



FOR RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

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500 cyclists take week-long vacation along Erie Canal

—13th annual Cycling the Erie Canal tour arrives in Mohawk Valley July 14—

ALBANY, N.Y. – They started out in Buffalo on Sunday, July 10, leaving their cars behind. Some 500 bicyclists from 35 states will be arriving in the Mohawk Valley on Thursday, July 14 as participants in the 13th annual *Cycling the Erie Canal* tour, organized by Parks & Trails New York, a statewide not-for-profit organization. The 400-mile bicycle tour ends on Sunday, July 17 in Albany.

About three-quarters of the journey is on the off-road Erie Canalway Trail. When the Trail is finished, it will be the longest statewide trail in the United States.

“The 13th annual *Cycling the Erie Canal* tour is an inexpensive and healthy way to explore the Erie Canal and upstate New York. Plus it’s fun. I call it a rolling summer camp for all ages,” says Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Robin Dropkin. “We have cyclists from over 35 states plus several hundred volunteers in communities along the route ready to welcome riders and help them discover what makes the Erie Canal and upstate New York unique.”

The Mohawk Valley schedule is as follows:

Thursday, July 14 – Syracuse to Rome

Overnight: Fort Stanwix National Monument - James St, Rome

6:00am – 8:00am – Breakfast at Burnet Park

7:00am – Syracuse Erie Canal Museum open

8:00am – 12:00pm – Morning Rest Stop, Chittenango, Chittenango Landing Boat Museum

Canastota - free admission to the Canal Town Museum

12:00pm – 5:00pm - Afternoon Rest Stop, Verona Town Hall

Throughout the afternoon – Rome Erie Canal Village available, YMCA available for swimming(see local brochure for schedule and other services available), Ft. Stanwix tours until 8:00pm

4:00pm – 9:00pm – Dinner shuttle to area restaurants

Friday, July 15 – Rome to Canajoharie

Overnight: Canajoharie High School, 136 Scholastic Way, Canajoharie

6:00am – 8:00am – Breakfast at Rome YMCA

8:00am – 12:00pm – Morning Rest Stop, Town of Schuyler Town Hall

12:00pm – 5:00pm – Afternoon Rest Stop, Little Falls, Canal Park

3:00pm – 9:00pm – Shuttle bus to downtown Canajoharie

5:00pm – 7:00pm – Dinner at Canajoharie H.S.

7:00pm – 9:00pm – Music – George Ward, Erie Canal Music & more

Saturday, July 16 – Canajoharie to Scotia

Overnight: Collins Park, Mohawk Ave./Schonowee Ave., Scotia

6:00am – 8:00am – Breakfast, Canajoharie High School

8:00am – 12:00pm – Morning Rest Stop, Fultonville Town of Glen Offices

12:00pm – 5:00pm – Afternoon Rest Stop, Mabee Farm Historic Site

Until 8:00pm – Swimming available at the park

1:45 Meet at Information Tent Walking Tour of historic Stockade Area. Walk over as a group. Tour starts at 2

4:30pm – 5:30pm – Reception at Collins Park

5:00pm – 7:00pm – Dinner at Collins Park

7:00 pm – 8:00pm – Program & Celebration

7:00pm – 9:00 – Music at Freedom Park area at Collins Park

The NYS Canal Corporation is the Premier State Sponsor of *Cycling the Erie Canal* for the 13th straight year. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is the event's Heritage Sponsor. Supporting sponsors include CSEA and Brookfield Power. Other sponsors include Wegmans, Terry Cycling, and I LOVE NY.

Great Hudson Valley Pedal

Parks and Trails New York puts on another multi-day bicycling tour through the picturesque Hudson Valley. The *Great Hudson Valley Pedal*, a six-day, 200-mile bicycle tour from Albany to New York City is set for August 16 – 21. For further information on the *Great Hudson Valley Pedal*, call 518-434-1583, e-mail HUDSONTOUR@PTNY.ORG or visit WWW.PTNY.ORG/HUDSONTOUR.

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