

COOPERSTOWN & OTSEGO COUNTY, NY | FACT SHEET



OVERVIEW: Otsego County, New York is known for its arts institutions and museums, natural beauty and outdoor activities, with a history of farming and craft brewing that offers an authentic, **all-American experience**. More than just the county seat, Cooperstown is known for its charming, one-streetlight village set on Otsego Lake, and as the unofficial birthplace of baseball.

With a history dating back to Revolutionary times, Cooperstown was established in 1786 by William Cooper, a judge and congressman who bought an estimated 10,000 acres of land, then sold parcels with a ten-year payback plan that would become known as the first planned community in the United States. His son, James Fenimore Cooper, wrote about life in this Iroquois frontier region, becoming America's first international best-selling author with *The Leatherstocking Tales* and *The Last of the Mohicans*.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are plenty of options for comfy, convenient lodging throughout Cooperstown and Otsego County. Charming B&Bs and inns, **waterfront** motels and lakeside **luxury** resorts, well-known hotel chains, **campgrounds**, as well as home rentals make it easy to find the perfect place to hang your hat and rest your laptop.

TOP ATTRACTIONS:

- **The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum:** An internationally-renown institution preserving the history of America's pastime, and celebrating the legendary players and others who have made the game a fan favorite for more than a century.
- **Fenimore Art Museum:** A premier art institution set in a neo-Georgian mansion overlooking Otsego Lake. Exhibits range from 20th century American Art to American Indian Art. Open April-December.
- **The Glimmerglass Festival:** An internationally-acclaimed summer opera and performance festival.
- **The Farmers' Museum:** One of the world's oldest living history museums, where visitors learn about the trades, village life, and agriculture in New York State circa 1845.
- **Brewery Ommegang:** An innovative craft brewery serving a range of Belgian-style brews. Offering tours, food, and events. Opened in 1997, this was the first farmstead brewery built in the USA in over 100 years.
- **Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard:** A historical, water-powered cider mill on the banks of Fly Creek, pressing fresh, sweet cider for more than 160 years. Self-guided tours include interactive exhibits and live in-season demos.

FOOD & DRINK: Cooperstown and Otsego County are as plentiful as the region's bounty. Farm-to-table dining is a favorite, and international and classic American culinary options abound. The year-round **Cooperstown Farmers' Market** and **Oneonta Farmers' Market** feature local produce, meat, dairy, honey, syrup, jams and artisanal food. Once the country's **top hops producer**, Otsego County has a long history in hand-crafted beer that's celebrated at the area's many farm breweries. Wineries, a cider mill, and a distillery round out the region's **craft beverage** offerings.

LOCATION | WEATHER: Located in **Central New York** in the foothills of the Northern Catskills, Otsego County is home to Cooperstown and Oneonta. Cooperstown, a 1.6-square mile historic village, sits on the southernmost shore of **Otsego Lake**. Otsego Lake is the starting point of the Susquehanna River, also known as the "Mighty Susquehanna". Oneonta is home of Hartwick College, SUNY Oneonta, and is the home of several art institutions. The area is known for its warm summers and snowy winters, making it a prime location for year-round outdoor activities and farming.

TRANSPORTATION: 30 miles south of the New York State Thruway (I-90), Cooperstown is a 1.5-hour drive from airports in Albany and Binghamton, NY, under 2 hours from Syracuse airport, and 4 hours from NYC. Adirondack Trailways offers daily bus service, and rail service is available to NYC via Albany-Rensselaer Amtrak station (75 miles away). Oneonta car rental services include Enterprise and Hertz. Several taxi companies serve Cooperstown and Oneonta.

NEW & NOTABLE:

- Following a \$2 million renovation, Brewery Ommegang opened a newly expanded visitors center, including a larger café and bar, and adding a covered patio.
- In May 2018, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Grandstand Theater reopened following a complete renovation. A new film, *Generations of the Game*, also debuted as part of the museum's ongoing offerings.
- In late 2017, Red Shed Brewery opened a tap room in Cooperstown. The new location features handcrafted beer made with 100% local ingredients, fresh food, and live events throughout the year.

TOP ANNUAL EVENTS:

- National Baseball Hall of Fame: Induction Weekend, every July
- Glimmerglass Festival: Every July through August
- Ommegang Concerts: A summer series on brewery grounds
- Susquehanna Balloon Festival: Oneonta
- General Clinton Canoe Regatta: Four days of racing in local waters
- Hall of Fame Classic: Exhibition game with MLB stars in May
- Harvest Festival: Weekend of activities every September at Farmers' Museum
- Cooptoberfest: A celebration of Cooperstown every Fall
- Cherry Valley Outdoor Games: Weekend of sports and competitions
- Candlelight Evening: Holiday celebration, every December at Farmers' Museum

ACCOLADES: Cooperstown has been noted as one of "**The 25 Best Small Towns in America**" by Architectural Digest (2018) and one of "**America's Most Charming Small Towns**" by MSN.com. Oneonta recently placed as one of the "**Top 10 Arts-Vibrant Small Communities**" on the Arts Vibrancy Index.



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STORY ANGLES:

Baseball Heritage: As the unofficial birthplace of baseball and the epicenter for celebrating America's pastime, Cooperstown is a bucket list item for any baseball fan. In addition to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, visitors can take in the Heroes of Baseball Wax Museum, tour the Cooperstown Bat Company, and visit Doubleday Field, where baseball has been played since 1920. From Little League games at Cooperstown Dreams Park to minor league games with the Oneonta Outlaws, there's plenty of baseball to enjoy in Otsego County.

Craft Beverage Renaissance: Cooperstown and Otsego County was once the capital of U.S. hops production, producing three million pounds of hops annually. That changed with Prohibition, but in 1997 Brewery Ommegang opened the first farm brewery in the U.S. in over 100 years, bringing back craft beverage brewing to the area and playing a significant role in America's microbrew renaissance. Today, visitors can follow the Cooperstown Beverage Trail to area farm breweries, vineyards, and wineries—as well as a distillery and cider mill—to experience the best of the region's craft beverages.

Family Fun: Enjoy one-of-a-kind, all-American activities and attractions for memory-making, family-friendly adventures. Together, families can experience farm life in the 1800s, celebrate the history of baseball, and kayak or canoe along the Susquehanna River. Add a visit to a butterfly conservatory, a round of mini-golf, a scenic train ride, and a swim in one of many lakes for a perfect family getaway.

Art Meets History: Home to big culture in a small-town setting, Cooperstown and Otsego County is where museums mix with sculpture trails, vintage trains, and a living history farm museum. With historic mansions, beautifully preserved small-town charm—not to mention opera, music, and other live performance festivals—the area offers a diverse range of art, history, and cultural experiences for all visitors.

Weekend Getaways: For rest and relaxation, Cooperstown and Otsego County offer all the elements for a perfect weekend getaway. Whether seeking outdoor pursuits like golf, hiking or canoeing, sampling libation along the Cooperstown Beverage Trail, or enjoying the myriad of cultural offerings – there are so many ways to unwind amidst the relaxing rolling hills, sparkling lakes and rural splendor of the region.



WORK WITH US:

We carefully consider all requests for media assistance and media/blogger press trip facilitation. Guidelines are available on our website. Completion of a media profile form is required no later than five weeks (off-peak) and seven weeks (peak) prior to visit. Off-Peak Season: November 1-May 1; Peak Season: May 2-October 31.

www.ThisIsCooperstown.com/media-profile

MOST INSTAGRAMMABLE: Beauty beckons throughout the area with scenic landscapes, historic architecture, sparkling lakes and rural farmsteads. Top picks for Instagram posts include Glimmerglass State Park, historic downtown Cooperstown, Cooperstown Farmers' Market, Kingfisher Lavender, Brewery Ommegang, and The Farmers' Museum, to name a few!

FACEBOOK: This is Cooperstown, NY
INSTAGRAM: @gocooperstown
TWITTER: @gocooperstown
YOUTUBE: CooperstownOtsego

Cassandra Harrington, Executive Director, Destination Marketing Corporation for Otsego County
Email: cassandra@thisiscooperstown.com • **Phone:** 607.322.4046