Great Bike Tours

New York Adirondacks 2027

Multisport – Biking, Hiking, Paddling, and Curling

Less than a half-day's-drive from Boston, New York, or Montreal lies a vast unspoiled wilderness where nature remains pristine and untouched. Come and join us in August as we escape to the Adirondack Park, an expansive playground for cyclists, hikers, and kayakers alike. Spend a relaxing week amid towering fir trees, sparkling lakes and rivers, and spectacular mountains.

Whether by bike, on foot, or with paddle, you'll enjoy an unforgettable week exploring the six-million-acre Adirondack Park – greater in size than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, and the Grand Canyon national parks combined. Luckily for us, nearly half of this Park is now a Forest Preserve, constitutionally protected to remain "Forever Wild."

Tour Length
6 Days/5 nights

2027 Tour Dates
August 22-27
August 29-September 3

Tour Start & End
Saranac Lake, NY

Cost of the 2027 Tour
$3,795 per person (based on double occupancy).
Single Supplement +$1,000



Level of Difficulty
Easy to Moderate – 20-40 miles/day, with total mileage of 75-120. Some optional hills, or grab a lift in the van. Cycle at your own pace. E-bikes available. Also enjoy easy kayaking (3 hours max) and moderate hikes (1 hour max).

Accommodations
Our first three nights we stay at the Hotel Saranac, located on Main Street in Saranac Lake, and our final two nights we'll head over to Lake Placid, where we'll be staying right on the water at The Lake House.

info@GreatBikeTours.com
Tel. 802-777-2009

Highlights

- **Explore** the expansive Adirondack Park, famous for towering fir trees, sparkling lakes and rivers, and spectacular mountains
- **Exciting multisport vacation** with bike rides, short walks, and boat trips:
    - **5 bike rides**, including a journey on the brand-new 34-mile Adirondack Rail Trail, and an exhilarating bike ride down Whiteface Mountain
    - **2 short walks**, including a wander around the High Falls Gorge, and a stroll around the top of Whiteface Mt.
    - **3 boat trips**, including our private happy hour cruise on Saranac Lake, our signature kayak excursion down the Raquette River, and a relaxing morning on Mirror Lake with pedal boats and SUPs
- **Enjoy a day celebrating the Winter Olympics** – with a private curling lesson, and a tour of the Olympic Ski Jumping Complex
- **Visit the award-winning Wild Center** (also known as the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks)
- **Late August** is the perfect month to visit the Adirondacks, when the crowds are gone but the weather is still warm

What's Included?

- 5 nights of lodging (3 nights at Saranac Lake, 2 nights at Lake Placid)
- 10 meals (5 breakfast, 2 lunch, 3 dinners), catering to all dietary needs
- Free use of our bikes, plus helmet, rear rack bag for your personal items, rear safety light + triangle, water bottle, and T-shirt. E-bikes available (limited supply)
- Superior level of support throughout your stay (each trip comes with two 15-passenger vans and three professional bike tour guides)
- *Ride with GPS* navigation (using your own phone) or paper route notes & maps
- Exclusive GBT activities, including our signature kayak excursion, our private curling lesson, and the private presentations to our group by the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation
- Admission to the Wild Center, Whiteface Mountain, High Falls Gorge, and the Olympic Ski Jumping Complex
- Full access to our online photo gallery with photos/videos from your trip
- Small group sizes of 15-20 people
- Optional Pickup & Dropoff at the Burlington, VT airport

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 (Sunday) – Arrival Day

Our bike tour starts at **2:00 pm** at the Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake, NY, voted a "Best Adventure Town" by *National Geographic Magazine*. Many guests will be driving to the hotel, but for those that are flying, we will offer an optional pickup from the Burlington,

VT airport (BTV). If you fly into the local airport (Adirondack Regional Airport, SLK), then we recommend catching an Uber to the hotel (7 miles away).

On the first three nights of the trip we'll be staying downtown at the Hotel Saranac, part of the Curio Collection by Hilton. This recently-refurbished boutique hotel has its own restaurant, two indoor bars, an outdoor terrace bar with fire pits, and a gift shop, fitness center, and salon & spa.

At 2:30 pm we'll assemble for our bike fitting (dressed to cycle), after which we plan to head off on a 7-mile warm-up ride to orientate you to your bike and to the town. Our group will meet at the outdoor terrace bar at 5:30 pm for our Welcome Meeting, followed by dinner together at the hotel.

Accommodations: Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake
Meals included: Dinner
Cycling Options: 7-mile warm-up ride

Day 2 (Monday) – Adirondack Rail Trail to The Wild Center

We start the day with a hearty breakfast at our hotel, followed by a 16 or 28-mile bike ride using the new Adirondack Rail Trail. Starting from our hotel, we will immediately jump on the flat rail trail and follow it westwards as it passes through wild forests, with great views of pristine lakes, ponds, and wetlands. We will take the rail trail all the way to its terminus at Tupper Lake.

After lunch we'll enjoy the second highlight of the day – our visit to The Wild Center in Tupper Lake, which is also known as the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks. Conceived by the designer who helped create the Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum, the Wild Center is one of the top attractions in New York State. We will spend two hours exploring this award-winning Center, with its indoor & outdoor exhibits spread over 81 acres. Make sure you visit the Wild Walk with its trail of swing bridges leading through the Adirondack Forest. Enjoy the four-story twig tree house and the human-scale spider's web and eagle's nest.

At the end of our visit, we'll take the van shuttle back to our hotel so that you can spend some time exploring the town of Saranac Lake. At Happy Hour we will all hop aboard our two private pontoon boats and head out on one of the famed Saranac Lakes to explore the many islands and quiet bays, or to follow the call of the loons. Tonight, you'll be having dinner on-your-own in downtown Saranac Lake.

Accommodations: Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake, NY
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Cycling Options: 16 or 28 miles
Hiking/Boating Options: Nature walk at the Wild Center; pontoon boat trip on Saranac Lake

Day 3 (Tuesday) – Morning Kayaking + Cycling in the afternoon

After breakfast we will start the day with a private presentation on loons by the non-profit Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. The rest of the morning will be dedicated to our signature kayak trip as we head downstream on a lovely river in the Adirondack Park. This journey is 3½ miles long, and you can expect to be on the water for about 2-3 hours. We will paddle through quiet ponds, down gently-flowing creeks through many twists and turns, and into the Raquette River, one of the most popular kayak destinations in the Adirondacks.

After lunch we will offer a gorgeous bike ride in the local Saranac Lakes Region, and we will depart directly from our hotel. We will offer two loop rides of 22 and 32 miles. Both routes will start off on the flat Adirondack Rail Trail, and then the shorter option will head directly to Donnelly's Ice Cream, while the longer option will head north to Lake Clear and Paul Smith's College, before heading back for some ice cream.

If you decide not to join us this afternoon, feel free to explore town on your own, perhaps by taking a stroll along the Riverwalk, a scenic path alongside the Saranac River. Tonight we will dine together as a group at our favorite local restaurant in town.

Accommodations:	Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake, NY
Meals included:	Breakfast, Dinner
Cycling Options:	22 or 32 miles
Hiking/Boating Options:	3½-mile excursion on kayaks (2-3 hours)

Day 4 (Wednesday) – Lake Placid & the Winter Olympics

Today we head towards the Lake Placid region, where we will spend the remainder of the week. After breakfast, we will cycle in an easterly direction to the town of Lake Placid, once again using the new Adirondack Rail Trail.

Lake Placid was home to the Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980, so it's only appropriate that we celebrate with some Olympic activities of our own, starting with a guided tour of the Olympic Ski Jumping Complex. If we are lucky, we'll see some freestyle aerialists undergo their training routines. For a great view of the surrounding peaks, take the elevator to the skydeck on top of the 120-meter ski-jump tower. If you're feeling brave, you can take the zipline back down the hill.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, we get on our bikes and head to the ice rink at the Olympic Center, where we will learn the fine art (and sport) of curling. This fun activity does not require skates, and is suitable for all ages and skill levels.

We end the day at our new accommodations in Lake Placid – the Lake House. For those that haven't had enough exercise, this hotel has a 24-hour fitness center, two outdoor pools, and one indoor pool. For the rest of us, happy hour begins at 4 pm (at the hotel bar, with views of Mirror Lake and the Adirondack Mountains beyond). The Lake House

is within easy walking distance of all shopping and dining options in Lake Placid, and tonight dinner is on-your-own.

Accommodations:	Lake House at the High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid
Meals included:	Breakfast
Cycling Options:	15 or 25 miles
Hiking/Boating Options:	Optional boating at our hotel (on Mirror Lake)

Day 5 (Thursday) – Exploring Whiteface Mountain & Keene

Today we begin our cycling directly from our Hotel. Our first destination is the High Falls Gorge, where we invite you to explore their scenic 30-minute hike to four waterfalls along the Ausable River.

Our next highlight is Whiteface Mountain, the site of the alpine events during the 1980 Winter Olympics. Our plan is to shuttle you to top, but if you're looking for a challenge, feel free to cycle the 9-mile road to the top of the mountain, climbing a total of 3,500 ft. (average 8% grade). At the top of this paved road, we'll hike the short Alpine Nature Trail from the stone castle to the very top, learning about the alpine ecosystem through the exhibits along the way (or you can take the elevator to the top). When you arrive at the treeless summit, take your time to enjoy the spectacular 360-degree panoramic views (weather permitting) of New York, Vermont, and Canada.

Now we get to cycle *down* Whiteface Mountain, for 9 glorious miles (or take the van). Nine pullouts along the way offer fantastic views up to 125 miles away. At the bottom, celebrate with some goodies from the Adirondack Chocolate Factory, followed by a delicious picnic lunch beside a lake. After lunch we cycle to the town of Keene, known for their artisans that skillfully craft tables, chairs, and cabinets from local timbers, barnwood, bark, tree roots, twigs, and antlers.

For our final night we will dine together at local restaurant in Lake Placid, overlooking the water.

Accommodation:	Lake House at the High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid
Meals included:	Breakfast, Picnic Lunch, Dinner
Cycling Options:	9, 17, or 30 miles, plus an optional extra 13-mile climb *up* Whiteface Mountain
Hiking/Boating Options:	Easy walk at High Falls Gorge; hike around the top of Whiteface Mountain; and optional boating back at our hotel (on Mirror Lake)

Day 6 (Friday) – Boating, More Rail Trail, and then Departure

After breakfast we have allotted some time to explore the town of Lake Placid on your own. Perhaps you might take the leisurely three-mile walk around Mirror Lake, head off on your bike, or engage in some power shopping. Our guides will recommend that you

join them for some last-minute boat activity on the lake in front of our hotel – using pedal boats, SUPs, and kayaks. There is no charge of the use of these boats.

In the mid-morning, we will offer an 11-mile bike ride back to Saranac Lake, using the same section of flat rail-trail that we enjoyed on Wednesday. Our bike vacation will officially end at 12 noon, back at the Hotel Saranac (where many of us left our cars for the week). For those folks that did not drive, GBT will offer a van ride to the local Adirondack Regional Airport, as well as a shuttle all the way back to Burlington, VT. We anticipate arriving in Burlington no later than 4:00 pm.

Meals included:	Breakfast at our Hotel
Cycling Options:	Optional 12-mile ride around the Lake Placid region, followed by the 11-mile ride back to the Hotel Saranac
Hiking/Boating Options:	Optional 3-mile walk around Mirror Lake; Optional boat use on Mirror Lake

If you require further information regarding travel logistics, please request our "New York Adirondacks Travel Information" document.

We hope you enjoy your New York Adirondacks Bike Vacation.
If you have any questions, or would like to
confirm some spaces on this trip, please contact us soon.

info@GreatBikeTours.com
Tel. 802-777-2009