

Follow Where Mules Once Trod

FIND YOUR PARK

Follow the path where mules once trod and where the mighty Erie Canal gave rise to cities, towns, and industries in the 1800s. You'll find treasures of the past, quiet paths alongside the old canal, and a region rich in canal heritage. Choose from boating, cycling and hiking options to add active adventure to your journey.



Start your trip here ▼

For nearly a century, from 1820 until 1917, the canal ran through the middle of Syracuse. The city and villages to the east and west grew and prospered along the principal connection between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. The Erie Barge Canal, completed in 1918, now carries boats east and west by way of Oneida Lake and the Seneca River, several miles north of the original canal route. You can travel by boat on today's canal, or step back in time to explore stone locks, impressive aqueducts, and towpaths along the earlier line.

Erie Canal Museum / City of Syracuse

318 Erie Blvd. East, Syracuse | (315) 471-0593
www.eriecanalmuseum.org

Discover interactive displays, hands-on exhibits, and original artifacts showcasing 200 years of Erie Canal history at the museum. Then stroll through a city that rose along this historic waterway. The museum is housed in America's only remaining Weighlock Building (1850), where canal boats were weighed and tolls assessed during the days when the Erie and Oswego Canals came together in the center of

Syracuse. After visiting the museum, follow Erie Boulevard two blocks west to Clinton Square. You'll be walking along the route of the old Erie Canal. A large reflecting pool and outdoor performance area now mark the spot of Syracuse's busiest hub of transportation and commerce during the 1800s. Today's activities include ice skating in winter, and concerts, farmers markets, and other events in warmer months.



How far? The Erie Canal Museum is 6 miles from the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park parking lot on Butternut Drive in DeWitt. The museum is 18 miles from Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum. From Chittenango you can head east along the old canal toward Canastota and Rome or take a side trip up Chittenango Creek to see the cascades at Chittenango Falls State Park.



In partnership with the National Park Service

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Old Erie Canal State Historic Park

DeWitt to Rome

*Parking: DeWitt trailhead parking is next to DeWitt Town Hall, 5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse (315) 637-6111
<https://parks.ny.gov>*

Explore the old Erie Canal. Thirty-six miles of the original channel, five stone arch aqueducts, and a number of other historic structures remain in service here, delivering water from upland reservoirs to today's canal. The park gives a first-hand sense of the scale and character of the ditch that opened a continent. It includes the Erie Canalway Trail, which follows the old towpath and is suitable for bicycling, walking, and jogging. Picnicking, canoeing, fishing, and snowmobiling are other popular activities. Start from the entrance in DeWitt, at Chittenango Landing, or at any one of the dozen trail heads at road crossings along the way. Find places to refuel, dine, shop, and sightsee in communities along the trail, including: Fayetteville, Chittenango, Canastota, Oneida, and Rome.

Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum

*717 Lakeport Road, Chittenango (315) 687-3801
www.chittenangoland.com*

From 1856 through 1917 the dry-docks at Chittenango were a center for canal boat building and repair. Now restored, you'll see three 100-foot long stone and timber dry docks, a replica canal boat, and exhibits related to life on the canal. You'll also discover a site restored by dedicated volunteers, whose vision and enthusiasm continue to make the museum a vibrant center on the old Erie Canal. Located within the Old Erie Canal State Park, bike rentals are available or bring your own to explore the Canalway Trail.



Get Active! ▼

Choose from these great options for active recreation in this area:

Cycle or Walk the Erie Canalway Trail

Starting at the trailhead in DeWitt, cycle east 5 miles to Green Lakes State Park or go 12 miles to Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum. Bike rentals are available at Chittenango Landing, so you can also start there and cycle in either direction. Consider riding 6 miles east to Canastota.

Hike or Swim at Green Lakes State Park

Located between Syracuse and Chittenango, adjacent to Old Erie Canal State Historic Park and the Erie Canalway Trail, this park is named for its two unusual aquamarine glacial kettle lakes. Both Round and Green Lakes are "meromictic," which means that there is no fall and spring mixing of surface and bottom waters. The park has a swimming beach and 10 miles of trails. Access available from the Erie Canalway Trail/Old Erie Canal SHP.

Paddle the Erie Canal or Onondaga Lake

Paddle at the Old Erie Canal SHP; launch sites are available near the Cedar Bay Picnic Area, Poolsbrook, and Manlius Center. You can also rent a kayak, canoe or stand-up paddleboard at the Willow Bay area of Onondaga Lake Park in Syracuse. Access the canal via a short inlet or explore the lake. The park also offers access to the East Shore Recreation Trail, a 2 ½ mile trail best suited for cycling and in-line skating. Located 12 miles NW of Syracuse at 3858 Long Branch Road, Liverpool, NY.
www.onondagacountyparks.com

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Explore More ▼

TO THE WEST...

Camillus Erie Canal Park

5750 Devoe Road, Camillus
(315) 487-3600
www.eriecanalcamillus.com

Located along the Old Erie Canal and today's Canalway Trail, the park features Sims Store Museum, filled with canal memorabilia and a replica canalside store circa 1856, and the award-winning 1842 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, which was restored and rewatered in 2009. The park also includes a dry section of Clinton's Ditch, replica lock tender's shanty, and other outdoor displays. Boat rides in summer.



Montezuma Heritage Park

High Street, Montezuma
www.montezumahistoricalsociety.org

Hike original towpath trails to view the Richmond Aqueduct, Clinton's Ditch Lock 62, and other historic canal features in the 160-acre nature park. Built from 1849 to 1857 and partially dismantled in 1917, the original aqueduct had 31 massive arches to support the canal as it crossed the Seneca River. Seven of these arches and their related piers and abutments remain today. The park is located within the Seneca River Crossing Canals Historic District.

Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park

Rooker Drive, off NY 31 or NY Thruway eastbound between exits 41 and 40, Port Byron

Pass through a brand-new visitor center to examine the side-by-side stone chambers of Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 52 and visit the Erie House, a tavern and hotel with mule barns and a blacksmith shop, built beside the lock.

TO THE EAST...

Canastota Canal Town Museum

122 Canal Street, Canastota
(315) 697-5002
www.canastota-canal.com

Located beside a remnant of the Old Erie Canal, the museum is packed with authentic memorabilia, art, and other exhibits featuring Canastota's contribution to the canal. Across the street is a small park with historical murals and informative kiosks; easily accessed from the Canalway Trail.

TO THE NORTH...

Village of Baldwinsville

www.baldwinsville.org

If you'd like to see the Erie Canal in operation today, visit the Village of Baldwinsville, about 15 miles north of Syracuse. Lock 24 is right in the center of town. You'll find several parks and trails, places to eat and shop, and concerts and events in summer.

Best Bet Dining Options ▼

There are lots of places to eat in Syracuse and Baldwinsville and restaurants and diners in canal towns along the way, or you can bring a picnic.



Lock 24, Baldwinsville

FIND YOUR PARK

TOURISM INFORMATION

www.iloveny.com
www.madisontourism.com
www.visitsyracuse.com

Find other adventures in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor at www.eriecanalway.org



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