

# Web feature gives Mohawk Valley tourists new tool

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**CANAJOHARIE** — People considering a visit to areas of upstate New York can now explore hundreds of options through a new Internet feature developed by the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission.

The interactive mapping Web site, which can be located under the Tourism bar at [www.mvhcc.org](http://www.mvhcc.org)., ties together individual attractions, eateries, places to stay and modes of transportation.

The feature is the result of about nine months of work and cost roughly \$10,000, said MVHCC Regional Tourism Manager Tracy A. Montoni.

Montoni conducted a teleconference last week to provide insight on the new map's features and said the site is a work in progress.

"As time goes on, we'll keep improving on it," Montoni said.

For each site found on the map, prospective tourists can get up-to-date menu information and photos from specific Web sites, information MVHCC Executive Director Fred Miller said, are replacing typical means of getting people brochures at travel plazas.

"We're transitioning from old-style tourism to 21st century tourism," Miller said.

"If you're sitting in Germany and you're looking at coming over here ... you can plan that trip on the Internet with the map, with details, with stories, with pictures. It's the way things are going to get done," Miller said.

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The interactive map encompasses 11 counties in and around the Mohawk Valley and also contains 10 different itineraries in PDF format that lay out a trail of sights people can find on a selected trip.

An itinerary for the Mohawk River Valley, for example, carries the reader from Schenectady's Stockade Historic District on a westward trip on an Amtrak passenger train.

Sites highlighted along the trip include Historic Fort Johnson in the town of Amsterdam, the Erie Canal Village in Rome, Utica's Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute and others.

Other itineraries provided on the site include trips along the bike path, a tour of the Erie Canal or Revolutionary War sites in the Mohawk Valley and the Champlain Corridor.

The itinerary for a three-day, two night tour of Mohawk Valley Revolutionary War sites provides tourists with a full slate of activities, lodging and food options available near tours of Johnson Hall State Historic Site, Fort Klock Historic Restoration, the Herkimer Home State Historic Site and other attractions dating to the 1700s.

A search feature enables users to seek out specific elements of a trip they're planning based on categories like accommodations, attractions, dining, recreation and shopping.

Sub-categories can also be identified such as antiques, bed & breakfasts and country inns, campgrounds, places to golf, trails and others.

Miller said the next step aside from updates on the map is getting its offerings into the hands of travel agencies, the state's I Love NY tourism program and other travel-related Web sites like Priceline.com or Expedia.com.

Materials found on the site were provided by a variety of agencies, including the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the state Canal Corp., Parks & Trails New York, Amtrak and the state Thruway Authority, according to the MVHCC.

Consultants and developers who worked on the project include Hand and Hand Multimedia, Mohawk Valley GIS and Craig Associates Consulting Services, Montoni said.

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