DAY TRIP TO TRAPPS MOUNTAIN HAMLET

From New Paltz · Ulster County, New York

FARM AND RANCH

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OPEN, DAY-USE FEE

On Mohonk Preserve land, open daily sunrise to sunset with a day-use fee. Parts of the district are in Minnewaska State Park Preserve or private.

The Trapps Mountain Hamlet is an easy half day from New Paltz. Park at Mohonk Preserve's West Trapps Trailhead and follow the blue-marked hamlet path past cellar holes, a family burying ground and the restored Van Leuven Cabin, then come back the same way. Add the Preserve's Visitor Center on the way down for a full day.

A SAMPLE DAY

☐	9 a.m.	Leave New Paltz on NY 299 west and turn right on US 44/55, about 15 minutes.
☐	9:15 a.m.	Buy a day pass at the Visitor Center, half a mile up US 44/55, as it opens. Or pay at the West Trapps booth.
☐	9:30 a.m.	Park at West Trapps and pick up the blue markers.
☐	Late morning	Walk the 12 stops: an abandoned millstone, the old wagon crossing, Ben Fowler's land, the family burying ground and the Van Leuven Cabin.
☐	Midday	Walk back the same way to the trailhead.
☐	Afternoon	Stop at the Visitor Center on the way down. Its quarter-mile Sensory Trail is an easy, level loop.

Coming from New York City? Allow about 2 hours each way, and more on fall weekends.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Van Leuven Cabin.** A plank house of 1889 or 1890. Include the big boulder beside it, which the family cut into a shelf for washing and cooking.
- **The burying ground.** Its oldest known headstone dates from 1866. Frame the stones with care and don't touch them.
- **The Coxing Kill.** The stream runs over conglomerate ledges among big boulders, the hamlet's chief source of water.
- **Stone walls and cellar holes.** Low walls and rock piles mark old fields. They show best when the leaves are down.
- **Group and commercial shoots.** Wedding, group and commercial photography is allowed only in designated areas with advance permission from the Preserve.
- **Drones.** Banned on and above Preserve land unless approved through its permit process.

USGS topographic map, 1903 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	9 mi, about 13 min each way from downtown New Paltz. From New York City: 92 mi, about 2 h 01 min.
OPEN	Preserve lands are open daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor Center is open year-round, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., free, and closed on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and from noon on Christmas Eve.
ADMISSION	Hikers without a membership pay a day-use fee: $15 Monday to Thursday, $20 Friday to Sunday and holidays. Children 15 and under are free with an adult. Buy a pass at the Visitor Center or a staffed trailhead booth; unstaffed booths have self-pay stations for cash, check or virtual credit card.
PARKING	Park at the West Trapps Trailhead, 1.3 miles up US 44/55 past the Visitor Center. The routed drive ends about 1.1 miles farther up the highway, so watch for the lot. It fills very early on summer and fall weekends; the Visitor Center lot is the fallback. Mohonk advises against parking on the road.
THE PATH	A 1½-mile moderate walk with 12 stops, uphill in places and not wheelchair accessible. Return by the same trail; don't follow the highway.
RESTROOMS	Mohonk's visitor pages don't say. Ask at the Visitor Center.
FOOD AND WATER	None listed at the trailhead. Bring water and a snack, or eat in New Paltz.
DOGS	Allowed on a six-foot leash, but not in Preserve ponds or streams.
WEBSITE	mohonkpreserve.org/visit/the-trapps-mountain-hamlet-path-audio-tour

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- 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 41.73333, −74.21417 · 41°44′00″N 74°12′51″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/new-york/trapps-mountain-hamlet/

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