

Join in a Trip Back Through Time

A 60-mile, self-guided tour on a section of the NYS Canalway Trail showcases the evolution of 200 years of Erie Canal history.

While the New York Canalway Trail follows corridors used for travel by native peoples for many centuries, the ease of travel between the Atlantic seaboard and the Great Lakes was revolutionized 200 years ago with the Erie Canal opening.

The original Clinton's Ditch opened the unfinished waterway to traffic between Montezuma and Syracuse in April 1820, completing this middle section of the canal.

200 years later, remains of the legendary Erie Canal can be explored in the rural countryside canal towns and villages on a self-guided, 60-mile tour with highlighted stops in Macedon, Palmyra, Newark, Lyons, Clyde/Galen, Savannah, Montezuma, Port Byron, Weedsport, Memphis, Jordan and Camillus. Here will be revealed the unique and fascinating engineering story of building and the first opening of the Erie Canal.

Whether you are out to travel by auto, hiking or cycling your way across the trailway there is inspiring picturesque scenery to enjoy and remarkable history to discover. The people, places, nature and culture of this

section of the Erie Canal Corridor includes plenty of side trails, aqueducts, locks, murals, museums, parks, restaurants, and shops to explore all while enjoying the inviting experience of small town charm.

Along this journey you will encounter nature at its best traveling in the area of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex stretching through almost 10,000 acres of the Finger Lakes Region. The wildlife complex is a resting place for numerous migratory birds and is situated in one of the most active flight lanes in the Atlantic Flyway.

Are you tracking miles and tracing history with the Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor's Challenge? Here is an opportunity to rack up some miles. <https://eriecanalway.org/explore/challenge>

For more information:

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Visit our Facebook Page at:
fb.me/treasuresalongerie

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TREASURES ALONG THE ERIE CANAL TOUR

60-Mile Historic Erie Canal Self-Guided Tour Guide





Treasures Along the Erie Tour



Celebrating 200 Years of Erie Canal History / A 60 Mile Macedon to Camillus Self-Guided Tour

Macedon: Lock 30 at 1 Canal Park includes a **Butterfly Garden, Mural** and remnants of **historic Lock 60**, built in 1841, and enlarged later in 1860. East of the Village of Macedon are the remains of abutments of the **Enlarged Erie Canal Change Bridge No. 39, Gallup's Bridge**. It allowed the towpath to switch from one side of the canal to the other during the Enlarged Erie Canal era (1840-1905). The bridge served a dual purpose, being a highway between Macedon and Palmyra. Between Macedon and Palmyra is **Mud Creek Aqueduct** located in Aqueduct Park adjacent to existing **Erie Canal Lock No. 29**. The aqueduct is 94 feet long, and uses three spans to cross the Ganargua Creek. The **Aldrich Change Bridge No. 35** (erected in 1858), allowed the towpath to switch from one side of the canal to the other during the Enlarged Erie Canal era (1840-1905).

Palmyra: Once known as the "Queen of Erie Canal towns", includes several historical museums including the **Alling Coverlet**, 122 William Street, a **General Store, Print Shop and Canal Depot** on Market Street.

Newark: Enjoy lunch from one of the fine eateries near canal park and the **Visitor Center** with beautiful historic **murals** along the canal. Known as the "Rose Capital of America", there are exhibits at **Newark-Arcadia Historical Society Museum**, 120 High Street and, across the street, **Hoffman Clock Museum** (inside Newark Public Library).

Lyons: Known as the Peppermint Capital of the world where the **H. G. Hothchkiss Prize Medal Essential Oil Company** was founded in the early 1800's, now home of the **Lyons Heritage Society**. Located at 95 Water Street in the former **Wayne County Jail** and sheriff's residence built in 1856, used until 1960. There are **10 murals** to view in the village.

Clyde: Stop by "Lauraville Landing" near Lock 26 and visit a replica 18th century **Blockhouse** on Rt 31. The Galen Historical Society host the Brick Church Museum and **Mill Museum** - former **A.R. Ketchum and Son** feed mill, coal and farm supply - now farm exhibits and Sports Hall of Fame. Then find historical murals around town!

Savannah: See the 1874 **Wiley School House** and 1824 **Crusoe House** - the town's first post office, stagecoach stop and saloon. Visit the **Montezuma Audubon Center** at 2295 Rt. 89, for walking trails, wildlife and much more!

Montezuma: **Montezuma Heritage Park**, Two Trailheads are located on High Street & Chapman Road off Rt 31. Visit Canal sites along eleven trails including the remains of **Original Clinton's Ditch, Lock 62**; the Enlarged Erie Canal's second largest **aqueduct, The Richmond**, which carried the canal waters over the Seneca River spanning nearly 900 feet until 1917. The Park also contains the remains of **Cayuga-Seneca Canal Lock 11**, a **papermill** that produced heavy cardboard paper harvested from flag (cattails) in the marshlands, and stonework of an **Enlarged Erie Canal drydock**.

Port Byron: Step back into history at **Old Erie Canal Heritage Park** off Rt. 31. The newly built **Visitor Center & Gift Shop** is operated by the **Canal Society of New York State**. Follow the path through the original stoneworks of the **1854 Lock 52** where boats traveled to the restored **1895 Erie House Tavern**, with a **blacksmith shop, mule barn and lockmaster's house**. Enter Schasel Park east of the village to use the bike trail or stay on Rt 31 by auto to Weedsport.

Please practice social distancing and use masks until these recommendations are officially lifted.

Brutus/Weedsport: The structural remains of the **Centerport Aqueduct** along Rt. 31 are located in a beautiful park setting with a towpath bridge spanning the aqueduct reconstructed nearly identical to the one built there in 1854-55. The towpath bridge today is used by bicyclist and walkers to cross the confluence of the Cold Spring Brook and North Brook, a feeder for the original **1825 Clinton's Ditch Erie Canal**. The **Old Brutus Historical Museum** is located at 8943 N. Seneca Street.

Jordan: The **Jordan Aqueduct** was built in 1841-1845, part of the Enlarged Erie Canal crossing Skaneateles Creek. A garden park was created, featuring **Lock 51** and the aqueduct remains now as the centerpiece of the park. A modern bridge crosses the supports of the canal prism trunk, and the towpath arches serve as a part of the Erie Canalway Trail. The **Jordan Historical Museum**, is located at 15 Mechanic Street.

Memphis: After leaving Jordan by car on Rt 31 or bike the Canalway trail pass through this small hamlet where in the **1836 canal era** there were three stores, two taverns and three hotels, a number of saw mills, blacksmith shop and a gristmill.

Camillus: Nestled along Nine Mile Creek, **Camillus Erie Canal Park** has over 14 miles of scenic trails displaying living history of the Erie Canal era. Boat rides are offered over the rebuilt **Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct**. A **Canal Museum Store** features old-fashioned charm of the canal era with a **gift shop, exhibits and lock demonstration**.

Follow the tour along NYS Route 31 with NYS Trailway signs east and west by auto or bike. There are also several off-road bike and walking trails at marked points along the canalway.