



THOUSAND ISLANDS SEAWAY

2026 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2026, [Uncle Sam Boat Tours](#), a storied sightseeing cruise operator navigating the St. Lawrence River from Alexandria Bay since 1926, will mark the milestone with expanded guest offerings and special commemorative cruise experiences.

DESCRIPTION

The Thousand Islands-Seaway region is a breathtaking destination where visitors can explore more than 1,000 islands along the St. Lawrence River and the Lake Ontario shoreline in every season. Known for its rich history and distinctive outdoor experiences, the area offers countless ways to enjoy its natural beauty — from warm-weather boating, fishing and island hopping to snow-covered adventures in the colder months.

For outdoor enthusiasts, the region boasts activities year-round. In winter, [Dry Hill Ski Area](#) in Watertown is a family-friendly favorite with options for night skiing and tubing, while the [Tug Hill area](#) provides hundreds of miles of snowmobiling trails winding through dense forests. [Winona State Forest Recreation Area](#) in Lacona serves as a popular training ground for sled dogs, hosting must-see races like the Tug Hill Challenge, and also welcomes visitors for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking. In summer and fall, the area's waterways beckon for paddling, sailing and fishing, while regional trails invite hiking and cycling under lush canopies or brilliant autumn foliage. Seasonal events like the [Clayton Boat Show](#) and Bill Johnston's Pirate Days in Alexandria Bay bring the river towns to life, while fall harvest festivals, winery tours, and apple picking in Jefferson County offer a taste of local flavors alongside stunning scenery.

The region is most known for its Gilded Age mansions that travelers can visit. [Boldt Castle](#) in Alexandria Bay, once the home to George Boldt but was abandoned mid-construction due to his beloved wife's passing, is now accessible via boat and offers tours. [Singer Castle](#) in Hammond was built between 1900 - 1905 by Frederic Bourne, former CEO of Singer Sewing Machine Company. Now, the castle is available for tours and even overnight stays in the Royal Suite.

Arts and culture are plentiful throughout the region and enjoyed across all seasons. The [Frederic Remington Art Museum](#) in Ogdensburg showcases an extensive collection of the famed artist's works, housed in the historic Parish Mansion. Families can explore interactive exhibits at the [North Country Children's Museum](#) in Potsdam or the [Antique Boat Museum](#) in Clayton while the [Thousand Islands Museum](#), also in Clayton, highlights regional history, including the Muskie Hall of Fame, and hosts community events celebrating local heritage.

WHERE TO STAY

Winter travelers can choose from a range of unique stays, including the [1000 Islands Harbor Hotel](#) in Clayton, which delivers luxury with panoramic river views, spacious rooms and an indoor pool for a cozy retreat. The [Riveredge Resort](#) in Alexandria Bay offers castle-view rooms and stunning St. Lawrence vistas. For a cozy and affordable retreat, Oswego's [All Seasons Inn](#) offers a peaceful escape on 45 wooded acres, combining modern amenities with serene, snow-covered surroundings.

GETTING THERE

- 6 hours from NYC
- 4 hours from Niagara Falls
- 3 hours from Montreal or Toronto
- Accessible from route I-81
- The Thousand Islands, Massena and Ogdensburg International Bridges provide easy access to Ontario Highway 401
- Air Service from [Syracuse Hancock International Airport](#), [Watertown International Airport](#), [Ogdensburg International Airport](#) and [Massena International Airport](#).

COUNTIES

Jefferson, Oswego, St. Lawrence

MAJOR CITIES & TOWNS

Alexandria Bay, Canton, Cape Vincent, Clayton, Fulton, Massena, Ogdensburg, Oswego, Potsdam, Pulaski, Sackets Harbor and Watertown

CLIMATE

The diverse climate of New York State has four distinct seasons. Summers in Thousand Islands-Seaway are comfortable and warm, with daytime temperatures averaging in the mid-70s to mid-80s (degrees F.) and cooler evenings. The weather is moderately cool and sunny in springtime and autumn, when spectacular fall foliage attracts thousands of visitors. Cold, snowy winters create a wonderland of magnificent scenery.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more travel ideas and information, visit iloveny.com or the Thousand Islands-Seaway's regional websites at www.seawayregion.com or <https://visit1000islands.com>.