



The beauty, history and diversity of Cayuga County have created a host of stories to tell. Browse through the ideas below as a starting point and for some inspiration for your next travel story. Need more information? We're here to help. Contact Meg Vanek, executive director, at meg@tourcayuga.com or (800) 499-9615 to discuss your story idea.



Lake Country

With eight lakes and the Erie Canal, Cayuga County has more freshwater coastline than any other county in New York State. From the Great Lake Ontario, to Cayuga Lake, to tiny Lake Como, water experiences such as swimming, boating and fishing abound.

By way of the 87-mile **Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway**, you can find diverse landscapes and spectacular views with promises of charming villages, scenic waterfalls, parks and farmland. The 518-mile **Great Lakes Seaway Trail**, a National Scenic Byway, follows the southern shore of Lake Ontario through the villages of Fair Haven and Sterling. The county also boasts 12 miles of canal, from the **Richmond Aqueduct** in Montezuma to Lock 51 at the Onondaga-Cayuga County line.



Photo Op!

Take in sweeping views of Lake Ontario from the deck of Pleasant Beach Hotel in Fair Haven.



Did You Know?

All of the 11 Finger Lakes are north-flowing lakes into Lake Ontario.



Farm-to-Table & More

Cayuga County and the Finger Lakes are famous for our fresh fruit, herbs, vegetables and dairy products. The county is home to six **farmers markets** open from June to October featuring locally grown or produced vegetables, fruits, flowers, baked goods and meats. Auburn is home to **New Hope Mills** – the number one pancake flour in Central New York. The famous pancake mixes have been in production since 1823.

Voted one of the “10 Best Food Trails” by USA Today, the **Finger Lakes Sweet Treat Trail** is all about the unique sweets and treats Cayuga County has to offer. Whether it is honey, jam or homemade cookies, the trail has everything to satisfy your sweet tooth cravings!



“Set amidst the gorgeous scenery and popular wineries of New York’s Finger Lakes Region, Cayuga County offers many decadent local flavors at farms and shops that are part of the county’s Sweet Treat Trail.”
- Eliza Myers, Select Traveler

History, Arts & Culture

Tune into the music, theater, fine arts and history that make up our rich culture and lifestyle. From the Underground Railroad at the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park to live performances at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, arts and culture come alive in Cayuga County.

History

- **Case Research Lab** - The first successful system of sound on film (talking movies) was invented in Auburn. Visitors can tour the lab, which is now part of the Cayuga Museum.
- **Seward House Museum** - Home of William Henry Seward, who was well-known for his efforts to purchase Alaska, then known as “Seward’s Folly.”
- **Willard Memorial Chapel** - This chapel in Auburn features an interior completely designed by Louis C. Tiffany and the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co.
- **Harriet Tubman National Historical Park** - The story of Harriet Tubman, the famous conductor on the Underground Railroad, and her continued fight for human rights and dignity as a free woman is shared through tours offered by the Harriet Tubman Home Inc. in Auburn.

- **Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park** - Visitors can explore walking trails and get an authentic glimpse into life on the Erie Canal in the mid-19th and early 20th century at the site of the former Lock 52.
- **Ward O'Hara Agricultural & Country Living Museum** - Venture back in time to the early 1900s and life on the farm at this great hands-on museum for kids – located across the street from the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse.
- **Village of Aurora** - Established in 1795, much of the village is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Overlooking Cayuga Lake, Aurora has served as the home to many notable residents including the founder of Wells Fargo & Co. and the American Express Co. and one of the original shareholders of The New York Times. It's also home to the historic and luxurious Inns of Aurora - four beautiful properties, each with its own distinct character.



Photo Op!

Look out over Cayuga Lake while dining al fresco at the Aurora Inn.



“Harriet Tubman’s story was so inspiring, I feel so blessed to have visited her home.”

- Holly, The Culture Mom

“As contemporary as the services are in the inns here, walking outside on the lawns, down to the lake or alongside Main Street easily evokes what small town America was like at the turn of the century, when horses meant more than automobiles, all food was seasonal, and you could see shooting stars across the blue-black sky.”

- John Mariani, Huffington Post

Arts & Culture

- **Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival** - Enjoy Broadway in the Finger Lakes! The June-through-October festival celebrates America’s most popular art form – musical theatre – and will leave you cheering for an encore at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse and The Carriage House Theater. The Merry-Go-Round Playhouse operates in a historic carousel building in Emerson Park. The original carousel is now housed in a Long Island museum.
- **Auburn Public Theater** - The multi-venue performing arts center brings performance, cinema, arts education and other events to life.
- **The Schweinfurth Art Center** - Schweinfurth is SchweinFUN! The multi-arts facility in Auburn offers changing exhibits throughout the year.
- **Finger Lakes Drive-In** - The quaint drive-in movie theater located just west of Auburn is one of New York state’s oldest continually running drive-ins.
- **Sterling Renaissance Festival** - Experience a Renaissance-styled dramatic recreation of an Elizabethan town at festival time. Open on weekends in the town of Sterling, the festival runs from early July through mid-August.
- **MacKenzie-Childs** - Visitors travel from across the country to the company headquarters overlooking Cayuga Lake in Aurora. Designers and artisans have created beautiful tableware, furniture, home and garden accessories, and one-of-a-kind collectibles for over 30 years.



Photo Op!

The picturesque spring gardens at MacKenzie-Childs are lush with color and will not disappoint.

Wine, Beer & Cider

Taste your way through the famous Finger Lakes wine country throughout the year and make your trip truly memorable by visiting any of Cayuga County's 12 wineries, five breweries and two cideries. Meet the producers that create some of the best quality craft beverages and wines in New York State while touring their unique establishments and sampling the fruits of their labor.

The county is home to two wine trails, **Cayuga Lake Wine Trail** (America's first and longest-running wine trail!) and **Lake Ontario Wine Trail**. Or, if you are a beer guy or gal, venture through stops along the **Finger Lakes Beer Trail**. Between the award-winning wines, local craft brews and crisp ciders, your taste buds will surely be satisfied.



Photo Op!

Sip on a glass of wine at Long Point Winery and look out over the vineyards to a panoramic view of Cayuga Lake.



“At Heart & Hands Wine Company - fresh Pinot Noir and crisp rosés are the highlight of this husband-and-wife owned vineyard, which truly takes effort in finding the best regions to grow the necessary grapes required. By using Onondaga limestone and spending a substantial amount of time on site selection, they make sure they are getting the best of the best.”

- Nikhita Mahtani, domino



The Great Outdoors

For adventurous types, an abundance of outdoor recreational activities are ready for you to conquer, including hiking, biking, fishing and even scuba diving. With three state parks, well-groomed trails, nature preserves, three state forests and 11 public golf courses, the opportunities to fulfill your wanderlust are plentiful.

Head over to **Emerson Park** on Owasco Lake to find boat launches and slips, public swimming, a disc golf course, paddlecraft rentals and a dog park. Get back to nature at **Fillmore Glen State Park** in Moravia and take in the sights of five waterfalls surrounded by lush woodland. Or if you're looking for a place that's open year-round, Cayuga County's largest park, **Fair Haven Beach State Park**, is the perfect spot – located on the shores of Lake Ontario. You'll also find **Montezuma Canal Heritage Park**, which includes the magnificent Richmond Aqueduct – the second-largest aqueduct on the Erie Canal.



Photo Op!

Paddle through the Owasco Flats, an inlet at the southern end of Owasco Lake, with thriving natural habitat that is part of the Greater Summerhill Important Bird Area.