

Meet me in  
**AUBURN**  
New York

**VISITOR GUIDE**



Todd Tanner

# Cayuga County Tourism continues to make significant positive impact!

VISITORS SPENT  
**\$144 MILLION**  
IN CAYUGA COUNTY

EACH TAXPAYER SAVES  
**\$588**  
IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES  
BECAUSE OF TOURISM DOLLARS

**1480**  
TOTAL JOBS GENERATED  
BY TOURISM



**Our tourism ambassadors recommend you visit these hidden gems.**

- Sterling Little Red Schoolhouse and Heritage Park. Sterling, NY
- Lock 52 Historical Society. Port Byron, NY
- Old Brutus Historical Society Museum. Weedsport, NY
- Montezuma Heritage Park. Montezuma, NY
- Frontenac Island. Union Springs, NY
- Howland Stone Store Museum. Sherwood, NY
- Ward O'Hara Agricultural & Country Living Museum. Auburn, NY
- Rural Life Museum. King Ferry, NY
- Opendore Project. Sherwood, NY
- Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park. Port Byron, NY
- Frontenac Museum. Union Springs, NY
- Howland Farm Museum. Aurora, NY

\*call ahead to confirm schedule



For a **FREE** visitor's guide and find out more about becoming a Tourism Ambassador, call 315-255-1658 or visit [TourCayuga.com](http://TourCayuga.com)

Kevin Rivoli/The Citizen



## Welcome to Auburn

As Mayor of this vibrant city nestled in the heart of the Finger Lakes region, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all.

Steeped in history and innovation, Auburn boasts a legacy that spans centuries. From our historic and cultural sites to the stately architecture of our South Street Area Historic District, you will learn that every corner of Auburn tells a story, and we invite you to come experience it all. William H. Seward was President Lincoln's top advisor and the network of regional abolitionists that aided in the Underground Railroad led Harriet Tubman—one of our nation's greatest freedom fighters—to call Auburn her home for her final 54 years.

Whether you're observing exhibits at Schweinfurth Art Center, viewing the Tiffany glass at Willard Memorial Chapel, exploring the birthplace of sound film at Case Research Lab, catching a show at Auburn Public Theater, or sampling our multicultural cuisine and craft beverages at local establishments, there's always something new to discover in Auburn.

Our city has endless opportunities to connect with nature and experience the picturesque landscapes of the Finger Lakes. Enjoy skating at Casey Park or take in a summer concert at Hoopes Park and you will see that our beautiful parks enhance our small city lifestyle. We are investing in these facilities as well, so we ask you to pardon our construction in 2024 as you will see revitalization of the Cayuga Museum of History & Art and Schweinfurth Art Center into a new West End Arts Campus. This investment means exciting things are in store for your future visits to our city.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a returning guest, our community takes pride in making everyone feel welcome, ensuring that your time in Auburn is nothing short of memorable. We hope you enjoy History's Hometown.

Warm regards,

James N. Giannettino, Jr.  
Mayor of Auburn, New York



Harriet Tubman



Eliza Wright Osborne



William Henry Seward

## Small City, Big History

From **Harriet Tubman's** chosen home to the creation of movies with sound, many of the City of Auburn's attractions are intertwined through world-changing people, places, and inventions.

Take William H. Seward, famous for negotiating the 1867 purchase of Alaska, which was criticized at the time as Seward's Folly. He moved to Auburn in 1824 after marrying



*Seward House Museum and garden*

Frances Miller and became a state senator, governor, U.S. senator, and secretary of state to Presidents Lincoln and Johnson. The home he and his family occupied is now the **Seward House Museum**, which contains one of the largest original collections in the United States.

Frances Seward befriended Tubman and opened her home as a stop on the

Underground Railroad. In 1860, Frances sold Tubman a farm at 180 South Street, where Tubman lived for 54 years and built the **Harriet Tubman Home for Aged and Infirm Negroes**. Tubman later

helped build the **Thompson Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church** on Parker Street, a center of Auburn's Black community for over 100 years. The church and Tubman's

home are part of the **Harriet Tubman National Historical Park**. The church is owned by the National Park Service, while Tubman's home and Home for Aged are run by Harriet Tubman Home Inc., an independent nonprofit.

Both Tubman and the Sewards are buried in **Fort Hill Cemetery**, as are Theodore Case, inventor of sound on

film; Martha Coffin Wright, suffragist and political activist; and Colonel John H. Hardenbergh, founder of Auburn. Also buried at Fort Hill are Silas and Jane Bradley, who funded construction of Bradley Chapel at the cemetery's main entrance. The chapel's architect was Auburn native Julius Schweinfurth, a Boston architect who set up a trust that was used in the late 1970s to build the **Schweinfurth Art Center**. Walter Long, former director of the **Cayuga Museum of History & Art**, also served as the Schweinfurth's first director.



*The Diplomatic Gallery at the Seward House Museum*

The Cayuga Museum is a central spoke for historical connections throughout Auburn. The museum is located in the former home of the Willards and Cases. Sisters Georgiana and Caroline Willard installed a Tiffany window in their home and, after the death of their parents, engaged Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co. to build and furnish **Willard Memorial Chapel** in their memory. The chapel, known as the Tiffany Treasure of the Finger Lakes, remains the only complete and unaltered Tiffany-designed religious interior in the world.

Cousin Willard Case inherited the Willard home. He and his son, Theodore, converted one of the property's greenhouses into a laboratory, where Theodore Case invented sound-on-film

technology. The building now houses the **Case Research Laboratory**, a museum that highlights the invention that forever altered the film industry. The site is featured on the Finger Lakes Film Trail, which also includes the George Eastman Museum in Rochester and the Wharton Studio Museum in Ithaca.



*Case Research Laboratory*

Willard Case donated the land and the money to build the **Seymour Public Library**, which was opened in 1903 and has extensive information about Tubman's life in Auburn. The limestone and brick structure was designed by the same New York City firm that designed

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*Women's Education and Industrial Union, now the location of NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center*

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the New York Public Library. Seymour Library has its own set of stone lions that can be seen above the original Genesee Street entrance.

In 1936, Theodore Case sold his mansion to Walter Long for “\$1 and a box of cigars” to create the Cayuga Museum and later donated his research lab and contents. The property also includes a brick carriage house outfitted with a movie theater and sound studio. In 1958, the carriage house became home to Auburn Children’s Theater, which later grew into the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse at Emerson Park, now known as **The REV Theatre Company**.

The Playhouse’s centerpiece chandelier came from the Women’s Educational and Industrial Union, formerly located across from Memorial City Hall where the **NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center** now sits. The Women’s Union later merged with the Auburn YMCA.

Both the WEIU and City Hall were gifts of the Osborne family, whose descendants include agriculture industrialist David Munson Osborne; his wife, Eliza Wright Osborne; and their prison reformer son, Thomas Mott Osborne.

D.M. Osborne & Co. became a world leader in machine manufacturing and was acquired by International Harvester Co. Learn more about this story at **Ward W. O’Hara Agricultural Museum**, located across from **Emerson Park**.

Eliza Wright Osborne—like her mother, Martha Coffin Wright, and aunt Lucretia Mott—made her home a hotbed of abolition and suffrage activity and founded the WEIU. She also was an associate of Harriet Tubman, helping the Underground Railroad conductor with her finances. The remaining wing of the former Osborne mansion is now the Osborne Center for Social Justice.

Auburn may be a small city, but it is large with history.



Iwan Baan

## NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center

25 South Street  
315.258.9820  
[equalrightsheritage.com](http://equalrightsheritage.com)

The official welcome center and tourism hub for the City of Auburn, the center has interactive displays highlighting New York State's historic role in progressing social movements. Make this a key stop on your tour of Auburn's historical and cultural sites.  
[VisitAuburnNY.com](http://VisitAuburnNY.com)



# Auburn Public Theater



8 Exchange Street  
315.253.6669  
[auburnpublictheater.org](http://auburnpublictheater.org)

Established in 2005, Auburn Public Theater is a non-profit, multi-venue performing arts center that celebrates diverse voices and artistic expression. The theater brings people together through affordable access to live performances, cinema, arts education, and community events.







## Fort Hill Cemetery

19 Fort Street  
315.253.8132  
[forthillcemetery.net](http://forthillcemetery.net)

Steeped in history, Fort Hill is a must-see for history buffs. It is the final resting place for Harriet Tubman and many local historical figures. Due to its geographic location, Fort Hill was used by indigenous Americans in the 16th Century and is regarded as one of the best preserved fortified villages of the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga) Nation. The cemetery is home to the iconic Chief Logan Monument.





## Seward House Museum

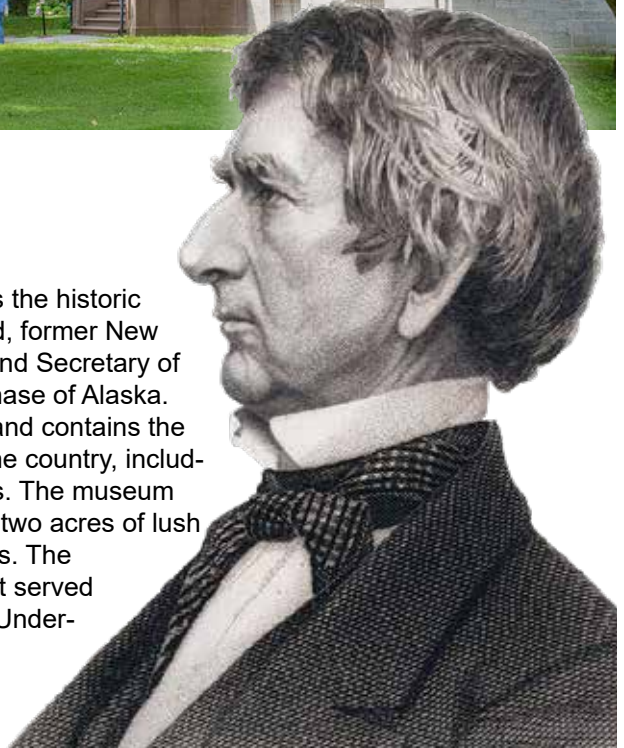


33 South Street  
315.252.1283  
sewardhouse.com

The Seward House Museum is the historic home of William Henry Seward, former New York governor, U.S. Senator, and Secretary of State responsible for the purchase of Alaska. The home has been restored and contains the largest original collections in the country, including travel and political souvenirs. The museum is surrounded by two acres of lush gardens and trees. The home's basement served as a stop on the Underground Railroad.



\$ 3





## Harriet Tubman National Historical Park A Partnership Park

National Park Service  
47-49 Parker Street  
315.237.7197  
[nps.gov/hart](http://nps.gov/hart)

The National Park Service preserves and interprets the Thompson Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, where Harriet Tubman attended service for 22 years and where her funeral was held.



[VisitAuburnNY.com](http://VisitAuburnNY.com)



Harriet Tubman Home  
180 South Street  
315.252.2081  
[harriettubmanhome.com](http://harriettubmanhome.com)

This nonprofit manages and operates the homestead of Harriet Tubman, which includes the Harriet Tubman Visitor Center, Tubman Home for Aged and Infirm Negroes, barn, and residence.





# Schweinfurth Art Center

205 Genesee Street  
315.255.1553  
myartcenter.org

A leading art institution in Central New York, the Schweinfurth hosts more than a dozen contemporary art exhibits in its three galleries featuring local, regional, national, and international artists. The art center also offers classes for both youth and adults taught by artists.

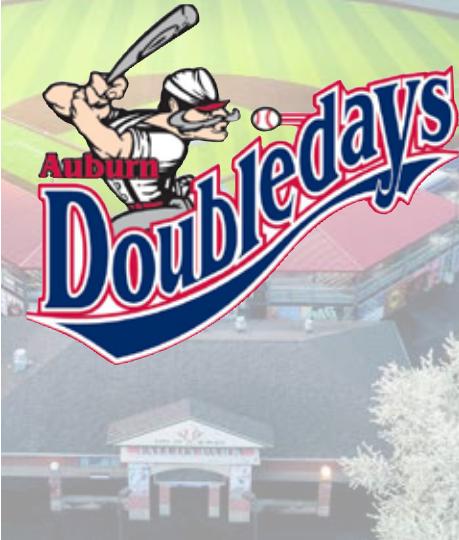


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[www.AuburnDoubledays.com](http://www.AuburnDoubledays.com)

At Historic Falcon Park  
130 N. Division Street  
Auburn, NY 13021  
315.255.2489



AUBURN  
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Cultural Events  
& Attractions

[auburndowntown.org](http://auburndowntown.org)

# Explore & Enjoy

*Locally Made Fresh Delights*

# Sweet Treat



t r a i l

The family-friendly Finger Lakes Sweet Treat Trail is all about the unique sweets and treats that Cayuga County has to offer. Whether it is honey or homemade cookies, this self-guided tour has something to satisfy your sweet tooth cravings. Introducing the **Professional HOME BAKER** created especially for 2024! Enjoy their sweet treats at local farm markets, pop-ups, and partner retailers.



TOUR  
**CAYUGA**  
in the FINGER LAKES

Cayuga County Office of Tourism • 25 South Street • Auburn, NY 13021

[SweetTreatTrail.com](http://SweetTreatTrail.com) [TourCayuga.com](http://TourCayuga.com)



## Cayuga Museum of History & Art

203 Genesee Street  
315.253.8051  
[cayugamuseum.org](http://cayugamuseum.org)

The Cayuga Museum operates three historic buildings: the 1836 Greek Revival Willard-Case mansion, the Case Research Laboratory, and the Carriage House Theater. The museum offers long-term and revolving exhibits on the people, places, and stories that shaped Cayuga County and the nation.





## Case Research Laboratory

203 Genesee Street  
315.253.8051  
[cayugamuseum.org/](http://cayugamuseum.org/)  
[caseresearchlab](http://caseresearchlab)

Part of the Cayuga Museum of History & Art, Case Research Laboratory is where inventor Theodore Case developed sound on film. The exhibits include the darkroom, chemistry lab, and recording studio; the first sound camera; experimental recording equipment; and a history of the early film industry.



\$3



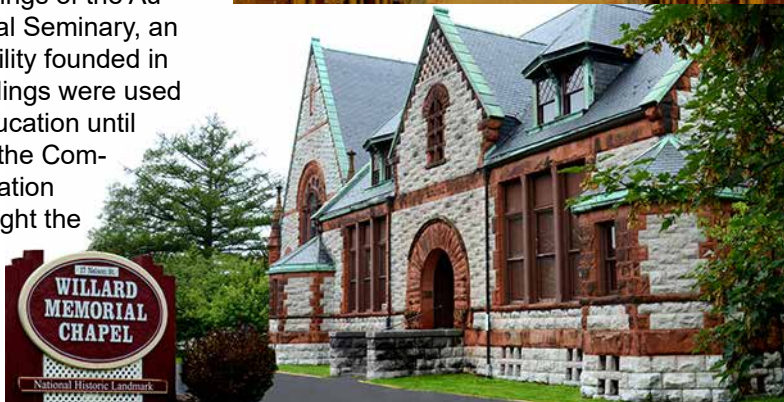
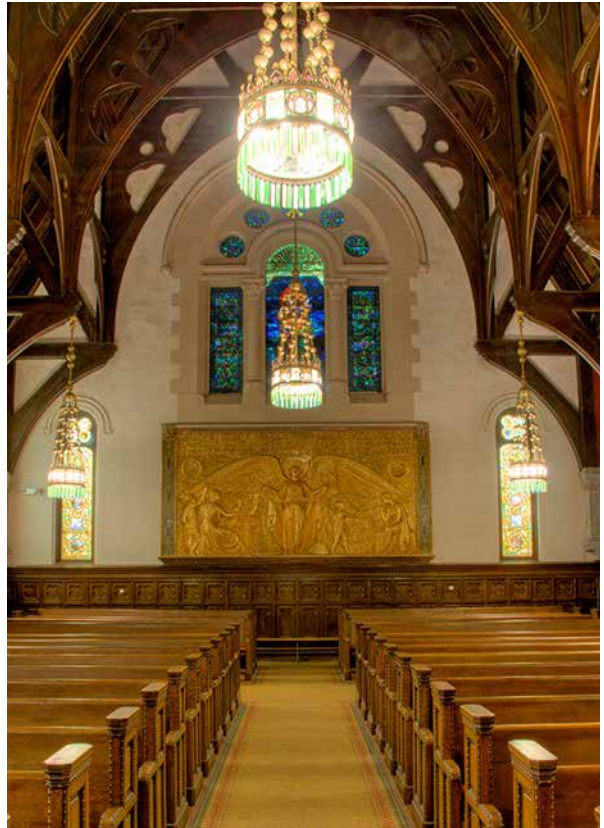
\$8



## Willard Memorial Chapel

17 Nelson Street  
315.252.0339  
willard-chapel.com

The chapel and adjoining Welch Memorial Building are the only remaining buildings of the Auburn Theological Seminary, an educational facility founded in 1820. The buildings were used for religious education until 1939. In 1990, the Community Preservation Committee bought the chapel when owners sought to sell the Tiffany windows.







## Seymour Library

176 Genesee Street

315.252.2571

[seymourlibrary.org](http://seymourlibrary.org)

Seymour Library was started in 1876 with money bequeathed by James Seymour, president of the National Bank of Auburn, and was located in the Phoenix Building. Since 1903, the library has been housed in the Case Memorial Building. Its History Discovery

Center provides research assistance to those seeking local history and genealogy information.



# Artistic Impressions

RETAIL BOUTIQUE GALLERY STUDIO  
17 Nelson St, Willard Chapel, Auburn NY

**Local artisans Sandy Shutter and Bill Clark**

*invite you to visit and explore their unique retail boutique, studio and gallery located in historic Willard Memorial Chapel, Auburn NY.*

The artists' and the shop are devoted to celebrating the beauty and history of Auburn and the surrounding area. Sections of the shop are dedicated to Women's Suffrage, Auburn Historical Sites, Harriet Tubman and the many activists who have called Auburn their home.

Artistic Impressions is filled with unique art of all shapes, sizes and mediums...original paintings & prints, greeting cards, handcrafted meaningful jewelry, quirky one of a kind brooches, pins & gifts, textile "gentlework" & local wood creations.



**CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL?**



**Join us on Harriet's Lantern Trail**



**FIND AN OUTSTANDING SELECTION OF NY STATE FOOD, BEVERAGES, AND GIFTS!**

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at the  
**NYS EQUAL RIGHTS HERITAGE CENTER**  
25 SOUTH STREET AUBURN, NY 13021

**PRISON CITY BREWING**  
EST 2014 // AUBURN, NY

**PC PUB**  
28 STATE ST.

**PC BREWERY**  
251 NORTH ST.



## Annual Auburn Events

### YEAR-ROUND

**First Friday (First Friday of every month):** Participating venues – historic and cultural sites, eateries, breweries, & shops – offer free entertainment, food & beverage specials, & merchandise discounts

### WINTER

**Brave Brews (early March):**

Kick off Women’s History Month by celebrating women in the craft beer industry

**Harriet Tubman Week (early March):**

Programs & events at Equal Rights Heritage Center & other venues celebrating the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman Davis

### SPRING

**Memorial Day City Celebration:** Parade followed by ceremony at Veteran’s Memorial Park; food truck rodeo & music in Market Street Park bandshell

**City Summer Concert Series (late May**



**through early September):**

Free live music at city parks and in downtown Auburn

**PRIDE Celebration (June):**

Community partners proudly collaborate on the annual LGBTQIA+ Pride Rally & more during Pride Month

**Juneteenth City Celebration (mid-June):**

Commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans with speakers, events & a parade to Booker T. Washington Community Center for a festival

### SUMMER

**Downtown Saturday Market (Saturdays late June through early September):** Local businesses, artisans & more provide family fun in the Equal Rights Heritage Center courtyard

**City Summer Movie Series (July and**

**August):** Mondays weekly in various parks & playgrounds at dusk

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# Annual Auburn Events

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**Founder's Day (mid-August):** Live music, antique & classic car show, street festival, food & family fun



## FALL

**CNY TomatoFest (mid-September):** Downtown street festival with craft & food vendors, live music, & more; raises funds & takes

donations for local food pantries

**Christmas Tree Lighting (Saturday after Thanksgiving):** Horse & wagon rides, music, food & art vending, parade, tree lighting, Santa visits, caroling

**Holiday Traditions (early December):** Tour Auburn's historic & cultural sites, museums, & churches for free exhibits, musical performances, programs & refreshments

## Looking to buy or sell a home?


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NYS Licensed  
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Cell: 315-730-8974  
SusanRiordan64@yahoo.com



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Garden Inn

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MODERN FARE

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## Explore Walkable Downtown



### SCENIC TOURS

Pick up a brochure at NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center for **Auburn Public Art Trail**, **Harriet Tubman's Lantern Trail**, and **South Street Historic Walking Tour**

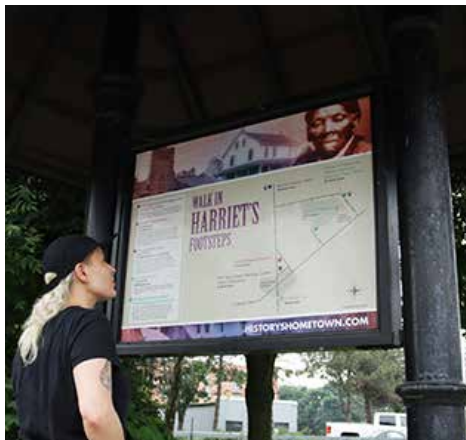
### LIFESIZE LEGENDS

**Harriet Tubman Statue**, 25 South Street: A bronze statue of a young Tubman is the plaza centerpiece at the Equal Rights Heritage Center

**William H. Seward Statue**, 35 South Street: This 9-foot statue depicts Seward as he addressed the U.S. Senate opposing the Fugitive Slave Act, declaring there is a "higher law" than the Constitution

**Thomas Mott Osborne Statue**, 46 North Street: Honors the prison reform pioneer who also was Auburn mayor, warden of Sing Sing Correctional Facility, and mentor to Franklin D. Roosevelt

**Copper John Statue**, 135 State Street: A Revolutionary soldier, originally made of wood, has stood guard on the Auburn Correctional Facility Administration Building since 1821. In 1848, it was replaced with a copper replica made in the prison's foundry





## Urban Retreats



Todd Tanner

### **Buonocore Park**

Loop Road across from Wegmans

### **Casey Park**

150 North Division Street

### **Cayuga County's Emerson Park**

6877 East Lake Road

### **Falcon Park & Leo Pinckney Field**

130 North Division Street

### **Freedom Park**

17 North Street

### **Hoopes Park**

100 South Herman Avenue

### **Market Street Park**

Market Street

### **Miles/Lepak Permaculture Park**

53 Garrow Street

### **Owasco River Trail**

Canal Street

### **River Overlook**

West Garden Street

### **Veterans Memorial Park**

172 Genesee Street



Lisa Hughes



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