Start your adventure here.

Experience the rich history, hometown hospitality, and numerous attractions of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. You’ll find engineering marvels, historic vessels and canal sites, and lively Main Streets, along with great recreational opportunities and hundreds of festivals and events. More than 500 miles of navigable waterway and 234 distinctive communities stretching across the full expanse of upstate New York are here to explore.

Today’s Canals
Rent a canal boat for a few hours or a weeklong vacation, step on board a tour boat, or explore in your own cruiser, kayak or canoe. The Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, and Oswego canals are open for navigation from May through November.

Original Towpath Era Canals and Engineering Marvels
New York’s canal system was a nationally and internationally significant work of engineering. Find historic structures, as well as locks, lift bridges, and guard gates still in use today.

Erie Canalway Trail
Enjoy unparalleled cycling and hiking along the Erie Canalway Trail. The paved and stone dust trail follows both active and historic sections of the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany—much of it along the canal’s former towpath.

Festivals and Events
Join the fun and celebrate canal heritage at hundreds of canal-side festivals and events each year, including parades, fireworks, family-fun activities, music, crafts, and demonstrations.

Canal Communities
Stroll through villages, towns, and cities whose watery front doors still give way to historic Main Streets with one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants, and cultural attractions. Sample local wines, and get the freshest fruits, vegetables, and baked goods at farmers’ markets.

Nature & Scenic Beauty
The canals of New York State traverse some of New York’s most picturesque countryside. Discover exceptional nature preserves and parks for birdwatching, photography, painting, or just enjoying nature’s quiet refuge.

Find It! Check our map on pages 4-5 to discover some of the best sites to visit in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Even more information is available at www.eriecanalway.org
**Getting Here is Half the Fun**

There’s a lot to see and do in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. But as you decide where to go, remember that getting there can be half the fun.

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**Take to the Water**

What better way to experience the oldest continuously operating canal in America than to get out on the water! There are numerous choices for hourly tours, overnight excursions, and do-it-yourself exploration. Consult our chart to find boat rentals and tours.

If you like boats, but prefer to enjoy them from shore, stop by one of the many canal harbors, visitor centers, or parks on the water. Many of the NYS Canal System’s 57 locks include waterfront parks for picnicking, fishing, playing, or just sitting on the bank and watching boats. Tugboats, barges, and historic replica canal boats ply canal waters, alongside today’s cruisers, motorboats, kayaks, and canoes.

The NYS Canal System is typically open from May 1 through November 15. It is owned and operated by the New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York State Thruway Authority. Current information on fees for boating through the locks, up-to-date notices to mariners, and the official Cruising Guide to the New York State Canal System may be found at www.canals.ny.gov or by calling 1-800-4-CANAL-4 (1-800-422-6254).

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**Take the Road Less Traveled**

The New York State Thruway (I-90) roughly parallels the Erie Canalway route from Albany to Buffalo. Northway I-87 provides access from Albany to Whitehall. But to see the best parts of the Erie Canalway, you’ll want to get off the Interstate!

State and county roads that hug the water more closely and thread through the hamlets, villages, and cities that grew along the waterways are the best way to access canal towns and sites.

Try these routes:
- NY Rte 31 in western New York
- NY Rte 5 and 5S in the Mohawk Valley
- NY Rte 48 and Rte 481 along the Oswego Canal
- NY Rte 4 along the Champlain Canal
...and a host of smaller roads in between.

---

**COMPANY/LOCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY/LOCATION</th>
<th>TELEPHONE/WEBSITE</th>
<th>CANAL/ KAYAK RENTAL</th>
<th>HOURLY AND DAILY TOURS</th>
<th>SELF-SCRIPPER CHARTER</th>
<th>OVERNIGHT/MULTI-DAY CRUISE</th>
<th>W/CAPTAIN/CREW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Champlain Canal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carillon Cruises, Whitehall</td>
<td>802-897-5331</td>
<td><a href="http://www.carilloncruises.com">www.carilloncruises.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Champlain Canal Tour Boats, Schuylerville</td>
<td>518-695-5609</td>
<td><a href="http://www.champliancanaltours.com">www.champliancanaltours.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Mohawk-Hudson Region</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Boat House, Schenectady</td>
<td>518-393-5711</td>
<td><a href="http://www.boathousecanoeskayaks.com">www.boathousecanoeskayaks.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain’s Choice, Clifton Park, Troy</td>
<td>518-470-4666, 518-872-3454</td>
<td><a href="http://www.captainschicenny.com">www.captainschicenny.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie Canal Cruises, Herkimer</td>
<td>315-717-0350</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eriecanalcruises.com">www.eriecanalcruises.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Central Region</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery Marine Services Baldwinsville</td>
<td>315-317-3694</td>
<td><a href="http://www.discoverymarineservices.com">www.discoverymarineservices.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cayuga-Seneca Canal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bon Voyage Adventures, Geneva</td>
<td>585-703-0031</td>
<td><a href="http://www.roseluminis.com">www.roseluminis.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Canal Side Experiences, Waterloo</td>
<td>315-651-4443</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canalisde.net">www.canalisde.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain Bill’s, Watkins Glen</td>
<td>607-535-4541</td>
<td><a href="http://www.senecaharborstation.com">www.senecaharborstation.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finger Lakes Boat Rental, Aurora</td>
<td>315-364-8663</td>
<td>www fingertlakesboatrental.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finger Lakes Water Adventures, Waterloo</td>
<td>315-789-5520</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fingerlakeswateradventures.com">www.fingerlakeswateradventures.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuzzy Guppies, Waterloo</td>
<td>315-539-8848</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fuzzyguppies.com">www.fuzzyguppies.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty Boat Tours, Seneca Falls, Geneva</td>
<td>315-246-7608; 315-789-5520 (Geneva)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.libertyboattours.com">www.libertyboattours.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiiohero Tours, Ithaca</td>
<td>866-846-4376</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tiiohero.com">www.tiiohero.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Western Region</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amherst Marine Center, Amherst</td>
<td>716-691-6707</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amhersmarincenter.com">www.amhersmarincenter.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonial Belle–Erie Canal Boat Tour, Fairport</td>
<td>585-223-9470</td>
<td><a href="http://www.colonialbelle.com">www.colonialbelle.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie Canal Boat Company, Fairport</td>
<td>585-748-2628</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eriecanalboatcompany.com">www.eriecanalboatcompany.com</a></td>
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<td>Genesee Waterways Center, Rochester</td>
<td>585-328-3960</td>
<td><a href="http://www.geneseewaterways.org">www.geneseewaterways.org</a></td>
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<td>Lock 32 Whitewater Park, Pittsford</td>
<td>585-586-4330</td>
<td><a href="http://www.geneseewaterways.org">www.geneseewaterways.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Bridge Charters, Fairport</td>
<td>315-539-8034</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lowbridgecharters.com">www.lowbridgecharters.com</a></td>
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| **Multiple Locations** |                    |                     |                        |                       |                             |                |
| Erie Canal Cruise Lines, Cape Vincent | 800-962-1771 | www.canalcruises.com |                |                       |                             |                |
Hit the Trail

Walking or cycling along the Erie Canal Trail offers a glimpse of what travelling along the state with a canal boat in tow might have been like. It’s also a perfect way to access all sorts of interesting canal sites that you’d miss in a car. The 365-mile trail closely parallels much of the Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo; more than three-quarters is off-road.

Short off-road trails along the Champlain Canal are also available in Waterford, Halfmoon, and Schuylerville, and plans to extend the network are underway. The Glens Falls Feeder Canal Trail is a seven-mile trail along the historic feeder canal from Glens Falls to Fort Edward. The trail passes the Five Combines, an intact series of five locks, on the Old Champlain Canal in Fort Edward.

The Erie Canalway Trail is open to hikers, joggers, and bicyclists, as well as cross-country skiers in winter. Some paved sections are suitable for in-line skating.

Cycling Resources

- **Cycling the Erie Canal**—140-page guidebook packed with detailed information on the trail, as well as attractions, lodging, shops, parking, and other services; 42 easy-to-read maps; 9” x 5” spiral-bound size is easy to take with you. Available for purchase from Parks & Trails New York, www.ptny.org/guidebook, 518-434-1583.

- **Cycling the Erie Canal Website**—Interactive, GIS-based maps of the Erie Canalway Trail with all attractions and services. Visit www.ptny.org/bikecanal.

- **Erie Canalway Trail Map**—free map available from the New York State Canal Corporation (800)-4CANAL4 or 518-436-3055. Canal Corp is responsible for developing and overseeing the Erie Canalway Trail. Information is also available online at www.nyscanals.gov/exvac/trail.

- **Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Map**—free map of the easternmost portion of the trail (Schenectady–Albany area), available from Friends of the Mohawk–Hudson Bike-Hike Trail website at www.mhbht.org.

- **Glens Falls Feeder Canal Trail**—map and information available from the Feeder Canal Alliance at www.feedercanal.com.

Cycling with Kids

The Erie Canalway Trail is not just for adults! It presents great, safe opportunities for kids and families to exercise, learn, and discover some of New York’s best treasures.

**Tips for Cycling with Kids**

- Go far enough to have fun, without pushing it beyond what kids can handle. Plan short rides initially and lengthen them as your child’s interest and stamina grow.

- **Stop along the way.** Make brief pit stops to see old aqueducts, bridges, locks, or wildlife.

- **Choose a destination where you’ll turn around.** This gives kids a sense of accomplishment and a point to shoot for as they ride.

- **Be prepared with snacks and water or plan a picnic to celebrate the end of the ride.**

Find suggestions for kid-friendly rides on our website: www.eriecanalway.org/explore_things-to-do_bicycling-kids.htm

Let’s Move…Outdoors!

The *America’s Great Outdoors Initiative* was established by President Obama to reconnect Americans, especially children, to nature. It dovetails well with First Lady Michelle Obama’s *Let’s Move* campaign to fight childhood obesity.

Take advantage of the many parks and trails in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to explore our great outdoors this summer with a child in your life. Whether you bicycle, swim, walk, boat, or fish together, you’re sure to have a fun and healthy adventure.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL SECTION</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>MILES</th>
<th>CONNECTIONS</th>
<th>SURFACE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Erie Canal Heritage</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>Buffalo to Newark</td>
<td>paved, stone dust</td>
<td>Great cycling along the canal through Western Erie Canal towns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Erie Canal-</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Schasel Park in Port Byron to</td>
<td>stone dust</td>
<td>Follows old Erie Canal route through Central New York; traverses Camillus and Erie Canal Park, which includes restored aqueduct at Nine Mile Creek.</td>
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<td>Port Byron to</td>
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<td>Warners Road in Camillus</td>
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<td>Camillus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Erie Canal State</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Dewitt to Rome</td>
<td>stone dust</td>
<td>Follows old Erie Canal through original canal towns; Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum is on route.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rome to Utica</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Rome to Utica</td>
<td>paved, stone dust</td>
<td>Short on-road segment through Rome; off-road trail picks up again south of the canal on Rte. 69.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohawk Hudson Bikeway</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley and Capital Region</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Little Falls to Albany</td>
<td>paved, stone dust</td>
<td>Trail offers opportunities to visit locks, canal towns and historic sites along the way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glens Falls Feeder</td>
<td>Champlain</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fort Edward to Glens Falls</td>
<td>stone dust</td>
<td>Follows the historic feeder canal for the Champlain Canal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canal Trail</td>
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Erie Canalway Map & Guide 3
Gotta Go!

Discover our canal heritage at Passport to National Park sites and Erie Canalway Heritage Award-winning sites. Collect free passport cancellation stamps to mark your travels. How many of these canal-related heritage sites have you visited?

1 – 9 HOGGIE
Keep at the helm and get to the next destination.

10 – 19 STEERSMAN
Stay at the helm and chart your course to see more sites.

20 – 29 CANALLER
Congratulations! Keep running ’til you’ve seen them all.
Regional Flavor

Experience the unique flavor and heritage of each region of the National Heritage Corridor.

Western Erie
The Western Erie Region features the longest section of the canal that still follows its original path and retains its historic relationship to the communities and landscapes along its banks. As you travel by land or water, you will find village Main Streets, lift bridges, farm fields, and 20th century locks alongside historic lock ruins, canal engineering marvels, and cobblestone and local sandstone buildings.

Cayuga-Seneca Canal
The Cayuga-Seneca Canal connects the Erie Canal at Montezuma to 92 miles of canalized rivers and lakes, including the Seneca River and Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. Unique aspects of the region include Seneca Falls, celebrated as the birthplace of the women’s rights movement, Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, a 7,000 acre premier birdwatching preserve, and the Finger Lakes Region, renowned for its natural beauty, elegant architecture, wine country, and world-class cultural and recreational attractions.

Central New York
The “keepers of the original Erie Canal” are alive and well in Central New York, despite routing changes that redirected canal traffic from their front doors during the Barge Canal era in 1918. Communities from Rome to Syracuse to Port Byron are among those that showcase their Erie Canal heritage, which can be enjoyed at many locations. Likewise, “newer” canal communities along the current canal route from Sylvan Beach through Baldwinsville offer year-round recreation along the canal and Oneida Lake.

Oswego Canal
The Oswego Canal connects the Erie Canal at Three Rivers to Oswego Harbor at Lake Ontario. Though the Oswego is the canal system’s shortest segment, it has long provided a critical connection to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway. The region’s quiet waters and more remote terrain are well suited for boating, fishing, birdwatching, canoeing, and kayaking. Visitors from around the world are drawn to Oswego’s active port, renowned for its festivals and exceptional sport fishing.

Mohawk & Hudson Valleys
The Erie Canal once officially began in Albany, turned west at Cohoes and snaked alongside the Mohawk River. Today, the channelized Mohawk River is the Erie “Barge” Canal. The region’s location along two mighty rivers and the canal turned it into America’s industrial powerhouse and original “tech valley” in the 1800s. You’ll find the region’s legacy of culture, arts, academics, and architecture matched by the extraordinary scenic landscapes of both river valleys.

Champlain Canal
The Champlain Canal begins at its junction with the Erie Canal in Waterford and runs north to Whitehall, where it connects with Lake Champlain. From the French and Indian War to the Battle of Saratoga to its canal heyday, the Champlain Region is treasured by history enthusiasts. The rich river valley, rolling hills, farms, and small towns, set amidst the back drop of the distant Green Mountains make the Champlain Region one of the most scenic areas to explore within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.
Join the Fun at Festivals and Events

Hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors celebrate their canal heritage at a variety of canal-related festivals and events each year. From concerts on the canal to sporting events to historic re-enactments, there’s something happening every weekend throughout the canal season from May through November.

2011 Corridor-wide events include:

Cycling the Erie Canal, July 10-17
Five hundred riders of all ages and from all over the country cycle across New York State from Buffalo to Albany on this 8-day, 400-mile bike tour. Welcome riders as they pass through your area!
- **Sunday, July 10**: Buffalo to Medina
- **Monday, July 11**: Medina to Pittsford
- **Tuesday, July 12**: Pittsford to Waterloo/Seneca Falls
- **Wednesday, July 13**: Waterloo/Seneca Falls to Syracuse
- **Thursday, July 14**: Syracuse to Rome
- **Friday, July 15**: Rome to Canajoharie
- **Saturday, July 16**: Canajoharie to Scotia
- **Sunday, July 17**: Scotia to Albany

To join the ride, contact Parks and Trails New York: 518-434-1583 eriecanaltour@ptny.org www.ptny.org/canaltour

Canal Splash!, August 12-14
Guided walks, bikes and cruises, museum and gallery exhibits, canoe and kayak paddles, canal side festivals, performances and more are offered throughout the Corridor to celebrate the history, culture, and recreational appeal of the NYS Canal System. Contact the New York State Canal Corporation for more information or to register an event at www.canals.ny.gov.

National Preservation Conference, October 19-22, Buffalo
Join an estimated 2,000 preservationists, planners, architects and others who are expected to attend this weeklong series of field sessions, education workshops, and tours that showcase outstanding local examples of architecture, historic preservation and community revitalization. www.preservationnation.org

Local and Regional Event Listings

The New York State Canal Corporation and Parks and Trails New York maintain calendars of yearly local and regional events. Pick up a copy at visitor centers throughout the Corridor or online at www.canals.ny.gov or www.ptny.org.

What canal? Since its grand opening in 1825, the canal has been enlarged three times to accommodate larger boats and more traffic. Changes were made to the route and to canal structures like locks and bridges each time. Here’s a simple guide to help you figure out what you’re looking at:

### Today’s Erie (Barge) Canal (1918)
With the advent of motorized vessels, New York State enlarged the canals to create the New York State Barge Canal System, authorized in 1903 and completed in 1918. The structures and channels of the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca branches exist and operate today largely as they did when the system went into operation in 1918.

### Enlarged Erie Canal (1862)
If you’re looking at an old canal lock, canal wall, or aqueduct, it’s probably from the era of the Enlarged Erie, dating to the late 1800s. More than half (46 of 72) of the locks built for the Enlarged Erie Canal and three quarters (24 of 32) of its aqueducts survive in some form and can be found in parks, fields, yards, and along highways between Albany and Buffalo.

### Clinton’s Ditch (1825)
Only a few of the 96 locks of the original Erie Canal, which opened in 1825, survive. Finding remaining fragments takes detective work, determination, and an imaginative eye for seeing bygone structures in stone rubble. One of the best places to see all three eras of the canal is Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site in Fort Hunter.

### Buried Canal
Even though the water, boats, and mules are long gone, a little sleuthing is all it takes to find the former canal route—often buried under pavement and called “Erie Boulevard.” Look for evidence of New York’s canal heritage on buildings, roads, and landscapes, especially from Albany to Syracuse.

Erie Canalway Map & Guide
Established
The U.S. Congress recognized the Erie Canal’s significance to our nation by establishing the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in 2000.

Size
The Corridor spans 524-miles across the full expanse of upstate New York and includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain Canals and their historic alignments. It encompasses 4,834 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 2.7 million people.

History
New York’s canals established a transportation network which made New York the “Empire State” and the Nation’s premier commercial and financial center. New York’s canal system has been in continuous operation since 1825, longer than any other constructed transportation system in North America.

Culture
The Erie Canal proved the depth and force of American ingenuity, solidified a national identity, and found an enduring place in American legend, song, and art.

Nature
The Corridor’s waterways include approximately 40 percent of New York State’s freshwater resources and drain nearly half of the state’s total area. Its rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and rich woodlands are home to an impressive variety of fish, birds, and forest animals, including a number of threatened and endangered species.

Recreation
The Erie Canalway provides world-renowned boating on 524 continuous miles of navigable waterway. Cyclists and pedestrians may access hundreds of miles of urban and back-country trails, including the Erie Canalway Trail.

People
Evidence of first Americans dates from about 5,000 years ago; home of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) League by 1451; first European explorers navigated the Hudson River and Lake Champlain in 1609; population along the canal route in Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo quadrupled from 1830 to 1850; Today, 80 percent of upstate New York residents live within 25 miles of the canal.

It’s our “park.”
The federal government does not own or manage national heritage area lands as it does with traditional national parks. Because the Erie Canalway consists of both public and private lands, it is up to all of us to ensure that canals, towpaths, structures, and other historical and natural features remain preserved and accessible to everyone.

Volunteer.
Get involved with local community organizations that promote heritage tourism and historic preservation. Or contact us at erie_canal@nps.gov to inquire about becoming an Erie Canalway VIP (Volunteer in Parks).

Do Your Part!
Do your part to ensure that the unique local, state, and national assets of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor are enjoyed and protected for everyone.

Explore. Visit a section of the canal you’ve never seen for your next boating, biking, fishing, or vacation adventure.

Learn. Seek out one of the many national and state historic sites and museums throughout the Canalway Corridor to learn more about its history and predomiance in building New York State.

Enjoy. Celebrate our heritage at festivals and events taking place along the canal this year.

Clean up! Litter and trash dumping spoil the natural beauty and health of the canal, and make it less attractive to visitors. Be sure to use recycling and trash receptacles when visiting the Canalway Corridor. When boating, follow proper procedures for cleaning your boat and discharging sanitary waste at onshore marine pumpout facilities.

Be vocal. Participate in public planning forums in your community to advocate for Canalway Corridor protection and enhancements.

Volunteer. Get involved with local community organizations that promote heritage tourism and historic preservation. Or contact us at erie_canal@nps.gov to inquire about becoming an Erie Canalway VIP (Volunteer in Parks).