



# GUIDEBOOK

Your complete guide to paddling the  
New York State Canal System

SECOND EDITION

**COMPLIMENTARY**





**NEW YORK STATE CANALWAY  
WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK  
SECOND EDITION**

Including the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca,  
Champlain and Oswego Canals



In partnership with the National Park Service

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A special thank you to Sara Catalano, Deborah and Paul Kidder, Jeremy Koscis, Beth Walker, Mark Wells, and all Water Trail Stewards who provided extraordinary feedback for the new edition.

## NYS CANALWAY WATER TRAIL DISCLAIMER

**Your utilization of these materials and/or use of the NYS Canalway Water Trail acknowledges that you are participating at your own risk. If you paddle with minor child(ren), you acknowledge that the risks apply to them as well, and you will take any necessary precautions to keep them safe. Paddling and related activities can be unpredictable and/or dangerous.**

**Paddlers risk injury and even death from drowning, hypothermia, and other hazards. These materials do not replace proper planning or instruction by a qualified instructor, nor do they replace the skill, proper equipment, experience, and judgment that every paddler needs. Be sure to read and follow all safety suggestions. By paddling on the NYS Canal System, you understand that there are risks including but not limited to physical injury, pain, and temporary or permanent disability which may arise from your or others' actions, inactions, or negligence or the condition of the activity's location. By participating, you acknowledge and agree the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. and its affiliates shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature (direct, indirect, consequential or other) that may arise as a result of your participation or that of any minor child(ren) under your care in this or any other activities.**



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## ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

The New York State Canal System’s exceptional scenery history, culture, and natural resources earned the 524-mile waterway and the communities along its shores Congressional designation as the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in 2000. The waterway was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2016. The NYS Canalway Water Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2022.

Many partners work together to preserve the best of the past, while ensuring a vibrant future along this legendary waterway.

The **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** and **Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc.** preserve our extraordinary canal heritage, promote the Corridor as a world-class tourism destination, and foster vibrant communities connected by more than 500 miles of historic waterway. These organizations work in partnership with the National Park Service, New York State agencies, non-profit organizations, local residents, and more than 200 communities across the full expanse of upstate New York.

[eriecanalway.org](http://eriecanalway.org)

### THE CORRIDOR ENCOMPASSES:

524

Continuous miles of  
navigable waterway

230

Municipalities

4,834

Square  
miles

23

Part of 23 counties  
home to  
3.2 million people



**Canal  
Corporation**

## NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION

**The New York State Canal Corporation** operates and maintains the New York State Canal System. A subsidiary of the New York Power Authority, the NYS Canal Corporation oversees tourism promotion; renewable power generation; public, agricultural and industrial water supplies; commercial shipping; and recreational activities along the canals. It also oversees management of the Erie Canalway Trail, a 365-mile multi-use trail from Buffalo to Albany that attracts more than 1.5 million pedestrians, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers annually. The NYS Canal Corporation also works collaboratively with community partners to improve waterway access and services, sponsor major events, and honor the historic legacy of the Erie Canal and connecting waterways.

[canals.ny.gov](https://canals.ny.gov)

**THE NYS CANAL SYSTEM SUPPORTS**

**\$7.5 BILLION +**

annually in economic activity, fostering sustainable economic development throughout the canal corridor.

**NEARLY**

**80%**

of Upstate New York's population lives within 25 miles of the Erie Canal.

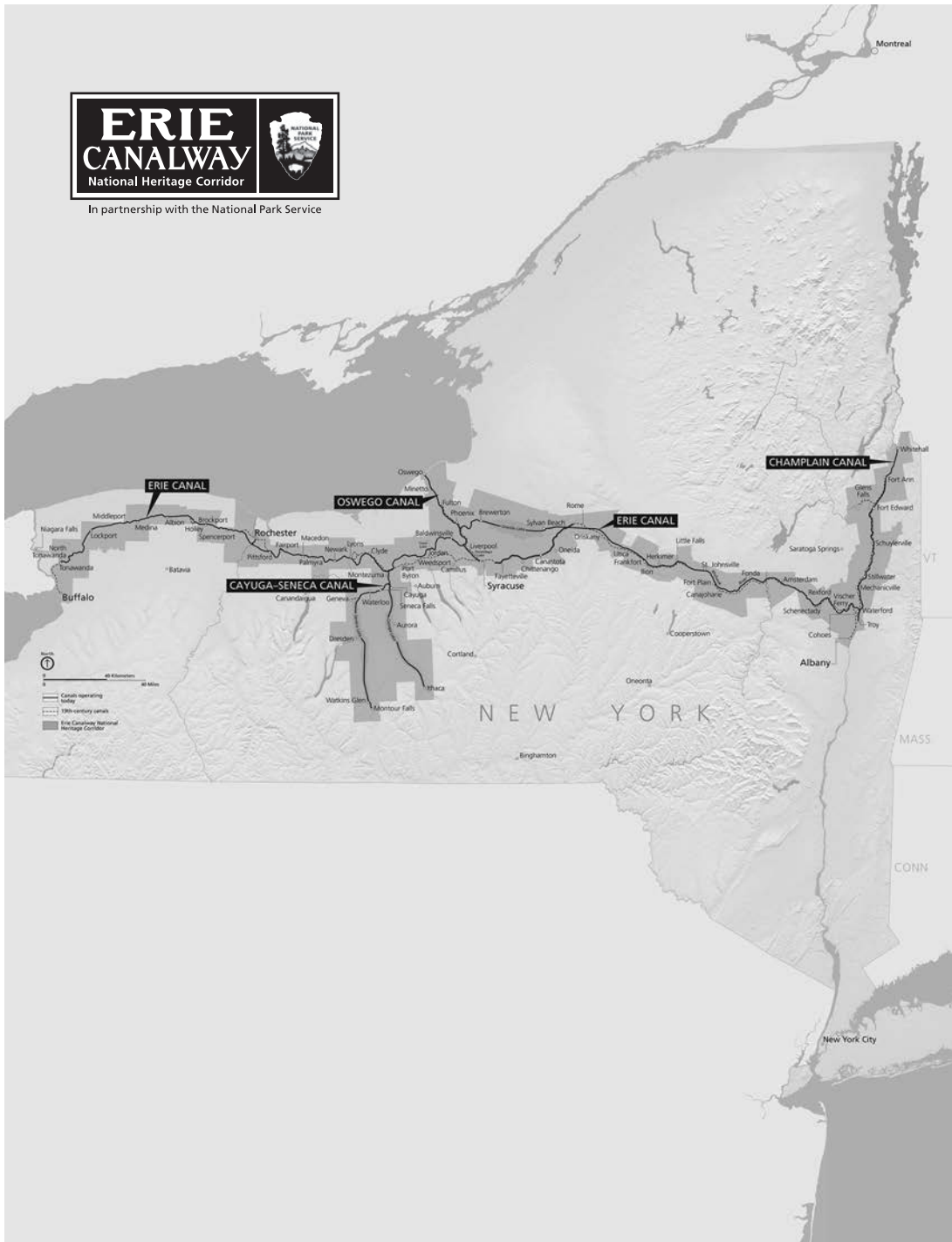


New York State is celebrating the bicentennial of canal construction and opening from 2017 to 2025. Watch for special events, lectures, and tours marking significant anniversaries.





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## HELP US IMPROVE THE PADDLING EXPERIENCE

The NYS Canalway Water Trail Guidebook and Map Set are living documents that will improve with feedback from paddlers like you. If you have suggestions for improvement, find an error, or simply want to share your favorite paddling spot or trip, we welcome you to contact us at [paddler@eriecanalway.org](mailto:paddler@eriecanalway.org). We will incorporate your ideas and revisions into future editions.

# WELCOME

BY SARA CATALANO AND BETH WALKER, TWO GALS ON THE CANAL

Having lived our lives in central New York, the Erie Canal has always been quietly present. We had a family summer home on Oneida Lake, took trips to the Erie Canal Museum, and made history projects of little boats being towed down blue cellophane water. We rode bikes along the towpath and sang “I’ve got a mule and her name is Sal” while crossing canal bridges in the family car. We often took the canal’s presence—and purpose—for granted.

We have been water people for generations, always looking for new places to explore. The Erie Canal and the NYS Canal System, embedded in our minds as “history,” was patiently waiting! The discovery of a canal launch close to home began a re-envisioning of this famous waterway. Kayak day trips on the canal led to a spontaneous decision in 2018 to paddle its entirety as a mother-daughter team. Over the winter we began planning, scouring Google maps for launch sites and places to explore. We mapped and remapped the segments of our trip. Excitement mounted. Little did we know we were launching the trip of a lifetime with unanticipated surprises and personal growth.

In 2019, we discovered this guidebook, full of detailed maps and helpful hints. We poured over each page, excited to find that it thoroughly answered questions about launch sites, ramp availability, and more. Anyone who has tried to find this information for themselves will understand what an enormous project and treasure the *NYS Canalway Water Trail Guidebook & Map Set* really is.

It took two and a half years to complete our journey from Buffalo to Waterford. We

documented our trips on Instagram as #twogalsonthecanal and soon built a connection to other paddlers and places we visited. Each winter we revisited our pictures, reflecting on lessons learned about the canal, canal communities, and ourselves.

The canal is different experienced from the water and is unique from season to season. There are hidden waterfalls, wildlife, and colorful flowers. The Lockport gorge drips with lilac trees in the spring. Wild apples hang within reach in Palmyra. Juvenile bald eagles keep a playful eye in Montezuma, and the Mohawk River and Waterford Flight of Locks are breathtaking in the fall. Seeing New York State from the water brought clarity about how this waterway connects the communities it flows through and how its history is creating its future.

Let this new edition be your inspiration and connection as it was ours. In its pages you will find detailed maps and information on launches, amenities, water safety, navigating locks, day trips, events, recreation, historical tidbits and much more. As you explore, we encourage you to allow time to get to know the waterway and its surrounding communities. Find the farmer’s markets, ice cream shops, and historic places. Return during different seasons to detour down meandering creeks, see the eagles soar, and honor the land and water. Our trip on the Erie Canal helped us to grow as paddlers and individuals. Respectful use of the canal as a recreational waterway will help our communities grow and ensure this historical corridor is a paddling destination for all to enjoy!

Happy paddling!

# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guidebook contains general information about paddling on the canals, safety on the water, and visiting sites along the way. The main section is a mile-by-mile guide with maps and photos.

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## Mile by Mile

The mile-by-mile descriptions of sites along the NYS Canal System include the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Champlain and Oswego canals.

- **NUTS AND BOLTS**

Each site description provides information paddlers need to plan enjoyable trips, such as access points, parking, restrooms, and visitor information. Water trail sites are listed in bold face type and are highlighted on maps near the site listing. Launches are identified with an icon.

- **SITES ALONG THE WAY**

Locks and other canal structures, ports and towns, access sites, canal attractions, heritage sites, and other places of interest are also included. Distances are listed in statute miles. Coordinates are latitude/longitude (WGS 84). Most of the places described are on the canal system or within about one-half mile of the water. Paddlecraft rentals and sales, outfitters, waterway cruises, and camping and lodging options are shown in sidebars.

Half the fun of paddling is what you find on shore. This guide includes many historic sites of interest, but does not include the many great places to eat, drink, and shop. Ice cream and coffee shops, restaurants, breweries, wineries, farm stands, and other recreational opportunities can be found in every canal community. County Tourism offices, listed on pages 24-25, can help you plan your trip.

- **SAFETY INFORMATION**

Hazards and important safety information appear in **PADDLING NOTES** that accompany the site listings. Also check the NYS Canal Corporation's "Notices and Alerts" webpage and sign up for "Notice to Mariners" before heading out: [canals.ny.gov/wwwapps/tas/notices](https://canals.ny.gov/wwwapps/tas/notices)

- **NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST**

For the purpose of this guidebook the banks of the Erie Canal and the Cayuga-Seneca Canal are described as being on the north or south side, even when the compass direction might be different. Similarly, the banks of the Oswego Canal and the Champlain Canal are described as being west or east side.

- **MAPS**

Map scales vary so check each scale to gauge distances between sites and points of reference. In most cases distances can be calculated using the mileage marker with the site listing.

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**THE MAP SYMBOL KEY IS LOCATED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MILE-BY-MILE LISTINGS FOR EACH OF THE FOUR CANALS.**

# THE NYS CANALWAY WATER TRAIL



**T**he NYS Canalway Water Trail is comprised of over 450 miles of canals and interconnected lakes and rivers with more than 150 public access points for paddlers. It follows the NYS Canal System across the full expanse of upstate New York flowing through time and history and connecting magnificent scenery and remarkable communities, many of which have been welcoming canal travelers for 200 years. It was designated a National Water Trail in 2022.

Among the things that makes the NYS Canalway Water Trail distinct from other water trails is the nature of the canal itself with its wealth of places to visit and sights to see. Paddlers navigate century-old locks, pass stunning stone aqueducts used to carry boats over rivers and streams in the 1800s; paddle alongside tugboats and cruisers; experience narrow flatwater stretches and wider river segments. For a constructed waterway, the canal is surprisingly serene and natural. Paddlers can expect to see a diversity of birds and wildlife, unique geology, and varying terrain.

This guidebook will introduce you to its many treasures. It will help you get on the water for a few hours or an entire day, or to plan an overnight trip or longer excursions within the canal corridor. Enjoy and paddle on!



## **GET CONNECTED @nyscanalwaywatertrail**

Join the NYS Canalway Water Trail Facebook group to connect with other paddlers, ask questions, and share your experiences.

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# NYS CANALWAY WATER TRAIL RESOURCES

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## Signage

NYS Canalway Water Trail signs are located at more than 150 access sites to identify safe launches and take-out locations and help paddlers confirm the route. Signs face both inland and the water.

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## NYcanalmap.com

**NYcanalmap.com** is an online resource to assist users with trip planning, mileage tracking, and identifying paddling access sites, hazards, places of interest, national and state parks, and other amenities along the water and land trails.

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## Hand-Launch Facility Design Guide

In recent years, the NYS Canal System has experienced a dramatic increase in use of kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards. In response, canalside communities, businesses and groups are building and upgrading launch sites and providing facilities for paddlers.

Erie Canalway developed the NYS Canal System Hand-Launch Facility Design Guide to help communities and organizations plan and design launches and facilities for hand-launch watercraft. The design guide includes standards and guidelines developed for structures, bank and channel features, and hydrologic characteristics that are unique to the NYS Canal System. The guide can be used for those who want to add a new access site or upgrade an existing one. The guide is available for free download at: **[eriecanalway.org/watertrail](http://eriecanalway.org/watertrail)**



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## Stewardship Program

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor manages the NYS Canalway Water Trail Stewardship Program. Volunteer stewards perform light maintenance at launch sites and on the water, observe and report issues, and act as friendly ambassadors from May 1 to October 31.

Individuals, families, community groups, and organizations may adopt a section of the Water Trail. Stewards volunteer for a minimum of four hours per month and sections range in length of 8 to 12 miles and include 2 to 5 launch sites. Find out more at **[eriecanalway.org/watertrail/ stewardship](http://eriecanalway.org/watertrail/stewardship)**.

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## Guide to Planning a Paddling Event

Paddling events provide opportunities to explore this scenic and recreational waterway for both novice and experienced paddlers. Our Guide to Planning a Paddling Event can help organizers create a successful group paddling event. It's free to download at: **[eriecanalway.org/watertrail](http://eriecanalway.org/watertrail)**.

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW YORK'S CANALS



Albany Institute of History & Art

New York has long been a state of big ideas and the kind of can-do spirit that turns them into reality. Credit for this entrepreneurial attitude is due, in part, to construction of the Erie Canal. Built between 1817 and 1825, the original Erie Canal traversed 363 miles from Albany to Buffalo. It was the longest artificial waterway and the greatest public works project in North America.

The canal put New York on the map as the Empire State—the leader in population, industry, and economic strength. Equally important, the Erie Canal solidified these central elements of America's national identity: vision, determination, ingenuity, and hard work.

For eight years during construction, surveyors and laborers cut through fields, forests, rocky cliffs, and swamps; crossed rivers on aqueducts; and overcame hills with 83 lift locks. Upon completion, the Erie Canal and a system of connecting waterways fulfilled Governor DeWitt Clinton's prophecy of making New York America's preeminent

state, populated border-to-border and generating wealth for its people.

People and new ideas flowed into the many new cities, towns and villages sprouting up along the canal. Social reform movements like abolitionism and women's suffrage, Utopian communities, and various religious movements thrived in the canal corridor. The Erie Canal carried more westbound immigrants than any other trans-Appalachian canal. These newcomers infused the nation with different languages, customs, practices, and religions.

In 2000, the United States Congress recognized the Erie Canal's significance to our nation by establishing the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The 524-mile corridor threads more than 200 diverse communities connected by a waterway that changed not just the landscape of the state, but also our nation and its history. In 2016, the NYS Canal System became a National Historic Landmark.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As you read this guide, you'll see references to the three main eras of the Erie Canal:

### • 1825–CLINTON'S DITCH

This was the original Erie Canal dug between 1817 and 1825.

### • 1862–ENLARGED ERIE CANAL

If you see an old stone lock, canal wall, or aqueduct, it likely dates to the Enlarged Erie, a period from 1836 to 1862 when the canal was widened and deepened to accommodate more and bigger boats.

### • 1918–BARGE CANAL

The structures and channels of the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals operate today largely as they did when the canals were enlarged between 1905 and 1918. Renamed the NYS Barge Canal to reflect commercial shipping, the word “barge” is used infrequently today and the canals are now collectively known as the NYS Canal System.



Lock 12, Whitehall, 1917

## The New York State Canal System Today

The NYS Canal System has been in continuous operation since 1825, longer than any other constructed transportation system on the North American continent. Since its grand opening, 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.

Today, navigable portions of the system include:

- **Erie Canal**, which connects the Hudson River to the Niagara River, 339 miles to the west;
- **Champlain Canal**, connecting Lake Champlain to the Erie Canal and tidal portion of the Hudson River 62 miles south;
- **Oswego Canal**, descending along the Oswego River from the Erie Canal to Lake Ontario, 23 miles north;
- **Cayuga-Seneca Canal**, a 17-mile canal that connects the Erie Canal to New York's two largest Finger Lakes, each about 38 miles long.
- There are also short navigable branches that connect the Erie Canal to downtown Syracuse and Rochester.

The system is maintained and operated by the NYS Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.



# PADDLING ON THE CANAL SYSTEM

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## Canal Season and Hours

The canals are typically open from May through October. Opening and closing dates vary from year to year, depending on conditions. The standard hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some locks and lift bridges have extended hours until 10 p.m. from mid-May to mid-September. Check ahead for current conditions and any temporary closures at [canals.ny.gov](http://canals.ny.gov) for current conditions and any temporary closures.

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## Canal Features and Structures

The NYS Canal System includes a number of unique and historic structures used to regulate the flow of water and enable boats to transit changing elevations. The system is remarkable in its span, scope and historical integrity. Visit [eriecanalway.org/resources/NHL](http://eriecanalway.org/resources/NHL) for more information.



- **LOCKS:** There are 57 locks on New York's canal system, including 35 on the Erie Canal, 11 on the Champlain Canal, seven on the Oswego Canal, and four on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal.
  - **LIFT BRIDGES:** Fifteen lift bridges built between 1905 and 1918 still carry traffic over the Erie Canal in western New York. Stairs and walkways allow pedestrians to cross while the bridge is up.
  - **MOVABLE DAMS:** There are eight dams between Fort Plain and Schenectady that regulate water flow on the Mohawk River.
- There are a number of fixed dams on the canal as well. All are clearly marked. Stay away from all dams while paddling.
- **GUARD GATES:** These isolate sections of the canal in case of emergency, such as a break in a canal wall, accident, or extreme high water. Guard gates also allow sections of the canal to be drained for maintenance and winter freeze protection.
  - **POWER HOUSES AND GATE CABINETS:** Most locks have distinctive white buildings on site where electricity was generated to power lock gates and valves. There are also blue-and-gold cabinets that display the number of the lock and house the motors and gearing that operate its valves and gates.
  - **SHORELINE AND WALLS:** To keep the banks of the canal system from eroding, many parts are lined with rip-rap, a facing of layered rocks. Some sections are lined with vertical concrete walls. Paddlers should use designated launch and landing sites in these areas, rather than attempt to scramble up steep walls.



*Lock E20, Whitesboro*

### **WATCH FOR WORK VESSELS**

As you paddle the NYS Canal System, you're likely to see distinctive blue and yellow tugboats and other workboats doing maintenance work to keep the canals safe. Several of these vessels were built prior to 1940. Thanks to the diligence of generations of canal captains, engineers, and deck hands, these vessels are still at work, brass and paint still gleaming.

## **Canal Notices, Alerts, and Mileage**

The NYS Canal Corporation issues “Notices to Mariners” as needed, including openings/closures, water levels, construction, hazards, and other elements affecting navigation. These are posted on the website; notices and alerts are available by email and text message. For more information or to sign up for the messages, go to **canals.ny.gov** or follow **@NYSCanalCorp** on Twitter.

Also available on page 290 and the NYS Canal Corporation website is a “Profile and Mileage Table” for the NYS Canal System. It shows distances between many points and illustrates how much you will ascend or descend through a series of locks.

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## Paddling Through a Lock

Going through locks is one of the special experiences of traveling along the canal. The locks are 310 feet long and 45 feet wide, with massive steel gates at either end. Lifts range from six feet to more than 40. From a canoe, kayak, or rowboat, floating into this huge steel and cement structure can be a bit daunting at first—but it's also exciting. Stand up paddleboards (SUPs) are allowed on the canal system but are not allowed to lock through. Lock operators are on hand to recommend the safest place to tie-up, answer questions, and assist if needed.

### Here's what to do:

#### 1. ALERT THE LOCK OPERATOR.

Don't assume that the operator will see you coming. Alert them by calling or signaling as you approach. Lock telephone numbers are listed throughout this guide. In places with poor cell coverage, use three blasts of a loud whistle or horn to alert the operator. Canal lock and lift bridge operators monitor and respond to Channel 13, if you have a portable VHF marine band radio.

#### 2. WAIT FOR THE GREEN LIGHT.

Each lock has a green and red traffic light at either end. Wait for the green light for permission to enter and exit the lock.

#### 3. PADDLE INTO THE LOCK CHAMBER.

Position yourself alongside the lock wall as directed by the lock operator.

#### 4. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS OF THE LOCK

**OPERATOR.** You will be directed to hold on to vertical ropes or glide rails on the lock walls as the chamber fills or empties. Do not tie your boat to the drop line. Some boaters opt for gloves because the drop ropes and rails can be slimy. The sensation of rising or falling water is very gentle. You will be in the lock for about 15 minutes.

#### 5. STAY CLEAR OF LOCK GATES AS THEY OPEN.

Don't rush to exit the lock. Lock operators will not see you if you get pinned behind an opening gate. When the lock gates open, paddle out slowly, taking care to avoid other boats.

#### 6. PAY ATTENTION AS YOU EXIT.

Some locks have adjacent dams and spillways that produce unexpected cross-currents downstream. Get stable before you leave the chamber.

**TIP:** Before you launch, make a float plan that includes the phone numbers of the locks you will pass through. (See page 21.)

**NOTE:** No permits or fees are required for locking through with a non-commercial vessel, including kayak, canoe, and rowboat.

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**FOR A SIMPLE VIDEO GUIDE TO LOCKING:**  
[canals.ny.gov/navinfo](https://canals.ny.gov/navinfo)

## Other Things to Know

- **RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Paddlers share the canal system with commercial vessels, tour boats, motor-boats, and personal watercraft (jet skis).

**Commercial vessels have the right of way.** Stay well clear—they move a lot faster than you expect and can produce big wakes. Rowing shells and organized events also take precedence. Stay clear.

Paddlers should move to the right when facing oncoming boats and when being overtaken. Sometimes it's safest to move outside the marked channel to allow big boats to pass.

- **BUOYS AND NAVIGATIONAL MARKERS**

Red and green buoys and fixed markers line the edge of the 12-foot deep navigation channel. Buoys are numbered sequentially (even for red, odd for green). Red buoys mark the north side of the channel on the Erie and Cayuga-Seneca canals and the east side on the Oswego and Champlain canals. Things can be a bit confusing where the Cayuga-Seneca and Oswego branch off from the Erie. Pay attention to the maps and guidebook descriptions in those two areas.

- **CURRENTS**

Although it appears placid on the surface there is a noticeable current in most segments of the canal system. While flows in the Erie west of Rochester are fairly consistent, they can fluctuate widely in canalized rivers that make up about two-thirds of the system. The Seneca, Oswego, Oneida, Mohawk, and Hudson rivers drain very large areas of New York State. Some high flow events in those sections are produced by storms far from the canal.

This guide was compiled in a generally downstream direction (west to east on the Erie, north to south on the Champlain, south to north on the Oswego). End-to-end boaters on the Erie and Champlain will need to do some upstream paddling in order to get over drainage divides. If you want to start and end your trip at the same launch site it's usually a good idea to paddle upstream on the first leg so you have the current helping your return.

- **PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES**

Boats, trailers, and other equipment can spread invasive species from one waterbody to another unless properly cleaned after use. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations prohibit boats from launching or leaving DEC launch sites without first draining and cleaning visible plant and animal material from the boat, trailer, and other equipment. Follow these DEC guidelines to prevent the spread of invasive species:

1. Inspect your boat, trailer, and other equipment and remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or animals before transporting equipment.
2. Eliminate all water from equipment before transporting.
3. Clean, drain and dry anything that comes into contact with the water, including boats, trailers, and all other boating and fishing equipment. Paddlers should be particularly aware of areas that are difficult to inspect and dry.
4. Disinfect if you cannot dry equipment.
5. Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

# BE SAFE ON THE WATER

- **Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD) when you are on the water.** The U.S. Coast Guard requires a life jacket/PFD for each person on board. Canal regulations require that the PFD be worn when passing through a lock. In New York State, it is required for all boaters under age 12 and for all paddlers from November 1 to May 1.
  - **Learn to swim.** Take a lifesaving course.
  - **Be a better paddler by taking a few lessons.** Learn rescues and self-rescues from a competent instructor.
  - **Check the NYS Canal Corporation “Notices and Alerts” website** for current information about the segment you plan to paddle: [canals.ny.gov/wwwapps/tas/notices](https://canals.ny.gov/wwwapps/tas/notices)
  - **Check the weather forecast before leaving shore and during your trip.** Start with the weather report page for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at [weather.gov](https://weather.gov) or use the free NOAA app.
  - **If you get caught in a storm:** Paddle to shore and hug the shoreline until reaching a safe place to exit the water. Lightning is a major hazard for boaters. Do not pull over and tie up to the tallest isolated tree. A safer strategy is to keep paddling, briefly, until you find a safe take-out place, preferably one with shelter nearby.
  - **Identify launch and exit sites.** Consult the mile-by-mile information in this guide and on the navigational maps to identify places you can exit the water if needed during your trip. Carry the waterproof map or nautical chart with the exit points marked.
  - **Bring your cell phone.** Keep it in a water-proof case, dry bag, or zip-lock plastic bag. Secure it to your boat or life jacket.
  - **File a float plan with someone on shore.** See page 21 for details.
  - **Carry identification and emergency contact information.**
  - **Carry drinking water and snacks,** such as energy bars, especially for a long paddle.
  - **Protect yourself from the sun.** Wear sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen.
  - **Be prepared for a variety of conditions.** Wear water shoes or old sneakers. Pack bug repellent and a small first aid kit, with materials to deal with blisters. Have dry clothing waiting for you in your car on return. If you’re paddling a long distance, take dry clothes on board in a waterproof bag.
  - **Use the restroom before you leave.** In a waterproof bag, carry toilet paper and some sanitary wipes, plus another sealable plastic bag for waste paper. Carry out everything you carry in. Leave no trace.
  - **Bring a bailer or pump** to bail out the boat.
  - **Bring enough line** to tie up both the stern and the bow of the boat along the shore or at a dock should a storm approach and to allow for a tow, if necessary.
  - **Paddle with others whenever possible.**
  - **Do not use alcohol or recreational drugs while paddling.**
- In an emergency, call 911 or request assistance using channel 16 on a VHF radio.**

# Make Boating Safety a priority

- Always wear a properly sized PFD
- Stay away from dams, buoys and barriers
- Be cautious near hydropower assets, water levels can change quickly
- Respect all signs and warning signals
- Tell someone your plans, destination, and timing
- Use designated launch sites
- Boat smart, no drinking and boating
- Leave no trace: carry in/carry out
- Before heading out, check the weather forecast and **canals.ny.gov** for current conditions





# THINGS TO SEE AND DO

In addition to great paddling, there is a lot more to do in the canal corridor. Here is a sampling; you will find additional details in the mile-by-mile information and in “Places of Interest Off the Water” highlighted throughout the guidebook. Extensive online resources are available at [eriecanalway.org](http://eriecanalway.org).

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## Taste History Along New York’s Canals

In the 1800s the Erie Canal carried New York’s rich agricultural products to the nation. Today agriculture remains an important part of life along the canal corridor, and most paddling journeys would not be complete without sampling the local fare. Visit the canal corridor’s many microbreweries, wineries, farmers markets, farm stands, ice cream parlors, local shops and ethnic restaurants for a great taste of the many flavors of the region.

- Inquire about local market days in the towns you visit or find locations and dates at [localharvest.org](http://localharvest.org) or [agriculture.ny.gov](http://agriculture.ny.gov).
- Find pick-your-own orchards, farm tours, apple festivals, and more apple fun along the canal system at [applesfromNY.com](http://applesfromNY.com). To find farm cideries producing hard cider, check, [NYcider.com](http://NYcider.com).
- For information about wineries, visit [fingerlakeswinecountry.com](http://fingerlakeswinecountry.com).
- Check out breweries with the Empire State Trail Brewery Passport ([thinknydrinkny.com](http://thinknydrinkny.com)) and New York Craft Beer App ([newyorkcraftbeer.com](http://newyorkcraftbeer.com)). Regional trails include the Adirondack Craft Beverage Trail ([adkcrafbtev.com](http://adkcrafbtev.com)), the Finger Lakes Beer Trail ([fingerlakesbeertrail.com](http://fingerlakesbeertrail.com)), the Heart of New York Craft Beverage Trail ([brewcentralny.com](http://brewcentralny.com)), and the Rochester/Finger Lakes Craft Beverage Trail ([rocflxcrafbtevtrail.com](http://rocflxcrafbtevtrail.com)).

- You can also discover locally grown and made food and drink while getting to and from your travel destination at the Taste NY Markets found at three travel plazas in the canal corridor:

### **Chittenango Travel Plaza**

New York State Thruway I-90 Westbound  
Milepost 266  
Chittenango, NY 13037

### **Finger Lakes Welcome Center**

35 Lake Front Drive  
Geneva, NY 14456

### **Mohawk Valley Welcome Center**

New York State Thruway I-90 Westbound  
Milepost 187 between exit 28 and 29  
Randall, NY 12072

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## Canal Communities

Be sure to spend time in the villages, towns, and cities along the canal. You’ll discover communities that showcase their canal heritage through waterfront festivals, historical murals, walking tours, and preservation initiatives. Look for evidence of New York’s canal age in the buildings and streetscapes of communities along the canal. Not only do canal towns share similarities in layout and orientation to the waterway, in most cases, their architecture reflects the prosperity that characterized upstate New York from 1825 through the end of the 19th century.



## Cultural and Heritage Sites and Museums

World class museums, four national parks, national historic landmarks, historic canal sites and vessels, grand movie palaces and theaters, and a 100-mile mural trail provide a wealth of choices for exploring culture and history. Canal-themed museums share the powerful story of this waterway's role in shaping New York and the nation. Art lovers will enjoy a wealth of local galleries, outstanding museum collections, craft festivals, and art trails. The changing light and mood of the waterway also presents excellent opportunities for photography and painting.

## State Parks and Historic Sites

Within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, there are nine New York State historic sites and 24 state parks managed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). State parks generally have parking areas, roads, trails, docks, and restrooms. Some have recreational facilities, including beaches, swimming pools, and playgrounds.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about locations, fees, hours, and facilities, visit [parks.ny.gov](https://parks.ny.gov).



*Old Erie Canal State Historic Park,  
Chittenango Creek Aqueduct*

## Cycling the Erie Canalway Trail

Enjoy unparalleled cycling along the 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail. The paved and stone dust trail follows both active and bypassed sections of the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany—much of it along the canal's former towpath. More than three-quarters of it is off-road; trail markers and wayfinding signs make the trail easy to follow and connect the off- and on-road segments. The Erie Canalway Trail forms the east-west spine of the 750-mile Empire State Trail, which also runs north-south from the Canadian border to New York City. The section from Waterford to Whitehall is also known as the Champlain Canalway Trail.



### PASSPORT TO PARKS

A fun way to remember your canal journey is with the special Passport to Your National Parks program's cancellation stamps, available free at more than 30 canal heritage sites. Find a list at [eriecanalway.org/explore/culture-heritage](https://eriecanalway.org/explore/culture-heritage).

## Fishing

As a gateway to New York's waterways, the canal offers access to a wide range of fishing opportunities—from small streams to the Great Lakes. Many anglers seek out areas near the canal system's locks, where fish often congregate. Common catches include: walleye, northern pike, small and large mouth bass, panfish, and carp. New York State requires everyone above the age of 16 to have a license to fish in New York's freshwaters. The NYS DEC maintains a number of fishing access sites along the canal that are also boat launches—these sites are included in this book. Find details:

**[dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html](http://dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html)**

## Birdwatching

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's water, wetlands, and rich woodlands are home to an impressive variety of birds. Migratory songbirds and waterfowl use the corridor on their yearly travels and many nest along its shores. Swallows, herons, and waterfowl are common. Watch for bald eagles and osprey perched along the shoreline or diving for fish.

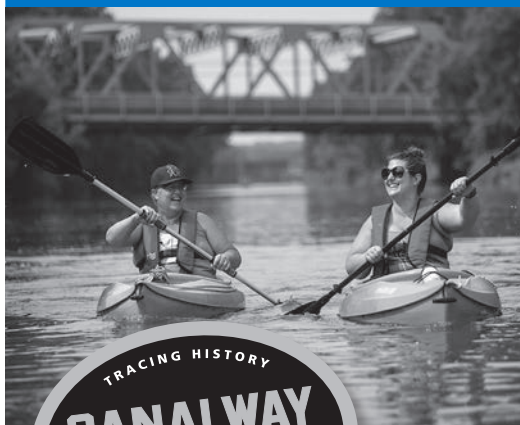
**FOR MORE INFORMATION** visit **[ibirdny.org](http://ibirdny.org)** and **[ebird.org](http://ebird.org)**. Both are excellent sources of up-to-date information, including where to see and learn more about birds.

**MORE INFORMATION** for exploring all there is to see and do along the canalway, including suggested itineraries, can be found at **[eriecanalway.org](http://eriecanalway.org)**.

## Festivals and Events

Communities throughout the canal corridor celebrate their canal connection with annual events, including fairs, festivals, concerts, fireworks, boat floats, races, and more. These events are fun, great for families, and usually free. They make a great destination for a day trip or overnight paddle. Find a calendar of events at **[eriecanalway.org](http://eriecanalway.org)**.

### Are you up for a new challenge?



Register for free, choose your mileage, and walk, run, cycle, or paddle to earn your Canalway Challenge status and rewards.



**Register for free online and start your journey!**

**[canalwaychallenge.org](http://canalwaychallenge.org)**

# PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

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## Know Your Skill Level

The canal system presents opportunities suited to beginners through advanced paddlers. Novices and families with children will find protected sections of the dug canal with flat water, particularly from Tonawanda to Lyons and along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. More experience is needed to paddle river and lake sections where currents and wind affect conditions on the water. Plan your destination and time on the water according to your skills.

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## Trip Duration

How far can you paddle in an hour, an afternoon, a day, a weekend? On average, most adults paddle about 2.5 to 3 miles per hour when paddling in open water, without any significant current or wind.

Build your float plan around the slowest person in your group. Also account for going through locks, which take about 15 to 20 minutes each.

Paddlers going from end to end on the Erie Canal typically plan 2.5 to 3 weeks to make the 339-mile journey. For day or weekend trips, choose mileage that will be comfortable for you to cover in a day—and leave time to stop and explore on land.

Lastly, give serendipity its due. You might discover a lovely place to stop for lunch or a historic site you can visit.

## ADAPTIVE PADDLING

Paddling on the NYS Canal System is an increasingly inclusive sport. Many municipal and NYS DEC docks have been improved to allow handicapped access.

Rochester Accessible Adventures (RAA) makes recreation on the canal system simple and inexpensive for people with disabilities and their families and friends. In 2016, RAA formed a partnership with the Erie Canal Boat Company (ECBC) in Fairport and developed the Adaptive Paddling and Cycling Center (APACC). In addition to experienced staff and volunteers, the center at ECBC has a dock-mounted Hoyer lift, floating docks low to the water, and a ramp entry that opens paddling opportunities to people of all physical abilities. RAA's free CanalPal program sends a trained volunteer out with kayakers to provide training and support.

A second site in Lockport opened at the Wide Waters Marina in 2018 and adaptive equipment rentals can be arranged with ECBC at additional locations.

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### LEARN MORE:

**Rochester Accessible Adventures**  
(585) 491-6011

[rochesteraccessibleadventures.org](http://rochesteraccessibleadventures.org)

**Erie Canal Boat Company**

(585) 748-2628

[eriecanalboatcompany.com](http://eriecanalboatcompany.com)

## EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

### BOAT GEAR

- ☐ Canoe, kayak, stand-up paddle-board, rowboat, or other vessel(s) suitable for the water conditions and number of people on the trip. [Do NOT overload]
- ☐ Coast Guard Approved wearable Personal Flotation Device (PFD/life vest)—required for every participant
- ☐ Whistle/horn (required)
- ☐ White light (required)

### ADDITIONAL BOAT GEAR

- ☐ Paddles (and a spare)
- ☐ Bailer or pump
- ☐ Bow and stern lines (painters)
- ☐ Waterproof gear storage bags
- ☐ Cable and lock (to secure boat when you go into town)

### COMMUNICATIONS AND SAFETY

- ☐ Float plan with emergency contact information (see page 21)
- ☐ Cell phone in waterproof container
- ☐ Portable VHF marine band radio (useful but not required—canal lock and bridge operators and many boaters monitor Channel 13)
- ☐ Binoculars (useful but not required) for reading buoy numbers and far-off bridge names

### PERSONAL GEAR

- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Wide-brimmed hat
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Gloves (to handle lock lines)
- ☐ Knife
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Cold and warm weather clothing
- ☐ Water shoes
- ☐ Quarters (coin-operated shower, laundry, parking meters, etc.)
- ☐ Credit/debit card

### SHELTER

- ☐ Tent
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Sleeping pad

### FOOD AND COOKING

- ☐ Meals and snacks
- ☐ Portable stove
- ☐ Fuel
- ☐ Waterproof matches and/or lighter
- ☐ Water jug
- ☐ Cooking gear and utensils
- ☐ Trash bags (if you pack it in, pack it out)



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# Smart Paddlers know how to **BE SAFE & BE SEEN**



**Wear your lifejacket, carry a whistle and wear bright colors.  
Add reflective stickers to your paddles to increase visibility.**

**Get your FREE reflective paddle stickers by sending this ad  
and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:**

**NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
Attn: Marine Services Bureau Reflective Stickers  
Albany, NY 12238**



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**[parks.ny.gov](http://parks.ny.gov)**

# WEAR IT!

**[WearItNewYork.com](http://WearItNewYork.com)**



## MAKE A FLOAT PLAN

A float plan will help to ensure your safety should something unexpected arise during your trip. Leave the information with a reliable person who will notify the authorities if you do not return as scheduled. If you are delayed and it is not an emergency, inform the person with your float plan to avoid an unnecessary search. Let the person know when you arrive home.

Include the following in your plan:

- Departure time and expected return time
- Names and phone numbers of all persons on the trip
- Trip route, with direction and destination(s)
- Boat description with boat color and length
- Description of your vehicle, plate number, and where it will be parked
- List of emergency safety equipment on board (flares, VHF radio)

**BE SMART:** Put your name and contact information in permanent marker in or on your boat in a way that easily can be seen. This will aid in tracking down a boat that has gone missing, on or off the water. Paddlers should always carry waterproof ID with emergency contact information that can ride along with you in your pocket or in your boat. Labels are available from NYS OPRHP and the US Coast Guard.

Some areas of the canals have poor or no cellular signal reception. This could affect access to 911 emergency services or other communication needs. Most canal facilities and other private businesses do have landlines should you find limited cellular service during your journey.



## Accommodations

Some portions of the canal system pass through populated areas with a choice of hotels, motels, B&Bs, and other lodgings. Other parts are more sparsely populated where lodging may be scarce or far from the water. This book includes lodgings that are easily accessible from the canal. Additional options for lodging are available off the canal system. See pages 24-25 for information on tourism offices.

The NYS Canal Corporation has designated a number of Biker-Hiker-Boater campsites along the canal system. These tent-only informal campsites have space for tents, and offer potable water, portable toilets, picnic tables, and grills. Stays are limited to 48 hours. Contact the site in advance to make sure space is available. For camping space for groups larger than 10 people/ four tents, contact Canal Real Property Management at (518) 449-6000 to obtain a permit.

Camping is permitted at most other canal locks on a case-by-case, first-come, first-served basis. Camping at these non-designated sites is limited to a maximum of four tents per night. Contact the Lock Operator in advance to determine if camping is permissible and where to set up. At most non-designated locks, the camping facilities are limited—drinking water and restrooms may not be available for overnight stays.

Paddlers should think ahead about overnight boat storage and security. Bring a cable lock system to anchor your boat to a tree, fence, boat rack, or your car roof rack.

## Biker-Hiker-Boater Campsites

### **ERIE CANAL**

#### **Lock E6 Crescent**

77 Flight Lock Road  
Waterford, NY 12188  
(518) 237-4014

#### **Lock E15 Fort Plain**

84 Otsquago Club Road  
Fort Plain, NY 13339  
(518) 993-4161

#### **Lock E16 St. Johnsville**

171 Mindenville Drive  
Fort Plain, NY 13339  
(518) 568-2636

#### **Lock E21 New London**

7176 Lock Road  
Rome, NY 13440  
(315) 336-8229

#### **Lock E22 New London**

3692 Wood Creek Road  
Rome, NY 13440  
(315) 336-4329

#### **Lock E23 Brewerton**

6908 Black Creek Road  
Brewerton, NY 13029  
(315) 676-4171

#### **Lock E25 May's Point**

546 South Mays Point Road  
Savannah, NY 13146  
(315) 365-3241

#### **Lock E32 Pittsford**

2785 Clover Street  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
(585) 586-1837

#### **Lock E33 Rochester**

1205 Edgewood Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14618  
(585) 244-2150

### **CAYUGA-SENECA CANAL**

#### **Lock CS1 Cayuga**

6869 River Road  
Cayuga, NY 13034  
(315) 253-7523

#### **CS2-3 Seneca Falls**

9 Seneca Street  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
(315) 568-5797

### **CHAMPLAIN CANAL**

#### **Lock C4 Stillwater**

947 Stillwater Bridge Road  
Schaghticoke, NY 12154  
(518) 664-5261

#### **Lock C9 Smith's Basin**

2450 State Route 149  
Fort Ann, NY 12827  
(518) 747-6021

## Other Camping Locations

Several state parks near the canals offer full-amenity tent and RV camping for a modest fee. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call 800-456-CAMP or check [newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com).

### Verona Beach State Park

6541 Lakeshore Road South  
Verona Beach, NY 13162  
(315) 762-4463  
46 campsites

### Cayuga Lake State Park

2678 Lower Lake Road  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
(315) 568-5163  
264 campsites

### Green Lakes State Park

7900 Green Lakes Road  
Fayetteville, NY 13066  
(315) 637-6111  
142 campsites

Find other public campgrounds operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at [newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com).

Additional private campgrounds directly on the canal system are mentioned in the mile-to-mile site listings of this book.

## Useful Websites and Planning Resources

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor: [eriecanalway.org](http://eriecanalway.org)

NY CANAL Map: [nycanalmap.com](http://nycanalmap.com)

New York State Canal Corporation: [canals.ny.gov](http://canals.ny.gov)

NYS Canalway Water Trail Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/nyscanalwaywatertrail](https://facebook.com/groups/nyscanalwaywatertrail)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: [dec.ny.gov](http://dec.ny.gov)

Parks & Trails New York: [ptny.org](http://ptny.org)

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration: [weather.gov](http://weather.gov)

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation: [parks.ny.gov](http://parks.ny.gov)

I LOVE New York: [ILoveNY.com](http://ILoveNY.com)

Empire State Trail: [empiretrail.ny.gov](http://empiretrail.ny.gov)

Christopher Cove



## Enter the Erie Canalway Photo Contest

Entering is a snap! Find an entry form and tips on our website: [www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved/photo-contest](http://www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved/photo-contest)

Winning images will be published in the annual Erie Canalway calendar.

## CANALWAY CORRIDOR TOURISM OFFICES

Find accommodations and additional trip planning resources for the region you are visiting at these tourism offices.

### ALBANY COUNTY

#### **Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACCVB)**

25 Quackenbush Square  
Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 434-1217  
albany.org

### CAYUGA COUNTY

#### **Cayuga County Office of Tourism**

131 Genesee Street  
Auburn, NY 13021  
(800) 499-9615  
tourcayuga.com

### ERIE COUNTY

#### **Visit Buffalo Niagara**

Visitor Center  
Brisbane Building  
403 Main Street (corner of Washington  
and Clinton Streets)  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(800) 283-3256  
visitbuffaloniagara.com

### HERKIMER COUNTY

#### **Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce**

420 East German Street  
Herkimer, NY 13350  
(877) 984-4636  
herkimercountychamber.com

### MADISON COUNTY

#### **Madison County Tourism, Inc.**

PO Box 1029  
Route 20 Brooks Hall  
Morrisville, NY 13408  
(800) 684-7320  
madisontourism.com

### MONROE COUNTY

#### **Visit Rochester**

45 East Avenue, Suite 400  
Rochester, NY 14604  
(800) 677-7282  
visitrochester.com

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### **Montgomery County Tourism**

1166 Riverfront Center  
Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(800) 743-7337  
visitmontgomerycountyny.com

### NIAGARA COUNTY

#### **Destination Niagara USA**

10 Rainbow Boulevard  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303  
(877) FALLS-US  
niagarafallsusa.com

#### **Lockport Visitor Center**

24 Church Street  
Lockport, NY 14094  
(716) 439-0431  
discoverlockport.com

### ONEIDA COUNTY

#### **Oneida County Tourism**

PO Box 551  
Utica, NY 13503  
(800) 426-3132  
oneidacountytourism.com

### ONONDAGA COUNTY

#### **Visit Syracuse**

115 West Fayette Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(800) 234-4797  
visitsyracuse.com

ONTARIO COUNTY

**Finger Lakes Visitors Connection**

25 Gorham Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
(877) 386-4669  
visitfingerlakes.com

ORLEANS COUNTY

**Orleans County Tourism Agency**

14016 NY 31  
Albion, NY 14411  
(800) 724-0314  
orleansny.com

OSWEGO COUNTY

**Oswego County Promotion & Tourism**

46 East Bridge Street  
Oswego, NY 13126  
(800) 248-4386  
visitoswegocounty.com

RENSSELAER COUNTY

**Rensselaer County Tourism**

1600 7th Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 270-2959  
renscotourism.com

SARATOGA COUNTY

**Discover Saratoga**

60 Railroad Place, Suite 301  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
(518) 584-1531  
discoversaratoga.org

**Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce**

28 Clinton Street  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
(518) 584-3255  
saratoga.org

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

**Discover Schenectady**

242 Broadway  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
(518) 383-0390  
discoverschenectady.com

SENECA COUNTY

**Seneca County Chamber of Commerce**

2020 US 20  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
(800) 732-1848

**Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance**

309 Lake Street  
Penn Yann, NY 14527  
(800) 530-7488

WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Washington County Tourism**

383 Broadway  
Fort Edward, NY 12828  
(888) 203-8622  
washingtoncounty.fun

WAYNE COUNTY

**Wayne County Office of Tourism**

9 Pearl Street  
Lyons, NY 14489  
(800) 527-6510  
waynecountytourism.com

WARREN COUNTY

**Warren County Tourism Department**

1340 State Route 9  
Lake George, NY 12845  
(800) 365-1050  
visitlakegeorge.com

# BEST BET PADDLING DAY TRIPS

Region	Canal	Start Location	End Location	Start Mile	End Mile	Total Miles
Cayuga-Seneca	Cayuga-Seneca	Oak Island Park, Waterloo (pg. 227)	Lock CS2-3, Seneca Falls (pg. 232)	12.45	8.01	4.44
Champlain	Champlain	Moreau Boat Ramp, Fort Edward (pg. 265)	Lock C5/Upper Launch, Schuylerville (pg. 269)	36.79	26.28	10.51
Champlain	Champlain	Alfred Z. Solomon Launch, Lock C5, Schuylerville (pg. 270)	Stillwater Hudson Riverfront Park (pg. 274)	26.15	17.21	8.94
Buffalo to Rochester	Erie	Canalside Buffalo (pg. 38)	Smith Street/Red Jacket Riverfront Park and return (pg. 37)	351.7	355.02	6.60
Buffalo to Rochester	Erie	Ransom Creek Kayak Launch, Amherst (pg. 55)	Wide Waters/Goehle Public Marina Boat Launch, Lockport (pg. 63)	328.88	319.50	9.38
Buffalo to Rochester	Erie	Harvester Park, Brockport (pg. 77)	Holley Canal Park and return (pg. 75)	278.85	283.43	9.16
Rochester to Syracuse	Erie	Genesee Waterways Center, Genesee Valley Park, Rochester (pg. 88)	Corn Hill Landing and return (pg. 88)	Off the canal	Off the canal	6.80
Rochester to Syracuse	Erie	Erie Canal Boat Company, Fairport (pg. 101)	Bushnell's Basin Docks and return (pg. 99)	246.77	250.63	7.70
Rochester to Syracuse	Erie	Mercer Memorial Park, Baldwinsville (pg. 131)	Willow Bay on Onondaga Lake, Liverpool (pg. 139)	172.67	166.57	6.10

One-way or round trip	Number of Locks	Notes
one way	1	This scenic paddling trip takes you on the Cayuga-Seneca canal, through one lock at Waterloo, and on to Seneca Falls. If you don't have your own boat you can rent one from Stivers Seneca Marine or Canalside Experiences, a short distance upstream of Oak Island Park. To extend this trip to a multi-day journey from Geneva to Mays Point, find an itinerary at <a href="http://eriecanalway.org">eriecanalway.org</a> .
one way	1	This trip is a nice mix of river and land-cut paddling, passing through Lock C6 Fort Miller and ending at Lock C5 and Hudson Crossing Park.
one way	0	Enjoy a lovely float past Saratoga Battlefield with places to stop and stretch at Fort Hardy Park or the Schuyler Home in Schuylerville.
round trip	0	Paddle up the winding Buffalo River between towering grain elevators where midwestern grain is stored. It was once transferred here from lake freighters to canal boats, but now goes by rail. River Fest Park and Mutual Riverfront Park are nice places to get out and stretch. There are several places to rent canoes and kayaks at Canalside and along the river or you can launch your own at Ohio Street.
one way	2	Descend the Niagara Escarpment without going over the falls. Pass through the “deep cut” and staircase Locks 34/35 of the Lockport Flight. A low dock at the top of Lock E35 provides an opportunity to get out, stretch your legs, and explore Lockport. Good ice cream and food options are nearby.
round trip	0	Paddle up to Holley for a picnic in the gazebo and let the canal's mild current help on your return.
round trip	0	Rent a canoe or kayak or launch your own at Genesee Waterways Center and follow the river through Genesee Valley Park, designed by the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. You'll paddle past the University of Rochester campus and into the heart of downtown Rochester at Cornhill Landing where you can get out and stretch. Just remember that you'll be paddling against the river's current on your return.
round trip	0	Rent a canoe or kayak at Erie Canal Boat Company or launch your own at their ramp and paddle up to Bushnell's Basin. Enjoy ice cream, coffee, and several places to eat there before your return to Fairport.
one way	1	Launch from the park and head east. Stay to the south side to avoid the dam and enter Lock E24. This section of the Seneca River provides great flatwater paddling and an opportunity to view many species of wildlife. Stay to the south channel around Klein Island to enter the outlet to Onondaga Lake. Takeout at Willow Bay to the left around the stone breakwater.

## Best Bet Paddling Day Trips

Region	Canal	Start Location	End Location	Start Mile	End Mile	Total Miles
Syracuse to Little Falls	Erie	Old Erie Canal State Park, Cedar Bay Park, DeWitt (pg. 136)	Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango (pg. 136)	Off the canal	Off the canal	9.40
Syracuse to Little Falls	Erie	Ilion Marina or Fulmer Creek Access, Mohawk (pg. 166) or Gems Along the Mohawk, Herkimer (pg 170)	Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park (pg. 172)	89.07	80.10	8.97
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park (pg. 172)	Lock E18 and return (pg. 171)	80.10	83.19	6.20
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park (pg. 172)	St. Johnsville Municipal Marina (pg. 178)	80.10	69.48	10.62
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Schoharie Crossing Boat Ramp, Fort Hunter (pg. 186)	Port Jackson/South Side Launch, Amsterdam (pg. 190)	43.90	38.50	5.40
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Aqueduct Park, Schenectady (pg. 200)	Lions Park, Niskayuna (pg. 204)	17.33	11.20	6.13
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Lock 7, Niskayuna (pg. 202)	Aqueduct Park, Schenectady (pg. 200)	13.14	17.33	8.50
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Alcathy's Boat Launch, Waterford (pg. 208)	Waterford Point Boat Ramp (pg. 213)	3.02	0.28	2.74
Oswego	Oswego	Indian Point Landing, Fulton (pg. 247)	Lock O8 Ramp, Oswego (pg. 255)	12.90	22.89	9.99
Oswego	Oswego	Lock Island Park, Phoenix (pg. 255)	Indian Point Landing, Fulton (pg. 247)	2.33	12.90	10.57