Welcome to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor! Here is your ticket to adventure and fun in a place with more than 500 miles of canals and connected waterways, 365 miles of Canalway Trail, and 200 communities to explore. This guide presents a number of exciting things to do, places to go, and exceptional events to enjoy this year.

Start your adventure here!

Just add water.
The New York State Canal System—which includes the Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, and Oswego Canals—is the centerpiece of the National Heritage Corridor. These iconic waterways opened the nation and have been in continuous operation since 1825. You’ll find lots of ways to experience what the canal corridor has to offer—from boat tours to paddling to cycling adventures, to visiting locks and other canal structures, to enjoying a meal or craft beverage at one of many canalside restaurants.

Discover canal communities.
Whether you travel by bike, boat, or car, plan to spend time poking around cities, towns and villages along the canal. You’ll be greeted with hometown hospitality and will discover that each community showcases distinctive historic architecture, prized cultural and historic sites, and intriguing local shops and eateries. Be sure to visit local museums where you’ll learn about the people and innovations that contributed to the canal’s success. You’ll also meet today’s canal champions who are preserving our shared heritage and creating thriving communities for residents, visitors, and future generations.

Join the celebration!
Since its grand opening in 1825, New York’s Canal System has been enlarged three times to accommodate larger boats and more traffic. The most recent enlargement was completed 100 years ago in 1918. We’re celebrating with special events, forums, and festivities, including a cross-canal voyage of the Corning Museum of Glass’ GlassBarge and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum’s replica canal schooner Lois McClure (see page 7, 8).
Explore the waterway by kayak, canoe or stand-up paddle board. A few hours on the water will whet your appetite for exploring different stretches of the canal or planning a multi-day adventure. There are 123 launch sites and several Boater-Biker-Hiker facilities that allow overnight camping at canal parks. If you don’t own a boat, visit our website to find a place to rent one near you.

There are more than 80 public boat launches along the NYS Canal System where you can launch your own boat. The canal connects with Onondaga, Onondaga Lake, Canaca and Seneca Lakes where you can enjoy other water sports, beaches, and sailing. Marinas and public docks provide services and overnight accommodations. You don’t need a cabin cruiser to enjoy a multi-day trip on the canal. Many communities offer showers, laundry facilities, hook-ups, and other boater amenities right in the center of town. If you are planning for a longer journey, look no further. The Canal System links the Hudson River with Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie via the Niagara River, allowing boaters to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the upper Great Lakes.

There are off-road trail segments on the banks of the old Champlain Canal in Waterford, Middleburg, and Canajoharie, or cross New York State—along the Erie Canalway Trail. The trail passes along the historic Erie Canal making cycling history come alive. This long, mostly flat trail adds distinctive flavor in the form of canal side ruins, locks and bridge working tugs and other vessels, historical markers in boats of all sizes, and canal communities that are intriguing and fun cycling destinations. The trail has three-quarters of the trail is off-road. Trail markers and wayfinding signage make it easy to follow the trail and connect off-road to on-road segments. Additional off-road trail is under construction in 2018 and 2019 to close remaining gaps in preparation for the launch of the Empire State Trail in 2020. This incredible network will enable cyclists to go from Buffalo to Albany and from New York City to Lake Champlain, using a fully netted support system.

You can find launch sites, rental outfitters, and amenities that will help you get on the water now at www.eriecanalway.org/watertrail.

**Connects Loops**

The Loop hugs the canal but there’s more to explore in neighboring towns and countryside. Trail maps are available for on-road cycling loops that connect with the Champlain Canal Trail in Montgomery, Madison, Ontario, Wayne, and Orleans counties and in the Mohawk Valley. Please check the website for trail and route maps from county tourism agencies, download them from the Cycling Resources page of the Erie Canal website, or visit: www.mohawkvalleynys.com/cycling-loop-history.

**Along the Champlain Canal**

There are five trail segments on the towpath of the old Champlain Canal in Waterford, Middleburg, and Canajoharie, or cross New York State—along the Erie Canalway Trail. The trail passes several stone lock chambers, including the Five Combines, an intact staircase of five locks built in 1832 near Fort Edward. For complete details, visit www.eriecanalway.org/explore/cycling.

**Paddle the Waterway**

Get On Board!

Relax and enjoy the NYS Canal System on a canal boat tour, dinner cruise, or multi-day voyage. You’ll find tours within an hour’s drive of every major city in the Canalside Region. You can also rent a boat and take your own self-skippered voyage. Rental boats are well-equipped with sleeping quarters, a galley, and plenty of deck space for relaxing. You’ll get lessons in steering, docking, and locking through before heading out.

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**Canal Tours**

**Capitol Region, Hudson River and Champlain Canal**

- Captain JP: Erie Canal Cruises, Troy (tours by appointment), captainjp@eriecanalcruises.com
- Dutch Apple Cruises, Albany (Hudson River, dugoutcanocruises.com)
- Mohawk Maiden Cruises, Champlain Canal Lock 5, Schuylerville, mohawkmaiden@ruggles.net
- Vermont NY, Erie Canal
  - Erie Canal Cruises, Waterford, eriecanacruises.com
  - Mohawk Valley Boat Charter, Rome (tours by appointment), mohawkvalleymarina@yahoo.com
- Central NY, Old Erie Canal
  - Canarsie Erie Canal Park, Camillus, eriecanalcruises.com
  - Canahtini Nature Area, Erie Canal
  - Colonial Belle—Erie Canal Cruises, Fairport, colonialbelle.com
  - Cayuga Environ, Ithaca, CayugaEnviron.com
  - Seneca Lakes, Cayuga-Seneca Canal
  - Canalside Experiences, Waterford, canalside.org
- Finger Lakes, Cayuga-Seneca Canal
  - Captain Bills, Watkins Glen, captainbills.org
  - Cayuga Excursions, cayugawatersports.com

**Western NY, Erie Canal, Buffalo**

- Buffalo Harbor Cruises, Buffalo, buffaloharborscruises.com
- Buffalo River History Tours, Buffalo, buffaloriverhistorytours.com
- Buffalo Sailing Adventures, Buffalo, buffalosailingadventures.com
- Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises, Lockport, lockportlocktours.com
- Niagara River Cruises, Grand Island, niagararivercruises.org
- Queen City Bike Ferry, Buffalo (bike-hike ferry between Canalside and Outer Harbor, queencityferry.com)
- WNY Classic Cruises, Buffalo (tours by appointment), wetravelny.com

Visit our website to find vacation rentals, kayak/canoe rentals, and additional charter options, www.eriecanalway.org/explore/boating.

Adventures, fun, and a sense of accomplishment await when you cycle the Erie Canalway Trail. You can ride for just a few miles or cross New York State—regardless, you’ll enjoy great scenery, fascinating history, and unparalleled cycling along the way.

Go the Distance

If you’re ready for a longer cycling trip, there are great options for weekend and multi-day vacations. You’ll find excellent online and printed guided trail maps and resources to help you plan your trip. A variety of fully supported tours are offered annually if you’d like a group ride without the hassle of harming your gear. For complete details, visit www.cyclethecanal.com.
Regional Flavor

With a National Heritage Corridor so expansive that it extends from one end of New York to the other, you may wonder where to begin. The canal’s many treasures are strung together along the waterway like gems on a necklace, so whether you start in the west, east, or central part of the state you can’t go wrong. There are, however, distinct regional differences. We recommend going to more than one region to experience all that the Canalway Corridor has to offer.

The Western Erie Region features the longest section of the canal that still follows much of its original path and retains its historic relationship to the communities and landscapes along its banks. Experience: canal villages, heritage and arts festivals, lift bridges, canalside concerts, and heritage murals.

The Oswego Canal connects the Erie Canal at Three Rivers to Oswego Harbor on Lake Ontario. Power boaters and paddlers travel the canalized Oswego River today, remnants of the 1800s canal, which ran alongside the river, are still visible in a few places. Experience: boating, sport fishing, birdwatching, paddling, and festivals.

The Cayuga-Seneca Canal is the gateway to the Finger Lakes, connecting the Erie Canal from Montour to 92 miles of canalized rivers and lakes. Experience: natural beauty, wildlife, some counting, elegant architecture, outdoor adventure, water sports, and fishing.

Old Erie Canal, Central New York Communities from Port Byron to Syracuse to the outskirts of Rome showcase the Erie Canal of the 1800s. Canal engineers recut the waterway in 1918 to take advantage of natural rivers and lakes, thereby bypassing these original canal communities. Experience: historic canal sites, museums, and structures, rewatered stretches of the 1800s canal, Old Erie Canal State Historic Park.

The Mohawk Valley Region from Rome to Watertown is a scenic stretch of the Erie Canal that now follows the Mohawk River, instead of its original dug channel. This was America’s industrial powerhouse in the 1800s and a rich legacy of culture, arts, academics, and architecture remains. Experience: outstanding museums and historic sites, locks and canal parks, antiquing, small towns and scenic country roads.

Find Your Way to Great Experiences with Erie Canalway Itineraries!

Tour some of the best historic sites, parks, museums, and recreational experiences within the Canalway Corridor with Erie Canalway Itineraries! Each one features must see sites, options for side trips, and suggestions for cycling, paddling, hiking, and canal boat tours. Pick up printed copies at many canal museums and visitor centers across the corridor or download itineraries for free and start exploring! www.eriecanalway.org/explore

Today’s canal, Central New York Since 1918, the Erie Canal has made use of canalized rivers, as well as Crox Lake and Oshena Lake, downtown Lake links the canal with Syracuse. This is a popular section for boaters. Experience: water sports, boating, paddling, summer fun at Baldwinsville, Liverpool, Syracuse Parks, and Verona Beach State Park.

The Champlain Canal runs in the Hudson River from Waterford to Fort Edward, where the dug channel continues to Whitehall. From there, boaters connect to Lake Champlain and north to Montreal, Canada by way of Quebec’s Champlain Canal. Experience: a region steeped in history, including Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater and Hudson Crossing Park in Schenectady.

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in New York State

The Erie Canalway Map & Guide

Erie Canalway Map & Guide
200 Years and Still Going Strong!

On April 15, 1817, the New York State legislature voted to build the Erie and Champlain canals. Dignitaries turned the first shovel of soil in Rome on July 4 that same year, marking the start of Erie Canal construction. Eight years later, the canal reopened from Albany to Buffalo. Its impact was immediate, profound and lasting.

Since its grand opening in 1825, the canal has been enlarged three times to accommodate larger boats and more traffic. The most recent enlargement was completed 100 years ago in 1918. Nowadays the engineering progression from 1825 to today as well illustrated in the Lockport Flight on the Erie Canal in Lockport. The staircase of five stone locks built in 1825 were enlarged during the mid-1800s and then dramatically altered in the early-1900s. A staircase of two concrete locks—Locks 34 and 35—replaced the locks on the left. As you can see, the locks today remain unchanged. Tour boats, tugs, cruises, and paddlers continue to use Locks 34 and 35. A dedicated group of volunteers is restoring the historic flight and offering lock demonstrations on Saturdays.

Did you know?

- Upon completion of the major overhaul and modernization of New York’s canals in 1918, it state rebranded them as the Barge Canal to reflect the canal’s role as a waterway to recreational cruisers and tour boats in the 1990s, the name changed again to the New York State Canal System. The system is comprised of the Erie, Champlain, and Cayuga-Seneca Canals.
- The NYS Canal System is made up of 524 miles of canal structures and engineering marvels at communities along its shores. See if you can match these innovations with the cities and towns associated with them.

1. plastics used for early billiard balls, dentures, and piano keys
2. innovations in agriculture, including grapes, apples, and broilers
3. firearms
4. electric power generation and transmission, lighting, radio, and television
5. grain elevators
6. elevator, buoys
7. agricultural reapers
8. precision instruments for surveying and mapping
9. vacuum-sealed food jars
10. photography, photo copiers
11. copper-clad cookware, “Revere Ware”
12. baking soda manufacturing
13. innovations in carpet manufacturing
14. dairy equipment: milking machines, cream separators, pasteurizing systems and cheese presses
15. pumps, hydraulics, and water systems used for firefighting and domestic supply

Visit Locks and lift bridges to see these incredible structures and meet the people who operate them. Lock operators are happy to answer your questions! While you’re there, relax and enjoy watching boats, take a picnic, or go fishing. You can also visit the outstanding remains of the stone locks, aqueducts, and dry docks used in the 1800s. Find a map and list of canal structures and engineering marvels at www.ericacanalway.com/explore-plan-your-visit.

The Story of Glass

Don’t miss the GlassBarge and Lois McClure in 2018

Glassmaking innovations in Corning have shaped the modern world, from the first electric light bulbs for Thomas Edison and the invention of optical fiber for telecommunications, to the glass used in modern flat screen displays. And that story all began with a voyage on New York State’s waterways. In 1868, the Brooklyn Flint Glass Company relocated to Corning via New York’s waterways and evolved into the company known today as Corning Incorporated. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of this pivotal journey, Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG) is moving a specially-built barge from Brooklyn Bridge Park, up the Hudson River, west along the Erie Canal, and on to the Finger Lakes. CMoG’s hot glass team will entertain audiences along the way with live glass blowing demonstrations at multiple locations.

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum’s replica canal schooner Lois McClure is traveling with the GlassBarge. Visitors are invited aboard this unique vessel to learn about what life was like on a canal boat in the 1800s. The South Street Seaport Museum will also be on hand to talk about their historic tug I.G.O. Deckert that will be moving the GlassBarge along the waterways.

In addition to sharing the story of glassmaking in Corning, the GlassBarge tour emphasizes the continued role of New York’s waterways in shaping the state’s industry, culture, and community.

GlassBarge and Lois McClure

The GlassBarge is a 20’ x 30’ canal barge equipped with CMoG's patented all-electric glassmaking equipment and operator seating. Demonstrations can also be viewed from shore.

Corridor of Innovation

The canal transformed the landscape of New York State and spurred innovation and invention in communities along its shores. See if you can match these innovations with the cities and towns associated with them.

1. plastics used for early billiard balls, dentures, and piano keys
2. innovations in agriculture, including grapes, apples, and broilers
3. firearms
4. electric power generation and transmission, lighting, radio, and television
5. grain elevators
6. elevator, buoys
7. agricultural reapers
8. precision instruments for surveying and mapping
9. vacuum-sealed food jars
10. photography, photo copiers
11. copper-clad cookware, “Revere Ware”
12. baking soda manufacturing
13. innovations in carpet manufacturing
14. dairy equipment: milking machines, cream separators, pasteurizing systems and cheese presses
15. pumps, hydraulics, and water systems used for firefighting and domestic supply

The amount of water that passes through a lock varies depending on the size of the lock. Water released by one lock is often used to fill the next one downstream.

Today’s locks can pass 3,000 ton vessels, more than 10 times the capacity of multi-drawn barges during the 1800s.

GlassBarge Luxury Cruises will be on hand to talk about their historic tug I.G.O. Deckert that will be moving the GlassBarge along the waterways.

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Select 2018 Canal Festivals & Events

More than 400 events take place along the canal each year. Find a complete calendar listing at www.canals.ny.gov.

MAY
10–12 Low Bridge-High Water, Village of Brockport
10 Centennial Celebration: First Watering of the Erie "Barge" Canal, Rochester
12 Pedal - Paddle - Run, Niskayuna
15 Canal Opens for 2018
26 Erie Canal Family Fun Day at Lock 30, Macedon
25–28, 30 Celebrate Commemorate Memorial Day, Waterloo

JUNE
2–3 Fairport Canal Days, Fairport
8–9 Seneca River Days and Paddle Festival, Baldwinsville
16–17 Path Through History Weekend, Multiple Locations
16 The Old Erie Canal Boat Float & Bash, DeWitt to Chittenango
16–17 Adaptive Paddling and Cycling Extravaganza, Erie Canal Boat Company, Fairport

JULY
7 Waterford Steamboat Meet, Waterford
8–15 20th Anniversary Cycle the Erie Canal, Buffalo to Albany
13–15 Brockport Arts Festival, Brockport
14–15 Canal Days, Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, Fort Hunter
14 CanalFest at Mabee Farm, Rotterdam Junction
15–22 Canal Fest of the Tonawandas, Tonawanda and North Tonawanda
22 Celebration of the Canals, Oswego
26–29 Oswego Harborfest, Oswego
28–29 Spencerport Canal Days, Spencerport

AUGUST
4 5th Annual Rock-The-Park Festival, Albion
4 Amsterdam Riverfest, Amsterdam
3–5 Rome Canalfest, Bellamy Harbor Park, Rome
6–12 31st Annual Little Falls Canal Celebration, Little Falls
11 14th Annual Cardboard Boat Race, Schuylerville
11 Towpath Day, Camillus Erie Canal Park, Camillus
11–12 Canal Heritage Festival, Medina

SEPTEMBER
7–9 Waterford Tugboat Roundup, Waterford
15 Summers End Festival, Village of Ames
15–16 Tour the Towpath, DeWitt to Rome
September–October: Locktoberfest, (dates TBA), Lockport, Phoenix, Rome, Seneca Falls, Fort Edward

OCTOBER
6–8 Path Through History Weekend, Multiple Locations
6–8 Genesee River Romance Weekend, Rochester

Enter the Erie Canalway Photo Contest

Entering the contest is a snap: find an entry form and tips on our website: www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved/photo-contest

Deadline for entries: August 31, 2018
Note: Winning images will be published in the 2019 Erie Canalway calendar, so images must be horizontal format.

Many thanks!
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