

# FUNTASTIC Fall Getaways

As the weather turns crisp and Manhattan prepares for another long winter (or whatever global warming has in store for us), head out to one of these fun and fabulous destinations and spend a weekend enjoying history, serenity and a martini or two.

tain and the valley, the elemental play and succession and the perpetual presence of the infinite sky." John Burroughs may as well have been describing autumn when he wrote this famous passage about the Catskills, a region located just 90 miles north of New York City. Country villages, Dutch houses and brilliant fall foliage dotted across untamed mountain scenery make this a great romantic getaway for couples, or a solo escape for single girls looking for quietude and natural beauty rather than a place to scope out the singles scene.

As soon as you set foot into gay-owned **Ecce Bed and Breakfast** (19 Silverfish Rd, Barryville, NY, 845-557-8562, [eccebedandbreakfast.com](http://eccebedandbreakfast.com)), the stress and strain of the city peels away. "Ecce" is Latin for "behold," and there couldn't be a more fitting way to describe this profoundly beautiful retreat on 60 acres along Route 97, perched 300 feet above the Delaware River. Operators Kurt Kreider and Alan Rosenblatt encourage guests to feel right at home with a cocktail hour every day at 5pm. If you're after large comfortable suites, panoramic views, a wood-burning fireplace and homemade breakfasts, Ecce is

## The Catskills, New York

"He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter. It is true the pomp and the pageantry are swept away, but the essential elements remain—the day and the night, the moun-



QUEBEC CITY HAS THAT CERTAIN "JE NE SAIS QUOI"



GIRLS GONE RIVER WILD IN THE CATSKILLS

Beach: S. Greg Pinosian; Rafting: Sullivan County Visitors Association

# GETAWAYS



MOUNTAINTOP MORNINGS AT ECCE B&B

the place to put your feet up. For a spiritual getaway, travel a few miles up the road to **Reflections Bed and Breakfast and Center for Creative Therapies and the Arts** (1107 Plank Rd, Forestburgh, NY, 845-796-2554, [reflectionscta.com](http://reflectionscta.com)), where you can unwind in one of their four bedrooms with tranquil views of the lake and forest. The Center offers therapeutic and artistic workshops such as creativity classes, music, imagery and relaxation and herbal and essential oil classes. Also enjoy swimming, fishing and a stroll through the organic garden or walking trail right outside your door. Veggie girls will savor a stay at the **Golden Guernsey** (31 Mitchell Pond East, Cohecton, NY, 845-932-7994, [thegoldenguernsey.com](http://thegoldenguernsey.com)), a quaint vegetarian barn and breakfast named for the Golden Guernsey cows roaming across the street.

While the cows are nice, that's not why most of us will make the trip to the Catskills this year. So what is the reason? Foliage, foliage, foliage! Join other avid leaf peepers during the last two weeks of September, when this area explodes into a vibrant sea of red, yellow and orange. For foliage information, including regions and dates, call the **New York State Division of Tourism** (800-CALL-NYS). One of the best ways to view this natural spectacle is with your hiking boots and walking stick. For information on trails, maps and gear, take a drive up to the **Catskill Hiking Shack** (169 Sullivan St, Wurtsboro, NY, 845-888-HIKE, [catskillhikes.com](http://catskillhikes.com)), where owners Susan and John will steer you in the right direction. Or, give those feet a break from beating the pavement of Manhattan with a nice drive on the **Upper Delaware Scenic Byway** (NYS Rte 97, Narrowsburg, NY, 845-252-3022, [upperdelawarescenicbyway.org](http://upperdelawarescenicbyway.org)). This national byway combines intriguing elements of archeology, nature and history on its winding roads. The Delaware also happens to be one of New York's most popular spots for canoeing, kayaking and thrilling whitewater rafting. Lander's River Trips offers raft rental through October (800-252-3925, [landersrivertrips.com](http://landersrivertrips.com)).

For restaurants as diverse as the changing leaves, the Catskills is never lacking. Explore more of the

region and experience culinary perfection at the same time. The **1906 Restaurant & Steak House** (41 Lower Main St, Callicoon, NY, 845-887-1906, [1906restaurant.com](http://1906restaurant.com)) offers quaint, fine dining in a casually elegant atmosphere. American cuisine reigns supreme at this romantic country find tucked away in the Delaware River Valley. Carnivores will delight in the assortment of rare meats, including ostrich and venison. If you're looking to take it down a couple of notches, drive over to **Eldred Preserve** (1040 Rte 55, Eldred, NY, 845-557-8316, [eldredpreserve.com](http://eldredpreserve.com)), where not only can you eat fish, but you can catch them, too! In addition to fishing for bass, catfish and trout (including a separate catch-and-release fly fishing pond where lessons are available) the restaurant at this premier fishing resort offers fresh trout served up 12 different ways.

While most come to the Catskills to muse at the glorious frondescence, on Sep 3, the region plays host to both residents and tourists who will gather in celebration of family. **The Day to Be Gay Foundation** ([dtbfoundation.org](http://dtbfoundation.org)), formed in June 2004, is the nonprofit organizer of the annual **Day to Be Gay in the Catskills Festival** ([daytobegay.org](http://daytobegay.org)), promoting harmony among the local community and supporting the philanthropic efforts of the gay and lesbian population in the Catskills, Hudson Valley and Pocono regions. The festival features music, spoken word and other entertainment. If you find yourself in Jeffersonville or Monticello, get a head start on the festivities by tuning into local Kathy Rieser's radio show, **Out Loud & Queer**, every Friday evening (10pm on WJFF 90.5 in Jeffersonville and 94.5 FM in Monticello, [wjffradio.org/programs/olq/olq.html](http://wjffradio.org/programs/olq/olq.html)).

For more information on the Catskills, NY, visit [outinthecatskills.com](http://outinthecatskills.com).