

# A GUIDE TO THE HELDERBERG HILLTOWNS

The Helderberg Hilltowns are located in Albany County, comprised of the towns of Rennselaerville, Knox, Berne, and Westerlo. These four towns in addition to neighboring Coeymans, New Scotland, and Bethlehem are home to a spectacular arrangement of water, forestry, and rolling hills in a rural countryside. A number of attractions within the Hilltowns provide a place to engage in outdoor activities that appeal to all fitness and skill levels.

## Main Attractions

- 1 **John Boyd Thacher State Park:** Located near Voorheesville along the Helderberg Escarpment, Thacher State Park offers 12 miles of trails, recreational areas, views of the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys as well as panoramas of the Adirondacks and Green Mountains of Vermont from 1300 feet up.



**Thompsons Lake State Park:** Located within Thacher State Park, its campgrounds feature 140 wooded campsites, a sandy beach, conifer and hardwood forests, limestone outcroppings and open fields



- 2 **Pine Bush Preserve and Discovery Center:** The Albany Pine Bush Preserve is globally rare, and is one of the largest of 20 inland Pine Barrens worldwide. The preserve works to protect and manage unique and endangered natural communities and species from the area.



- 3 **Pine Hollow Arboretum:** Located 5 miles from downtown Albany in Slingerlands, New York, the Arboretum contains 3,300 unique trees, shrubs and other wood plants from around the world as well as 12 ponds. View the entire 25 acre nature preserve through a system of walking trails and bridges.



- 4 **Partridge Run:** Located in the town of Berne, Partridge Run is 4500 acres of upland and wetland habitat and is located on the Helderberg Escarpment.



- 5 **Wolfcreek Falls Preserve:** Located in the town of Knox, features hiking trails boasting beautiful streams, waterfalls and old stone walls in a wetland environment.



- 6 **Schodack Island State Park:** Just south of Albany, located in Schodack Landing, the park boasts a 1,052 acre site, 8 miles of multi-use trails, improved bike trails, and a Bird Conservation Area.



See map on reverse side.

## These activities include but are not limited to:

- Biking
- Boating
- Campsites
- Cross Country Skiing
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Hunting
- Jogging
- Nature Trails
- Playgrounds
- Scenic Views
- Snowmobiling
- Swimming
- Tours
- Trailer Sites
- Wildlife Observation

## Bike Trails

**The Mohawk-Hudson Bikeway:** A 40-mile trail that runs along the Mohawk and Hudson rivers all the way from Rotterdam to Albany.

**The Thacher Park Trail:** Right outside of the John Boyd Thacher State Park, it runs through the Helderberg and has views of the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Green Mountains.

**Albany Pine Bush Trail:** The Albany Pine Bush Preserve has 20 miles of trails running through unique sandy terrain. The bike trails are mostly solid.

**Albany County Rail Trail:** A 9-mile stretch of the old Delaware and Hudson Railroad between the Port of Albany and Voorheesville to a public recreation trail.

## While in the Hilltowns

**Altamont Vineyard and Winery:** The Winery offers private parties, events, wine tastings, and tours of the vineyard that include walking paths, ponds and views of the natural scenery that the establishment provides.

**Fox Creek Market:** Located in Berne, the Fox Creek Market sits on top of the Fox Creek waterfalls, and offers quality food, a wide selection of beer, deli sandwiches, salads, and even pizza!

**Jake Moon Restaurant and Café:** Located in Clarksville, NY, Jake Moon features fresh food and restaurant-baked goods using their local Hilltown economy.

*(Open for breakfast and lunch W-F: 7am-3pm; Breakfast and Brunch S-S: 8am-3pm; Dinner on Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 5pm-9pm)*

## Events

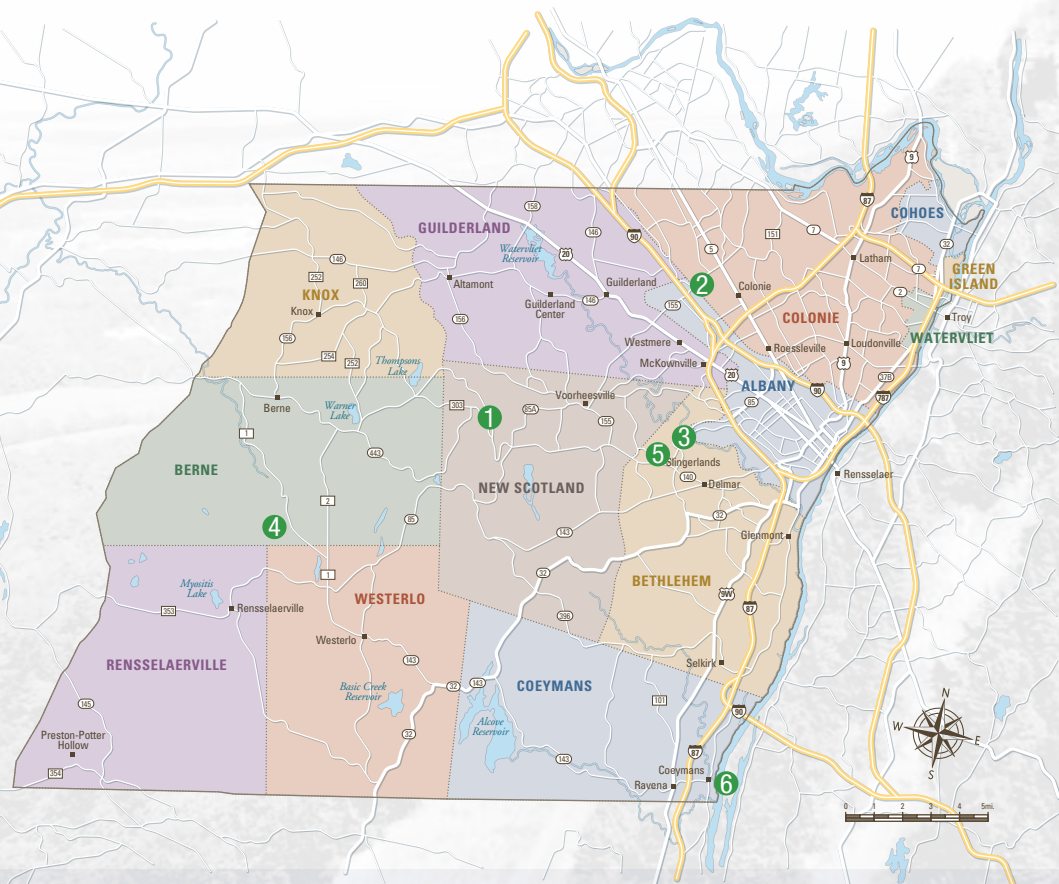
**Maple Weekends:** Explore the Hilltowns to see and sample the maple products of Albany County! *(March)*

**Wheels in the Woods Car Show:** Cruise up to the park and enjoy a day of cars, music, and picnicking! *(July)*

**Altamont Fairgrounds:** A three county fair that provides entertainment, educational opportunities, current culture, and plenty of food vendors for people of all ages. *(August)*

**Hudson River Valley Ramble:** Celebrates the trails, the river, and the historic and cultural resources of the Hudson River Valley through heritage and recreation. *(Every weekend in September)*

**Discover the Hilltowns: Farms and Artisans Tour:** Self-guided driving tour of farms, artisans, markets, and historical museums in the hilltowns. *(September)*



**ALBANY.**

Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau | 25 Quackenbush Sq, Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 434-1217 | 800-258-3582 | [www.albany.org](http://www.albany.org)