




and

I ♥ NY History

invite you to travel in the footsteps of our founding fathers and relive the birth of our great nation ...



New York Governor George Pataki kayaking on the Hudson River.



The New York Independence Trail, a non-profit organization funded by New York State, is your link to our past, designed for the enjoyment of all — children, families, historians and educators.

To learn more about the Independence Trail, please call 1-866-OUR-TRAIL or visit www.independencetrail.org today.


Special Thanks for Support to:

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L to R: Staunch supporters of the Independence Trail, Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senator Joseph L. Bruno with Trail President, Frank Garofalo



Visit New York's Historic Waterways





Sail into History

The New York Independence Trail invites you to explore the historic waterways of eastern New York. The strategic pulse of French and Indian and Revolutionary War-era America, New York's waterways linked colonies, transported troops and supplies, defined borders, and were pivotal in the successful British campaign against the French, and in the American victory in The Revolution.

Waterways were the natural superhighways of the late 18th century. From the **St. Lawrence River** to the shores of **Lake Champlain**, to the clear blue waters of **Lake George**, and the **Mohawk River**, to the mighty **Hudson River**, battles raged and sacrifices were made. Relive our legacy and travel along The New York Independence **Waterways** Trail.



About The New York Independence Trail

Through the French and Indian War, and later the Revolutionary War, our nation's first heroes laid the foundation for an independent America — paid for with their own blood and often on New York land and water.

The story of The New York Independence Trail begins with the French and British quest for dominance in the New World. Britain's victory in the French and Indian War ultimately led to of a new conflict — this time with its own colonies.

After nine years of war, Britain imposed new taxes on colonial imports to repay its war debts. This triggered the pursuit of independence by colonists who proclaimed, “no taxation without representation,” setting the stage for the American Revolution.

In cooperation with **I ♥ NY History**, The New York Independence Trail provides the road map for a self-guided tour of locations critical to the founding of America. The Trail can be accessed at virtually any point along the north-south route between the Canadian border and New York City, or traveled in its entirety for a complete heritage tourism experience. Embark on your historic trip today!

Let History Be Your Guide ...

Experience history, culture and natural splendor along The New York Independence **Waterways** Trail. The sites named here can be viewed or accessed by car, bicycle, foot, kayak, pleasure craft or tour boat. Some are large museums and restored forts; others are noted with simple signs and markers. All invite you to relive the Birth of Our Great Nation.

Cruise the Lake Champlain Canal to Whitehall, where Benedict Arnold oversaw the construction of America's first gunships, earning Whitehall the title, “**Birthplace of the United States Navy.**”

Visit the site of the Battle of Valcour Island where an American fleet commanded by Arnold helped to foil the British plan to divide the colonies in 1776. One of Arnold's gunboats, scuttled during the night-time retreat, was discovered in Lake Champlain in 1997.

Hike the trails of Mount Independence, the site of an American Revolutionary War complex built to guard against a British attack from Canada.



Dive the waters of Lake George for a first-hand look at the sunken 1758 Radeau Land Tortoise, the oldest intact warship in North America, deliberately scuttled, then discovered by underwater archaeologists in 1990.

Drop anchor and **soak in the history of the islands of Lake George** where soldiers camped, prisoners were held and battles were waged.

Climb to the top of Rogers Rock where Major Robert Rogers was chased by Indian and French soldiers.

Thrill in a living history tour of the reconstructed Fort William Henry where 2,200 colonial defenders valiantly repelled attacks from French troops until the siege by General Montcalm in 1757.

Picnic amidst the dramatic history of Lake George Battlefield Park, the site of military engagements during both the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars.

Not far from Cooper's Cave, visit the **Historic Feeder Canal Park** adjacent to the towpath that linked Glens Falls to the original Champlain Canal.

A short trip from the Hudson River, **tour the site of the famed Battles of Saratoga** — the turning point of the Revolution. The American victory over General John Burgoyne proved to the world that the American Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with and encouraged the European community to support the American cause.

Stop by historic Fort Hardy Park to see the commemorative “Surrender Tree” where Burgoyne admitted defeat and signed the Convention of Saratoga in 1777.

Dock in Fort Edward and visit the site of Jane McCrea's murder — an event that enraged and rallied American militia. Within walking distance are the Rogers Island Visitors Center and the Old Fort House Museum, the only surviving building that headquartered both British and American generals.



Massacre of Jane McCrea



Retrace the torturous 300-mile trek of Henry Knox. This young American officer valiantly transported 119,000 pounds of heavy artillery through snow and ice along Lake Champlain and Lake George from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston to help General George Washington fend off the British Navy.

Tour the visitor center and museum at Oneida County's Oriskany Battlefield, site of one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolution. The fierce determination of American militia convinced the British to abandon the siege of Fort Stanwix, protecting the Mohawk Valley. Take a guided tour of General Nicholas Herkimer's mansion. Herkimer fearlessly led the American militia in this conflict. Experience the Erie Canal Village outdoor living history museum nearby. The construction of the Erie Canal made New York City the economic center of the New World.

Visit the sentinels of the Hudson, Fort Clinton and Fort Montgomery. These forts guarded the “Great Chain” that stretched from Fort Montgomery to Anthony's Nose to prevent British ships from pressing forward up the Hudson.

Stand at the present-day site of Fort Hamilton, where in 1776 shots were fired against the British, marking the first coastal defense of the colonies.

Whether you are a history buff or a novice, there is plenty to learn and enjoy along The New York Independence **Waterways** Trail.



Re-enactment near Old Senate House, Kingston.

Visit New York's Historic Waterways

The **NEW YORK** Waterways
INDEPENDENCE TRAIL

www.independencetrail.org

I ♥ NY *History*

[1] Coteau-du-Lac, Quebec, Canada

The British built the first lock canal in North America in 1783 at Coteau Rapids to improve military supply lines between Montreal and Kingston. 450-763-5631

[2] Valcour Island, Plattsburgh, NY

In October 1776, an American fleet under Benedict Arnold stalled the British plan to divide American colonies by taking control of Lake Champlain and continuing to the Hudson River. One of Arnold's gunboats sunk during the night-time retreat and was discovered in 1997. State Park. 518-561-0340

[3] Chimney Point State Historic Site, Addison, VT

Fort de Pieux (Fort of Posts), built in 1730, was a key French fortification at the southern end of Lake Champlain. The British named this location after a French farmstead chimney remaining at the location. Museum. 802-759-2412



Champlain Mem. Lighthouse

[4] Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Vergennes, VT

Overlooking the narrows one mile north of the bay where Benedict Arnold sunk five ships to avoid capture by the British. Home to replica 1776 gunboat Philadelphia II. 802-475-2022

[5] Crown Point State Historic Site, Crown Point, NY

"His Majesty's Fort at Crown Point" aided the British in their conquest of Canada and in the control and access to Lake Champlain. Tour ruins and view exhibits. Champlain Memorial Lighthouse, including Rodin sculpture, nearby. 518-597-3666

[6] Mount Independence, Orwell, VT

American Revolutionary troops built a fort complex here to guard against a British attack from Canada. Located across Lake Champlain from Fort Ticonderoga. Named in honor of the Declaration of Independence. Hiking trails and visitor center. 802-948-2000

[7] Mount Defiance/Mount Hope, Ticonderoga, NY

In July 1777 General Burgoyne's forces dragged cannons from Mount Hope to force the abandonment of Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence by the Americans. Summits overlook Champlain Valley and Fort Ticonderoga. 518-585-2821



Ticonderoga (Re-enactment)

[8] Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga, NY

Built by the French from 1755-1758, located at a strategic point between Lake Champlain and Lake George, controlling the major north-south inland waterway. Museum. 518-585-2821

[9] Prisoners Island, Lake George

The first island north of Rogers Rock at the north end of Lake George. During the first British attack on Fort Ticonderoga, French captives were brought here. 518-897-1200

[10] Rogers Rock, Hague, NY

Indians and French soldiers chased Major Robert Rogers to the rock's precipice on the western shore of Lake George during the winter of 1757-1758. Rogers eluded his pursuers, reversed his snowshoes and retraced his steps through the wilderness. Rock climbing and hiking. 518-897-1200

[11] Floating Battery Island, Lake George, NY

Located north of Black Mountain Point in the Narrows section of Lake George. Received its name from the abandonment of a floating battery nearby that was used by General Abercrombie in 1758. Camping. 518-897-1200

[12] Dome Island, Lake George

Rising 76 feet above the surface of Lake George, the highest island on the lake provided an ideal location during the French and Indian War for the English to scout movements of Indians. Nine miles north of Lake George Village. 518-897-1200

[13] Diamond Island, Lake George

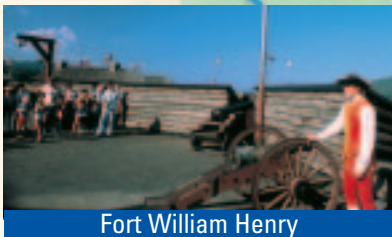
Three miles north of Lake George village, General Abercrombie's army used the island during the French and Indian War and General Burgoyne used it as a supply outlet after his capture of Fort Ticonderoga in 1777. Island's history is inscribed on a stone monument. Picnic facilities. 518-897-1200

[14] Submerged Heritage Preserves, Lake George

Dive the waters of Lake George to see the 1758 British Radeau Land Tortoise discovered in 1990 — the oldest intact warship in North America. Access to certified, registered divers only. 518-897-1200

[15] Fort William Henry, Lake George, NY

The British fort stood strong against several French attacks until the siege by General Montcalm in 1757. Torched by the French. Reconstructed in 1953. Now a museum. 518-668-5471



Fort William Henry

[16] Lake George Battlefield Park, Lake George, NY

Several military battles occurred here. This site includes the ruins of Fort George. Picnic and visit the Father Isaac Jogues statue nearby. 518-897-1200

[17] Skenesborough Museum, Whitehall, NY

Ships built in Skenesborough, under the command of Benedict Arnold, played a vital role in delaying the British invasion, earning Whitehall the designation "Birthplace of the U.S. Navy." On the Champlain Canal just south of Lock 12. Docking and picnicking available. 518-499-0716

[18] Bloody Pond, Warren County

The site of a massacre of approximately 200 French by colonists in 1755. Bodies fell near the pond and stained it red. It is in this conflict that Robert Rogers debuted as a soldier (Ranger). 518-761-6366 ext. 5100

[19] Half-Way Brook, Queensbury, NY

This strategic French and Indian War location was midway between Fort Edward and Fort George. Marker where blockhouse and stockade once stood. 518-761-6366 ext. 5100



Cooper's Cave - South Glens Falls

[20] Cooper's Cave, South Glens Falls, NY

On the Hudson River near South Glens Falls, this setting played an important role in James Fenimore Cooper's classic novel "Last of the Mohicans." 518-793-1455 "NY Independence Trail is endorsed by Mohican Indian Tribe."

[21] Rogers Island, Fort Edward, NY

On the Hudson River, the island was home to Capt. Robert Rogers' Rangers. Also housed British barracks during the French and Indian War and a patriot garrison during the Revolutionary War. Tour the visitor center. 518-747-3693

[22] Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville, NY

View the "Surrender Tree" marker where General Burgoyne surrendered his forces to General Gates on Oct. 17, 1777. Visitor center, hiking, dock nearby. Saratoga Monument and Major General Philip Schuyler's country home nearby. 518-695-4159



Saratoga National Historic Park

[23] Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater, NY

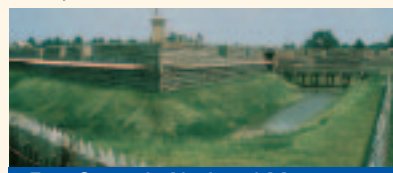
"Turning Point of The Revolution." The Americans defeated the British in 1777 at the Battles of Saratoga. Scenic views of the Hudson. 518-664-9821

[24] Stillwater Blockhouse, Stillwater, NY

A replica of a log blockhouse constructed by colonists during the French and Indian War. Along the Hudson. Built with logs from Revolutionary-era buildings. Museum. 518-664-1847 ext. 11

[25] Fort Stanwix National Monument, Rome, NY

Built in 1758 to guard a strategic portage that connected the waterways between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. Reconstructed fort and Erie Canal Village nearby. 315-336-2090



Fort Stanwix National Monument

[26] Oriskany State Historic Site, Oriskany, NY

The fierce determination of American militia at this bloody battle convinced the British to abandon the siege of Fort Stanwix, negating the British threat to the Mohawk Valley. Visitor center and museum. 315-768-7224

[27] Herkimer Home State Historic Site, Little Falls, NY

Tour the 1764 mansion of Revolutionary War hero General Nicholas Herkimer. 315-823-0398

[28] Fort Klock, St. Johnsville, NY

Tour the 30-acre complex of original colonial structures. See authentic stone structures used for refuge by settlers. 518-568-7779

[29] Historic Stockade District, Schenectady, NY Near the Mohawk River. Site of the Stockade Massacre in 1690 - part of a series of wars between the French and the English that culminated in the French and Indian War. Buildings in the district reflect over three centuries of architecture in America. 800-926-8007

[30] Peebles Island State Park, Watford, NY

Strategic Revolutionary War site at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. The Americans built fortifications here in 1777 to guard against General Burgoyne's attempt to capture Albany. Walk, hike and picnic. 518-237-8643

[31] Clermont State Historic Site, Germantown, NY

Home to Livingston family - prominent supporters of The Revolution. In 1777, the manor house was burned by British troops. Tour home and visitor center. 518-537-4240



Clermont State Historic Site

[32] Kingston, NY, Ulster County

British troops set fire to Kingston on October 16, 1777, because it was New York State's first capital. Docking available. The Old Senate House Historic Site and Hudson River Maritime Museum nearby. 845-338-2786

[33] Washington's Headquarters/ Newburgh Landing, Newburgh, NY

Dutch colonial fieldstone residence used by George Washington during the final days of the Revolutionary War. Tour the house and museum. 845-562-1195



Hudson River - Kingston

[34] New Windsor Cantonment, Vails Gate, NY

Final encampment of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. General Washington bestowed the "Badge of Merit," the forerunner of the Purple Heart, on three soldiers here. 845-561-1765

[35] Knox's Headquarters, Vails Gate, NY

Built along the Hudson by an early settler and utilized on four occasions by Major General Henry Knox. Tours available. 845-561-5498

[36] West Point Museum, West Point, NY

In 1778, American troops were stationed here to prevent British attempts to control the Hudson River and divide the colonies. The West Point Museum houses collections dedicated to the American victory at Saratoga. 845-938-3590



West Point, NY

[37] - Constitution Island, West Point, NY

Tour the ruins of the 1775 Fort Constitution. Built to protect this strategic "bend" in the Hudson. Tour begins with a boat trip across the Hudson from the U.S. Military Academy. 845-446-8676

[38] Fort Montgomery/Fort Clinton, Fort Montgomery, NY

Fort Montgomery and adjacent Fort Clinton played key roles in the Revolution, preventing British forces from advancing up the Hudson. Fort Montgomery was the site of the first chain across the Hudson. Visit the museum at Fort Clinton. Take a self-guided tour at Fort Montgomery. Hiking trail and footbridge connect the forts. 845-786-2701

[39] Stony Point State Historic Site, Stony Point, NY

In 1779, the Patriot victory here ensured General Washington's control of the Hudson and West Point. The site is now a state park. 845-786-2521

[40] Kings Ferry, Hudson River

A stretch of the Hudson from Verplanck's Point to Stony Point used as a major crossing by the Americans during the Revolution. Today a small park identifies the location of the crossing. 845-786-2521

[41] Battery Park, New York City

In 1775, Colonists determined the cannons in Battery Park were at risk of being captured, and ordered them dismantled. A British ship witnessed the dismantling and fired a warning shot. Colonists fired back, killing a British soldier, beginning the war on the Hudson. 212-344-3491

[42] Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, NY

In 1776, a small American battery located at the present site of Fort Hamilton initiated the first coastal defense of the colonies. Construction of Fort Hamilton began about 50 years later. 718-630-4349



Fort Hamilton

1754

FRENCH & INDIAN
WAR BEGINS

1763

TREATY OF PARIS SIGNED ENDING
THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

1765

COLONISTS PROTEST THE
STAMP ACT - THE FIRST DIRECT TAX

1775

AFTER A DECADE OF TURMOIL, THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION BEGINS

1777

AMERICANS DEFEAT BRITISH
AT THE BATTLES OF SARATOGA

1778

FRANCE SIGNS TREATY WITH U.S.
& ENTERS WAR AGAINST BRITAIN

1783

END OF AMERICAN
REVOLUTION