



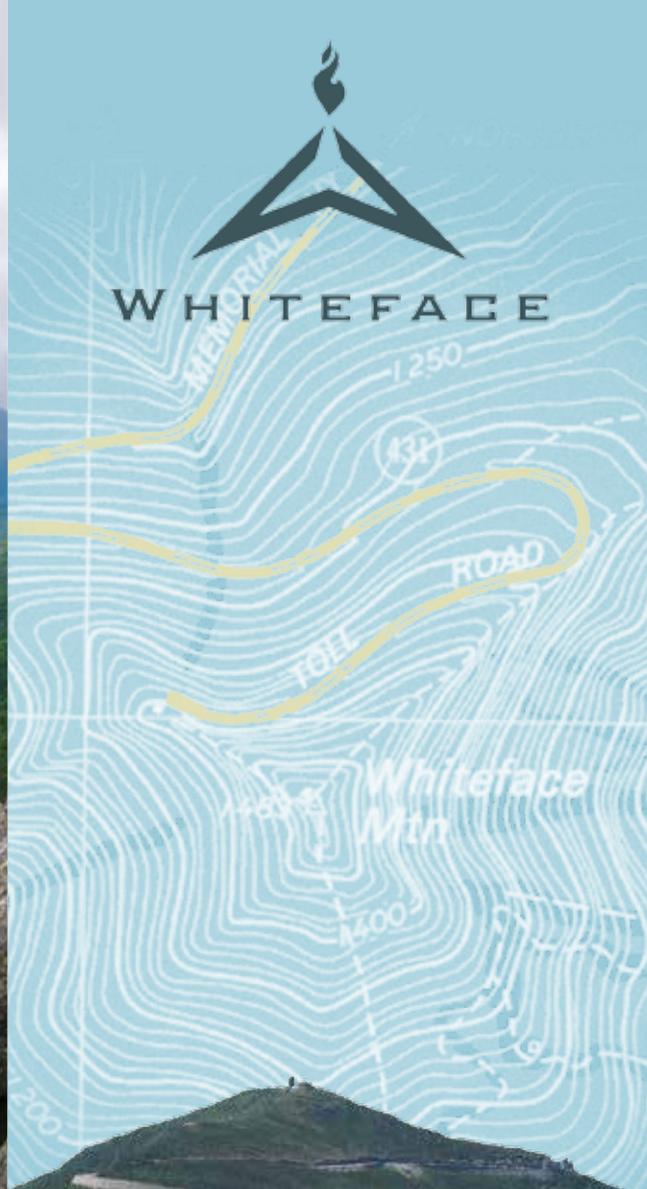
A rare and threatened songbird survives on top of Whiteface

Bicknell's thrush nests only above 2,800 feet in the thick spruce-fir forests on mountains in the Northeast.

During summer the upper reaches of Whiteface Mountain are home to a population of Bicknell's thrush.

Fewer than 100,000 of these rare songbirds exist in the wild. Nearly a quarter of Bicknell's nesting habitat is in the dense spruce-fir thickets near Adirondack mountaintops, and Whiteface is one of the largest and most important sites.

Listen for Bicknell's flutelike song and try to see the elusive bird in its native habitat.



VETERANS' MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

The Adirondack High Peak ACCESSIBLE BY CAR

Drive to the top of New York State's fifth-highest peak, 4,867 feet high. From the toll house, the scenic Veterans' Memorial Highway rises more than 2,300 feet over five miles. Wildflowers along the road are a living museum of northern forest ecology and anorthosite bedrock boulders are some of the most ancient rocks on Earth—over a billion years old.

Nine pullouts along the way have grand vistas of the Adirondack Park, its High Peaks, Lake Placid, Lake Champlain and, on a really clear day, Montreal. Visit the café in the stone castle. Climb the alpine nature trail or ride the elevator deep inside the mountain 27 stories to the weather station on top. From the treeless summit you can see a truly spectacular panoramic view—hundreds of square miles of forest, lakes and mountains stretching from Canada to New Hampshire.



Olympic Byway

Visit the highest exhibit in New York State

Explore the natural history of Whiteface and the Adirondacks along the mountain's scenic roadway, alpine nature trail, summit, gondola ride and more.

Before you start up the road...

Enjoy Pristine Lake Stevens
A STOCKED FISHING POND named for 1932 Olympian bobsledder Hubert Stevens. A self-guided ten-minute nature trail circumnavigates the pond and has 34 species of trees native to the northern Adirondacks.

If you wish to visit the Lake Stevens Nature Area on your way back from the summit, please park on the north side of the lake or ask an attendant at the toll house for parking assistance.

Weather Advisory On your way up...

You may want to call ahead or check with the toll house attendants about visibility. Weather changes quickly so don't be discouraged by cloud cover.

Keep an eye on the temperature gauge in your car to watch the temperature drop as you climb the Veterans' Memorial Highway.

On your way down...

Be advised, the temperature and climate at the summit is different from the valleys. Bring layers of clothing for windchill and rain.

Switch to low gear instead of burning up your brakes. Pump brakes as necessary.

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www.whiteface.com

STATE OF NEW YORK
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Olympic Regional Development Authority
Pat Barrett, Chairman
Ted Blazer, President & CEO

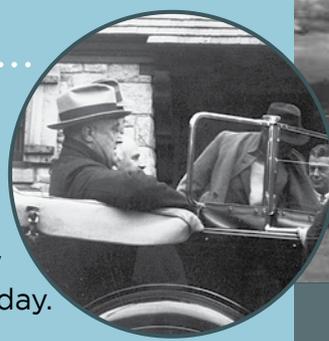


This exhibit was prepared by The Wild Center as part of a NYS Scenic Byway project, managed by the Adirondack North Country Association, funded by the Federal Highway Administration and administered by the NYS Department of Transportation.



HOW IT BEGAN...

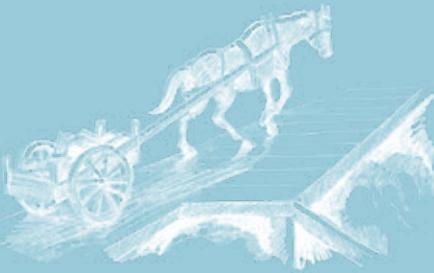
The environmental and financial hurdles to construct a paved road like the Veterans' Memorial Highway would be insurmountable today.



But in the 1920's, when the automobile was relatively new, two men from Saranac Lake and Wilmington believed that a road to the summit of Whiteface Mountain—New York's fifth-highest peak—was a great idea. M.A. Leonard and Frank Everest lobbied tirelessly in Albany until the ambitious project was endorsed in 1929. Then-Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt turned the first spade of earth ceremoniously that September. The ease of access for people with physical disabilities contributed to his personal endorsement.

The highway was funded by bond money. Construction began in 1931 and created scores of jobs for engineers, construction workers, and stone masons during the early years of the Great Depression.

Four years and \$1,250,000 later, the Veterans' Memorial Highway officially opened on July 20, 1935. It took another three years to complete the elevator, Castle and Summit House.



MEMORIAL TO VETERANS

"This is a tribute from the citizens of the state of New York which would be appreciated by those fallen comrades of ours who served their state and their nation so well. It is fitting that we should dedicate it in their names. It will stand as a tribute to them through all the centuries to come."

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt
September 14, 1935 address to dedicate the highway as a memorial to the New York State Veterans of WWI

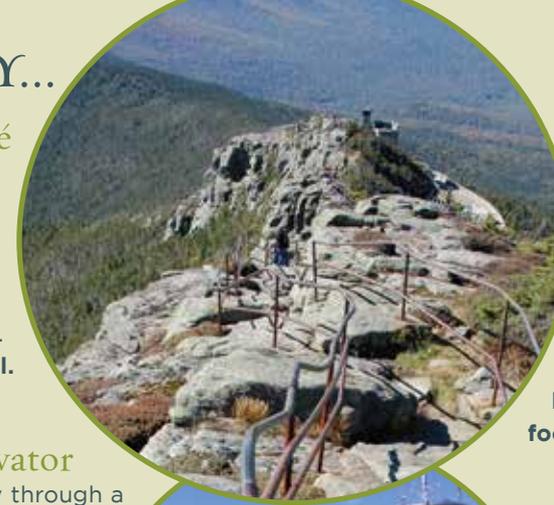
In 1985 New York State Governor Mario Cuomo rededicated the Whiteface Memorial Highway to veterans of all wars.



WHITEFACE TODAY...

Castle & Café

Just below the actual summit, the Castle was built from granite excavated during highway construction. On the second floor is a café that serves lunch and snacks, and a gift shop. **Restrooms are on the lower level.**



Alpine Nature Trail
Hardy souls can climb the Nature Trail, which starts behind the Castle. Learn about the alpine ecosystem through exhibits along the fifth-of-a-mile-long trail to the summit. **The climb can be steep and slippery. Proper footwear is essential.**

Tunnel & Elevator

One route to the summit is to journey through a 426-foot tunnel into the center of Whiteface Mountain and then ascend 27 stories by elevator to the stone Summit House, where onsite exhibits explore the natural history of Whiteface Mountain.



The Summit Experience
The elevator opens inside the round, stone Summit House that connects to NY State's Atmospheric Sciences Research Center. Learn about the extreme weather and the science that is happening on top of this mountain.

The summit offers visitors a 360-degree view, except in times of low cloud cover or dense fog. Visitors may stroll around the observation deck with views of Lake Champlain and Vermont's Green Mountains to the east, the St. Lawrence Valley and Canada to the north, Lake Placid and the High Peaks to the south, and the Saranac River Valley to the west. Exhibits tell you about the natural history of the Adirondack mountains in all directions.

Roadway mileage markers FROM THE TOLL HOUSE

As you ascend, there are nine designated turnouts where you may enjoy the view and discover more about Whiteface and the surrounding mountains.

#1

.03 MILES
Local Forest History
Site of Little Montreal, an early village settled by French Canadian loggers

#2

1.0 MILES
Union Falls Pond Overlook
Picnic area

#3

1.6 MILES
Whiteface Mountain Panorama

#4

2.1 MILES
Water Catchment Basin
Unique structure engineered to catch spring run-off

#5

2.4 MILES
The Big Turn Lookout
Picnic area and scenic overlook

#6

3.3 MILES
The Slide
Picnic area. To the west lies the village of Saranac Lake. Note how much smaller trees are at this elevation

#7

3.7 MILES
Lake Placid Turn
Against a backdrop of the High Peaks, see Lake Placid with its 3 islands below, the Castle above and the short, scrubby trees that result from altitude, winds and thin soil

#8

4.5 MILES
Wilmington Turn
Elevation 4,300 ft. Views of Lake Champlain Basin and Vermont's Green Mountains. Peek over the edge for a closer look at the road construction

#9

5.0 MILES
Summit
Attendant directs parking. Tunnel entrance is midway up the parking area. Nature Trail begins behind the Castle

#10

The Castle
Elevation 4,610 ft