



## **ACCESSIBLE NY HIGHLIGHTS**

In July 2020, on the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I LOVE NY debuted Accessible New York, a program designed to improve the travel planning experience for over 70 million Americans with a disability.

Visitors can explore the Accessible NY hub at [iloveny.com/accessible](https://iloveny.com/accessible) to read blog posts featuring destinations with accommodations for travelers with mobility, cognitive, visual or hearing needs. The Accessible NY hub also features over 210 attractions with expanded accessibility information to help with travel planning needs.

Most recently, the Division of Tourism partnered with four travel influencers each with their own individual accommodation needs highlighting accessible itineraries in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Rochester, Hudson Valley, NYC and Long Island. Influencers such as Dani Bowman from Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum* documented their trips and shared their experience with their followings showcasing destinations offering accommodations for travelers ranging from ASL interpretive tours to autism-supportive communities.

Below is a brief sampling of welcoming attractions in New York State for those with varying abilities. A full list of attractions that are a part of the Accessible NY program with detailed accessibility information can be found at: [iloveny.com/accessible](https://iloveny.com/accessible).

### Adaptive Ski programs

Regardless of ability, several ski mountains throughout New York State offer visitors the chance to learn how to ski and snowboard through one-on-one adaptive lessons. Many of these adaptive programs are for adults and children with disabilities who want to learn how to ski and snowboard. Lessons range from first-timer to the advanced skier or snowboarder. At all locations that offer these programs, adaptive equipment is included in the reservations.

The Olympic Regional Development Authority offers adaptive ski programs at Whiteface, Gore and Belleayre mountains throughout the ski season. Each mountain offers different lessons and time slots so visitors should call ahead and schedule reservations to ensure availability.

Ski NY also lists available adaptive ski programs throughout the state, such as Catamount Ski Area in the Hudson Valley and Bristol Mountain in the Finger Lakes, at [www.iskiny.com](https://www.iskiny.com).

### Franklin D. Roosevelt and Presidential Library & Museum

The Franklin D. Roosevelt and Presidential Library & Museum offers a glimpse at a remarkable four-term presidency and the private lives of both FDR and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. As the first wheelchair user elected to the country's highest office, innovations that helped make FDR's life easier in his home are on display to visitors today. Unlike many historic homes, both floors are accessible thanks to a lift.

Don't miss the opportunity to visit Top Cottage, which many believe is the first completely barrier-free house in the U.S. to be designed by a person with a disability (the back porch also features a stunning view of the Hudson Valley and beyond).

This site also offers over 13 hours of audio description narration of the visual elements throughout the exhibits to offer accessibility to visitors who are blind or have low vision.

### Autism-friendly Performances on Broadway

The Theatre Development Fund, the nonprofit best known for operating the TKTS Discount Booths, through their TDF Accessibility Programs offers autism friendly performances of four to five Broadway shows per season for families with children and adults on the autism spectrum.

During these sensory-friendly performances theater lights are dimmed instead of being turned off and productions are altered to remove any jarring sounds and lights. Break areas offer a quiet space to theatergoers who need to leave their seats during the show. Each production also offers resources to help visitors prepare for their Broadway experience in advance. Tickets are only sold through TDF so to get notified when tickets go on sale sign up at: [www.tdf.org/autism](http://www.tdf.org/autism).

### The Autism Nature Trail at Letchworth State Park

Letchworth State Park has created a recreational Autism Nature Trail (The ANT) within the park that is designed to allow visitors with autism and other developmental disabilities to experience nature up close, explore new activities and develop skills. Visitors can spend time in several areas at the trail that are sensory friendly and provide a safe place to be immersed in nature.

### The Strong National Museum of Play

The Rochester-based Strong Museum of Play welcomes guests of all abilities through accessible facilities, programs and resources. All entrances in the museum and most exhibits can accommodate wheelchairs (available free of charge), scooters, strollers and walkers. Families can experience facilities before the general public through its Sensory Friendly Sunday program. Designated quiet areas feature sensory-friendly toys, light and sound reduction, and extra visual safety signage. The first two floors of the museum offer "guest rests" for breaks and a chance to be in a quiet environment.

### The Whitney Museum of American Art

Housing over 25,000 American art works, The Whitney Museum of American Art is one of the world's most iconic museums. For deaf or hard of hearing art lovers, the museum

has a deaf educator on staff who leads monthly ASL tours. Afterwards, they can enjoy a complimentary wine and cheese reception together. In addition, guests may visit the Whitney Museum's ASL Vlog to learn about a number of American artists and the stories behind their artwork.

For more information on I LOVE Accessible New York please contact:

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