

TOUR
CAYUGA
in the FINGER LAKES

ERIE CANAL
200
YEARS
LET'S GO!

Erie Canal Bicentennial

An artistic painting of a canal aqueduct. The aqueduct is a long, low stone structure with several large, rounded arches. A wooden boat is being pulled across the top of the aqueduct by a man on a horse. The sky is a vibrant mix of blue, orange, and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water in the canal below is dark and reflects the scene above. The overall style is that of a classic landscape painting.

**Explorer's
Guide**



Celebrate the 2025 Erie Canal Bicentennial in Cayuga County with a journey through history, art, the outdoors, and local flavor. Start by visiting the canal's historic sites, where you'll experience interactive exhibits, preserved canal structures, and rich local history. Along the way, discover murals painted by local artist Dawn Jordan, which vividly depict scenes from life on the canal, and stop by locally owned eateries to savor delicious

meals made with fresh, locally sourced ingredients. For a more immersive experience, enjoy kayak and canoe launch locations along the canal, or hike and bike the scenic trails and parks that follow the canal route. This guide offers a perfect blend of culture, history, adventure, and outdoor exploration, making it an unforgettable way to honor the Erie Canal's remarkable legacy.

Parks & Historical Sites

Montezuma Heritage Park

8098 High St, Montezuma

www.tourcayuga.com/listing/montezuma-heritage-park

Montezuma Heritage Park, located at 8098 High St, Montezuma, NY, encompasses over 160 acres of preserved parkland along the Seneca River and Erie Canal. The park features eleven nature trails that wind through significant natural and historic sites, including the remnants of the Richmond Aqueduct, the second-largest aqueduct on the Enlarged Erie Canal. Visitors can enjoy activities such as walking, biking, bird watching, and fishing while exploring the rich history of New York State's canal systems.



The Samuel Center for Canal History

38 Rochester Street Port Byron

www.newyorkcanals.org/news/ff/new-samuel-center-for-canal-history-in-port-byron

The Samuel Center for Canal History, located at 38 Rochester Street in Port Byron, NY, serves as the Canal Society of New York State's central repository for an extensive collection of canal-related documents, photographs, maps, and artifacts. Established in 2022 within the former St. John's Church, the center not only preserves these historical materials but also hosts educational tours.



Erie Canal Heritage Park at Port Byron

1575 Rooker Dr, Port Byron

www.eriecanalway.org/find-resources/case-studies/port-byron

Erie Canal Heritage Park at Port Byron offers visitors an authentic glimpse into life on the Erie Canal during the mid-19th and early 20th centuries. The park features the preserved Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 52 and the Erie House Complex, which includes a tavern, hotel, mule barn, and blacksmith shop dating back to 1895. The Visitor Center provides interactive displays and educational materials, enhancing the historical experience.



Old Brutus Historical Society

8943 North Seneca Street, Weedsport

www.oldbrutushistorical.org

The Old Brutus Historical Museum offers a diverse collection of exhibits that will captivate curious visitors, showcasing the lives of the area's earliest settlers and canal travelers. Its displays highlight the town's history as a canal hub, reflecting its agricultural roots, commercial growth, and the daily experiences of those shaped by the Erie Canal's influence. Through curated artifacts and exhibits, visitors can gain a deeper understanding of local life in the canal's early years.



The Old Erie Canal Trail (Port Byron to Weedsport)

28 Utica St, Port Byron & 2CVF+8P Weedsport

www.cnyhiking.com/OldErieCanalPortByronToWeedsport.htm

This 2.3 mile section of the Old Erie Canal Trail runs from Schasel Park in Port Byron to Centreport Park just west of Weedsport, NY. Located just north of the Village of Port Byron, off the main trail is the remains of the old enlarged Lock 52. This section of the trail also has the remains of the old Centreport Aqueduct just west of Weedsport. Great for hiking and biking along the old Erie Canal.



Listed below is a selection of dining options along the canal route.



Canal Cuisine

Potters Farm to Fork Restaurant

1951 NY-31, Port Byron

Potters Farm to Fork, located at 1951 State Route 31 in Port Byron, NY, offers American comfort food made with fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the restaurant features dishes like their signature Mac Attack and a variety of loaded baked potatoes. Guests can also enjoy New York State craft beers and wines in a welcoming atmosphere.

Cooks Village Diner

8991 N Seneca St, Weedsport

Serving up classic American comfort food in a warm and inviting setting, Cook's Village Diner is a go-to spot for a satisfying meal. Known for its generous portions, homestyle flavors, and genuinely friendly service, it has earned a loyal following among both locals and visitors looking for a taste of small-town hospitality.

Nino's Pizzeria

115 Main St, Port Byron

A cozy eatery known for its delicious pizzas and Italian dishes. With a casual atmosphere and friendly service, it offers a taste of traditional Italian cuisine in a welcoming setting. Patrons have praised their thin crust style pizza for its quality and flavor, making it a local favorite.

Lunkenheimer Craft Brewing

8931 N Seneca St, Weedsport

Pairing its award-winning craft beers with a delicious menu centered around wood-fired pizzas made with fresh, high-quality ingredients. Their cozy taproom offers a rotating selection of house-brewed ales and lagers, complementing hearty dishes that cater to both casual diners and beer enthusiasts.

Ed & Jean's Market

95 Rochester St, Port Byron

A welcoming local shop offering a variety of fresh ingredients, specialty items, and convenient grab-and-go options for travelers passing through. Whether you're stocking up for a road trip, planning a picnic, or looking for a taste of hometown flavors, this family-owned market provides quality products and friendly service to make your visit easy and enjoyable.

White Rabbit Roasting Co.

8905 S Seneca St, Weedsport

Canal explorers seeking a cozy respite in Weedsport, NY, will find White Rabbit Roasting Co. to be a delightful stop. This charming café offers freshly roasted, organic, fair-trade coffee, complemented by locally sourced teas and baked goods, all within a welcoming atmosphere that invites relaxation and community connection.

DB's Drive In

8951 N Seneca St, Weedsport

D B's Drive In offers travelers a nostalgic dining experience with classic American fast food and a variety of ice cream treats. Known for its friendly service and favorites like chili cheese fries and soft-serve ice cream, it's an ideal stop for a satisfying meal or sweet treat during your journey.

Muzzi's D'Italian Ice

2674 W Brutus St, Weedsport

Offering explorers a refreshing stop with homemade Italian ice and ice cream crafted from a recipe that dates back four generations to Calabria, Italy. With over 25 flavors, including unique options like Jennialious Grape and Blue Raspberry, it's an ideal treat for those seeking a taste of authentic Italian dessert during their journey.

This guide uses Google Geographic 'Plus Codes' which do not require clicking. Simply type the six digit code into google search and the location will be highlighted on Google Maps



Mural Locations

The murals painted along the Erie Canal in Cayuga County vividly depict life on the historic canalside. Most of these outdoor masterpieces have been created by local artist Dawn Jordan, who uses exterior wood panels and paint to craft seven large murals, each about 30 feet wide. Drawing inspiration from historic photographs and paintings, these community artworks bring the rich history of the canal to life for all who visit.

- **'Exchange Hotel on the Erie Canal'**, Montezuma Heritage Park Geo Plus Code: [276W+67](#)
- **'Erie Canal 1910'**, Weedsport Geo Plus Code: [3C2Q+53](#)
- **'Summer Afternoon on the Erie Canal'**, Port Byron Geo Plus Code: [29MG+R7](#)
- **'The Richmond Aqueduct: Now and Then'**, Montezuma Geo Plus Code: [278R+JH](#)
- **'Freedom Train'**, Weedsport Geo Plus Code: [2CWJ+5R5](#)
- **'Yesterday on the Erie Canal'**, Jordan Geo Plus Code: [3G8G+6H](#)



Canalside Canoe & Kayak Launch Sites

Paddling the Erie Canal offers a unique and immersive way to experience this historic waterway, allowing you to glide through its scenic landscapes and connect with its past from a fresh perspective. Whether you're looking for a leisurely outing or a longer adventure, the canal provides a serene setting for exploration by kayak or canoe. To help you plan your journey, we've compiled a list of convenient launch sites along the canal in Cayuga County, making it easy to access the water and embark on your own Erie Canal adventure.

DEC Boat Ramp – Conquest Rd. Port Byron

Geo Plus Code: [39H3+9X](#)

Montezuma Anchorage Paddle Camp – Rt 31, Montezuma

Geo Plus Code: [278R+VJ](#)

Eagles Landing Marina – Ditmar Road, Weedsport

Geo Plus Code: [3FC2+VF](#)

DEC Boat Ramp – River Rd, Cayuga

Geo Plus Code: [W7W8+HF](#)

Howland Island – Howland Island, Rd

Geo Plus Code: [389J+6P](#)

Cross Lake Boat Club – River Rd, Jordan

Geo Plus Code: [4F2X+HR](#)

Travel Lodging



Red Roof Inn Weedsport

9050 NY-34, Weedsport (315) 834-6198

www.redroof.com/property/ny/weedsport/rri1332

For a convenient and budget-friendly stay along your Erie Canal Bicentennial journey, consider the Red Roof Inn in Weedsport. Situated just minutes from the canal, this comfortable lodging option provides easy access to nearby historic sites and outdoor adventures. Rest up in well-equipped accommodations before setting out to explore the waterways, trails, and landmarks that define the Erie Canal's legacy in Cayuga County.

River Forest Park Campground

9439 Riverforest Rd, Weedsport (315) 834-9458

www.riverforestpark.com

Nestled along the Seneca River in Weedsport, NY, Riverforest Park is a convenient getaway just one mile north of Exit 40 on the New York State Thruway. This full-service RV park also offers dedicated tent camping sites, making it an ideal spot for outdoor enthusiasts. With nearly a mile of scenic riverfront access, modern amenities, and well-maintained facilities, guests can enjoy both comfort and nature. Riverforest Park provides the perfect base camp after a day of adventure exploring the Erie Canal.