

### **Visiting Auburn**

Begin your experience at Auburn's Visitor Information Center located downtown at 25 South Street adjacent to the Seward House Museum. Here you can...

- Find traveler resources, public restrooms, and free WiFi. Our visitor specialists are here to assist you with the latest information.
- Learn about the egalitarian history that makes Auburn the incredible city it is today.
- Relax in the courtyard that is carefully watched over by our famous Harriet Tubman statue.
- Find regionally sourced products at the Taste NY Market.





## Welcome to Auburn, New York

ur location in the Finger Lakes is a truly beautiful region to visit. Auburn's quality of life is the main reason why my wife and I have lived here all of our lives, and we can attest Auburn is a great place to live and visit. Even Forbes Magazine has ranked the City of Auburn as the "Best Small City to Raise a Family" in the northeast!

Whether you are interested in our famous museums, Auburn Doubledays baseball, flourishing arts, celebrated craft beverage scene, lake activities, or vibrant nightlife, there is truly something for everyone. We invite you to learn more about the sites, places, and people that have earned our city the distinction of "History's Hometown," and browse suggested itineraries that will appeal to history buffs, outdoor enthusiasts, and families eager to explore Auburn.

In 2022, we honored Harriet Tubman's bicentennial birthday with citywide celebrations, and in 2023, we are excited to invite everyone to learn more about Tubman's life in Auburn with the restoration completion of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park - Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church.

Make your first stop the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center, where you'll find visitor information on all that our city has to offer—there's so much that it'll take a few days to see it all. Our many fine attractions, hotels, restaurants, and retail owners will be more than thrilled to welcome you with top hospitality.

Enjoy your stay in Auburn; we are glad you are here.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Quill Mayor, Auburn



# 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 his purchase of Alaska. He moved to

Auburn in 1824 after marrying Frances Miller, and became a state senator, governor, U.S. senator, and secretary of state to Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. The home he and his

family occupied is now the **Seward House Museum** (pictured).

Frances Seward befriended Tubman and opened her home as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Frances sold Tubman a farm at 180 South Street, where she lived for 54 years and created the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged and Indigent Negroes. The site is now part of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park.

Later, Tubman helped build the
Thompson Memorial African Methodist
Episcopal Zion Church on Parker
Street. The church is now owned by

the National Park Service. Both Tubman and the Sewards are buried in Fort Hill Cemetery (pictured), as are Silas and Jane Bradley, who funded the construction of Bradley Memorial

Chapel at the entrance.

The chapel's architect was Auburn native Julius Schweinfurth, who created a trust that was used to build the Schweinfurth Art Center. Walter Long, then director of the Cayuga Museum of History & Art, also served as the Schweinfurth Art Center's



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first director.

The Cayuga Museum, a central spoke for historical connections, is located in the former home of the Willards and Cases. Sisters Georgiana and Caroline Willard commissioned Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co. to build and furnish Willard Memorial

**Chapel** in memory of their parents.

Cousin Willard

Case later inherited the Willard home. He and his son, Theodore, converted one of the property's greenhouses into a laboratory, where Theodore Case invented sound film technology. The building now houses the Case Research Laboratory, a museum that highlights the invention that forever altered the film industry.

In 1896, Willard Case donated the land and the money to build **Seymour Public Library**, which has information

about Tubman's life in Auburn.

In 1936, Ted Case sold his mansion to Walter Long for "\$5 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 that Case outfitted with a movie theater and sound studio. In 1958, the space

housed 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 centerpiece chandelier came from the **Women's Educational and Industrial Union**.

Someon Unior Sullamp, Auburn, N.Y.





(pictured) 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 at

Ward W. O'Hara

#### Agricultural Museum.

Eliza Wright Osborne (pictured)—like her mother, Martha Coffin Wright, and aunt Lucretia Mott—made her home a hotbed of abolition and suffrage activity, and founded the WEIU.

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



## NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center

25 South Street | (315) 258-9820 | equalrightsheritage.com

The NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center is the official welcome center

and tourism hub for the City of Auburn. It shines a light on New York's pivotal role in progressing social movements, as well as the city's rich history, culture, and events—past, present, and future.

The state-of-the-art Seeing
Equal Rights in
New York State
exhibition brings to
life the causes and
individuals
connected to this
history through
songs, speeches,
games, portraits,
political posters,
animated maps,
and video timelines.



Marvel at the building's elegant

architecture that frames the attractions beyond and blends into

the gateway to historic South Street. Cozy up to the social justice table and naviaate menus of notable events from the late 1700s to modern day. Create a custom itinerary of local and statewide sites to see. based on interest. Attend one of the many community programs and events.

Start your journey through Auburn here and discover why the Heritage Center is more than just a welcome center.

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### **Auburn Public Theater**

8 Exchange Street | (315) 253-6669 | auburnpublictheater.org

Established in 2005, Auburn Public Theater is a non-profit, multi-venue performing arts center that celebrates diverse voices and artistic expression.

Originally home to Grant's

Department Store in the mid-1950s. the two-floor, 26,000-square-foot building houses five rentable event spaces: Main Stage, a 200-seat theater and stage; **Auburn Public** Cinema, a 65-seat independent movie theater; Stage Right, a 100-seat cabaret space; Auburn Public Studio, an arts education and

rehearsal space; and Cafe 108, a for-profit coffee shop whose profits directly benefit the theater.

The theater enriches the social, cultural, and economic growth of

Central New York by bringing people together through affordable access to live performance, cinema, arts education, and community events. It serves more than 16,000 patrons

and students annually through its partnerships and runs a regranting program that benefits local artists. The theater also produces the Cayuga Film Festival in association with Cayuga Community College.

By providing a top-notch, intimate venue for artists

and audiences, the theater makes worldly performance art a common local experience and offers something for everyone in a space where all are welcome.





### **Seward House Museum**

33 South Street | (315) 252-1283 | sewardhouse.org

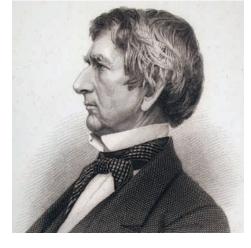
The Seward House Museum is the historic home of William Henry Seward and his family. This beautifully preserved home contains one of the largest original collections in the

United States and is surrounded by two acres of lush gardens and trees. The interior has been restored to its original beauty and features an unmatched collection of political and travel souvenirs, decorative arts, and photographs that span Seward's nearly 40-year political career.

Seward was one of the foremost politicians of 19th century America, serving as state senator, governor of New York, U.S. senator, and secretary of state for Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. He famously negotiated the purchase of Alaska, which was given the nickname "Seward's Folly."

The museum also highlights other members of the family, including Frances Seward, who played an important role as her husband's advisor. A freethinker, she supported the Women's Rights Movement and aided Harriet Tubman in her work on the Underground Railroad by hiding

freedom seekers in the basement of the home. With so much to discover, the Seward House Museum is truly one house with many stories. \$ 36



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### Cayuga Museum of History & Art

203 Genesee Street | (315) 253-8051 | cayugamuseum.org

The Cayuga Museum of History & Art operates through a campus of three

historic buildings: the 1836 Greek Revival Willard-Case Mansion, the Case Research Laboratory, and the Carriage House Theater, a multiuse performance venue.

Operating as a family estate for a century, the property became home to the Cayuga Museum in 1936. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the mansion features many original details, including a stained

glass window designed by the Tiffany Glass Co. in 1890. From its founding,

the museum has preserved Cayuga County's largest collection of cultural materials

materials.

Today, the Cayuga Museum features a dynamic schedule of programs and changing exhibits on the people, places, and stories that shaped Cayuga County and the nation. The museum also features two longterm exhibits, which explore 19th-century medicine through the collections of the Cayuga County Medical Society, and Auburn Correctional Facility



through stories of people like prison reformer Thomas Mott Osborne. \$ 6





### **Case Research Laboratory**

203 Genesee Street | (315) 253-8051 | cayugamuseum.org/caseresearchlab

Case Research Lab Museum, the birthplace of sound film, is one of the three historic structures maintained by the Cayuga Museum of History & Art. Here, inventor Theodore Case

turned his mansion's greenhouse into a fully operational laboratory, exploring many different ways that light and sound could be used in the bustling world of the early 20th century.

The museum exhibits the darkroom, chemistry lab, and recording studio; the first sound camera;

experimental recording equipment; and a history of the commercialization of sound film, including such ventures as Phonofilms, Fox-Case Movietone, and Fox Films (now 20th Century Fox). The collection contains lab notebooks; volumes of technical drawings and photographs; business and personal correspondence; manuscripts and reports; patents,

receipts, and scrapbooks spanning the 18-year history of the lab. The collection also includes archival materials from Case's partner, Oscar-winner Earl Sponable.

The artifacts tell the tale of Case's constant experimentation with Sponable, battles over ownership with

battles over ownership with radio mogul Lee De Forest, and the active push to record the world with Fox-Case Movietone. The lab is also a featured site on the Finger Lakes Film Trail.



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### Schweinfurth Art Center

205 Genesee Street | (315) 255-1553 | myartcenter.org

A leading art institution in the region, the Schweinfurth hosts more than a

dozen exhibitions each year in its three galleries. The art center hosts displays of contemporary art and features local, regional, national, and even international artists.

The art center runs two annual juried exhibitions: Made in NY in the spring, featuring works by artists who live in New York State, and Quilts=Art=Quilts from late October through early January, an art quilt exhibit that draws entries from around the world.

The Schweinfurth is known

internationally for its focus on fiber arts, and runs an annual art quilt

conference,
Quilting by the
Lake. In addition,
visitors from around
the country come
to Auburn for
intensive fiber art
workshops taught
by top artists.

The art center is an essential part of the local cultural community, participating in citywide events, offering art classes for both youth and adults, and selling unique items in its gift shop.

closed during installations;

Galleries are

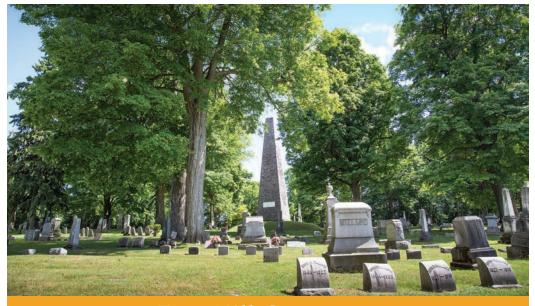
check website for up-to-date information.





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### Fort Hill Cemetery

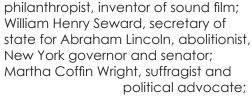
19 Fort Street | (315) 253-8132 | forthillcemetery.net

Steeped in history, Fort Hill Cemetery is a must-see for history buffs and Underground Railroad enthusiasts.
Open year-round from dawn until dusk, Fort Hill is easy to navigate by car or foot.

Due to its geographical 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 Cayuga Nation. The cemetery is also home to the iconic Chief Logan Monument.

Notable people

buried onsite include Harriet Tubman, abolitionist, political activist, former enslaved African American, and conductor on the Underground Railroad; Theodore Case,



Colonel John L. Hardenbergh, founder of Auburn; and Captain Myles Keogh, an Irish native who led a successful Union Army attack on Stonewall Jackson, Revel in the architecture of **Bradley Memorial** Chapel, a gothic inspiration that was designed by Julius Schweinfurth.



In 2021, Fort Hill Cemetery celebrated 170 years of service, and continues today as a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of this historic site.

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### Seymour Public Library

176-178 Genesee Street | (315) 252-2571 | seymourlibrary.org

Seymour Library was started in 1876 with money bequeathed by James Seymour, president of the National Bank of Auburn, and was originally located in the Phoenix Building. Since

1903, Seymour Library has been housed in the Case Memorial Building. On the National Register of Historic Places. this monumental limestone and brick building was designed by the New York City firm, Carrere and Hastinas, designers of the New York Public Library, Like NYPL, Seymour

Library has its own set of lions that can be seen from the original Genesee Street entrance. Other architectural features include: glass floors, ornate interior carving, and a glass roof. Today, Seymour Library continues to inspire a love of reading, learning, and discovery with robust programming, dynamic resources for an increasingly diverse community,

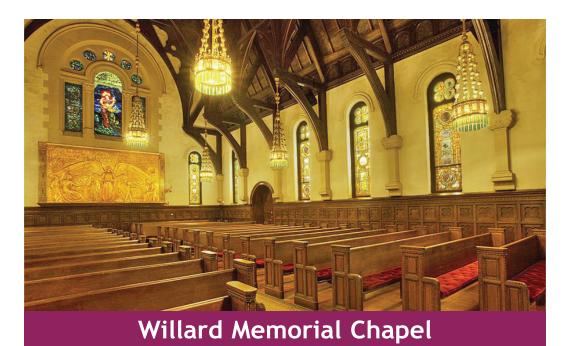
and by building friendships among our neighbors.

The library's History Discovery Center provides research assistance to those seeking local history and genealogical information, genealogical workshops, exhibits, and resources that include maps, pamphlets, images, newspapers on microfilm, online

microfilm, online research tools, a digital newspaper archive, and more.

Information about upcoming free programs and events can be found on the library's website.





17 Nelson Street | (315) 252-0339 | willard-chapel.com Touted as the "Tiffany Treasure of the Finger Lakes," Willard Memorial

Chapel is the only complete and unaltered Tiffany chapel known to

exist in the world.

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.

From 1892 to 1894, Georgiana and Caroline Willard

contracted Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co. of New York City to build and furnish Willard Chapel in memory of their parents, Dr. Sylvester Willard and Mrs. Jane Frances Case Willard.

The chapel features 14 opalescent windows, a rose window, a large portrait window, nine Moresque-style chandeliers, a memorial tablet of glass

> mosaic tile and gilt bronze designed by Jacob Holzer, oak furnishings inlaid with metal and glass mosaic, a ceiling with gold leaf stencils, and mosaic flooring.

In 1990, the Community Preservation Committee purchased the chapel when the then owners

\$ 8

considered selling the Tiffany windows and furnishings. The building, which is a National Historic Landmark, is used for



tours, weddings, concerts, and special events.

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### Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

A Partnership Park

National Park Service 47 - 49 Parker Street (315) 237-7197 | nps.gov/hart Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. 180 South Street (315) 252-2081 | harriettubmanhome.com

Harriet Tubman was guided by a deep faith and devotion to family, freedom, and community. After emancipating herself and members

of her family from slavery, Tubman moved them to Auburn and nearby Fleming in 1860. Central New York was a hub for progressive thought, abolition, and women's suffrage where Tubman continued to fight for human rights and dignity during her 54 years of freedom.

Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, created in 2017, is a unit of the National Park Service. The park service works in coordination with the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., an independent non-profit established by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to manage and operate the homestead

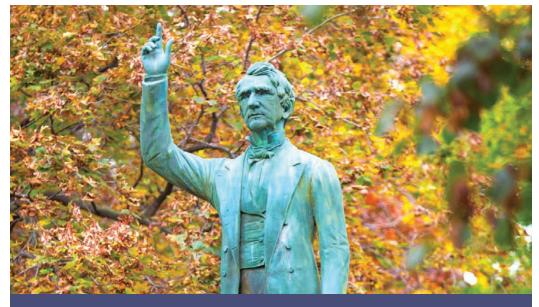
of Harriet Tubman.

The Harriet
Tubman Visitor
Center, the Tubman
Home for Aged and
Infirm Negroes, the
restored Tubman
barn, and the
Harriet Tubman
Residence are
operated by the
Harriet Tubman
Home, Inc.

The National Park Service preserves and interprets the

Thompson Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, where Tubman attended service for 22 years and where her funeral service was held. \$





# **Explore Walkable Downtown**

#### LIFESIZE LEGENDS

#### Harriet Tubman Statue 25 South Street

The 7½-foot bronze statue of young Harriet Tubman holding a lantern to guide those enslaved to freedom is the plaza centerpiece at the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center.

#### William H. Seward Statue 35 South Street

The park features a 9-foot statue of William H. Seward pointing to the heavens, as he did March 11, 1850, when he addressed the U.S. Senate in opposition to the Fugitive Slave Act and declared that there is a "higher law" than the Constitution (pictured).

## Thomas Mott Osborne Statue 46 North Street

This memorial stands outside the city's public safety building to honor prison reform pioneer Thomas Mott Osborne, who was also an agricultural leader, newspaper founder, Auburn mayor,

warden of Sing Sing Correctional Facility, and mentor to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

#### Copper John Statue 135 State Street

This ever-vigilant soldier in a Revolutionary War uniform has stood guard on the Auburn Correctional Facility Administration Building since 1821. Originally made of wood, the statue was replaced in 1848 with a replica made from copper in the prison foundry.

#### **SCENIC TOURS**

Pick up brochures detailing Auburn's two self-guided tours, Auburn Public Art Trail and South Street Auburn Historic Walking Tour, at the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center.

See page 19 to learn about the wayfinding exhibit Harriet Tubman's Lantern Trail.

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## Harriet Tubman's Lantern Trail

Explorers can search Harriet Tubman's Lantern Trail to find rare and interesting facts about Auburn's historical spots, exhibits, and cultural heritage. Each stop on the interactive lantern trail reveals a little piece of history from that very spot in an immersive way (via QR code). Not only is Harriet Tubman herself featured, but participants will also learn about Frances Seward, Theodore Case, and more historically important figures.

Built as a progressive web application, the trail is marked with "lantern" QR code stickers outside each destination. Simply scan the QR code and prepare to be transported back in time. Finish the trail and photograph each stop to



win a prize from the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center.

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## **Urban Retreats**

#### Hoopes Park 100 South Herman Avenue

A lovely park with a central pond, walking path, gardens, and gazebo. (pictured)

#### Veterans Memorial Park 172 Genesee Street

Honors those who served in the Revolutionary War to the present. Nestled within is Pomeroy Park, a pathway connecting downtown and neighborhoods.

#### Miles/Lepak Permaculture Park 53 Garrow Street

Features an edible garden with fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, vegetables, herbs, flowers, and a living willow sculpture.

#### Casey Park 150 North Division Street

Complex includes a swimming pool, basketball, pickleball, tennis courts, skateboard park, fitness trails, picnic area, and accessible playground on 44 acres.

#### Falcon Park, Leo Pinckney Field 130 North Division Street

Home of the Auburn Doubledays summer collegiate baseball team and the Cayuga Community College Spartans.

#### Catch scenic views of the Owasco River at these downtown locations:

Freedom Park at 17 North Street; Buonocore Park on Loop Road across from Wegmans; Market Street Park on Market Street; River Overlook at West Garden Street; Owasco River Trail at Canal Street.

#### Cayuga County's Emerson Park 6877 East Lake Road

Located on the northern shore of Owasco Lake, this park offers walking trails, boat launch, playground, public beach, a dog park, kayak and paddleboard rentals, and more. The park is home to The REV Theatre Company and across the road is the Ward W. O'Hara Agricultural Museum. For more information, visit bit.ly/ CayugaEmersonPark.

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## **Annual Events**

There is plenty to do in Auburn throughout the year!

On the First Friday of the month, March - December, make the rounds to participating venues for free entertainment, food and beverage specials, merchandise discounts and more. Visit the Auburn Downtown BID on Facebook for the event map and venue listings.

Here is a seasonal breakdown of the cultural events our city has to offer.

#### **SPRING**

## Brave Brews – Early March bravebrewsfest.com

Kick-off Women's History Month with a weekend-long festival toasting women and non-binary individuals in the craft beverage industry.

## Harriet Tubman Week – Early March harriettubmanauburn.com

An annual week of city-wide celebrations honoring American VisitAuburnNY.com

hero and former Auburn resident, Harriet Tubman.

#### Memorial Day City Celebration – Memorial Day

Parade followed by ceremony at Veterans Park. Food truck rodeo and live music performances in Market Street Park.

#### **SUMMER**

## Downtown Auburn Saturday Market – Late June-August

Showcase of local businesses, food producers, live entertainment, artisan vending, and family fun in the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center courtyard. Weekly starting the last Saturday in June through August. Closed Independence Day weekend.

#### Juneteenth Celebration - Mid-June

Commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans with official proclamations, speakers, parade, vendors, local talent, and live music.

#### SUMMER CONTINUED

Summer Concert Series - June-August Enjoy free outdoor live music and movies at various city parks. Visit City of Auburn Parks & Recreation on Facebook for details.

#### Auburn NY Pride - Late June auburnnypride.com

Community partners proudly collaborate on the annual LGBTQIA+ Pride Rally, Interfaith Pride Service, and more festivities during Pride Week.

#### Founder's Day – Mid-August

Various live music acts, downtown antique and classic car cruise-in. street festival with family fun and vendors. History and art activities and events at participating cultural sites.

#### FAII

#### CNY TomatoFest - Mid-September

A downtown street festival and local food-pantry fundraiser with vendors, family fun, and live music on multiple stages.

#### WINTER

#### Christmas Tree Lighting – Saturday after Thanksgiving

Holiday Parade, Santa visits, music and family fun at the Visitor Center followed by City Tree Lighting Ceremony.

#### Holiday Traditions – Early December

Tour Auburn's historic and cultural sites, museums and churches for free exhibits, musical performances, programs and refreshments.

Visit these websites for current special events: visitauburnny.com tourcayuga.com

auburndowntown.org auburnny.gov

# Discover Hilton Garden Inn







The region's finest hotel centrally located in the Finger Lakes region near to attractions, historic sites, wineries and more.



REFINERY MODERN

315-252-5511 | 74 State St., Auburn NY 13021 | auburn.hgi.com

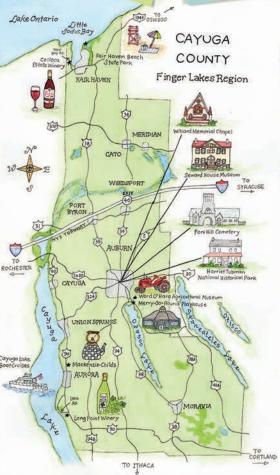
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# Cayuga County Tourism continues to make significant positive impact!

VISITORS SPENT \$130 MILLION IN CAYUGA COUNTY

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

1502 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 800-499-9615 or visit TourCayuqa.com

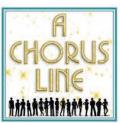
@NYSDED











# **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

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