

## Some ideas for family excursions relating to our “Libraries Rock” theme

**Lester Park**, Petrified Sea Gardens Rd., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

A bit north of the old Petrified Sea Gardens site, large stone outcroppings with fossils beside the road – look only

**Barton Garnet Mines**, 1126 Barton Mines Rd, North Creek, NY (Gore Mountain) 518-251-2706

You are taken on a tour of the surface mine area and allowed 45 minutes to search for garnets. You can buy specimens of raw and polished garnets, items made from garnets, and assorted other gems at the shop.

**Herkimer Diamond Mines**, 4601 State Route 28, Herkimer, NY 13350; [www.herkimerdiamond.com](http://www.herkimerdiamond.com)

Despite the fire at the main building, the mines are open, see their website for more information. You can spend as much time as you'd like searching for Herkimer diamonds, which are clear and faceted in the ground

**SUNY Adirondack** Continuing Education Summer Enrichment for Grades 4-12, 640 Bay Rd., Queensbury, NY 12804

Go to [sunyacc.edu/continuing-ed/adventure-sports-programming](http://sunyacc.edu/continuing-ed/adventure-sports-programming) for complete information

They provide many summer programs from archaeology to robotics and everything in between

**Brookside Museum**, 6 Charlton St., Ballston Spa, NY 12020, [www.Brooksidemuseum.org](http://www.Brooksidemuseum.org), 518-885-4000, many

programs throughout the year, as well as “Brookside Digs Archeology Experience” 7/30-8/3, 9:00-3:00, ages 10-16, \$250 per person, register at [education@brooksidemuseum.org](mailto:education@brooksidemuseum.org); it's also possible to go and just observe the dig, call them ahead

**New York State Archaeological Association**; Adirondack Chapter meets at Roger's Island Visitors Center, Ft. Edward, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month (except July & August) includes lecture & refreshments; register for online newsletter

**Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park**, Environmental Education Programs, 80 Scout Rd., Gansevoort, NY 12831

[www.wiltonpreserve.org](http://www.wiltonpreserve.org). Hiking trails & year-round educational programs in the Saratoga Sandplains, home of the Karner Blue butterfly.

**Eagle Mills Cider Company**, 383 County Hwy 138, Broadalbin, NY 12025; 518-883-8700; [www.eaglemillsfun.com](http://www.eaglemillsfun.com)

Water-powered cider mill, gemstone mining, fossil and dino digs, nature trail, pedal car track, family fun park, ice cream & baked goods.

**Howe Caverns**, 255 Discovery Dr., Howes Cave, NY 518-296-8900, [howecaverns.com](http://howecaverns.com)

Cave tours last 90 minutes and describe how the caves were formed, impressive stalactites and stalagmites, a rock & fossil shop, sluicing for minerals, break a geode, history of the caves, family adventure park

**Secret Caverns**, 671 Caverns Road, Howes Cave, NY, 518-296-8558, [www.secretcaverns.com](http://www.secretcaverns.com); glimpse prehistoric natural formations like calcite and underground waterways, 100-ft. underground waterfall

**Natural Stone Bridge and Cave**, 535 Stone Bridge Road, Pottersville, NY, 518-494-2283; [stonebridgeandcaves.com](http://stonebridgeandcaves.com);

Guided and self-guided tours, rock shop, gemstone mining, museum, Crystal Quest Mine, Dino Dig, Gold Rush Mine, climbing walls, playground, picnic areas & snack bar

**Whiteface Mountain Veterans' Memorial Highway**, Whiteface, 5021 Route 86, Wilmington, NY, 518-946-2223,

[www.whiteface.com](http://www.whiteface.com); offers panoramic views of the Adirondacks, Vermont and Canada, road rises 2,300 ft. to summit, restaurant, gift shop, a castle built of the native over-1-billion-year-old Anorthosite bedrock boulders

Check out [www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com](http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com) for more mineral mining experiences

**School of Rock Albany**, 592 New Loudon Rd., Latham, NY, 518-783-7625, <https://locations.schooofrock.com/albany>;

Offers private lessons, group lessons, performing, music basics, camps for a variety of ages