



## FINGER LAKES

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

This summer, the Finger Lakes region is buzzing with exciting attractions, events, eateries, and a new hotel that promises to enhance the visitor experience. [The Great New York State Fair](#) is a summertime staple in Syracuse, taking place from August 21 to September 2. This year it will feature a variety of new rides, games, concerts and culinary delights. The region will also host an array of [music festivals](#) spanning genres from jazz to country, highlighting both local talent and renowned artists. Major artists such as Carrie Underwood, Zac Brown Band and Norah Jones will perform throughout the summer, adding to the vibrant music scene.

Noteworthy new vendors at [Salt City Market](#) in Syracuse includes [SINBUN](#), offering sweet and savory buns, and [ElleRae's Taco](#) bringing Cal-Mex food to the region. Visitors can also enjoy the [Louise Café](#) at the Everson Museum and the [Cortland County Ice Cream Trail](#). Additionally, the [Tioga Downs Casino Resort Hotel](#) recently opened, enhancing the town's premier harness horse racing experience.

### 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; magnificent state parks for hiking, biking and camping, such as [Letchworth State Park](#), the "Grand Canyon of the East" and home to the [Autism Nature Trail](#); and scenic wine trails that showcase some of the nation's premier vineyards through special events, tasting passports and more.

Race fans come from all over to cheer NASCAR's biggest names at [Watkins Glen International Raceway](#). Drive a little slower to take in the picturesque [Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway](#) from Ithaca to the [Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge](#) near Seneca Falls, [Great Lakes Seaway Trail](#) along Lake Ontario, or the Seneca Lake Scenic Byway running 18 miles along the eastern shore of Seneca Lake with views of the 16,000-acre [Finger Lakes National Forest](#).

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](#) is the world's only museum dedicated to the exploration and discovery of and features the World Video Game Hall of Fame and the world's largest playable Donkey Kong arcade machine.

The [Finger Lakes Boating Museum](#) in Hammondsport is the place to learn about the wooden vessels that once dotted the lakes and their role in turning a rural region into a world-class tourist destination. The [National Soaring Museum](#) in Elmira has hands-on aviation exhibits that tell the history of motorless flight and an active soaring field at Harris Hill, the Soaring Capital of America.

The [Erie Canal Museum](#) 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.

In Auburn, the [Harriet Tubman National Historical Park](#) offers tours of the home of the conductor of the Underground Railroad also known as “The Moses of Her People.” At [Women’s Rights National Historical Park](#) in Seneca Falls, explore the site of the first Women’s Rights Convention (1848) including Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s home and Wesleyan Chapel.

Beer lovers will delight in the [ROC/FLX Craft Beverage Trail](#), a self-guided trail from Rochester to the western shores of Canandaigua Lake that connects nearly 40 craft beverage experiences including breweries, distilleries, wineries and cideries. [The Finger Lakes Cheese Alliance](#) counts 15 working dairy farms throughout the region, producing a full selection of artisanal cheeses as well as unique products like Irish washed-rind cheese, goat cheeses and Kefir cheese.

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.

## **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
- [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, Onandaga, 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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