their volunteers by visiting nynjtc.org.



- 1 **Bouchoux Trail and Jensen's Ledges** 2 miles RT. Bluestone ledges perched 500 feet above a big bend in the Upper Delaware River, with a small waterfall. Route 97 to Lordville Rd. to Bouchoux Rd. in Lordville.
- 2 **Crystal Lake Trails** 1.3 mile loop. Easy hike to a 32-acre man-made lake surrounded by almost 500 acres of wild forest, rolling hills and a beaver pond. From Rt. 17 in Roscoe, take CR 92 to Tannah Lake Rd. to Crystal Lake Rd.
- 3 **Andes Rail Trail/Bullet Hole Spur** 4 miles RT. Two miles RT on the flat rail bed. Another 2 miles on a moderate hiking trail. New trail, with easy access from downtown Andes. 266 Depot St.
- 4 **Parkville O&W Rail Trail** 3.2 miles RT. A brand new rail trail in the hamlet of Parkville. Shady walk along creek, small waterfall. From Rt. 17 in Parkville, turn onto Old Rt. 17, go 1.3 miles to the trailhead at the junction with Fox Mountain Rd.
- 5 **Big Pond to Alder Lake** 6 miles RT. Start at Big Pond, have a lovely, moderately strenuous hike along the red trail to beautiful, swimmable Alder Lake, hike back to Big Pond and have another swim. Barkaboom Rd. in Andes.
- 6 **Frick Pond Loop, Mongaup State Park** 2.2 mile loop. Easy traveling through beautiful conifer forest, meadows, and wetlands. From Rt. 17 in Livingston Manor, follow DeBruce Rd. 6 miles, turn left on Mongaup Rd. At 2.5 miles, bear left onto Beech Mt. Rd. and go .3 miles.
- 7 **Catskill Scenic Trail** 26 miles OW Roxbury to Grand Gorge. Hard-packed surface, bikes and horses welcome. Parking and access from multiple points along route, including 21 Railroad Ave. in Stamford. catskillscenictrail.org.
- 8 **Kelly Hollow** 4 mile loop. Hike through majestic hardwoods and dark, quiet evergreens, following a cascading stream. Yellow trail. From Rt. 28 in Arkville, take Dry Brook Rd./CR49 to Mill Brook Rd and go 6.6 miles.
- 9 **Belleayre Mtn. & Pine Hill Lake/Belleayre Beach** Take the Cathedral Glen loop through old growth forest or the High Peaks Interpretive Trail from Overlook Lodge, swim in the lake. Rt. 28 in Pine Hill.
- 10 **Vroman's Nose** 1.5 mile loop. Short, steep hike to fantastic views of the Schoharie Valley. Dramatic ledges, interesting geological history. Mill Valley Rd. off Rt. 30 in Middleburgh.
- 11 **Giant Ledge** 3 miles RT. Arguably the most "bang for the buck" in the Catskills, a short hike with some huffing and puffing is rewarded by breathtaking views on a series of open ledges. Rt. 28 to CR 47/Olivera Rd. in Olivera, park at the lot at the hairpin turn.
- 12 **Vernooy Kill Falls** 3.6 miles RT. An old road that gently ascends Cherrytown Mountain to a series of waterfalls. Blue trail. Upper Cherrytown Road in Rochester; parking area is 3.1 miles from junction with Cherrytown Road.
- 13 **Hunter Mountain** 3 miles RT. Ride the Hunter Mountain chair lift to Colonel's Chair, then hike through towering spruce and fir forests to a 60' fire tower with spectacular 360 degree views. Rt. 23A in Hunter.
- 14 **Ashokan Reservoir** 5 miles RT. Paved trail with spectacular views around the reservoir. Rt. 28 to 28A/Reservoir Rd. in Shokan.
- 15 **Dutcher Notch Waterfall from Colgate Lake** 6.4 miles RT to waterfall, 8.5 to notch. Easy trail to streams, arching bridge and waterfall. Rt. 23C to CR78 in East Jewett.
- 16 **Kaaterskill Falls** 1.5 miles RT. The tallest waterfall in New York State (260 feet, taller than Niagara's 170 feet) is accessible from Rt. 23A, where smaller Bastion Falls can be seen from the road. Use caution, and don't hike the unofficial (and very dangerous) trail to the upper falls Rt. 23A in Hunter.
- 17 **Inspiration Point** 3.8 mile loop. Hike and swim at nearby NorthSouth Lake Southern part of the Escarpment Trail, high above Kaaterskill Clove. Views of Catskills high peaks. From Rt. 23A in Haines Falls, go north on North Lake Rd./CR18 for 2.2 miles, turn right on Scutt Rd.
- 18 **Boulder Rock and Split Rock Loop** 1.8 miles RT. Site of the former Catskill Mountain House, and a taste of the Escarpment Trail. From Rt. 23A in Haines Falls, go north 2.3 miles on North Lake Rd./CR 18.
- 19 **Dry Brook Ridge** 27.4 miles RT. Hike to Balsam Lake Mountain and its fire tower and then Quaker Clearing. Some steeper sections. From Rt. 28 in Margaretville, go southeast on Fair Street, then left on Southside Spur. Trailhead is .1 mile on right. Park on left.
- 20 **Shavertown Trail** 5.3 miles RT. The trail is .1 mile north of intersection of CR1 and SR30 in Andes, near the Shavertown Bridge. Park at the boat launch. Moderate hike for 1 mile arrives at spectacular view of Pepacton Reservoir and a short loop around pond.