

The Villages of Manchester and Shortsville and the Town of Manchester started as mill towns along the Canandaigua Outlet but rose to prominence in the late 1800s because of the Lehigh Railroad which was important transportation for businesses and farms. While passenger trains no longer run through either community, a visit to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society in Shortsville tells the story of the Black Diamond Express, the flagship passenger train of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. History lovers will also want to explore the great Erie Canal via the charming small town of Port Gibson in the Town of Manchester.

Surrounding the “Twin Villages” is the Town of Manchester, where Joseph Smith met with the Angel Moroni to obtain the golden plates from which the Book of Mormon would be translated and provided the foundation for establishing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Today, people from around the world visit the Hill Cumorah Visitors Center, where they can learn about the Church’s history and culture. The Visitor Center is group-friendly and guided tours can be arranged in advance.

Nature lovers enjoy the Canandaigua Outlet which provides opportunities for fishing, white water canoeing, rafting, and kayaking. Every spring the Wild Water Derby invites competitors to build creative water rafts to maneuver down the outlet. For hiking and biking, the Manchester Gateway Trail features a 1.5-mile path from NY Route 96 to Clifton Street in Manchester. This short trail was carefully designed to restore and enhance the natural beauty of the stream bank habitat.

Residents love Manchester and Shortsville for their small-town charm and bucolic surroundings. The Shortsville Reindeer Farm is home to a small herd of reindeer that add to the rural charm of the area. These gentle,

social animals attend community events and visitors are welcomed to the farm several days each year.

No trip to Manchester is complete without a stop at the Reinvention Brewing Company where you can sit and relax in the tasting room, or on their porches in the shade of hop vines while you enjoy a glass of seasonal craft beer. The brewery is part of the ROC/FLX Craft Beverage Trail, a trail that runs through the Finger Lakes and Rochester and includes a diverse selection of wineries, distilleries and cideries.

Key area attractions

- Hill Cumorah Visitors Center
- Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society
- Budd Park
- Jones-Blunt Park
- Manchester Gateway Trail
- The Pheasant Golf Links
- Reinvention Brewing Company
- Shortsville Reindeer Farm
- Erie Canal/Port Gibson