17th Annual Bike Ride Across New York
A great ride for all ages and abilities
Nearly three-quarters on off-road Canalway Trail

Cycle the Erie Canal 2015
July 12-19, 2015
A 400-mile bicycle tour along the legendary Erie Canal

www.ptny.org/canaltour
518.434.1583 • eriecanaltour@ptny.org
Visit Buffalo Niagara — Buffalo. For Real.
1-800-BUFFALO  visitbuffaloniagara.com

Orleans County — Country Byways & Scenic Waterways.
800-724-0314  orleanscountytourism.com

Visit Rochester — For A Day or A Lifetime!
800-677-7282  VisitRochester.com

Wayne County — Explore the past, reconnect with nature, and restore your soul.
800-527-6510  waynecountytourism.com

Seneca County — The Center of the Finger Lakes.
800-732-1848  fingerlakescentral.com

Cayuga County — Great Lakes. Finger Lakes. Best of Both Worlds.
800-499-9615  tourcayuga.com

Syracuse — We’ll Surprise You!
800-234-4797  VisitSyracuse.org

Madison County — Indulge Your Senses!
315-684-7320  madisontourism.com

Oneida County — Central New York’s Getaway Region.
888-999-6560  thegetawayregion.com

Montgomery County — Visit Montgomery County – an irresistible fabric of people, cultures, and landscapes.
800-743-7337  visitmontgomerycountyny.com

Albany — Albany, An Amazing Discovery!
800-258-3582  albany.org
Enjoy some of the finest scenery, most interesting history & unparalleled cycling in the northeastern United States on Cycle the Erie Canal.

Join cyclists from all over the country and world on this ride along the historic and scenic Erie Canal — a National Heritage Corridor. You’ll experience the canal in all its glory and hear fascinating stories about the people, places, and events that made the Erie Canal so important to the history of New York and the nation.

GREAT CYCLING — MOST ON OFF-ROAD CANALWAY TRAIL
You’ll cover an average of 50 miles per day — nearly three-quarters off-road on traffic-free trail, the rest on rural roads with good shoulders. This is a great tour for riders of all ages and abilities, including less-experienced cyclists and families. Most days, the route follows the canal along level ground. Expect rolling hills in the Finger Lakes and some climbs in the Mohawk Valley.

The Erie Canal

EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD
When it was finished in 1825, the Erie Canal was called the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” This legendary waterway crossed mountains and stretched deep into the western wilderness to touch the Great Lakes and open up the American West.
a fascinating
world of
history & nature
awaits you on the
Erie Canal...

HERE’S WHAT’S INCLUDED
IN Cycle the Erie Canal:

• Wonderful scenic ride — nearly three-quarters
  off-road on traffic-free trail

• Guided tours of the Canal, historic sites, museums,
  and other attractions, including the Women’s Rights
  National Historic Park, Erie Canal Museum and
  Village, Fort Stanwix National Monument, and
  a boat tour through locks

• Marked route, plus daily maps and cue sheets

• Camping accommodations with showers and toilet
  facilities. Some campsites feature pools or lakes for
  swimming.

• Eight hearty breakfasts and six delicious dinners

• Two refreshment stops daily stocked with fruit,
  snacks and beverages

• Entertainment each evening, including music and
  historical presentations

• Kick-off reception and festivities and
  end-of-tour celebration

• Cycle the Erie Canal T-shirt and water bottle

• Baggage transport

• Sag wagon and expert bike mechanic

• Pre-departure info packet, including training tips

• Small town rural charm and warmth of Upstate
  New York

• Massage, fresh towels, tent rental, campsite set-up
  and break-down, gourmet morning coffee for an
  additional fee
Cycle the Erie Canal
a great ride for all ages and abilities!

- **50 MILES PER DAY – TOO MUCH? TOO LITTLE?**
  You can bike 50 miles in five hours or less, allowing plenty of time for sight-seeing and enjoying the scenery. *Cycle the Erie Canal* is designed for fun and relaxation and to acquaint you with the historic charm of the Erie Canal corridor.

- **SQUEEZED FOR TIME? CHECK OUT THE WEEKEND AND 4-DAY RIDE OPTIONS**
  Sign up for our two or four day options – each includes T-shirt, water bottle, 2 or 4 nights of camping, 2 or 4 breakfasts, 2 or 4 dinners and all rider support services. Transportation back to starting point is the rider’s responsibility.

- **CYCLE THE ERIE CANAL GUIDEBOOK — ORDER YOURS TODAY**
  The 144-page *Cycle the Erie Canal* guidebook, with full-color maps, is packed with detailed information about the outstanding bicycling and sightseeing awaiting you along the Erie Canal. Order when you register or visit www.ptny.org/guidebook.

- **WANT TO COME ALONG BUT DON’T WANT TO BIKE?**
  If you wish to accompany your riding family or friends in your car, sign up for the non-cyclist driver option. This includes camping and showers, car map, cue sheets, parking permits at campsites, all meals and rest stop refreshments, and a T-shirt, and water bottle.

- **TRANSPORTATION**
  Travel arrangements to Buffalo and from Albany are the responsibility of the cyclist. Information on transportation options is available on the website and will also be sent to you upon registration.

- **SHUTTLES FROM ALBANY TO BUFFALO ON JULY 11 AND 19**
  A shuttle will take riders and bikes from Albany to Buffalo on Saturday, July 11. New this year! A shuttle will take riders and bikes from Albany back to Buffalo on the final day of the tour. *Additional fee for shuttles.* Space is limited so sign up early.
DON’T WANT TO CAMP?
You can make your own arrangements to stay in motels or bed & breakfasts. A list of accommodations is available on the website or by request.

The Comfy Camper option provides a tent, air mattress, set-up and break-down, a camp chair and daily fresh towels. Call 315-283-0220 or visit www.comfycampers.info.

MUST-HAVES FOR THE TOUR
A bicycle and helmet are a must. You’ll need a tent, a sleeping bag and other basic camping gear, which will be transported by truck to each campsite. All your gear should be packed into bags that weigh less than 40 pounds each.

EQUIPMENT
We recommend hybrid bikes because of their comfort and versatility. Road bikes with wider puncture-resistant tires or mountain bikes with non-aggressive tires are also good options.

PRE-TOUR RIDES TO NIAGARA FALLS OR HISTORIC BUFFALO
The day before the tour enjoy optional pre-tour rides to mighty Niagara Falls or historic Buffalo.

OFFICIAL CYCLE THE ERIE CANAL JERSEY
Order the official 2015 Cycle the Erie Canal jersey to commemorate your trip. To view the jersey, visit www.ptny.org/canaltour.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY
Refunds, less a cancellation fee, will be issued with a written request if received by June 24. After that, only credits for future tours will be issued, less a cancellation fee, with a written request if received by July 6. Cancellation fee is $75 before June 12 and increases to $125 on June 12.

VOLUNTEER AND RECEIVE A DISCOUNT
Find out more and get an application at www.ptny.org/canaltour or call 607-423-2769.

Children 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
SATURDAY, JULY 11, BUFFALO
REGISTRATION DAY/ PRE-EVENT RIDES
- Optional pre-tour rides to Niagara Falls and around historic Buffalo.
- Festive kick-off reception and dinner.
- Overnight camping available.

DAY ONE: SUNDAY, JULY 12
BUFFALO TO MEDINA - 54 MILES
- Ride along the Niagara River from Canalside in downtown Buffalo.
- Take a boat ride through canal locks, invented to allow boats to navigate the different elevations along the canal.
- At Lockport, explore underground sluiceways, caves, and the “Upsidedown Bridge” as you begin to ride 100 miles of Canalway Trail through charming villages and rolling farmland.
- Spend the night in Medina, a lovely village reminiscent of the historic era of the original canal.

DAY TWO: MONDAY, JULY 13
MEDINA TO FAIRPORT - 48 MILES
- Relax at rest stops in friendly “port” villages such as Holley and Spencerport, where a unique “lift bridge” carries Main Street over the canal.
- Take a short excursion along the Genesee River bike path into downtown Rochester, with its spectacular waterfalls.
- Visit popular Schoen Place, where you’ll find boutiques, galleries, and cafes.
- End the day in Fairport, a lively canal town.

DAY THREE: TUESDAY, JULY 14
FAIRPORT TO WATERLOO/SENECA FALLS - 67 MILES
- Watch bridge tenders raise and lower the famous Erie Canal lift bridges as you cycle through quaint canal towns.
- In Palmyra, visit the farmhouse of Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon religion.
- At the end of your day, tour Seneca Falls, birthplace of the modern women’s movement. Visit the Women’s Rights National Historic Park, National Women’s Hall of Fame and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton home. Dinner on your own—enjoy the local eateries.

DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY, JULY 15
WATERLOO/SENECA FALLS TO SYRACUSE - 39 MILES
- Visit the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.
- Follow the canal towpath to Camillus Erie Canal Park and stop by the park’s Sims Store, a re-creation of a 19th century general store. Take a boat ride on a restored aqueduct.
- Have a bite and brew at a pub or coffee house in Syracuse’s trendy Armory Square and tour the Erie Canal Museum in the Weighlock Building.
DAY FIVE: THURSDAY, JULY 16
SYRACUSE TO ROME - 50 MILES

- Spend a leisurely day riding along the serene Old Erie Canal State Park.
- Visit the Chittenango Canal Museum and dry docks and the Canastota Canal Town Museum.
- Visit the Erie Canal Village in Rome, where the first shovel of dirt was turned for “Clinton's Ditch” and where mules still pull boats along the canal.
- Tour Fort Stanwix National Monument, a restored fort where local battles shaped the outcome of the American Revolution. Dinner on your own—enjoy the local eateries.

DAY SIX: FRIDAY, JULY 17
ROME TO CANAJOHARIE - 63 MILES

- Stop at the Saranac Brewery or The Munson-Williams-Proctor Museum in Utica.
- In Little Falls, explore the glacial potholes of Moss Island, a National Natural Landmark, and shop at restored Canal Place.
- Tour Revolutionary War General Herkimer’s home.
- Enjoy Canajoharie’s historic village and visit its world class art gallery.

DAY SEVEN: SATURDAY, JULY 18
CANAJOHARIE TO SCHENECTADY - 46 MILES

- Ride alongside the scenic Mohawk River, the only water-level passage through the Appalachian chain of mountains.
- Stop at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, featuring sections of all three alignments of the Erie Canal.
- End your day in historic Schenectady and toast your fellow riders at a celebratory dinner and program.

DAY EIGHT: SUNDAY, JULY 19
SCHENECTADY TO ALBANY - 31 MILES

- View Cohoes Falls, one of the most powerful falls east of the Rockies, and a major challenge for Erie Canal engineers.
- Visit Peebles Island State Park. During the Revolutionary War, American forces prepared defenses here to make a final stand against the British.
- Ride along the Hudson River and finish your tour in downtown Albany, New York State’s 300-year-old capital.