

# Off the Beaten Path: Fall Activities Around the Capital Region

By Cierra Orlyk

If you've already exhausted the classic fall activities of apple and pumpkin picking, you may be wondering what else there is to do during the beloved pumpkin-spice season. Well, look no further — here's five unique things you can do to enjoy the mild weather and bright colors.

## Embark on a fall foliage ride on the longest highway in America.

Route 20, also known as "America's Main Street," offers extensive views of serene landscapes bursting with yellows, oranges and reds. Nestled between the trees are numerous small communities, specialty shops, local farmers markets and more. You can hop on the New York Scenic Byway from Albany and follow it west through eight plus counties, including Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, Herkimer, Otsego, Schoharie, Montgomery and Schenectady. Route 20 even has its own website providing a map and guide to the several areas you'll pass through. You can check it out at <http://www.nyroute20.com/>.

**Dov'e si trova il tuo tesoro,  
la sara' anche il tuo cuore.**

**"Where your treasure is,  
your heart will be also."**



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## Trek through the forest—but with llamas!

Dakota Ridge Farm in Ballston Spa lets you guide your own llama through a woodland path while admiring the colorful, falling leaves. This is a family-friendly activity that kids of all ages will enjoy. If you want the llama part, but not the trek through the woods, Dakota Ridge Farm also offers tours of their farm, in which you can meet all 60 of their gentle giants and even pet, brush, feed and walk your own! You'll leave the farm knowing more about llamas than you ever thought you would. You can find pricing and booking information at the farm's website: <https://www.dakotaridgefarm.com/>.

## Unwind and indulge in a wine trail.

Looking at the fall scenery is great, but it's even better when you're tasting crisp, flavorful wine. You don't need to drive to the Finger Lakes to enjoy this fall activity; the Upper Hudson Valley Wine Trail will take you to nine wineries stretching from Schaghticoke to Lake George. The trail even offers premiere transportation services so you can sit back, relax and gaze at the rolling landscapes while traveling to your next stop. For more information, go to <http://www.upperhudsonvalleywinetrail.com/>.

## Pedal down a railroad track for a unique view of the fall colors.

Adirondack Railbike Adventures introduces a new way to immerse yourself in the fall foliage. Located in Thendara, New York, the company allows you to pedal a railbike six miles through the Adirondacks with your friends, family or significant other. Don't let the six miles intimidate you; the excursion is recommended to people of all ages, as long as you're fit enough to ride a bike. Book your adventure now at <https://adirondackscenicrailbikes.com/>.

## Change your perspective and view autumn's beauty from the water.

Grab your own or rent a kayak and glide across cool waters while taking in the surrounding landscapes at your own pace. Upstate Kayak Rentals offers two locations for people of the Capital Region to enjoy a worry-free day on the water: Mohawk Harbor in Schenectady or the Waterford Boat Launch in Waterford. Both locations allow you to rent a kayak and paddle down winding rivers while admiring the beauty of the transition season. For more information, head to <http://upstatekayakrentals.com/index.html>.