Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor



Erie Canalway Map & Guide

Find Your Park

he National Park Service is celebrating 100 years of sharing America's special places. You don't have to travel to Yosemite or the Grand Canyon to celebrate!

There are 22 national parks in New York State and four are within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. That's right. You can experience a park within an hour's drive of every major city in the state. What's more, national parks in the Erie Canalway are close to significant canal heritage sites, the 524-mile-long NYS Canal System, and the 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail.

We've teamed up with national parks and heritage areas located in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to help you experience great history, culture, nature, and recreation close to home (See itineraries on page 6).

That means adventure and fun are in store as you explore America's most famous man-made waterway. Whether you drive, boat, cycle, paddle or walk, you'll discover that there are great experiences to be had and memories to be made right here.

So get up, get out there, and Find Your Park!

"Explore, Learn, Protect"

Bring your kids to one of the national parks in the Canalway Corridor this summer! They'll have a chance to recite the Junior Ranger motto and take part in free activities designed especially for youth. Interested youth complete a series of activities during a park visit, share their answers with a park ranger, and receive an official Junior Ranger patch or badge and certificate. Junior

Rangers are typically 5 to 13 years old, although people of all ages can participate. Ask about Junior **Ranger** activities at the park's visitor information desk.

LEARN



Erie Canalway

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Map & Guide 2015-2016

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Get on the water!

Become a "canaller" this year! It's easier than ever to explore America's most iconic inland waterway. You'll discover scenic vistas, abundant wildlife, and more than 200 unique communities in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Miles of adventure await on water and on land!

- **Take a cruise**—Get onboard one of the many tour boats for an hourly cruise, dinner cruise or themed tour. Most boat tours will give you the unique canal experience of going through a lock.
- **Rent a boat**—Spend a day, weekend, or an entire week exploring the canal at your own pace. Rental boats are wellequipped with sleeping quarters, a galley, and plenty of deck space for relaxing. You'll get lessons in steering, docking, and locking through before heading out. Many rental operators provide bicycles so that you can explore on land and experience the Canalway Trail, too.
- Launch your own boat—With 80 public boat launches along the NYS Canal System, it's easy to find one close by. The canal connects with Oneida, Onondaga, Cross, and Cayuga and Seneca Lakes where you can enjoy other water sports, beaches, and sailing.

- Paddle the canal—Get close to the water and access all sorts of interesting side streams and historic canal features in your own kayak, canoe, or stand-up paddleboard. There are lots of launch sites and boater-biker-hiker facilities that allow overnight camping. If you don't own your own paddle craft, there are many places to rent one by the hour or day. And, kayaks and canoes go through the locks for free!
- If you're a landlubber—Stop by one of the many harbors, visitor centers, or parks along the canal. Or visit one of the waterway's 57 locks to watch a passing boat "lock through." You'll see tugboats, barges, and historic replica canal boats plying canal waters alongside today's cruisers, motorboats, tour boats, canoes, and kayaks.

Boating on New York canals is affordable and accessible for every type of boater—find a complete guide to boating opportunities, including a map showing launch sites, marinas, mooring sites, locks and more at www.canals.ny.gov/maps.

NEW YORK STATE CANAL SYSTEM America's most iconic, influential and enduring waterway LISTED ON THE National Register of Historic Places 2014

Did you know?

The New York Canal System is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The waterway spans 524-miles of upstate New York and includes four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca. Together, they create an inland waterway that connects the Hudson River with Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, Cayuga Lake, Seneca Lake, and Lake Erie via the Niagara River allowing boats to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the upper Great Lakes.

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You can do it! *Tips for boating through a lock*

oing through a lock is one of the unique experiences of traveling along the canal. If you've never done it or are feeling a little nervous, rest assured! Thousands of people lock through successfully every year—you can too! And you can count on friendly lock operators for step-by-step coaching to make locking safe and enjoyable. A few simple preparations and the right equipment will make for smooth sailing.

What to have on hand:

- Pole or boat hook for pushing off the sides of the lock. A paddle works fine, too.
- Work gloves for handling the lines.
 Boat fenders large enough and numerous enough to protect your boat from concrete lock walls.

As you approach:

- Alert the lock operator using marine radio (Channel 13), a mobile phone (phone numbers listed on website below), or three horn blasts to signal your approach.
- Wait for the green light for permission to enter the lock.
- Follow directions of the lock operator.
- Use the same procedure to contact lift bridge operators on the western end of the Erie Canal.

For a guide to navigating the canal, visit: www.canals.ny.gov/boating





Canal Corporation

The New York State Canal System is owned and operated by the New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York State Thruway Authority. The Canal is typically open for boating from May 1st through November 15th. For current information on locking fees, up-to-date Notices to Mariners, or to order the official Cruising Guide to the New York State Canal System, visit **www.canals.ny.gov** or call 1-800-4-CANAL-4 (1-800-422-6254).



Up for Adventure? Cycle the Erie Canalway Trail

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Plan an afternoon outing or a multi-day trip—the trail is the perfect way to access all sorts of interesting canal sites and communities. You'll see canal engineering marvels, colorful murals, and picturesque countryside. And you'll be able to sample some fantastic local foods. Try ice cream, bakery goods, cheese, craft beers and wines, and locally-grown fresh produce for starters!

Nearly 80 percent of the 360-mile trail is off road and is safe for all ages. Because the trail closely parallels the Erie Canal, it offers relatively level cycling with only a few steeper climbs or descents. From the trail, you can easily access communities and attractions throughout the Corridor. Cyclists can follow New York Bike Route 5 to connect off-road segments.

Several off-road trails along the Champlain Canal are also available in Waterford, Halfmoon, and Schuylerville. Alternately, you can cycle New York Bike Route 9, which follows NY Rte. 4 and the Champlain Canal. The Glens Falls Feeder Canal Trail offers eight miles of cycling along the historic feeder canal from Glens Falls to Fort Edward.

Oh the Places You'll Go!

Do you like to ride for coffee? How about ice cream? Antiques? Historic sites? Lift bridges? Waterfalls? Parks? Whatever drives you onward, you'll find it along the Canalway Trail. That's because the canal's many treasures are strung together like gems on a necklace of trail and water across New York State. Pick your mileage: five, 10, 25, 50—you're guaranteed to find numerous places worth riding to.

• Discover small town charm: Canal villages and towns are an essential part of what makes the Erie Canalway Trail such a great place to ride. Take time to stop. Poke through unique shops, sample local eateries, visit libraries and visitor centers. You'll find hometown hospitality is a hallmark of the Erie Canalway Corridor. • See the canal in operation: Stop at locks and lift bridges to see how they work. Canal operators are friendly and knowledgeable, so don't be afraid to ask questions.



• Visit historic sites and museums: There is a great wealth of museums and historic sites along the canal. From the tiny Hoffman Clock Museum in Newark to the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse to the Arkell Museum in Canajoharie, you'll find many great choices.



- Explore nature preserves and parks: Be refreshed at the waterfall at Holley Canal Park; watch herons and egrets at Montezuma National Wildlife Preserve; swim or hike at Green Lakes State Park; see the spectacular Cohoes Falls. Nature and wildlife are part of the journey along the trail.
- **Eat local**: Eating and cycling—what a great combination! Make a stop in any community along the trail to find great local ice cream stands, coffee shops, diners, farmer's markets, and more.





Erie Canalway Trail Resources

Find more information about the Erie Canalway Trail in the Explore section of our website. **www.eriecanalway.org/explore.**

• Cycling the Erie Canal—A guide to 400 miles of adventure and history along the Erie Canalway Trail. Available from Parks & Trails New York, www.ptny.org/guidebook, 518-434-1583.

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Choose your adventure! Whether you travel by boat, bike or car, here are some of our favorite places to explore... find yours.

Plan your visit using our online guide: www.eriecanalway.org/explore.htm



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TO MONTREAL Whitehall 81 CHAMPLAIN CANAL Fort Ann 149 Glens Falls 13 8-47 Fort Edward Sylvan Beach Rome Oriskany Schuylerville iverpoc ERIE CANAL Saratoga Springs, Oneida Old Erie Cana Utica Little Falls Herkimer 28 Canastota Frankfort Fayetteville Chittenango Ilior 173 Fonda Stillwate St. Jo Amsterdam -Syracuse 167 (28) Mechanicville 80 Fort Plain Rexford Canajoharie MOHAWK VALLEY STATE HERITAGE CORRIDOR 41 Waterford ······ Schenectady Cohoes Vischer 2 Troy -erry Cooperstown Albany Oneonta 33 Fort Plain Free Library, Fort Plain; 41 Waterford Historical Museum The IVY App (518) 993-4646; and Cultural Center, Waterford, www.ftplib.blogspot.com 🔹 (518) 238-0809; http://waterfordmuseum.com 🔺 🔶 34 Arkell Museum at Canajoharie, PUT EVERY SQUARE MILE Canajoharie; (518) 673-2314; 42 Burden Iron Works Museum, Troy; OF NEW YORK STATE (518) 274-5267; www.hudsonmohawk www.arkellmuseum.org ◆ IN YOUR POCKET. gateway.org • • **35** Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, Fort Hunter; (518) 829-7516; 43 Albany Institute of History & Art, www.nysparks.com

A Albany; (518) 463-4478; www.albanyinstitute.org 36 miSci, Schenectady; (518) 382-7890; 44 NYS Museum, Library, and Archives, Albany (518) 474-5877 (Museum); I NY. www.misci.org 🔶 Welcome to **37** Schenectady County Historical w York State www.nysm.nysed.gov (518) 408-1934 Society Museum & Mabee Farm (Archives); www.archives.nysed.gov ◆ Historic Site, Schenectady and **CHAMPLAIN CANAL** Rotterdam; 518-887-5073; http://schenectadyhistorical.org • • 45 Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater; (518) 664-9821, ext. 224; 38 Mohawk Towpath National Scenic www.nps.gov/sara • • Byway, Clifton Park; (518) 371-7548; www.mohawktowpath.org 🔺 🔶 46 Hudson Crossing Park, Schuylerville; www.hudsoncrossingpark.org

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More info at: iloveny.com/mobile

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY Development

Erie Canalway Map & Guide 5

39 Falls View Park and School Street Hydroelectric Facility, Cohoes; www.friendsofcohoesfalls.org ▲

40 Eastern Gateway to the Canal System at Waterford Harbor, Waterford; 518-233-9123; www.town.waterford.ny.us ● ▲ ❖ Glens Falls Feeder Canal Trail, Glens Falls to Fort Edward; (518) 792-5363; http://feedercanal.org/ ▲

 Whitehall Heritage Area Visitor Center, Whitehall; (518) 499-1155; www.whitehall-chamber.org/ ▲ ◆

FIND YOUR PARK

T ake a day or a weekend and find great places to explore and enjoy! We've paired national parks and canal sites to introduce you to some of the best historic, cultural and natural resources and recreational experiences available within the Canalway Corridor.

Download complete Find Your Park itineraries online at: www.eriecanalway.org

Each itinerary includes must see sites, as well as options for side trips. We've also included suggestions for cycling, paddling, walking, and canal tours as well as nearby places to eat or picnic. We hope this teaser whets your appetite for more.



CHAMPLAIN REGION

Follow America's Destiny

Explore the interconnected waterways that shaped North America's destiny. From Dutch and French explorations to the French and Indian War to the Revolutionary War and Battle of Saratoga to its canal heydays in the 1800s, the Champlain Region will connect you with people, places and events that fueled the Nation. Start with a blast at Saratoga Battlefield and then head to the canal to complete your adventure.

Saratoga National Historical Park

648 Route 32, Stillwater (518) 670-2985 www.nps.gov/sara

Walk, drive or bicycle pastoral lands where in 1777 Americans fought overwhelming odds to win a key Revolutionary War victory against the British. Start at the visitor center to get oriented, see the film and museum exhibits, and then head out into the park. You can drive or bicycle the battlefield's scenic 10-mile tour road and hike historic trails.

Champlain Lock 5 and Hudson Crossing Park

Lock C5 Island, Schuylerville www.hudsoncrossingpark.org See boats being lifted and lowered in Champlain Canal Lock 5, built in 1915, and then compare it with the remains of the 1800s towpath-era canal alongside it. Ask the lock keeper for a peek inside the lock's original hydroelectric powerhouse, then visit Hudson Crossing Park which is centered on the island formed by the lock. The park features over two miles of waterfront trails, picnic sites, whimsical sculptures, a unique children's play garden, kayak launch, and links to the Old Champlain Canal towpath, making it a great place for children to explore and play.

Explore More!

Nearby sites include the country home of General Philip Schuyler in Schuylerville and the Saratoga Monument and Victory Woods in the village of Victory. Breathtaking views of the Hudson River and Green Mountains from the upper levels of the 155-ft high monument make it well worth a stop.



MOHAWK VALLEY REGION

Discover Why All Roads Lead to Rome

Visit a vital frontier fort that shaped the course of American history. Then head to the water, where Mohawk River and Erie Canal merge.

Fort Stanwix National Monument

100 N. James Street, Rome (315) 338-7730 www.nps.gov/fost

Prepare for the sound of musket fire echoing over this 1777 frontier fort! You'll soon be immersed in sites and stories of the nations that fought for control of the Oneida Carrying Place, Mohawk Valley, homelands of the Six Nations Confederacy, and the rich resources of North America. Start at the visitor center, where a ranger and engaging exhibits will orient you to the park. Follow one of the park's trails to explore the fort on your own or join a ranger led program to gain a greater understanding of the events that happened here.

Verona Beach State Park, Light House, and Sylvan Beach

6541 Lakeshore Road South, Route 13, Verona Beach (315) 762-4463 http://www.nysparks.com/parks/102/ details.aspx

Just 17 miles west of Rome, the Erie Canal meets Oneida Lake at the lively summer community of Sylvan Beach—a popular family destination offering an amusement park with classic kiddie rides, beach, and lots of boating. At nearby Verona Beach State Park, swim at the beach, hike the nature trail, or walk along the waterfront to take in lovely views of Oneida Lake and some of the best sunsets in New York. Make a short detour past the park entrance to see the Verona Beach Lighthouse—a fully restored and functioning, 85-foot lighthouse built in 1917 to guide canal traffic across Oneida Lake.

Explore More!

Nearby sites of interest include Bellamy Harbor Park in Rome, Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, and Erie Canal Locks 20 and 21, where you can pick up the Erie Canalway Trail for cycling.

Be Moved by Women and Water

Visit the place that touched off the largest social movement in American History the Women's Rights Movement—and discover the canal's role in spreading not only people and goods, but ideas and information. Experience some of the Finger Lakes great treasures: pristine lakes, the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, fine wineries, premier birdwatching, and recreational adventures.

Women's Rights National Historical Park

136 Fall Street, Seneca Falls (315) 568-2991 www.nps.gov/wori

Stand in the place where women and men first gathered in 1848 to champion the rights of women. Start at the visitor center to get oriented, see the film and museum, and then head out to experience the Wesleyan Chapel, site of the first Women's Rights Convention. The park also includes the homes of three of the convention's organizers: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary Ann M'Clintock, and Jane Hunt.

Cayuga-Seneca Locks 2 and 3 Seneca Falls

Visit Locks 2 and 3, which are connected like a staircase, to see the canal in operation. Put in your own kayak, canoe, or standup paddle board at Seneca Falls, or rent one nearby. You can also leave the navigation to someone else and enjoy a narrated cruise on the Canal.

Explore More!

Nearby sites of interest include: Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, Cayuga Lake State Park, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, and the Finger Lakes Wine Trail.



WESTERN ERIE REGION

Go Where the Buffalonians Roam

What do chicken wings, Theodore Roosevelt, Cheerios, and the Erie Canal have in common? Explore New York's second largest city and you'll quickly find out.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site

641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 884-0095

www.nps.gov/thri or www.TRSite.org

Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and emotions surrounding the pivotal moment in our nation's history when in 1901 Theodore Roosevelt took the oath of office to become president of the United States. Discover how the enduring legacy of one of America's greatest presidents affects our lives today. Visits are by guided tour only.

Explore More!

Canalside

44 Prime Street, Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 574-1537

www.canalsidebuffalo.com

The historic western terminus of the Erie Canal has become the centerpiece for history, fun, and great recreation. Stroll the site to see restored elements of the original Erie Canal Harbor, including "Commercial Slip," the historic connection between the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes, and the wooden plank "Central Wharf." Events, festivals, and boat tours are on tap throughout the summer season.

Paddle Buffalo's Inner Harbor, cycle the Erie Canalway Trail, or take a narrated cruise. Kids in tow? Visit the Buffalo Zoo. Interested in art or architecture? The Albright-Knox Museum and Darwin-Martin House are best bets. And when you need to refuel, be sure to sample Buffalo's original chicken wings or beef-on-weck.



WESTERN ERIE REGION

Experience the Power of Water

Spend hours or days exploring the beauty and history around America's greatest waterfall. Pair your trip to Niagara Falls with a visit to the Erie Canal at Lockport, where water powered innovation and industry.

Niagara Falls National Heritage Area and Niagara Falls State Park

24 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls (716) 278-1796

http://www.discoverniagara.org

Discover Niagara Falls at America's oldest state park and explore a region full of history, innovation and culture along a 13-mile stretch of the Niagara River. Get oriented at the State Park Visitors Center and decide how best to enjoy the falls. A few options include: a 30-minute guided overview on the Niagara Scenic Trolley, a hike to Cave of the Winds beneath the American Falls, or a world famous boat journey into the churning waters of the American and Horseshoe Falls on the Maid of the Mist.

aid of the Mist.

Start your visit to Lockport at the Erie Canal Discovery Center. The interactive interpretive center showcases the history of the Erie Canal and the

24 Church Street, Lockport

www.canaldiscovery.org

(716) 439-0431

Erie Canal Discovery Center,

Lockport Flight and Locks 34, 35

history of the Erie Canal and the building of the famous "Flight of Five" Lockport Locks. From there, take a short walk to the Canalside District to see the real thing. You'll see the renowned staircase of stone locks and wooden gates built in the 1800s alongside the similarly remarkable and much enlarged Locks 34 and 35, which usher boats through the Erie Canal today.

Explore More!

You'll find many things to do and see in and around Lockport and Niagara Falls. Paddling, cycling, hiking, and narrated boat tours are available, as well as options for arts, history, and winery tours and tastings.



Low Bridge, Everybody Down!

To trip to the Erie Canal would be complete without singing our theme song at least once! When the song was written in 1905, mules like Sal where fading from the canal landscape as steam and diesel powered boats replaced the mule-towed canal boats of the 1800s. The song memorialized life on the Erie Canal and remains the most well known—and loved—song of the Erie Canal.



Low Bridge by Thomas Allen

I've got an old mule and her name is Sal Fifteen years on the Erie Canal* She's a good old worker and a good old pal Fifteen years on the Erie Canal We've hauled some barges in our day Filled with lumber, coal, and hay And every inch of the way we know From Albany to Buffalo

Chorus:

Low bridge, everybody down Low bridge for we're coming to a town And you'll always know your neighbor And you'll always know your pal If you've ever navigated on the Erie Canal We'd better look 'round for a job old gal Fifteen years on the Erie Canal 'Cause you bet your life I'd never part with Sal Fifteen years on the Erie Canal Git up there mule, here comes a lock We'll make Rome 'bout six o'clock One more trip and back we'll go Right back home to Buffalo *Repeat Chorus*

* The song's original lyrics commemorate "fifteen years" of working on the canal; the song is also widely sung as "fifteen miles on the Erie Canal," which comes from a later version.

About the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor



Established in 2000 by an Act of Congress, the Corridor spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York and includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals and their historic alignments. It encompasses 4,834 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 2.7 million people.

RERIE CANALWAY National Heritage Corridor

MANY THANKS! Major funding support for this publication was provided by:

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Connect with us!

our good work.

P.O. Box 219

erie_canal@nps.gov

Stay informed by signing up for our

e-newsletter; volunteer for projects

donation to our not-for-profit Erie

Canalway Heritage Fund to expand

518-237-7000 | Fax 518-237-7640

in your community; or make a

Waterford, New York 12188

www.eriecanalway.org

2015 Events

Join the fun at festivals and events all season long. We've listed the major cross-corridor events here; check online for a complete calendar of events: www.canals.ny.gov

Path Through History Weekend June 20–21

Join in this statewide celebration of New York's heritage and culture at hundreds of special events and programs. www.paththroughhistoryweekends.com

Journey Along the Erie Canal June 30 - July 11

Spend a few hours or a full day cycling the Canalway Trail with the Our Ability team, as they complete their third cross state bike ride along the Erie Canal to raise funds for adaptive sports, education and employment for people with disabilities. **www.ourability.com**



Cycling the Erie Canal • July 12-19

500 riders, 400 miles, 8-days of adventure and fun along the Erie Canal. Join the ride or the cheering section! Organized by Parks & Trails New York. **www.ptny.org**

Tour the Towpath • July 31-August 1

Enjoy great cycling, community hospitality, and local attractions along the 36-mile Old Erie Canal State Park from Rome to DeWitt. One or two day ride options available. **www.townofdewitt.com/tourthetowpath.aspx**

10th Anniversary Canal Splash! • August 7-16

Discover what the canal corridor has to offer at guided walks, rides, tours, and canalside events and festivals throughout the Erie Canalway. **www.canals.ny.gov**

Take a Shot at our 2015 Photo Contest

Capture the unique character of the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain Canals and their surrounding communities for the 2015 Erie Canalway Photo Contest. Contest categories include: On the Water, Along the Trail, Canal Communities, and Classic Canal. We'll feature winning entries in our popular 2016 Erie Canalway calendar.

Deadline for submissions: August 28, 2015

Download contest rules and an entry form: www.eriecanalway.org.

