



Hunter Mountain Skyride

The easiest way to get a spectacular view from one of the highest peaks in the Catskills.

The Hunter Mountain Skyride is the longest chairlift in the Catskills, over one mile long.

The 5500 foot long Skyride takes you up 1600 vertical feet to the summit elevation of 3200 feet above sea level in only 11 minutes. From this commanding vista you can see the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts, the Green Mountains in Vermont, and the beautiful Catskill Mountains as you've never seen them.

The Hunter Mountain Fire Tower is located at the summit of Hunter Mountain, the second highest peak in the Catskills, at an elevation of 4,050 feet. It's a moderate 2 mile hike (each way) from the top of the Skyride to the tower. The tower has the unique distinction of being the highest fire tower in New York State, a 60' tower standing on top of a 4,040' mountain.

The original fire tower on Hunter Mountain was built in 1909, and was one of the first three fire towers that were constructed in the Catskills that year. The original wooden tower was 40 feet tall, and was replaced with a steel tower in 1917. That tower was placed at an elevation of 4,000', a third of a mile from the true summit. The tower was removed and reset at the present site (the actual summit) in 1953.



Hunter Mountain, despite its high elevation, deep notches, and steep slopes, was extensively logged over a century ago. The only virgin forest on the entire mountain is located on the northeastern side - totaling less than one-square-mile! (The Becker Hollow trail leads through it). Much of the summit was burned over as well. White birch, a major tree pioneer species following disturbances, can be found all over the upper slopes of the mountain - indicating extensive logging and forest fires.

Of course, the views from the tower are incredible. North / South Lakes, the Blackhead Range, the Hudson Valley, and the southern Catskills (including Slide Mt.) can be seen. If you have binoculars, it is possible to see the fire tower on Mt. Utsayantha, near Stamford! Supposedly, if the sun is high enough and with binoculars, it is even possible to see the two streams of water that are Kaaterskill Falls.



Hours of Operation:

Sat. and Sun., 10:30am-4:30pm, July 3 through October 10
Wednesdays, 12noon-4pm during July and August only

Hunter Mountain Skyride

Route 23A

Hunter, NY

1-888-HunterMtn

