

2022-2023 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 (blaze 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 2022** through **June 2023**, 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. 10-Dec. 10	Bear: Aug. 27-Nov. 26 Moose: Sept. 26-Nov. 26	Wild Turkey: Fall: Sept. 19-Nov. 7 Spring: May 1-June 3	Upland & Migratory Birds: Sept. 24-Dec. 31 Small game: Sept. 24-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. 15-23	Wild Turkey: Fall: Sept. 15-Dec. 15 Spring: April 29-May 31	Small Game: Sept. 1-March 31 Coyote: Year-round	New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (603) 271-3421 https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/index.html
Vermont	Deer: Oct. 1-Dec. 15	Bear: Sept. 1-Nov. 21 Moose: Oct. 1-7 Oct. 15-21	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 1-Nov. 6 Spring: April 28-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. 1-Dec. 31	Bear: Sept. 6-Dec. 10	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 17-Nov. 26 Spring: April 23-May 21	Small Game: Fall: Oct. 1-Dec. 20 Spring: Jan 1 – Feb. 28	Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (508) 389-6300 www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/
Connecticut (excluding Sundays)	Deer: Sept. 15-Jan. 31	Bear: N/A	Wild Turkey: Spring: April 27-May 28 Fall: Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Small Game: Sept. 1 – Feb 29	Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (860) 424-3000 www.ct.gov/dep

New York	Deer: Sept. 15-Jan. 31	Bear: Sept. 10-Dec. 31	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 1-Dec. 2 Spring: April 22-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. 10-Jan. 31	Bear N/A	Wild Turkey (2021-2022, updated seasons not listed): Fall: Oct. 23, 25-30 Spring: Apr. 23-May 27	Small game (2021-2022, updated seasons not listed): Oct. 2-March 15	New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (609) 292-2965 www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/

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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 (except on Sundays). 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: (Sunday Archery) Nov 13 (Sunday Firearm) Nov 27 Sept. 17 – Jan. 28 Elk: Sept. 10-Jan. 7	Bear: (Sunday Firearm) Nov. 19-22 Sept. 17-Nov. 25	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 29-Nov. 25 Spring: April 29-May 30	Small Game: Sept.10 – Feb. 27	Pennsylvania Game Commission (717) 787-4250 www.pgc.state.pa.us/
Maryland	Deer: Sept. 9-Jan. 31	Bear: Oct. 24-Oct. 29	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 29-Nov. 6 Winter: Jan. 19-21 Spring: April 15, 16, 18-May 23	Small Game: Sept. 3-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. 24-Dec. 31 Wild Boar: Sept. 24-Feb. 5	Bear: Sept. 24-Dec. 31	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 8-Nov. 13 Spring: April 15-May 21	Small Game: Sept. 3-Feb. 28 Coyote: year-round	West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (304) 558-2754 www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting_regs.shtm
* Hikers should check both West Virginia and Virginia hunting seasons.					
Virginia * (excluding Sundays)	Deer: Sept. 24-25, Oct. 1- Nov. 18 (Late) Dec. 1 – Mar 26 Elk: Oct. 8-14	Bear: Oct. 1-Jan. 7	Wild Turkey: Fall: Oct. 1-Jan. 28 Spring: April 1, April 8- May 13	Small Game: Fall: Sept. 3-Feb. 28 Spring: June 3-June 17	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (804) 367-1000 www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations

Tennessee **	Deer: Aug. 26-Jan. 15 Elk: Sept. 24-Oct. 14	Bear: Sept. 24-Jan. 1	Wild Turkey: Fall: Sept. 24-Nov. 4 Spring: April 8-9, April 15-May 28	Small Game: Aug. 27-March 15 Spring Squirrel: May 13-June 11	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. 10-Jan. 2	Bear: Oct. 15-Jan. 2	Wild Turkey: Spring: April 1-May 6	Small Game: Oct. 1-Feb. 28, May 8-22 (gray squirrel)	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (919) 707-0010 www.ncwildlife.org/
Georgia	Deer: Sept. 10-Jan. 31	Bear: Sept. 10-Jan. 8	Wild Turkey: March 24-26, April 1- May 15	Small Game: Aug. 15-Feb. 28	Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division (770) 918-6400 www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting