

# Discover Esopus

Officially designated in 1811, this area was called "esupu" by the local Native Americans, meaning "high banks". The town covers nearly forty square miles. It is home to many historic and natural places of interest, hiking trails and cultural centers. We hope that this wayfinding guide will help you locate and enjoy many of our town's unique and wonderful places of interest.

## Places of Interest in Port Ewen

### 1 Wurts Street Bridge



Photo: Marion Zimmer

Steel suspension bridge spanning the Rondout Creek, completed in 1921. It replaced the Skillypot Ferry as the final link in New York's north-south highway on the west shore of the Hudson.

### 2 Sleightsburgh Park



Photo: Neil Moore

A 79 acre peninsula at the mouth of Rondout Creek. A day-use designated site of the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail. Has boat launch into the creek. Handicap-accessible fishing pier. Several trails with spectacular views of the Hudson River. Located on Everson Street.

### 3 Town of Esopus Library



Photo: Marion Zimmer

Community, educational and cultural programs offered here. Its Burroughs Collection focuses on environmental, historical and ecological issues that have local impact. Surrounding the library pond is an Outdoor Learning Center. Closed Sundays in the summer. On Canal St. off Rte. 9-W.

### 4 Sojourner Truth Memorial



Photo: Marion Zimmer

Dedicated in 2010, it is located at a pocket-park honoring the locally born abolitionist, preacher, suffragette and inductee into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Located at the corner of Broadway and Salem Street.

### 6 Our Lady of the Hudson



Photo: Marion Zimmer

A 6' carved bluestone statue of the Madonna cradling a tugboat overlooks the Hudson River at Presentation Church. Dedicated in 1952 and funded by boating families and businesses. Located on Father Kelley Drive.



Map by Google Maps

### 5 George Freer Park



Photo: Marion Zimmer

Designated as a site of the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail. A day use area, the park has a picnic facility, pavilion & playground. Great river views. Located at the foot of Canal Street.

### 7 Ross Park



Photo: Marion Zimmer

Sports & recreation center features a ball field, tennis court, basketball and handball courts and playground. Open dawn to dusk. Located on Bowne St.

## The Hudson River

Looking directly over this panel, you will see the Hudson River. Water played a major role in the early years of Esopus, as it is bordered by rivers on three sides. To the west flows the Walkkill River. Many water powered mills dotted its shoreline in the 1800's and early 1900's. The Rondout Creek to the north, a protected harbor, was home to commerce and ship building. At that time a coal depot operated at the mouth of the creek in Sleightsburgh, a hub for the Delaware & Hudson Canal boat traffic. The Hudson was the super-highway of the time, providing freight & passenger transportation southward to New York City and northward to Albany.

## Places of Interest in the Town of Esopus

### 1 Esopus Meadows Lighthouse & Park



Photo: Marion Zimmer

This 0.7 acre park offers a stunning view of the last remaining wooden lighthouse on the Hudson, built in 1871 and nicknamed "Maid of the Meadows". The park is located on River Road and open year-round. More lighthouse info at [www.esopuslighthouse.org](http://www.esopuslighthouse.org).

### 2 Esopus Meadows Point Preserve



Photo: Vickie Muller

A 96 acre park and environmental center open year-round, dawn to dusk. 3,500 feet of Hudson River shoreline. Views of Esopus Meadows Lighthouse. Three Greenway trails and interpretive botanical trail. Fishing, picnicking, kayaking, canoeing, dog walking, bird watching, nature study, x-country skiing.

### 3 Klyne Esopus Museum



Photo: Jon Herring

Housed in an 1827 church & listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the museum has artifacts, documents & a genealogical library related to the history of Esopus. Seasonal shows and exhibits, and educational programs. Located on Rte. 9-W. info: [www.klyneesopuseum.org](http://www.klyneesopuseum.org)

### 4 Shaupeneak Ridge



Photo: Scenic Hudson

690 acres of natural features and habitats. 6 miles of varying difficulty trails on slopes, ridge-top & around Louisa Pond. Forests, grasslands, marshes, stunning rock formations, waterfall, spectacular views. Hunting & fishing with permit. Biking, dog walking, picnicking, kayaking, x-country skiing. Dawn to dusk year round.

### 5 Black Creek Forest Preserve



Photo: Scenic Hudson

130 acres with 2+ miles of trails & 120 ft. suspension bridge. Three interconnected trails with river access. Spectacular Hudson River views. Hiking, fishing, bird watching, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, dogs OK. Open daytime year round. On Winding Brook Rd.

### 6 John Burroughs Sanctuary & Slabsides



Photo: Marion Zimmer

Slabsides, the rustic cabin retreat of naturalist John Burroughs built in 1895, is part of this 192 acre sanctuary. Features greenway trails and spectacular pond. Guided tours by appointment year round. info: [www.research.amnh.org/burroughs](http://www.research.amnh.org/burroughs)

### 7 Perrine's Bridge



Photo: Marion Zimmer

Built in 1835, it is the oldest remaining covered bridge and the only single-span, Burr-arch truss bridge in New York State. Located on Rte. 213, off Rte. 32. Adjacent to picnic & park area.



Map by Slotnick Signs & Designs