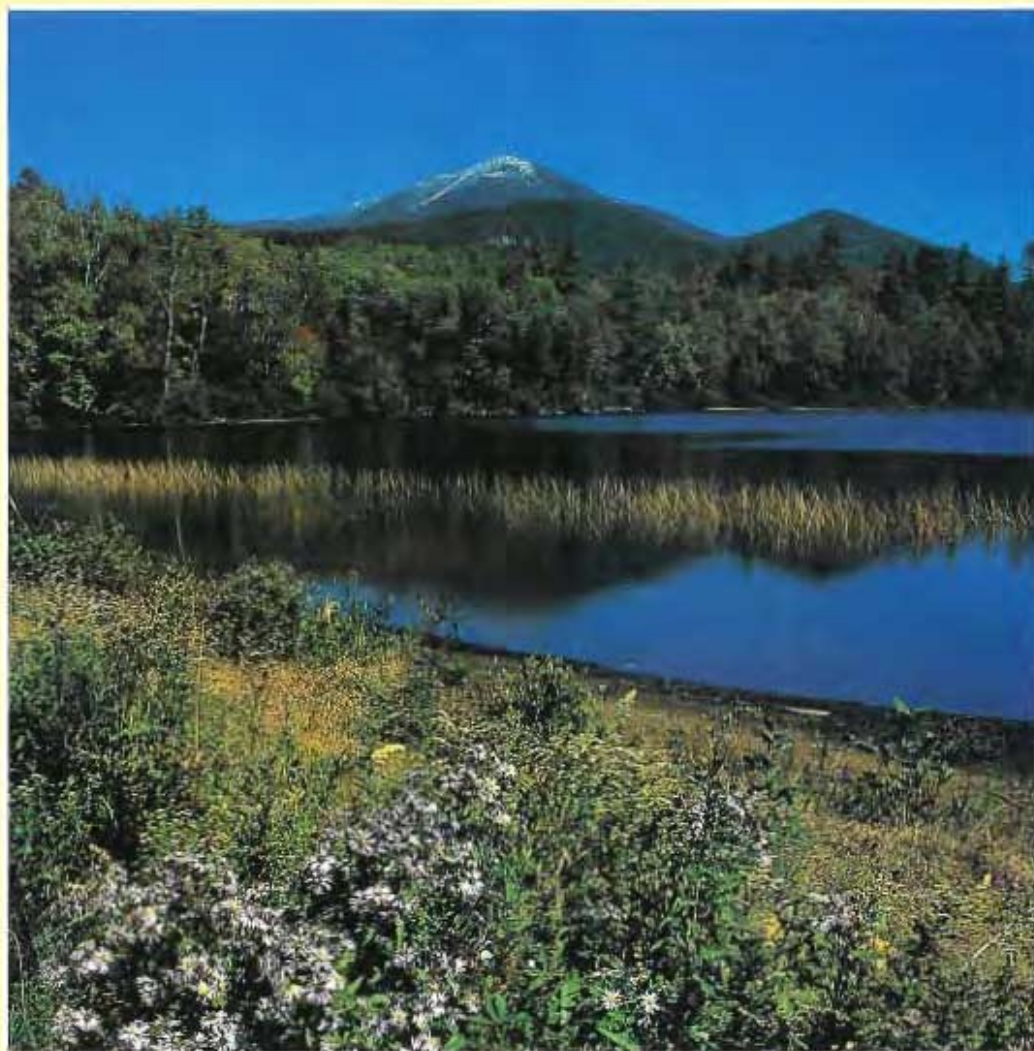


**Fünf Autostunden und ganze Welten von der Metropole entfernt, bietet sich dem Besucher ein völlig anderes Bild von New York: Das Naturparadies der Adirondacks läßt jeglichen Stadtstreß vergessen. Von GINGER HENRY-KÜNZEL**



## Forever WILD

**W**henever I say I'm from New York, people immediately imagine skyscrapers, the noise of taxis, neon lights, the city that never sleeps. That, after all, is New York on the Hudson River.

But now, picture a different New York on the Hudson. It's the Adirondack region of northeastern New York State, where the Hudson is a only a rocky mountain stream gathering strength for its long and ever-widening journey to the New York harbor. Here the only skyscrapers are the trees and mountains, the sound is that of waves hitting a lake's shores, and the lighting comes from the moon and the stars.

The Adirondack Park, a five-hour drive north of New York City, is the East Coast's largest wilderness area and the nation's largest park, two and a half times the size of

Yellowstone National Park. And, because it is less well-known than the national parks, it is far less crowded. Indeed, it is unknown to most Americans living outside the region.

One of the things that makes the Adirondack Park so special and different from the national parks is that people live in it. About 130,000 people live here year-round, eking out a living in a climate where winter temperatures can drop to 35 degrees below zero and the spring thaw often does not arrive until late April. About 70,000 more own seasonal homes. Many of the permanent residents work in the forest products industry, either in the mills or as loggers. Much of the park is privately owned, but about a third of it, two million acres, is owned by the state, which guarantees in its constitution that these lands must remain "forever wild."



Jan McMaister



Menton Rodhat

The beauty of the Adirondacks: America's largest park is famous for its wonderful views, its log cabins and its nature-loving people

There are plenty of opportunities for hiking, water sports and other outdoor activities here. The high peaks in the northern part of the park are especially popular with hikers. Here, too, is Lake Placid, site of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics. A chair lift takes visitors to the top of Whiteface Mountain — which can also be reached via a toll road — for superb panoramic views. For those who like canoeing, the streams, rivers and lakes of the Adirondacks offer a true paradise, winding their way through areas populated only by wildlife. On Lake George, the park's largest lake, known as the "Queen of American Lakes," you can rent a boat and explore the largely undeveloped 32 miles of the eastern shoreline or enjoy a picnic on one of the many state-owned islands.

The Adirondack region, however, has more than just wild and scenic beauty. It also has a fascinating history. Entering the park from the south, you pass through Lake George Village at the southern end of the lake. Here you find Fort William Henry, the setting for James Fenimore Cooper's book *The Last of the Mohicans*. The fort was built by the British during colonial times; the lake served as an important link between the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, and thus between New York City and Canada. Many battles bloodied the waters of Lake George throughout the 18th century. Boats from the Revolutionary War era have recently been discovered intact on the lake's bottom, which has now been turned into an underwater museum for scuba divers.

Lake George — named for King George II of England — is dotted with

more than 300 wooded islands. Its water is so pure that many residents drink it. Strict controls and the lack of any industrial development near the lake help preserve the water's quality. The rolling mountains rising up on both sides along its entire length cradle this long and narrow body of water, sealing it off from the outside world.

Lake George Village sees a flurry of activity during July and August. The town has many motels and restaurants as well as souvenir shops, game arcades and other amusements. A large theme park, the Great Escape, is just a few miles to the south. Cruise boats depart from the docks several times a day. The town itself has not changed much since the 1950s when, during the booming postwar years, vacation cabins and motels sprang up. A visit to Lake George Village is a trip back to yesteryear. If you want colorful nightlife and lots of action in a nostalgic setting, this is the one place in the park where you will be able to find it.

**US usage**


skyscraper — Wolkenkratzer  
to eke out a living [ɪk] — sich seinen Unterhalt mühsam erstreiten, sich recht und schlecht durchschlagen  
thaw — Tauwetter, Schneeschmelze  
logger — Holzfüller  
acre ['eɪkə] — Morgen (0,405 ha)  
constitution — Verfassung  
peak — (Berg)Gipfel  
chair lift — Sessellift  
via [ˈviːə] — über  
toll [tuːl] — Maut; hier: gebührend, pflichtig  
to canoe [kəˈnuː] — Kanu fahren  
to wind (one's way) [waɪnd] — sich schlängeln  
mile — 1,609 Kilometer

scenic ['siːnɪk] — landschaftlich schön, reizvoll  
setting — Kulisse, Schauplatz  
link — Verbindung(sglied)  
to bloody — mit Blut beflecken  
scuba diver — Taucher(in) mit Sauerstoffgerät  
to be dotted — übersät  
to preserve — erhalten  
to cradle ['kreɪdl] — wiegen; hier: umfassen, umgeben  
to seal sth. off from — etw. abtrennen von  
flurry — reges Treiben  
game arcade — Spielhalle  
theme park — Freizeitpark  
cruise boat — Vergnügungsdampfer  
vacation cabin — Ferienhütte



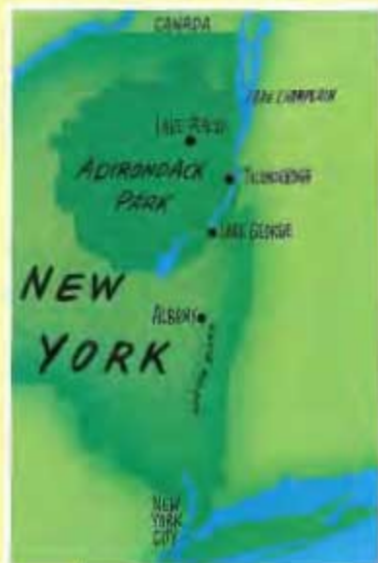
## Adirondack man

Adirondack storyteller and songwriter Bill Smith, here carrying an Adirondack packbasket he crafted himself, is one of the area's great characters and storytellers. We met him at the Sagamore Great Camp, where he was teaching a class in basketmaking. When I asked him if he had been a storyteller all his life, he replied, "Not yet." Seeing my puzzled look, he continued, "My life still ain't over." As we stood talking to Bill, a car pulled up. Rolling down his window, the driver asked, "I'm headed for Raquette Lake. Does it matter which fork in the road I take?" "Nope, not to me it don't," Bill told him without so much as a smile, before turning to me and adding, "We're a cantankerous lot up here, you know."

 You can hear Bill Smith on this month's SPOTLIGHT cassette.

packbasket — Lastkorb  
puzzled — verwirrt  
ain't = (ugs.) is not  
fork — Gabelung, Abzweigung

nope — (US ugs.) see  
cantankerous [kæn'tæŋkərəs]  
— mürrisch, störrig  
lot — (ugs.) Haufen



## IF YOU GO...

### GETTING THERE

You can get to the Adirondack Park from New York City on an Adirondack Trailways bus (from the Port Authority station) or an Amtrak train (from Penn Station). However, to get around the Adirondacks, you really need a car. These can be rented in New York, but a good tip is to avoid the city traffic by taking the train to Albany and renting a car there, where they are also cheaper. Route 87 from Albany is the toll-free Adirondack Northway heading

toward Montreal. Any of the exits numbered from 21 to 30 will take you into the Adirondack park.

### WHERE TO STAY

Accommodations include both bed and breakfast inns (Ruah in Hague, on northern Lake George, is exquisite) and elegant hotels, such as the luxurious Sagamore Hotel in Bolton, also on Lake George. If you are staying more than two nights, you might want to rent a rustic housekeeping cabin on a lake.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

about the Adirondacks or any other part of New York State, contact the State of New York Division of Tourism at 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017; tel. (001) 212-803 2247, fax (001) 212-803 2279.

.....  
accommodation —  
Unterkunftsmöglichkeit  
bed and breakfast inn — private  
Erläuterungsposten  
housekeeping cabin —  
Selbstversorgerhütte



Miss Kerr (top), George Henry-Küntzel

Local touches: a cannon at Fort Ticonderoga, overlooking Lake Champlain (top), and typical rustic rocking chairs on the porch of a cabin at the Adirondack Museum near Blue Mountain Lake

to capture — <i>erzählen</i>	log cabin — <i>Blockhaus</i>
barracks [ˈbærəks] — <i>Kaserne</i>	to craft — <i>handfertigen</i>
dungeon [ˈdʌndʒən] — <i>Kerker</i>	lodge — <i>Hütte</i>
period costume — <i>zeitgenössische Uniformen</i>	bowling alley [ˈæli] — <i>Bowling-Kegelebahn</i>
reenactment [riːnɪˈæktmənt] — <i>Nachstellung</i>	screen — <i>(Ofen)Schirm</i>
trunk — <i>Schrankkoffer</i>	blacksmith shop — <i>Schmiede</i>
to host [hoʊst] — <i>vermieten</i>	barn — <i>Schauer, Stall</i>
gilded — <i>vergoldet, golden</i>	exhibit [ɪɡˈzɪbɪt] — <i>Anstellung</i>
to boast — <i>sich rühmen, prahlen</i>	to devote — <i>widmen</i>
to rough it [ɪt] — <i>primitive leben</i>	mining — <i>Bergbau</i>
estate — <i>Anwesen</i>	birch bark — <i>Birkenrinde</i>
self-sufficient — <i>autark</i>	twig — <i>Zweig</i>
hydroelectric power — <i>Stromversorgung durch Wasserkraft</i>	pattern — <i>Muster</i>
indoor plumbing [ˈplʌmɪŋ] — <i>Wasseranschlag, Installation</i>	nocker — <i>Schmiedestuhl</i>
carpenter — <i>Zimmermann</i>	porch — <i>Veranda, Terrasse</i>
mason [ˈmeɪsən] — <i>Mauerer</i>	conveyor belt [kənˈveɪr] — <i>Förderband</i>
blacksmith — <i>Schmied</i>	slow lane — <i>langsames Tempo</i>
lavish [ˈlævɪʃ] — <i>üppig</i>	lane — <i>(Fahr)spur</i>
	resurgence [riˈsɜːdʒəns] — <i>Wiederaufleben</i>
	unique [juˈniːk] — <i>einzigartig</i>
	to tame — <i>zähmen</i>

Although most of the grand hotels have now disappeared, a few of the Great Camps still remain. One that offers tours for the public is the Sagamore Camp near Raquette Lake, built by the railroad magnate William West Durant and later owned by the Vanderbilt family. The Great Camps have a style all their own. The architecture is a combination of the traditional American log cabin and the Swiss chalet; the furnishings are simple and rustic, crafted from materials found in the surrounding woods.

The Great Camps typically had many different buildings. At Sagamore, there is a main lodge with bedrooms, a dining hall with a kitchen, guest cottages, and a “playhouse” with a covered outdoor bowling alley. The large fireplaces in many of the rooms show the skill of the masons who used rocks from the area. Examine the fireplace screen in the dining hall, with its evergreen tree design skillfully crafted by the house blacksmith. All these buildings are on the camp’s private lake. Just up the road are the workers’ quarters, a schoolhouse for their children, a carriage house, a blacksmith shop and a barn for the animals.

No visit to the Adirondacks would be complete without a visit to the Adirondack Museum — described by the *New York Times* as “the best of its kind in the world” — which overlooks

Blue Mountain Lake. The museum gives visitors an insight into the culture and history of the Adirondack region, with exhibits devoted to boats, the history of mining, of logging and of transportation, and a luxury private railroad car.

One of my favorite exhibits is the rustic furniture in a cabin on a hill. Many of the pieces are covered with birch bark and twigs formed into mosaic patterns. You can sit for a while in one of the rockers on the porch, looking out over the lake. Or you can continue on to the building housing a conveyor belt of old photographs of people and places in the Adirondacks, where you can also sit down and let the good times roll by.

The Adirondack region is one of those rare parts of America where life is still being lived in the slow lane. It’s a place where boat builders, furniture makers and other traditional craftsmen are experiencing a resurgence, where unique characters continue to supply Adirondack storytellers and songwriters with raw material, where nature has not been tamed and people march to a different beat. It’s a place, after all, that’s forever wild. ♦

Writer George Henry-Küntzel is the Lake George correspondent of *The Chronicle* in Glens Falls in the Adirondacks.



## GETTING THERE

**John F. Kennedy (JFK)** in Queens is the main international airport. International flights also land at **Newark** in New Jersey, which is actually nearer than JFK to midtown Manhattan. **La Guardia** is the main airport for domestic U.S. flights.

The price of a **taxi** ride from JFK to Manhattan is fixed at \$30; passengers have to pay extra for bridge and tunnel tolls and the tip (15-20 percent). The taxi fare from Newark to Manhattan is around \$25 plus tolls. When leaving New York, call a **car service** in advance. The Tel Aviv car service (tel. 777 7777), for example, charges \$28 plus tolls and tip to JFK. Carey Bus operates **buses** from JFK to Manhattan (\$13), and NJ Transit operates buses from Newark (\$7 to Manhattan).

The Port Authority Bus Terminal (Eighth Avenue at 42nd Street) is the central station for **public buses** to and from New York. There are two **train** stations: Grand Central Railroad Terminal (42nd Street and Park Avenue) and Penn Station (33 Street at Seventh Avenue).

## GETTING AROUND

**Subways and buses** A single ride costs \$1.50. Buses will take coins, but for the subway, you need either tokens — which you can buy at the token booth in any station or from machines — or the prepaid MetroCard, which is accepted at more than 150 stations. The subway runs through the night and is safe to use at most times.

**Wer in New York ist, hat die Qual der Wahl: hier einige Tips, wie man bei der drohenden Reizüberflutung am besten herum- und zurechtkommt.**



**Taxis** Use yellow medallion cabs, as these are the only ones that are licensed. Do not accept offers from people who come up to you.

**Walking** New York is a very easy city to find your way around in; take time to explore it on foot. Many companies offer walking tours. Contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau for details (see box on page 29).

## WHERE TO STAY

Manhattan has some 250 hotels in all price categories. July, August, January and February are the quietest months.

**THE GRAND HYATT HOTEL** An extremely comfortable hotel within walking distance of the Fifth Avenue department stores, Madison Avenue boutiques and Broadway theaters. Among the hotel's attractions are its new Cigar Room for cigar aficionados, a 24-hour in-room shopping service, and the Sun Garden overlooking 42nd Street, which serves Mediterranean-style lunch. Rooms from \$179. 42nd Street (Park Avenue at Grand Central); tel. 212-883 1234.

**THE NEW YORK HILTON AND TOWERS HOTEL** An international hotel conveniently located within Rockefeller Center amid business headquarters and media centers. Special features include a million-dollar art collection, a separate hotel-within-a-hotel in the Towers, a state-of-the-art fitness center on the fourth floor, and an authentic Japanese buffet breakfast. Rooms from \$195. 1335 Avenue of the Americas, 53rd to 54th Street; tel 212-586 7000.