cities / Finger Lakes area

A map
Wanderlog planner

Food ideas

- Smokin' Pete's
- Cosentino's Ristorante, Geneva
- The Rusty Pig, Geneva
- Ciccino's, Geneva
- Parker's On Fall, Seneca Falls
- Downtown Deli, Seneca Falls (It's A Wonderful Life Panini Sandwiches)

North

Seneca Falls

- Ludovico Sculpture Trail
- Women's Rights National Historical Park
- Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, 17 miles east (90 minute tours Tue-Sat, 10 am & 2 pm)
- Deer Haven Park, home of the Seneca white deer. (Only open Fridays and Saturdays)

South

Corning

- Museum of Glass - Kids visit free, Make your own glass (most have to be picked up the next afternoon; its 20 miles south of Watkins Glen State Park)

Watkins Glen

- Watkins Glen State Park near the southern tip of Seneca Lake. Trails hug the glen and offer 19 waterfalls. On the 2.2-mile Glen Creek Gorge Trail, wind over and under waterfalls and through the spray of Cavern Cascade.

Ithaca

- VisitIthaca.com: Things to Do with Kids in Ithaca
- Wander the Cornell Botanic Gardens, including multi-tiered Cascadilla Falls, an arboretum and a flower-filled solarium. Admission is free and open from sunrise to sunset.
- Treats from Cornell Dairy
- The Ithaca Sciencenter is for the inquisitive with an outdoor science park, live boa constrictor, walk-in camera and funhouse mirrors.
- Also options: The Ithaca Children's Garden and Museum of the Earth.
- The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, designed by architect I.M. Pei, browse through American, Asian and European artwork
- Taughannock Falls State Park, 215-foot waterfall
- Robert H. Treman State Park, also known as Enfield Glen, features waterfalls and a stream-fed swimming hole surrounded by hiking trails

Lake notes

On the Lakes

- Kayaking & Paddleboarding
  - Paddle-N-More on Cayuga Lake
- Boat Rentals & Boat Tours near Geneva
  - Roy's Marina
  - Stivers Seneca Marine

Cruises

- KeukaBoatCruise
- Osprey Eco-Cruise 4:30 pm Sunday and Wednesday, from Discover Cayuga Lake
- CAPTAIN BILL'S LAKE CRUISES, Watkins Glen, Seneca Lake. 10 mile scenic cruise sailing hourly. Sightseeing cruise schedule
- Discover Cayuga Lake, Ithaca. Public cruises include gorgeous sunset cruises, interactive afternoon lake ecology and fall foliage eco-cruises (great for kids!) (says their website)
- MID-LAKES NAVIGATION LAKE CRUISES, Skaneateles. Dinner, lunch, sightseeing, special events and theme cruises
- TripAdvisor list

Notes and links

- Discover the Finger Lakes
- Go Finger Lakes, from the Finger Lakes Land Trust.
- Explore Finger Lakes
- Discover Seneca (Chamber Of Commerce)
- Ontario County and Geneva

The eleven Finger Lakes range in length from 40 miles (Cayuga Lake) to only 3 miles (Canadice Lake) and in depth from 618 feet (Seneca Lake) to just 30 feet (Honeoye Lake)

Boating

- The shallow, warm waters of Keuka Lake are very popular with water sports enthusiasts. Marinas in Hammondsport and Penn Yan offer boat/canoe/kayak rentals. A few operators offer cruises on Keuka Lake as well.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Go sailing, try glass blowing, tour a museum, swim in a waterfall,

A Wanderlog guide to the area, with restaurants, wineries and beaches

- More kid-friendly ideas

Corning

- Museum of Glass - Kids visit free, Make your own glass
- Wings of Eagles Discovery Center
- National Soaring Museum

Watkins Glen

- Watkins Glen State Park near the southern tip of Seneca Lake. Trails hug the glen and offer 19 waterfalls. (Much of the ingenious infrastructure here and at other nearby sites were built under the aegis of agencies created during the New Deal.) On the 2.2-mile Glen Creek Gorge Trail, wind over and under waterfalls and through the spray of Cavern Cascade.
- From T&L: The Elf In The Oak is a highly rated local sandwich shop with covered patio seating (east side of Seneca Lake, north of Burdett). For a fun lunch while you're out wine tasting, try F.L.X. Wienery for gourmet hot dogs (west side of Seneca Lake, near Dundee.

Hammondsport

History of the town

Town tourism page

Ithaca

Lodging ideas: From T&L

The Ithaca Children's Garden

Museum of The Earth

Museum of The Earth
Sciencenter
The Discovery Trail

- The Cayuga Nature Center: Climb TreeTops, a six-story tree house and get a bird's-eye view of the forest canopy.
- The Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary is a bird lover's paradise. Outdoor activities.
- Both on and off University grounds you can wander the Cornell Botanic Gardens, including an arboretum and flower-filled solarium. Admission is free and open from sunrise to sunset. (The Cornell Botanic Gardens includes an arboretum and multi-tiered Cascadilla Falls.)
- The History Center of Tompkins County, is filled with Ithacan artifacts from times long ago.
- The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, designed by famous architect I.M. Pei, you can browse through American, Asian and European artwork
- Museum of the Earth.
- The Ithaca Sciencenter is for the inquisitive side in all of us. Kids especially will love the hands-on theme of the museum as well as the outdoor science park, live boa constrictor, walk-in camera and funhouse mirrors.

More Ithaca ideas from Wanderlog

Seneca Falls

- Ideas from Wanderlog

From NatGeo

Finger Lakes Road Trip: Find otherworldly white deer, roaring waterfalls, quirky towns, fascinating Indigenous history, and four vibrant seasons in this endlessly captivating region.

- Deer Haven Park in Romulus, home of the Seneca white deer. The former Army depot ensnared a population of these otherworldly fauna when constructed during World War II. While there is a choice for a self-guided auto tour, the weekly guided bus experience is recommended for the added historical context.
- With rooms including a swanky converted grain silo and cozy wooden cabins, the D&K Ranch in Interlaken promises a fantastic place to take in the splendor of the Finger Lakes National Forest. Navigate the serene "Faerie Trail" lined with surreal art displays.
- Don't miss an atmospheric nightfall at the nearby Finger Lakes Cider House,
- Leave Seneca County to find the offbeat vibes of Ithaca at the southern tip of Cayuga Lake. Post up at the shore and admire the shimmering waters or immerse yourself in them properly by hopping into a kayak from Paddle-N-More.
- Take in the misty spectacle of roaring Ithaca Falls or follow your curiosity onto one of the many access points leading to the Cascadilla Gorge Trail. The treats from Cornell Dairy are more than splendid to the taste buds; the ingredients come locally sourced from the Veterinary College. An unbeatable stay lies ahead at the student-run Statler Hotel,
- Downtown Ithaca is a delight to explore with its pedestrian-friendly streets and quirky local businesses. Dewitt Mall, whose corridors conceal a music shop, a co-op grocery, the laid-back Cafe Dewitt, and the savory dishes of legendary vegetarian establishment Moosewood. In the morning, bite into a doughy pastry fresh from the ovens of Ithaca Bakery.

From T&L

Wineries, Waterfalls, and Charming Hotels

- adventurers can consult the Finger Lakes Trail website for routes, itineraries, and other resources related to the 950-plus-mile-long network
- Letchworth State Park, a.k.a. "the Grand Canyon of the East." Lower, Middle and Upper Falls are at the south end of the park. (GoFL page: The southwestern portion of the park includes most of what would be considered day-tripper activities. Here you find the three main waterfalls, clusters of picnic areas with playgrounds and concessions, museums, a nature center, the Glen Iris Inn, as well as the more popular and built-up trails.)
- five established wine trails help guide visitors eager to investigate the wineries

five established wine trails help guide visitors eager to investigate the wineries around Canandaigua, Seneca, Cayuga, and Keuka lakes. If making your own itinerary, don't miss the tasting rooms of FLX OG winemakers Hermann J. Weimer Vineyard and Dr. Frank.
- the Rochester/Finger Lakes Craft Beverage Trail highlights breweries, cider houses, and distilleries
- Finger Lakes Cider House in Interlaken on Cayuga Lake
- Corning Museum of Glass
- Download the Ithaca Waterfalls Challenge digital passport to keep track of its 22 waterfalls and other natural attractions, from the more gentle slopes of Buttermilk Falls and Buttermilk Creek to the diving board perched over a deep swimming hole at Robert Treman State Park.
- Watkins Glen State Park near the southern tip of Seneca Lake merits dedicating several hours in order to extensively hike the dramatic trails that hug the glen and take in the breathtaking sight of its 19 waterfalls. (Much of the ingenious infrastructure here and at other nearby sites that carefully respect their contexts were built under the aegis of agencies created during the New Deal.)

Previous Next

15th June 2026
Toronto

2nd October 2025
Chicago lakefront

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