

# Outdoor Adventures

NEAR THE

## Irondequoit Inn

*one hour, two hour,  
half day, & full day excursions*

### 1 Hour

#### 1. The Lake Pleasant Nature Trail

0.5 miles round trip; A shaded path for an easy stroll in the Jessup River Wild Forest.

Directions (8 miles from the Inn): From the Inn parking lot turn right onto Old Piseco Road, then left onto Route 8. In Lake Pleasant turn right on South Shore Road. Take your first right into the parking lot of the Hamilton County building complex. The trailhead, marked with a sign, is behind the tennis courts and the Soil & Water building.

#### 2. Fall Stream to the Bridge

0.5 miles round trip; A leisurely paddle, perfect for dusk. Quiet paddlers have a good chance of seeing wildlife. Look out for turtles sunning themselves during the day.

Directions (0.3 miles from the Inn via Piseco Lake): Paddle left from the Inn beach and follow the Piseco Lake shoreline past the mouth of Cold Stream (next to the campsites) and past a marshy area to the mouth of Fall Stream.

#### 3. Paddle to the Island

1 mile round trip; The island you see from the beach and the Inn porch belongs to the Inn and is for use by its guests. Canoes, kayaks, and rowboats are available for rental from the Inn,

and it is a short paddle to the island. There is a sandy, protected beach on the near side of the island where the bottom drops off close to shore for deep swimming. Make sure to explore the short loop trail around the island that begins at the beach.

### 2 Hours

#### 4. Panther Mountain & Echo Cliff

1.6 miles round trip; 1,000 feet elevation gain; The view of Piseco Lake and the Silver Lake Wilderness to the east is spectacular! This short, fairly easy climb also makes a great sunrise hike. Echo Cliff, a short bushwhack just shy of the summit, offers routes for experienced rock climbers.

Directions (3 miles from the Inn): From the Inn parking lot take a left on Old Piseco Road and drive 3.0 mi to a gravel parking area on the left. The trailhead is across the street.

#### 5. Fawn Lake

2.2 miles round trip; A relatively flat trail leads to a lovely, pristine lake with a sandy beach and clear shallow water along the shore. This destination is great for small children. There are several picnic areas around the shore. Look out for where a trail diverges to the left partway to the lake; make sure you stay to the right.

Directions (7.5 miles from the Inn): From the Inn parking lot turn right onto Old Piseco Road, then left onto Route 8. After 3.8 mi turn left onto Tamarak Road. Go straight through the intersection with Fish Mountain Road and turn left on Fawn Lake Road. The trailhead is near the end of the road.

#### 6. Mill Stream Trail

1.6 miles round trip; This scenic trail overlooks Mill Stream and offers a variety of swimming and fishing opportunities. The path will take you upstream past two sets of rocks that are nice for picnicking and sliding and farther up to a rock

formation in the stream known as the Roman Baths — a great place to cool your feet. The trail peters out after about 0.8 miles where the stream bends sharply to the left.

Directions (0.3 miles from the Inn): Walk right from the Inn parking lot on Old Piseco Road until you cross the Mill Stream bridge at the bottom of the hill. At the intersection with Haskell Road turn left into the field on the corner. The trail leads into the woods out of the far corner of the field.

#### 7. Bike Around Piseco Lake

14.2 miles round trip; From the Inn parking lot turn left on Old Piseco Road. Follow the road along the shore for 5.6 miles to the intersection with Route 8. Turn left and follow Route 8 for 6.2 miles to the opposite end of Old Piseco Road. Turn left again and ride 2.4 miles back to the Inn. You can also do the loop in the reverse direction. Old Piseco Road, especially along the lake, is small and perfect for a leisurely ride. Route 8 is considered a Bike Route but is a slightly larger road with more traffic. All sections of the loop are paved.

### Half Day

#### 8. Sacandaga Interpretive Pathway

1.5 miles round trip; This path, with sections of boardwalk, travels along the Kunjamuk River and through a variety of habitats including three types of wetlands. It offers excellent opportunities to view wildlife and learn about logging, geology, and local history along the way. A picnic area with grills is available.

Directions (11.5 miles from the Inn): From the Inn parking lot turn right on Old Piseco Road, then left on Route 8. After 8.8 mi turn right on Route 30 & 8 in Speculator. After 0.5 mi turn left into the ball field parking lot. The trail starts behind and to the left of the pavilion.

Total excursion time: 3 hours

#### 9. Fall Stream to Fall Lake

3.9 miles round trip; A meandering paddle with sections of open stream and opportunities to see wildlife. You will have to portage the rocky rapids at the Old Piseco Road bridge, using a short path on the left and a put-in across the road. You may also have to portage beaver dams farther upstream. Directions (0.25 miles from the Inn via Piseco Lake): Paddle left from the Inn beach and follow the Piseco Lake shoreline past the mouth of Cold Stream (next to the campsites) and past a marshy area to the mouth of Fall Stream.

Total excursion time: 3 hours

#### 10. Buckhorn / Fiddlers Lake on the Northville Placid Trail

2.6 miles round trip; Take a hike on the Northville Placid Trail, which leads 132.2 mi across the Adirondack Park. Piseco is one of the few places where the trail crosses a town and the Irondequoit Inn offers through hikers much-anticipated amenities. While most of the trail is remote and requires multi-day hiking to reach, Buckhorn Lake (also known as Fiddlers Lake) is an easy day-hiking destination. From Route 8 the trail climbs gently to a small lake. Just after the trail crosses an inlet stream, turn left off the trail and bushwhack along the shore. Osprey and blue heron often nest at the far end of the lake.

Directions (2.4 miles from the Inn): Turn right out of the Inn parking lot and follow Old Piseco Road to its intersection with Route 8. Turn left onto Route 8. The trailhead will be immediately on your right. Just beyond that is a parking lot where you can leave your vehicle.

Total excursion time: 2.5 hours

#### 11. T Lake

7 miles round trip; 800 feet elevation gain; This trail is mostly a gentle climb with some steep sections leading to the T Lake lean-to which makes a great place to stop for lunch.

Directions (1.5 miles from the Inn): Turn left

out of the Inn parking lot onto Old Piseco Road. Drive approximately 1.5 mi. The trailhead will be on your right and marked with red Department of Environmental Conservation blazes. Parking is on a gravel pull-out across from the trailhead. Total excursion time: 4 hours

**12. The Powley Road, Quaking Bog, & Potholers**    

The Powley Road, a beautiful dirt road, can be reached either by car or bicycle. For a long bike ride you can ride the entire 19.1 mile length of Powley Road to its intersection with Route 29A. You can also seek two destinations along the Powley Road:

- **Quaking Bog:** Drive or ride your mountain or hybrid bike 3.6 mi from the beginning of the Powley Road. An unmarked path on the left side of the road leads down to a bog on the edge of a lovely pond. There are many bog plants to be seen in the summer, including Sun Dew, Pitcher Plants, and Swamp Cotton. Walk out on the bog and feel it quake beneath your feet!
- **Potholers:** Continue to 10.8 mi from the beginning of the Powley Road to the unmarked trailhead on the left and follow it 0.5 mi to the Potholers, a section of East Canada Creek studded with bathtub-like swimming holes.


Directions (6.9 miles from the Inn): Take a right onto Old Piseco Road out of the Inn parking lot and then a right on Route 8. After 3.4 mi turn left on Route 10 and look for Powley Road on your right after 1.2 mi. Park on the shoulder of Powley Road. If you are traveling by bicycle you can also ride to the Powley Road from the Inn. Total excursion time: 2-5 hours

**13. Airport Loop**  

About 6.5 miles round trip; Take this ski trail marked with yellow Department of Environmental Conservation blazes through the woods behind the Piseco Airport. The trail starts partway down the left side of the runway, behind

an airplane hanger, as you face away from town. You will also see signs for the Northville Placid trail at the trailhead and along the first part of the trail, but it does not follow exactly the same path so be sure to stay on the ski trail. You will exit the loop on the opposite side of the runway from where you started. Be sure to check for airplane traffic (including planes that may be in the air and about to land) before crossing the runway or skiing around the end.


Directions (0.7 miles from the Inn): Take a right out of the Inn parking lot onto Old Piseco Road. Just after the Post Office, turn left onto Wight Road. Follow it alongside the airport to a dead end where you can park your car. Walk over the snowbank toward the runway to find the trailhead. Total excursion time: 3.5 hours

**14. Speculator Bike Loop** 

Up to 13.7 miles round trip; This bike trail in Speculator consists of two loops: an outer 13.7-mi easy to intermediate loop and an inner 7.2-mi loop with some more difficult sections. The trail includes sections of paved road as well as rough dirt logging roads.

Directions (14.3 miles from the Inn): Take a right out of the Inn parking lot onto Old Piseco Road and turn left onto Route 8. Drive 8.8 mi into the center of Speculator and turn right on Route 30 & 8. Continue 3.1 mi, then turn left onto Old Route 8b and park along the side of the road. The outer loop starts out along Old Route 8b, and the inner loop splits off to the left along 8b shortly beyond where you've parked. Total excursion time: 3 hours

**Full Day**

**15. Snowy Mountain**   

7.8 miles round trip; 2,080 feet elevation gain; The summit provides a wonderful vista over Indian Lake and Siamese Ponds Wilderness to the east.

A fire tower provides additional 360 degree views extending north on clear days to the High Peaks. Steep upper slopes make this a rigorous climb. Directions (29 miles from the Inn): From the Inn parking lot turn right on Old Piseco Road, then left on Route 8. In Speculator turn left on Route 30. The parking lot is about 18 mi from Speculator on the right side of the road. The trailhead is on the opposite side. Total excursion time: 6 hours

**16. Fall Stream to Vly Lake**    

9.5 miles round trip; Paddling to Vly lake you will have to portage the rocky rapids at the Old Piseco Road bridge as well as beaver dams along the way. You will be rewarded with numerous chances for viewing wildlife along a meandering stream. 1.7 mi from the bridge you will reach Fall Lake and will continue upstream from the opposite side. Another 2.8 mi will find you in the larger Vly Lake. On the right as you enter the lake are large rocks that make a great place for lunch and swimming.

Directions (0.3 miles from the Inn via Piseco Lake): Paddle left from the Inn beach and follow the Piseco Lake shoreline past the mouth of Cold Stream (next to the campsites) and past a marshy area to the mouth of Fall Stream. Total excursion time: 6 hours

