



NEW YORK'S FAMILY BUCKET LIST

NEW YORK IS FOR FAMILIES A New York State vacation means a getaway the entire family can enjoy. There are few destinations that offer such a diverse multitude of experiences guaranteed to excite everyone, from children to parents and grandparents. Whether you're planning a day-trip or a week-long escape, you can expect to make memories with the whole family that will last a lifetime.

When it comes to exploring the great outdoors, New York has you covered. From camping, fishing and hiking to skiing, snowboarding and zip-lining, the Empire State has 4,000-foot mountains, seemingly endless forests, lakes and rivers, as well as public parks and playlands to keep even the most active family members coming back for more.

Outdoor recreation is only at the cusp of what you'll find in New York State. There are numerous interactive museums and historic sites, some dating back to before the American Revolution, as well as amusement parks, mansions, concerts and science exhibits. Your family can watch live theater, find their inner artist or relax in a cozy cabin or at a

full-service resort.

Whatever you enjoy doing with your kids or would like to try for the first time, you can do it in New York State. It's a place where families have fun together and create fond memories. To inspire your next adventure, check out our New York State family bucket list. For more information on these activities and destinations, go to ILoveNY.com to start planning your next family vacation.

For information on how to go from an Amtrak station to points of interest, by walking, connecting to other rail lines, public transportation, Enterprise car rental or via Lyft ride-sharing, see pages 14-15, or go to NewYorkbyRail.com.

**SAVE \$ ON TRAVEL
TO FAMILY FUN!**

***I Love New York
Amtrak Discount***

No car? No problem! Unwind on the train instead of cramming everyone into an automobile. And travel cheaply. 15% Off Adults + 50% Off Kids on Amtrak throughout New York State. (Blackout dates apply.)

I♥NY
iloveny.com

MAKE A SPLASH Nothing says “family vacation” more than a beach! Throw some cold drinks and a picnic lunch in a cooler. Grab a couple of folding chairs, oversized towels, a pail and a shovel. From the calm waters of a lakeside beach to the sand and surf of the Atlantic coastline, New York boasts some of the best beaches in the northeast.

MONTAUK (Long Island)

Penn Station, Long Island Rail Road to Montauk (3 hr. 19 min.)

At tip of Long Island, miles of white, gleaming sand welcome beach goers. No boardwalks or

development here. The strand is framed by natural rolling dunes and high bluffs. Block Island Sound on the north side is calmer and great for beachcombing. onmontauk.com/beaches/



MILLION DOLLAR BEACH (Lake George)

Fort Edwards Station (20.5 mi.)

A public recreation area with a boat launch, showers, volleyball court and picnic areas, this popular beach in the Adirondacks cost more than a million dollars to build. Today it's a 1,700-foot sand oasis where families love to swim and sunbath during the summer. lakegeorge.com



SANDY ISLAND STATE PARK (Lake Ontario)

Syracuse Station (48.6 mi.)

Located on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario near Pulaski, the park has a quarter-mile natural sandy beach considered the finest on the lake. It's at the tip of a 17-mile natural area made up of a family-friendly, sandy shoreline, dunes and wetlands. The area also attracts hikers, birdwatchers, canoeist and kayakers.

parks.ny.gov/parks/153/details.aspx



NYS FUN FACT

New York boasts 7,500 lakes, ponds and reservoirs, over 70,000 miles of rivers and streams and 975 square miles of saltwater, providing endless opportunities for water-based recreation.

EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS In New York State, outdoor recreational opportunities are truly endless. The state manages nearly five million acres of lands, most of it open for public enjoyment. That's larger than the state of Connecticut! Need a guide? Need gear? The various outfitters and recreation areas throughout the state will take care of you. Expand your horizons. Step outside of the ordinary into the extraordinary by experiencing New York's great outdoors.



WINDHAM MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK (Catskill Mountains)

Hudson Station (30.6 mi.)
Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, mountain bikers experience unique downhill and the longest jump trail on the East Coast at this world class bike park. No uphill pedaling required! Ride high-speed chairlifts up, then fly down as fast as you dare. The Skills Park has berms, tabletops and a mini-rock garden where visitors hone their tricks next to professional riders.
windhammountain.com

ADIRONDACK TUBING ADVENTURES (Lake Luzerne)

Fort Edwards Station (25.8 Miles)
Float a real, pristine lazy river at this family adventure center in the Adirondacks. There's also a state-of-the-art aerial course where you jump, climb and zipline your way through the forest canopy. The bravest in your clan dare to plunge from the 63-foot high QuickJump XL freefall device.
adktubing.com



PEEK'N PEAK RESORT AERIAL ADVENTURE (Clymer)

Buffalo-Exchange Station (93.1 mi.)
On the Eagle Zipline, zip side-by-side 130 feet up on a 1,400-foot line. Then meet your guide for the adventure course, which has 69

obstacles (nets, ladders, treetop platforms, ziplines) on eight routes of varying difficulties. Or stay close to the ground on a Segway tour, mountain bike, an electric bike or on the disc golf course.
pknpc.com/golf_&_mountain_adventures/mountain_adventures/



HOWE CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK (Central New York)

Amsterdam Station (26.9 mi.)
The second most visited natural attraction in New York (after Niagara Falls) and the largest cave opened to the public in the northeast offers guided tours and an underground boat ride. Don't forget the fun above ground, too! This park has a four-tower zipline, plus a ropes course and a climbing wall. Or climb inside the 12-foot H2OGO Ball for a 1,100-foot roll. It's a wet, wild ride!
howecaverns.com

NYS FUN FACT

Want to go hiking? Think big! New York's 17,000 miles of multi-use trails lead through spectacular landscapes—up mountain paths, around pristine lakes, beside waterfalls and through historic villages



THE WILD CENTER (Tupper Lake)

Port Henry Station (74.4 mi.)

Get nose to nose with an otter. Walk through the Adirondack treetops. See bass, trout, pike and other fish at eye level. Pretend you're a bird in a human-sized eagle's nest. Naturalists host close-up sessions with ravens, porcupines, owls, snakes and many other native species.

wildcenter.org



TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE Kids love animals, tame and wild. New York State has great family outings where you can get up close and personal with a variety of species, from common farm animals to some of the more exotic, endangered creatures in the world.

OLD MCDONALD'S FARM VILLAGE (Sackets Harbor)

Syracuse Station (63.3 mi.)

Since 1986, parents have been bringing their children to this 6,000-acre working dairy and

crop farm in the 1000 Islands region. Learn, touch and walk among 1,000 animals from spring to fall. Feed the cows. Pet the goats. Take your first pony ride.

oldmcdonaldhasafarm.com



BUFFALO ZOO (Buffalo)

Buffalo-Exchange Street Station (5.6 mi.)

Lions, tigers and bears, oh my! And polar bears, hyenas, kook-aburras... at the third oldest zoo in the country. The 23.5-acre animal and avian campus houses some of the world's most exotic, endangered species as well as local wildlife, all of which move freely in their natural habitats.

buffalozoo.org

NYS FUN FACT

April the Giraffe made headlines in 2017 as the world watched her carry and give birth to baby Tajiri on the internet. Families can visit April and Tajiri at Animal Adventure Park in Harpursville.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW Museums preserve our human and natural histories. These three awaken kid-curiosity through their interactive exhibits and compelling displays. They make learning fun!



STRONG NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY (Rochester)

Rochester Station (1.1 mi.)
Rated the #1 family destination by Family Fun magazine, you'll gawk and giggle amidst 100,000 square feet of interactive exhibits and artifacts, not to mention a retro arcade and a butterfly garden. See how the way we play reflects our cultural history. museumofplay.org

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME (Cooperstown)

Utica Station (39.9 Miles)
This enduring tribute to the legends of baseball is a must-see for fans of all ages. The Hall preserves the history of the game from its invention in the 1800's to the present. To read more, go to page 85. baseballhall.org



NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM (Albany)

Albany-Rensselaer Station (2.9 mi.)
Travel back 15,000 years to a time when woolly mammoths and giant ground sloths roamed through New York State in the new Ice Age exhibit. See a giant "windlass" used to lower heavy cargo onto barges on the Erie Canal. Ride an antique carousel. Your junior fireman will be wowed by two centuries of fire-fighting apparatus, all made in the Empire State.

nysm.nysed.gov



NYS FUN FACT

The Strong National Museum of Play is America's second largest children's museum. It contains the world's largest collection of dolls, toys and games.



ENJOY THE RIDE New York's amusement and water parks offer thrills from mild to wild. Some of the most famous and oldest parks in the U.S. are in New York. Whether your little ones like spinning in teacups, your tweens want a screamin' ride on a rollercoaster, or you enjoy the view from the top of a ferris wheel, there's a park for you.



SEABREEZE PARK (Rochester)

Rochester Station (7.3 mi.)
This park has been a favorite among families for over 100 years. Among its 70+ rides is one of the nation's steepest log flumes. The scenic railroad chugs across a wooden train bridge and through an old mine tunnel. Or cool off in the waterpark. seabreeze.com

RYE PLAYLAND (Westchester County)

New Rochelle Station (8.5 mi.)
Celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2018, this historic theme park has one of only two original steeple chase rides in the U.S. You can also fly on a dragon or look for zombies in a castle among its other 50 rides. Or plan a birthday party at the park's beach or at the pool. playlandpark.org



DARIEN LAKE (Greater Niagara)

Buffalo-Depew Station (19.6 mi)
With over 45 rides, a waterpark, campsites and a lakeside hotel, this amusement park is a destination for thrill-seekers. It's one place where your teens are permitted to have a tantrum, or at least ride one. New for 2018, the "Tantrum" rollercoaster climbs 98 vertical feet then plummets through a pretzel inversion, reaching speeds over 50 m.p.h. darienlake.com

MIDWAY STATE PARK (Bemus Point)

Buffalo-Exchange Street Station (69 mi.)
Located on Chautauqua Lake, this family treasure was established as a trolley park in 1898. Today, you can ride the vintage carousel, play mini-golf, drive the go-karts and bumper boats, or take a spin on the tilt-a-wheel. Enjoy some old-fashioned cotton candy or a hand-dipped candy apple. parks.ny.gov/parks/167/details.aspx; nysfair.ny.gov/

NYS FUN FACT

New York is home to some of the oldest amusement parks in the nation. Seabreeze opened in 1879 and is the 4th oldest amusement park in the country. Midway State Park is 16th oldest, opening in 1898.

LAUGH OUT LOUD



...at the **National Comedy Center**, in Jamestown, Lucille Ball's hometown.

Jamestown also hosts the annual **Lucille Ball Comedy Festival**, featuring more than 50 shows including stand-up performances, dialogs about the craft of comedy and the best rising talent. August 1-4, 2018 comedycenter.org
Buffalo-Exchange St. Station (73.8 mi.)

LIVE IT UP



...at the new **Resorts World Catskills** on Kiamesha Lake in Monticello, a \$1.2 billion casino-resort on the site of the former Concord Resort. rwcatskills.com
Poughkeepsie Station (56.8 mi.)

FIND OUT HOW

The locations included in this publication are just a sampling of the hundreds of attractions waiting to be explored in New York State. To find more detailed travel information on nearby activities and attractions, and options for lodging and dining, visit iloveny.com or download the **I Love New York mobile app** and start planning your getaway today.



MAKE LASTING MEMORIES The recipe for a fond family memory requires an intriguing place to visit and a delightful experience once you get there. New York State boasts many such spots, including these destinations that you and your kids can enjoy together and cherish forever:



ROSELAND WAKE PARK (Canandaigua)

Rochester Station (32.2 mi.)
Wakeboard at the only full-sized cable park in the Northeast, pulling up to nine riders in a continuous 2,100-foot loop, with optional ramps and rails.
roselandwakepark.com

USS SLATER (Albany)

Albany-Rensselaer Station (2.1 mi.)
Tour the only remaining World War II Destroyer Escort afloat in America, moored for the summer on the Hudson River.
newyorkhistoryblog.org



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORNING GLASSBLOWING



In May, the GlassBarge departs Brooklyn, traveling north on the Hudson River to Albany and then west on the Erie Canal to Buffalo. Its four-month cruise celebrates the continued role of New York's waterways in shaping industry, culture and community. Live glass-blowing demonstrations at each stop. www.cmog.org



MIRROR LAKE BOAT RENTAL (Lake Placid)

Westport/Lake Placid Station (35 mi.)
Rent at kayak, stand-up paddleboard, canoe, sailboat or hydro-bike and go for a spin on no-wake Mirror Lake.
MLBoatrental.com

BOLDT CASTLE (Thousand Islands)

Syracuse Station (98.8 mi.)
Visit a castle, or better yet, stay overnight in one.
boldtcastle.com



PHOTOS COURTESY OF I LOVE NEW YORK



SANTA'S WORKSHOP (Wilmington)

Port Kent Station (28.6 mi.)
Visit the North Pole to meet Santa and his elves – during the summer!
northpolenyc.com

LOCKPORT CAVE AND UNDERGROUND BOAT RIDE (Lockport)

Buffalo-Depew Station (24.4 mi.)
Go for an underground boat ride.
lockportcave.com

VALCOUR ISLAND (Peru)

Plattsburgh Station (6.1 mi.)
Camp on an 1,100-acre island, the site of a Revolutionary War naval battle, an Audubon bird conservation site and an 1874 lighthouse.
goadironack.com



ERIE CANAL (Herkimer)

Utica Amtrak Station (14.9 mi.)
Take a cruise on a 200-year-old canal.
eriecanalcruises.com

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS (Corning)

Rochester Station (106 mi.)
Learn how to blow glass.
cmog.org

HERKIMER DIAMOND MINES (Herkimer)

Utica Station (17 mi.)
Dig for precious gems.
herkimerdiamond.com



NYS FUN FACT

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY! FREDERICK DOUGLASS

The famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) spent 25 years of his life in Rochester, New York, the longest he resided in any one place. To learn more about Frederick Douglass in New York State, go to NewYorkByRail.com.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

...across New York State in 2018:

TULIP FESTIVAL

Albany
May 12-13
Washington Park
Albany-Rensselaer Station (2.9 mi.)

LILAC FESTIVAL

Rochester
May 11-20
Highland Park
Rochester Station (3.6 mi.)

BETHPAGE AIR SHOW

Jones Beach
May 26-27
Jones Beach State Park
Penn Station, Long Island Railroad to Hicksville (14.2 mi.)

FAIRPORT CANAL DAYS

Rochester
June 1-3
Rochester Station (12.3 mi.)

TASTE OF BUFFALO

Buffalo
July 7-8
Niagara Square
Buffalo-Exchange Street (0.7 mi.)

SPIEDIE FEST AND BALLOON RALLY

Binghamton
August 3-5
Syracuse Station (75.6 mi.)

GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR

Syracuse
August 22-September 3
New York State Fair Station

ADK BALLOON FESTIVAL

Queensbury
September 20-23
Fort Edward Station (6.3 mi.)

HUDSON VALLEY GARLIC FESTIVAL

Saugerties
September 29-30
Hudson Station (17.8 mi.)

LETCWORTH FALL FESTIVAL

Letchworth
October 6-8
Rochester Station (46.1 mi.)

