

# Old Forge Welcomes You For Some Summer Fun

John Farrell

Old Forge is the perfect summer destination, no matter what you and your family enjoy doing. Situated in the heart of the Adirondacks, Old Forge blends the breathtaking outdoor appeal of the Adirondacks with all the charm and amenities that small, rustic hamlets have to offer.

What makes the Adirondacks different from other mountain regions is the abundance of lakes and rivers. Old Forge, situated at the start of the Fulton Chain of Lakes and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, is the perfect place to enjoy the water. Boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, or swimming - whatever your favorite water sport is you can enjoy it here.

If you don't have your own boat you can buy or rent everything from canoes to motor boats at local outfitters and marinas. And if you're looking for adventure Whitewater Challengers and ARO offer guided whitewater trips on the the Moose River.

On the land, Old Forge is home to a wide variety of hiking trails that take you to remote ponds, quiet forests and mountain tops. If your feet want to take a vacation, look into a mountain biking excursion for a fun twist on exploring the great outdoors—rentals are available at Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company for those who didn't bring their own bike.

Old Forge is home to a wonderful variety of specialty, and



souvenir shops. New this summer, Montezuma Winery is opening a gift shop and will feature tastings of their award winning wines.

Local eateries offer everything from ice cream and burgers to cafes, bistros, full service restaurants. New this summer, Montezuma Winery

features tastings of their award winning wines and a gift shop.

Entertainment is on the agenda with special events, concerts, and Enchanted Forest/Water Safari. Over 30 water rides, plus a dry-land amusement park complete with a daily circus will keep you smiling all day.

With a setting like you'll find ightseeing is a must. Hop aboard

and Bonnie & Clyde rob the train twice a week. Cruise the Fulton Chain with Old Forge Lake Cruises. They offer sightseeing, dining, and specialty cruises. If that isn't enough you can also ride along on the Old Forge mail boat's delivery route. It's the longest running fresh water mail route in the country. And if trains and boats don't move you, try the scenic chair lift at McCauley Mountain.



To round out your Old Forge experience there is a public tennis court and beach, the Thendara Golf Course, The Arts Center which featur's gallery exhibits, workshops, art shows, and theater. Rainy days aren't a problem either: there is a four-screen movie theater in town, as well as history and art museums.

With all of these things do see and do you'll need to stay awhile. Luckily, Old Forge has all types of lodging. Motels, cabins, cottages, bed and breakfasts, house rentals, or tent and trailer sites await your call.

What are you waiting for? It's time to visit Old Forge for some real summer fun! [www.oldforogeny.com](http://www.oldforogeny.com)

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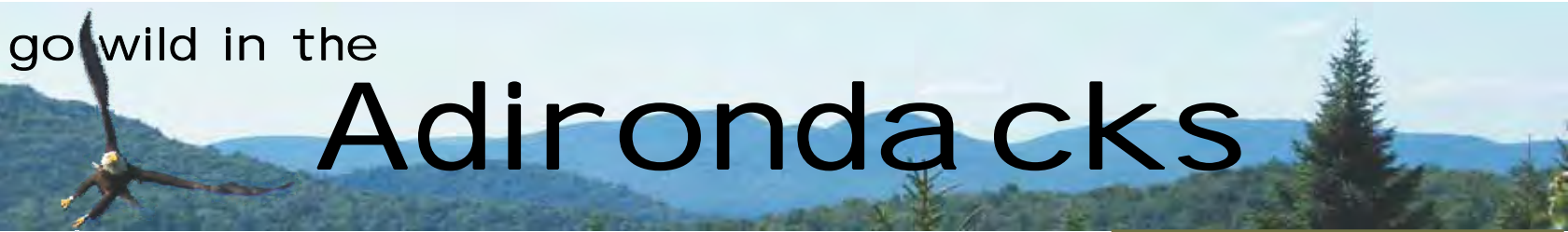
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Rentals Available





go wild in the

# Adirondacks

## Town of Webb Historical Association Events

Contact for all events:  
315-369-3838 director@webbhistory.org  
www.webbhistory.org

Camp for Girls. Reservations are required, tour limited to 30 individuals. Rain or shine, meet at Moss Lake Trailhead off the Big Moose Road. Donations welcome.

**Ongoing through October 31** - "A Love for the Woods and Water - Brown's Tract Guides' Association", Tuesday-Saturday, 10 AM - 3 PM, Goodsell Museum, 2993 State Route 28, Old Forge. This feature exhibit tells the history of the Brown's Tract Guides' Association, organized in 1898, and their efforts to preserve the woods to insure the availability of fish and game; their support of the State's protective laws, and their efforts to reintroduce moose, Wapiti, and beaver to the area.

**June 10** - "Historic Tour and Cocktail Reception Adirondack League Club Little Moose Campus" Fundraiser - Benefit, 5-7:30PM, meet at the ALC gate on the South Shore Road, Old Forge. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance at \$100 per person for non-members and \$90 for members of the Town of Webb Historical Association. Tour includes Club cottages, wooden tennis courts, Little Moose boat house, Mountain Lodge, Little Moose guides' house, and doctor's residence and office - buildings built between 1906 and 1925.

**July 8 & Aug 18** - "Historic Walking Tour of Moss Lake", 9:30- 12 noon led by Geof Longstaff, son of former owner of Moss Lake

**August 2** - "Victorian Party on the Porch" Time and cost to be announced - This fundraiser-benefit will be held on the porch of the Goodsell Museum, 2993 State Route 28, Old Forge. Enjoy the displays and exhibits, refreshments, entertainment, conversation, and silent auction

**August 12** - "Seasons to Remember" - 6 PM - ? Fundraiser gala begins at 6 PM under the tent at Hemmer Cottage with cocktails and appetizers. Guests will then make their way to the Strand Theatre to view selected Adirondack images submitted by the public of Town of Webb people, places, wildlife, events, sports, etc. on the 'big screen' in the vintage theatre thanks to Bob Card and Helen Zyma, theatre owners.



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### Goodsell Museum

Town of Webb  
Historical Association

Local History  
Six rooms of displays  
**Current main exhibit:**  
*"A Love for the Woods and Water  
- Brown's Tract Guides' Association"*

2993 State Route 28  
Old Forge  
315-369-3838  
www.webbhistory.org

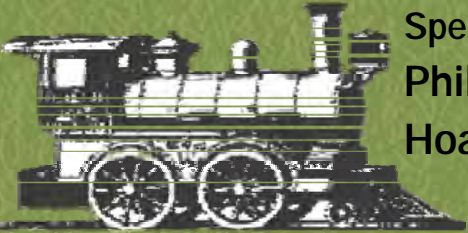
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# Old Forge... there's so much to see and do!

## Boat Tours



Scenic boat cruises are available on Big Moose Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, the first four lakes of the Fulton Chain (departing from Old Forge pond), Long Lake and Raquette Lake.

## Let's get wet!

Enchanted Forest / Water Safari is New York's Largest Water Theme Park; it's a perennial family-favorite vacation destination. Open mid-June through Labor Day. Admission includes unlimited access to 31 water rides, all shows and over 44 rides and attractions in all! Group rates, company picnics and package prices.



Located next door to Enchanted Forest is a family fun center, including go-karts, miniature golf, batting cages, a state of the art arcade and redemption center and more.

## Farmers Market

Fridays from 2 - 6pm  
June 26 thru Oct.

Located on Park Ave. (behind the Old Forge Hardware store)  
Join us for farm-fresh produce, baked goods and special events throughout the season.

## snowmobiling

"The Snowmobile Capital of the East" the Central Adirondacks have been synonymous with snowmobiling for over forty years. Old Forge and Inlet offer hundreds of miles of groomed trails through majestic Adirondack woodlands, to peaks with wonderful vistas and pristine backwoods lakes & streams.



## All Aboard!

Take an Adirondack adventure and observe pristine woods and wildlife. Many specials during the week including train robberies, eco-tours, murder mysteries, dinner & party train and barbecues. Runs May-October. Spectacular fall foliage trips.



## Educational Center

Arts Center / Old Forge is celebrating over 50 year of bringing arts to the Central Adirondacks. Presenting year-round exhibits, workshops and performances for all ages. Host of the prestigious Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors.



## Fore!

Enjoy the perfect blend of nature and golf at its finest nestled amongst the Adirondack Mountains and lakes.



## The Goodsell Museum

Featuring six rooms of continually changing exhibits, artifacts, photographs and memorabilia of early life in the Adirondacks. Genealogy research material is available. Open Tuesday-Saturday, no admission.

## The Forest Industries Exhibit Hall

Showcasing the beauty and utility of our native woods. See examples of modern multiple use forest management practices and examples of more than 5,000 useful products now being made from native woods. Located on State Route 28, 1 mile north of Old Forge. Open Mon & Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12noon-5pm. Closed Tuesdays. Free admission.

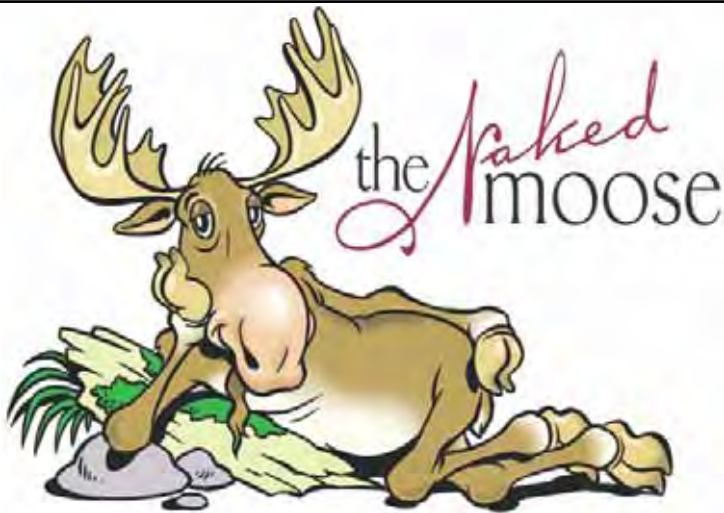
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## First Friday Art Walks

A number of local businesses and organizations have started an Art Walk here in the Old Forge area. The concept of "First Friday" events, promoting the arts and culture of a region, has been spreading across the country. The Art Walks will take place the first Friday of each month from June through October from 5 PM to 8PM.

The mission of the Art Walks is to promote existing art related businesses; maintain an entertaining art walk, while keeping the focus on fine art, and encouraging other businesses to remain open during the event; and finally to welcome and encourage accomplished and emerging artists to participate by obtaining the sponsorship of a local business or by their own means.

# Take A Trip Down the Moose River

Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company's new Canoe and Kayak rental shop, the Moose River Outpost is your family fun headquarters! Enjoy a full day of paddling adventure. The Outpost is located in Old Forge on Rt. 28, directly on the Moose River, right between their Paddlesports Shop and Outdoor Gear Shop.



For years Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company had been running Moose River trips and boat rentals from their Paddlesports store. With the addition of the new Moose River Outpost they have made it easier and more convenient for everyone to enjoy a Moose River trip or rent canoes or kayaks. The new Outpost provides a better experience for paddlers and gets them out on the water quicker and easier.

When customers step out on the Outpost's river-front deck and see the 180 degree panorama of the Moose, they just can't wait to get out on the river! The deck has become a favorite hang-out spot!

is available for both rentals boats and customer's boats as well. The Outpost also offers all the accessories and gear a family might need for a trip down the Moose.

### Start your Northern Forest Canoe Trail Trip with Mountainman

Their staff can help you get on the trail! If your adventure is a few days or a few weeks, they can help you with canoes, kayaks, gear and maps to get you on the water. They also provide shuttle service for all sections of the trail in New York. Call (315) 369-6672 or visit [www.MountainmanOutdoors.com](http://www.MountainmanOutdoors.com) for more details.

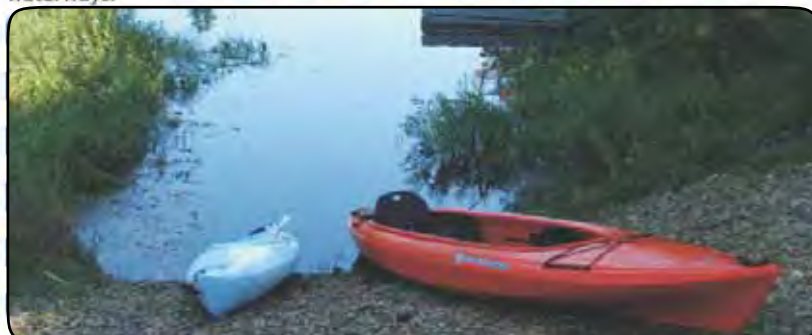


### Much more than just river trips!

The Moose River Outpost offers more than just river trips. Paddlers can rent canoes and kayaks for 1/2 a day, a week, or more for their own trips. Shuttle service

## Explore the Adirondack waterways and wilderness with Canoe and Kayak Rentals, and Self-Guided Trips!

Mountainman maintains the newest and most complete fleet of rental canoes and kayaks in the Adirondacks, with boats for every level of paddler and almost every type of trip. (However, they don't rent for whitewater.) They also offer shuttle services to many of the Adirondack's most beautiful waters, and can also assist you in planning a trip on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and many other spectacular waterways.



## Moose River Trip Rates

Type	North Street 3-4 hours	Rondaxe 5-6 hours
<b>KAYAKS</b>		
Kids Kayak	\$26	\$38
Solo Recreational Kayak	\$34	\$46
Lightweight Solo Rec Kayak	\$48	\$62
Touring Kayak	\$48	\$62
Tandem Kayak	\$44	\$56
<b>CANOES</b>		
Lightweight Solo	\$42	\$56
Tandem Canoe	\$42	\$56
Lightweight Tandem Canoe	\$48	\$62
<b>SHUTTLE SERVICE YOUR BOAT</b>		
First Boat	\$16	\$24
Each Additional Boat	\$8	\$12

## Canoe & Kayak Rental Rates

Type	1/2 Day* 4 Hours	Full Day 9-5	2 Day	3 Day	4 Day	Extra Day
<b>Solo Canoes</b>						
	Lightweight(Royalox): 40lbs. Ultra-Light(Kevlar): 30lbs.					
Lightweight	\$26	\$38	\$68	\$94	\$116	\$22
Ultra-Light	\$32	\$48	\$92	\$132	\$158	\$34
<b>Tandem Canoes</b>						
	Recreational(Crosslink): 80lbs. Lightweight(Royalox): 60lbs. Ultra-Light(Kevlar): 40lbs.					
Recreational	\$26	\$38	\$68	\$94	\$116	\$22
Lightweight Royalox	\$32	\$48	\$90	\$126	\$158	\$34
Ultralight Kevlar	\$40	\$58	\$112	\$158	\$202	\$44
4-Person Ultralight	\$50	\$74	\$140	\$202	\$254	\$52
<b>Solo Kayaks</b>						
Kids	\$16	\$24	\$42	\$60	\$72	\$12
Recreational	\$22	\$30	\$56	\$78	\$98	\$20
Lightweight Recreational	\$32	\$48	\$92	\$132	\$158	\$34
Touring	\$28	\$48	\$78	\$110	\$138	\$28
<b>Tandem Kayaks</b>						
Recreational	\$30	\$42	\$78	\$110	\$138	\$26

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**Exhibitions 2010**  
Adirondack Theme Exhibition:  
May 15 - June 6  
6th Annual Northeast National Pastel:  
June 11 - July 10  
Central Adirondack Art Show:  
July 15 - August 14  
29th Annual Adirondacks National  
Exhibition of American Watercolors:  
August 20 - October 3  
24th Annual Northeast  
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## A Sample of Old Forge Events

**May 29 & 30: 13th Annual Adirondack Polka Festival**- Held at the Hildebrant Recreation Center on North Street. Polka bands, Polish and American food and beverages. For information and tickets, call host Dave Sychtysz, phone (315) 699-1708

**June 4-6: Thunder in The Forge** - Motorcycle gathering. Vendors and exhibitors at the Hildebrant Recreation Center Pavilion on North Street. Guided rides, parade, custom bike show, Blessing of the Bikes and more. 315-369-6983

**June 12 - July 10: 6th Annual Northeast National Pastel Exhibition** - The Northeast National Pastel Exhibition features artwork from renowned pastel artists from across the United States and Canada. 315-369-6411

**June 19: 13th Annual Father's Day Weekend Car Show**- Cash prizes to two best of show winners (antique/classic and modified street rod), dash plaques to first 100 entrants. First, second and third place trophies in 20 classes. Gates open at 9am, judging starts at noon, prizes and trophies awarded at 3pm. Also auto-related vendors and swap meet, food and beverages available. In case of rain, show cars parked inside pavilion on first come basis. Car registration fee \$8 advance received before June 1, \$10 gate. Auto vendors and swappers registration \$10. George T. Hildebrant Recreation Center. Spectators \$2, children under 12 free.

**June 26: Kiwanis Old Forge Paddle Classic** - Canoe and kayak races. [thorshannon@frontiernet.net](mailto:thorshannon@frontiernet.net), 315-369-3872.

**July 10: Antique & Classic Boat Show** - Old Forge Lakefront, 10am - 2pm. Awards for best historic, antique and classic categories.

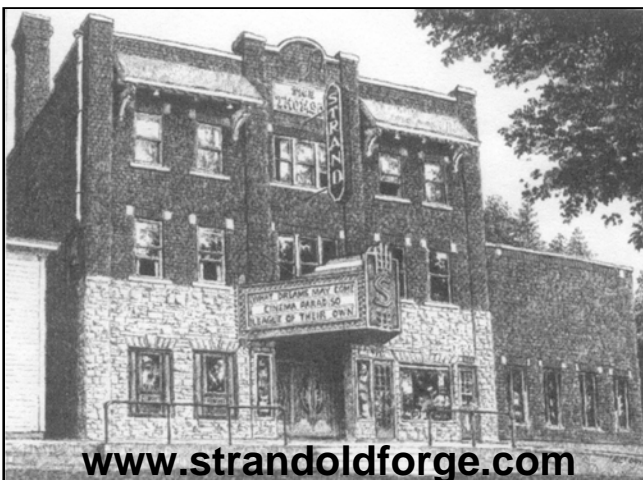
**July 16 - Aug. 15: 59th Annual Central Adirondack Art Show** - Featuring the talent of over 200 artists. Paintings, sculptures, carvings, collages, and more. 315-369-6411

**July 24 & 25: 36th Annual Antiques Show & Sale** - Held at the Recreation Center on North Street. Saturday 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Quality antique furniture, smalls, glassware, oriental rugs, rustic furniture, silver, jewelry, postcards and collectibles. Antique appraiser will be available. Admission \$5, children 12 and under free (one admission price good for both days). 315-369-6411

**July 31: The Subdudes at the McCauley Mountain Music Fest** [www.mccauleymusicfest.com](http://www.mccauleymusicfest.com)

**Aug. 14: House Tour by Boat** - Tour waterfront homes along the Fulton Chain. This event is a wonderful way to explore our local waterways, and to learn about the beauty of the homes along them. Benefit for the Arts Center/Old Forge by reservation only. Phone 315-369-6411 for reservations and additional information

**Sept. 3 - 5: Old Forge Plein Air Paint Out** - Celebrated regional artists will be on the scene to capture the beauty of the Old Forge area and its spectacular mountain landscape. The Old Forge Plein Air Paint Out will culminate with an exhibition/auction where everyone will have the opportunity to bid on local scenes created here during the event. Live entertainment. [www.ArtsCenterOldForge.org](http://www.ArtsCenterOldForge.org) 315-369-6411



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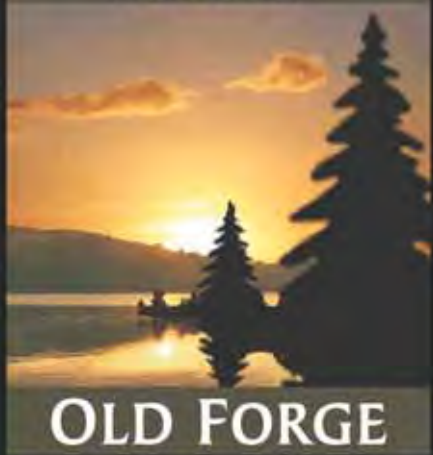
Discount tickets available for attractions with packages including Enchanted Forest Water Safari  
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315-369-6777 [www.NorthWoodsInnResort.com](http://www.NorthWoodsInnResort.com)



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- Coin Laundry
- Tennis Court
- Picnic Gazebo with Gas Grill



315-369-6836

[www.adirondacklodgeoldforge.com](http://www.adirondacklodgeoldforge.com)

## Pine Knoll Lodge & Cabins

[www.pineknolllodge.net](http://www.pineknolllodge.net)

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# STAY SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT THIS SUMMER

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*Teresa Farrell*

An easy way to spice up a vacation—whether it's your first time in a region or the place you visit every year—is to stay in a unique place. Upstate New York has many opportunities to spend the night in interesting places. In the Thousand Islands, you can stay at Singer Castle. In the Finger Lakes, stay in a converted train cabooses at the Caboose Motel in Aveda or enjoy the



luxury of the Esperanza Mansion, with nine converted guest rooms inside the building. The rustic Great Camp Sagamore and White Pine Camp capture the spirit of the Adirondacks with sprawling camps that allow guests to stay and play on premises the way the Vanderbilts and other famous families did. Mid-Lakes Navigation Company offers the unique experience of renting a canal boat and traveling down the canal for a week; dock the boat and explore the historic towns along the banks, then return to the craft to sleep. At Golden Hill State Park on the bank of Lake Ontario, you can stay the night in a real lighthouse complete with gorgeous views of Lake Ontario.

The Esperanza Mansion sits on a hilltop overlooking the rolling hills, vineyards and lakes of the Finger Lakes region. Stay in one of the nine guest rooms, appropriately named after different local wines: Rose Suite, Diamond, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Seyval Blanc, Cabernet, Niagara, Concord, or

Catawba. The Mansion offers getaway packages, available with meals included, champagne, or a wine tour, depending on which you choose. The mansion's tour boat, the Esperanza Rose, is available for sightseeing and meal cruises, as well as private charter.

Golden Hill State Park is the home of Thirty Mile Lighthouse, a once-working lighthouse that provided living quarters for the family of the lightkeeper and his family. The lighthouse was decommissioned by the Coast Guard in 1958, and New York State acquired the property in 1962. Now, this former living quarters is open to the public and can be rented year-round. With all the charm of the lighthouse cottage and the unparalleled view of Lake Ontario, this fun stop is a classic unique place to stay this summer. And because it's located within Golden Hill State Park on the shore of the lake, there are plenty of opportunities for



fishing, boating, and hiking along the shore, as well as campsites and picnic areas. Walking tours of the lighthouse site are available to the public..

The Caboose Motel in the Finger Lakes town of Avoca is exactly what it sounds like—a motel with rooms made out of converted cabooses. Five 916, N5 cabooses have been turned into family accommodations—including bathrooms,

cable TV, and telephone. The original sleeper cabooses feature two upper berths, and one single and one double bed below. Four of the cabooses accommodate five people. The last caboose accommodates six. An interesting feature is the logbook in every caboose-room where visitors record their impressions and experiences

Mid Lakes Navigation offers an interesting twist on a fun place to stay. Families can rent one of their Lockmaster series canal boats and set out for a few days of chartering the canal. The excitement of piloting a vessel is a unique opportunity, and Mid Lakes offers a seminar and piloting lesson before canal goers set out alone. At night, tie up on the public docks at any of the canal towns along the way. By day, venture on foot or with two included bicycles to explore the area. The Lockmaster boats vary in size to accommodate anything from a couple to a two-family expedition. All boats include kitchen, bathroom, ample sleeping area, living area, and a canvas-enclosed bow with extra sleeping space.

Great Camp Sagamore was the summer home of the Vanderbilt family for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Now a National Historic Landmark, this 27-building Great Camp is open during the summer for visitors to enjoy. Lodging accommodations are available at the many lodges and cottages on the premises. A true rustic escape, Great



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Camp Sagamore's rooms do not have telephones or cable TV. Instead, vacationers take advantage of the gorgeous surroundings. The Adirondack Forest land provides over 20 miles of exquisite hiking opportunities, and Sagamore Lake affords great paddling opportunities. During the day, many guests enjoy sitting on the porch and relaxing; at night, campfires are enjoyed. Guests are also given free passes to their acclaimed guided tour of the Great Camp

Located on beautiful, secluded Osgood Pond, White Pine Camp is one of only a small handful of remaining historic Adirondack Great Camps open to the public. The property was built between 1907 and 1908 for Archibald White, a New York City banker and industrialist; and his wife, Olive Moore White, an opera star. White Pine Camp has hosted many dignitaries and celebrities over the years, but is most noted for having served as the Summer White House for President Calvin Coolidge.

Modern day guests at White Pine Camp can take a step back in time and enjoy peace, quiet and serenity amidst the natural beauty and wildlife of the Adirondack Mountains. The classic Adirondack lodging features field stone fireplaces, fire view wood stoves, full kitchens, living and dining areas, and bathrooms with claw foot tubs.

The entire 35 acres of property—including 3,500 feet of shoreline—is open for the use and enjoyment of guests. The Adirondack Bowling Alley, Japanese Teahouse, Tennis House, Great Room, extensive historic Alpine Rock Garden, two boathouses and more provide plenty of entertainment. There are canoes, kayaks, rowboats and sporting equipment available for on-water enjoyment. Guest services include private chef service, therapeutic massage and guide service as well as



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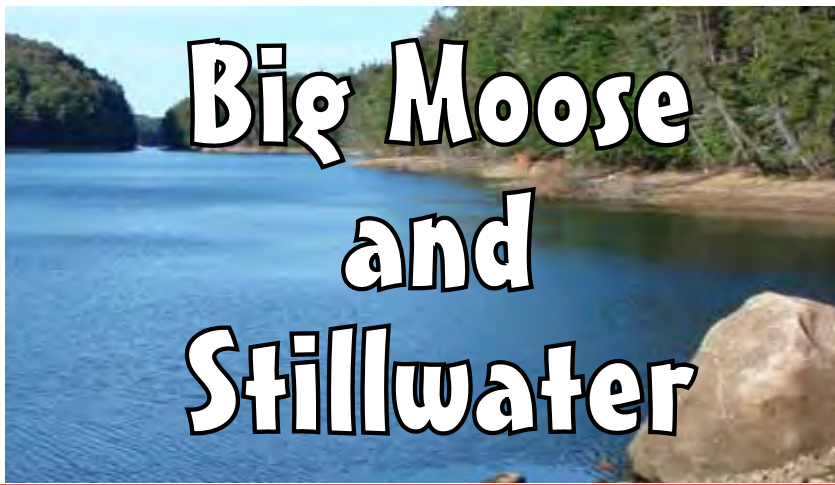
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complementary guest laundry. During the summer, weekly guests enjoy a Sunday evening reception and Tuesday morning nature walk with Ed Kanze, a naturalist, author and guide. The nature walks are open to the public at no charge. There are beautiful hiking trails on the property and in the immediate area, and Osgood Pond and other lakes and streams in the area offer

excellent fishing. Enjoying the sunshine and fresh air is a breeze with so much opportunity so close by.

White Pine Camp is located in Paul Smith's at the end of White Pine Road, off of Route 86, just 12 miles from Saranac Lake. For more information, call (518) 327-3030, email [wpinecamp@aol.com](mailto:wpinecamp@aol.com) or visit [www.whitepinecamp.com](http://www.whitepinecamp.com).



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## Whistle Grass and Raspberry Stains

Mitch Lee, Author and Adirondack Story Teller, Big Moose NY

During mid August my boyish legs took my dog, Sandy and my ripped Keds high tops to those places that smelled green...prickly thick briar patches that infested the thick field around the old Delmarsh Hotel pole barn. It was here that among the milk weeds and songs of thousands of grasshoppers you could wade through waist high grasses and pluck plump, ripe raspberries. Before you even reached the small open field around the barn you could hear the chorus of birds and bugs mixed with the smell of ripe full fruit. The briar patch extended all around the four bay barn and across an old abandoned staircase made of now rotted Grey Spruce. It was here, on a sharp slope, either side of the stairs, that the berries - a perfect purple red - grew in great numbers. No pail or basket was needed; these were intended for immediate consumption. For a boy of eight this "Adirondack Candy" was just the sort of medicine that would cure any ill. Sandy would find an open sunny spot and sprawl out for a snooze, picking up her head occasionally when hearing the chirp of a chipmunk. Eating too

much was the only option as I pulled and put hand to mouth as fast as my fingers could work,

When I became too full from eating ripe berries it was the Whistling grass that often occupied my time in these lazy late August days. By now most of the grasses were so tall they folded over, touching the ground. Here, in the now full morning sun, an amazing woven tangle full of bugs and bees and small green frogs was a world ready to explore for hours on end.

Particular hard, crisp, fat grasses were needed for a special art form I had perfected by watching Dr. Reed, a summer resident on Limekiln Lake. First he plucked a piece of grass and explained the physics of how and why, by cupping the thumbs and palms around the blade of grass and pressing it to your lips, you could make a shrill that would carry across the lake. After much practice, I ventured out on my own to make shrills wherever the grass could be found. There were many places where the best whistle grass grew and I knew them all. I never wandered a path or roadside after that without a quick pluck. I'm sure that the summer residents must have thought a new and rare species of tropical bird had taken up residence on the lake, but I never gave much thought to the noise, just the joy I had in making it.



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# Explore the Finger Lakes This Summer

Darren McGee

Teresa Farrell

There's a myth that says the Finger Lakes were created when the hand of the Great Spirit touched the region in an effort to send a piece of Paradise onto earth. When you visit this area, the legend seems to make sense. Scenic beauty is one of the biggest reasons people come to the Finger Lakes, and who can blame them? The combination of luscious vineyards, steep gorges and sparkling lakes makes for breathtaking beauty around every bend in the country road and affords possibilities that other places just can't offer. With over 9,000 square miles of lakes, land and natural wonders, plus museums, historic sites, and great shopping, dining and entertainment spots, the Finger Lakes region has something for everyone. It's possible to spend a week or more here and do something different every day.

It's rare to find gorges, lakes and vineyards in the same location, but the climate and geography of the Finger Lakes that support the diverse landscape also provide the perfect conditions for grape-growing. With over 100 vineyards and wineries in the area, it's easy to see why this region produces award-winning wines. The unique climate also means that summer fun is a breeze in the Finger Lakes.

It's not uncommon to find caverns and gorges in the Western half of the country. Well, it's also not uncommon to find them here, in Western New York State. Most people have heard of Watkins Glen, but may not realize that there are quite a few similar gorges in the region, most of which afford gorgeous and memorable hiking opportunities. Three of the best are in the Ithaca area: Taughannock Falls, Robert Treman, and Buttermilk Falls State Parks. All three offer gorge trails, picnic grounds and camp sites for an unforgettable summer experience.

When it's time to cool off, take to the lake: there are 12 here to choose from. The unique features of each lake mean that visitors can enjoy virtually any on-water experience. Fish, swim, canoe, wind surf,

snorkel, water ski, sail, kayak, rent a boat or go white-water rafting—there are opportunities for all of it here. Prefer dry land? You have options, from hiking, biking, or golfing to rock climbing, to bird watching. If you're feeling bold, take to the skies in a hang glider or hot air balloon, or satisfy your inner thrill seeker with the ultimate stunt: a skydive. Having trouble deciding what to do first? Each county in the Finger Lakes has developed touring packages and suggested itineraries for visitors.

Of course, nature isn't the only attraction here. There are plenty of shopping opportunities, from specialty boutiques and wine gift shops to malls and outlets. The Finger Lakes is home to an abundance of farm and open-air markets, giving it a homey, country feel. Shop for fresh foods like baguettes, cheeses and fruits, then pick up a bottle of authentic Finger Lakes wine and head to one of the regions many lakesides or overlooks for the perfect picnic. Craft fairs frequent the region, so enthusiasts of homemade gifts and antiques will be happy to find the shopping opportunities are endless.

Shopping districts are unique and fun. The Gaffer District in Corning is no exception. Check out specialty shops for eclectic items you might not find elsewhere, and enjoy the cool, laid-back vibe as you explore this great location.



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A photograph of a boat on the water, part of the advertisement for Skaneateles Lake • Erie Canal cruises.



The Gaffer District is where you'll find The Corning Museum of Glass, a unique place, where visitors can explore the cavernous museum of blown glass and even try their hand at glass blowing during one of the live demonstrations. This delicate art is fascinating to watch, and the end products are stunning. In fact, AmericanStyle magazine calls Corning "one of the top small town city art destinations in the U.S."

As the day winds down relax over dinner at one of the region's fine restaurants. Take your pick from a variety that includes gourmet restaurants, family diners, dinner cruises, casual fare, fast foods, and gourmet bistros. To make it extra special, snag a table with a view—of either the lake or the land. And when you're ready to turn in, you'll find that the lodging opportunities here are as diverse as everything else the area has to offer. Motels, hotels, bed and breakfasts, country inns, resorts and campsites offer budget friendly options whether you prefer fluffy robes or sleeping bags.

Before you visit, check out the summer special events schedule at [www.fingerlakes.org](http://www.fingerlakes.org). From county fairs to laser light shows, you're bound to find an event you like. Whatever you choose, one thing's for sure: everyone in the family will enjoy a trip to the Finger Lakes.



Teresa Farrell

You've probably heard that the Finger Lakes is one of the best wine regions in the nation. The area's central location between the lakes and the mountains makes it perfect for grape-growing. Vineyards, wine shops dot the region and are connected by wine trails. There are five major Wine Trails and Paths, each with attractions, restaurants, shops and accommodations along the way.

The **Cayuga Wine Trail** includes sixteen wineries and vineyards, some of which feature their own restaurants. The Trail wraps around Cayuga Lake. Visitors may purchase a Vino Visa Coupon Book on the official website: [www.cayugawinetrail.com](http://www.cayugawinetrail.com)

The **Keuka Lake Wine Trail** is the home of the first bonded winery, established in 1860. The Trail includes 9 wineries split between either shore of the lake and boasts the most diverse mix of wineries of all the Finger Lakes Wine Trail. [www.keukawinetrail.com](http://www.keukawinetrail.com)

The **Seneca Lake Wine Trail** wraps around Seneca Lake and features 30 wineries and vineyards to enjoy. The area also includes three breweries, and at one facility visitors may even sample mead. [www.senecalakewine.com](http://www.senecalakewine.com)

The **Little Finger Lakes Wine Path** is smaller than a Wine Trail, with two wineries located on Conesus and Hemlock Lakes in Livingston County. [www.fingerlakeswest.com/wineries.html](http://www.fingerlakeswest.com/wineries.html)

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## THE FINGER LAKES "OTHER" TRAILS

### Chocolate Trail

The lush farmland and temperate conditions of the Finger Lakes are good for more than just grape growing. Dairy farms abound here, which means chocolate is a commodity in this region. Take the kids on a trip they'll never forget—the Chocolate Trail. Taste your way through different varieties of homemade chocolate for one of the most delicious afternoons you've ever had.

### Sojourn Geocache Trail

Travel by canoe or kayak to explore the natural wonders of the Sojourn Geocache Trail. Geocaching is a process involving GPS location of "caches", or small waterproof containers with logbooks inside. The Sojourn Geocache trail is open rain or shine. A fun new alternative to traditional vacation activities, this trail puts a twist on hiking and adds the excitement of a scavenger hunt, making it a great activity for kids. Just get a Sojourn passport and as you find the caches, add the rubber stamp from each one to the booklet. If you acquire 12 stamps you can mail in your booklet and receive a commemorative coin. There's also a chance that you'll discover the "New York State Travel Bug", a geocache on its way around the state. Take it home with you and keep up its journey!

# Walk Behind the Waterfalls in Watkins Glen

*Tony Ingraham*

What are your images of Watkins Glen? Is it roaring race cars at the famous and historic track overlooking the valley? Is it the quaint village and waterfront at the south end of 35-mile-long Seneca Lake? Or is it what both the village and the track draw their name from, the delightful little canyon with its 19 waterfalls and deep, green pools? Or is it all of these things?

Whatever your answer, there are plenty of reasons to visit this small upstate community nestled in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the nation, the Finger Lakes region. Whether sampling the Seneca Wine Trail or exploring the Corning Museum of Glass, you certainly don't want to miss Watkins Glen.

On a race weekends, NASCAR lovers take over the town, transforming it from a sanctuary for those seeking beauty and tranquility, to a mecca for lovers of speed, power, and the thrill of experiencing the roar of the race while they root for the nation's top drivers. Or, they may be there September 10 for the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival, when more than 500 classic sports cars converge on the village. The high point is the drive around the old 6.6-mile Grand Prix circuit that originally followed local streets and roads.

Most visitors to Watkins Glen, however, come for the chance to experience one of

the most enchanting little hikes they will take in their lives—a ramble up (or down) the Gorge Trail in Watkins Glen State Park. Adults who visited as children twenty years ago commonly return with their own children to share this singular experience.

A "book of nature" is how local journalist and promoter Morvalden Ells described Watkins Glen in the 1860s. Travel writer Tip Roseberry wrote in 1982, "A tour through Watkins Glen is a visit to an art gallery of nature, each picture to be savored individually before moving on to the next." Watkins Glen has not lost its charm today.

Water created Watkins Glen—water as a stream that eroded the gorge, water as Ice Age glaciers that bored the Seneca Lake valley and changed the course of Glen Creek, and water in an ancient sea where sand and mud settled on the bottom, eventually to harden and become the very rocks the gorge is cut into.

The Main Entrance to the park is where you make your transition from the busy, noisy world of the twenty-first century to a quiet natural world where time does not seem to matter. From here on, nature takes its own time and follows its own rhythms.

At the end of Sentry Bridge, Glen Alpha opens up to you. You peer up the stream as it runs toward you through a twisting, narrow, smoothed channel of rock, to crash below you as Entrance Cascade. Beyond,

high walls of stone enclose a huge, cool cavity in the earth threaded by the stream and waterfalls. Lush ferns, mosses, wildflowers, and small trees soften the dark, grey stone.

Cavern Cascade is at the head of a little section of gorge. Indeed, most sections of the glen have waterfalls at their upper ends, because waterfalls have cut them in the first place. You might think of the entire glen as a giant staircase of waterfalls, with each waterfall being a step.

Beyond you can see potholes in the Glen of Pools. Each pool empties into another. The falls on the upstream edge of each pool are so short they hardly deserve to be called waterfalls. But the pools are magnificent with their charming round contours and green depths as they tumble from one into the next.

On the approach to Rainbow Falls, a ribbon of water streams down out of the forest on a green slide of rock. It then leaps over the trail and into Glen Creek, which has just jumped down Triple Cascade. The scene is so lovely and unusual that the view of Rainbow Falls and Triple Cascade may be the most photographed spot in Watkins Glen.

The remarkable beauty of Rainbow Falls is hard to convey in words. Mark Twain, who lived nearby in Elmira in the late 1860s, tried to with these: "If one desires to be so stirred by a poem of nature wrought in the happily

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recede into pitiable insignificance if the callous tourist drew an arithmetic on it; but left to compete for the honors simply on scenic grace and beauty--the grand, the august, and the sublime being barred the contest--it could challenge the Old World and the New to produce its peer."

For years, visitors have been asking for a beautiful, illuminating book to complement their experience of scenic Watkins Glen, one of America's oldest and most charming state parks. Author, photographer, and park naturalist Tony Ingraham has answered this call with ***A Walk through Watkins Glen: Water's Sculpture in Stone***.

Through flowing words and more than 80 gorgeous pictures, Ingraham will deepen your understanding and appreciation of this enchanting little canyon as you discover secrets of its rocks, water, wildlife, and people. He takes you on an imaginary walk under mossy cliffs, behind waterfalls, past deep rock pools, through tunnels, and up hundreds of stone steps by rugged walls.

***A Walk through Watkins Glen*** has won national acclaim. Last year, it took the first place prize in the small book category in the

media awards competition of the National Association for Interpretation, the premier professional association for naturalists, historians, and others who interpret our nation's heritage in national, state, and local parks and historic sites.

***A Walk through Watkins Glen: Water's Sculpture in Stone*** is available at gift shops in the state park and in the village, and in bookstores and gift shops in the region. For more information and online ordering, see [www.owlgorge.com](http://www.owlgorge.com).



commingled graces of picturesque rocks, glimpsed distances, foliage, color, shifting lights and shadows, and falling water, that the tears almost come into his eyes so potent is the charm exerted, he need not go away from America to enjoy such an experience. The Rainbow Fall in Watkins Glen (N.Y.), on the Erie railway, is an example. It would

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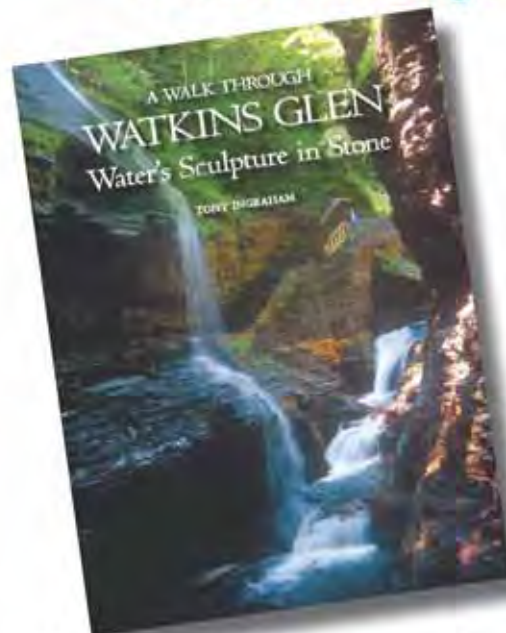
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# Finger Lakes State Parks

*Tony Ingraham*

Upstate New York is remarkably charming with its green mountains, rolling hills, its forests, farms, and rivers. In the middle of it all, however, a delightful landscape is often overlooked by those hurrying on the Thruway to Niagara Falls. South of the Thruway between Syracuse and Rochester, and north of Binghamton, Elmira and Corning, eleven long, blue Finger Lakes block east-west transportation. To explore them, you must slow down and become immersed in the wonders of land and water. And the best places to do that are the many state parks of the Finger Lakes region.

The Finger Lakes were born thousands of years ago, the products of a coincidence of conditions rare on the planet. During the Ice Age, massive, mile-high continental glaciers bulldozed down from Canada over New York State and overwhelmed a system of small river valleys that ran north and south. Because the valleys were oriented in the same direction that the ice was moving, they forced the ice to follow their courses. The channeled ice, in turn, dug the valleys wider and deeper. When the ice melted from New York by 12,000 years ago, it left behind long, narrow lakes in the old valleys. And as if those were not enough to entice the visitor, streams that pour down glacially steepened valley sides have carved canyons hosting some of the highest and most beautiful waterfalls in the East. Again, the best places to experience these are in the Finger Lakes' state parks.

## The Western Finger Lakes

Let's begin our exploration in the west. Four small Finger Lakes are nestled in the Bristol Hills, south of Rochester. They are, from west to east, Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice, and Honeoye Lakes. Each lake is just a few miles long. Most of the land surrounding Hemlock and Canadice Lakes is owned by the City of Rochester to protect its water supply, and is consequently kept wild. The shores of Conesus and Honeoye, as well as the rest of the Finger Lakes, however, are largely privately owned, dotted with lakeside cottages and occasional luxury homes. Public access points to the water are important for the rest of us. Fortunately, New York State Parks provides a public boat launch on the east shores of both Honeoye Lake and Conesus Lake, which also has a picnic area. Put in your canoe, sailboat, or powerboat and explore, or catch a fish! Come back in winter and go ice fishing from these two little state parks. Wetlands in state wildlife management areas at the south ends of both lakes are a delight to explore in a canoe or kayak.

## Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area

Honeoye Lake itself is shallow, but it lies at the north end of a deep valley with high, forested walls that rise 1,000 feet above the wetlands below. Perched on the brim of the west side of this scenic trough is **Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area**. From

here you can see the entire lake far below from one of the signature vistas of the region. You can also enjoy a picnic, hike or bike on the woodland trails, or return months later for deer hunting or cross-country skiing.

## Stony Brook State Park

South of the Bristol Hills and the western Finger Lakes is another state park you don't want to miss. **Stony Brook State Park**, near Dansville, is a beautiful, rugged gorge with trails and three big waterfalls.



The Stone Gorge Trail walks right along the stream and down beside two of the waterfalls. The East Rim and West Rim Trails afford views over the canyon. There is camping and picnicking, and a beautiful little swimming area at the end of the gorge (although budget cuts may prevent the pool from opening in 2010).

## Keuka Lake

### Keuka Lake State Park

Let's go to the bigger lakes to the east. First is Keuka Lake, 22 miles long and 187 feet deep. Keuka is unique among the Finger Lakes. Once called Crooked Lake, it is Y-shaped with a west branch and an east branch, reflecting an ancient forked river valley scooped out by the glaciers. **Keuka Lake State Park** is far from the bustling crowd, near the north end of the west branch, across the water from the hamlet of Branchport. It's a fine waterfront park with swimming, boating, and fishing, as well as a picnic area and a wonderful campground on the hill. Bring your bicycle to follow nearby lakeside cottage lanes. Keuka Lake State Park is a good place to begin your exploration of the Keuka Wine Trail, scenic Bluff Point, and the quaint village of Hammondsport in the deep valley at the south end of the lake. From Esperanza Mansion on the hill just north of the park you can see the entire length of the west branch. And the new Finger Lakes Cultural & Natural History Museum has announced that it will make Keuka Lake State Park its future home.

## Canandaigua Lake

You can put your boat into Canandaigua Lake in the City of Canandaigua at the lake's northern end at **Canandaigua Lake State Marine Park**. The scenic, fiord-like south end of the lake is 15 miles away, just north of the Village of Naples. But right in the City of Canandaigua is another attraction, **Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park**. The site includes Victorian era formal and informal gardens and a Queen Anne style mansion built in 1887.

Sonnenberg is the location of the Finger Lakes Wine Center, perhaps your first stop while following the Canandaigua Wine Trail.

## Ganondagan State Historic Site



Just 13 miles northwest of Canandaigua Lake is **Ganondagan State Historic Site**, the only state historic site in New York dedicated to the history and culture of Native Americans. Ganondagan was an important Seneca Iroquois town that was destroyed by the

French in 1687 in a war to control the fur trade. Run largely by Native American staff, modern Ganondagan includes a full-sized replica of a 17<sup>th</sup> century longhouse containing reproductions of items of daily life from the time. There also is a visitor center and several interpretive trails. This is one of the best places in the country to learn about Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) people in particular and native people in general. Don't miss the Native American Dance & Music Festival on July 24 and 25.

## Seneca Lake

### Sampson State Park

Eleven miles from Seneca Lake State Park on the east shore sits **Sampson State Park**. At more than 2,000 acres, it is the largest of the region's state parks. In World War 2,



it was the Sampson Naval Training Station, located near a railway and inland away from German U-boats. 411,000 "boots" received basic training before being literally shipped out for war service. In the Korean War, Sampson was operated by the Air Force. It became a state park in the 1960s. A military museum in one of the old base buildings tells these stories.

But Sampson is much more than a military site. It has a large campground of mostly electric sites, great for RV campers. There is a recreation center with lots of activities for kids, and it is a bicyclist's paradise with all the old roads from the base days. It has two miles of wild, undeveloped lakeshore to stroll along. Sampson has a beach, a fitness trail, tennis and basketball courts, picnic shelters, and one of the best marinas and boat launch sites along the lake. Many people spend their entire vacations at Sampson.

Located a few miles south of Sampson along Seneca Lake's east shore, little **Lodi Point State Park** juts into the lake. It's a lovely spot: a nice place to have a picnic, or stroll along the quiet beach listening to the gentle lapping of the waves against the smooth gray stones. You can launch your boat, and go fishing.

# Sampson Military Museum

The Sampson Naval Training Station, established in 1942, trained 411,429 young men to become sailors and sent them off to participate in the greatest conflict of modern times, World War 2. With the training schools, ships company, and the largest Naval Hospital on the eastern seaboard, almost one million people were associated with this important facility.



The museum itself was created by the thousands of members of the Sampson WW-2 Navy Veterans organization. Many man hours went into remodeling the old brig (jail) into the museum's home.



Company photos of most of the graduates are available for viewing. The photos in the library make up the largest known collection of Sampson Naval Personnel in existence.

Artifacts acquired from Sampson members and the US Navy Dept. make up most of the interesting items on display. A truly special aspect of your visit to the museum is getting to hear firsthand experiences from the Boots themselves. Veterans are available most days to answer questions, reminisce about the days spent here at Sampson, or provide a personalized tour. This opportunity is truly a unique experience!

Be sure to also visit with a trip to the brig cells and stop in our gift shop for some unique mementos of your trip to Sampson!



Our Memorial Wall is dedicated to the Sampson Boots, who shipped out to endure the perils of war and did not return, making the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The Courtyard of Honor is a wonderful way to honor a Navy Veteran. Personalized bricks are placed throughout the Courtyard commemorating individuals who have served with the US Navy throughout the years. Orders for bricks may be submitted to at the Museum Gift Shop. The Courtyard can be a beautiful location to hold ceremonies.



Please call for more information to see if this may suit your needs.

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## Seneca Lake State Park

As we head east on US Routes 5&20 from Canandaigua, we get to one of the biggest Finger Lakes. **Seneca Lake State Park** is in the City of Geneva at the very north end of the lake. It's known for its picnic area, lakeshore promenade, marinas and boat launch, playground, and its "sprayground," with more than 100 water jets to frolic among. The park provides access to the Cayuga-Seneca Canal which connects with Cayuga Lake to the east and from there to the Erie Canal.



Seneca Lake is the deepest of all eleven Finger Lakes. Its cold, dark bottom is 650 feet down, more than 200 feet below sea level. Seneca contains more than four trillion gallons of water that take 18 years to cycle through the lake before leaving via the canal on its way east and north toward Lake Ontario. At 35 miles in length, it is the second longest Finger Lake, but it has the most volume, making it the biggest. The shallow northern end warms up quickly in early summer, but the deeper parts of the lake take longer. Three more state parks lie along Seneca's eastern shore, while one of New York's most famous parks is on the side of the valley just south of the lake. And while you're visiting the state parks, the route around Seneca Lake is marked with 35 outstanding regional wineries along the Seneca Wine Trail.

## Watkins Glen State Park

The gem of the Seneca Lake Valley is **Watkins Glen State Park**, situated in the Village of Watkins Glen. Just a mile south of the lake, Glen Creek has poured down the west flank of the valley for thousands of years, polishing a marvelous, tortuous channel through shale and sandstone that has attracted tourists since the 1860s. The Gorge Trail passes behind two of the glen's 19 waterfalls, while the South Rim Trail and the Indian Trail provide



glimpses into the gorge from above. Watkins Glen has the largest campground in the state park region, and has several picnic areas, playgrounds, and an Olympic size swimming pool. There are two gift shops. Naturalist staff gives guided walks in the summer, and outdoor exhibits throughout the park explain the gorge's natural and human history. Watkins Glen State Park, founded in 1906, is the oldest state park in the region; it's the most visited, and is the best known. See my article about this park elsewhere in this publication. And you might like to get a copy of my award-winning book, ***A Walk through Watkins Glen—Water's Sculpture in Stone*** at the gift shop or at other locations in and around the Village of Watkins Glen. Find out more about the book and how to order it online at <http://owlgorge.com>.

We're not done with the Seneca Lake area. The valley south of Seneca Lake is called the Catharine Valley, for Catharine Creek which flows north to the lake. **The Catharine Valley Trail**, operated by NYS Parks, follows a former railroad bed and connects Watkins Glen State Park with **Mark Twain State Park** north of Elmira, and it makes a great bicycle route. Mark Twain State Park includes the 18-hole Soaring Eagles Golf Course. Golf was developed on glacial moraine landscapes in Scotland similar to what you find here, with natural "kettle" ponds and rolling "kame" deposits. The park is named, of course, for the famous 19<sup>th</sup> century writer and essayist who lived and summered in Elmira for many years. His study where he worked on many of his famous works, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, is located on the Elmira College Campus, which is also the location of the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies.

## Cayuga Lake

At 38 miles, Cayuga is the longest of the Finger Lakes. Though it is some 200 feet less deep than Seneca, at 435 feet Cayuga's bottom still dips to about 50 feet below sea level. It takes ten years for 2 ½ trillion gallons of water to cycle through the lake on the way to Lake Ontario via the Seneca and Oswego Rivers.

Cayuga Lake is connected to the world, both by water and by history. Cayuga's water exits the lake at the northern end into the Seneca River which is intertwined with the Erie Canal. In fact, Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, because of their historical and current connection by feeder canals, are part of the **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** (see below), a designation by the National Park Service. Furthermore, **Women's Rights National Historical Park** is nearby in the Village of Seneca Falls along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, connecting Cayuga Lake with watershed events in the history of human rights.

At the north end of the lake as well is the **Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge**, a vital resting and feeding place for waterfowl, shore birds, and wading birds during migration. Drop by their visitor center, explore their lookouts over the marsh, walk the Esker Brook Nature Trail, and drive the auto tour. Montezuma is a good place to see bald eagles.

Cayuga Lake and its valley feature **seven state parks**. Five lie along the state-designated **Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway** which follows state highways that encircle the lake. Two more state parks are among the most scenic examples of the headwaters of Cayuga Lake. We'll begin in the north. And along the way, you might sample the offerings on the Cayuga Wine Trail.

## Cayuga Lake State Park

First and not least is **Cayuga Lake State Park** near the Village of Seneca Falls at the northwest corner of the lake. Originally a privately run lakeside amusement park reached by trolley from the village in the 1800s, Cayuga Lake State Park now features camping, cabins,

picnicking, swimming, boating, and fishing. This end of the lake is just a few feet deep and favors warmer water fish, including largemouth bass, carp, and bullheads. Deeper waters in Cayuga Lake are also known for lake trout, smallmouth bass, salmon, and northern pike. Ice fishing is popular in winter near the park.

**Dean's Cove State Boat Launch** lies a few miles south along NYS Route 89. It's a great place to park your car while you launch your boat at Cayuga Lake's widest spot, 3 1/2 miles across. On the far shore is the Village of Aurora, and just south of that is **Long Point State Park**. This quiet little peninsula juts into the lake and is lovely for boating, fishing, picnicking, strolling and skipping stones. There is a bathing beach, and a small vacation cottage is available for rent.

## Taughannock Falls State Park

Most state parks in the Finger Lakes region are either lake parks or gorge parks, but one spectacular park combines both in a single dynamic landscape. People have made their ways to Taughannock Falls since the Civil War to marvel at the 215-foot-



tall cataract, or to fish, play, launch a boat, or swim along the west shore of Cayuga Lake, seven miles north of Ithaca. Tourists could travel by rail or steamboat to stay at one of the two hotels on opposite rims of the nearly 400 feet deep gorge near the falls. The hotels were gone by the early 1920s and Taughannock became a state park in 1925.

Today the accommodations are in a moderate-sized campground and a small cabin area perched above short cliffs over the lake. Situated on the North Rim at the site of the old Taughannock House hotel, the Falls Overlook is one of the most popular scenic destinations in the region. Visitors can get out of their cars and gaze upon the huge rock amphitheater that encloses Taughannock Falls. Taughannock is taller than Niagara (though only a tiny fraction of its width!), and is one of the highest waterfalls in the East. In the course of its long journey eroding back into the hillside since the end of the Ice Age, Taughannock Falls has left a 3/4 mile long canyon that fronts on Cayuga Lake.

The Gorge Trail is flat, and in half an hour nearly anyone can walk (or be pushed in a stroller or wheelchair) to the observation area near the base of the tumbling cascade. Because the gorge is wide and the trail is level, the Gorge Trail at Taughannock is the only one kept open in winter in the five state parks featuring gorges in the Finger Lakes region. A dozen or so trailside exhibits explain the geology and natural history of Taughannock Falls. Two trails on the gorge rim encircle Taughannock Gorge and the Upper Gorge that continues above the falls. At the head of the Upper Gorge is the twisting Upper



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**Heritage Corridor**. Stretching 524 miles across upstate New York, the Erie Canalway is one of our nation's great successes of engineering, vision, hard work, and sacrifice. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor encompasses New York's canal system and the communities that grew along it. It's a place with stories to tell, great works of architecture to see, history to be learned, and hundreds of miles of scenic and recreational waterway and trails to explore.

Whether you travel 15 miles or 500, there's much to discover along the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor:

- **Original Tow-path Era Canal and Engineering Marvels**- Including bridges, aqueducts and locks of the original Erie, completed in 1825.
- **20th Century Canals**- Including land cuts, riverways, and locks.
- **Canal Communities**- Numerous attractions of canal towns and cities are worth a visit.
- **Great Recreation**- Take one of the many tour boats, charter a canal boat, or explore with your own vessel. On land, get out on the Erie Canalway Trail.
- **Rural Landscapes and Natural Areas**- Explore some of New York's most picturesque countryside, vineyards, and wildlands, including Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.
- **Historic Vessels**- Tugboats and historic replica canalboats ply the waters, alongside today's cruisers, motorboats, kayaks, and canoes.
- **Arts and Folkways**- Folklore, crafts, murals, and performing arts are found throughout the Canalway Corridor.

For more information, visit the official National Park Service website at [www.nps.gov/erie](http://www.nps.gov/erie) or [www.eriecanal.gov](http://www.eriecanal.gov).



Falls, undiscovered by most who visit the park, though it's easily accessible from a parking lot.

Where Taughannock Creek empties into Cayuga Lake, it has created a peninsula that is one of the most popular spots on the entire lakeshore. The North Point, with its long, lovely shoreline, has a picnic area and a large rentable pavilion, along with lawns and a fishing pier. The Central Point has a picnic area with a pavilion, a small marina basin, and a boat launch. And the South Point features a fishing pier and probably the best swimming beach on the lake. Behind the bathhouse is a stage where thousands enjoy Saturday evening concerts while eating their picnic suppers on the expansive lawn during July and August.

### Allan H. Treman State Marine Park

The City of Ithaca lies seven miles down NYS Route 89 at the south end of Cayuga Lake. As you cross the city line, you also enter **Allan H. Treman State Marine Park**, which encompasses the southwest corner of the lake. Treman Marina, named for a former regional commissioner of the state parks, is one of New York's largest inland marinas, with room for some 400 boats. With Cayuga Lake's connection the Erie Canal, it's theoretically possible to go anywhere in the world by boat from Ithaca, provided you have enough fuel!

The marina basin and boat launch enter Cayuga Inlet, the main channel to the lake from the south. But you don't have to own a boat to enjoy this park. There are extensive rolling lawns, a long stretch of undeveloped shoreline, woodlands, and a wetland that are wonderful for bird watching, dog walking, tossing a Frisbee, or just plain strolling, sitting, and watching water, ducks, and sky. There are

small picnic areas and benches, and the park recently created a large, fenced-in "dog park" where owners can let their dogs run leash free.

"Ithaca is Gorges" declare bumper stickers available at the Tompkins County Visitors Center. Indeed, the city is ringed by gorges cut by creeks pouring out of "hanging valleys" since the Ice Age. Cornell University, upstate New York's famous Ivy League institution, is perched "Far above Cayuga's Waters" atop East Hill, and is framed between Fall Creek Gorge and Cascadilla Glen. The city gets its water from Sixmile Creek Gorge. Two of Ithaca's most beautiful gorges are state parks.

### Buttermilk Falls State Park

At the south boundary of the city, about two miles south of Treman Marina, is **Buttermilk Falls State Park**. This frothing cascade careens hundreds of feet down the east side of Inlet Valley to join Cayuga Inlet on its way to the lake. At the base of the waterfall is one of the most charming public swimming areas you will ever find (provided budget cuts don't prevent it from opening this year). The Gorge Trail leads you up steep steps past the big waterfall and into a lush, rugged paradise of falls, ferns, overhanging evergreens, deep green pools, and the free-standing Pinnacle Rock. At the top of the hill, the trail continues along Buttermilk Creek through a stately woodland known for its spring wildflowers, past two picnic areas before finally reaching the trail around little Lake Treman. Before dusk, you might see a beaver or two.

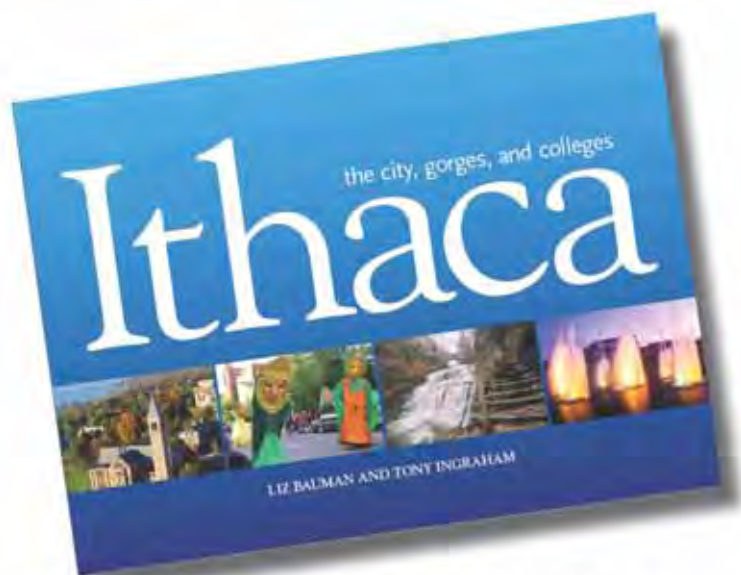


The campground at Buttermilk Falls and the larger one at nearby Robert H. Treman State Park are popular base camps for visitors exploring the Ithaca area, Cornell, and Ithaca College.

### Robert H. Treman State Park

The Ithaca area owes its richness of state parks to its spectacular landscape. But Ithacans are grateful for the vision and generosity of successful local businessman and Cornell trustee Robert H. Treman (father of Allan H. Treman) who founded the parks nearly a century ago. Before 1920, Mr. Treman bought up land in the little hamlet of Enfield Falls a few miles southwest of the city. He wanted to revive a tradition of scenic tourism there started in the 1850s by Henrietta Wickham, owner of the Enfield Falls Hotel. Visitors would take a carriage from town, stay for the day or night at the hotel and explore upper Enfield Glen, a spectacular rugged, gorge that climaxes at 115-foot-high Lucifer Falls. By 1915, the hotel had burned and fallen in.

Robert Treman and his wife Laura decided to donate the property to New York State in 1920 so that future generations would have access to this remarkable place. He became chairman of the newly formed Finger Lakes State Park Commission in 1924 and guided the acquisition, planning, and development of state parks throughout the region. The gorge parks in the Finger Lakes are known for their beautiful stone trail architecture, a legacy from Mr.



This gorgeous book captures Ithaca's charms in more than 200 photos and stories of the city, the gorges and waterfalls, Cornell University, and Ithaca College.

Available at stores in and around Ithaca, NY

See the book and order online at <http://owlgorge.com>

Treman's vision and tenure. Enfield Glen State Park was renamed for Robert Treman after he passed away in 1937.

I once led a group of adults from the downstate area into the upper gorge at **Robert H. Treman State Park**. It's only a fifteen



minute walk on the stone staircases on the Gorge Trail through the angular canyon to Lucifer Falls. When she reached the brink of the waterfall, one woman

exclaimed, "Why don't you tell people about this place? How come I've never heard of it? It's amazing!" Awe is commonplace here.

If you continue down the Gorge Trail, you can walk more than two miles along Enfield Creek through a large, forested canyon. Enclosed by tall hemlocks and sugar maples, you might as well be in the Adirondacks. And if it's in summer, you can cool off at the end of the trail in the most beautiful public swimming hole in New York State, at the base of Lower Falls. Swimmers stand on little ledges with the waterfall pouring over them, while others dive from the nearby board. The stone bathhouse dates from the 1930s. There is a shallow area for children, and a lawn for relaxing, drying off, and reading. Lifeguards watch over the entire idyllic scene.

But it gets better, if that's possible. Adjacent to the swimming area is the cabin area, with rustic vacation cabins built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. Next to that is the campground. From your camp or cabin, you can stroll with your towel to the waterfall for a dip. Or, if you want to hike, you can head up the South Rim Trail behind the cabin area to return to Lucifer Falls and the upper park. Some families vacation in the cabin area at Robert H. Treman State Park every year for a decade or more.

There is more to see in the upper park. Most of the houses and other structures of the 19<sup>th</sup> century hamlet were razed by the park many years ago. But the biggest and most spectacular building remains—the Old Mill. This rare, four-story, Greek Revival grist mill was built in 1838 and was operated until about 1920, grinding wheat, buckwheat, and corn for local farmers. Most of the machinery is still in place. The mill is now a museum with exhibits on all floors, as well as exhibits about the Civilian Conservation Corps camp that was in the upper park in the 1930s. Other exhibits explain ten years of archeology work uncovering the old hamlet and the hotel by Cornell archeology classes. A walking tour and outdoor exhibits of the archeology sites are being produced with the help of the Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park ([www.friendsoftreman.wordpress.com](http://www.friendsoftreman.wordpress.com)). The Friends produced an interactive video for visitors in the mill that should be in place this season.

Besides the Gorge Trail and the South Rim Trail, a third trail runs the length of Robert H. Treman State Park. The **Finger Lakes Trail** begins in Allegany State Park in western New York and runs hundreds of miles up and down the hills and valleys south of the Finger Lakes all the way to the Catskill Mountains. It is maintained mostly by volunteer hiking clubs. And in this area, it connects three state parks, Watkins Glen, Robert H. Treman, and Buttermilk Falls. In Robert H. Treman, the trail follows the south rim of the glen, behind the rugged gorge and the Old Mill in the upper park all the way to and through the campground in the lower park. From there, it climbs the hill by Lick Brook Gorge on the far side of the Inlet Valley, sends a connector trail over to Lake Treman in Buttermilk Falls State Park, before heading east beyond the horizon. The Finger Lakes Trail in Robert Treman and Watkins Glen State Parks is designated as part of the **North Country National Scenic Trail** that extends from North Dakota to the Adirondack Mountains in northern New York.

To find out more about the parks, gorges, colleges, and other attractions of the Ithaca area, see the book, ***Ithaca—the City, Gorges and Colleges***, by my wife (Liz Bauman) and me. It's available in local stores throughout the Ithaca area. To see sample pages and to order it online, go to <http://owlgorge.com>. Our other book, ***A Walk Through Watkins Glen—Water's Sculpture in Stone***, is also available in Ithaca.

## The Eastern Finger Lakes Fillmore Glen State Park

The size of the Finger Lakes climaxes from west to east with Seneca and Cayuga, and then begins to diminish again as you go farther eastward. But the lakes do not diminish in charm. Next is Owasco Lake, about half as long as Cayuga. At the northern end is the city of Auburn, and in the south is the village of Moravia. Separating Moravia from the lake is a large wooded wetland. And at the southern edge of the village is Fillmore Glen State Park. The park is named for Millard Fillmore, the 13<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, who was born in a log cabin nearby in 1800. There is a replica of this cabin near the park pavilion, and there is a small park with a plaque memorializing Millard Fillmore a few miles uphill and east of the state park.

Fillmore Glen is discovered by few of the people who find Taughannock Falls and Watkins Glen, though the park is no smaller and no less rich in natural beauty. Dr. Charles Atwood, local physician and amateur botanist was known as the "father of Fillmore Glen" for his successful efforts to preserve the gorge in the 1920s. He recognized the value and charm of the lush forest that fills the canyon, rich with wildflowers in the spring and mushrooms in the late summer and fall. Fillmore Glen is not a wide, awesome gorge. Rather it is an intimate place, where other people seem to disappear around the bend, and you find yourself at peace with the music of



Dry Creek and the dense greenery. On the Gorge Trail, you cross the stream several times on little wooden bridges. The apex of the experience is a mile upstream where the gorge opens a bit and a cliff called the Pinnacle rises on the right. You can walk up the trail to the Pinnacle and look into the glen from the South Rim Trail. Or you can continue up the Gorge Trail to the 40-foot-high Upper Falls, and a dam holding back a small lake. From there, you can take the North Rim Trail through a forest of large, old hemlock trees and white pines back to the lower park, with its small in-stream swimming area, the park pavilion, the campground, and a small cabin area.

A short walk into the woods from the swimming area is the most distinctive feature of the park—the Cowsheds and its sizeable, adjacent waterfall. The Cowsheds is a large overhanging



limestone roof where shale below has eroded away. It was said that before the park was created, local cattle would take refuge in this shady, cool recess in summer. Others have said that cattle rustlers hid their stolen stock in there. Regardless, this is a wonderful spot for you yourself to take refuge.

Fillmore Glen State Park is the easternmost state park in the Finger Lakes. Two other wonderful lakes lie in the valleys to the east—Skaneateles Lake and Otisco Lake. Both are lovely, and the southern end of Skaneateles Lake is in a particularly deep and steep-sided valley. Both lakes are particularly clean and supply the City of Syracuse and surrounding communities with water.

There are other state parks north and south of the Finger Lakes. Along the Lake Ontario shore are **Fair Haven Beach**, **Chimney Bluffs**, and **Beechwood State Parks**. South of the Finger Lakes in the Southern Tier are **Pinnacle State Park** with its golf course southwest of Corning; **Newtown Battlefield State Park** near Elmira, the site of the only Revolutionary War battle in the region; and the new **Two Rivers State Park** near Waverly in Tioga County. But those are other stories.

Meanwhile, the best way to see New York's marvelous Finger Lakes is to visit their state parks! For more information, go to [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com).

Tony Ingraham worked for the Finger Lakes Region of New York State Parks for 24 years, in charge of environmental education and recreation services for the park region. He is the author of the national award winning book, *A Walk through Watkins Glen—Water's Sculpture in Stone*, and co-author of *Ithaca, the City, Gorges, and Colleges*. Find out more about both books at <http://owlgorge.com>.

# Finger Lakes Trail

The Finger Lakes Trail is New York's longest footpath, running from Allegany State Park to the Catskills with north and south branch trails. It connects to Canada's Bruce Trail in the West and to the Appalachian Trail in the East via the Long Path. It is part of the route of the 7-state North Country National Scenic Trail.

The Finger Lakes Trail System features over 880 miles of hiking in the spectacular landscape of rural New York State. The 562 mile main trail runs from the New York-Pennsylvania border in Allegany State Park to the Long Path in the Catskills. Five branch trails, fifteen loop trails, and several short spurts extend from the main trail, adding over 300 miles of trail to it. This summer, join the growing list of hikers who have hiked the main trail from end to end!

The Finger Lakes Trail system was built and is maintained by the hard work of individual volunteers and affiliated clubs. There is no fee for hiking on any part of the Finger Lakes Trail. Small sections of the trail system are closed at various times of the year at the request of the landowner, but closures and bypass routes are usually indicated on FLTC maps. Visit [www.fingerlakestrail.org](http://www.fingerlakestrail.org) to buy maps and guidebooks or find trail condition reports.

Please remember that your hike is possible because generous and hospitable landowners have granted permission to build the trail on their land. Respect landowner rights by staying on the trail, and refrain from walking on crops, building fires or camping on private land. Never enter landowner's buildings. The trail is intended for foot travel only. Motorized vehicles, bicycles and horses are not allowed unless specifically approved by the landowner or public authority having jurisdiction. When using the trail, park only in designated areas; travel in groups of 10 or fewer people; camp only in designated areas; share shelters and campsites with others; cook on camp stoves; if a campfire is necessary, use only dead wood; purify all water; take precautions against ticks and wild animals; and take out what you brought in. Control and clean up after your pet and yourself, bury waste to protect water supplies, and leave plants and wildlife undisturbed. Report any trail problems and vandalism to Howard Beye, VP for Trails, at 585-288-7191 or [fltcf@frontiernet.net](mailto:fltcf@frontiernet.net)

If you would like to donate to or join our organization, have further questions, or want advice about getting started, just write, call or email us at:

Finger Lakes Trail Conference  
6111 Visitor Center Road  
Mt. Morris NY 14510  
(585) 658-9320  
[information@fingerlakestrail.org](mailto:information@fingerlakestrail.org)  
[www.fingerlakestrail.org](http://www.fingerlakestrail.org)

There are many benefits to becoming a member, including a quarterly magazine, access to helpful information about the trail, activities which bring hikers together, discounts on FLT maps, guide books & merchandise and much more. Join today and consider volunteering!

*Catch the Spirit of Innovation!*



**Come to Seaplane Homecoming - Sept, 17-19, 2010**  
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[info@glennhcurtissmuseum.org](mailto:info@glennhcurtissmuseum.org)

## Glenn H. Curtiss Museum

Located on Route 54, one half mile south of town, this museum honors one of America's most famous aviation pioneers. The Glenn H. Curtiss Museum contains a priceless collection, dedicated to his memory. The museum also features a 75-seat theater, a research library, and a gift shop. In addition, visitors are welcome to visit with volunteers in the museum Restoration Shop and watch them work on our current project, which is a restoration of a 1929 Curtiss *Fledgling*.

Glenn Curtiss began his career as a builder of bicycles and then, motorcycles. In 1907 he became the "fastest man on earth" when he attained a speed of 136.4 MPH on his V8 powered motorcycle. An exact reproduction of this bike is one of several Curtiss motorcycles that are on display. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1908, Curtiss gained notoriety of a different kind when he flew his flying machine, named the "June Bug", a distance of over 5000' to win the *Scientific American Trophy*. This was the first pre-announced, public flight in America. This feat, combined with others, earned him U.S. Pilots License # 1. A full-sized reproduction of this airplane is one of several historic pieces that are on display. Glenn Curtiss won world recognition as an aircraft builder and pilot in 1909 when he won the *Gordon Bennett Trophy* for speed at the First International Aviation Meet held in Rheims, France. He achieved this at the breath-taking speed of 46.5 MPH (he went 90 MPH faster on a motorcycle two years earlier). Back in the states, a year later, in 1910, Curtiss again increased his stature as a pioneer aviator by making the first long distance flight in America between two cities. He flew his *Albany Flier* from Albany to New York City, with one stop, for a total distance of 150 miles to win a \$10,000 prize. Visitors to the museum will see an exact copy of this airplane being readied for a centennial reenactment of Glenn's flight down the Hudson River. In 1911 he mastered the technology associated with taking off and landing an aircraft on water, thereby making the "seaplane" and later, the "flying boat", a practical reality. Seaplane development led Curtiss to an association with the U.S. Navy that began when he trained their first pilots and built the "A-1", their first aircraft. Today, he is acknowledged as "The Father of Naval Aviation". A flyable reproduction of this first naval aircraft is also on display.

Additional Curtiss aircraft in the collection include a 1912 "Pusher", a 1913 "Model E" flying boat, the 1914 "America" twin-engine flying boat, a 1917 "Jenny", a 1919 "Seagull" flying boat, and a 1927 "Robin". From the Curtiss-Wright era (post 1929), included are a 1931 "Junior", a ¾ scale P-40E and last – but certainly not least, a C-46, WWII transport (this aircraft will actually be seen first, because it guards the main gate). In addition to motorcycles and aircraft, visitors will also see extensive exhibits dedicated to local history, including the local wineries. Antique tools, toys, boats, cars, home-furnishings, fire equipment and much more can be found here.

8419 Rt. 54, Hammondsport, NY 14840  
 (607) 569 2160 [www.glennhcurtissmuseum.org](http://www.glennhcurtissmuseum.org)  
**Open Year around** during the following hours:  
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 Sunday 10:00 – 5:00  
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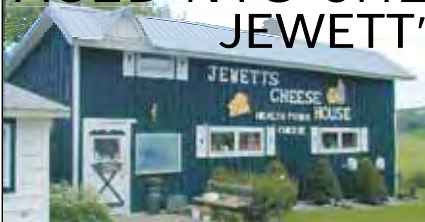
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# Great Events to Enjoy in Madison County



**Oz-stravaganza**  
June 4-6  
[www.oz-stravaganza.com](http://www.oz-stravaganza.com)



**171st Madison County Fair**  
July 8-11  
[www.madisoncounty-fair.com](http://www.madisoncounty-fair.com)



**46th Annual Craft Days at Madison County Historical Society**  
September 11-12  
[www.mchs1900.org](http://www.mchs1900.org)



**International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Weekend**  
June 10-13  
[www.ibhof.com](http://www.ibhof.com)



**Buy Local Week**  
July 10-24  
[www.madisoncountyagriculture.com](http://www.madisoncountyagriculture.com)



**15th Annual Madison County Hop Fest**  
September 17-19  
[www.mchs1900.org/hopfest](http://www.mchs1900.org/hopfest)



**Canal Fest 2010 CLCBM 25th Anniversary**  
June 20  
[www.chittenangolandcanalboatmuseum.com](http://www.chittenangolandcanalboatmuseum.com)



**Antique Week**  
August 15-22  
[www.madisontourismblog.com](http://www.madisontourismblog.com)



**Critz Farms Fall Harvest Celebration**  
September 18-October 23  
[www.critzfarms.com](http://www.critzfarms.com)



**CAVAC Arts and Crafts**  
July 3-4  
[www.lorenzony.org](http://www.lorenzony.org)



**39th Annual Outdoor Madison-Bouckville Antique Show**  
August 20-22  
[www.bouckvilleantiqueshow.com](http://www.bouckvilleantiqueshow.com)



**Golub's Our Farm Total Farm Experience**  
October 2-30  
[www.fallpumpkinfarm.com](http://www.fallpumpkinfarm.com)

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Find out about these and all the other events in Madison County by calling (800) 684-7320 or visiting [www.madisontourism.com](http://www.madisontourism.com)

Another reason,  
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**Madison County** is the ultimate locale for fun events and exciting activities all summer long. What better way is there to celebrate one of the best seasons in Central New York?!

Kick off your summer with Oz-stravaganza, June 4-6, a party complete with a parade to relish in "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" and honor its author, L. Frank Baum, who was born in Chittenango. Follow the yellow brick road to the International Boxing Hall of Fame for their annual Induction Weekend, June 10-13, and catch some celebrities and former boxing champions duking it out! On June 20, pack up the kids in the family vehicle and head to Canal Fest 2010, marking Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum's 25th anniversary, and offering a heck of a lot of live entertainment including clowns, magicians and games galore. At Madison County events, the dreaded words "I'm bored" will never leave your children's mouths.



For handmade goodies and rare treasures from over 130 local artisans, visit the Lorenzo State Historic Site for CAVAC 35th Annual Arts & Crafts Show, July 3-4. Speaking of treasure hunting, check out the 171st Madison County Fair, July 8-11, and catch fireworks, frolic with zoo animals and win up to \$500 in treasure hunts and games! July 18-24 is "Buy Local Week," where dozens of farms throw open their doors to offer a behind-the-scenes glimpse at what goes into the food you eat. Find food for the eye and search out something truly unique during Madison-Bouckville Antique Week, August 15-



22, culminating with the 39th Annual Outdoor Madison-Bouckville Antique Show, August 20-22. With over 1,000 dealers on site, the show ranks as one

of the largest in the northeast! Stop by the 46th Annual Craft Days at Madison County Historical Society, September 11-12, and peruse even more handcrafted treats. Oh how sweet it is to summer-shop in Madison County!

Bonding over brews is at its best at the 15th Annual Madison County Hop Fest, September 17-19, where cool hop growing displays, a hop tour bus and microbrewery sampling will all be going down. Switch gears from cold beer-sipping to hot apple fritter-munching and let the changing colors of the leaves be your cue that it's time to pumpkin-pick, wander through haunted barns and hop aboard a hayride at Critz Farms Fall Harvest Celebration, September 18-October 23. During the month of October, visit Golub's Our Farm for the "Total Farm Experience" including horse rides, corn mazes, and a giant pumpkin-throwing catapult. (Bet you've never seen one of those before!)

From June to October, Madison County packs in loads of live entertainment, kid-friendly events, and outdoor activities to make your summer truly spectacular. Don't miss out! Plan your summer fun trips with the help of <http://madisontourism.com/event.php>.

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- 5/27-5/29 - "Dixie Swim Club" - Southern Comedy Thurs-Sat
- 6/5 Sat - Roomful of Blues - Rockin' & Swingin' Jump Blues
- 7/3 Sat - Kim Simmonds & Savoy Brown - Legendary Blues
- 7/17 Sat - Claire Lynch Band - Award-winning Bluegrass
- 8/7 Sat - Sue Foley/Peter Karp Band - Rocking the Blues
- 8/13-8/15 - "The Sorcerer" - Gilbert & Sullivan! Fri-Sun
- 8/21 Sat - Ralph Stanley & Clinch Mountain Boys - Bluegrass
- 8/28 Sat - Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman - Acoustic Soul Rocks
- 9/18 Sat - Same Blood Folk Band - Folk-Rock & Americana
- 9/25 Sat - Tannahill Weavers - Dynamic Scottish Traditional
- 10/2 Sat - Greg Brown - Folk Icon

And much more!  
Free Family Series!



# Central New York

## The Mohawk Valley - Southern Herkimer County

Whether you are planning a vacation, or just stopping by Southern Herkimer County offers a range of activities and destinations for everyone. From the East use New York State Thruway Exit 29A. Make your first stop Historic Canal Place, home to great arts, food, antiques, and shopping. From the West your first stop should be at Gems Along the Mohawk just off the NYS Thruway at exit 30 in Herkimer. It offers a retail experience featuring products made in the Mohawk Valley by over 60 regional businesses. You can dine year round with a view of the Erie Canal at the Waterfront Grille.



Gems Along The Mohawk



Canal Place

If you are interested in the Erie Canal and Revolutionary War we can keep you very busy. The Lil' Diamond II, a 60 passenger USCG certified tour boat, offering one and one-half hour narrated tours of the historic Erie Canal, sails from Herkimer Marina. It is the best way to live and learn the history of the canal.

In the Little Falls area you will find Historic Canal Place, an excellent example of redevelopment of industrial building for new uses; hiking and biking trails, rock climbing, restaurants, galleries, antiquing and the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts, a multi-disciplinary art center.

As you explore Southern Herkimer County you will find lots more including Herkimer Diamond Mines and Ace of Diamonds Mine, in Middleville where you can prospect for quartz crystals unique to this area, and the Remington Arms Museum, in Ilion, where the story of the history of firearms is told.

If all of that isn't enough the Herkimer County Fair Grounds hosts a variety events throughout the spring, summer, and fall. The annual Herkimer County Fair will be held August 17-22. It features the New York State Tractor Pullers Association, Gillette Shows & rides, horse Shows, cattle shows, special admission days, talent shows, shopping, food, and fun for all ages.

So come and explore Southern Herkimer County and discover our diversity. We can't wait to see you!



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**Don't Miss Canal Celebration August 8 & 9**

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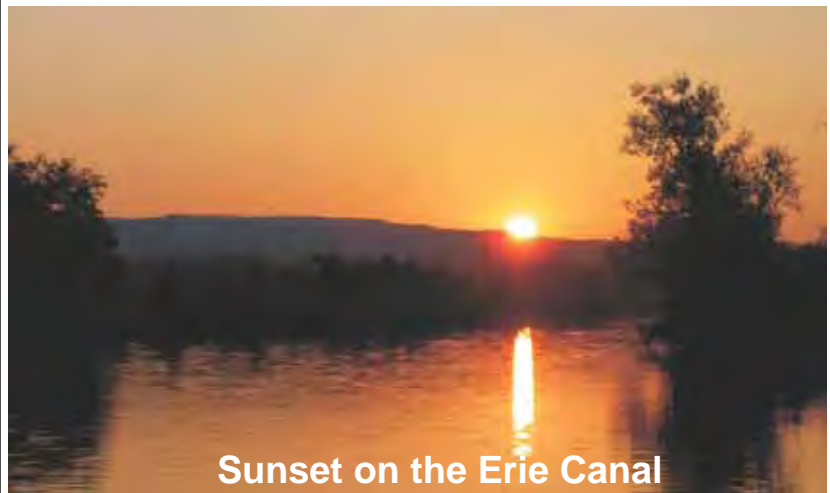
315-823-0240 [www.shopsat25west.com](http://www.shopsat25west.com)

**Little Falls Antique Center**

315-823-4309 [www.littlefallsantiquecenter.com](http://www.littlefallsantiquecenter.com)

**Open Everyday 10 am - 5 pm**

**Don't miss Lock 17 and Moss Island, or the Erie Canal**



Sunset on the Erie Canal



## Tour Spotlight: Erie Canal Cruises

You can't turn back time, but you can take a 1.5, hour, fully narrated trip through history cruising the Erie Canal aboard Lil' Diamond II, a 60 passenger United States Coast Guard certified tour boat. Passengers will hear the complete history of the Erie Canal. Captain Jerry calls the Erie Canal "the internet of its day", saying ideas traveled the canal as freely as commodities.

The cruise takes you past the second oldest surviving church in New York State and then into Lock 18. Once inside the lock the upper gates are closed and the vessel is lowered twenty feet. The lower gates are then opened and the vessel departs the lock into the scenic Mohawk River. After a short trip in the river, the vessel reenters the lock and is raised twenty feet. Being raised and lowered twenty feet in

a smooth "liquid elevator" is an experience not soon forgotten. Captain Jerry calls the lock operators "curators of a working museum".

Cruises originate at "Gems Along the Mohawk", a visitor center at Exit 30 of the New York State Thruway. Once through the toll booth the parking lot is directly ahead.

### Travel Through A Lock



Kim & Jerry Gertz have served the cruising needs of both sightseers and private charterers since 1977. Come cruise on board the new 60 passenger Lil' Diamond II. Relax and enjoy -- hear the history of the Erie Canal and travel through an historic lock -- you'll be glad you did.

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# Herkimer Diamonds

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Herkimer County is said to be one of the few places in the world where such crystals can easily be found. The treasures mined here are called "Herkimer Diamonds," but in actuality, they are unique nature-faceted quartz crystals with points at both ends. Historically prized as decorations or used in jewelry, these gems have become increasingly known for being metaphysically beneficial. Some have even dubbed the diamonds "dream rocks" and claim that sleeping with one in your pillow will enhance your dreams; others use them for therapeutic purposes.

**Ace Of Diamonds Mine and Herkimer Diamond Mines** occupy adjacent lots along Route 28, north of Herkimer. Don't be intimidated by the word "mine"--these are surface mines, located above-ground in the open-air. Whether you are a casual tourist looking for affordable fun, or an actual prospector looking to profit, you're in the right place. Both businesses are open from the beginning of April through October, and they provide prospecting tools if you aren't equipped with them. Lodging, campsites, and restaurants are also available nearby.

Whatever your interest is, mining Herkimer Diamonds is a fun, wholesome and educational experience.

## HERKIMER DIAMONDS



Ted, Anita, & Anna Jane Smith

NYS Route 28

PO Box 505 Middleville, NY 13406

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www.herkimerdiamonds.com

# Herkimer Diamond Mines and KOA Kampground



The Herkimer Diamond Mines KOA has been named Kampground of "America's Kampground of the Year" for the North American continent. "Being named Kampground of the Year is the highest award in the KOA system," said KOA President Pat Hittmeier. "It is only given to those campground franchisors who truly are the best of the best in every aspect of what they do."

"Of course, the Mines are a huge draw for the Herkimer KOA," Hittmeier said. "But what we hear from KOA guests time and time again is how well they're taken care of when they stay there. That includes the friendliness of the staff and their willingness to go out of their way to meet the needs of campers."

New York Thruway (I-90), Exit 30 7 miles north of Herkimer on Route 28

For reservations call 1-800-KOA (562)-0897

[www.herkimerdiamond.com](http://www.herkimerdiamond.com)

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 315.853.3672  
 artful@dreamscape.com

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 BalloonFarmBnB@aol.com

**Belle Maison Farm B&B**  
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 315.865.6190  
 mmyers4@twcnny.com

**Bellinger Rose B&B**  
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 www.bellingerrose.com  
 315-867-2197 bellingerrose@hotmail.com

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 315.823.1170 innkeeper@canalsideinn.com

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 www.gansevoorthouse.com  
 315.823.1833 info@gansevoorthouse.com

**Hazelnut Farm B&B**  
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 judylwolter@yahoo.com

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