

Mohawk Valley Treasure Hunt

FIND YOUR PARK

Take a treasure hunt through time in the Mohawk Valley, where you'll find lots of hidden gems in museums, historic sites, villages, and quiet country roads. Here, you'll discover a region where water has shaped transportation, agriculture, industry, and settlement for centuries. You'll find places where you can still get a sandwich and coffee for five dollars, see Amish farmers with horse drawn carts, unearth antiques for a bargain, and enjoy locally made cheese, pretzels, and pie. Choose from a variety of boating, cycling and hiking options to add active adventure to your journey.



Start your trip here ▼

In the 1800s, the opening of the Erie Canal gave rise to new markets for Mohawk Valley farms and spurred the growth of factories that produced goods that were shipped around the world. Carpets, brooms, paint, guns, and baby food were just a few of the products made here.

Today, scenic farmland and rolling countryside still surround cities and villages, where the ghosts of mills that fueled the American Industrial Revolution remain. Though its route changed from a dug channel to the Mohawk River in 1918, the Erie Canal still runs through the valley, connecting towns, historic sites, and stories. Follow it to discover these and other gems.



Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site

129 Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter | (518) 829-7516
<https://parks.ny.gov>

Canal enthusiasts prize Schoharie Crossing as a place to see multiple eras of canal engineering. The site's largest structure is the remains of the Schoharie Aqueduct, built in 1841 to carry canal boats over the Schoharie Creek. Six of the original 14 stone arches of the aqueduct remain. You can also view a section of the original 1825 canal and stone locks built during the 1840s. Stop at the visitor center for an orientation. At the

eastern end of the site is the Putman Lock Stand at Yankee Hill that houses an exhibit on Erie Canal stores. At the north end (just beyond the park), see a lock in action at Lock 12, where one of the Mohawk Valley's distinctive movable bridge dams is also in operation. Schoharie Crossing is a great place for a picnic on the banks of the present-day canal or a bike ride on the Canalway Trail, which runs alongside the park.

How far? The Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook in Amsterdam is 5.9 miles east of Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site. Travel west from Schoharie Crossing another 18 miles to the Arkell Museum in Canajoharie. These sites can be reached from Albany or Utica in under an hour's drive. Consult your preferred map or map program for directions.



In partnership with the National Park Service

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Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge

Parking at the end of Bridge Street in South Amsterdam. Also accessible from Riverlink Park and the pedestrian bridge to Riverfront Center, Amsterdam; Boat access at Riverlink Park docks. (518) 841-4369
www.amsterdamrecreation.com

Communities in the Mohawk Valley are transforming their waterfronts for today's residents and visitors. Opened in 2016, the pedestrian bridge spans 500-feet over the Mohawk River, providing expansive views and connecting the two sides of the City of Amsterdam. On the north, the bridge connects to Riverlink Park and downtown. The Erie Canal originally ran through Port Jackson, the neighborhood now known as South Amsterdam. Look closely and you can find buildings that once loaded and unloaded cargo directly from canal boats. The southside neighborhood offers several restaurants and taverns, as well as access to the Erie Canalway Trail.

Arkell Museum

2 Erie Blvd, Canajoharie
 (518) 673-2314
www.arkellmuseum.org

See works by Winslow Homer, George Inness, Georgia O'Keefe, and leading American Impressionists, as well as paintings and prints featuring views of the Mohawk River and Erie Canal. Much of the Arkell's permanent collection was purchased by Bartlett Arkell, founder of Beech-Nut Packing Company. This impressive American art museum is located on the Erie Canal/Mohawk River. Exhibitions change throughout the year.



Get Active! ▼

Choose from these great options for active recreation in this area:

Cycle the Erie Canalway Trail

Park at Amsterdam's southside and ride 3 miles to Putman's Store at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site. For a long ride, continue 18 miles to Canajoharie and visit the Arkell Museum. Or begin riding in Canajoharie and go west to explore Mohawk Valley villages that are accessible from the trail.



Walk/Hike at Schoharie Crossing

Several miles of trails along the Mohawk River/Erie Canal lead past the remains of the old canal route.

Paddle the Historic Erie Canal / Mohawk River

Launch your own kayak or canoe from the parking lot at the mouth of Schoharie Creek at Schoharie Crossing to explore the Mohawk River/Erie Canal, Schoharie Creek, and the remains of the Schoharie Aqueduct. Launch sites are also available at Lock 15 in Fort Plain and at public docks in Fultonville. Kayak rentals and guided excursions are available in Amsterdam at **Down By The River Kayak Rentals: www.downbytheriverkayakrentals.com**

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Best Bet Dining Options ▼

Choose from several restaurants in Amsterdam, Canajoharie or the Mohawk Valley villages. Enjoy a picnic at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, Canajoharie's waterfront park (opposite the Arkell Museum), or at Lock 15 State Canal Park in Fort Plain.

Explore More ▼

Mohawk Valley Villages

www.mohawkvalleyvillagesny.com

Sample small town life and friendly hospitality in Mohawk Valley villages that grew up along the original Erie Canal, including Fonda, Fultonville, Canajoharie, Palatine Bridge, Fort Plain, Nelliston, and St. Johnsville. Several have National Register Historic Districts with outstanding architecture. Enjoy historic sites, local food and crafts, antique-hunting, and village and waterfront parks. Pick up information on the NY Thruway at Lock 13 Living History Welcome Center (westbound between exits 28 and 29) or at the Regional Visitors Center at Canajoharie, 89 Church Street. Explore by boat, bike, or car—the villages are connected by the canal, Canalway Trail, and Routes 5 and 5S.



Lock 15 State Canal Park

Otsuago Club Road, Fort Plain
(518) 993-4161

Located along the Erie Canalway Trail, this park has lovely views of the Mohawk River/Erie Canal and features camping, potable water, toilets, and picnic facilities. It's a good place to see a lock in action. A short walk along the Canalway Trail takes you to the village center where you can access groceries, restaurants, post office, library, bank, and the village park.

Old Fort Johnson National Historic Landmark

2 Mergner Road, Fort Johnson
(518) 843-0300
www.oldfortjohnson.org

The Mohawk Valley is also steeped in colonial-era history. Sir William Johnson, businessman and British Superintendent of Indian Affairs, built a fortified stone house on the banks of the Mohawk River in 1749. It served as the site for trade and diplomacy and as the gateway to Johnson's vast land holdings until the beginning of the American Revolution. The house and gardens are open from May through October and are run by the Montgomery County Historical Society.



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TOURISM INFORMATION

www.iloveny.com

www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com

Find other adventures in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor at www.eriecanalway.org



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