The lowlands between Lake Champlain and the Hudson River have been a corridor for travel, trade, and warfare for centuries. This route linked the St. Lawrence River and Canada to the north and the Hudson River and Atlantic Ocean to the south. Generations of travelers carried their boats and cargo from the southern end of the lake at Whitehall to the head of small boat navigation on the Hudson at Fort Edward. The Champlain Canal, completed in 1823, opened an all-water passage.

The Champlain Canal enters the head of Lake Champlain at Whitehall. This is also the northern terminus of the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail. For more information on this water trail, see hudsonrivergreenway watertrail.org. For more information on paddling Lake Champlain, see lakechamplain committee.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Information about things to do in the Champlain Canal region, including dining and lodging, is available from capital-saratoga.com.
WHITEHALL

Originally called Skenesborough, Whitehall is located at the southern tip of Lake Champlain and at the northern end of a historic overland route to the Hudson River. This strategic location made Whitehall a center of early American transportation and defense. Although it is well inland, Whitehall calls itself the “Birthplace of the American Navy.” Benedict Arnold supervised construction of ships and gunboats here during the American Revolution and used them to fight the British fleet on Lake Champlain. Additional warships were built here during the War of 1812.

Whitehall solidified its position as a transportation hub between New York and Canada when the Champlain Canal opened in 1823. Merchants took advantage of faster, cheaper trade, and industries thrived.

Stop by the Whitehall Heritage Area Visitor Center next to the community park to learn more. A ramp and low dock at the southern end of the park are the best place to launch here.

PLACE OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER

43.552312  -73.390449

Skene Manor
8 Potters Terrace
Whitehall, NY 12887
(518) 499-1906
skenemanor.org

This Victorian Gothic-style mansion is set on a mountainside overlooking the town.
Skenesborough Museum and Heritage Area Visitor Center
Skenesborough Waterfront Community Park
37 Skenesborough Drive
Whitehall, NY 12887
(518) 499-0716 x1155

The museum is in a 1917 concrete canal terminal building with a distinctive tile roof. Exhibits include a 16-foot diorama describing the settlement of Skenesborough and the events of 1776, along with canal memorabilia and numerous other artifacts that reflect the area’s history as an important north-south transportation center. The visitor center has restrooms.

Skenesborough Waterfront Park
58 Main Street
Whitehall, NY 12887
(518) 499-4071

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, gazebo. Concrete ramp and low dock at southern end. Parking for 10 cars; overnight parking permitted. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Shops, restaurants, and attractions in Whitehall are a short walk from the harbor.

Comstock Boat Ramp
North Old NY 4
Fort Ann, NY 12827

FACILITIES: Dirt ramp. Parking for five cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.
Champlain Canal–Fort Ann

- Comstock Boat Ramp
  - C Mile 53.39

- Halfway Creek

- Fort Ann Landing
  - C Mile 49.39

- Baldwin Corners Road
  - C Mile 47.73

- Lock C9, Smith’s Basin
  - C Mile 45.04

- Wood Creek Spillway
C Mile 49.39, west side 43.413980 -73.485240

Fort Ann Landing
Just north of Clay Hill Road bridge
Fort Ann, NY 12827
(518) 639-8929

FACILITIES: Picnic tables and pavilion. Floating dock. Wheelchair accessible launch. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 40 feet.

This is the best place to launch in Fort Ann. Shops and restaurants are a short walk away—look carefully before crossing the railroad tracks. The remains of old Locks 16, 17, and 18 can be seen to the north and south of Ann Street, paralleling Canal Street.

C Mile 49.37 43.413648 -73.484951
Bridge C23, Clay Hill Road

C Mile 47.73 43.390027 -73.486112
Bridge C22, Baldwin Corners Road
An informal, unmaintained launch from a vegetated embankment is below this bridge.

C Mile 45.47 43.357818 -73.493551
Bridge C21, NY 149

C Mile 45.28, west side 43.355310 -73.495050

Lock C9 Kayak Launch
Lock C9 Access Road off NY 149
Kingsbury, NY 12839

FACILITIES: None. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for five cars. Distance from parking about 100 feet.

C Mile 45.04 43.351800 -73.495740

Lock C9, Smith’s Basin
2450 NY 149
Fort Ann, NY 12827
(518) 747-6021

LIFT: 16.0 feet.

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables, camping.

PADDLING NOTE: Stay clear of the spillway on the east bank above the lock.

Lock C9 marks the high point of the Champlain Canal. The “Summit Level” between C9 and C8 crosses the drainage divide between the Champlain and Hudson basins. Lock 10 was never built. As they developed designs in 1906, Barge Canal engineers found that they could eliminate a chamber by increasing the lifts of locks C9 and C11.

C Mile 45.04 43.331886 -73.510784
Bridge C39, New Swamp Road
An informal, unmaintained launch from a vegetated embankment is below this bridge.

C Mile 41.04 43.304167 -73.539202
Bridge C18, Dunham Basin Road (NY 196)

C Mile 40.83, west side 43.301603 -73.541469

Glens Falls Feeder Canal
The Glens Falls Feeder Canal enters here, supplying water to the summit level of the Champlain Canal as it crosses the drainage divide between the Hudson and Champlain/St. Lawrence basins. A dam on the Hudson above Glens Falls diverts water into a seven-mile channel. First built during the 1820s, the feeder canal was enlarged in 1832 to accommodate boat traffic. Thirteen masonry locks lifted and lowered boats past the 130-foot drop at Hudson Falls. One set, called
the Five Combines, raised and lowered boats 55 feet in about 0.25 mile. The lock chambers are still visible along the Glens Falls Feeder Canal Trail near Burgoyne Avenue in Hudson Falls. The feeder canal stopped passing boats during the 1930s, but it remains essential for delivering water to the Champlain Canal. A seven-mile stretch of Towpath Trail along the feeder is a popular outdoor destination for cycling and walking. Five miles of the feeder canal, from the dam in Queensbury to the takeout at Hudson Falls, can be paddled. For details, see the Feeder Canal Alliance at feedercanal.org.

C Mile 39.21 43.281999 -73.559119

Lock C8, Fort Edward
367 Lock 8 Way
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
(518) 747-5520

LIFT: 11.0 feet.

FACILITIES: Tie up at the walls to the north and south. Facilities are difficult for paddlers to access at this location due to steep canal walls.

From here south, water in the canal flows toward the Hudson River.

C Mile 38.82, west side 43.278970 -73.562796

Just to the south of Lock C8 is a General Electric dewatering facility. This site was built to dewater and process sediments contaminated with PCBs, dredged from the Hudson River below Hudson Falls and Fort Edward. This site will eventually be restored to become an industrial park.

PADDLING NOTE: Barges, tugs, and workboats may be active here. Exercise caution to avoid collisions and wakes. Do not attempt to land at this facility.

C Mile 38.37 43.272187 -73.568766

Bridge C17, East Street

C Mile 37.70 43.264131 -73.576138

Bridge C16, Argyle Street (NY 197)
Located at the head of navigation on the Hudson River, Fort Edward has been a transportation hub for centuries. The British built a fort here in 1709 on a vital route between New York and Montreal.

The Champlain Canal opened here in 1823, creating a navigable link to the Adirondack Mountains, Vermont, and Quebec. Fort Edward residents built mills, foundries, and factories to manufacture goods from the vast quantities of timber, iron, and granite that flowed south on canal boats.

The Rogers Island Visitor Center is a good place to get information and launch a paddling trip in Fort Edward.

**PLACE OF INTEREST**

**OFF THE WATER**

43.261709 -73.580784

**Old Fort House Museum**
29 Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828
(518) 747-9600
oldforthousuemuseum.com

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**FORT EDWARD**

FACILITIES: Picnic tables. Car top launch, low dock. Parking for 12 cars. Distance from parking about 150 feet.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Watch out for barges and workboats in this area.

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**Lock C7, Fort Edward**

2579 US 4
Fort Edward, NY 12828
(518) 747-4614

**LIFT:** 10.0 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Tie up at the Fort Edward kayak launch on the south end.

Lock C7 is where the Champlain Canal joins the Hudson River. North of Lock C7, the canal is a dug channel. South of Lock C7, the canal is the canalized Hudson River. Buoys mark the channel from this point south.
**ROGER’S ISLAND INLET**
Rogers Island and the Fort Edward Yacht Basin are on a 0.10 mile-long branch of the Hudson River below Lock C7. To reach them, turn west (river right) immediately below the lock and head upstream between buoys G225 and R226.

43.268230 -73.587903

- **Fort Edward Yacht Basin**
  118 Broadway
  Fort Edward, NY 12828
  (518) 747-4023
  villageoffortedward.com
  **FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers, picnic tables. Shops and restaurants are nearby. Facilities are difficult for paddlers to access at this location due to vertical canal walls.

43.267080 -73.590900

- **Bradley Beach, Rogers Island**
  Bradley Avenue
  Fort Edward, NY 12828
  (518) 747-4023
  villageoffortedward.com
  **FACILITIES:** Picnic tables, grills. Restrooms at nearby ball field. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 50 feet.

43.267080 -73.590900

- **Rogers Island Visitor Center**
  11 Rogers Island Drive
  Fort Edward, NY 12828
  (518) 747-3693
  rogersisland.org

43.254109 -73.588049

- **Moreau Boat Ramp**
  1580 West River Road (CR 29)
  Fort Edward, NY 12828
  **FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp and low dock. Parking for 20 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.
  DEC fishing access site.

43.196170 -73.584258

- **Crocker’s Reef dam and breakwater.**
  **PADDLING NOTE:** Stay to the east of the breakwater and enter the canal channel. Buoys support a safety cable that crosses the river and blocks access to the Crocker’s Reef dam. Do not paddle into this area.

43.189550 -73.581020

- **Guard Gate, Crocker Reef**
  This 55-foot-wide guard gate is suspended from lattice steel towers and is normally open throughout the navigation season. It was built in 1914 to protect the 2.25-mile land-cut section from here to Lock C6, allowing it to be drained in winter and for maintenance. It is the only guard gate on the Champlain Canal.

43.177708 -73.579230

- **Bridge C13, North River Road (Payne’s Bridge)**

43.169940 -73.579370

- **Route 4 Rest Stop Kayak Launch**
  US 4
  Fort Edward, NY 12828
  **FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 10 cars.
This was one of the first Barge Canal locks built. Construction started in 1905. The overgrown remains of Old Champlain Lock 13 from the Enlarged Canal can be seen near the upper wall on the east side.

The land-cut section of the canal rejoins the Hudson River below the Fort Miller Dam.

River currents sweep from right to left as you exit the channel below the lock. Exercise caution. Cross the river and hug the west bank from here until you enter the land-cut channel above Lock C5.

Thompson Dam has a “V” shaped fixed crest. Portions of this dam and the land cut to the south date to the original Champlain Canal. The land cut is 0.9 mile long.
**PADDLING NOTE:** Stay to the west side of the channel as you approach the dam to enter the cut. Currents in this area are strong. A row of submerged cribs were built to keep barges away from the dam and guide them into the land cut, but they are spaced too far apart to provide protection to paddlers.

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**C Mile 26.28, east side** 43.114200 -73.578480

⚠️ **Lock C5/Town of Northumberland Kayak Launch**

Upper end of Lock C5.

**FACILITIES:** Car top launch, floating dock. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 200 feet. Other facilities at adjacent Hudson Crossing Park and Lock C5.

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**C Mile 26.26, east side** 43.115003 -73.577763

**Hudson Crossing Park**

Lock Road (CR 42)
Schuylerville, NY 12871
(518) 350-7275
hudsoncrossingpark.org

**FACILITIES:** The park features two hand-launch sites—a floating dock above Lock C5 (see above) and the Alfred Z. Solomon Launch on the Hudson River below the lock. Each is within a few hundred feet of the visitor parking lot at the lock. Additional facilities include restrooms, water, a picnic pavilion, play garden, sculpture walk, an extensive network of trails, and the historic Dix Bridge over the Hudson.

Just north of Schuylerville, Hudson Crossing Park is on the island formed by the Champlain Canal and the Hudson River at Lock C5.

The park has excellent fishing and birding sites and more than two miles of nature trails with panoramic Hudson River vistas and Champlain Canal overlooks.

Hudson Crossing Park holds a triathlon every June and a cardboard boat race in August.
C Mile 26.17  43.112549 -73.577960

**Lock C5, Northumberland**
121 US 4 North  
Schuylerville, NY 12871  
(518) 695-3919

**LIFT:** 19.0 feet.

**FACILITIES:** See Hudson Crossing Park. The lock has its own picnic pavilion, a small building with exhibits on Champlain Canal history, and a 1927 buoy boat on display near the parking lot. The original hydroelectric plant for Lock C5 is still operational with direct current generators in the powerhouse by the lower gates.

A concrete junction lock next to the powerhouse provided a connection between the old towpath-era canal and new Barge Canal. It allowed boats to reach businesses in Schuylerville and remained in operation into the 1930s. Water still flows in the old channel as far as the Fish Creek Aqueduct, but culverts interrupt the route and are too low for canoes and kayaks to pass.

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**WATERWAY CRUISES**

C Mile 26.27, west side  43.113641 -73.578871

**Mohawk Maiden Cruises**
130 US 4 North at Lock C5  
Schuylerville, NY 12871  
(518) 636-6146  
mohawkmaidencruises.com

Terminal for *Caldwell Belle*, a 45-passenger sternwheel riverboat offering tour cruises on the upper Hudson River and Champlain Canal waterways. Check ahead for schedule, fares, and cruise itineraries.

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**Alfred Z. Solomon Launch**
Hudson Crossing Park’s Riverwalk Sensory Trail leads from the visitor parking lot at Lock C5 to a gravel beach hand-launch on the Hudson River below the lock. The launch features boat racks and gear lockers (bring your own padlock).

Hudson River  43.113060 -73.576940

C Mile 26.14  43.112006 -73.577593

Bridge C8, Lock C5 Road (CR 42)
Schuylerville

Situated on the west bank of the Hudson River about ten miles east of Saratoga Springs, Schuylerville, also known as Old Saratoga, was the site of the surrender of General John Burgoyne and the British Army following the Battles of Saratoga, the turning point of the American Revolution. Schuylerville contains several historic buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the General Philip Schuyler House.

From here to Albany, the towpath-era Champlain Canal ran parallel to the Hudson River in a separate artificial channel at the edge of the valley wall. Today’s Barge Canal, opened in 1916, runs in the riverbed. The Barge Canal bypassed established boatyards, drydocks, and other businesses in Schuylerville that depended on waterfront access. The well-maintained Towpath Trail provides a great way to see the old next to the new.

Fort Hardy Park is a good place to launch in Schuylerville.

**General Philip Schuyler House**

4 Broad Street (US 4)  
Schuylerville, NY 12871  
(518) 670-2985

nps.gov/sara

The house is 0.50 mile inland.

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms and water are located in the parking area for the Schuyler House along US 4.

To access the site from the water trail, take out at the Fort Hardy Park, cross over Ferry Street/NY 29, and follow the foot trail south. More direct access to the site may be gained by paddling up Fish Creek about 0.20 miles and landing along the shoreline just downstream of the pedestrian bridge. The bridge carries the foot trail south to the Schuyler House.
C Mile 25.41, west side  43.101970 -73.575430

Fort Hardy Park
Towpath Lane
Schuylerville, NY 12871

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, pavilion. Car top launch, boat ramp, beach landing, floating dock. Parking for 15 cars; Distance from parking about 150 feet. Restaurants, shops, and visitor information are within walking distance.

C Mile 25.13  43.098152 -73.573478
Bridge C7, Ferry Street (NY 29)

C Mile 25.08, west side,  43.098415 -73.575987

Schuyler Yacht Basin
On the channel behind Schuyler Island
1 Ferry Street
Schuylerville, NY 12871
(518) 695-3193

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, restaurant.
Private marina.

C Mile 25.02, west side  43.096995 -73.576337

Mouth of Fish Creek
Opposite the southern tip of Schuyler Island. Paddlers can push about 0.25 mile up the Fish Creek to the aqueduct that used to carry the old Champlain Canal across the creek.

C Mile 21.48, west side  43.058967 -73.593540

Alcove Marina
AmVets Drive
Schuylerville, NY 12871
(518) 695-5652

FACILITIES: Ramp, restrooms, restaurant.
Private marina.
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
648 NY 32
Stillwater, NY 12170
(518) 670-2985
nps.gov

This is where Americans fought overwhelming odds to win a key Revolutionary War victory against the British in 1777. The British and their allies were attempting to move south on land and by boat, using the route that is a water trail today. They were blocked from proceeding forward by Americans on Bemis Heights. Known as one of the most important battles in the last millennium, the victory drew international allies to win America’s War for Independence.

The battlefield unit of Saratoga National Historical Park occupies the high bluffs west of the river. Cannons at the Great Redoubt and Bemis Heights are visible in a few spots starting around mile 18 for the next 2.0 miles (between buoys G105 and G93).
Champlain Canal–Stillwater

- Saratoga Boat Ramp
  - C Mile 20.37
- Stillwater Hudson
  - Riverfront Park
  - C Mile 17.21
- Saratoga National Historical Park
- Saratoga National Cemetery
- Stillwater Dam
- Stillwater Hydroelectric Plant (FERC P-4684)
- Lock C4, Stillwater
  - C Mile 11.76

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ericeanalway.org | NEW YORK STATE CANALWAY WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK 257
C Mile 10.51  42.919337 -73.671832
Bridge C5, Boston & Maine Railroad

C Mile 9.92  42.911820 -73.677650

Lock C3, Mechanicville
880 Knickerbocker Road
Schaghticoke, NY 12154
(518) 664-5171

LIFT: 19.5 feet.

FACILITIES: Tie up at the Mechanicville terminal wall south of the lock.

The Town of Schaghticoke provides a kayak launch with car top launch and beach landing at the lower end of the lock on the east side. Parking for five cars. Distance from parking about 500 feet.

PADDLING NOTE: Buoys support a safety cable in front of the dam at this lock. Do not paddle into this area. Piers and timbers above the lock were built to guide barges into the chamber. Water flows under these structures and it is possible for a small boat to get pinned. Stay to the east side (river left) of the channel as you enter the lock. The dam and powerplant can produce unpredictable cross currents immediately below the lock. Exercise caution until you are below the NY 67 bridge.

The lift on Lock C3 is the highest on the Champlain Canal. The dam was originally built to power paper mills on both sides of the river. During the Barge Canal construction the crest was raised.

C Mile 9.42  42.905448 -73.68255
Bridge C4A, Howland Avenue (NY 67)

C Mile 9.29, west side  42.904511 -73.683812

Mechanicville Terminal Wall
Terminal Street at the mouth of Kayaderosseras Creek
Mechanicville, NY 12118
(518) 664-7791

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, kayak racks. Kayak dock with car top launch is at the north end, behind City Hall. Parking for 15 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Shops and restaurants are a short walk away.

Mechanicville is the smallest city in New York, with an area of just eight-tenths of a square mile.

Mile 9.00  42.899458 -73.683781
To stay in the canal channel, paddle to the east of the island.

Mile 8.05  42.885766 -73.680884
Quack Island

PADDLING NOTE: A large dam spans the Hudson River at Lock C2. To get into position for Lock C2, paddle to the west of Quack Island. The dam is 0.10 mile from the southern tip of the island. Do not enter the dam area.

C Mile 7.37  42.877859 -73.676310

Lock C2, Mechanicville
933A Hudson River Road
Mechanicville, NY 12118
(518) 664-4961

LIFT: 18.5 feet.

PADDLING NOTE: This lock bisects a rocky island located between the Mechanicville hydroelectric plant on the west and a large fixed-crest overflow dam on the east. Paddle directly into the lock. Do not approach the dam or the hydroelectric plant. Stone and
timber cribs, installed to guide barges into the lock, are spaced too far apart to provide protection for small craft.

The Mechanicville powerplant and dam were built in 1897 to provide electricity to General Electric and the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) plants in Schenectady. The Mechanicville plant is the oldest continuously operating power plant in the nation. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 and is open to visitors by appointment.

C Mile 7.32 42.877384 -73.675670
Bridge C-3, Lock C2 access road

C Mile 4.55, west side 42.838529 -73.671507
Lighthouse Park
589 Hudson River Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065
(518) 371-7410 ext. 2530
townofhalfmoon-ny.gov

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, kayak racks. Car top launch, beach landing, dock. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 200 feet.

This park connects to the Champlain Canalway Trail.

Mile 3.80, west side 42.829129 -73.666514
Lock One Marina and Shipyard
425 Hudson River Road
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 238-1321
lockonemarinaandshipyard.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramp, floating dock.

Private marina.
Champlain Canal–Waterford

C Mile 0.56 42.788687 -73.673919
Bridge C2, 126th Street (US 4/Broad Street)

C Mile 0.28, north side 42.785539 -73.677449
Waterford Point Boat Ramp
Confluence of Erie and Champlain Canals
First and Front Streets
Waterford, NY 12188

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp, low dock, beach
landing. Parking for 10 cars; overnight parking
permitted. Distance from parking about 20 feet.
Walk to restrooms, showers, and information
at the Waterford Harbor Visitor Center.

Upstate Kayak Rentals
(518) 209-1063
upstatekayakrentals.com

Based at Waterford Point, a convenient
location for paddlers to explore all the
waterways of the Capital Region. Upstate
Kayak Rentals has several self-serve kayak
rental hubs throughout the Capital Region.

C Mile 0.27, east side 42.784629 -73.674399
Lansingburgh Boat Ramp
Foot of 123rd Street
Troy, NY 12182
(518) 235-7761

FACILITIES: None. Concrete ramp. Parking
for 10 cars. Distance from parking about
20 feet. Shops and restaurants in North Troy
are within walking distance.

C Mile 0.22, west side 42.786026 -73.680717
Peebles Island State Park
1 Delaware Avenue
Waterford, NY 12188
parks.ny.gov

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, picnic tables,
grills, pavilion, hiking trails during daylight
hours. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking
for 40 cars during daylight hours. Distance
from parking about 535 feet. Shops and
restaurants in Waterford are a short walk
away over the Delaware Avenue Bridge.

The 90-acre Peebles Island State Park is
located at the confluence of the Mohawk and
Hudson Rivers. The park is accessible by a
bridge over the Erie Canal or from the water
using the launch on the east side of the
island on the Hudson River near the Observa-
tion Deck or the dock at the northern end of
the island on the Erie Canal. Hiking trails
around the island with cliffs, water views, and
mature oak woodland. Peebles Island is
headquarters to the Erie Canalway National
Heritage Corridor.