# ONONDAGA LAKE AND THE SYRACUSE REGION



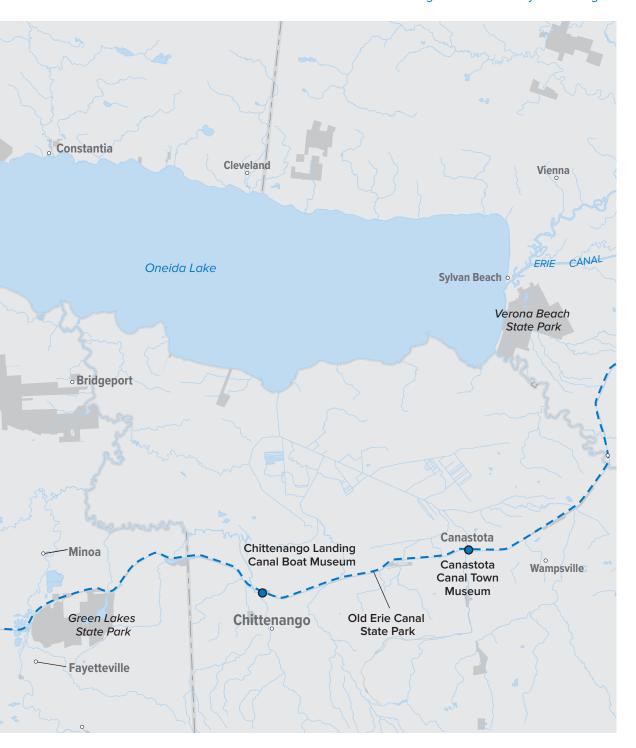
Follow the path where mules once trod and where the mighty Erie Canal gave rise to cities, towns, and industries in the 1800s.

Like many upstate cities, Syracuse grew along the banks of the canal. The route shifted north to the bed of the Seneca River during the early 1900s. Syracuse remained connected to the canal via Onondaga Lake. You'll find the influence of the canal's heyday in the Syracuse region in the city's architecture and at local historic sites, museums, and at the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park.

Onondaga Lake is sacred to the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people. The Onondaga Nation (people of the hills) are keepers of the central fire of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, made up of the Seneca, Tuscarora, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk nations. The canal and water trail pass through their ancestorial lands.

In the early 1900s, factory workers from Syracuse used to flock to beaches, parks, and dance halls along the shores of Onondaga Lake. But by 1940, swimming had been banned due to a combination of industrial discharge and untreated sewage. Onondaga Lake became notorious as the most polluted lake in America. Today, massive cleanup efforts have improved water quality dramatically. Swimming is now permitted in the northern portion.





#### PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

# Old Erie Canal State Historic Park

parks.ny.gov

Thirty-six miles of the original Erie Canal, stretching from DeWitt, just east of Syracuse, to New London and the outskirts of Rome. features five stone arch aqueducts and a number of historic structures. The park includes the Erie Canalway Trail, which follows the old towpath and is suitable for bicycling, walking, and running. Paddling is an option in certain sections of the park. (See pages 134-135.)

PADDLING NOTE: Launch sites are being developed at the Cedar Bay Picnic Area, Poolsbrook Widewater, Manlius Center, and Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum. A paddling guide is available at tourthetowpath.com.

43.05258 -76.30299

## **Camillus Erie Canal Park**

5750 Devoe Road Camillus, NY 13031 (315) 488-3409 eriecanalcamillus.com

Located along the Old Erie Canal, the park features Sims Store Museum and the award-winning 1842 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, which was restored and rewatered in 2009. Narrated boat tours are conducted May through October.

43.06064 -76.16258

## **Canastota Canal Town Museum**

122 Canal Street Canastota, NY 13032 (315) 697-5002 canastota-canal.com

43.06003 -75.87146

## Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum

717 Lakeport Road Chittenango, NY 13037 (315) 687-3801 chittenangolanding.org

Restored dry docks, replica canal boat, blacksmith shop, and exhibits illustrate what life was like on the Erie Canal in the 1800s. The museum offers bike and kayak rentals.

43.06064 -76.16258

#### **Erie Canal Museum**

318 Frie Boulevard Fast Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 471-0593 eriecanalmuseum.org

Extensive collection and exhibits on all facets of the Erie Canal. Housed in the only remaining Weighlock Building (1850) where canal boats were weighed when traveled through Syracuse.

43.09353 -76.19716

## Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center

6680 Onondaga Lake Parkway Liverpool, NY 13088 (315) 453-6767 skanonhcenter.org

A Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Heritage Center focuses on the story of the Onondaga Nation of central New York.

43.08795 -76.22522

## **Amphitheater at Lakeview**

490 Restoration Way Syracuse, NY 13209 (315) 435-5100 asmsyracuse.com

An outdoor concert venue on Onondaga Lake. Lakeview Point Landing has an access point for paddlers to reach the amphitheater.

43.04473 -76.14893

## **Everson Museum of Art**

401 Harrison Street Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 474-6064 everson.org

Notable for its collection of American paintings, renowned ceramics and video art. The building was designed by I.M. Pei.

## **Green Lakes State Park**

7900 Green Lakes Road Fayetteville, NY 13066 (315) 637-6111 nysparks.com/parks

The park includes two aquamarine glacial lakes surrounded by upland forest. Swimming beach, paddlecraft rentals, 18-hole golf course, 10 miles of trails, camping. A pedestrian bridge over the Old Erie Canal links trails with the Empire State Trail through Old Erie Canal State Park.

**MORE INFORMATION** about things to do in the Syracuse area, including dining and lodging, is available at **madisontourism. com** and **visitsyracuse.com**.

Use our 3-day Erie Canal Sampler-Syracuse Itinerary to experience many cultural, arts, and culinary attractions in Syracuse and Central New York. https://eriecanalway.org/explore/Plan-Visit

## LODGING

43.06064 -76.16258

# Aloft Syracuse Inner Harbor

310 West Kirkpatrick Street Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 422-1700 marriott.com

# Onondaga Lake Park

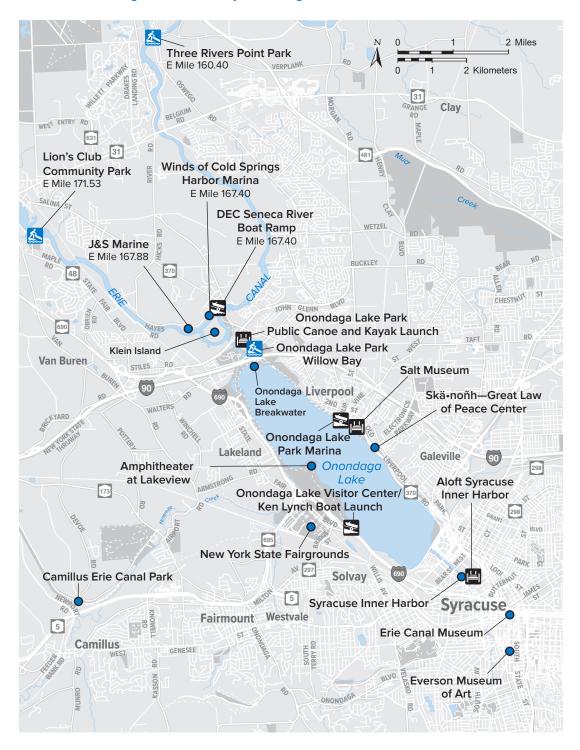
Headquarters at 106 Lake Drive (off Onondaga Lake Parkway, NY 370) Liverpool, NY 13088 (315) 453-6712 onondagacountyparks.com

Often called the "Central Park of Central New York," this county park is a 7.5-mile linear greenway with many trails and recreational facilities. It is located on both sides of the north end of Onondaga Lake.

There are several parking areas and informal hand-launch sites at gravel beaches along the east side of the lake. The Willow Bay section of the park has parking, restrooms, and picnic shelters. There is also an informal beach launch at the west end of the Long Branch Road bridge over Onondaga Lake Outlet with parking nearby. The Onondaga Lake Park marina in Liverpool has the only paved boat ramp on the lake (\$10 fee per launch).

**PADDLING NOTE:** There can be a lot of traffic on the narrow Onondaga Lake Outlet, including powerboats, jet skis, and rowing shells. The floating docks and boathouses of Syracuse University and the Syracuse Chargers on the east side of the outlet are off limits.

# Erie Canal–Onondaga Lake and the Syracuse Region



Onondaga Lake 43.12031 -76.24786

# Onondaga Lake Outlet Launch

2152 Onondaga Lake Parkway Liverpool, NY 13090

**FACILITIES:** Roller dock, gravel beach landing about 350 feet north, ample parking

**DRIVING NOTE:** This section of Onondaga Lake Parkway is one-way. The entrance is off Cold Springs Road north of John Glenn Boulevard near the Wegman's Good Dog Park. The exit is on Long Branch Road.

Onondaga Lake 43.11527 -76.24075

# Millow Bay

The gravel beach at Onondaga Lake Park's Willow Bay unit is a good place to launch paddlecraft and a great place to watch sunsets over the water or fireworks at the State Fair.

**FACILITIES:** Beach landing, restrooms, picnic pavilions, ample parking.

Onondaga Lake 43.10025 -76.20938

# Onondaga Lake Park Marina

99 Vine Street Liverpool, NY 13088

**FACILITIES:** Paved ramp (fee) restrooms, showers.

Onondaga Lake 43.09928 -76.20738

## Salt Museum

106 Lake Drive Liverpool, NY 13088

Salt springs bubble to the surface near Syracuse. Converting brine into salt and salt-based chemicals became a major industry. Canal boats carried the product far and wide and salt tolls and taxes helped pay for the canal's construction and enlargement. The Salt Museum is housed in the last surviving boiling block, where brine that had concentrated in shallow pans under the sun was purified and dried into crystals.

**FACILITIES:** Dock, restrooms, exhibits.

Onondaga Lake 43.07274 -76.20450

# Onondaga Lake Visitor Center/ Ken Lynch Boat Launch

280 Restoration Way Syracuse, NY 13209 (315) 552-9751 lakecleanup.com

**FACILITIES:** Viewing deck, restrooms, concrete ramp south of the center, handlaunch beach on the north side. Visitor Center with exhibits on the restoration of Onondaga Lake after more than a century of industrial abuse.

Onondaga Lake 43.06050 -76.16360

# Syracuse Inner Harbor

328 West Kirkpatrick Street Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 663-2100 thesyracuseinnerharbor.com

Located at the south end of Onondaga Lake, this area is under development as a new urban neighborhood with unique waterfront access linking the city to the lake. E Mile 167.10 43.12998 -76.25343

Bridge E73, Cold Springs Road (NY 370)

E Mile 162.39 43.17565 -76.27641

Bridge E72, Belgium Road (NY 31)

E Mile 160.45 43.20131 -76.28037

# Three Rivers Junction with Oswego Canal

The Oneida River and the Seneca River merge here to become the Oswego River. The Oswego River and Canal and river flow north for some 23 miles, ending at the port of Oswego on Lake Ontario.

Paddlers who stay on the Erie Canal will be heading upstream for the first time since leaving Buffalo. The Oneida River drops about 11 feet between the outlet of Oneida Lake at Brewerton and its confluence with the Seneca and Oswego rivers at Three Rivers. The "Rome Summit" between locks E21 and E20, east of Oneida Lake, crosses the drainage divide between the St. Lawrence and Hudson basins.

E Mile 160.40, south side 43.20061 -76.27941

## Three Rivers Point Park

8892-8898 Gaskin Road Clay, NY 13041 (315) 652-3800

**FACILITIES:** Informal hand launch. Picnic shelters, portable toilets. Ample parking.

The former Three Rivers Terminal is now a waterfront park on the site of the Three Rivers Inn, a once famous dance hall.

E Mile 160.34 43.20151 -76.27793

Bridge E71, Oswego Road (CR 57)

E Mile 160.32 43.20158 -76.27760

Bridge E70, CSX railroad

# **OSWEGO CANAL**

The Oswego Canal connects the Erie Canal at Three Rivers to the Oswego Harbor at Lake Ontario. Though the Oswego is the canal system's shortest segment, it has long provided a critical connection to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The Oswego River's bays and back channels are well suited for canoeing and kayaking, as well as fishing and birdwatching. Visitors from around the world are drawn to Oswego's active port, renowned for its festivals and exceptional sport fishing.

Water Trail sites along the Oswego Canal can be found starting on page 241.

E Mile 159.42, south side 43.21044 -76.26622

# DEC Oneida River Fishing Access Site (Bonstead Road Launch)

Bonstead Road (Under NY 481 Bridge) Clay, NY 13041

FACILITIES: Ramp. Parking for 10 cars; 24-hour overnight parking permitted.

43.21097 -76.26661 E Mile 159.40

Bridge E69A, NY 481

E Mile 159.30, north side 43.21377 -76.26345

At buoy R206, the Oneida River branches off to the north into a long loop that reenters the canal in about 0.75 miles. During the Barge Canal construction, the loop was cut off by the Big Bend Cut; the land along the loop became known as Horseshoe Island.

E Mile 158.31 43.21653 -76.24735

Bridge E69, Horseshoe Island Road

E Mile 158.21, north side 43.21680 -76.24584

The Oneida River meets the canal again after looping around Horseshoe Island.

E Mile 158.18, south side 43.21431 -76.24570

### **Pirates Cove Marina**

9170 Horseshoe Island Road Clay, NY 13041 (315) 695-3901 piratescovemarina.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, RV camping. Ramp. Parking. Restaurant.

Large private marina.

E Mile 156.54, north side 43.20575 -76.21824

# River Edge Mansion Bed and Breakfast

1 CR 10

Pennellville, NY 13132 (315) 695-3021 riveredgemansion.com

The restored Greek Revival mansion built in 1818 by George Casper von Schroeppel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Dedicated dock.

E Mile 156.50 43.20489 -76.21774

Bridge E68, Morgan Road (CR 10)

E Mile 156.33, south side 43.20517 -76.21401

Mud Creek enters the canal.

E Mile 156.29, south side 43.20518 -76.21395

The south wall of the Oak Orchard Lock of the 1840 Oneida River Improvement is visible on the south bank.

E Mile 155.15, south side 43.20993 -76.21035

The Oneida River rejoins the canal.

E Mile 154.75, south side 43.21656 -76.20618

The Morgan Cut on a loop of the Oneida River forms Glosky Island. To remain in the canal channel, stay to the north.

E Mile 154.45, south side 43.22217 -76.20235

The Oneida River rejoins the canal.

E Mile 154.10, north side 43.23535 -76.20418

The Oneida River leaves the canal to form a large loop. To stay in the canal channel, paddle straight ahead (east) under the Black Creek Road bridge into the Anthony Cut. Caughedenoy Dam, at the north end of this artificial island, maintains the level of Oneida Lake.

E Mile 154.01 43.23619 -76.20278

Bridge E67, Black Creek Road (CR 239)

E Mile 153.65 43.23879 -76.19634

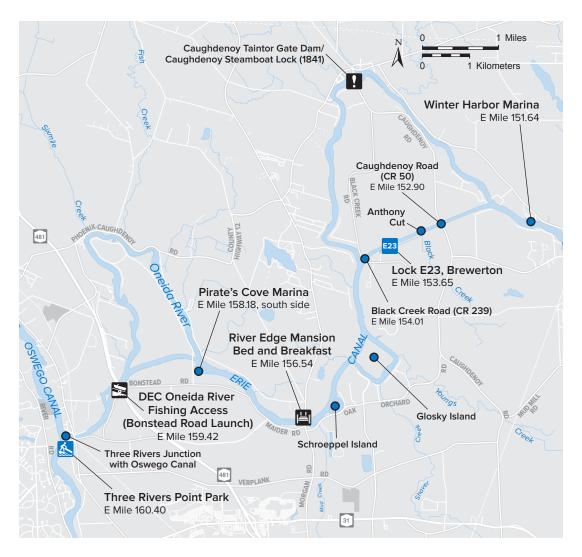
## Lock E23, Brewerton

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

**LIFT:** 6 feet 9 inches.

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilets, picnic tables, grills. Tie up at the wooden piers on both sides at the eastern end of the lock.

## Erie Canal-Brewerton



Lock E23 is the busiest lock on the entire NYS Canal System. Its location between Oneida Lake and the Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals and the Finger Lakes means it gets a lot of pleasure boat and commercial traffic. The lock has a guard gate integrated into its eastern end. The original hydroelectric powerhouse still generates electricity for lock machinery.

Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.

| E Mile 152.90                       | 43.24306 -76.18303 |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Bridge E66, Caughdenoy              | Road (CR 50)       |  |
| E Mile 152.17, north side           | 43.24696 -76.16952 |  |
| The Oneida River rejoins the canal. |                    |  |

E Mile 151.64, north side

43.24371 -76.15965

# Winter Harbor Marina

604 CR 37 Central Square, NY 13036 (315) 676-9276 winterharborllc.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Fixed docks; no ramp.

Private marina.

E Mile 151.10, south side 43.23963 -76.15009

## **Ess-Kay Yards**

5307 Guy Young Road Brewerton, NY 13029 (315) 676-2711 ess-kayyards.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Fixed docks, ramp.

Private marina.

# PLACE OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.24178 -76.14116

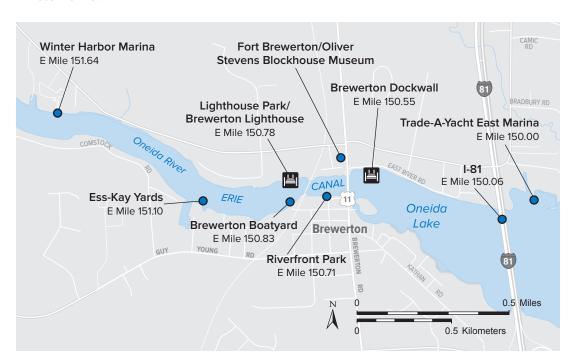
# Fort Brewerton/Oliver Stevens Blockhouse Museum

9 US 11 Brewerton, NY 13029 (315) 668-8801 fortbrewerton.net

Fortified house built in 1794 near Old Fort Brewerton. The historic park next to the museum is where Fort Brewerton was located. The fort is gone but the original earthworks around it are still visible.

**ADMISSION:** Free

**HOURS:** June, July, and August: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



43.23964 -76.14442 E Mile 150.83, south side

## **Brewerton Boatvard**

5405 Bennett Street Brewerton, NY 13029 (315) 676-3762 brewertonboatyard.com

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

Private marina.

E Mile 150.78, north side 43.24067 -76.14442

# Lighthouse Park

CR 37 off US Route 11 Brewerton, NY 13029

The Brewerton Lighthouse is one of the Three Sisters—three candlestick lighthouses constructed during the Barge Canal expansion to guide navigation on Oneida Lake. The lighthouse is 85 feet tall and was first lit in the summer of 1917: it is still in use. The Town of Hastings has turned the area around the lighthouse into a small park with two docks, portable toilets, and a picnic pavilion. Ample parking, distance to the dock approximately 300' along a paved path

43.24035 -76.14330 E Mile 150.72

Bridge E65, CSX railroad

E Mile 150.71, south side 43.23992 -76.14203

## **Riverfront Park**

5449 Bennett Street Brewerton, NY 13029 (315) 699-5233

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet, picnic tables. There is an informal pull-out at the east end of the wall, near the concrete gaging station, otherwise high walls make this park difficult for paddlers to access. Ample parking. Shops and restaurants in Brewerton are a short walk away.

| E Mile 150.58                      | 43.24044 -76.14063 |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Bridge E64, Brewerton Road (US 11) |                    |  |

E Mile 150.55, north side 43.24095 -76.13914

### Brewerton Dockwall

East River Road Brewerton, NY 13029

**FACILITIES:** Electric. Fixed and floating dock with informal beach landing on shore. Parking for 12 cars. Dining and shopping are a short walk away.

The Brewerton Dock wall replaces a collapsed pier that was built in 1911.

E Mile 150.06 43.23762 -76.13056

Bridge E63A, I-81

Oneida Lake begins to the east of this bridge. Parts of six counties and 69 communities are in the watershed. The lake takes its name from the Oneida Nation that historically occupied the region around the lake.

# Oneida Lake



The largest lake entirely within New York State, Oneida Lake is about 21 miles long, five miles wide, and covers about 80 square miles. Oneida Lake is a popular vacation spot. During the summer months, it is full of people and boats, swimming, fishing, sailing, cruising, water skiing and wake boarding. Be alert to other boats and wakes; look out for swimmers and water toys, fishing lines, and tow ropes.

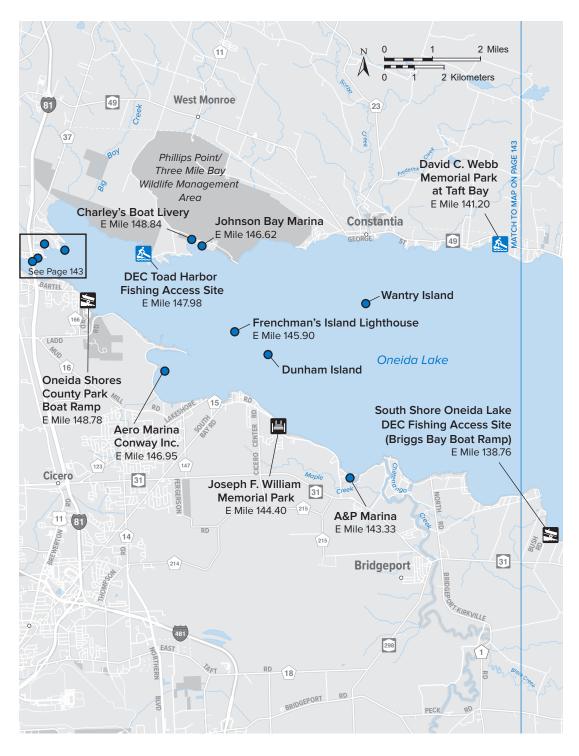
**PADDLING NOTE:** Take extra precautions when crossing Oneida Lake. Plot your travel route in advance and share it with someone. Always wear a life jacket.

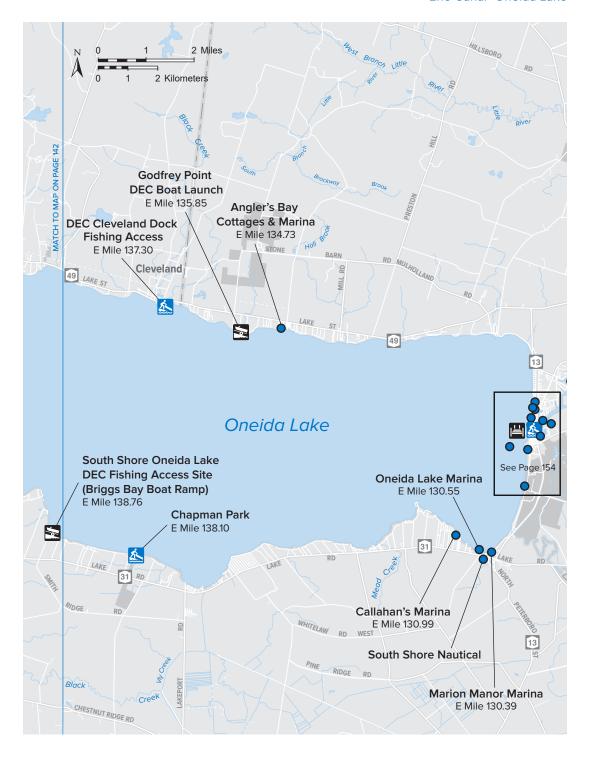
The Erie Canal channel goes straight across the lake and is marked by spar buoys. Following it from one end of the lake to the

other will take between five and six hours—longer if the wind is against you—with no place to land. For all but the most experienced paddlers, following the channel is neither the safest nor most enjoyable option. Bad weather with lightning, dangerous winds, waves, and fog can come up suddenly on the lake. The prevailing wind comes out of the west and can build big waves on a fairly shallow lake by the time it reaches Sylvan Beach at the eastern end. It is safest for paddlers crossing the lake to leave Brewerton in the early morning, before winds build during the day.

Most paddlers opt to follow the shoreline to the north or south. Both routes have their charms—use the descriptions here to decide which route to take.

## Erie Canal-Oneida Lake





## **NORTH SHORE**

E Mile 150.00

43.23993 -76.12851

## Trade-A-Yacht East Marina

CR 37

Brewerton, NY 13029 (315) 676-3531 tradeayacht.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Car top launch, concrete ramp. Secure parking.

Private marina.

E Mile 149.73, buoy 136

43.24401 -76.12599

## **Bradbury's Boatel**

57 Bradbury Road (CR 37) Brewerton, NY 13029 (315) 676-7060

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, portable restrooms, showers. Concrete ramp. Restaurant.

Large private marina.

E Mile 149.50

43.24230 -76.11802

## **Big Bay Marina**

155 Camic Road Central Square, NY 13036 (315) 676-2223 bigbaymarina.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, portable restrooms. Concrete ramp. Restaurant. Camping.

Large private marina. Day launch fee.

E Mile 147.98

43.24159 -76.08723

# DEC Toad Harbor Fishing Access Site\*

8174-8236 Shaw Road West Monroe, NY 13167

**FACILITIES:** Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 15 cars.

43.256247 -76.060790

Phillips Point/Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area McCloud Drive Central Square, NY

Once known as Toad Harbor Swamp, this WMA covers 3,966 acres, much of which is a low-land swamp. Few areas are more than 30 feet above the level of Oneida Lake. It is an excellent spot for birdwatching. It can be accessed from the Toad Harbor Fishing Access Site.

F Mile 148.84

43.24605 -76.06845

## **Charley's Boat Livery**

82 McCloud Road West Monroe, NY 13167 (315) 668-6341 oneidalakefishin.com

Campsite with dedicated dock. Distance from parking 300 feet.

E Mile 146.62

43.24386 -76.06485

## **Johnson Bay Marina**

136 McCloud Road West Monroe, NY 13167 (315) 561-3909

**FACILITIES:** Portable restrooms. Concrete ramp.

Private marina.

E Mile 144.14

43.22812 -76.00010

Wantry Island

This island, along with nearby Little Island and Long Island, are designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Common terns nest on the islands. To avoid disturbing nest sites, do not land on these islands. Wantry Island is privately owned.

<sup>\*</sup> Public boat launches on Oneida Lake are indicated with an asterisk.

E Mile 141.20

43.24348 -75.94629

# David C. Webb Memorial Park at Taft Bay

State Route 49
Bernhards Bay, NY 13028
constantiany.org/park-recreation
(315) 623-9206

**FACILITIES:** Informal beach landing at east end of park, swimming beach, toilets, showers, picnic pavilions, playground, sports fields.

E Mile 137.30

43.23123 -75.88130

# DEC Cleveland Dock Fishing Access Site\*

69 State Route 49 Cleveland, NY 13042

**FACILITIES:** Car top launch, beach landing, picnic tables, wheelchair accessible fishing pier. Ample parking.

Cleveland Terminal was built as a harbor of refuge for canal boats crossing the stormy lake.

E Mile 135.85

43.22380 -75.84995

# Godfrey Point DEC Boat Launch\*

End of Drive 8 Cleveland, NY 13042

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet. Concrete ramp. Parking for 40 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit.

E Mile 134.73

43.22526 -75.83337

# **Angler's Bay Cottages**

103 Drive 17 Cleveland, NY 13042 (315) 675-3662 fishoneida.com/cottages

Vacation cottages with dedicated dock. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals.

## **SOUTH SHORE**

E Mile 148.78

43.22804 -76.10880

## Oneida Shores County Park Boat Ramp\*

9400 Bartell Road Brewerton, NY 13029

(315) 676-7366

Camping: (315) 676-4943

onondagacountyparks.com/parks/oneidashores-park

**FACILITIES:** Eight-lane ramp with floating docks, water, restrooms, showers, picnic shelters and tables, grills, swimming beach. Kayak rentals. 50 camping spaces. Fees for vehicle entry, boat launch, and camping.

E Mile 146.95

43.20824 -76.07831

# Aero Marina Conway Inc.

9080 Beach Road, Short Point Bay Brewerton, NY 13029 (315) 699-7736 aeromarina.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Ramp; low dock. Small launch fee. Ample parking.

Large private marina.

E Mile 145.90

43.21962 -76.05118

## Frenchman's Island Lighthouse

The island, roughly 0.50 mile long, is part of the Three Mile Bay WMA. The lighthouse is 85 feet tall, is one of three built in 1917, and is still in use. Access the island from the long pier on the south shore. A loop trail runs from the pier to the lighthouse and back. No access to the lighthouse. The island has a lot of poison ivy; stay on the trail. No camping; no fires.

E Mile 145.50

43.20289 -76.01823

**Dunham Island** 

## **SOUTH SHORE**

E Mile 144.40 43.19544 -76.03507

# Joseph F. William Memorial Park\*

7033 Lakeshore Road Cicero, NY (315) 699-5233 cicero.recdesk.com/

**FACILITIES:** Roller dock, beach landing, swimming beach, water, restrooms, showers, picnic pavilions, fishing pier.

E Mile 143.33 43.17813 -76.00526

## A&P Marina

7512 West Murray Drive Cicero, NY 13039 (315) 699-7732

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramps.

Large private marina.

E Mile 142.80 43.18357 -75.99332

Chittenango Creek empties into Oneida Lake.

E Mile 138.76 43.16257 -75.92684

# Oneida Lake South Shore DEC Fishing Access Site (Briggs Bay Boat Ramp)\*

End of Bush Road Bridgeport, NY

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet. Multi-lane ramp with floating docks. Ample parking for cars and trailers. Overnight parking; 24-hour limit.

E Mile 138.10 43.15652 -75.89100

# Chapman Park

1463 NY 31 Bridgeport, NY 13030 (315) 687-3471 sullivan.recdesk.com **FACILITIES:** Beach landing on either side of fishing pier, restrooms, picnic pavilions, playground, Distance from water to parking about 200 feet along a paved path.

E Mile 130.99 43.16257 -75.76106

#### Callahan's Marina

9089 Callahan Drive Canastota, NY 13032 (315) 697-7470 callahansmarina.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, picnic area. Concrete ramp.

Large private marina.

E Mile 130.55 43.15881 -75.75077

## **Oneida Lake Marina**

713 NY 31 Canastota, NY 13032 (315) 697-4867 oneidalakemarina.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, picnic area. Concrete ramp.

Large private marina.

E Mile 130.39 43.15844 -75.74562

#### **Marion Manor Marina**

Corner NY 13 and NY 31 Canastota, NY 13032 (315) 762-4810 onemarinas.com

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms. Concrete ramp. Private marina.

E Mile 129.92 43.16451 -75.73757

Oneida Creek enters the lake.

<sup>\*</sup> Public boat launches on Oneida Lake are indicated with an asterisk.



E Mile 130.50

43.19482 -75.72857

\_\_\_\_\_

E Mile 129.70

43.18919 -75.73113

## Verona Beach State Park\*

6541 Lakeshore Road South Verona Beach, NY 13162 (315) 762-4463 parks.ny.gov

Verona Beach State Park covers 1,735 acres on the eastern shore of Oneida Lake. The kayak launch has a car top launch and beach landing. Parking for five cars. Distance from parking is about 20 feet. No facilities at the launch area, but restrooms, water, picnic tables, grills, and a restaurant are at the beachfront area. The park has 46 campsites. Registration is required for camping in New York State parks. Although walk-ins are accepted on a first-come basis, camping reservations are strongly suggested (newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com).

# Verona Beach Lighthouse

Located at the foot of Fourth Avenue, this 85-foot lighthouse is one of three built during the Barge Canal expansion. It was first lit in 1917 to mark the entrance to the Barge Canal from the eastern end of Oneida Lake. The lighthouse is still in use as an automated beacon. A small park around the lighthouse is open to the public. To visit, land on the sandy beach. For more information, visit Verona Beach Lighthouse Association at lighthousefriends.com.

# SYLVAN BEACH



Sylvan Beach is a lively summer resort area with many restaurants, nightlife spots, and shops in easy walking distance of the pier. Beaches and fishing areas are nearby. Sylvan Beach holds an annual Canal Fest in early August.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Village of Sylvan Beach at (315) 762-4844 or sylvanbeachny.com.

# **PLACE OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER**

43.19655 -75.72994

# Sylvan Beach Amusement Park

112 Bridge Street Sylvan Beach, NY 13157 (315) 762-5212 sylvanbeachamusementpark.com

## LODGING

43.19878 -75.72989

## **Sunset Cottages**

801 Park Avenue Sylvan Beach, NY 13157 (315) 762-4093 sunsetcottages.vacations

0.3 miles from Sylvan Beach Dock Wall. Vacation cottages.

43.20130 -75.72834

## Carbone's Restaurant, Bar, and Suites

1208 Main Street Sylvan Beach, NY 13157 (315) 762-4280 carbonesbeachsidesuites.com

0.4 miles from Sylvan Beach Dock Wall.

Motel with ice cream stand.

43.20187 -75.72926

## **Kathy's Guest Houses**

Sylvan Beach, NY 13157 (518) 423-9381 sylvanbeachlodging.biz

0.5 miles from Sylvan Beach Dock Wall. Guest houses at several locations on Park Avenue in Sylvan Beach.

43.20357 -75.72831

## **Oneida Lake Inn**

1509 Main Street (NY 13) Sylvan Beach, NY 13157 (315) 761-0000 oneidalakeinn.com

0.5 miles from Sylvan Beach Dock Wall.

## PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

43.15651 -7574953

## South Shore Nautical

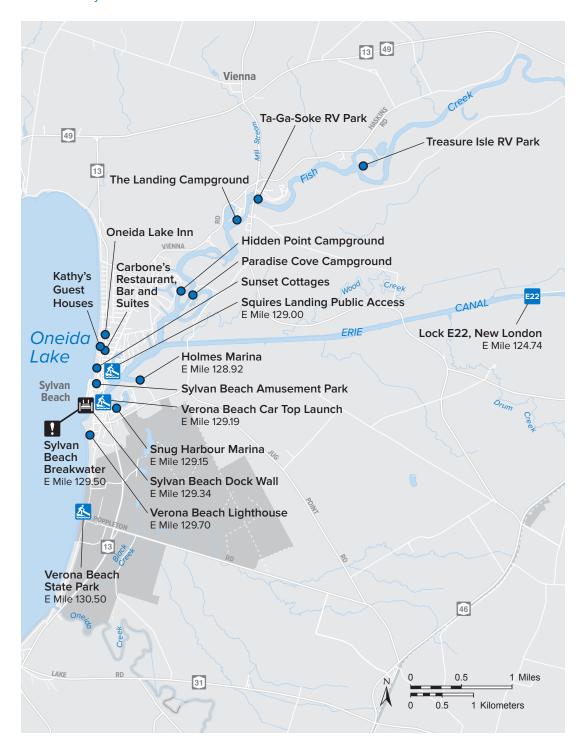
3728 NY 31 Canastota, NY 13032 (315) 391-9213 southshorenautical.com

Kayak and stand-up paddleboard sales and rentals. Marine store with extensive range of supplies and products. A very popular Coneheads Caribbean ice cream stand and barbecue truck are open here in the boating season. 43.19689 -75.73095

## Sylvan Beach

Sunset Avenue Sylvan Beach, NY 13157

**FACILITIES:** Bathhouse has free public restrooms and showers. Swimming beach. Walking distance to amusement park and other attractions and amenities in Sylvan Beach.



E Mile 129.50 43.19467 -75.72985

## Sylvan Beach Breakwater

The Sylvan Beach breakwater is a jetty built of rocks, timber, and concrete in 1907.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The breakwater angles from northeast to southwest along the north bank of the canal as it enters the lake. It can be deceptive when approaching from the lake. Stay well south of marker R106 at the tip of the breakwater.

E Mile 129.19 43.19482 -75.72857

# Verona Beach Car Top Launch

End of Willow Drive (Under NY 13 bridge) Verona Beach, NY 13162

No facilities, parking for 10 cars.

E Mile 129.15, south side 43.19327 -75.72599

## **Snug Harbour Marina**

NY RR 13 Verona Beach, NY 13162 (315) 762-0112 onemarinas.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers, picnic area. Concrete ramp.

Private marina.

Off the canal 43.19798 -75.72724

# Squires Landing Public Access

Corner of 6th and Clifford Avenues Sylvan Beach, NY (315) 762-4844 (Village Clerk)

Beach landing with dock on side channel 0.2 mile north of canal.

E Mile 128.92, south side 43.19703 -75.72155

## **Holmes Marina**

2523 Oneida Street Verona Beach, NY 13162 (315) 762-4232 holmesmarina.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers, picnic area. Concrete ramp.

Private marina.

E Mile 128.44, north side 43.20234 -75.71288

Fish Creek leads to the campgrounds listed on the following page.

E Mile 128.19 43.20229 -75.71221

Bridge E61, Cove Road

E Mile 126.04 43.20586 -75.67015

Bridge E60, Higginsville Road (CR 50A)

E Mile 125.28, north side 43.20943 -75.65261

The remains of a dam on Wood Creek are visible. The mouth of the creek is partially obstructed by debris.

For centuries, before the Erie Canal opened in 1825, tiny Wood Creek was one of North America's principal routes for commerce, trade, and warfare. Travelers crossed Oneida Lake, pushed their boats up Wood Creek as far as water levels would allow, carried their cargo over land for eight miles, and reloaded on the Mohawk River in what is now the city of Rome.

## **CAMPING ON FISH CREEK**

43.20989 -75.71358

## **Hidden Point Campground**

1010 Waterview Drive Sylvan Beach, NY 13308 (315) 762-0547 hiddenpointcampground.com

Located 0.6 miles north on Fish Creek. RV park and campground with dedicated dock.

43.20820 -75.70830

## **Paradise Cove Campground**

7201 Cove Road Durhamville, NY 13054 (315) 762-0210 paradisecovecampground.net

Located 0.8 miles north on Fish Creek. RV park and camping with dedicated dock.

43.22013 -75.70275

## The Landing Campground

2796 Kellogg Road Blossvale, NY 13308 (315) 245-9951 thelandingcampground.com

Located 2 miles north on Fish Creek. RV park and camping with dedicated dock. Kayak rentals. 43.22313 -75.69866

## **Ta-Ga-Soke Campgrounds**

7820 Higginsville Road Blossvale, NY 13308 (315) 245-1744 ta-ga-soke.com

Located 2.4 miles north on Fish Creek. RV park and camping with dedicated dock.

43.22798 -75.67816

#### Treasure Isle RV Park

3132 Haskins Road Blossvale, NY 13308 (315) 225-5553 treasureislervpark.com

Located 4 miles north on Fish Creek. RV park and camping with dedicated dock.

E Mile 124.74

43.20950 -75.64492

# Lock E22, New London

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

LIFT: 25.1 feet.

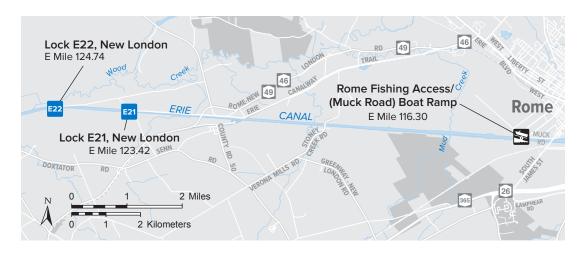
**FACILITIES:** Small plastic floating dock at upstream end, portable toilets, picnic tables.

Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.

E Mile 123.45

43.20835 -75.62245

Bridge E59, Lock Road This bridge is closed to traffic.



E Mile 123.42

43.20877 -75.61856

# Lock E21, New London

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

**LIFT:** 25.0 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilets. Facilities are difficult for paddlers to access at this location due to vertical canal walls.

Lock E21 is at the western end of the Rome Summit Level, the high point where the Erie Canal crosses from the Mohawk River into the Lake Ontario drainage basin. The upstream elevation is 420.4 feet; the downstream elevation is 395.4 feet.

The footbridge over the lock carries the Erie Canalway Trail from one side of the canal to the other. The lock is within the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park, which preserves a 36-mile stretch of the enlarged Erie Canal more or less as it appeared in 1862, when the enlargement was completed.

Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.

E Mile 122.10 43.20776 -75.59265

Bridge E58A, New London Road (NY 46)

E Mile 123.48, south 43.20696 -75.57871

New London Junction Lock Dry Dock Rome NY 13440

The remains of the old New London Junction Lock are visible on the south bank. The original Erie Canal traced a route at the base of the hills south of here. It was rerouted in the early 1900s to cut straight across Oneida Lake. To connect the towns along a section of the old route to the new, a junction lock was built here in 1910. After traffic on the old Erie Canal ceased, the lock was converted to a dry dock and is still occasionally used by the New York State Canal Corporation. The entrance wall is still intact and paddlers can tie up at it. Do not enter the fenced-off areas.

E Mile 119.85 43.20565 -75.54833

Bridge E57, Stoney Creek Road (CR 60A)

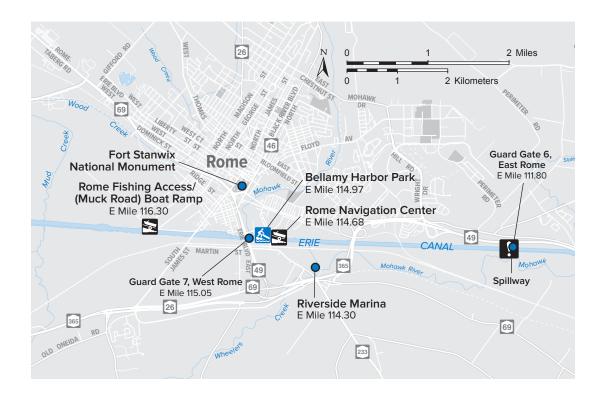
# **ROME**

Discover why all roads lead to Rome when it comes to water, transportation, and settlement in this part of New York State.

For millennia, a six-mile portage path between the Mohawk River and the Hudson River to the east and Wood Creek and Lake Ontario to the west was known by the Native Americans as the Great Carrying Place or the Oneida Carrying Place. The European settlement that would later become the city of Rome grew up around this ancient trade route. One of the earliest canals in the country was built along this route by Western Inland Lock Navigation Company, chartered in 1792. The first shovelful of dirt for the Erie

Canal was turned in Rome on July 4, 1817. By 1820, 66 miles of the Erie Canal between Utica and Syracuse had been completed. This section, called the Long Level because it was relatively flat and needed no locks, was immediately put into operation. The Enlarged Erie Canal followed a more northerly route through Rome during the 1840s. (Its path is covered by Erie Boulevard today.) The Barge Canal, built during the early 20th century, followed yet another path across the southern outskirts of Rome.

The best place to launch a kayak or canoe trip in this area is Bellamy Harbor Park.



# PLACE OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER



43.21059 -75.45529

## **Fort Stanwix National Monument**

100 North James Street Rome, NY 13440 (315) 338-7730 nps.gov/fost

The British built a fort here in 1758 to control the eastern end of the Oneida Carry. Captured by American forces during the Revolution, it was besieged in 1777 by British troops who were trying to move from Canada to the Hudson River by way of the Oswego River, Oneida Lake, and the Mohawk River. Today's fort is a replica, built on the original site.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

More information about things to do in the Rome area, including dining and lodging, is available at **oneidacountytourism.com**.

E Mile 116.30, north side 4

43.20285 -75.47796

# Rome Fishing Access/Muck Road Boat Ramp

Muck Road, opposite South Madison Street Rome, NY 13440

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp, fixed dock. Parking for 20 cars; overnight parking with 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Crew teams practice here.

DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 115.74

43.20185 -75.46700

Bridge E55, South James Street

E Mile 115.08

43.20124 -75.45401

Bridge E52A, Erie Boulevard (NY 46/49/69) Erie Boulevard was built over the remains of the Enlarged Erie Canal.

E Mile 115.05

43.20126 -75.45348

Guard Gate 7, West Rome Gates normally left open during the navigation season.

The Mohawk River spills over a retention dam and enters the canal from the north, just east of the guard gate. The footbridge that crosses the Mohawk can be reached from Bellamy Harbor Park.

E Mile 114.97, north side

43.20177 -75.45243

# Bellamy Harbor Park

Mill Street at the Canal Rome, NY 13440 (315) 339-7656 romenewyork.com

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. The gravel beach is at the confluence of the Mohawk River and the canal at the west end of the park. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 100

#### Erie Canal-Rome

feet. Most shops and restaurants in Rome are on the north side of the canal within walking distance.

| E Mile 114.79           | 43.20106 -75.44827 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Bridge E51, Mill Street |                    |

E Mile 114.68, north side 43.20142 -75.44618

# Rome Navigation Center

Mill Street, east of bridge Rome, NY 13440

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp, high fixed dock. Water, restrooms, showers, laundry, and picnic area. Parking. Dining nearby.

The Hamilton College Jason P. Andris Boathouse is located here.

| E Mile 114.3, south side   | 43.19599 -75.43733 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| L Wille 114.5, 30dtil 3ide | 45.15555 -75.45755 |

## Riverside Marina

6787 Martin Street Rome, NY 13440 (315) 617-3278 riversidemarina.slantpower.com

0.3 miles south of canal

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Private marina.

| E Mile 113.80      | 43.20051 -75.42862   |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Bridge E50B, NY 49 | and NY 365 westbound |

43.20051 -75.42862 E Mile 113.77

Bridge E50A, NY 49 and NY 365, eastbound

| E Mile 113.18 | 43.20014 -75.41637 |
|---------------|--------------------|
|---------------|--------------------|

Bridge E50, Mohawk, Adirondack and Northern Railroad (MHWA)

| E Mile 111.80    | 43.19946 -75.38904  |
|------------------|---------------------|
| _ IIIIIC IIII.00 | 10.100 10 70.0000 1 |

Guard Gate 6, East Rome Gates generally left open throughout the navigation season.

Guard Gate 6 can be lowered to isolate the land-cut canal section from here to Lock E20 at Marcy. The spillway on the south bank, just upstream of the guard gate, dumps water from the canal into the natural bed of the Mohawk River. From here to Frankfort the canal runs in a comparatively straight channel along the north side of the valley, passing through locks E20 and E19, while the river meanders to the south.

| F Mile   | 108 92 | south side | 43 17934  | -75.33828 |
|----------|--------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| L IAIIIC | 100.52 | South Side | 43.17.334 | -/3.33626 |

Nine Mile Creek Spillway

Located within the Oriskany Flats State Wildlife Management Area, the spillway is 965 feet long and was constructed in 1913 to release excess water from the canal into the Mohawk River. The Nine Mile Creek enters the canal on the north side. Water from the West Canada Creek is stored in Hinckley Reservoir and sent into the canal as needed by a feeder that crosses the divide between West Canada and Nine Mile creeks.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Watch out for strong currents near the spillway. Stay to the north side of the canal. Do not attempt to enter Oriskany Flats WMA from this point.

Mile 107.70, south side

Oriskany Flats Wildlife Management Area The Mohawk River flows through Oriskany Flats WMA. No direct access to the canal.

**NOTE:** Hunting is permitted here; exercise appropriate caution during hunting seasons.



E Mile 107.68 43.16779 -75.32383

Bridge E49, Oriskany Road (CR 32)

E Mile 105.63 43.14625 -75.29618

Bridge E48A, NY 291

E Mile 105.32 43.14275 -75.29118

# Lock E20, Whitesboro (Marcy)

9028 River Road Marcy, NY 13403 (315) 736-4617

LIFT: 16 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Water, portable restrooms, picnic tables, pavilions. Car top launch with low floating dock. Distance from parking about 250 feet. Ample parking. The park has a viewing platform to get a good look at boats passing though the lock.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Workboats are often tied up by the repair center wall on the south side, just before the western end of the lock.

E Mile 104.62 43.13634 -75.28105

Bridge E47B, New York State Thruway I-90

E Mile 104.40 43.13469 -75.27773

Bridge E47A, Mohawk Street (CR 30)

E Mile 104.13, north side 43.13327 -75.27268

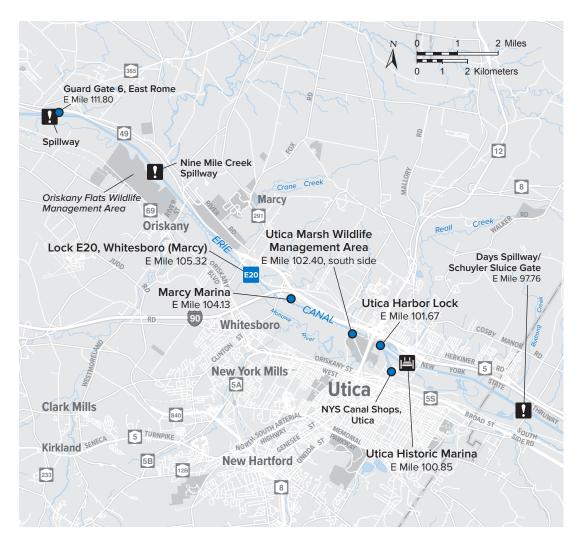
## **Marcy Marina**

200 Scharbach Drive Marcy, NY 13403 (315) 736-7617

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms. Concrete ramp, low dock.

Private marina.

## Erie Canal-Utica



Mile 102.40, south side

43.12318 -75.24318

Utica Marsh Wildlife Management Area Barnes Avenue off Oriskany Avenue Utica, NY 13502 (315) 866-6330

This unique urban wetland covers 213 acres on the south side of the canal, extending about 0.75 miles along the bank. It is bordered by the Erie Canal on the north and the Mohawk River to the south. The WMA has

hiking trails, a wildlife viewing area, and two observation towers. No swimming or camping.

E Mile 102.44 43.12312 -75.24233

Bridge E46, MHWA railroad

E Mile 101.88 43.12029 -75.23363

Bridge E44C, NY 8 and NY 12

E Mile 101.80 43.11976 -75.23200

Bridge E44B, I-790 northbound exit ramp

E Mile 101.80 43.11936 -75.23082

Bridge E44D, NY 5 exit ramp

E Mile 101.67, south side 43.11761 -75.22796

Utica Harbor Lock

**PADDLING NOTE:** Do not attempt to enter the harbor. Tying up at the entrance wall is allowed, but be aware of workboats and barges.

Utica Harbor Lock is the only lock on the NYS Canal System that is outside the main channel. The upper gate slides vertically. A NYS Canal Corporation maintenance facility is at the east end. Long polluted by effluent from adjacent coal gas works, the harbor is now clean and undergoing redevelopment.

The original Erie Canal brought commerce and prosperity to Utica. The Barge Canal enlargement ran north of the city's commercial district and textile mills, however, and cut it off from the canal. To keep the city from being completely marooned, Utica Harbor was built to improve access to the Barge Canal. The harbor was completed in 1918.

E Mile 101.42, south side 43.11602 -75.22490

Utica Tower 87-99 Harbor Lock Road West Utica, NY 13502

The open-steel Utica Tower stands 125 feet high on a 24-foot-square base.

E Mile 100.90 43.11221 -75.21592

Bridge E44A, Genesee Street

E Mile 100.85, south side 43.11137 -75.21489

## Utica Historic Marina

16 Harbor Lock Road Utica, NY 13502 (315) 732-0116 aquavinorestaurant.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, fixed dock. The Aqua Vino restaurant occupies the marina building.

E Mile 100.54 43.10981 -75.20964

Bridge E43, Leland Avenue

E Mile 97.76, south side 43.09459 -75.15831

Days Spillway/Schuyler Sluice Gate

**PADDLING NOTE:** Warning buoys mark off the area around the spillway. Do not enter this area—currents can be strong. Paddle to the north side.

Constructed in 1912, the concrete spillway is approximately 150 feet long with four sluice gates/drain gates at the eastern end. It allows excess water to spill from the canal into the Mohawk River.

E Mile 97.54 43.09369 -75.15530

Bridge E42, Dyke Road (CR 37)

E Mile 95.16 43.07560 -75.11522

A 98-foot-long retention dam on the north side and a spillway on the south control Sterling Creek. The spillway carries excess water about 0.50 mile southwest to the Mohawk River.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Currents can be strong near the spillway when the water level is high. Stay to the north side.

# Erie Canal–Schuyler



E Mile 95.04

43.07377 -75.11384

# Lock E19, Frankfort (Schuyler)

2960 NY 5 Schuyler, NY 13340 (315) 733-5041

LIFT: 21.0 feet.

E Mile 94.92

43.07277 -75.11298

Bridge E40, CSX railroad Even though from a distance this railroad truss bridge appears to be part of the eastern lock gate, it isn't. It's just very close to it. A box periscope mounted on the footbridge below the gates allows the lock operator to see boats approaching from downstream under the railroad truss.

E Mile 92.51

43.05147 -75.07629

Bridge E39, Moss Road

E Mile 92.59, south side

43.04402 -75.06285

Inlet to Frankfort Harbor Marina; the harbor is 0.3 miles south, formed by the confluence of Moyer Creek and the Mohawk River.

E Mile 95.59

43.04120 -75.06935

## Frankfort Harbor Marina

143 Marina Drive at Fox Street Frankfort, NY 13340 (315) 895-7651 villageoffrankfortny.org



**FACILITIES:** Water, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, pavilion. Concrete ramp and floating dock. Parking for 40 cars. Overnight parking allowed; call (315) 895-7651. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Shops and restaurants at the harbor and in Frankfort are a short walk away.

E Mile 91.60 43.04358 -75.06193

Bridge E38, Railroad Street

# **ILION**

Eliphalet Remington II built his first handforged rifle in 1816. He went on to found the Remington Arms Company which moved to llion on the Erie Canal in 1828 and has been here ever since. It is possible that Reminaton is the oldest manufacturer in the U.S. still making its original product. The company maintains a museum at the factory in Ilion.

The Illion Marina is the best place to launch a paddle trip or take out to access sites and services in town.

# PLACE OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.01333 -75.03173

# **Remington Museum and Country Store**

14 Hoefler Avenue Ilion, NY 13357 (315) 895-3200 remington.com/about-us E Mile 89.15 43.02120 -75.03029

Bridge E37A, Central Avenue (NY 51)

43.01952 -75.02817 E Mile 89.07, south side

### Ilion Marina and RV Park

190 Central Avenue Ilion, NY 13357 (315) 894-9421 ilionny.com/recreation

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, restaurant, camping (fee). Over 500 feet of bulkhead wall, with floating dock and concrete ramp. Ample parking.

Shops, restaurants, and the Remindton Museum are within walking distance. Use the underpass with sidewalks that carry NY 51 under NY 5S.

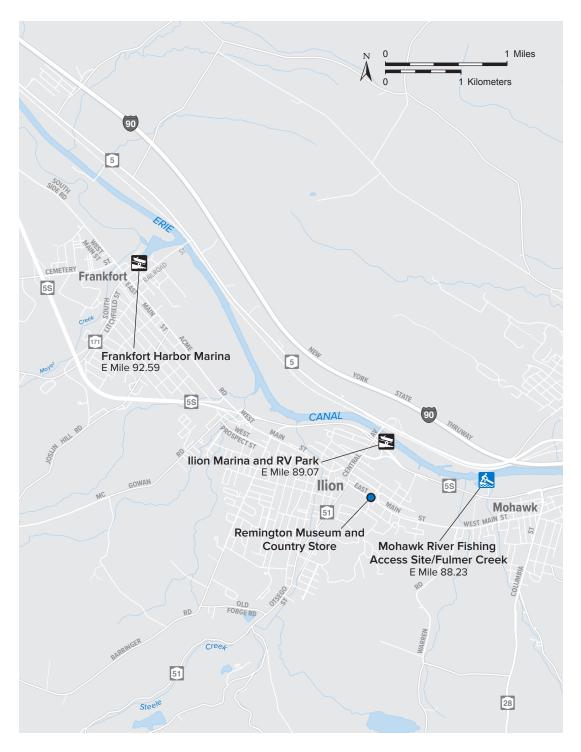
E Mile 88.23, south side 43.01542 -75.01298

# Mohawk River Fishing Access Site/ **Fulmer Creek**

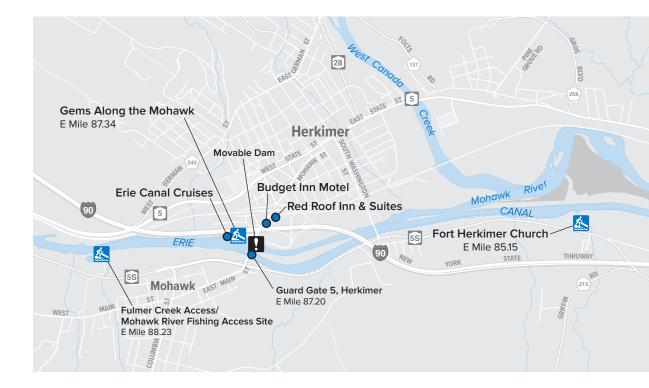
Off NY 5S near Mohawk Soccer Field

FACILITIES: Hand launch. Parking for five cars. This site could be blocked for dredging once every one to two years.

DEC fishing access site.



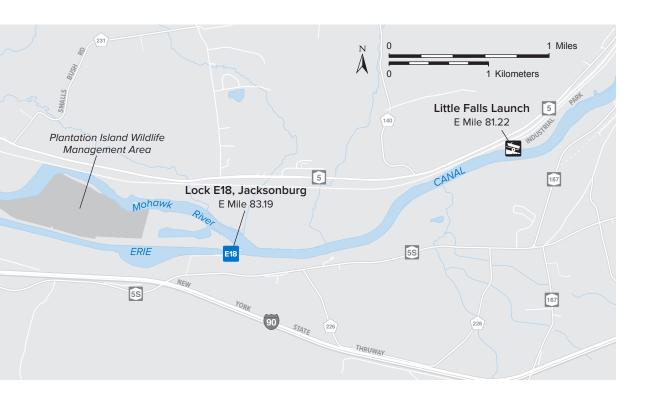
# **HERKIMER**



The area around Herkimer was first settled in the 1720s by refugees from the Palatinate, a war-torn region in the southwest Rhine region of what is today Germany. About 3,000 were sent by the British to their colony in New York in 1710. In 1723, 100 heads of families became the first Europeans to acquire land west of Little Falls, along both sides of the Mohawk River in what is now Herkimer County. The county, town, and village are named for Nicholas Herkimer, a son of Palatine settlers who rose to the rank of general during the American Revolution. Herkimer was mortally wounded at the Battle of Oriskany in 1777 while leading a column of militia to relieve besieged American forces at Fort Stanwix. His 1764 riverfront home below Little Falls is directly accessible from the water trail.

# PLACES OF INTEREST **OFF THE WATER**

Within the town is Herkimer's Historic Four Corners, where North Main Street meets Court Street. Four historic buildings are seen here: The 1884 **Herkimer County Historical Society,** the 1834 Herkimer County Jail, the **1873** Herkimer County Courthouse, and the 1834 Herkimer Reformed **Church**. Tours of the Historical Society Museum are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays in July and August 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



# LODGING

43.01820 -74.99264

# **Budget Inn Motel**

715 Mohawk Street Herkimer, NY 13350 (315) 866-6080 budgetinn.com

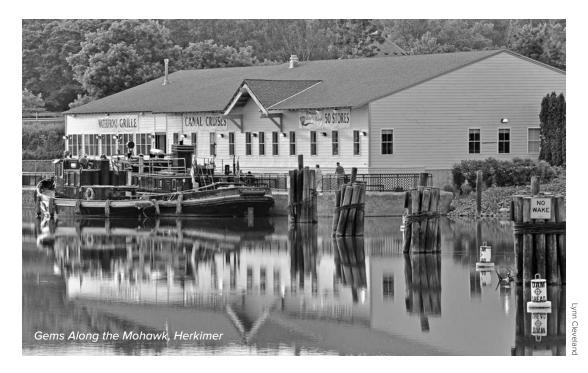
Located 0.2 miles from the Gems Along the Mohawk marina.

43.01875 -74.99150

## **Red Roof Inn & Suites**

100 Marginal Road Herkimer, NY 13350 (315) 866-0490 redroof.com

Located 0.3 miles from Gems Along the Mohawk marina.



## **WATERWAY CRUISES**

E Mile 87.34, north side 43.01708 -74.99612

## **Erie Canal Cruises**

Gems Along the Hudson 800 Mohawk Street Herkimer, NY 13350 (315) 717-0077 eriecanalcruises.com

Daily sightseeing cruises during the canal navigation season; specialty cruises some evenings. A replica Erie Canal stump puller is on display near the dock.

**ADMISSION:** Fee. Reservations strongly suggested.

E Mile 87.34, north side

43.01704 -74.99812

# Gems Along the Mohawk

800 Mohawk Street Herkimer, NY 13350 (315) 717-0077 gemsalongthemohawk.com

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms. Car top launch with terraced steps at western end. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 500 feet. Gems Along the Mohawk brings together a group of retail shops, a Mohawk Valley Visitor's Center, and a restaurant. It's also the home of the sightseeing boats of Erie Canal Cruises. Shops and restaurants in the town of Herkimer are nearby, on the north side of the New York State Thruway I-90.

F Mile 87.23

43.01548 -74.99481

Bridge E36, Mohawk Street/East Main Street (NY 28)

E Mile 87.20

43.01536 -74.99445

Guard Gate 5, Herkimer

The guard gate protects the land-cut channel along the south bank between here and Lock E18. It is normally raised throughout navigation season. A movable bridge-type dam and spillway on the north bank maintain the canal pool level and allow excess water to flow into the natural bed of the Mohawk River.

paddle through the guard gate into the canal channel. Bundles of timber pilings were driven into the riverbed to keep barges from being swept toward the dam and spillway, but they are spaced too far apart to provide protection for paddlecraft. There is a line of buoys on a safety cable in front of the dam and spillway, but currents can be swift in this area.

#### E Mile 87.19

Plantation Island Wildlife Management Area German Flatts, NY

The large island begins at the guard gate. Squeezed between the Erie Canal and the Mohawk River, the WMA covers approximately 200 acres. Hunting is permitted on the island; do not land there during the hunting season. No trails or facilities; no swimming or camping. Watch out for poison ivy.

| E Mile 86.47 | 43.01677 -74.98086 |
|--------------|--------------------|

Bridge E34B, New York State Thruway I-90

E Mile 86.36 43.01740 -74.97911

Bridge E34A, South Washington Street

E Mile 85.15, south side 43.01809 -74.95406

## Fort Herkimer Church

575 NY 5S Mohawk, NY 13407 **FACILITIES:** Beach landing, gazebo, picnic tables. Parking for 15 cars. Distance to parking is 300 feet.

This intersects with the Erie Canalway Trail/ Empire State Trail.

The church was built in 1753 and expanded in 1812. During the Revolutionary War, a stone stockade known as Fort Herkimer was built around the church. The fort was dismantled during the Erie Canal expansion in 1840 and the stones were used in the construction. The remains of a waste weir (used to drain surplus water from the canal) are about 400 feet north of the church. The church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The grounds are open, but the interior is not open to the public. It can be reached from the Erie Canalway Trail.

E Mile 83.19

43.01619 -74.91691

# Lock E18, Jacksonburg

1043 NY 5S Mohawk, NY 13407 (315) 823-2419

LIFT: 20.0 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Scramble up a rocky shore upon the upstream approach wall, south side. No mooring on the eastern end of the lock.

PADDLING NOTE: Sections of the Mohawk River bypass Lock E18 and Lock E16. These reaches are fun to explore and can even be used to create paddle loops. Be aware, however, that when water levels are low, you may have to drag or carry your boat. When water levels are high, they may cover hazards such as downed trees and snags.

The Mohawk River rejoins the canal on the north side just to the east of the lock, supplemented by flow from West Canada Creek.