

The Half Moon's Report on the Hiking Trails of Orange County



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Synthesis Essay

Founded in 1683, Orange County was one of the original counties of New York under the authority of the Duke of York. Today, it is home of over 370,000 occupants. Located in the Hudson River Valley, Orange County has many picturesque hiking trails that feature the natural beauty of the area and represent the industrialization in the 19th century. The mines and railways along several of the trails give tourists a sense of the rich industrial history of the area.

Orange County's hiking trails give hikers the opportunity to learn about and explore some of the history that unfolded there because each trail contains some form of history, whether it is history about the park, where the trail is located, or about a feature that the trail passes through. Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park, Black Rock Forest, **Monroe and Goshen**, and the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Outdoor Discovery Center are several areas in Orange County that have interesting histories. Some historic features that the trails pass through include famous iron ore mines, which were the earliest industrial productions in Orange County, **the Erie Railroad**, and building structures that were re-created or preserved due to their importance to the county. No matter the hiking trail, there is always history that can be learned.

Trails, as with all historic sites, need to provide information to visitors regarding where to go, how to get there, why the location is significant, etc. Often, this is done by a combination of pamphlets, maps, signs, and more. Of the most fundamental sort of sign are the trailheads and highway markers. These signs serve a key purpose by drawing the attention of individuals from a distance and allowing them to find key locations without the need to orient themselves with a map. Creating these signs, however, is more complex than meets the eye--many important design

concepts are kept in mind when producing these signs to have them be as functional and aesthetically pleasing as possible.

The features of Orange County hiking trails are notable and attract many people to these areas. As stated earlier, there are many beautiful historical features that make these trails unique and interesting. These features, specifically speak of the industrial history and picturesque beauty of the Hudson River Valley. There are also many picturesque features that add to the landscape such as lakes, ponds, faunas and ferns, to name a few, and even some animal species that add to the wonderful features of this area.

The organization that provides the highest quality of information and support hiking trails specifically in Orange County is the New York - New Jersey Trail Conference. The website provides its visitors with a trail locator map, which allows its visitors to handpick various features they would like to have in a trail, such as length and difficulty. The New York - New Jersey Trail Conference also has 'visual blogs' for their visitors to read and provides information about upcoming hiking events sponsored by volunteer organizations. In addition, the trail conference has a Twitter account that users can follow to keep up to date with hiking trails in the New York and New Jersey area (not particularly Orange County, however). Orange County does not have a Facebook page or Instagram particularly for Orange County hiking trails, which is disappointing.

Orange County has a plethora of picturesque hiking trails that are filled with history and important features. It is up to organizations to advertise and support hiking for both residents and tourists so that more people can enjoy the beautiful Hudson Valley and learn about its historic roots.

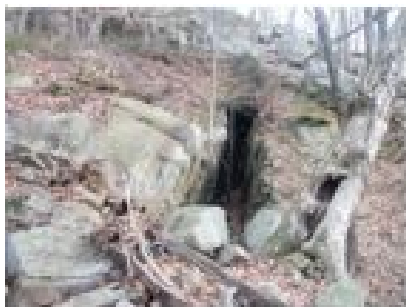
History - Giuliana Coccia

Founded in 1683, Orange County was one of the **original counties of New York** under British law¹. Although Henry Hudson was the first to sail to this area, the county was created under the authority of the **Duke of York**. As years passed, Orange County became the home of many people, parks, and landmarks. Orange County's hiking trails give hikers the opportunity to learn about and explore some of the history that unfolded there because each trail contains some form of history, whether it is history about the park, where the trail is located, or about a feature that the trail passes through.

One of the major parks in Orange County, and the second-largest park in the parks system², is Harriman State Park. Established in 1900 under the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, this state park "covers 46,181 acres of forested mountainous terrain within the Hudson Highlands region in Orange and Rockland Counties"³. Harriman State Park connects to another important park in both **Orange and Rockland County**, which is Bear Mountain State Park. This park has over 5,000 acres in mountains on the west bank of the Hudson River. In 1910, **Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park** was established⁴. In this adjoining park, there are many hiking trails. Three trails in particular that contain historic sites are the Iron Mines Loop #2, the Green Pond/Boston Mine Longer Loop, and the Silvermine Lake Loop.

The **Iron Mines Loop #2** "climbs to viewpoints from the summit of Black Rock Mountain and passes the historic Hogencamp, Pine Swamp, Surebridge, and Boston Mine"⁵. Back in the 1700s in Orange County, the iron industry was the earliest important industrial production. Today, there are remains of certain historic mines. One mine that this loop passes is the **Hogencamp Mine**, where iron ore was mined from 1870 to 1885⁶. While passing through,

there are still remnants of what used to be a village that was built to house workers who were working at the Hogencamp Mine.



Hogencamp Mine: Mindat.org, "Hogencamp Mine, Town of Tuxedo, Orange Co, New York, USA," <http://www.mindat.org/loc-13722.html>

Another historic mine on this loop is the **Pine Swamp Mine**, which opened around 1830. The iron ore that was mined there went to the Greenwood furnaces, which were nearby in Arden, NY. Greenwood made artillery barrels that were heavily used during the Civil War. Unfortunately, Pine Swamp was abandoned in the 1880s.



Pine Swamp Mine: "Pine Swamp Mine," <http://www.abandonedmines.net/pineswamp.htm>

The **Surebridge Mine**, which is also on this trail, was important and active during the **Civil War** period. Finally, this loop passes through the **Boston Mine**, which closed in 1880 and is now filled with water on the Northern end.



Surebirdge Mine: Flickr, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/johnznyc/7488216238>

The **Green Pond/Boston Mine Longer Loop**, located in the Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park, also passes through the historic Boston Mine.



Boston Mine: YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXXo6XKu0M4>

The **Silvermine Lake Loop** goes around the Silvermine Lake, and contains the **William Brien Memorial Shelter**. Before 1934, when the Silvermine Lake was created, “the road followed the edge of what was then known as the Bockey Swamp”⁹. When the lake filled with water, the road submerged and, today, the old road emerges from the lake.



Silvermine Lake: New York State, “Silver Mine - Harriman State Park,” <http://nysparks.com/parks/2/details.aspx>

The last historic site on this trail is the **William Brien Memorial Shelter**, which was built in 1933 by the **Civilian Conservation Corps**, and was originally named the “Letterlock Shelter.” It was later renamed in memory of the first president of the New York Ramblers Hiking Club¹⁰.



William Brien Memorial Shelter: Photobucket, <http://s211.photobucket.com/user/JOEMANCO/media/HARRIMAN%20STATE%20PARK%20NY/WmBrienMEMSHELTER.jpg.html>

Another important park in Orange County is **Black Rock Forest**. This forest’s history dates back to around the time of the American Revolution, when the Continental Army used Continental Road (the bisector of the forest) to travel across the mountains from West Point to New Windsor and Newburgh. In 1918, this forest was set aside for experimentation in forest management and demonstration of forestry methods by Dr. Ernest Stillman. Now owned by the Black Rock Forest Consortium, the mission of these owners is to promote scientific research and to preserve the ecosystem of the forest¹¹. One loop that is located in Black Rock Forest is the

Sutherland Pond/Scenic Trail/Eagle Cliff Loop. Not only does this park hold great history, but it also leads hikers to another historic site: **Chatfield Stone House**. This stone house was built in 1834 and is located on Continental Road. Chatfield Stone House was a family owned farmhouse that was passed from generation to generation, then sold multiple times. In 1913, the house was destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt by the Black Rock Forest employees in 1932¹². Today, the Stone House is a site for education groups to visit and serves as an overnight lodging facility¹³.



Chatfield Stone House: Black Forest Consortium, "Stone House and Campground," <http://blackrockforest.org/research/plan-your-visit/stone-house-campground>

A third major park in Orange County is the **Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Outdoor Discovery Center**. Formerly a showcase dairy and horse farm in the 1900s, named Kenridge Farm, the park today is a privately run, not-for-profit space whose mission is to introduce children and adults to the outdoors¹⁴. A hiking loop located in this park is the **Highlands Quest Trail**. This trail passes through a historic stone foundation that is located on a property that was owned by a wealthy farmer in the 1720s, and the foundation was owned by one of the farmer's tenants. This loop trail also passes through a collapsed iron ore mine that was used in the 1800s¹⁵.



Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Outdoor Discovery Center: Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, “Grasshopper Grove: Gateway to Nature Play,”
<http://hhnaturemuseum.org/index.php/grasshopper-grovenature-play>

One major trail in Orange County passes through many parks and historic sites: the **Heritage Trail**, which is also known as the **Orange County Rail-Trail**₁₆. From start to end, this trail goes from **Monroe to Goshen**, NY, or vice versa wherever you start first. The places and parks that hikers pass during the course of this trail are what makes the Heritage Trail historic and a great hike. This trail goes along the path of the **Erie Railroad**, the **first long long railroad in the county**. Completed in 1851, this railroad ran through New York City, Buffalo, Chicago, southern counties in New York, and Lake Erie₁₇. Although this railroad had several bankruptcies, it was still successful for the industrialization of Orange County.



The Erie Railroad: Pennsylvania Photos, “The Erie Railroad,”
<http://www.billspennsyphotos.com/apps/photos/photo?photoid=74105423>

Another historic feature on this trail is while passing through **Crane Park**. In one corner of the park, there is an old **Saber Fighter Jet**₁₈. These aircrafts were constructed during the 1940s, a few years before the Korean War. This jet was considered one of the best aircrafts of this time because of its design and its impact on the war₁₉.



Old Saber Fighter Jet: Pinterest,
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/268456827760993703/>

A few other interesting and old features that are seen on this trail are a cemetery, a train station, and the old Camp LaGuardia. As previously mentioned, this trail goes through different parks and starts in one village and ends in another. During this trek, Chester is a village that this trail passes through. Before reaching this village, there will be a cemetery that dates back to the nineteenth century. Once in Chester, there is a restored stone-facade train station that is now the Chester Depot Museum₂₀. Another landmark of this trail is the old Camp LaGuardia, which was a homeless shelter in New York City. Currently, this development is being restored₂₁. The Heritage Trail allows the hikers to not only enjoy a great hike, but to also learn about the history of Orange County.

Orange County has one of the richest historic backgrounds in New York. Containing various state parks and villages, such as Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park, Black Rock Forest

State Park, Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Outdoor Discovery Center, and the Villages of Monroe and Goshen. there are many trails that hikers can explore and find landmarks to learn about the wonderful history of Orange County.

Footnotes

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http://www.co.orange.ny.us/filestorage/124/1338/A_Short_History_of_Orange_County.pdf
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14. New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, “Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Outdoor
Discovery Center,”
<http://www.nynjtc.org/park/hudson-highlands-nature-museum-outdoor-discovery-center>
15. New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, “Family Friendly Highlands Quest Trail at
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<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/family-friendly-highlands-quest-trail-hudson-highlands-nature-museum>

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<http://www.nynjtc.org/book/9-heritage-trail-orange-county-rail-trail>

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<http://www.britannica.com/topic/Erie-Railroad-Company>

18. and 20. Trail Link, “Heritage Trail (aka Orange Heritage Trail),”

[http://www.traillink.com/trail/heritage-trail-\(aka-orange-heritage-trail\).aspx](http://www.traillink.com/trail/heritage-trail-(aka-orange-heritage-trail).aspx)

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_F-86_Sabre

20. Trail Link, “Heritage Trail (aka Orange Heritage Trail),”

[http://www.traillink.com/trail/heritage-trail-\(aka-orange-heritage-trail\).aspx](http://www.traillink.com/trail/heritage-trail-(aka-orange-heritage-trail).aspx)

21. New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, “Heritage Trail (Orange County Rail Trail),”

<http://www.nynjtc.org/book/9-heritage-trail-orange-county-rail-trail>

Brook with cascades and an outlet stream of Island Pond with more cascading waterfalls. There is also a rock ledge, which overlooks Green pond, which is one of the few ponds in the park not enlarged by the construction of dams. You will also reach the entrance of the **Boston Mine**, which is cut into the hillside, and at the end of the hike there are young hemlocks and pines growing in an area which was damaged by a wildfire (1).



Entrance to the Boston Mine

(<http://www.taconichiking.com/resources/harriman22.jpg>)

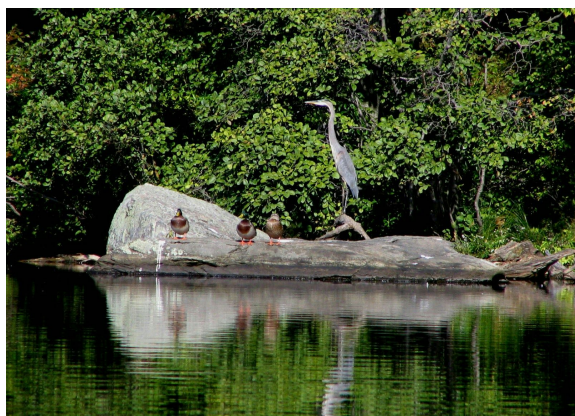


Green Pond

(<http://blog.micahbrubin.com/tag/green-pondboston-mine-longer-loop-from-elk-pen/>)

The **Iron Mines Loop**, also in Harriman, features many streams, a hemlock grove, and another area scarred by a recent fire. The trail contains the **highest spot** in the park, at an

elevation of **1,382 feet** at **Hogencamp Mountain** and the Bald Rocks shelter made of granite slabs. The trail continues on an old mining road known as Crooked Road where there are remnants of **Hogencamp Mine**, and the ruins of old stone houses which made of the village of miners. You will also pass the **Pine Swamp**, the **Surebridge Swamp**, and ruins of old mines in both of those areas (2). The **Silvermine Trail** features Silvermine Lake, created in 1934 and Bockey Swamp road. There is also a stone shelter, and on Silvermine Road there are areas where the original stone subsurface is still visible (3).



Great Blue Heron and Wood Ducks at Silvermine Lake.

(https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d8/Silvermine_Heron_Mallards.jpg)

Storm King Mountain and Black Rock Forest also contain many hiking trails with notable features. **The Sutherland Pond/ Eagle Cliff Loop** has views over the Shawangunk and Catskill Mountains, and panoramic views with Sutherland Pond directly below. There is an old abandoned mine, visible as a large cut into the hillside. You will pass **Sutherland Pond, the only natural pond in Black Rock Forest**, and other ponds such as Wilkins Pond and Jim's Pond. There is a huge rock outcrop with visible glacial striations, and at **Spy Rock you will be**

at the highest point in Black Rock Forest at 1,416 feet. Near the end of the hike is the Chatfield Stone House, Arthur's Pond, and a stone chimney, which is the remnants of a cabin that once stood (4). The Highlands Quest Trail at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is another trail in the Storm King and Black Rock Forest. It is on an old carriage road where various faunas and fern are visible, including a stand of tulip trees. There are ruins of houses, a stone fence, and an abandoned iron mine, which date back to the 1800's. There are magnetic tailings containing small amounts of iron on the ground. There is also a large boulder dropped by the Laurentide Ice Sheet Glacier 18,000 years ago. The hike showcases various woodland habitats, and Muskrat Pond, which is a habitat for Great Blue Herons and Wood Ducks, and you may also see water lilies and blue flag irises in the spring and summer (6).



Storm King Mountain Highway Marker

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9b/Storm_King_Marker.JPG

The Rail Trail, or Heritage Trail, which was once the route of the Erie Railroad in Orange County also has many historic and beautiful features. When you first begin. The trail continues with a trestle bridge, where old tracks are still visible on a bridge parallel to it. As you continue there is a cemetery to the right which dates back to the 1800's, and then there is

another trestle bridge. You will continue over a few more bridges and see old tracks on the ground with an old rail car and 2 flatcars to the left. Then there is a railroad trestle which you pass under, pass open fields, and then pass the ***Chester Railroad Depot***, which serves as a museum. Next you will pass through a rock cut with thick stone block walls, cross a stream and continue until you reach route 17. If you continue the trail to Goshen you will also see the **Old Goshen Train Station**, which is now the police station. This trail showcases the impact **industrialization** had on the Hudson River Valley, and how things have changed with new innovations (5).



Old 1800's cemetery on the Rail Trail

(<http://www.traillink.com/imagehandler.ashx?id=76129&t=640>)

As you can see, Orange County has many hiking trails with features that showcase the beauty, and history of the area. With many types of natural features, these trails offer things from waterfalls, to ponds, to glacial rocks. There are also many historical features including the many abandoned mines in the area. Orange County is a great area to go hiking, because the features among these trails are some that are worth seeing.



View of the Hudson from Storm King Mountain

(<http://www.scenichudson.org/ourwork>)

Guidebook Pages-Casey Herasimtschuk:

Highlands Quest Trail:

Family Friendly Highlands Quest Trail at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum



Trailhead GPS Coordinates 41.42207, -74.03458
Outdoor Discover Center: On Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road, Cornwall, NY
Hours: Mid-April to Mid-November 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
<http://hhnaturemuseum.org>
<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/family-friendly-highlands-quest-trail-hudson-highlands-nature-museum>
Phone: (845)534-550

Historic Description:

The Black Rock Forest region began in the late 1800's when the Stillman family began to purchase tracts of land in the Hudson Highlands. Dr. Ernest G. Stillman created Black Rock Forest in 1929 with these lands, designating it as an area for nature research and demonstration. Native Americans were the first to settle in the area, practicing hunting and using fire as forest management. Europeans began to settle in the late 1600's until the 1800's and developed much of the land into homesteads, farms, orchards, clear-cutting areas, and mines for iron ore. The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum was established in 1959 and is a top provider for nature education in the Hudson River Valley.

The Site:

The Highlands Quest Trail at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum features historic Industrial and residential features that shaped the Hudson River Valley throughout the years. The Museum also features discover quests-unique, interactive ways to teach kids of all ages about the environment. A guidebook specific to a quest is available at the visitor's center for \$5.00 and can be shared by a group. You can choose from one of five hikes, The Pond Quest, Field

Quest, Woodland Quest, Hiking Quest, or a combination of the Pond, Field, and Woodland Quests.



Directions:

From Middletown and West

Take Interstate 84 East to Exit 10. Continue South on 9W through Newburgh and New Windsor and past Cornwall Hospital (entrance on left and Quaker Ave on right) Stay on Route 9W South in right lane. Take next exit which is Angola Road. At end of ramp take left onto Angola Road. Take first left onto Muser Drive. Stay on Muser Drive for .7 miles until parking lot.

From Connecticut and East

Take Interstate 84 West to Exit 10 and go south on 9W. Continue as above.

From Albany and North

Take NYS Thruway south to exit 17S (Newburgh). Take 184 East to Exit 10 and go south on 9W. Continue as above.

From NYC

Take G. Washington Bridge to Palisades Parkway. At end of Parkway, continue north on 9W over Storm King Mountain. Exit at Angola Road, left across overpass, Take second left onto Muser Drive. Stay on Muser Drive for .7 miles until parking lot.

From New Jersey

Take NYS Thruway to Exit 16 Harriman. Follow Rt. 32 North for 7 miles take right onto Route 107/Quaker Avenue, Cornwall. Proceed uphill make right onto 9W South. Take next exit which is Angola Road. At end of ramp take left onto Angola Road. Take first left onto Muser Drive. Stay on Muser Drive for .7 miles until parking lot.

Sutherland Pond/Eagle Cliff Loop

Sutherland Pond/ Scenic Trail/ Eagle Cliff Loop

Trailhead GPS Coordinates 41.402043, -74.047106
 Black Rock Forest Consortium
 65 Reservoir Road, Cornwall, NY 12518
<http://blackrockforest.org>
Consortium: 845-534-4517
<http://www.nyscic.org/hike/sutherland-pondscenic-trail-eagle-cliff-loop-mine-hill-road>

History:

Nearly 14,000 years ago Pleistocene glaciers retreated and forests began to develop in the Highlands. Different Black Rock Forest began in the 1800's when the Stillman family began purchasing land in the Hudson Highlands. Different types of trees have come and gone in the area due to short and long term variations in both climate and human activity. Black Rock Forest began in the 1800's when the Stillman family began purchasing land in the Hudson Highlands. The park features remnants of many old farming households including "The Stone House" or the Chatfield House, a historic farmhouse built in 1834. It was built by John Kronkite, and sold to William Chatfield with the surrounding 220 acres of land, which were then used for farming. Then, the home was occupied by the James Babcock family, acquired by Mr. Thomas Tall, and later sold to the Stillmans. It was damaged by a fire in 1912 and rebuilt in 1932 by Black Rock Forest Employees.

The Site:

Features the old Continental Road, ponds, Spy Rock (the highest point in Black Rock Forest at 1,461 ft.), remnants of past occupants, and the Chatfield Stone House. The Stone House is a site for educational groups, in which the consortium staff will provide lanterns or candles, due to the house's lack of electricity. There are two treepoles for heat, a propane stove for meals and a water pump for clean water from the house well. Overnight lodging is available with eight bunk beds, and room for at least a dozen more with sleeping mats on the floor. A tenting area is at nearby Tamarack Pond which is available for up to 50 people, and the Moretti outpost, which is very close, offers a sheltered space for meals and for groups to gather. Dogs are allowed on the trail on a leash, and swimming is permitted at Sutherland Pond, at your own risk.

Directions:

Take the New York Thruway north to Exit 16. Follow N.Y. Route 32 north for seven miles to Mountainville, and turn right onto Angola Road. After 0.8 mile, you will come to a stop sign. Turn left to continue on Angola Road. In another 0.8 mile, turn right onto Mine Hill Road. Follow Mine Hill Road uphill for 0.9 mile to a parking turnout on the right side of the road, just beyond a very sharp, steep hairpin turn. NOTE: Trailhead parking is very limited (maximum five vehicles). Please make sure that you do not block the road or hamper access by emergency vehicles.

Iron Mines Loop

The Iron Mines Loop

Trailhead GPS Coordinates 41.234516, -74.148972
 For information:
 Palisades Interstate Park Commission
 Bear Mountain, NY 10911
 Phone: (845) 947-2444
<http://nyscic.org/hike/iron-mines-loop-2-southwest-harrimanbear-mountain-state-parks>
 Free parking in parking area on the side of the road

History:

Harriman State Park is a good example of the industrial history of the Hudson River Valley. The Pine Swamp Mine, which was open from 1830-1880, and the remnants of both the mine and inhabitants are still visible. The Hogencamp Mine was active from 1870-1885 and the remnants of the village of miners still exists. The Suresbridge Mine was active during the Civil War period, and the Boston Mine, which cuts into the hillside, was abandoned in 1880.

The Site:

The Iron Mines Trail showcases the significance that the iron industry had on the Hudson River Valley. The mines are along the trail, but take caution when approaching and do not go inside. Dogs are permitted on leashes and free parking is available along Route 106.

Directions:

Take N.Y. Route 17 north through Slutsburg and Tuxedo. About 2.4 miles north of Tuxedo, take the exit leading to N.Y. Route 17A. Turn right at the top of the ramp onto County Route 106 and continue for 2.1 miles to a parking area on the right side of the road, just beyond a sharp curve.

Green Pond/Boston Mine Loop

Green Pond/ Boston Mine Loop

Trailhead GPS Coordinates 41.264792, -74.15426
 For information:
 Palisades Interstate Park Commission
 Bear Mountain, NY 10911
 Phone: (845) 947-2444
<http://www.nyscic.org/hike/green-pond-boston-mine-loop>
 Free parking at the Elk Pen parking lot

History:

Harriman State Park began in 1910 thanks to the financial resources of Union Pacific Railroad president, E.W. Harriman and his widow's donation to New York State. Throughout the park there are numerous sites of abandoned iron mines that date back to the pre-and post-Civil War eras. The primary ore was magnetite, but accessory minerals included pyrite, biotite, and hornblende. The ore was processed in large rock furnaces using charcoal, and in the 1900's, at the height of the iron industry, the Highlands mining industry produced approximately 17 percent of the world's iron.

The Site:

The trail showcases both the history and natural features of Harriman State Park. With over 200 miles of hiking trails, Harriman has a lot to offer. This particular trail features original roads, waterfalls, ponds, and mines dating back to the industrial era. Dogs are allowed on a leash. Free parking is available at the Elk Pen parking area.

Directions:

Follow N.J. Route 17 north to the New York State Thruway and take the first exit, Exit 15A (Slutsburg). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto N.Y. Route 17 north. Continue on Route 17 through the villages of Slutsburg, Tuxedo and Southfields. About two miles north of Southfields, turn right onto Arden Valley Road. Cross the bridge over the New York State Thruway, then make the first right and park in the paved parking area to the west of a large meadow, known as the Elk Pen.

Public Transportation:

Take Short line bus from Port Authority. Buy tickets to Southfield, but ask the bus driver to let you off at Arden Valley Road in Arden next to a "Welcome to Harriman State Park" sign (a couple of miles north of Southfields). Return bus stops across the street - wave the driver down. After you get off the bus, make a right onto Arden Valley Rd., walk across the bridge over the NY State Thruway, then make the first right Continue through a paved parking area to the west of a large meadow, known as the Elk Pen

The Heritage Trail (Orange County Rail Trail)

The Heritage Trail (The Orange County Rail Trail)

Monroe Coordinates 41.34678°, -74.19807°
St. James Place-Goshen Coordinates 41.40023°, -74.32294°
Hartley Rd. - Goshen Coordinates 41.40903°, -74.37180°
Chester Depot Museum Coordinates 41.36258°, -74.26969°
 19 Winkler Place, Chester, NY 10918
 Saturdays, May through October, 9:00 am-1:00 pm
<http://www.nyscic.org/book/9-heritage-trail-orange-county-rail-trail>

History:

The Heritage Trail, or Rail Trail, is a 10-foot-wide trail running along the former Erie railroad. The Erie railroad was incorporated in 1832 and the tracks were completed in 1851. The company faced bankruptcy 4 times merged with Lackawanna, Delaware and Western Railroad Company, and became the Erie Lackawanna Railroad in 1960, which bankrupted in 1972. The stone-façade Chester Train station now serves as the Chester Depot Museum, which is on the trail.

The Site:

The trail showcases the industrial importance of the Hudson River Valley. Examples of this are the old Saber fighter jet visible in the corner of Crane Park (a.k.a. Airplane Park) and the remnants of the Erie Railroad. There are also corn wheat and black soil fields (good for growing onions), and a wildlife sanctuary along the trail. Access points of the trail are in Goshen, Monroe, and Chester.

Directions:

Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 16 (Harriman). Proceed west on NY Route 17/Interstate 86 for three miles to Exit 129. Turn left on Museum Village Road and turn left again onto Orange and Rockland Road immediately after crossing over Route 17, into a commuter parking lot and Park & Ride.

Parking Suggestions:

Commuter parking lot in Monroe, off Exit 129 on Route 17.
 At the Chester Depot Museum in the Village of Chester, off Exit 126 on Route 17.
 Parking lot at the end of St. James Place in the Village of Goshen, off Exit 124 on Route 17.
 Hartley Road, at the end of the Heritage Trail, off US Route 6 (limited parking).

Itinerary- Casey Herasimtschuk:

<p>Day 1/ Night 1</p> <p>Directions from the George Washington Bridge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Head West on U.S. 9 S Use the right 2 Lanes and take exit 74 towards the Palisades Parkway. Continue onto the Palisades Interstate Parkway North. (34.3 mi) Continue of U.S. 6 East/ Palisades Parkway North. (2.5 mi) At the traffic circle take the 3rd exit onto Rte. 9W/ U.S. 9W North. (10.9 mi) Turn right towards Angola Rd. (0.2 mi) Turn left onto Angola Rd. (0.4 mi) Turn left onto Muser Dr. (102 ft.) Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will be on the left. <p><i>We will pick up lunch at Highland Falls Deli and Grocery on the way to our first trail, which is a short drive into Highland Falls from Route 9W</i></p> <p>6 Mountain Ave Highland Falls N.Y. 10928 Phone: (845) 446-2805</p> <p>Arrival time: 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Highlands Quest Trail</p> <p>Time: 4 Hours Length: 18 miles (easy to moderate) Features: views, historic features, various plant species Park: Black Rock Forest at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Outdoor Discovery Center</p> <p>Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hike is one of four Discovery Quests available at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum. The hike is complemented by an interactive guidebook which may be purchased at the Visitor's center. Marked points along the trail correspond to activities and information in the guidebook including topics such as plants, animals, industrial evidence of the lands past, glacial evidence, and history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When you begin the Highlands trail, cross the field behind the Visitors Center heading towards the orange, yellow, and turquoise flags. From this point, the trail curves through a well field into the tree line in which a yellow flag marks the Highland Quest trailhead. The trail follows an old carriage road that showcases numerous faunas including fern to some of the tallest deciduous trees in the area. The trail will split and you will veer left and continue following the yellow trail markers. You will be on a trail that runs parallel to a stream bed, which you will cross over three times. You will then move away from the stream to the right, past a stand of Tulip trees. The trail curves to the right, meeting another old carriage road which was used to transport mining ore and timber, and leads you to a stone fence made by early farmers. You will continue along the stone fence and reach the site of an old mine to the left, which dates back to the mid 1800's. There may be magnetic tailings found on the ground. Then the trail turns right, and as you continue you will see a large boulder dropped by the Laurentide Ice Sheet glacier to your left. You will stay on the trail as it winds through the forest and you reach post 7. To the right there is a stone foundation of a house visible, which was property owned by a prominent farmer in the 1750's. The trail will curve right after this, and you continue through various woodland habitats until the trails turns into an open field. An enclosure is visible straight ahead, which keeps deer and other wildlife from eating the plant life growing inside the fence, and gives us an idea of what the area would look like if the deer had natural predators in the area. Continue on the trail until you reach Muskrat pond on the left side of the trail. It is a habitat for Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks, and Water Lilies and Blue Irises in the late spring and summer. There is a building next to the lake which is a sugar shack, in the late winter and early spring maple syrup is made by museum educators in the exponent. You will double back and continue to the right until there is an intersection of three trails. From this point follow the red trail markers back to the Visitors Center. <p>Directions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Head northwest on Muser Dr. toward Angola Rd. (to a ft.) Turn left onto Angola Rd. (1.0 mi) Turn left onto Mine Hill Rd. (0.7 mi) <p>12:00 pm:</p> <p>Sutherland Pond- Eagle Cliff Loop</p> <p>Time: 4 hours Difficulty: Moderate Length: 6.5 mile circuit Features: Views, Swimming, Historic Features Park: Black Rock Forest</p> <p>Description:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To begin the hike, you will follow the yellow-diamond blazed Mine Hill Trail which starts on the opposite side of the road. The trailhead is marked by a triple blaze and you will follow the trail uphill to a switchback turn. There will be views of the Shawangunk and Catskill Mountains through open rocks to the left. You will continue south to a junction with yellow-circle blazes of the Sackett Trail and follow them right to another junction with yellow-rectangle blazes, the Stillman Trail. Turn left onto the trail, which then turns right on Hall Road. The road curves to the right and you will turn left and continue to follow the yellow-rectangle blazes which continue into the woods. You will soon reach a junction with the blue-blazed Compartment Trail, bear right and follow both the blue blazes and yellow-rectangle blazes uphill towards the crest of a ridge. At the crest the trails split and you will turn right to continue following the blue blazes. As the trail curves left look for three white blazes which mark the Split Rock Trail. Turn left and follow the white blazes which continues to a panoramic viewpoint with Sutherland Pond below. Continue following the white blazes and after you pass the Split Rock trail descends to Sutherland Road. Turn right and you'll see a large cut into the hillside on the right, the site of an abandoned mine. Continue about on Sutherland Road and you will approach the shore of Sutherland Pond, swimming is permitted at our own risk. In about a half mile, you will see Hall Road come in from the right, you should continue on the road until you reach a fork in the road with three yellow blazes that mark the start of the Arthur Trail. Follow the yellow-rectangle blazes and you will cross a stream on a split-log bridge. Shortly after, the trail crosses a swamp on punchions which may be slippery if the water is high. Just beyond the swamp there is a junction with the white-blazed Scenic trail. You will turn left onto this trail and when the blue-blazed trail turns to the left you will continue following the white blazes. You will continue uphill and reach a junction marked by a log sticking out of a cairn. This is the start of the blue-blazed Eagle Cliff Trail. Turn right and continue to Eagle Cliff, a huge rock outcrop with glacial striations that offers a panoramic view to the south, where on a clear day you may be able to see New York City. When you continue Wilkins Pond is straight ahead and Jim's Pond is on the left, which is a good spot to take a break. As you continue bear right to the orange-blazed Rut Trail. The trail continues near the edge of the escarpment with views to the right. Watch out for a sharp left turn where the trail moves away from the cliff edge and down a narrow passage between boulders. The Rut Trail ends at a junction and you will turn left on the yellow-blazed Stoppel Trail which leads soon to the white-blazed Scenic Trail. Turn right and continue on that trail.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will retrace your steps to the Scenic Trail and take a left, following a descending well-defined woods road. Go north on the road. In half a mile you will see an old stone building to the left. That is the Chatfield stone House, which was built in the 1850's, damaged by a fire in 1924 and rebuilt in 1934. Arthur's Pond is visible to the right. Continue on Continental Road and in another quarter of a mile you'll come to a fork at a huge white oak tree where you will continue straight ahead. Soon you'll reach a cable barrier across the road. The yellow-blazed Stillman Trail and red-diamond blazed Highlands Trail join briefly. You will continue along this road. Soon you'll see a triple-blaze which marks the start of the yellow-circle blazed Sackett Trail. Follow this trail which will run along the road for a short time, then turn left into the woods on a footpath. In about a half mile, the trail turns left onto Hall Road. You'll follow this trail for about 150 feet then reenter the woods at a turn right. You will pass a stone chimney, the remains of a cabin that once stood. The trail descends across a brook and ascends to a hill where you will reach a west-facing viewpoint. This is followed by a steep descent. In about three quarters of a mile you'll reach a junction with the Mine Hill Trail, with yellow-diamond blazes. Turn right and follow this trail to Mine Hill Road, which I opposite the parking turnout where you began. <p>For activity see Lesson Plan</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Head to Chatfield Stone House, which is on the trail, for overnight lodging.</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Dinner at the Stone house We will spend the night cooking a simple meal at the stone house, and taking in the ambience of a simple home without modern amenities.</p> <p>Spend the Night</p> <p>Chatfield Stone House Lanterns and candles will be provided a fireplaces provide heat and a propane stove is available for cooking. 8 bunk beds and room for at least a dozen more on sleeping mats on the floor.</p> <p>*For Breakfast enjoy a hearty oatmeal breakfast cooked at the Stone House.</p>	<p>Day 2/ Night 2</p> <p>Directions to the Iron Mines Trail <i>Approx. 45 min</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Turn left onto Haebrouck Ave (0.5 mi) Head north on Continental Rd toward Land Mark Dr. (33 ft.) At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto Quaker Ave (1.0 mi) Turn left onto NY-32 S (0.2 mi) Turn right onto County Rte. 105 (3.5 mi) Slight right onto Balcornway Rd/Spring St. (0.8 mi) Turn left onto Mapes Pl (0.1 mi) Turn right onto Carpenter Pl (0.2 mi) Continue onto Lake St (0.2 mi) Continue onto Lakes Rd. Turn right onto Mountain Lakes Ln (8.7 mi) Turn right onto NY-17A W (3.7 mi) Turn right at the top of the ramp onto County Route 106 continue for 2.2 miles to a parking area on the right side of the road, just beyond a sharp curve. <p><i>Stop to pick up lunch at the Harriman Square Deli which is off of Route 17 on the way to the Iron Mines Trail.</i> 1 N Main St. Harriman, NY 10926 Phone: (845) 783-4700</p> <p>6:30 a.m.</p> <p>Iron Mines Trail</p> <p>Time: 4.5 Hours Difficulty: Moderate Length: 8.5 miles Features: views, historic features Park: Harriman State Park</p> <p><i>(we will enjoy a bagged lunch while on the hike)</i></p> <p>Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To begin cross the road and turn left on the white bar trail and follow the white rectangle blazes. You will parallel the road for about 300 feet the trail turns right and crosses a stream. In a short distance the trail bears right at a fork, and continues on a wooded road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a quarter of a mile you will reach a junction with the Narian Trail. Turn right and follow the vertical white trail blazes. You will cross a stream on rocks and after paddling the stream the trail will bear left and ascend steeply. Several steep pitches will alternate with more moderate sections. The trail will approach the ridge of Black Rock Mountain, it bears left below a huge boulder, and then passes through a narrow cleft in the rocks to reach an expansive west-facing viewpoint. Soon after the Narian trail ends at a junction and you will continue ahead following the red dot-on-white blazes of the Ramapo Dunderberg Trail. Continue along the ridge of Black Rock Mountain, marked by bare rock ledges. After coming out again along the ridge, you will reach a large flat area of bare rock ledges known as Bald Rocks. To the left of the trail is a rock outcrop, the highest point in Harriman State Park, at an elevation of 1,914 feet. The trail bears right and continues along the ridge, and passes Bald Rock Shelter. As you continue there is a short descent which leads to a junction with the yellow-blazed Dunning Trail. Turn right on the trail and follow the old mining road, known as Crooked Road. You will cross a stream and reach bowling rocks, a level area with rocks dotted with boulders. About a mile from the junction you will pass a wetland on the right, followed by remnants of the Hogeness Mine. To the left there is a water-filled mine shaft, use extreme caution when approaching! As you continue ahead there is a stone platform built out of railings and after crossing a stream there are old stone foundations on both sides of the trail. Soon, the aqua-blazed path from the left and then leaves from the right, continue following the yellow blazes. In 1/4 mile you'll pass the Pine Swamp Mine which was open from 1850 to 1880. A long narrow mine opening is visible to the left, and in about 300 feet you will reach the triple yellow blaze that marks the end of the Dunning Trail. Turn left and follow the red-triangle-on-white blazed Andes-Surberidge Trail, which ascends gradually on another old mining road. You'll reach a junction with a boulder to the right saying "Times Square", continue straight ahead following both the A-SH Trail and the aqua-blazed Long Path Trail. When the blazes leave to the left, continue ahead on the grassy woods road known as Surberidge Mine Road. The road may be a little flooded at times, but you will continue and see the Surberidge Swamp to the left. The remnants of the Civil War period Surberidge Mine is visible to the right, then the trail will descend and reach a junction. Turn left and follow the Bottle Cap Trail, unofficially marked with bottle caps. Follow the trail carefully because the bottle caps are smaller than blazes, and some are dark in color and hard to see.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the trail as it crosses a stream, and climbs to the ridge of Surchbridge Mountain. The trail continues along the ridge, then bears right through a hemlock grove and comes to a junction. Continue ahead and follow the red triangle-on-white and aqua blazes from earlier. In about 300 feet look carefully for 3 horizontal white blazes of the White Bear Trail and turn left. In about 1/4 mile, the trail joins a woods road through a pleasant valley and in another 1/3 of a mile the Dunning Trail (yellow blazes) joins from the left. Follow the yellow blazes as the trail leaves to the right and continue as it goes down to a valley, passes a large cliff, climbs to a ridge, and descends to the base of the Boston Mine. The entrance to the mine is a large open cut into the hillside, partially filled with water. <i>For activity see Lesson Plan</i> <p>We will continue from the Boston Mine onto the Green Pond/ Boston Mine Trail</p> <p>4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Green Pond/Boston Mines Trail</p> <p>Time: 1.5 hours (we are hiking part of the trail)</p> <p>Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous</p> <p>Length: 4.5 miles</p> <p>Features: views, access by public transportation, historic features.</p> <p>Park: Harriman State Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the Boston Mine, go back to Island Pond Road and turn right. There are no blazes, but the road is clear and unmistakable. The road gradually descends surrounded by hemlocks and mountain laurels. In about 1/2 of a mile, the A-SB Trail comes from the right and you will follow it. Now you'll reach a fork and follow the red-triangle-on-white blazes that bear left and cross an outlet stream of Island Pond. Watch carefully for a quick left turn, which leaves the trail and continues on a footpath. You will then follow the path as it climbs a rise, follows the southern end of Green Pond Mountain, and goes into an area where young hemlocks and pines are growing after a wildfire. The trail takes a steeper descent, but just before that there are west-facing views on an unmarked trail to the right. The trail turns right and runs along a ledge with a fairly steep drop to the left. You will pass an overhanging rock and then the trail turns sharply to the left and begins a steep descent on switchbacks. At the base it bears left, crosses a stream, turns right, and levels off. It will begin to descend again, but on a more moderate grade, and after crossing a stream you'll reach Ardian Road. Turn right and follow the road where you started, retracing your steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the A-SB Trail ends, turn left and follow the Appalachian Trail (white blazes) across the meadow to the parking lot near the Elk Pen. <i>For activity see Lesson Plan</i> <p>Pick-up from Elk Pen parking lot.</p> <p>Directions to Hunt:</p> <p><i>Approx. 20 minutes</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Head northeast on Elk Pen toward Arden Valley Rd (171 ft). Turn left onto Arden Valley Rd (0.3 mi) Turn right onto NY-17 N (1.3 mi) Turn right onto the ramp to Interstate 87/New York State Thruway (0.2 mi) (toll road) Merge onto NY-17 E (toll road) (0.3 mi) Take the I-87 N exit on the left toward Albany (partial toll road) (0.7 mi) Merge onto I-87 (toll road) (14.9 mi) Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 17 for Interstate 86/New York 300/New York 17K (partial toll road) (0.4 mi) Use the right lane to continue toward I-84 E (56 ft) Use the right lane to continue toward I-84 E (449 ft) Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Interstate 84 E/Danbury and merge onto I-84 E (2.5 mi) Take exit 16 for US 9W S/New York 32 S (0.2 mi) Turn right onto US-9W S/Robinson Ave (377 ft) Use the left 2 lanes to turn left at the 1st cross street onto Plank Rd (0.2 mi) Continue onto New York State Reference Route 980T/North St (0.5 mi) Slight right onto Montgomery St (0.2 mi) The Goldsmith Dennison House will be on the right. <p>6:00 Check into Hotel</p> <p>Lodging:</p> <p>Goldsmith Dennison House</p> <p><i>A beautiful and elegant 1820 bed and breakfast.</i></p> <p>227 Montgomery Street Newburgh, NY 12550 Phone: (845) 562-8076 Email: Dennisonbh27@aol.com</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Catered dinner by</p> <p>Noti's Italian Deli and Grocery</p> <p><i>offer a variety of authentic New Italian food as well as cold entrées and subs.</i></p> <p>165 South Plank Road, Newburgh NY, 12550 845.565.1836</p>	<p>Day 9/ Night 3</p> <p>8:00 a.m. enjoy a delicious breakfast from the chef at the Goldsmith Dennison House.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Check out of hotel.</p> <p>Directions to Orange Heritage Trail:</p> <p><i>Approx. 18 minutes</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Head south on Montgomery Street towards Clinton Street (0.1 mi). Turn right onto Clinton Street (423 ft). Turn right at the 1st cross street onto Grand Street (0.4 mi). Turn left onto Leary Place/ New York State Reference Route 980T (0.4 mi). Continue onto Plank Road (0.2 mi). Turn right onto Robinson Ave (0.1 mi). Turn left onto N Plank Road (0.2 mi). Turn left onto the I-84 W/NY-9A W ramp (0.2 mi). Merge onto I-84 W/NY-9A W (1.1 mi). Take the exit toward I-87 S/New York State Thruway (0.3 mi). Keep left to continue toward I-87 S/ New York State Thruway (0.2 mi). Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Interstate 87 S/New York State Thruway S/New York City and merge onto I-87 S/New York State Thruway (1.5 mi). Keep right at the fork to continue on I-87 S (0.3 mi). Take exit 16 for New York 43 toward U.S. 6/Harriman (0.3 mi). Continue onto NY-43 W (0.1 mi). Take the exit toward Central Valley (0.1 mi). Keep left, follow the signs for US-6 E/Bear Mtn/ W Pk/NY-27S/Harriman (564 ft). Turn left onto NY-27 S (0.1 mi). Continue onto Averill Ave (0.8 mi). Continuum parking lot/ Harriman NY. <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>*We will stop for lunch at Main St. Pizzeria and Restaurant when we pass through the town of Chester, (around 12 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Main Street Pizzeria and Restaurant 129 Main St., Chester, NY 10918 (845) 469-3050</p> <p>Orange Heritage Trail A.k.a. Rail Trail</p> <p>Distance: 11.40 miles</p> <p>Time: approx. 7 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the commuter parking lot in Monroe, the trail makes a sharp right turn onto the Heritage Trail which is a paved asphalt rail-trail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will continue and cross under route 17 and there will be a small cemetery on the right side before crossing under another bridge. The highlands trail will leave after passing the cemetery, and the LP continues on the rail trail which passes through fernlands. As you continue you will pass the old camp LaGuardia, which once served as a New York City homeless shelter. As you head towards Chester there is a black soil district, known for its onion farms, and as you continue you'll pass through the town of Chester. (LUNCH) You will continue you'll reach the end of the paved section of the trail in Goshen, then the trail turns right onto St. James Place then left onto South Church Street. At the traffic light the trail crosses Route 207 and continues on the second road left (West Main Street) for about half a mile. There is a sharp turn right onto a driveway across from St. John's Cemetery. There is an immediate sharp left turn onto the rail-trail, which is paved with crushed limestone. You will cross under Route 17, pass a sewage facility, then pass wetlands and a pond. You will reach Hartley Road. Turn right and continue on this road. <p><i>For activity see Lesson Plan</i></p> <p>Directions to Hunt:</p> <p><i>Approx. 34 minutes</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Head southwest on Hartley Road toward US-6 W (0.3 mi). Turn left onto US-6 E (1.0 mi). Merge onto US-6 E (1.1 mi). Take exit and toward NY-9A/ Chester/Florida (0.1 mi). Turn left onto NY-9A E (0.2 mi). Turn right at the 2nd cross street onto Brookside Ave (0.6 mi). Turn right onto Co Rd 19/Kemp Hwy (0.6 mi). Turn left onto Lane Rd/ Old Buz r r M (1.3 mi). Turn right onto Lake Rd (0.1 mi). Continue onto Mountain Lake Ln (0.3 mi). Merge onto NY-27A E (0.2 mi). Slight right onto Windermere Ave (0.3 mi). Turn right onto NY-430 S/ Jersey Ave (1.1 mi). Turn left onto Leo Ct (122 ft). New Continental Hotel, 13 Leo Court, Greenwood Lake, NY 10925 <p>6:45 p.m.: Check into Hotel</p>	<p>The New Continental Hotel</p> <p><i>7 family-run, historic hotel nestled in the town of Greenwood Lake.</i></p> <p>13 Leo Court Greenwood Lake, NY, 10925 Phone: (845) 477-2456 http://www.thenewcontinentalhotel.com</p> <p>7:30 p.m.: Enjoy dinner at the Continental Restaurant.</p> <p>The Continental Restaurant</p> <p><i>Enjoy delicious, freshly prepared American comfort food prepared by Chef Michael Page.</i></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Check out of Hotel</p> <p><i>*Stop at the Village Buzz Cafe before heading back to the GWR.</i></p> <p>Village Buzz Cafe</p> <p>37 Windermere Ave. Greenwood Lake, NY 10925 Phone: (845) 895-0078</p> <p>Directions back to the George Washington Bridge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Head northwest on Leo Ct toward NY-210 S (311 ft) Turn left onto NY-210 S (1.3 mi) Continue onto Lakeside Rd (2.6 mi) Turn left onto Greenwood Lake Turnpike (8.1 mi) Turn left onto Skyline Dr. (5.1 mi) Continue onto W Oakland Ave (6.1 mi) Turn right to merge onto I-287 N toward NJ-208 S/US-202 (0.4 mi) Merge onto I-287 N (1.5 mi) Keep right to continue on NJ-208 S (9.9 mi) Continue onto NJ-4 E (7.4 mi) Use the left lane to take the I-95 N exit toward Bridge (0.2 mi) Merge onto I-95 Express N (0.1 mi) Continue onto NJ Turnpike (partial toll road) (0.7 mi) Continue onto U.S. 9 N (toll road) (0.2 mi) George Washington Bridge <p>All directions courtesy of https://www.google.com/maps</p>	

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Trailheads & Highway Markers - Brian Carbone

Trailheads



Highway Markers



The images above and on the previous page incorporate modern, minimal-depth design and simplicity into functional pieces of art. Most importantly is the message or purpose of the sign—signs are meant to inform (most importantly) and to have an aesthetically pleasing orientation, such that viewers are not disoriented or confused as to where the most important information is located. Thankfully, for these signs, worrying about focusing attention on specific elements is not as important; the signs serve a singular purpose. For the trailhead signs, the purpose is to inform people that the trail begins at that particular location. For the highway markers, the purpose is to inform of the distance between a driver’s current location and the trail.

For all of the trailhead signs, a vibrant multicolor gradient was used to distinguish the sign from its surroundings via the border, as well as to draw attention toward the word “TRAILHEAD,” signifying that the trail begins here. Above the word “trailhead” is the name or location of the trail in brevity, using different text sizes to distinguish between information of varying preciseness. The images below the word “trailhead” are an interpretation of the significance of the location. The symbolic images may not present representations of what will be seen on the trail, but they symbolize entities that imparted their influence at some point in time by constituting the original naming mechanism. For example, the Iron Mines Loop has silhouettes of miners (however goofy they may appear). The colors used were influenced, in part, by the theme of the trail as well. For example, the mines exhibit darker backgrounds whereas the pond and cliff portray lighter backgrounds reminiscent of the outdoors.

A similar design approach was used for the highway markers. For all text, capital letters were used, as reading while driving is easier with when a sign exhibits capital letters. The distance is a larger font size than the location, as this is the most important information. The contrast between the light text and the solid, dark background makes for easy reading as well. The images on the signs and the variations in color make each sign easily distinguished from one another. The symbols in coordination with the colors make for rapid recognition—a dark grey sign with bright red on top is only the iron mines, for example, just as the eagle symbol is representative of Eagle Cliff, etc.

One of the most important aspects of these signs is that the baseline design elements are consistent. The sign “frame” so to speak does not change shape or size—merely color. The images are always silhouettes. This concept is a practice that should be carried out in New York, as it would ensure that no matter where an individual is, they could recognize a highway marker or trailhead sign without question. It also provides a sense of continuity and connection between the sites. For the same reason that collectibles often resemble each other by sharing a frame, tag, symbol, etc., visiting trails would elicit similar emotions as collecting. If an individual visits one, they may feel obligated to visit the others as well. As a memorandum, a trailhead replica on a poster-type material could be sold at each site.

Google Maps application of Highway Route Markers

The following link provides an interactive map with highway marker pins at the destinations, as well as the ability to obtain full directions from any location to the destination.

> [Google Map Link](#)

A manager of a Maps page, such as this one, can create it such that anyone can view the pre-made trail map and obtain directions to specified locations. The link can be provided to website visitors without risk of anyone modifying its contents. The map has plenty of features, allowing for a very detailed interactive experience if desired. The area of a region can be defined such that people can even see the portion of land set aside for the destination. Unfortunately, Google Maps does not have the trails defined as roads so one cannot really see the trail path itself without a map specifically made to showcase the trail. It is possible, however, that maps can be distributed at the site itself or on an online archive.

Tourism Development & Lesson Plan –Abby Ritson

There are several picturesque hiking trails in Orange County, New York that are worth exploring. The best tourism development organization specifically supporting hiking in the Hudson Valley and Orange County in particular is the New York – New Jersey Trail Conference because it not only provides factual information about the trails, but also keeps the tourists and residents informed about the hiking community.

When I Google searched “Orange County, NY hiking trails,” several hits came up, but the information was very broad. I had a hard time finding information on hiking trails specifically in Orange County. The first result from my Google search was an article from the Hudson Valley Magazine titled “The Best Hiking Trails and Paths in the Hudson Valley, New York.” It was located in the travel section, which I thought was suiting. A large reason tourists come to the Hudson Valley is to see the landscape and learn about its colonial history. I was able to find a hotlink specifically about the Appalachian Trail in Orange County but realized that it was from 2011 and was pretty outdated. I do have to say that the Hudson Valley Magazine website does a good job with educating residents and tourists about events and historical sites that they should check out. However, it was not the best source to promote the hiking trails specifically in Orange County.

The screenshot shows the Hudson Valley Magazine website. The header includes navigation links: THE MAGAZINE, HUDSON VALLEY WEDDINGS, OUR EVENTS, CONTESTS & PROMOTIONS, and todaymedia. Below the header is a search bar and a navigation menu with categories: EAT & DRINK, ARTS & EVENTS, LIFE & STYLE, TRAVEL, INSIDER GUIDES, and BEST OF HUDSON VALLEY®. The main article is titled "The Best Hiking Trails and Paths in the Hudson Valley, New York" by Polly Sparling, dated July 2011. The article snippet reads: "Take a hike on the Hudson Valley's best hiking trails and paths". Below the article title is a social media sharing bar with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and Pinterest. To the right of the article is a sidebar with "MOST POPULAR ARTICLES" featuring a "TRAVELING ON THE TACONIC THIS WEEKEND?" article and "RELATED STORIES" including "Hudson Valley Real Estate 2014".

After doing some more research, I found another website called “Hudson Valley Attractions,” and it was helpful because it had a ‘explore a county’ option. Under Orange County subpage, there was a sub link for hiking and walking trails. However, I was unable to open the link because of pop-ups on my computer as well as numerous advertisements. The website was not very organized and did not have as large of a focus on hiking that one would need if they were planning a hiking trip.

Explore Restaurants Things To Do Shopping Travel Real Estate Schools Services Community Advertise

2015 Kia Optima LX
Stock #15286
\$229 Per Mo./36 Mo.
MSRP: \$22,645
Kia Motor Finance Discount: \$4,000
Romeo Discount: \$955
Includes all taxes & fees. With Tier 1 approval through KMF. Lease payment based on \$17,000. Includes Dealer Discounts and/or Manufacturer Rebates. \$0 Security Deposit. \$0 down. Residual \$12,228.30. 10k miles per year. 20 after with approx. 4.99% interest rate.

Orange County
Hiking Trails | Walking Trails

Click to visit **Advertise Your Business Here**
Find the best **Shopping in Orange County**; including outlets, department stores, discount clothing stores, women's and men's clothing stores and more great places to shop.

Attractions
Fun Things To Do

The best site that put a large emphasis on hiking in Orange County is the New York – New Jersey Trail Conference. I found it helpful that they provided a “site user’s guide” on the left hand side, which provides an overview of what the site has to offer for visitors. As you can see, along the top of the home page there are several tabs.

Go Hiking Get Involved Be Informed Trail Store Our Community About Us

Support Trails!
Donate
Join/Renew
Volunteer
Get Our E-Newsletter
Support Our Headquarters at Darlington Schoolhouse

Trail Links
Monthly Calendar
Trail U Schedule
Trail Crew Schedule
Event Schedule
Trail Alerts
Free Trail Maps
Find a Hike Contents
Hike Finder Map
Our Blogs
Quick Hike, Trail Finder

Navigation

CONNECTING people WITH nature SINCE 1920
The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference partners with parks and recruits volunteers to create, protect, and promote 2,100 miles of public trails.

Hike of the Week
Take a trip to Taconic State Park

Trail Volunteers
learning, doing, celebrating

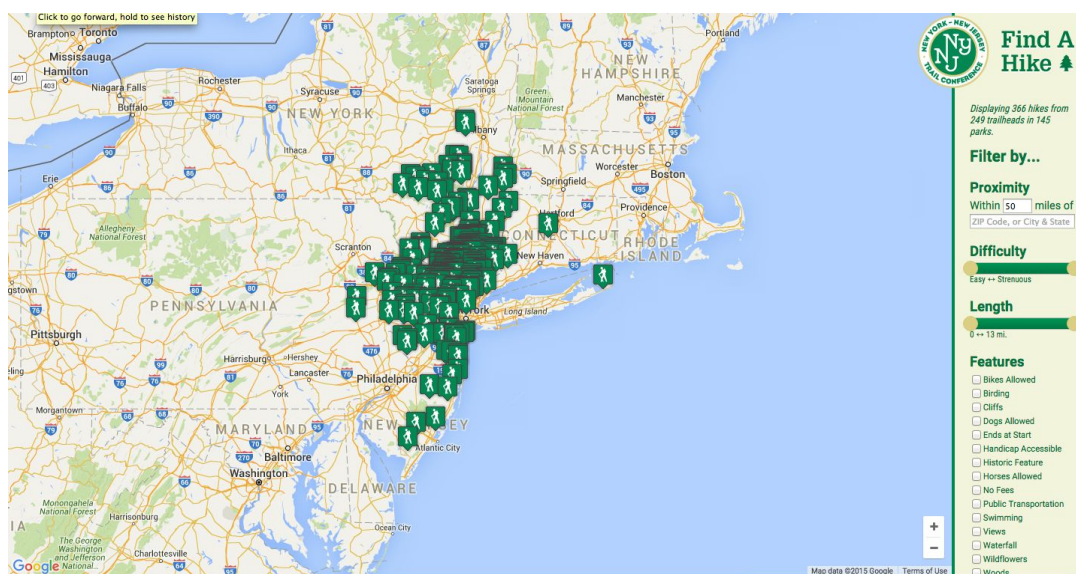
Support Trails
Circuit Hikes in Harriman Available Now!

Trail Mix
Best Fall Foliage Hikes in NY & NJ. These trails offer spectacular views.
Hiker Alert: Trails Closed in Ramapo Mountain State Forest. The DEP has closed the park due to a situation involving bear encounters.
October Combo Deal. Get a great discount on a water bottle & NJ map bundle.
New Gear! Long-sleeved wicking T-shirts are now available in our store.
You Don't Need a Car to Go Hiking. Find trails accessible by train or bus.
Visit Us Via Mass Transit. Buses stop at Ramapo College, next door to our HQ.

Partners Plus
EarthShare amazon smile 100% FOR THE PLANET

Shopping cart
View your shopping cart.
JOIN TODAY
Why not join YOUR Trail Conference and hit the trails with a new map?
East Hudson Trails
West Hudson Trails
Shawangunk Trails

The “Go Hiking” tab leads you to information about parks and specific hikes and provides information about the many hiking clubs there are. My favorite feature under the “Go Hiking” tab is the hike finder map. Here you can filter by proximity, difficulty, length and special features such as biking, public transportation, handicap access, and waterfalls.



The “Be Informed” tab leads to hiking blogs, which I thought was a great addition to the site. Under this tab, you can find hiking news, blogs on various trails, and a frequently asked questions section. It provides safety tips and things to know before you go hiking, as well as park information and a quarterly newsletter.

Finally, I found the “Our Community” tab to be very beneficial for the public. It not only includes a trail calendar, but also public forums and my personal favorite, a feature called “Trails to Great Photos,” which is a “visual tour of New York and New Jersey parks and trails through the eyes of its photographs” (New York - New Jersey Trail Conference). Because social media is continuing to grow, I thought it was very important that the New York – New Jersey Trail

Conference added a twitter feed to their site. I would suggest that they move it to their home page, because it is pretty hidden and it took me a while to find it.

In conclusion, while I think that social media is the most convenient and quickest way to reach people, I think that tourists who are looking specifically for hiking in Orange County are going to use the Internet to find information about trails. Therefore, I think it is a great strategy to have a social media, such as the Twitter feed, highlighted on the New York – New Jersey Trail Conference website.

Lesson Plans - Abby Ritson

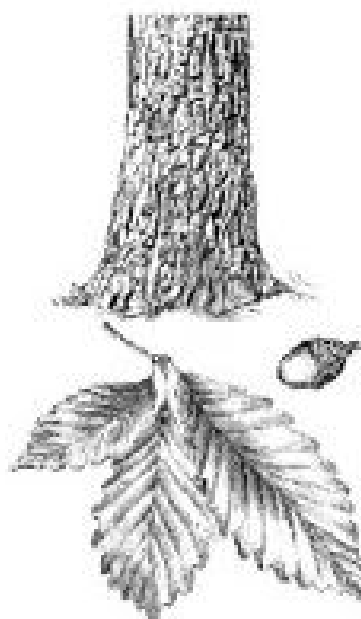
Highlands Quest Trail

- Background
 - The Highlands Quest Trail is a perfect place to bring a class. It is part of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Outdoor Discovery Center and provides “specially created guidebooks at the Outdoor Discovery Center” which can be purchased for \$5. This should be incorporated in the price of the trip.
- Standards
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3.E- Summarize the points a speaker makes and explain how each claim is supported by reasons and evidence.
 - 21st century skills used: collaboration, synthesizing
- Objective
 - Through completing the guidebook, students will be able to determine the key picturesque features found along the trail and the “hidden message” for the trail.
- Materials
 - Guidebook for each students
 - Pens/Pencils
- Activity
 - I will have the students break off into pairs. They will be both be given a guidebook and will work together to find the “hidden message” of each section of the hike. As you can see below, the guidebook pages are very interactive and includes illustrations, riddle poems, field notes and has the students stop at different learning stations along the trail.

Hilltop trees must be strong
 To endure wind and snow the winter long.
 Learn the forest fabric that nature weaves
 Identify them by their _ _ _ _ _



Red Oak



Chestnut Oak



Shadbush

*Circle the upland trees you see here.
 If you do not find all of these trees here, look for them along your quest.*



Trees of our hilltops are adapted to dry, rocky soil. Chestnut oak is named because of the similarity between its leaves and the American chestnut, a nearly extinct species once the dominant tree in our eastern forests. It is adapted to fire with thick bark that can withstand a moderate blaze. Northern red oak is a large tree, commonly found on high ground in our region. Its bark grooves are said to resemble ski trails. Shadbush or Juneberry is an understory tree with white flowers that bloom in March and April, at the same time that Shadfish (herring) make their annual breeding runs up the Hudson River.

**field
 notes**

4

- Reflection:
 - After completion of the trail and guidebook, students would then in groups summarized what they learned. Then, they would be asked to share with the class.

source: <http://hhnaturemuseum.org/index.php/hiking-trails>

Sutherland Pond & Eagle Cliff

- Background
 - The Sutherland Pond is a part of the Black Forest Park. It is a loop hike that “climbs to several panoramic viewpoints, passes two ponds and follows Continental Road past the historic Chatfield Stone House.” It is perfect example of the picturesque beauty of the Hudson River Valley.
- Standards
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.2.A - Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general observation and focus, and group related information logically; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Objective
 - Students will be able to accurately describe the nature elements surrounding them.
- Materials:
 - Journals for each student
 - Pens/Pencils/Markers
- Activity
 - The teacher should introduce the idea of being connected to and appreciating nature. They students should understand that the Hudson River Valley has rich history of nature and has ties to many naturalists, people who dedicate their lives to the appreciation of the natural world. The teacher should introduce John Burrough’s and Walt Whitman’s style observation style of writing and read some excerpts of their writings.
 - “Natural history is a matter of observation; it is a harvest which you gather when and where you find it growing. Birds and squirrels and flowers are not always in season, but philosophy we have always with us. It is a crop which we can grow and reap at all times and in all places and it has its own value and brings its own satisfaction.” - John Burroughs

- "One summer day, while I was walking along the country road on the farm where I was born, a section of the stone wall opposite me, and not more than three or four yards distant, suddenly fell down. Amid the general stillness and immobility about me the effect was quite startling. ... It was the sudden summing up of half a century or more of atomic changes in the material of the wall. A grain or two of sand yielded to the pressure of long years, and gravity did the rest." - John Burroughs

(http://todayinsci.com/B/Burroughs_John/BurroughsJohn-Quotations.htm)

- The students will be asked to stop periodically throughout the hike to take in the natural beauty and compose their own unique naturalistic observations.
- Reflection
 - At the conclusion of the hike, the students will be asked to share one of their observations with the class. The students should comment if their observation made them see nature in a different way. The teacher should ask prompting questions, like "What can we take away from our observations and the naturalist movement?" and "What do you think naturalists such as Walt Whitman and John Burroughs were trying to imply through their writing?"

Iron Mines

- Background
 - Mines have been a major industry in the Hudson River Valley beginning around the time of the Civil War. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior, 17% of the world's iron was mined from the Hudson Highlands area during the peak of the iron mining industry in the early 1900s.
(<http://3dparks.wr.usgs.gov/nyc/parks/loc8.htm>)
- Standards
 - Students will be able to identify different rocks based off of characteristics.
- Objective
 - Students will know the 3 basics types of rocks and understand the history of mining iron in the Hudson River Valley.
- Materials
 - Each team will be given a camera borrowed from the school's library
 - Each students will get a copy of this handout:

TYPES OF ROCKS

Did you know there are different types of rocks?

Sedimentary Rock

This type of rock is made out of sand, shells, pebbles and other materials. Together, these particles are "sediment". Slowly the sediment gathers up in layers. Over time it turns into rock! Fossils are usually found in this type of rock.

Can you think of a place where this type of rock can be found?



Metamorphic Rock

This type of rock is made beneath the surface of the earth. It has ribbon-like layers, caused by the heat. Some of these rocks have shiny crystals on them.

Can you think of a place where this type of rock can be found?



Igneous Rock

This type of rock is made from the lava of a volcano. Deep inside the earth, rocks are melted and become magma. When magma comes out of the volcano, it is called lava. If the lava cools quickly, it will make a smooth and shiny rock. If the lava cools slowly, it will form a rock with tiny holes and gas bubbles in it.

Can you think of a place where this type of rock can be found?



- Activity
 - Students will take pictures of the different types of rocks they see along the hike and classify which type it is.
- Reflection
 - The teacher will explain that iron was the main mineral that was mined along this trail.
 - What was iron used for then? (how did it fuel the economy?)
 - “Stoves, gun parts, cannons, and machinery were among key early uses for iron. Iron also played a crucial role in the development of railroads.”
(http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Iron_industry.aspx)
 - Iron is which type of rock?
 - sedimentary

Iron Ore

What Is Iron Ore, How Does It Form and What Is It Used For?

What is Iron Ore?

Earth's most important iron ore deposits are found in [sedimentary rocks](#). They formed from chemical reactions that combined iron and oxygen in marine and fresh waters. The two most important minerals in these deposits are iron oxides: [hematite](#) (Fe_2O_3) and [magnetite](#) (Fe_3O_4). These iron ores have been mined to produce almost every iron and steel object that we use today - from paper clips to automobiles to the steel beams in skyscrapers.

How Does Iron Ore Form?



Rock & Mineral Kits: Get a rock, mineral or fossil kit to learn more about earth materials.

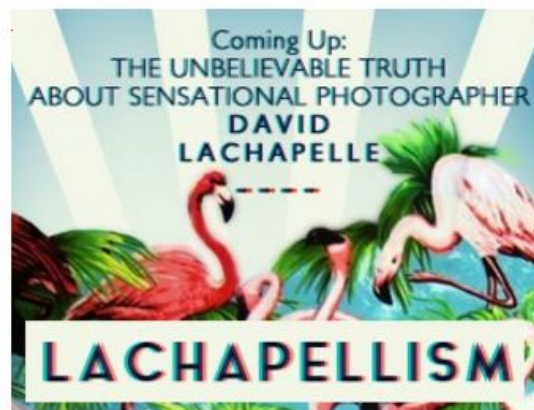
Nearly all of Earth's major iron ore deposits are in rocks that formed over 1.8 billion years ago. At that time Earth's oceans contained abundant dissolved iron and almost no dissolved oxygen. The iron ore deposits began forming when the first organisms capable of photosynthesis began releasing oxygen into the waters. This oxygen immediately combined with the abundant dissolved iron to produce hematite or magnetite. These minerals deposited on the sea floor in great abundance, forming what

are now known as the "banded iron formations." The rocks are "banded" because the iron minerals deposited in alternating bands with silica and sometimes [shale](#). The banding might have resulted from seasonal changes in organism activity.



© geology.com

Iron Ore: A specimen of oolitic hematite iron ore. The specimen shown is about two inches (five centimeters) across.



Taken from: <http://geology.com/rocks/iron-ore.shtml>

Green Pond & Boston Mines Trail

- Background
 - The Green Pond & Boston Mine is part of the Harriman-Bear State Park in Orange County. It features lakes, ponds, and waterfalls as well as an old mine from the 1800s.
- Standards
 - No specific common core standards addressed, but the lesson fosters 21st century skills, such as creativity (which students don't generally have an opportunity to use in the traditional classroom)! Students also have to orally support and explain their painting.
- Objective
 - Students will paint a watercolor that resembles elements of the Hudson River Valley. They will be able to defend how their painting represents key features of the Hudson River Valley.
- Materials
 - Watercolor pallets
 - Plastic cups
 - Water bottles
 - Paper
 - Paintbrushes
- Activity
 - The class will be stopped along the hike and will be asked to paint a watercolor. They should let the nature inspire them and to be as creative and open as possible. Their painting should be detailed and reflects their best effort.
- Reflection
 - The teacher will ask each student to share what they drew and why. In addition, they could ask:
 - What did you chose to incorporate in your painting?
 - What did you chose to leave out from your painting? Why?
 - What features in your painting represent the Hudson River Valley?

Orange Heritage Trail / Rail Trail

- Background
 - The Orange Heritage trail has a lot of history to offer. The trail is along the old Erie Railroad, which is not operating anymore. It suffered from financial and legal troubles, but was still significant to the industrial history of the Hudson River Valley. It went bankrupt several times and changed ownership each time. Originally, the railroad connected New York City with Lake Erie, but towards the end of its existence, it went all the way to Pennsylvania. As well as having Erie Railroad's tracks, the Heritage Trail also features an old cemetery dating back to the 1800s, farmland, corn and wheat fields, Chester Depot (a restored stone-facade train station), and an Old Saber fighter jet.
- Standards
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL5.1B - Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL5.1C - Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.
- Objective
 - Students will successfully complete a "picture" scavenger hunt and will participate in a class discussion about the meaning behind the items they found in their hike.
- Materials
 - Each team will use a camera borrowed from the school's media center
 - Handout of the list of items students should find and take a picture of:
 - Old cemetery (dating back to the 1800s)
 - Farmland
 - Corn field
 - Wheat field
 - Chester Depot (restored stone-facade train station)
 - Old Saber fighter jet
 - Erie Railroad train tracks
- Activity
 - The teacher should go over the information in the 'Background' section as an overview of the trail.
 - The students will be broken down into teams of 4 and, without straying too far from the group, find and take pictures of the following features. There must be at least three people in each picture (switching the photographer). They should also take the time to read all information that might be next to the artifacts (such as the

Old Saber fighter jet or the cemetery), as this information will be useful for the class discussion.

- Reflection
 - Once the class is all back together, the teacher should lead a discussion on the significance of the the artifacts and features the students took pictures of.
 - How were trains important in the Hudson River Valley during the Industrial Revolution?
 - What did the corn and wheat fields tell you about the agriculture of the Hudson River Valley?
 - What was the significance of the Old Saber fighter jet?

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