

Hunting Seasons on the Appalachian Trail

Hunting is allowed along or near most of the Appalachian Trail. While hunting is not allowed in National Parks, hunting may be permitted in National Forests and/or other state or federal lands. Even where the Trail itself is on 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. General hunting seasons for regular firearm, shotgun, muzzleloader, and bow for big game is below. Visit state websites for small game and other seasons, which are often longer or year-round.

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


Confirm hunting season dates locally before you go.

State	Big Game		For More Information
Maine (excluding Sundays)	Fall: Deer, Bear, Moose, and Wild Turkey Late Aug. – Late Nov.	Spring: Wild Turkey Early May – Early June	Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (207) 287-8000 www.maine.gov/ifw/
New Hampshire	Fall: Deer, Bear, Moose, Wild Turkey Early Sept. – Mid Dec.	Spring: Wild Turkey Late April – End of May	New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (603) 271-3421 https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/index.html
Vermont	Fall: Deer, Bear, Moose Early Oct. - Mid Dec.	Spring: Wild Turkey Late April – End of May	Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (802) 828-1000 www.vtfishandwildlife.com
Massachusetts (excluding Sundays)	Fall:	Spring:	Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

	Deer, Bear, Wild Turkey Early Sept. - Mid Dec.	Wild Turkey Late April – End of May	(508) 389-6300 www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/
Connecticut (excluding Sundays)	Fall: Deer, Wild Turkey Mid Sept. - Late Jan.	Spring: Wild Turkey Late April - Late May	Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (860) 424-3000 www.ct.gov/dep
New York	Fall: Deer, Bear, Wild Turkey Mid Sept – Late Dec.	Spring: Wild Turkey Late April – Late May	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)	Fall: Deer, Bear, Wild Turkey Early Sept. - Late Jan.	Spring: Wild Turkey Late April – Late May	New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (609) 292-2965 www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/

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State	Big Game	For More Information
 <p>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).</p>		

Pennsylvania (excluding most Sundays except special dates listed with PA Game Commission)	Fall: Deer, Elk, Bear, Wild Turkey Mid Sept. - Late Jan.	Spring: Wild Turkey Late April – Late May	Pennsylvania Game Commission (717) 787-4250 www.pgc.state.pa.us/
Maryland	Fall/Winter Deer, Bear, Wild Turkey Mid Sept. - Late Jan.	Spring: Wild Turkey Mid April – Late May	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)	Fall: Deer, Wild Boar, Bear, Wild Turkey Late Sept. - early Feb.	Spring: Wild Turkey Mid April – Late May	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)	Fall: Deer, Elk, Bear, Wild Turkey Late Sept. - Late March	Spring: Wild Turkey Early April – Mid May	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (804) 367-1000 www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations
Tennessee **	Fall: Deer, Elk, Bear, Wild Turkey Late Aug. - Mid Jan.	Spring: Wild Turkey Early April – Late May	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)	Fall: Deer, Bear, Mid Sept. - Early Jan.	Spring: Wild Turkey Early April – Early May	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (919) 707-0010 www.ncwildlife.org/
Georgia	Fall: Deer, Bear Mid Sept. - Late Jan.	Spring: Wild Turkey Late March – Mid May	Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division (770) 918-6400 www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting