

Local Hike from Kathleens Barn

www.kathleensbarn.com

To get there:

Go out Barn driveway, turn right onto Broadway, at “four corners” intersection of Broadway and Montgomery St., turn left, continue on Montgomery through gaggle of houses, go down the hill, come to bridge over the ClayKill (same creek which flows by the Barn).

Now: you have two options.

First option: Park before the Bridge, clamber down little slope and explore the Falls, with pools to wade in and the feeling of a private glen. This is where the ClayKill empties into the North Bay of Tivoli Bays.

Just past the Bridge, you will see a trail which joins the upper trail shortly. Great trees, mossy earth.

Second option: Continue in your car or on bike or walking across the bridge, up hill and find brown and yellow sign for Tivoli Bays on your right. Turn into the parking lot and park.



TIVOLI BAYS

A 10 minute drive from the Barn puts you at the trail head of 1700 acres of hiking, ruin observation, peninsulas with stunning river views.



Follow road leading off from parking lot. Continue through pine forest, enjoy

meadow views to your right. Explore abandoned cavernous cow barn off a short path to your left. This section of Tivoli Bays used to be at one point a home for elderly men then with the addition of bungalows and camps for poorer families. Most of the buildings are gone...but when I was a student at Bard, thirty-five years ago....alot of them still existed. It was called, “The Deserted Village,” and many an interesting time was had out there by students...we loved exploring the cottages and ruins on brilliant fall days. One student built a boat in the Barn in which you are now standing. Watch out for broken glass.



An historical note—

In 1926 William Ward of the Ward Baking Company funded the renovation of the river estate known as Almonte for purposes of creating a home for the elderly in the 'gray manor house', to be managed and run by his friend William Matthews. Soon, Matthews extended the operation to include summer camps for girls and boys, and summer bungalow rentals to poor families in some 56 buildings extending from Cruger's Island, through what is now Tivoli Bays, to the "Homestead" mansion at the southern edge of the village of Tivoli. This photograph collection, owned by William Matthews' granddaughter Donna Matthews, documents these activities and the lives that were led here for more than 30 years. Very few of these buildings are standing today.

Continue on and shortly come to a turn off (with gate to prevent cars).

NOW: you have two options again.

Stay on the road which continues on down a little rise, come to a parking lot with steps going down to a dock. Sit on the steps and take in the Catskills... watch for red wing blackbirds, swaying on phragmites...the trail off the right of the dock steps connects back to the trail at the bridge by the waterfalls.

This is a good place to put in your kayak or canoe... although it is a bit of a hump to get them back up the steps. Here you are in the heart of North Bay with meandering waterways and rivelets leading out to a lagoon from which one can paddle underneath the railroad to get out to the River... very exciting to be under the bridge when a train goes over!

Right straight ahead is Magdalene Island... with great picnic and swimming spots.

OR:

Take the path going off to the left, down and up a hill..this, by the way, is a good cross country ski jaunt in the winter....at the top of the hill as you come out into another meadow...

You have TWO options again!

Stay on the path, more of a road really as it veers off to the left and you will see the silvery back of The Performing Arts Center at Bard, designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry. From here you can enter the north end of Bard Campus and continue further exploration.



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OR:

Follow path through the meadow to the right which takes you to a breathtaking overlook of Tivoli Bays. About 10 minutes, you will come into a cove of trees and then there you are, at the edge of a cliff with an elevated look over the North Bay, the River and the Catskills beyond.