



## ABOUT PATH THROUGH HISTORY

You don't have to be a historian to appreciate New York State's rich heritage. New York's [Path Through History](#) helps you discover, understand and experience the state's amazing history and heritage. A wealth of memorable experiences awaits you—from living history museums, to forts and military landmarks, to the homes of presidents, great writers, activists and artists. With an unparalleled network of museums, historic sites and cultural institutions, the Path Through History takes you across the state to discover events of the past and to learn how they reverberate today.

Discover New York State's rich and fascinating heritage during [Path Through History Weekends](#), held in June and October. During these weekends, hundreds of museums, historic sites, parks and heritage groups across the state host themed tours, events, lectures and community celebrations. Wherever your curiosity leads you, you will find it in New York State!

## PATH THROUGH HISTORY THEMES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a brief sampling of more than 700 destinations, most of them family friendly, selected with input from leading historians and tourism partners across the state. Choose from 13 themes to create your own Path Through History for an experience you and your family will always remember. A full listing of Path Through History attractions can be found at [www.iloveny.com/things-to-do/path-through-history](http://www.iloveny.com/things-to-do/path-through-history)

**Arts & Culture** – New York's artists, writers and performers have always been at the forefront of American culture. The Empire State is the birthplace of trailblazers like Lucille Ball, national icons like Walt Whitman and artistic pioneers like Thomas Cole. Others, like Louis Armstrong and Mark Twain, moved to New York to further explore their craft and share their talents with the world. A dazzling array of attractions across New York State tells the history of these artists and their contributions to our nation's cultural heritage.

*Highlights: The Albany Institute of History and Art (Albany), National Comedy Center (Jamestown), Albright-Knox Art Gallery (Buffalo), Olana State Historic Site (Hudson)*

**Canals & Transportation** – As early America's greatest technological innovation, the Erie Canal ushered in a new era of transportation history when it was completed in 1825. New York's waterways, railroads, highways and airfields have helped our nation grow, while making the state the center of a transportation revolution which has continued into the 21st century. Attractions from scenic railroads to canal cruises to lighthouses act as living history museums, showcasing the many ways New York has led the nation in moving people and goods.

*Highlights: Erie Canal Discovery Center (Lockport), Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park (Highland), and The Antique Boat Museum (Clayton)*

**Civil Rights** – New York State was a national center for abolitionism, at the forefront of the Underground Railroad movement, and where leaders like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman made their home and worked with allies like Gerrit Smith and William Seward to end slavery in America. That legacy of equality continued with the birth of the modern gay rights movement in 1969 at New York City's Stonewall Inn. Sites across the state bring this civil rights history to life for all who celebrate liberty and justice.

*Highlights: The John Brown Farm and Burial Site (Lake Placid), Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (Auburn), Stonewall National Monument (New York City)*

**Colonial History** – Founded by the Dutch as New Amsterdam in the early 17th century and later established as a British colony, New York distinguished itself as the most culturally diverse of the nation's thirteen colonies and a colonial leader in politics, commerce and culture. The state's rich colonial history, on display at museums and historic homes with costumed guides, teaches visitors about our nation's earliest struggles to forge a uniquely American identity.

*Highlights: Fort William Henry Museum (Lake George), Crailo State Historic Site (Rensselaer), 1747 Nellis Tavern (Saint Johnsville), Historic Huguenot Street (New Paltz)*

**Immigration** – New York State has been at the center of the American immigrant experience. While the New York City skyline and the Statue of Liberty were the first sights many new Americans would first see upon their arrival at Ellis Island, you must traverse the state to understand the true impact of the renewed dreams and hope that the Empire State has delivered for so many. Historic sites across the state explore the way that newly arrived Americans have contributed to our national identity, culture and economic growth.

*Highlights: Museum of Chinese in America (New York City), Irish American Heritage Museum (Albany), Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum (Oswego), Statue of Liberty National Monument (New York City)*

**Innovation & Commerce** – New York State's businesses and industries have long dominated American commerce, and the state remains a leading center for cutting-edge inventions and science. Advances in electricity, glassmaking, photography, engineering and aviation have their origins here, and are on display at museums statewide. New York has also been home for many of the industrialists connected to these innovations, whose opulent lifestyle is captured in what are now spectacular historic mansions and estates.

Highlights: *Hanford Mills Museum (East Meredith), Corning Museum of Glass (Corning), George Eastman Museum (Rochester), Cradle of Aviation Museum (Garden City)*

**Native Americans** – Long before European settlers set foot on the land that would become New York State, Native tribes had built thriving civilizations here. The culture and customs of these first inhabitants helped shape our great state and remain a powerful force today, and visitors can explore this history through art, artifacts and recreated structures.

Highlights: *Iroquois Indian Museum (Howes Cave), Seneca Iroquois National Museum (Salamanca), and Ganondagan State Historic Site (Victor)*

**Natural History** – From the Hudson River to Niagara Falls, New York State's spectacular landscapes and scenic beauty have always inspired visitors and residents alike. New York also has a proud, longstanding history of preserving nature, making it accessible to people and integrating it into their everyday lives. In fact, the state is seen by many as the birthplace of the modern environmental movement. Visitors can explore attractions showcasing nature's important role in New York's history, as well as the natural wonders themselves.

Highlights: *Niagara Falls State Park (Niagara Falls), Enfield Glen/Robert H. Treman State Park (Ithaca), The Wild Center and Wild Walk (Tupper Lake)*

**Revolutionary War** – America's independence may never have been realized without the courage and contributions of the men and women of New York State. One-third of the Revolutionary War's battles were fought here, including the Battle of Saratoga, known as the "Turning Point of the Revolution." George Washington said that whoever held the Hudson River and New York City controlled "the safety of America." This history has been preserved at forts, battlefields and other historic sites across the state.

Highlights: *Fort Ticonderoga (Ticonderoga), Saratoga National Historical Park/Saratoga Battlefield (Saratoga Springs), Senate House State Historic Site (Kingston) National Purple Heart Hall of Honor (New Windsor)*

**Sports History** – New York's sports teams and venues are among the most storied in American history. The Empire State is the home of the oldest major sports venue in the U.S. at the Saratoga Race Course, the national shrine to baseball legends in Cooperstown, and one of America's greatest Olympic triumphs that made everyone believe in miracles in Lake Placid. These sites and others can be experienced as a fan, and some even as a participant.

Highlights: *1932 & 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympic Museum and Hall of Fame (Lake Placid), National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (Cooperstown), Saratoga Race Course (Saratoga Springs), Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum (Livingston Manor)*

**U.S. Presidents** – New York State was the birthplace for five U.S. presidents and the final resting place for six. Presidents from New York State include the nation's youngest (Theodore Roosevelt) and longest serving (Franklin D. Roosevelt). Add to this the number

of presidential historic moments and accomplishments that happened across the state and visitors can experience presidential history here like nowhere else.

*Highlights: Martin Van Buren National Historical Site (Kinderhook), Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (Oyster Bay), Franklin D. Roosevelt Home National Historic Site (Hyde Park)*

**War of 1812** – No state played a greater role in the War of 1812 than New York. During the 32-month war, also known as America's Second War for Independence, the Americans fought the British on land and water from Buffalo to Plattsburgh. Historic sites include forts, battlefields, museums, and the gravesite of "Uncle Sam."

*Highlights: Old Fort Niagara (Youngstown), Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site (Sackets Harbor), Uncle Sam's Grave Site/Oakwood Cemetery (Troy)*

**Women's Rights** – New Yorkers have long led the struggle for women's rights. Seneca Falls is considered the birthplace of the women's rights movement, and some of its greatest leaders from Susan B. Anthony to Matilda Joslyn Gage and Elizabeth Cady Stanton did their pioneering work in New York State. In passing women's suffrage in 1917, New York State fueled the momentum for the entire nation to follow suit three years later.

*Highlights: National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House (Rochester), National Women's Hall of Fame (Seneca Falls), Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (Hyde Park)*

**For more information on the Path Through History Program please contact:**

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