



ABOUT ACCESSIBLE NEW YORK

In July 2020, on the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I LOVE NY debuted Accessible New York, an initiative designed to improve the travel planning experience for visitors with accessibility needs. Recognizing that anyone, regardless of physical limitations, abilities, or age should be able to enjoy New York's world-class attractions and events, the program was launched to extend an invitation to more than 60 million American adult travelers with accessibility needs.

In an effort to help enhance and streamline the travel planning experience for those with accessibility needs, the Accessible New York program consists of a centralized hub on iloveny.com, which provides detailed accessibility information on over 170 visitor attractions and facilities. Information is searchable based on accessibility amenities or specific accommodations provided. Attraction accommodations can cover multiple accessibility needs including mobility, cognitive, hearing and visual impairments, and details on everything from entrances and restrooms to special programs and the best ways to experience activities. The hub also includes editorial pieces based on accessibility needs, as well as recommendations from popular travel blogger Cory Lee, who details his experiences as a wheelchair user.

New York State has a wealth of accessible destinations, and the Accessible New York program not only highlights these amazing experiences but works to create a more positive travel planning experience for those with accessibility needs.

Below is a brief sampling of the numerous welcoming attractions in New York State for those with varying abilities. A full list of attractions that are a part of the Accessible New York program with detailed accessibility information can be found at: www.iloveny.com/things-to-do/accessibility/.

Museums and Attractions

- [LEGOLAND New York Resort](#)
LEGOLAND New York Resort caters to travelers with varying accessibility needs, including many ADA accessible rides, venues and shops. The park also will provide accommodations for visual and hearing disabilities and for those who are not able to stand in line for a long period of time. Those living with

autism and/or various sensory disabilities can access quiet rooms and decompress with weighted blankets, dim lighting and tactile toys. Visitors can also find similar accommodations at New York's LEGOLAND Hotel. Finally, specialized training equips team members with skills to interact with guests on the autism spectrum, as well as their families or caregivers.

- Fort Ticonderoga

Fort Ticonderoga, located in the Adirondacks, offers a full accessibility and sensory [guide](#) detailing accessibility features in each location around the historic site. While there are areas that may not be fully wheelchair accessible, the guide gives visitors the opportunity to view accessible locations to plan their visit ahead of time. Wheelchairs are available to borrow from the Log House Welcome Center. The guide also features information for sensory needs, including if an area is typically crowded, loud, or brightly lit. This information allows anyone with sensory needs to plan where they want to go and prepare for every scenario.

- 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. There are also ASL interpreters available when requested two weeks in advance, and exhibition labels that display artifact and exhibit details for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- 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.

Outdoor Adventures

- Glimmerglass State Park

Glimmerglass State Park recently opened a new accessible kayak launch in May. Visitors with mobility needs can now use the accessible launch to kayak and canoe on Otsego Lake. The new dock provides an overhead grab bar to enhance stability for people while entering and exiting the vessel. The launch, located near the park beach, includes a hinged ramp in the water to better hold the vessel in place before launching, as well as a low-scale stair that will allow wheelchair users to lower themselves into the boat.

- 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.
- Wild Center
Located in the Adirondacks, the Wild Center offers programs for visitors with accessibility needs to enjoy the nature park. Reserved guided tours are offered for the visually impaired and the entire Wild Walk is fully accessible, so guests do not need to miss out on any of the attractions or scenic vantage points. The main building and exhibits were developed using universal design, ensuring an experience that is accessible for everyone. Wheelchairs and walkers can be rented free of charge, electric mobility scooters are available and sensory days take place through the year.
- Mount Loretto Unique Area
In Staten Island, a new accessible wetlands trail opened in the Mount Loretto Unique area. The half-mile accessible trail incorporates a stone dust trail and elevated boardwalk that culminates in a new viewing area raised over 10 feet, overlooking tidal wetlands and an inlet. This improved path provides additional access to activities such as bird watching, hiking, and freshwater fishing.

For more information on Accessible New York, please contact:

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