



Follow the Hudson River School Art Trail to the places that stimulated a distinctly American artistic identity.

Seeing the sites on the Hudson River School Art Trail will be a memorable and rewarding experience, but be prepared to give it some time as the trail stops are located over a fairly wide area. Some of the stops are easy to get to by car, while others can be reached only on foot and range from an easy walk to a fairly strenuous hike. The Trail Map and Directions will help you to plan your visits to the sites you want to see. To learn more about the Hudson River School Art Trail, please visit www.thomascole.org/trail.

Trail Map Legend:



TRAIL SITES 1, 2

Historic Site
Visitor Center, Restrooms, Shop



TRAIL SITES 3, 4, 6

Roadside Stop
Easily Reachable from
Parking Area



TRAIL SITES 5, 7, 8

Remote Site
Requires Hiking on Marked Trail

Please use caution and common sense while on the Trail. Outdoor recreational activities are by their nature potentially hazardous. All participants in such activities must assume the responsibility for their own actions and safety. Exercise caution on the roads and trails, wear appropriate dress for the weather conditions and the activities you wish to pursue. No brochure can replace good judgment.

Hours of Operation / Fees

Cedar Grove – Thomas Cole National Historic Site

The Main House and Studio are open by guided tours, which are offered Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, May through October. The grounds are open free of charge, and a small fee is charged for the tour. For details, log on to www.thomascole.org or call 518-943-7465.

Olana State Historic Site

Tours of the house are offered daily (except Mondays), 10 am to 5 pm, April through October, and on weekends from November through March. Reservations to tour the house are highly recommended. There is a small fee per car on weekends and holidays, and a year-round fee for the guided house tour. For more information, log on to www.olana.org or call 518-828-0135.

Mountain Top Historical Society

The “Art Trail Interpretive Center” is usually open weekends during the summer, but we suggest that you call 518-589-6657 for the most up-to-date information. Admission is free.

North-South Lake Area

Your visit may require the purchase of a day-use fee at the New York State DEC's North-South Lake Campground, which is open from early May through late October. For information during the camping season, call the Campground office at 518-589-5058, or call the DEC Regional Office year-round at 518-357-2234.

The Hudson River School Art Trail is a project of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, presented in partnership with Olana, the home and workplace of Frederic Church, and with the National Park Service Rivers & Trails program, with assistance from the Greene County Tourism Promotion Department. The Trail project is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Arts & Business Council of New York, and the New York State Council on the Arts.



HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL ART TRAIL

Cover: Sanford R. Gifford, *Kaaterskill Falls*, 1871 (detail). Oil on canvas, 14-3/4 by 12-1/2 in. Gift of Katherine French Rockwell. Photograph © 1995. The Detroit Institute of Arts 56.185
Opening spread: Background photograph by Francis Driscoll. Inset: Thomas Cole, *The Clove, Catskills*, 1827. Oil on canvas, 25 x 33 in. New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT
Introduction page, clockwise from top:
Thomas Cole, *Falls of the Kaaterskill*, 1826. Oil on canvas, 43 x 36 in. The Warner Collection of Gulf States Paper Corporation, Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Frederic Church, *Scene on Catskill Creek*, 1847. Oil on canvas, 21-1/2 x 29-3/4 in. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown, MD; Jasper Francis Cropsey, *Catskill Creek*, 1850. Oil on canvas, 18-3/8 x 27-1/4 in. Smithsonian American Art Museum, museum purchase 1966.50
Interior panel
Trail Site 1: Charles Herbert Moore, *Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove*, 1868. Oil on canvas, 5-7/8 x 9-1/4 in. The Thomas Cole National Historic Site. Gift of the Florence Cole Vincent Estate
Trail Site 2: Frederic Church, *Clouds Over Olana*, 1872. Oil on paper, 8-11/16 x 12-1/8 in. Olana State Historic Site, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Trail Site 3: Thomas Cole, *View on Catskill Creek*, c. 1833. Oil on composition board, 17 x 25 in. Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany, NY, 1964.70. AIHA Purchase, Evelyn Newman Fund
Trail Site 4: Asher B. Durand, *Kaaterskill Clove*, 1866. Oil on canvas, 38-1/4 x 60 in. The Century Association, New York City, NY
Trail Site 5: Sanford R. Gifford, *Kaaterskill Falls*, 1871. Oil on canvas, 14-3/4 by 12-1/4 in. Gift of Katherine French Rockwell. Photograph © 1995. The Detroit Institute of Arts 56.185
Trail Site 6: Thomas Cole, *Lake with Dead Trees*, 1825. Oil on canvas, 27 x 34 in. Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Ohio. Gift of Charles E. Olney, 1904
Trail Site 7: Jasper Francis Cropsey, *Catskill Mountain House*, 1855. Oil on canvas, 29 x 44 in. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Bequest of Mrs. Lillian Lawhead Rinderer in memory of her brother, William A. Lawhead, and the William Hood Dunwoody Fund
Trail Site 8: Frederic Edwin Church, *Above the Clouds at Sunrise*, 1849. Oil on canvas, 27-1/4 x 48-1/4 in. Property of the Westervelt Company and displayed in The Westervelt-Warner Museum of American Art in Tuscaloosa, Alabama



Cedar Grove
The Thomas Cole National Historic Site

218 Spring Street, Catskill, New York 12414
Phone 518-943-7465
www.thomascole.org



© 2007 Cedar Grove, The Thomas Cole National Historic Site
I LOVE NEW YORK is a registered trademark and service mark of the New York State Department of Economic Development, used with permission.



Frederic Church, *Scene on Catskill Creek*, 1847, Trail Site 3.

Most of the stops on the trail are within 15 miles of Cedar Grove, The Thomas Cole National Historic Site. Located in Catskill, New York, this was the home and studio of Thomas Cole, acknowledged founder of the movement. Wear comfortable shoes, open your eyes, and prepare to be inspired.

The Hudson River School Art Trail pays homage to both the creative and the historical significance of the Hudson River School painters. Their work created not only an American art genre, but also a deeper appreciation for the nation's natural wonders, laying the groundwork for the environmental conservation movement and National Park System.

The Hudson River School Art Trail enables you to walk in the footsteps of Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, Asher B. Durand, Jasper Cropsey, Sanford Gifford and other pioneering American landscape artists, and appreciate their work in an entirely new way.

For A New Nation



Thomas Cole, *Falls of the Kaaterskill*, 1826, Trail Site 5.

Jasper Cropsey, *Catskill Creek*, 1850, Trail Site 6.



Garden of Eden. landscape as a new

The Hudson River School painters believed art to be an agent of moral and spiritual transformation. In large-scale canvases of dramatic vistas with atmospheric lighting, they sought to capture a sense of the divine, envisioning the pristine American landscape as a new Garden of Eden.

This movement, the first in American art, became known as the Hudson River School.

Valley and created magnificent landscape paintings.

of artists found the answer in the beauty and majesty of the natural world they encountered in the Hudson River Europe and a style of art that it could call its own. A group American nation was seeking a cultural identity apart from

In the early years of the 19th century, the fledgling

A New Art Movement...

See Art History Come to Life on the Hudson River School Art Trail

The Hudson River School Art Trail takes you to the sites that inspired America's first great landscape artists. This brochure reproduces some of the magnificent paintings they created and provides a map leading you to the views depicted in the paintings.

The map and directions will enable you to take your own self-guided tour of the Trail and to compare the painted scenes from the 1800s with the same vistas today.



Photograph shows present-day view of Kaaterskill Clove, with inset of Thomas Cole's 1827 painting depicting the same view.

The Hudson River School Art Trail is a project of Cedar Grove, The Thomas Cole National Historic Site. www.thomascole.org

Hudson River School Art Trail



Trail Site Directions

Begin your exploration at



Trail Site 1 Cedar Grove, The Thomas Cole National Historic Site

The Federal-style home and studio of Thomas Cole offers wonderful views, original paintings, period furnishings and numerous Cole artifacts and memorabilia.

*"O Cedar Grove! when'er I think to part
From thine all peaceful shades my aching heart
Is like to his who leaves some blessed shore
A weeping exile ne'er to see it more."*

Thomas Cole, 1834



Charles Herbert Moore, *Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove*, 1868.

Trail Site 4 Kaaterskill Clove

The Clove, a beautifully preserved area of the Catskills, was one of the places most painted by the Hudson River School artists.

*"The peculiar fidelity and sentiment of nature with which
Durand always depicts trees, is eloquently manifest.
The aerial perspective, the gradations of light, the tints of
foliage, the slope of the mountains – in a word, the whole
scenic expression is harmonious, grand, tender and true."*

Henry T. Tuckerman, *Book of the Artists; American Artist Life*, 1867



Asher B. Durand, *Kaaterskill Clove*, 1866.

Trail Site 5 Kaaterskill Falls

The Kaaterskill Falls were a favorite subject of many of the Hudson River School painters. To Thomas Cole, one of the major elements in landscape painting was the waterfall.

*"It is the voice of the landscape for it strikes its own chords, and
rocks and mountains re-echo in rich unison."*

Thomas Cole,
Essay on American Scenery, 1835



Sanford Gifford, *Falls of the Kaaterskill*, 1871.

The artist Thomas Cole made his first trip up the Hudson River to Catskill in 1825. The resulting paintings created a sensation in the nascent New York art world and launched the Hudson River School of art. These influential first paintings included a rendition of Kaaterskill Falls as well as South Lake, both of which are included in this Trail. Thomas Cole's home is now a National Historic Landmark and today provides an orientation for your exploration of the Hudson River School Art Trail. Additional information and images can be found at www.thomascole.org/trail.

Trail Site 2 The Olana State Historic Site

The home and workplace of Frederic Edwin Church, a former student of Thomas Cole and a leading Hudson River School artist.

Built high on a hill and offering panoramic vistas of the Hudson River Valley, Church called Olana "the center of the world." The Persian-style house and 250 acres of picturesque grounds are a masterpiece as grand as any of his paintings.



Frederic Church, *Clouds over Olana*, 1872.

Trail Site 3 View on the Catskill Creek

Just a few miles from his home, this scene inspired Thomas Cole so much, he painted it more than any other.

*"The painter of American scenery has indeed
privileges superior to any other; all nature
here is new to Art."*

Thomas Cole,
Journal entry, 1835



Thomas Cole, *View on Catskill Creek*, c. 1833.



Trail Site 6 North-South Lake

The extraordinary beauty of this site was the inspiration for many paintings by artists of the Hudson River School.

*"The most distinctive, and perhaps the most impressive
characteristic of American scenery is its wildness."*

Thomas Cole,
Essay on American Scenery, 1835



Thomas Cole, *Lake with Dead Trees*, 1825.

Trail Site 7 Sunset Rock (also known as Bear's Den)

A prized location for its magnificent scenic views of the Hudson River Valley and North-South Lake.

*"...The view takes in both lakes, the Mountain House,
South Mountain, High Peak and Round Top, the grand
basin formed by the curve of North Mountain and the
distant valley of the Hudson... By many this is thought
to be the grandest combination of mountain scenery to
be met with here or elsewhere."*

Walton Van Loan in his 1879
Catskill Mountain Guide



Jasper Cropsey, *Catskill Mountain House*, 1855.

Trail Site 8 Catskill Mountain House

Although the majestic hotel no longer stands, the view that attracted visitors still remains as one of the most breathtaking panoramas in the region.

*"Creation...all creation...all that God had done,
or man could do..."*

– Natty Bumppo in James Fenimore Cooper's novel
The Pioneers (published in 1823, the same year the
Catskill Mountain House opened), when asked,
"What see you when you get there?"



Frederic Church, *Above the Clouds at Sunrise*, 1849.

Trail Site 1

Thomas Cole National Historic Site: 218 Spring Street, Catskill, NY. Take NYS Thruway (I-87) to exit 21 (Catskill). Make a left at the traffic light, proceed 1,000 feet and turn left onto Route 23 East. Proceed 2 miles and turn right at the light onto Spring Street (Route 385). Cedar Grove is on the left (use shared driveway with Temple Israel).

Trail Site 2

Olana: From Trail Site 1, turn right out of the parking lot and immediately bear right onto Route 23 East. Go over the Rip Van Winkle Bridge and bear right onto Route 9G South. Go one mile and turn left into Olana.

Trail Site 3

View on Catskill Creek: From Trail Site 1 (Thomas Cole Site), turn right out of the parking lot and then immediately left onto Route 23 West. Go 1/2 mile and turn left onto Route 9W South. Proceed 1000 feet on 9W, past the ramp to Jefferson Heights. Park just before the bridge crossing Catskill Creek. The classic view of the creek can be seen from the bridge or from the property just before the bridge.

Trail Site 4

Kaaterskill Clove: From Trail Site 3, continue on Route 9W South; proceed 1.3 miles to where Route 9W turns sharply left. Leave Route 9W and proceed straight ahead onto Route 23A. Continue eight miles to Palenville. Continue another 3-1/2 miles on Route 23A, climbing through historic Kaaterskill Clove, just past Bastion Falls to the trail access parking area on the left side of the road. A view of the Clove is available through a clearing in the trees on the south side of the lot.

Trail Site 5

Kaaterskill Falls: Leave your car at the parking area for the previous stop (Trail Site 4). Proceed cautiously back along the highway downhill to the bridge at Bastion Falls. Cross the bridge, turn left to exit the road and follow the trail to the right of the falls, which climbs up 1/2 mile to the base of Kaaterskill Falls. Then return to the parking lot. NOTE: There is no maintained trail under the falls or to the top; attempts to climb there are dangerous and cause erosion.

Mountain Top Historical Society

The Historical Society's campus includes an "Art Trail Interpretive Center" in the Visitor Center with an exhibition of panels about the artists and locations on the trail. From Trail Site 3, turn left out of parking lot and proceed one mile. The Historical Society's campus will be on the right as you enter the village of Haines Falls.

The next two stops are in North-South Lake Public Campground. A day-use fee is required, and the campground is open May-October only. (For exact dates please visit www.dec-campgrounds.com.)

Trail Site 6

North-South Lake: From the Mountain Top Historical Society, turn right out of the driveway and proceed 1/5 of a mile up Route 23A. Turn right onto North Lake Road (County Route 18) and continue 2 miles to the gatehouse at North-South Lake Public Campground. Pay the entrance fee and request Campground and Trail Maps. Enter the Campground and bear left toward the North Lake Beach. At the stop sign turn right, drive down the hill and park in the small parking area near the Recreation Center. Follow the short level path directly across from the Recreation Center. Cole did his sketch for *Lake with Dead Trees* from the bank of South Lake, which is on the right about 250 feet down this path.

Trail Site 7

Sunset Rock: Give yourself about two hours to enjoy this foot trail that climbs a rocky incline, passes open views of the Hudson Valley, and ends at one of the most frequently painted views of the Hudson River School. From Trail Site 6, drive back to North Lake Road, turn right and drive to the North Lake Beach parking area. The beach is to the west, a picnic area to the east. Walk east across the picnic area, and when you get to the fence at the ledge, go left. You should soon see the blue trail markers of the Escarpment Trail. Sign the register, continue north another 500 feet and begin a climb, which is the most difficult stretch of the hike. Go 1/4 mile to "Artist's Rock," which gives a sweeping view of the Hudson Valley. The trail then leaves the ledges, and in less than a half mile along the blue trail it meets a junction with a yellow trail toward "Sunset Rock." In Cole's day, this location was referred to as "Bear's Den." The twin lakes and the site of the former Catskill Mountain House are part of this breathtaking view. Return by retracing your steps.

Trail Site 8

Catskill Mountain House: From the North Lake Beach parking area, walk down the short roadway at the far end of the parking lot toward the picnic pavilion and boat launch area. Turn left and walk away from the lake. The gated road on the right leads up a hill. Signs will direct you to the Mountain House site. About 1/5 of a mile.