



DARK SITE

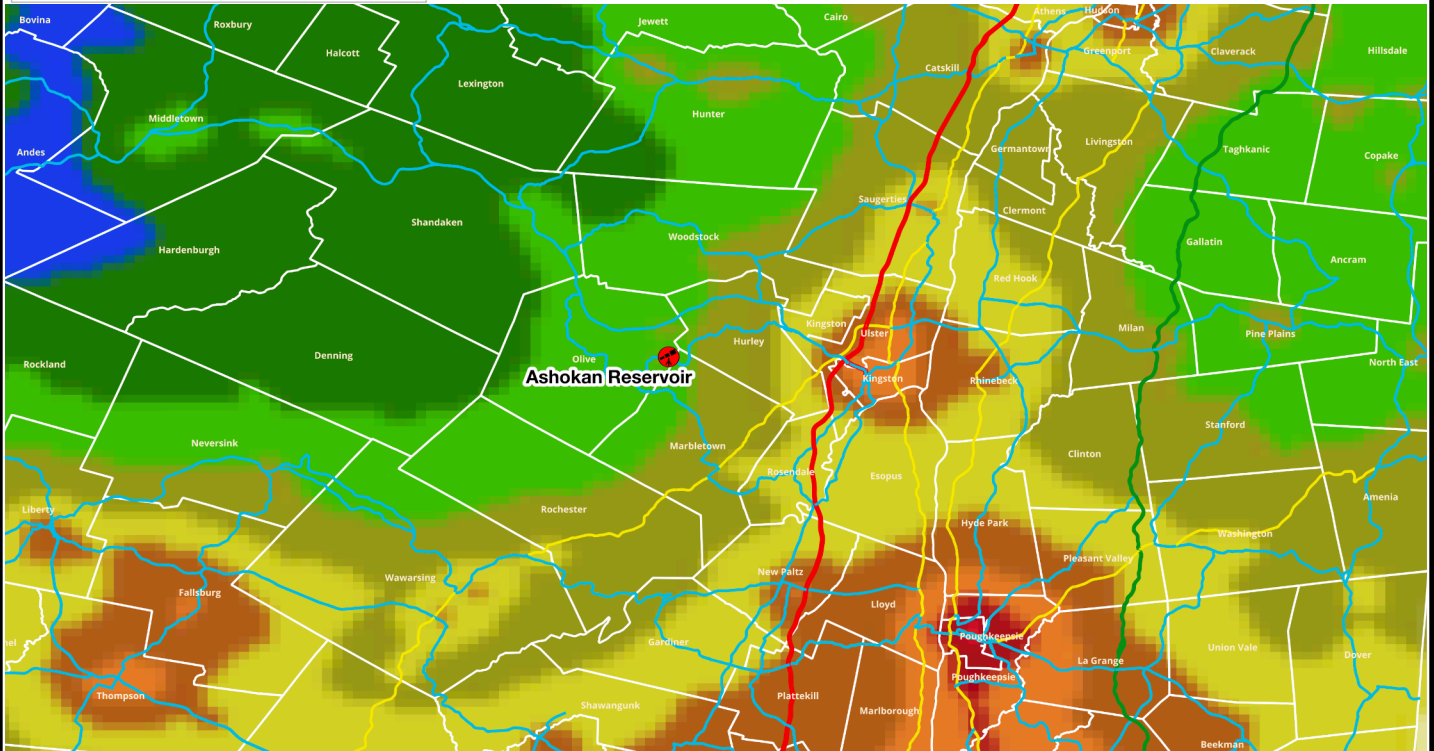
DEP
Website



Google
Maps



Ashokan Reservoir



Dark Level	Bortle 3/4 in most directions; the ESE horizon exhibits a moderate light-dome from Poughkeepsie & NYC. There are small light domes close to the horizon in E to NE from Woodstock and Kingston.
Site	Ashokan Reservoir Day Use Area (Website)
Management	New York City Environmental Protection
Address	Ashokan Reservoir Promenade East Parking Lot: 27 B W S Rd, Kingston, NY 12401 (Maps)
Season	Year-round
Phone	(845) 657-8433 (DEP police)
Permit cost in season	No permit is required to walk or stargaze on the Promenades. Free parking.

Comments: This is one of the most beautiful locations in the Catskills and a very good dark site unless you need to image very low on the horizon (below 15°) in the ESE direction.

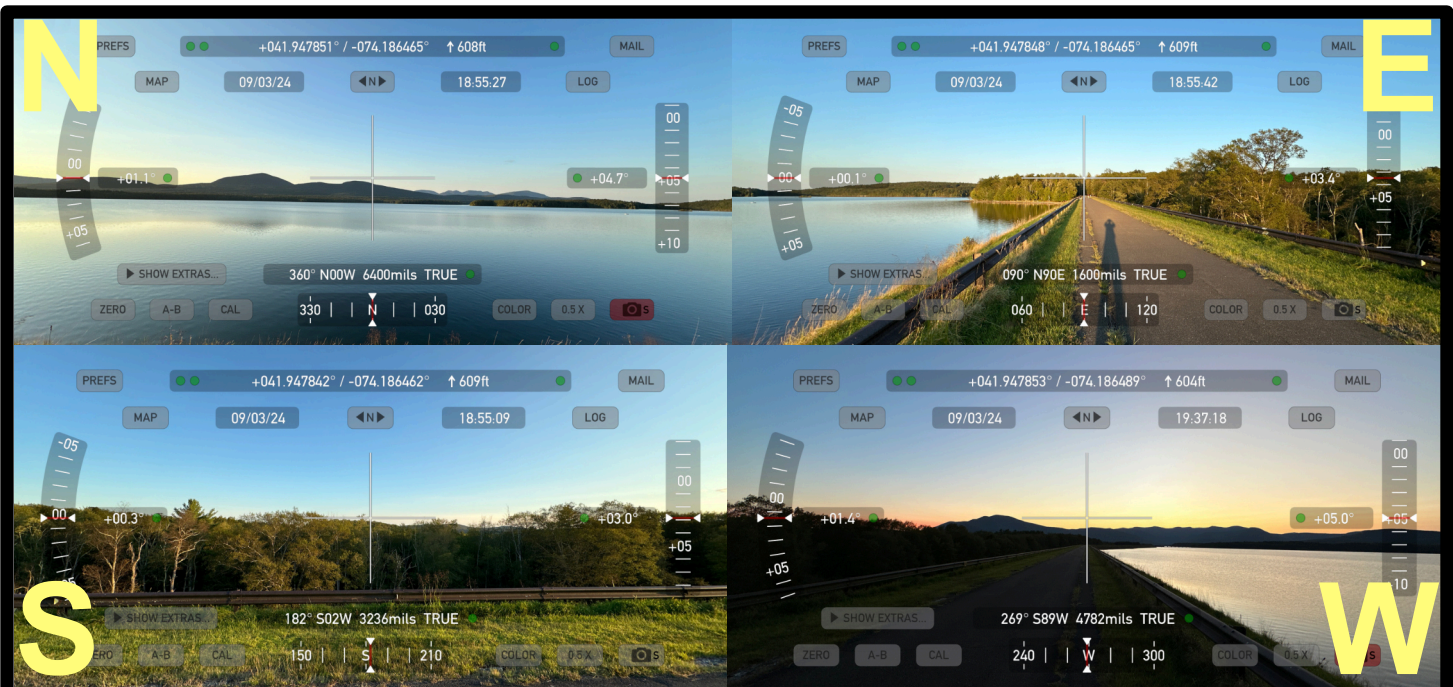
The most convenient access is from the Promenade East Parking Lot. The best 360° horizon can be found roughly 500 yards west along the paved Promenade that runs due E/W. There are bollards restricting access for motorized vehicles... you can pull a garden cart with you: the widest gap is around the bollards on the far left as you walk west.

This is a popular spot for daylight, scenic walks. Pedestrian traffic is almost non-existent at night except for the occasional night jogger. Best to set up your telescope on the edge of the pavement and provide luminescent tape or other visual cues so people won't run into it.

It can get quite chilly at night, and is exposed to wind. Be prepared with warm clothing, hat, gloves, and hot drinks (even in summer). Avoid on windy nights.

Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association has educated the public and supported amateur astronomers since 1985. We partner frequently with local organizations to conduct observing parties and educational events while enjoying the camaraderie of amateur astronomers from all walks of life. We sponsor monthly, public star-parties year-round at Taghkanic State Park, and a seminar series at SUNY New Paltz: midhudsonastro.org





Cardinal directions are approximate (see bottom center window in each of the above images for accurate compass bearing). Note that observing over water can improve or degrade viewing conditions. Broadly speaking, the best viewing takes place when water surface temps are close to air temps. Warm evening temps can cause lake fog; colder temps may cause dew. You should be prepared with dew shields and dew heaters. The promenade pavement is quite level simplifying setup.

Special thanks to Phil Perry on Cloudy Nights who suggested this location.



NYC Environmental Protection Ashokan Day Use Area
 55 Acres
 Ulster County, Town of Olive
 Long: 74°13'19.802"W Lat: 41°56'1.463"N
 Updated by BWS GIS 12/10/2020

- NYCDEP Day Use Area
 - New York State or Other Public Land
 - Private Land
 - Other DEP Recreational Units
 - Rivers, Ponds, Lakes, and Reservoirs
 - Streams
 - Buildings
 - Roads
 - Trails
 - 100 Ft Elevation Contours
 - Parking Area
 - Restricted/Closed for Forest Mgmt
- 0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet
 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

