

## **Kaaterskill High Peak elev 3,660'**

*Distance: 9 miles round trip*

*Elevation Gain: 1900 ft*

*Hike Time: 5 hours*

*Difficulty: Strenuous*

*HikeType: Out and Back*

**Description:** Kaaterskill High Peak was once thought to be the highest mountain in the Catskills, as it was the highest peak that could be seen by the early settlers from the Hudson River and is abutted by deep valleys called "cloves" on two sides. Later surveys showed that many other peaks were higher, although it is still the easternmost of the Catskill High Peaks. Still, its unique profile and location made it a favorite subject of Thomas Cole and other Hudson River School painters, and for a long time its distinctive profile symbolized the Catskills. It still does for many visitors even today.



Most of them are likely to do so from afar, rather than up close. Those who do climb it find that Kaaterskill is a hiker's delight, a fine peak surrounded on three sides by an area known as Hurricane Ledge. Just south of the summit, there is a wonderful open viewpoint on the top of the ledge. This ultimate lunch spot affords a great view of the Devil's Path range to the south. The area also boasts two old plane wrecks, many waterfalls on the north side and interesting side trip possibilities in Roundtop and an area known as Huckleberry Point, which boasts a fine view of the Hudson Valley.

Catch the blue blazed Long Path (also marked by the DEC as a snowmobile trail). The walk starts out as a gentle climb through a mixed hardwood forest with occasional stands of hemlock, eventually passing east of the summit. Parts can be very wet in all but the driest of years. The trail then wraps around the north side of the summit. Keep your eyes out here for the spot where the Long Path leaves the snowmobile trail. Turn left on the snowmobile trail and left at a 'T' intersection. The trail is very muddy in spots. Keep your eye out for a plane crash site on your left. As this trail swings around the south side of the mountain, look for an unblazed trail to your right (a cairn marks the spot). Here the climb is a steep one, requiring all fours at some points. A ledge with superb views will be reached soon. Continue over the summit and down the north face. Bear right on the snowmobile trail, left at the 'T' and return via the Long Path.



### ***Directions to Trailhead :***

From Hunter, Take NY 23A east, and turn south on Bloomer Road (County Route 16). From the junction of County Route 16 and Elka Park Road, continue left on County Route 16 (Platte Clove Road) for 3 mi to the parking area just after the Bruderhoff