



## CHAUTAUQUA-ALLEGHENY

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### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This region's charms have delighted vacationers for over a century. Timeless landscapes — “enchanted” mountains, picturesque waterways and bountiful vineyards—offer simple pleasures like fishing in the [Genesee River](#) and [Lake Erie](#), biking along country roads and swimming in pristine lakes. For wilder fun, ride the [Mountain Coaster at Holiday Valley's adventure park](#) or swirl past rugged cliffs and waterfalls, whitewater rafting in the [Zoar Valley](#). Stroll along tree-lined lanes in a Victorian village at the [Chautauqua Institution](#), featuring a summer season of world-class performances and a renowned lecture platform that hosts thought leaders with national and global recognition. Celebrate the art form of comedy at the [National Comedy Center](#) in Lucille Ball's hometown of Jamestown. While you're there, be sure to visit the namesake Lucy-Desi Museum, which honors the legacy of the [“First Couple of Comedy.”](#)

### SURPRISING FACTS

1. [The National Comedy Center](#) in Lucille Ball's hometown of Jamestown, NY is the United States' official cultural institution dedicated to the art form of comedy. The National Comedy Center opened in August 2018 and welcomes visitors six days a week.

2. [Gooseneck Hill Waterfowl Farm & Sanctuary](#) is the world's largest waterfowl sanctuary. [Rock City Park](#) contains the largest outcropping of quartz conglomerate rocks in the world. [HoliMont](#) is the largest private ski resort in North America. According to the NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC), a 128-foot-tall basswood within Zoar Valley has been reported to be the tallest basswood in the world.

3. [The Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt](#) was designated a New York State Heritage Area in 2006, but the grape-growing industry took roots in the 1870s. Today, more than 30,000 vineyard acres make it the second largest grape farming region in the US. Sample regional flavors at more than 20 local wineries known collectively as [Lake Erie Wine Country](#).

## SPORTS & OUTDOORS

**Biking:** Ski slopes in the region, [Holiday Valley](#), [HoliMont](#), [Cockaigne](#), and [Peek'n Peak](#), transform into challenging mountain bike trails off-season. [Golden Hill](#) and [Harris Hill](#) State Forests, [the Overland Trails of Chautauqua County](#), and [Allegheny State Park](#) also provide ideal biking terrain. Leisure riders enjoy the paved urban trails of the [Greater Jamestown Riverwalk](#), while road cyclists prefer to take to the rolling hills and scenic vistas of the surrounding countryside.

**Boating and Watersports:** [Chautauqua Lake](#), the largest inland lake in western New York and one of the highest navigable bodies of water in North America, and [Lake Erie](#) offer wide open spaces for boating and sailing. Rafting and kayaking also are among the region's biggest attractions. Popular waterways include the [Allegheny River](#), [Conewango Creek](#) and the challenging [Cattaraugus Creek](#). [Onoville Marina](#), along the Allegheny River, is the largest inland marina in NY State. Guided whitewater rafting trips are offered by outfitters such as [Zoar Valley Canoe & Rafting Company](#), in Gowanda. Great swimming beaches and boat launches are found throughout the region, including [Allegheny State Park](#).

**Camping:** The region offers more than 40 campgrounds—from state-owned and operated, to private campgrounds with family-friendly amenities. [Allegheny State Park](#) features hundreds of cabins and campsites. For spectacular views, pitch a tent on the high bluffs at [Lake Erie State Park](#). RV camping is available throughout the region.

**Fishing:** The region's diverse landscape and abundance of lakes and streams delight sport fishermen. Chautauqua Lake was the host site for Jack Link's Major League Fishing General Tire Summit Cup, a competition between the world's best professional bass anglers. Chautauqua Lake also is a renowned fishery for muskellunge. Nearby, Lake Erie is famous for walleye and bass as well as chinook and coho salmon. The Chadwick Bay/Dunkirk Harbor area, once named the walleye capital of the Northeast, boasts excellent bass fishing. Cattaraugus Creek has been listed in the [top 10 Steelhead fishing sites](#) by several fishing magazines. The Allegheny River and Genesee River also are popular fishing spots. Fishing guides can help you find the best places to catch your prize fish.

**Golf:** Golfers of all levels enjoy award-winning courses throughout the region including the picturesque [Holiday Valley Golf & Ski Resort](#), the challenging [Upper Course at Peek'n Peak Resort](#), and [Chautauqua Golf Club at Chautauqua Institution](#), whose Lake Course was named one of *Golf Advisor's* Best of 2018, ranking No. 5 in the listing of publicly accessible courses that delivered the best playing conditions.

**Hiking/Horseback Riding:** [Allegheny State Park](#) offers miles of paved and natural trails throughout 65,000 acres for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Hike amid towering rock formations at [Panama Rocks Scenic Park](#) or [Rock City Park](#), or follow meandering trails around 250 monumental sculptures at [Griffis](#)

[Sculpture Park](#), a 450-acre nature preserve. Find magnificent views and undisturbed landscapes while hiking, cycling, birding, and cross-country skiing [Chautauqua County's Overland Trials](#). Head to the [Westside Trail](#) and explore 24 miles of diverse reforestation areas or journey along the [Eastside Trail's](#) 19 miles of dense woods and soothing prairies.

**Hunting:** Private preserves and game farms are found throughout the region. Some state lands are open for hunting during the appropriate seasons. Find license and other information at the [Department of Environmental Conservation website](#). Cattaraugus County was named #1 overall by *New York Game and Fish Magazine* for turkey hunting and is in the top three for deer hunting by DEC reports.

**Nature Centers:** [The Audubon Community Nature Center](#) in Jamestown is a 600-acre wildlife sanctuary with hiking trails, nature exhibits, and herb and [butterfly gardens](#). [The Roger Tory Peterson Institute](#), also in Jamestown, presents world-class nature exhibits, a butterfly garden, and trails that are ideal for viewing birds and other wildlife near the very places that inspired Peterson as a schoolchild. The awe-inspiring beauty of the [Zoar Valley State Nature & Historical Preserve](#) in Gowanda includes sheer cliffs towering over 400 feet above the canyon floor and dozens of [waterfalls](#), some cascading up to 140 feet. [The Hanging Bog Wildlife Management Area](#), a state preserve in Hudson, offers hiking trails, bird watching, camping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting and fishing on 4,560 acres. [Pfeiffer Nature Center](#) offers guided hikes and family workshops on science and nature throughout the year.

**State Parks:** Scenic state parks—popular for camping, hiking, swimming, boating and fishing—include [Allegany State Park](#) and [Lake Erie State Parks](#) (no swimming.) [Long Point State Park](#) on Chautauqua Lake offers swimming, boat launch and hiking trails. For a different kind of outdoor play, [Midway State Park](#) on Chautauqua Lake features one of the nation's oldest amusement parks.

**Winter Sports:** Ski areas, including [Holiday Valley Resort](#), [HoliMont Resort](#), [Peek'n Peak Resort](#), [Cockaigne Resort](#), and [Swain Resort](#), offer a wide range of downhill skiing and snowboarding opportunities. Holiday Valley, HoliMont, Peek'n Peak, and [the Art Roscoe XC Ski and Mountain Bike Area](#) offer great cross-country ski and snowshoe trails. State parks such as [Allegany State Park](#) offer ice-fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Local Snowmobile clubs groom hundreds of miles of trails in one of New York's snowiest regions.

**Zipline Adventures/Mountain Coaster:** In Ellicottville, [the Sky High Adventure Park at Holiday Valley Resort](#) is a four-acre aerial park with ziplines and bridges made from logs, obstacles and ladders. Mountain Coaster rides zigzag, spiral and whoosh down the mountain. [Peek'n Peak Resort's Aerial Adventure Course](#) in Chautauqua County features 8 courses and more than 60 obstacles. A highlight is the Soaring Eagle Zipline, which allows riders to sit side-by-side as they cruise down the 1400-foot zipline while enjoying breathtaking views of the resort and Findley Lake community.

## **ART, ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE**

[Tri-County Arts Council](#) (Allegany) Space is offered to local artists to show their work and classes are offered on a number of different mediums.

[The Chautauqua Institution](#) (Chautauqua). Renowned performances, inspirational speakers and recreational activities at this lakeside Victorian village have been rejuvenating the human spirit since 1874. Places to stay include the grand and historic Athenaeum Hotel.

**Griffis Sculpture Park** (East Otto). Ten miles of hiking trails meander around 250 monumental sculptures on this 450-acre nature preserve, which is also popular for bird watching.

**Lily Dale Assembly** (Lily Dale). The world's center for Spiritualism, Lily Dale Assembly hosts entertainment, sacred music and Victorian events, as well as seminars on clairvoyance and healing during a 10-week summer season.

**Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Museum** (Jamestown). For decades, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz played a vital role in television and on the big screen. Their legacy has been proudly honored right here in Lucy's hometown of Jamestown, New York by the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum. Browse the fun costumes and screen-used memorabilia on display, awards they were both given, photographs of their personal and TV lives, and more. Recreate the infamous "Vitameatavegamin" commercial and pose with replicas of Lucy and Ricky's NYC and Hollywood apartments. Last year was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "I Love Lucy" show.

**The National Comedy Center** (Jamestown). The intuitive technology powering this museum takes guests on an interactive journey through comedy's history. The National Comedy Center will captivate your interest for hours, so leave plenty of time to explore the more than 50 exhibits and exclusive collections. Learn about the important roll props play in comedic bits, try your hand at cartooning, write a skit, Make a Meme, perform Comedy Karaoke, or challenge friends to a Laugh Battle. The National Comedy Center is full of kid-friendly laughs, but the 18+ crowd will find the Blue Room's deep dive into censorship, the Art of the Roast, Carlin's Seven Dirty Words, and more moments from comedy's edgy past and present, enthralling.

**Onöhsagwë:de' Cultural Center** (Salamanca). Opened in 2018, the state-of-the-art location was created to house the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum but also consists of classrooms, gift shop, amphitheater, and is host to several events throughout the year.

**Palmer Opera House & Event Center** (Cuba). The restoration of the Palmer Opera House has brought even more life to the various programs and events. The Palmer Opera House is excited to be experiencing an exciting rebirth and since its restoration by the Cuba Friends of Architecture, the Palmer is becoming the place to go for music, theatre, and private rentals.

**Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts** (St. Bonaventure). Located on the campus of St. Bonaventure University, the center features a theater and museum.

**Robert H. Jackson Center** (Jamestown). Center dedicated to the life and work of the United States Supreme Court Justice from 1941 until 1954. Justice Jackson was also the architect of the international trial process and then chief prosecutor of the surviving Nazi leaders at Nuremberg, Germany following World War II.

**Wellsville Creative Arts Center** (Wellsville). The Center presents art exhibits and music performances by top regional and national recording artists.

## **HISTORY**

**Cattaraugus County Historical Museum** (Machias). Revolving displays, American artifacts, war-time memorabilia, genealogy research and summer event series.

[David Howe Library](#) (Wellsville). This beautiful, historic library (the largest in Allegany County) has a lot to offer, including over 110,300 items in their collection, magazines, newspapers, music, educational DVDs, and internet. Special events and programs ranging from children's reading hours to musical recitals to movies, pack their weekly calendar.

[Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse & Veterans Park Museum](#) (Dunkirk). Stroll the scenic grounds, take a guided museum tour, and explore the working lighthouse, which offers a magnificent view of Lake Erie from the observation deck.

[Onöhsagwë:de' Cultural Center/Seneca-Iroquois National Museum](#) (Salamanca). Learn about the history and culture of the Seneca Nation. Artifacts and a reconstructed longhouse reflect centuries of Native American heritage.

### **FOOD & DRINK**

Get a taste of the simple life along [New York's Amish Trail](#), where more than 100 farm shops feature traditional crafts, baked goods, cheeses, and homegrown fruits and vegetables.

The [Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt](#) contains 30,000 vineyard acres and a collection of more than 20 wineries known collectively as [Lake Erie Wine Country](#). Wineries are open year-round for tours, tasting and special events. The late summer harvest is a popular time to visit, when the air is heavy with the sweet aroma of grapes and festivals commemorate the importance of the crop. Other local favorites include juicy apples, sweet corn and local peaches, which can be bought at farm stands dotting the countryside. Pick-your-own farms offer strawberries, blueberries and cherries. Find fresh meats and cheeses as well as homemade jams, jellies, desserts and fudge at local farmers markets. After sipping wine, visitors can get acquainted with [The Cuba Cheese Shoppe](#) for a taste of history.

Each summer, [America's Grape Country Wine Festival](#) at the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds features regional wines, specialty foods and music. Visitors who enjoy hand-crafted beers and ales can tour the [Southern Tier Brewing Company \(Lakewood\)](#), [Big Inlet Brewing \(Mayville\)](#), [Ellicottville Brewing Company \(Ellicottville, Little Valley, Bemus Point & Fredonia\)](#), and [Four Mile Brewing \(Olean\)](#). Sample fine spirits and new cocktails at [Southern Tier Distilling Co. \(Lakewood\)](#), [Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing \(Westfield\)](#), [Little Chicago Distilleries \(Olean\)](#), [Steelbound Brewery & Distillery \(Ellicottville\)](#), and [Ellicottville Distillery \(Ellicottville\)](#).

New York State is one of very few places in the world that produce maple syrup. Each spring, sugar houses in the region welcome visitors with samples, tours and demonstrations of the syrup-making process, from tapping the trees to boiling the sap into syrup. [Sprague's Maple Farms and Restaurant](#) in Portville celebrates at their sugarhouse, with tree tapping demonstrations, sugar on snow parties, and old-fashioned fun. Many of the restaurant's specialties use their signature syrup as a key ingredient.

### **UNIQUE LODGING**

Unique places to stay include cabins, cottages and campsites at [Allegany State Park](#) in Salamanca, [The Athenaeum Hotel](#), [Chautauqua Harbor Hotel](#) on Chautauqua Lake, and [Pollywogg Hollër Eco-Resort](#), in Belmont.

### **OTHER SELECTED ATTRACTIONS**

**Allegheny State Park** (Salamanca). Discover 65,000 acres of lush forests and lakes for four-season fun including swimming, fishing, wildlife walks and some of the nation's finest groomed trails for mountain biking and cross-country skiing. The park has hundreds of campsites, cabins and year-round vacation cottages. Rental kayaks, paddle boats and bicycles are available, and the Park Restaurant is open year-round.

**Chautauqua Belle** (Mayville). Cruise Chautauqua Lake aboard a historic steamship.

**Cockaigne Resort** (Cherry Creek). This multi-faceted resort features a new four-season 10,000-square-foot lodge. In the warmer months, the lodge's 3,000-square foot stage hosts music concerts and festivals.

**Genesee River Wilds** (Belmont). Genesee River Wilds, Inc. is a coalition of groups and individuals working to develop an environmentally sustainable system of nature parks concentrated along the Genesee River in the "Genesee River Wilds." The coalition works to improve the health of the upper Genesee River and its watershed; protect them from future environmental threats; and enhance their recreational potential.

**Lake Erie Wine Country** (Westfield). The scenic 50-mile route runs along Lake Erie, from North East, PA to Silver Creek, NY passing lush green vineyards and more than 20 wineries open year-round for tours, tasting and events.

**Hanging Bog Wildlife Management Area** (New Hudson). The 4,571-acre state preserve offers hiking trails, bird watching, camping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting and fishing.

**Holiday Valley Mountain Resort** (Ellicottville). The resort is a leader in the ski industry, ranking among the favorites of skiers in the East. Nearby, the one-square-mile Village is filled with 19<sup>th</sup>-century charm, shops, nightclubs and restaurants.

**Holiday Valley's Sky High Adventure Park** (Ellicottville). The four-acre aerial park has ziplines and bridges made from logs, obstacles and ladders. Mountain coaster rides zigzag, spiral and whoosh down the mountain.

**Jamestown Audubon Nature Center** (Jamestown). The 600-acre wildlife sanctuary features hiking trails, nature exhibits, and herb and butterfly gardens.

**Midway State Park** (Maple Springs). Open since 1898, Midway has 18 amusement rides, mini-golf, go-karts, rock climbing and arcades. Located on Chautauqua Lake, the park also has picnic grounds, fishing and free docking for day visitors.

**New York's Amish Trail** (Randolph). The largest Old Order Amish Community in New York State is located on the western edge of Cattaraugus County also known as the Enchanted Mountains. This self-guided trail includes more than 130 farm shops offering traditional crafts, quilts, furniture, baked goods, cheeses and fresh produce all made with unparalleled craftsmanship.

**Panama Rocks Scenic Park** (Panama). Hike amid towering rocks. Trails lead through crevices and passageways, over 15 acres of Paleozoic ocean floor covered with massive boulders.

**Peek'n Peak Golf & Ski Resort** (Findley Lake). Ski and ride in one of New York's heaviest snowfall regions, averaging over 200 inches each season. The four-season resort and historic hotel has old-world charm and great amenities like a spa, two 18-hole golf courses, Segway tours and fine restaurants.

**Rock City Park** (Olean). Explore a world of stone bridges, crevices and towering, house-size rock formations. Paths lead over, under and even through ancient rocks as high as 80 feet.

**Roger Tory Peterson Institute** (Jamestown). Along with nature exhibits, wildlife art and photography, find trails amid 27 acres, ideal for wildlife viewing. Don't miss the butterfly garden.

**Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel** (Salamanca). The casino features more than 1,700 gaming machines, table games, and high-stakes bingo. Entertainment includes concerts and festivals. The hotel features several restaurants and a day spa.

**Sprague's Maple Farms** (Portville). Tours of old sugarhouse show how syrup is made the old-fashioned way. Fresh syrup and other maple products are available in the restaurant and gift shop. A nature center and trail leads to picturesque views.

**Summer Wind Cruises** (Celoron). Take a sightseeing trip on Chautauqua Lake aboard a 130-passenger double-decker ship. Breakfast, lunch and dinner cruises are available.

**Tall Pines ATV Park** (Andover). Visit Kent Farms' Tall Pines ATV Park, recently featured on the Outdoor Channel, for some wild mud-bogging, farm fest, live bands, bonfire, races, dice runs, and 50 miles of motocross/ATV/UTV/dirt bike trails, as well as Fishers ATV World "Keep It Real Tour."

**Zoar Valley Canoe & Rafting Company** (Gowanda). Whitewater on the mighty Cattaraugus swirls you past rugged cliffs, waterfalls and old-growth forests. When the water calms in June, you can float the quiet sections, run some rapids, and swim or hike amid the pristine beauty of this ancient valley.

**Zoar Valley State Nature & Historical Preserve** (Gowanda). The awe-inspiring beauty of this wild area includes sheer cliffs towering over 400 feet above the canyon floor and dozens of waterfalls, some cascading up to 140 feet.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**August 3-7:** The 30<sup>th</sup> annual **Lucille Ball Comedy Festival** at the National Comedy Center in Jamestown, NY celebrates the first lady of comedy with a lineup of the most talented and funny comedians in our time.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Land:**

7 hours from NYC  
2 hours from Niagara  
9 hours from Montreal

### **Air:**

Accessible from Buffalo Niagara and Erie International Airports

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more travel ideas and information, visit [iloveny.com](http://iloveny.com) or the Chautauqua-Allegheny Region website: <http://www.visitwesternny.com>

### **COUNTIES**

Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua

### **MAJOR CITIES & TOWNS**

Alfred, Allegheny, Angelica, Bemus Point, Chautauqua, Cuba, Dunkirk, Ellicottville, Fredonia, Jamestown, Olean, Salamanca, Wellsville, Westfield

### **CLIMATE**

The diverse climate has four distinct seasons. Summers are comfortable and warm, with daytime temperatures averaging in the mid-70s to mid-80s (degrees F.) and cooler evenings. The weather is moderately cool and sunny in springtime and autumn, when spectacular fall foliage attracts thousands of visitors. Cold, snowy winters create a wonderland of magnificent scenery in villages, resorts and ski centers. Each year, lake effect storms drop an average of 200+ inches of snow in the higher elevations along Lake Erie.

### **SHOPPING**

Along [New York's Amish Trail](#), more than 130 farm shops offer traditional crafts, furniture, quilts, baked goods, cheeses, and fresh produce.

The charming and historic towns of Angelica, Bemus Point, Ellicottville, Lakewood, Olean, Wellsville, and Westfield are known for a variety of eclectic, one-of-a-kind shops offering everything from antiques and birding books to maple syrup and wine. [The Angelica Country Store](#) in the town of Angelica sells antiques, vintage jewelry, home furnishings, local honey and unique gifts. Salamanca Mall Antiques, one of the largest antique centers in the country, boasts more than 1,000 vendors who offer antiques and collectibles at discount and competitive prices.

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