

## Six farm stays to get close to animals, nature

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Agritourism experiences give guests a real immersion in farm life and typically support a farm or non-profit's work. Also: you get to spend time with adorable animals.

Woodstock Farm Sanctuary

At the 5-bedroom inn Gray Barn in High Falls, guests start the day with a freshly made vegan breakfast — and goat belly rubs. The property is part of the Woodstock Farm Sanctuary, and getting up close and personal with the rescue animals is part of the appeal.

“Guests get a pretty intimate tour,” said Lizz Truitt, the Woodstock Farm Sanctuary communications manager. “They meet the animals, go into the space where they live, see how they live and get to know their personalities.”

The inn on the property was funded by an anonymous donor who wanted the sanctuary to have a sustainable resource of flowing income to support the animals and the sanctuary's rescue work. The farm and animal rescue organization is home to nearly 400 animals, including goats and turkeys, chickens, ducks, pigs, rabbits, sheep and more.

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It's one of several agritourism destinations throughout the Hudson Valley that give visitors a hands-on, unique experience unlike a typical summer rental, while also supporting the work of non-profits like the Woodstock Farm Sanctuary.

"You're actually supporting the health and happiness of rescue animals and it's connecting you with farm animals allowing you to see them in a different lens, said Truitt. "Booking a stay is a form of activism."

Not every agritourism destination is as charitable; some farm stays are simply a means of immersing yourself in a working farm. Here's where to add real creature comforts to a Hudson Valley getaway.

The Gray Barn at Woodstock Farm Sanctuary, Ulster County





The chic Gray Barn is a sanctuary on its own.  
Woodstock Farm Sanctuary

Due to COVID safety protocols, the Gray Barn is currently renting out the entire 5-bedroom inn for a minimum of four nights until August. Beginning in August, the inn will return to offering up individual guest rooms for stays. Each stay comes with a VIP tour of the Woodstock Farm Sanctuary. Guests need to be 12 years or older, but those with younger kids can still take a farm tour on Sundays.

*2 Rescue Road, High Falls, NY 12440; 845.247.5700*

[thegraybarn.org](http://thegraybarn.org)

Whistlewood Farm Bed and Breakfast, Dutchess County

Maggie Myer is the owner of the charming Whistlewood Farm Bed and Breakfast, a 40-acre farm that is home to livestock, gardens, and trails. Visitors are invited to help Myer feed her horse, donkey and chickens that provide eggs for her generous breakfasts and the pies, cookies and banana breads on her all-hours dessert table. You can stay in the main lodge or



rent out the Carriage House, a renovated barn that accommodates four people. (Note you can book online for weekend stays but need to call if you want to stay during the week). The inn makes a lovely base for exploring Rhinebeck, but you'll find it hard to want to leave the beautiful, comfortable property.

*52 Pells Road, Rhinebeck, NY 12572; 845.876.6838*

[whistlewood.com](http://whistlewood.com)

Stony Creek Farmstead, Delaware County



The platform tents are deceptively rustic; each comes with a kitchen and a king-size bed.  
Stony Creek Farmstead

Fall asleep as a cow moos nearby at Stony Creek Farmstead. In the morning, you can collect eggs or help with the morning milking. The Walton farm offers platform tents that sleep up to six. Each tent has a king-size bed, a set of bunk beds and a cabinet bed, a fully equipped kitchen, as well as a small closet with a toilet (showers are a short walk away). Also close by are hiking trails and a pond to jump in on hot days. Note: there isn't a place to plug in your phone, but you're on vacation — you weren't going to answer work email, anyway.

*1738 Freer Hollow Road, Walton, NY 13856; 607.865.7965*



[stonycreekfarmstead.com](http://stonycreekfarmstead.com)

Farm Stay at Kinderhook Farm, Columbia County



Kinderhook supplies essential gear like high chairs to make it easy to stay with small kids.  
Kinderhook Farm

Rest your head for a few nights at the charming Kinderhook Farm in Valatie. Since 2011, Kinderhook farm has hosted guests (up to 4 adults and 2 two children) in the furnished barn where you'll find a loft-like space with a kitchen, full bathroom, and one side with open screens to peer at the farm animals. During the day, lounge in the hammocks before meeting the animals and experience a working livestock farm. They also make it easy to do a farm stay with young kids. Let them know in advance, and they'll provide you with a high chair and travel crib.

*1958 Co Road 21, Valatie, NY 12184; 518.218.6648*

[airbnb.com/h/kinderhookfarmstay](http://airbnb.com/h/kinderhookfarmstay)

Apple Pond Farm, Sullivan County





Apple Pond has just one apartment, where up to two guests can experience an intimate farm stay.  
Apple Pond Farm

This Catskills farm is a true learning center for aspiring farmers and off-the-grid enthusiasts to learn from farmers who are skilled in renewable energy, raising livestock and organic growing. Hosts Sonja Hedlund and partner Dick Riesling will provide as much hands-on learning as you desire on their 80-acre farm where they grow organic vegetables, raise animals, and produce 90 percent of their electricity on site through solar, wind and other renewable sources. There is a two-night minimum stay in their one-bedroom, dog-friendly loft, suitable for a small child as well.

*80 Hahn Road, Callicoon Center, NY 12724; 845.482.4764*



[applepondfarm.com](http://applepondfarm.com)

Magic Forest Farm Camp, Albany County



The tipi at Magic Forest Farm.  
Magic Forest Farm

Magic Forest Farm Camp has something for every type of traveler with several different accommodations ranging from a campsite to furnished tipi to a luxe apartment. Spend your days meeting the animals, including a Guernsey milk cow, goats and a white peacock. You'll learn about organic farming and self-reliance at the homestead and eco-village.

*134 Bucks Ranch Road, Coeymans Hollow, NY 12046; 518.231.0347*

[magicforestfarm.com](http://magicforestfarm.com)