

2020-2021 Hunting Seasons on the Appalachian Trail

Hunting is allowed along or near most of the Appalachian Trail (noting that hunting is not allowed in National Parks; however, hunting may be permitted in National Forests and/or other state or federal lands). Although hunting is prohibited on 600 miles of NPS-acquired A.T. lands, the corridor is narrow, and trails may cross or run adjacent to hunting areas. Take safety precautions, including wearing fluorescent orange when hiking in hunting seasons. Learn regulations and hunting seasons for the areas you will be hiking in before you go. Major hunting dates for regular firearm, shotgun, muzzleloader, bow and small game details are below. This listing is not comprehensive.


For more information, visit ATC's website at www.appalachiantrail.org/hunting.

Dates shown: **August 2020** through **June 2021**, noting some dates are shown in ranges and may not be consecutively occurring dates. Not all dates apply to all counties or towns; hunting dates and laws (including, but not limited to, Sunday and nighttime hunting) are subject to change. **Re-confirm hunting season dates locally before you go.**

State	Deer	Large game	Turkey	Other	Contact
Maine (excluding Sundays)	Deer: Sept. 12-Dec. 12	Bear: Aug. 29-Nov. 28 Moose: Sept. 28-Nov. 28	Wild Turkey: Fall: Sept. 14-Nov. 7 Spring: May 3-June 5	Upland & Migratory Birds: Sept. 26-Dec. 31 Small game: Sept. 26-March 31 Coyote: Year-round	Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (207) 287-8000 www.maine.gov/ifw/
New Hampshire	Deer: Sept. 15-Dec. 15	Bear: Sept. 1-Nov. 30 Moose: Oct. 17-25	Wild Turkey: Spring: May 1-May 31 Fall: Sept. 15-Dec. 15	Small Game: Sept. 1-Jan. 31 Coyote: Year-round	New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (603) 271-3421 www.eregulations.com/newhampshire/hunting/
Vermont	Deer: Oct. 1-Dec. 15	Bear: Sept. 1-Nov. 22 Moose: Oct. 1-7 Oct. 16-22	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 3-Nov. 8 Spring: April 25-May 31	Small game: Sept. 1-Dec. 31 Last Saturday in Sept.- Second Sunday in March	Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (802) 828-1000 www.vtfishandwildlife.com
Massachusetts (excluding Sundays)	Deer: Oct. 3-Dec. 31	Bear: Sept. 8-Dec. 12	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 19-Nov. 28 Spring: April 25-May 23	Small Game: Jan 1 – Apr 10	Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (508) 389-6300 www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/
Connecticut (excluding Sundays)	Deer: Sept. 15-Dec. 31	Bear: N/A	Wild Turkey: Spring: April 29-May 30 Fall: Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Small Game: Oct 17 – Feb 29	Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (860) 424-3000 www.ct.gov/dep
New York	Deer: Sept. 27-Jan. 31	Bear: Sept. 12-Dec. 31	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 1-Dec. 4 Spring: April 24-May 31	Small Game: Sept. 1-Dec. 31	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (518) 402-8883 www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/hunting.html
New Jersey (excluding Sundays except state wildlife management areas and private property)	Deer: Sept. 12-Jan. 1	Bear: Oct. 12 – Dec. 19	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 24-Oct. 31 Spring: Jan. 25-Feb. 22	Small game: Nov. 7-March 15	New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (609) 292-2965 www.state.nj.us/dep/fqw/

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 On state game lands in Pennsylvania, all hunters and non-hunters are required to wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined, from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15. The orange material must be visible from all angles (360 degrees).					
Pennsylvania (excluding most Sundays except special dates listed; and coyote, crow, starling and English Sparrow hunting)	Deer: Sep. 19 – Jan. 23 New: Sunday Archery Nov 15 New: Sunday Firearm Nov 29 Elk: Sept. 12-Jan. 9	Bear: Sept. 12-Dec. 12 New: Sunday Firearm Nov 22	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 31-Nov. 27 Spring: April 24-May 31	Small Game: Sept.12 – Feb. 27	Pennsylvania Game Commission (717) 787-4250 www.pgc.state.pa.us/
Maryland	Deer: Sept. 11-Feb. 3	Bear: Oct. 26-Oct. 30	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 31-Nov. 8 Winter: Jan. 21-23 Spring: April 19-May 24	Small Game: Sept. 5-Feb. 28	Maryland Department of Natural Resources (877) 620-8367 www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/
West Virginia * (Hunting is allowed on Sunday in Jefferson County private lands that border A.T. corridor)	Deer: Sept. 26-Dec. 31 Wild Boar: Sept. 26-Feb. 7	Bear: Sept. 26-Dec. 31	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 10-Nov. 15 Spring: April 17-May 23	Small Game: Sept. 12-Feb. 28	West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (304) 558-2754 www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting_regs.shtml
* Hikers should check both West Virginia and Virginia hunting seasons.					
Virginia * (excluding Sundays)	Deer: Nov 14 – Jan 2 Late Season in Loudoun County: Jan 3 – Mar 28	Bear: Sept. 28-Jan. 2	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 3-Jan. 23 Spring: April 3-May 16	Small Game: Spring: June 5-June 19 Fall: Sept. 5-Feb. 28	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (804) 367-1000 www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations
Tennessee **	Deer: Aug. 28-Jan. 8 Elk: Sept. 26-Oct. 17	Bear: Sept. 26-Jan. 3	Wild Turkey: Fall: Sept. 26-Nov. 6 Spring: March 27-May 16	Small Game: Aug. 22-Feb. 28 Spring Squirrel: May 8-June 21	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (615) 781-6500 www.tn.gov/twra/
** Hikers should check both Tennessee and North Carolina hunting seasons.					
North Carolina ** (excluding Sundays)	Deer: Sept. 26-Jan. 14	Bear: Oct. 12-Jan. 1	Wild Turkey: Fall: Spring: April 3-May 8	Small Game: Oct. 12-Feb. 28	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (919) 707-0010 www.ncwildlife.org/
Georgia	Deer: Sept. 12-Jan. 31	Bear: Sept. 12-Jan. 10	Wild Turkey: March 13-May 15	Small Game: Aug. 15-Feb. 28	Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division (770) 918-6400 www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting