



ABOUT BLACK TRAVEL NEW YORK

On February 24, 2023 as part of the state's commemoration of Black History Month, Governor Kathy Hochul announced plans for a new I LOVE NY Black travel initiative at an event held at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Manhattan. This program highlights and curates New York State's world-class attractions in order to welcome Black visitors, their friends and families and anyone interested in the Black experience in America to come explore New York's unparalleled Black history, culture, food, arts and events.

New York State is unrivaled when it comes to the quality and variety of assets that appeal to Black travelers. New York is home to dozens of Underground Railroad sites and one of the largest Juneteenth festivals in the nation, has deep ties to leaders like Fredrick Douglass, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, and is where hip hop was born. Museums and venues celebrating Black culture, art and heritage can be found throughout the state— from the Apollo Theater in Harlem to the Harriet Tubman National Historic Park in the Finger Lakes to the Colored Musicians Club in Buffalo and everywhere in between.

I LOVE NY's Black travel initiative was created to celebrate Black history and culture in the State of New York.

I LOVE NY BLACK TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a brief sampling of some of the attractions in New York State that celebrate New York's Black history, culture, food, and arts. More information can be found at www.iloveny.com/blacktravel.

Colored Musicians Club & Jazz Museum

The museum is set to reopen its renovated, expanded space in the original clubhouse on Broadway in January 2025, the 90th anniversary of the club. New features include a visitor center addition, elevator and renovations of the second-floor club and bar and a ground-floor museum with new interactive exhibits designed to let visitors play the role of a musician. The jazz museum tells the story of the club and the musicians union, founded in 1917, headquartered here. The Colored Musicians Club was incorporated in 1935, the year after the union moved into the current brick building, a former German shoemaker's shop. Famous musicians like Aretha Franklin and Miles Davis came through

during segregation, stopped to eat, drink and play music, and paid dues to the club as part of the protocol when they came to Buffalo for a gig. The Buffalo musicians had a reputation for great skill, had to pass a stringent audition to get in union, and were often hired by famous touring musicians: When Dizzy Gillespie toured Europe most of his musicians were from Buffalo.

Jackie Robinson Museum

Opened in 2022 in Manhattan, the Jackie Robinson Museum set out on a mission to build community and appreciation of diverse experiences through chronicling one of the most important Americans of the 20th century. On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play Major League Baseball in the modern era. He would later become the first African American named a vice president at a fortune 500 company; serve as an advisor to politicians; and start a bank and a housing development company. He was a key figure in advancing equal opportunity and first-class citizenship for all Americans during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s. Hailed a “..freedom rider before freedom rides,” Robinson’s name has become synonymous with breaking barriers. The museum honors his life story and legacy for generations.

Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor

The Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor is a nationally and internationally recognized Buffalo neighborhood that serves as the focal point of residents’ and visitors’ experience for learning about Buffalo’s rich African American history. The corridor is made up of four cultural anchors: The Nash House Museum, The Colored Musicians Club, Michigan Street Baptist Church, and the Underground Railroad at Broderick Park. Be sure to check out The Freedom Wall commissioned by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery Public Art Initiative located on the corner of Michigan Avenue and East Ferry street.

The Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center

The Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center is a groundbreaking museum that reveals authentic stories of Underground Railroad freedom seekers and abolitionists in Niagara Falls, a key location for getting enslaved people to freedom in Canada. Located inside the former 1863 U.S. Custom House attached to the Niagara Falls Amtrak Station, the center opened for visitors in May 2018 after more than 11 years of planning. Visitors experience stories about Harriet Tubman along with Niagara Falls heroes of the Underground Railroad like John Morrison.

Harriet Tubman National Historic Park

Known as the Moses of her people, Harriet Tubman helped countless freedom seekers along the Underground Railroad—making several daring rescue trips back to the South. Today, you can explore the history of the Underground Railroad and learn more about her journey at the Harriet Tubman National Historic Park in Auburn.

Apollo Theater

Harlem's famous Apollo Theater is important not only because it honors and promotes the contributions of Black American performers, but it is also a living example of progress. The building was originally a burlesque theater that did not allow black patrons. Located in upper Manhattan, guests can tour the world-famous theater which, since the 1930s, has been the premiere showplace for live, theatrical entertainment in Harlem. Visit for the world-famous Amateur Night, which started the careers of so many legends including Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Sammy Davis Jr., Lauren Hill and countless others or take a historical tour of the building.

Fenton History Center

Both Jamestown and Chautauqua County played an important role in helping enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad. This 1863 mansion offers libraries and archives, educational resources, and local history exhibits like "Intersections: The Underground Railroad in Chautauqua County," which explores the story of Catherine Harris, an aid to many freedom seekers escaping enslavement and journeying north.

Joysetta & Julius Pearse African American Museum of Nassau County

Since the museum opened in 1970, it continues to showcase African American art, culture, music and traditions with an emphasis on Long Island local and national African American artists. Explore the history of Black women in NASA, Black royal European queens, and exhibits like "The Good, The Bold, The Beautiful" which fuses African and Brazilian art.

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