

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

MEET  
**ITHACA**  
PLAN SOMETHING  
GORGES

PLANNER GUIDE

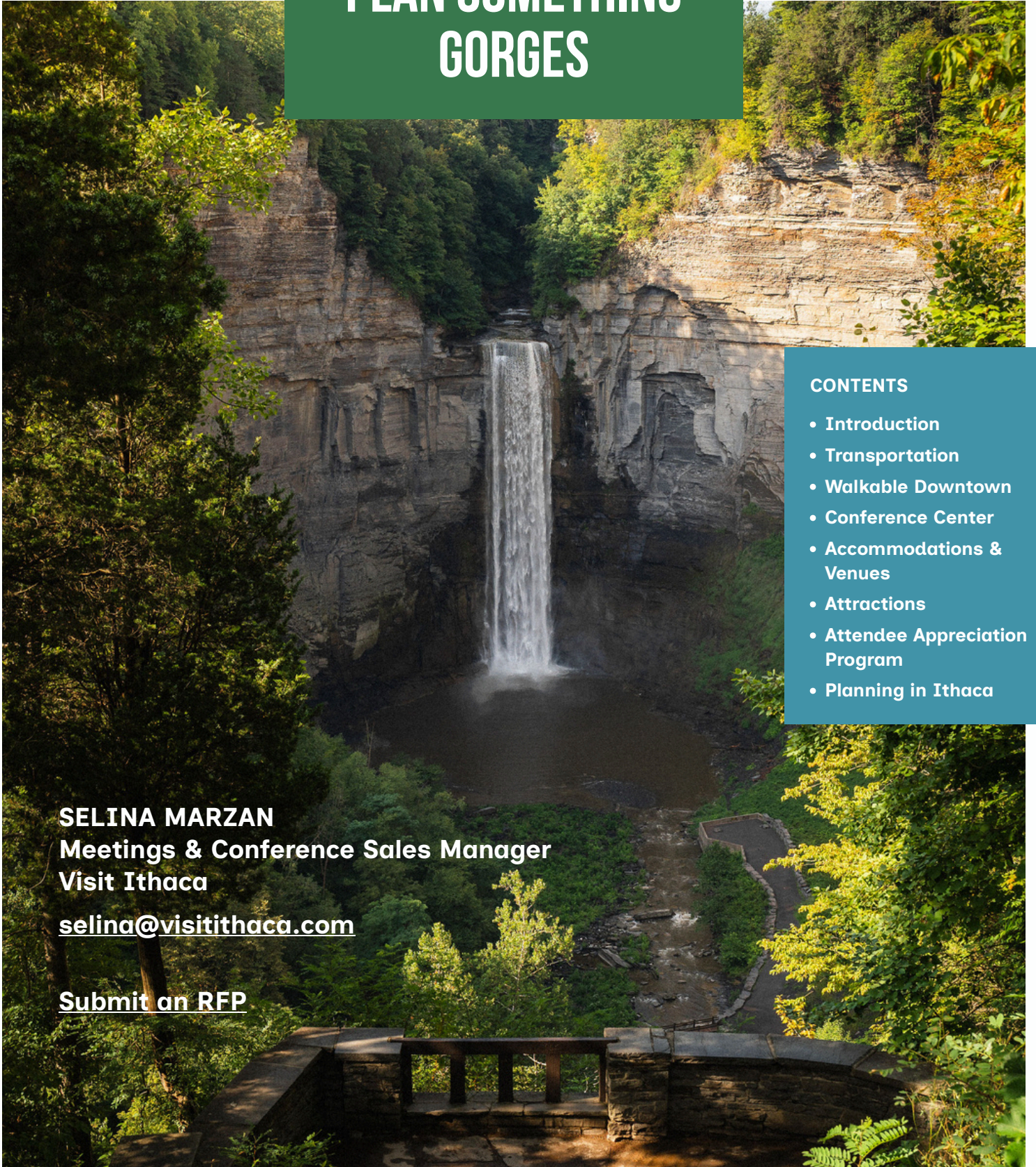
CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Transportation
- Walkable Downtown
- Conference Center
- Accommodations & Venues
- Attractions
- Attendee Appreciation Program
- Planning in Ithaca

**SELINA MARZAN**  
Meetings & Conference Sales Manager  
Visit Ithaca

[selina@visitithaca.com](mailto:selina@visitithaca.com)

Submit an RFP



## MEET ITHACA

Ithaca, located in the Finger Lakes region of New York, combines nature, charm, intellectual capital, and convenience for a standout attendee experience.

Our compact, well-connected, and efficient airport makes arrival simple. Once here, planners benefit from a quaint, walkable downtown with excellent hotels, dining, and the new Ithaca Downtown Conference Center.

## PLAN SOMETHING GORGES

As **CNN's #1 Town to Visit in America**, Ithaca delivers an experience planners and attendees will truly water-fall in love with. Planners benefit from top-notch service and support, while attendees enjoy a walkable downtown with easy access to waterfalls, wineries, trails, lakefront views, and a convenient, well-equipped conference center. With 150+ waterfalls, dramatic gorges, and four state parks, Ithaca offers a natural backdrop that elevates any agenda.

## FAST FACTS

- 150+ waterfalls & 4 state parks
- New Downtown Conference Center with 15,000 sq. ft. of flexible space, complemented by a quaint movie theatre just steps away – a unique idea for added breakout sessions
- Walkable downtown with 564+ hotel rooms on or near the Commons
- Award-winning farm-to-table dining & access to a Top 10 U.S. wine region, named by USA Today
- Cornell University & Ithaca College provide academic & cultural programming
- Four-season setting for conferences, meetings, and retreats
- Inclusive, friendly community with accessible venues & welcoming hospitality
- Recently named the #1 Town to Visit in America by CNN

## TRANSPORTATION

Reaching Ithaca is simple and stress-free, whether your team prefers to fly, drive, or arrive by bus. Once here, the city’s compact layout and walkable downtown make it easy for attendees to navigate and explore.



### BY CAR

The main routes into Ithaca are New York State highways 13, 79, 89, and 96.

- Albany & Buffalo – 3 hrs
- NYC – 4 hrs
- Philadelphia – 4 hrs
- Washington, D.C. – 5 hrs



### BY BUS

Cornell’s Campus-to-Campus service and OurBus offer comfortable connections from several major cities, including daily service to and from NYC.



### BY AIR

Ithaca Tompkins International Airport provides direct flights to and from JFK and Washington Dulles.

[See United Airlines Deals](#)

[See Delta Airlines Deals](#)



## WALKABILITY AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Once in Ithaca, getting around is easy – no rental cars needed. Downtown is highly walkable, with hotels, restaurants, meeting spaces, the conference center, and the Commons all within a short stroll. Rideshares, local taxis, and TCAT public transit provide convenient options for exploring the wider area, including Cornell University, the waterfront, and nearby parks and attractions.

## ITHACA TOMPKINS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ITH offers a calm, efficient travel experience. With short security lines, quick baggage claim, and an easy three-mile trip to downtown, the airport sets a positive tone from the moment you land. Travelers enjoy comfortable facilities, friendly staff, and convenient direct flights to JFK and Washington Dulles, making Ithaca both accessible and stress-free for groups of all sizes.

[Take a Virtual Tour of ITH](#)

## WALKABLE DOWNTOWN

### THE DOWNTOWN ITHACA COMMONS

The Commons is the geographical and cultural center of Ithaca. This lively pedestrian district anchors the entire downtown experience, offering energy, creativity, and a strong sense of place for meeting attendees. With more than 100 shops, restaurants, bars, and cafés, plus over 560 hotel rooms in and around the district, the Commons gives groups a vibrant neighborhood to explore the moment they step outside their hotel.

Attendees can browse local boutiques, enjoy global cuisine, discover public art, catch live music, and experience seasonal events that make downtown Ithaca feel welcoming and alive. Best of all, the Commons is just steps from the conference center, creating a meeting environment that is convenient, engaging, and easy to navigate.

[Take a Virtual Tour of The Commons](#)

### PLAN UNCOMMON EVENTS

Host your next program in a destination where logistics disappear and experience takes the lead. Downtown Ithaca's walkable footprint keeps attendees connected to everything they need, from hotels and meeting venues to dining, culture, and after-hours entertainment. Groups can move seamlessly between sessions, meals, and exploration without buses or long transfers.

This effortless setting creates room for more meaningful moments and more memorable meetings. The Commons gives planners an uncommon advantage: a compact downtown that feels lively, creative, and fully accessible to every attendee.



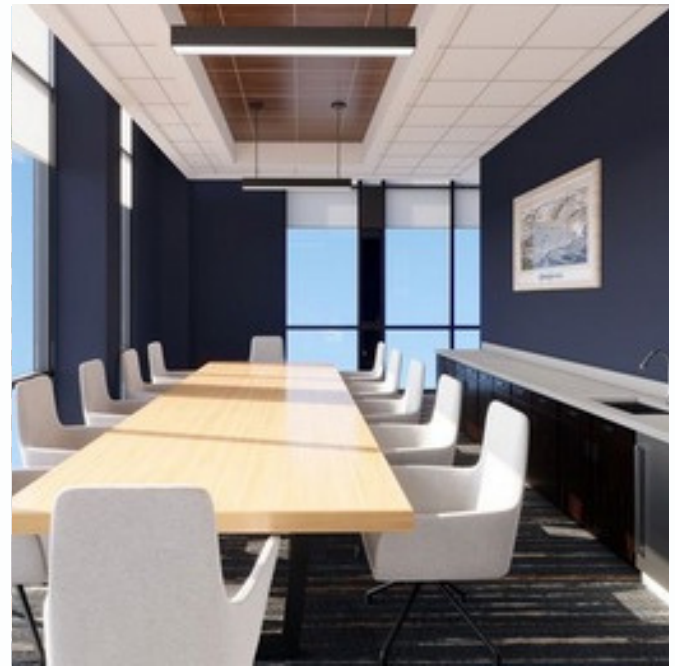
## ITHACA DOWNTOWN CONFERENCE CENTER

The Ithaca Downtown Conference Center is the newest hub for meetings and events in the Finger Lakes. Located next to hotels, shops, restaurants, and top attractions, attendees can step into the heart of Ithaca’s vibrant downtown. This contemporary venue takes meetings beyond the boardroom, with easy access to local culture and the natural beauty that defines the region.

Host your program where open spaces encourage open minds. Whether you are planning a conference, retreat, banquet, or exhibit, the center provides a modern and welcoming backdrop to make your gathering a glowing success.

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>      | <b>500-800 CAPACITY</b> |
| <b>EXECUTIVE BALLROOM</b>  | <b>200-300 CAPACITY</b> |
| <b>EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM</b> | <b>12 CAPACITY</b>      |

### TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE FACILITY!



## ITHACA DOWNTOWN CONFERENCE CENTER

- More than 15,000 square feet of flexible meeting space
- 12 meeting rooms, all fully divisible
- The first fully electric conference center in the United States
- Two-level layout that supports concurrent meetings, conferences, and exhibits
- Onsite culinary team offering fresh, high-quality menus
- Four-season enclosed walkway to an attached parking garage
- Six miles from Ithaca Tompkins International Airport
- Multiple hotels within walking distance



The conference center team provides full planning support, helping you organize everything from room configuration and A/V needs to catering and event flow. The venue's modern design, sustainability-forward systems, and flexible spaces ensure comfort, efficiency, and a smooth experience for planners and attendees alike.

[meetinIthaca.com](http://meetinIthaca.com)  
607.882.4814 | [tmullenix@asmithaca.com](mailto:tmullenix@asmithaca.com)  
[Submit an RFP](#)



## ACCOMMODATIONS & VENUES

Discover a collection of downtown hotels and meeting venues that pair convenience with comfort. Located in and around the Commons, all are within a short walk of the conference center and Ithaca's best dining and entertainment. Our preferred downtown partners offer modern amenities, flexible spaces, and an easy guest experience from check-in to check-out.

## CINEMAPOLIS

Located directly across from the Ithaca Downtown Conference Center and connected by a covered walkway, Cinemapolis includes five theaters with built-in screens and full AV, offering one 60-seat room, three 90-seat rooms, and one 180-seat auditorium. It is well suited for presentations, screenings, keynote sessions, and creative breakout programming.



## PREFERRED DOWNTOWN HOTEL PARTNERS

Click the logos for virtual tours of each property.





### HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

- ✔ The Strand Cafe onsite restaurant with full bar
- ✔ Meeting Rooms
- ✔ Standard, Premium and Suite Guest Rooms available
- ✔ Every guest room features a 55" TV, refrigerated drawer for snacks and free WiFi

### HOTEL AMENITIES

- ✔ Complimentary WiFi
- ✔ Complimentary Shuttle to Cornell University, Ithaca College, Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport
- ✔ Complimentary Canopy Bikes for Guest Use
- ✔ Pet Friendly Hotel

### LOCATION

- ✔ Adjacent to Ithaca Commons
- ✔ Walkable Neighborhood



| MEETING ROOM FLOOR    | Total Sq Ft | Room Size (ft) | Ceiling Height (ft) | Classroom | Theatre | Banquet | Reception | Conference | U-Shape | H-Square |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|---------|----------|
| <b>Esra's Study</b>   | 210         | 14'x 15'       | 12'                 | n/a       | n/a     | n/a     | n/a       | 15         | n/a     | n/a      |
| <b>The State Room</b> | 750         | 30'x 25'       | 20'                 | 30        | 45      | 50      | 60        | 20         | 21      | 25       |



### ACCOMMODATIONS

151 Guest rooms • 8 suites featuring sleeper sofas • 49" flat-screen television with Netflix • Sleeper sofas in premium king rooms • Spa-like shower experience • Free highspeed Wi-Fi • Microwave/Mini-fridge

### DINING

Monks on the Commons: Bar and restaurant featuring craft cocktails • Seasonal outdoor patio seating • 24-hour lobby marketplace • Restaurant row right outside hotel

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

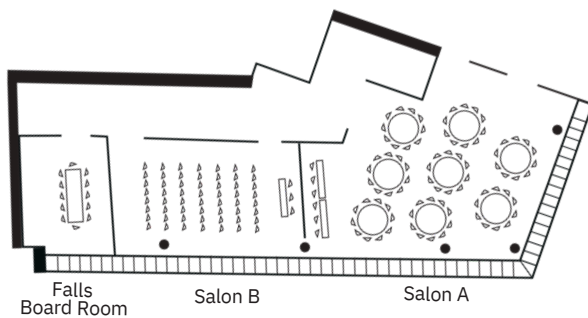
24-hour complimentary shuttle service to Cornell University, Ithaca College and Ithaca Tompkins International Airport • Valet parking and self-parking • Same-day dry cleaning: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday • 24-hour fitness center • Marriott Bonvoy™ rewarding events

### MEETING & EVENTS

Furnished with top quality equipment:

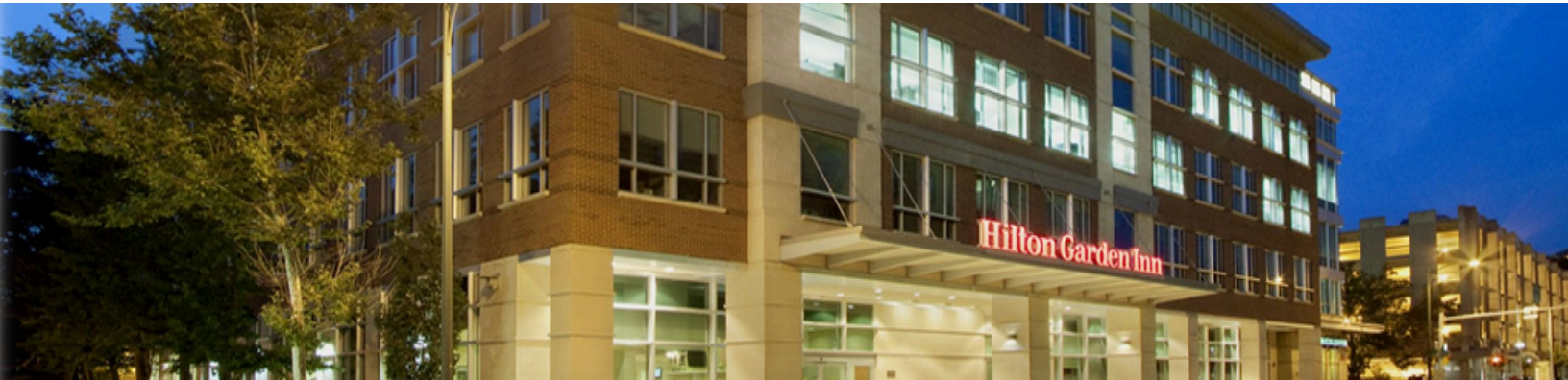
- Video Conferencing
- 73" X 116" Vanishing TV
- LCD Projector & Screen Microphones • Sound Mixer
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Podium
- Portable Stage

| MeetingRoom             | DIMENSIONS     |         | CAPACITY |            |            |         |           |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|------------|------------|---------|-----------|
|                         | LxWxH (Ft.)    | Sq. Ft. | Theater  | Schoolroom | Conference | U-Shape | Reception |
| Gorges Ballroom         |                | 1,954   | 130      | 102        | 68         |         | 130       |
| Gorges Ballroom Salon A | 44x33.3x10.4   | 1,251   | 90       | 54         | 30         | 30      | 100       |
| Gorges Ballroom Salon B | 33.8x21.7x10.4 | 733     | 70       | 36         | 24         | 24      | 50        |
| Falls Board Room        | 21.7x15.5x10.4 | 268     |          |            | 12         |         |           |



## LEARN, WORK, CELEBRATE, SOCIALIZE

ITHACA MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN ON THE COMMONS  
120 SOUTH AURORA STREET, ITHACA, NY 14850  
PHONE: 607.272.2222 | SALES: 607.379.6609  
ITHACAMARRIOTTDOWNTOWN.COM



## Hilton Garden Inn of Ithaca

The Hilton Garden Inn Ithaca hotel offers nearly 1,300 sq. ft. of adaptable space, ideal for your next business meeting, social event, rehearsal dinner, or wedding brunch. Our banquet rooms allow for flexible set-up, including a pre-function space that can be tailored to your event. WiFi access is complimentary in all of our meeting rooms. Our menus provide a wide variety of choices, allowing you to create the perfect feast or an afternoon snack that defines your style. We take pride in creating a truly personalized event.

As an event planner, you can earn Hilton Honors points on guest rooms and meetings/events held at the Hilton Garden Inn of Ithaca. Contact us today and ask about our group offers or 'Start Planning Your Event' online by using the links on the left side of the page. We'll help you create a complimentary personalized, online page for your group to help make the reservation process easier.

### Our Hotel

Complimentary indoor parking garage (valet parking available for fee)  
 Complimentary 24 hour business center with printing on-site  
 Valet and self laundry available  
 Large fitness center by Precor with locker rooms

Indoor heated pool  
 Full service Garden Grille, open daily for breakfast  
 On-site Irish Pub, Kilpatrick's Publick House open for dinner and late night  
 Shuttle service to select locations by appointment (hours limited)

### Our Rooms

Complimentary Hi-Speed internet  
 Comfortable beds with clean, cozy, duvets  
 Flat screen HDTV & HBO

Large work desk with adjustable lighting and ergonomic chair  
 Microwave and refrigerator  
 Keurig coffeemaker



Hilton Honors is the only guest reward program that lets you earn both hotel points and airline miles for the same stay at nearly 5,000 hotels globally.

Bonus Program, event planners can earn Hilton Honors Bonus Points and airline miles for qualifying events. Ask your sales person for details.



THE HOTEL  
ITHACA



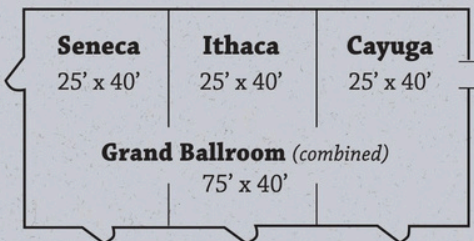
### Hotel Offerings:

- 170 guestrooms and suites.
- Newly constructed north wing 90-room addition featuring: patio and fireplace suites with upscale bathrooms and in-room amenities.
- New luxury sleep sets with down surround comforters and pillows.
- Renovated Grand Ballroom with new additional pre-function and meeting rooms. Now offering a combined 6,000 square feet of event space.
- New fully equipped fitness center and Indoor pool.
- Business center.
- Wireless high-speed internet.
- Covered guest parking available in ramp across street.
- Max's Classic American Grill and Sports Bar.

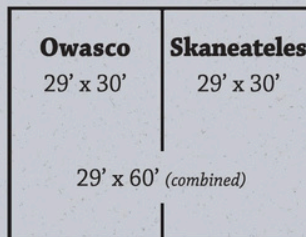
### Area Attractions:

- Near Cornell University and Ithaca College
- Steps from Ithaca Commons
- Finger Lakes Wine Country
- Watkins Glen International
- Cayuga Wine Trail
- Six Mile Creek Vineyard

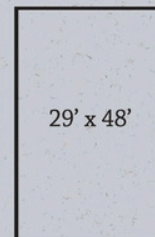
### Grand Ballroom



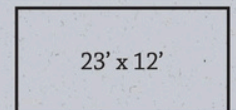
### Additional Function Space



### Pre-Function



### Boardroom



## Room Capacities

| Room                             | Reception | Banquet | Classroom | Theatre | Size      | Sq. Ft. |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| <b>Grand Ballroom (combined)</b> | 300       | 200     | 150       | 250     | 75' x 40' | 3,000   |
| <b>Cayuga</b>                    | 75        | 48      | 40        | 70      | 25' x 40' | 1,000   |
| <b>Ithaca</b>                    | 75        | 48      | 40        | 70      | 25' x 40' | 1,000   |
| <b>Seneca</b>                    | 75        | 48      | 40        | 70      | 25' x 40' | 1,000   |
| <b>Function Space (combined)</b> |           | 100     | 80        | 120     | 29' x 60' | 1,740   |
| <b>Owasco</b>                    |           | 50      | 40        | 60      | 29' x 30' | 870     |
| <b>Skaneateles</b>               |           | 50      | 40        | 60      | 29' x 30' | 870     |
| <b>Boardroom</b>                 |           | 14      | 14        |         | 23' x 12' | 276     |

## ATTRACTIONS

Whether your group is exploring the arts, diving into science and discovery, or simply stepping outdoors for a restorative nature break, Ithaca makes it easy to build memorable moments into every agenda.

### ADD WATERFALLS TO YOUR AGENDA

With more than 150 waterfalls within 10 miles, Ithaca is full of natural spectacle. Attendees experience some of the region’s most stunning cascades just minutes from downtown, making pre- or post-meeting nature breaks easy to build into your program.

- Taughannock Falls State Park
- Ithaca Falls
- Stewart Park
- Buttermilk Falls State Park
- Robert Treman State Park
- Triphammer Falls



### FEATURED ATTRACTIONS

*Click links for digital tours.*

- [Ithaca Farmers Market](#)
- [Sciencenter](#)
- [Cornell Botanic Gardens](#)
- [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)
- [Museum of the Earth](#)
- [Johnson Museum of Art](#)
- [The State Theatre of Ithaca](#)
- [Rasa Spa](#)
- [Hangar Theatre](#)
- [Cayuga Lake Waterfront Trail](#)
- [Discover Cayuga Lake Boat Tours](#)
- [Dalai Lama Library & Learning Center](#)

### MAKE NATURE YOUR BREAKOUT ROOM

In Ithaca, the outdoors naturally becomes part of your agenda. Add waterfall walks, gorge overlooks, and lakeside trails to your meeting schedule for fresh-air breaks that energize attendees and spark new ideas. Team-building activities in nature — such as guided hikes, wine trail excursions, birding experiences, or wellness sessions along the water — give groups a memorable way to connect beyond the boardroom.

## ATTRACTIONS

### RAISE A GLASS TO GROUP EXPERIENCES

Ithaca is at the heart of the Finger Lakes, named a Top 10 Wine Region by USA Today.

Our lineup of exceptional wineries, cideries, and craft breweries is perfect for group outings, receptions, and post-meeting hangs. Attendees can enjoy guided tastings, vineyard tours, pairing menus, and private events that showcase the region's distinctive flavors.

From award-winning Rieslings and bold red blends to orchard-pressed ciders and local craft beers, groups can sample the best of Ithaca while taking in scenic lake views and lush vineyards.

#### Highlights Include

- The Cayuga Lake Wine Trail, home to more than a dozen wineries
- Local cideries, such as South Hill Cider, producing innovative, small-batch blends
- Craft breweries such as Ithaca Beer Company
- Private tastings, pairings, and group tours available
- Scenic venues ideal for receptions and off-site dinners

Ithaca's beverage scene offers a refreshing and memorable way for attendees to relax, connect, and enjoy the region's signature hospitality.

An aerial photograph of a golf course, showing a large clubhouse building, several green fairways, and a sand trap in the foreground. The surrounding area is lush with trees and greenery.

### GOLF IN ITHACA

Attendees can unwind on some of the region's best courses. Ithaca offers excellent options, from championship layouts to relaxed public greens.

- Robert Trent Jones Golf Course
- Trumansburg Golf Course
- Newman Municipal Golf Course
- Lansing Golf Range
- Hillendale Golf Course
- Stonehedges Golf Course

## ATTENDEE APPRECIATION PROGRAM

Give your attendees even more reasons to explore Ithaca. With the **Show Your Badge** program, meeting guests enjoy special access to over 40 dining, retail, and entertainment offers throughout the city. It is an easy way to enhance the attendee experience and encourage discovery beyond the meeting room.

Attendees simply show their conference badge to participating businesses to unlock exclusive discounts and perks. From local restaurants and boutiques to breweries, attractions, and wellness experiences, the program helps your group feel welcomed and appreciated at every turn.



Scan the QR code  
or visit [visitithaca.com/show-your-badge](https://visitithaca.com/show-your-badge)  
to view current promotions.



## PLANNING IN ITHACA

Planning a meeting in Ithaca is simple, collaborative, and fully supported by our team. Every event has unique needs, and we are here to connect you with the right spaces, partners, and experiences to ensure your program not only meets expectations but exceeds them. Our goal is to help you create a conference, meeting, or retreat that feels vibrant, memorable, and effortless from start to finish.

## SUPPORTIVE PLANNING SERVICES

Our team provides hands-on planning support, including:

- Distributing leads & coordinating responses from hotels & venues
- Organizing site visits for hotels, facilities, & local attractions
- Recommending & helping plan activities, events, & spousal programs
- Providing visitor information & area guides for attendees
- Supporting attendance through media partners & social media
- Providing destination materials & promotional assets for delegates

## WHY ITHACA WORKS

Ithaca offers the full package for planners and attendees alike, including:

- Accessibility & Walkability
- Local Culture & America's #1 Town Appeal
- A Welcoming & Inclusive Community
- Waterfalls & Nature Experiences
- A Dynamic Culinary & Craft Beverage Scene
- Modern Hotels & Flexible Meeting Venues



**Get Started! Plan Something Gorges.**

**Contact Selina Marzan**  
**[selina@visitithaca.com](mailto:selina@visitithaca.com)**

**[Submit an RFP](#)**

## TESTIMONIALS

### 2024 GROW-NY CONFERENCE

“Your entire team was excellent to work with, truly. Each person was highly communicative, resourceful, and lovely to work with.

It was evident that each person went above and beyond to make sure our team and our guests had an excellent experience. Each detail went noticed. Thank you!”

– Grow-NY organizer

### JULY 2024 NYS MOBILITY SUMMIT

“This effortless setting creates room for more meaningful moments and more memorable meetings.

The Commons gives planners an uncommon advantage: a compact downtown that feels lively, creative, and fully accessible to every attendee.”

– NYS Mobility Management Summit organizer



