



DAY TRIP TO TAHAWUS

From Newcomb · Essex County, New York



OTHER MINING
AND OIL



Photo: petersent, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

OPEN

Open Space Institute land, open to the public, at a trailhead into the High Peaks. Interpretive trails, no posted hours or fees (OSI, August 2025).

From Newcomb, Tahawus makes an easy day. Drive up past the 1856 blast furnace to the lot by the MacNaughton Cottage, then walk the Upper Works Trail along the young Hudson through the site of the iron village. Nothing is for sale at Upper Works, so bring lunch and water.

A SAMPLE DAY

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Morning | Drive from Newcomb on NY 28N, Tahawus Road and Upper Works Road, about 50 minutes. The blast furnace is beside the road near the end. |
| ☐ Late morning | Park by the MacNaughton Cottage, where Theodore Roosevelt set out on his ride to North Creek in September 1901. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk the Upper Works Trail along the Hudson and over its new bridges, through the village site to the blast furnace, then back. |
| ☐ Midday | Eat your packed lunch. |
| ☐ Afternoon | With a canoe or kayak, carry it the 0.3 mile to Henderson Lake. Otherwise, drive back toward Newcomb. |

Coming from Albany? Allow about 2 hours 55 minutes each way, so start early.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The blast furnace.** The 1856 McIntyre furnace stands beside Upper Works Road on the way in, under a mile below the parking lot.
- **MacNaughton Cottage.** Built in 1834, it is the only building left from the mining era. It stands in view of the parking lot.
- **The young Hudson.** The river begins not far above Upper Works and shows from many places along the road and the trail.
- **Drones.** OSI's pages don't mention them. The trails beyond the preserve enter the state's High Peaks Wilderness, so check DEC's rules before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1904 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	16 mi, about 48 min each way from Newcomb. From Albany: 115 mi, about 2 h 54 min.
OPEN	The Open Space Institute posts no hours or fees for its 212-acre Upper Works property. It says nearly 20,000 people visit a year (August 2025).
PARKING	The road dead-ends at a 60-car lot beside the MacNaughton Cottage (OSI; Town of Newcomb).
TIME ON SITE	OSI gives no walking time. The Upper Works Trail is a one-mile footpath along the Hudson; the interpretive trails lead from the parking area through the village site to the blast furnace.
THE COTTAGE	OSI finished restoring the outside in 2025, with a new porch and a wheelchair ramp. Its pages don't say whether the inside is open.
RUINS	OSI's work has been on the cottage, the furnace and the trails. Look at the other ruined buildings from outside.
RESTROOMS	OSI and the town list none.
FOOD AND WATER	None at Upper Works. Pack a lunch and water.
PADDLING	Henderson Lake is about a 0.3-mile carry from the parking lot (Town of Newcomb).
WINTER	Snowshoes or skis are required in the High Peaks with 12 inches or more of snow, and the trailhead often has more snow than town (Town of Newcomb).
WEBSITE	openspaceinstitute.org/places/tahawus

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Stay out of mine shafts, tunnels and unstable buildings.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 44.08670, -74.05590 • 44°05'12"N
74°03'21"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/new-york/tahawus/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.