FINGER LAKES

2027 DEVELOPMENTS

New arts, lodging and culinary experiences will give travelers even more reasons to explore the **Finger Lakes** in 2027. In Corning, The Rockwell Museum will unveil its reimagined KIDS ROCKWELL Art Lab in the spring, bringing the family-focused experience into the main museum with a larger creative space and improved accessibility. Near Syracuse University, a new Graduate by Hilton is expected to open in the fall with approximately 200 guest rooms, a restaurant, rooftop bar and event space. New York Kitchen will also relocate to a new home across from Kershaw Park in Canandaigua later in the year, featuring teaching kitchens, a demonstration theater, a tasting room and an outdoor patio overlooking Canandaigua Lake.

Ithaca's Apple Harvest Festival marks its 45th year with a free, three-day celebration of local farms, cider, food, artisans and live entertainment along the Ithaca Commons. Fair Haven Beach State Park will celebrate its 100th anniversary, inviting visitors to enjoy its sandy Lake Ontario shoreline, scenic bluffs and woodlands in northern Cayuga County.

DESCRIPTION

Whether compelled by a love of natural beauty or a fondness for urban excitement, travelers will find the Finger Lakes region fits their longings like a glove. Covering 9,000 square miles, the destination directly south of Lake Ontario is named for 11 pristine lakes that spread like fingers, creating havens for outdoor fun including waterways connected to the Great Lakes for swimming, fishing and boating; and scenic wine trails that showcase some of the nation's premier vineyards through special events, tasting passports and more.

There are cultural and historical highlights at every turn around the region. The world's largest glass museum, the Corning Museum of Glass, is a destination for family day trips with hot glassblowing demonstrations, 3,500 years of glass art and exhibits including Egyptian tombs, Tiffany vases and space shuttle windows. The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester is the world's only museum dedicated to the exploration and discovery of play and features the World Video Game Hall of Fame and the National Toy Hall of Fame. It also boasts the world's largest playable Donkey Kong arcade machine.

The Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse is dedicated to preserving the history of the Erie Canal, a 363-mile long waterway that was built in the early 19th century to create a direct route from the

Hudson River to the Great Lakes. Visitors can learn about the Syracuse and Erie Canals that played crucial roles in commercial transportation in the state in the 1800s.

Seneca Falls, located in the northern Finger Lakes, was the site of the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848. This landmark gathering produced the Declaration of Sentiments, which boldly demanded equal rights for women, including the right to vote — laying the foundation for the national suffrage movement. In Auburn, travelers can visit the home of Harriet Tubman, where they can take a peek into this historic figure's life.

Rochester served as a key site in the fight for equality and social reform, bringing together leading voices of both the abolitionist and women's rights movements. Susan B. Anthony dedicated her life to the cause, working tirelessly alongside Stanton. Her home, now the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House, served as a key headquarters for suffragist strategy meetings and activism leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment. Frederick Douglass published his influential anti-slavery newspaper, The North Star, and worked closely with both Harriet Tubman and Anthony — uniting the movements for abolition and women's suffrage.

The Finger Lakes is also celebrated as one of the country's most acclaimed wine regions, where cool-climate conditions produce award-winning Rieslings, sparkling wines and other varieties. The region is home to over 140 wineries and tasting rooms along its scenic wine trails, where visitors can meet passionate vintners and enjoy vineyard-view patios, seasonal festivals and food pairings that showcase the area's rich agricultural heritage. Alongside its scenic wine trails, the region boasts a vibrant craft beverage scene of breweries, cideries and distilleries. Finger Lakes Distilling has opened a new tasting room in Newfield, inviting visitors to sample award-winning spirits along scenic backroads, adding to an ever-growing roster of unique places to sip and savor locally made drinks.

For winter adventure seekers, Bristol Mountain delivers thrilling skiing with its impressive 1,200-foot vertical rise, while Geneva's Seneca Lake State Park provides scenic cross-country skiing trails, perfect for a peaceful winter day. Those looking to sharpen their skills can take lessons at Cortland's Greek Peak, one of the region's premier ski resorts. For a more relaxed winter adventure, Oneida Lake becomes a haven for ice fishing enthusiasts, with anglers casting their lines for perch, walleye and northern pike. Ice fishing shanties dot the frozen landscape on Skaneateles Lake as well, making it a cozy retreat on the ice. Whether visitors are a seasoned angler or a first-timer, local guides are available to help navigate the cold waters and provide all necessary equipment.

WHERE TO STAY

La Tourelle Hotel, Bistro and Spa in Ithaca features a recently refreshed lobby and guest rooms, reinforcing its status as a wellness retreat steps from Buttermilk Falls State Park, Firelight Camps and the Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies, also known as the Dalai Lama Library. Guests can settle into one of a host of unique accommodations in the Finger Lakes,

from the four historic properties that make up Inns of Aurora along Cayuga Lake to a historic octagonal home transformed into the elegant, Black Sheep Inn and Spa in Hammondsport.

For a storybook getaway, Belhurst Castle sits on the picturesque Seneca Lake in the Finger Lakes wine region. The enchanting 1880s stone castle and winery hosts elegant rooms featuring four-poster beds, stained-glass windows, marble fireplaces and stunning lake views. Its real-life fairy tale amenities include complimentary wine from the spigot for castle guests, spa treatments or a special six-course food and wine pairing for two. Ellwanger Estate B&B sets itself apart with its elegant decor, warm natural woodwork, soft lighting and fresh outdoor aromas that create a serene atmosphere, enhanced by sunlight streaming through skylights. Located in Rochester's Mount Hope Cultural District, the historic estate offers four eco-friendly, smoke-free rooms and access to the stunning Ellwanger Garden, ensuring a memorable stay in a beautiful setting.

GETTING THERE

- 5-6 hours from NYC
- 1-3 hours from Niagara Falls
- 5-6 hours from Montreal
- Elmira Corning Regional Airport, accessible from route I-88, I-86 and bus service
- Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport, accessible from route I-90 (NYS Thruway) and bus service
- Syracuse Hancock International Airport, accessible from route I-90 (NYS Thruway) and bus service

COUNTIES

Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, Yates

MAJOR CITIES & TOWNS

Auburn, Canandaigua, Corning, Cortland, Elmira, Geneseo, Geneva, Ithaca, Lyons, Owego, Penn Yan, Rochester, Seneca Falls, Skaneateles, Syracuse, Watkins Glen

CLIMATE

The diverse climate of New York State has four distinct seasons. Summers in the Finger Lakes region 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more travel ideas and information, visit iloveny.com or the Finger Lakes' regional website: fingerlakestravelny.com.

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