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 learn, celebrate, and appreciate 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. Path Through History takes you across the state to discover events of the past and to learn how they reverberate today.

New York played an immense and vital role in our country's journey to independence and the subsequent 250 years of American history. As our nation continues to commemorate 250 years of American history, New York invites visitors to explore the people, places and events that helped shape our country and continue to shape its story today. Explore commemoration events happening across the state at iloveny.com/America-250.

In New York we proudly celebrate the state's Path Through History every day with an unparalleled network of museums, historic sites and cultural institutions. History comes alive at special events 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 invite visitors to experience costumed reenactments, hands-on demonstrations, and immersive events. From intimate behind-the-scenes tours to city-wide festivals, wherever your curiosity leads you, there's more to discover in New York State!

PATH THROUGH HISTORY THEMES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a brief sample of more than 700 destinations 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 adventure you and your family will always remember. A full listing of Path Through History attractions can be found at iloveny.com/history.

View the I LOVE NY Path Through History Guide online at iloveny.com/travel-tools/guides.

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 Frederic Remington. 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), Buffalo AKG Art Museum (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), The Antique Boat Museum (Clayton)

Equal Rights –. A national center for abolitionism, New York State will recognize the bicentennial of the end of legalized slavery in the state throughout 2027. At the forefront of the Underground Railroad movement, leaders like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman made their home here 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 Home and 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 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 & Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration (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, Native nations had built thriving civilizations here. The culture and customs of these first inhabitants helped shape our great state and remain a powerful force today. At museums and historic sites visitors can explore this history and culture through art, artifacts and recreated structures.

Highlights: Iroquois Museum (Howes Cave), Seneca Iroquois National Museum (Salamanca), Ganondagan State Historic Site (Victor), National Museum of the American Indian (New York City)

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), Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park (Great River), The Wild Center and Wild Walk (Tupper Lake), Zoo New York (Watertown)

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), *Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site (Newburgh)*

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: Lake Placid Olympic Center and Museum (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 Historic Site (Kinderhook), Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (Oyster Bay), Franklin D. Roosevelt Home National Historic Site (Hyde Park), General Grant National Memorial (New York City)

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 home to the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848. Some of the movement's 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), Matilda Joslyn Gage House (Fayetteville)

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

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