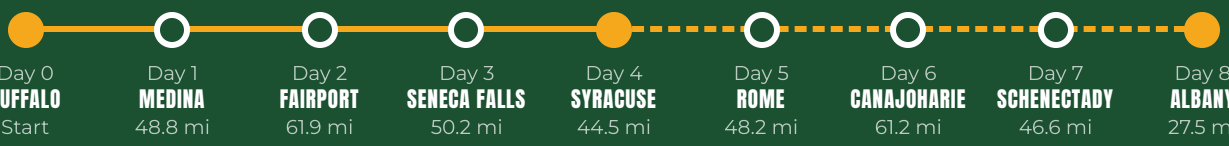
PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK · 29TH ANNUAL

CYCLE THE ERIE CANAL RIDER HANDBOOK

July 10–18, 2027 · Buffalo to Albany · 400 miles on the Erie Canalway Trail, with two 4-day options of 200 miles each: Buffalo to Syracuse and Syracuse to Albany



Register
ptny.org/events/cycle-the-erie-canal/registration

Version 1.1 · Published November 13, 2026

Questions
cycletours@ptny.org · 518-434-1583

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If anything here conflicts with the 2027 policies, the policies apply. On the tour, follow guidance from PTNY and CCSD Sport Event staff. The most current version is online at ptny.org.

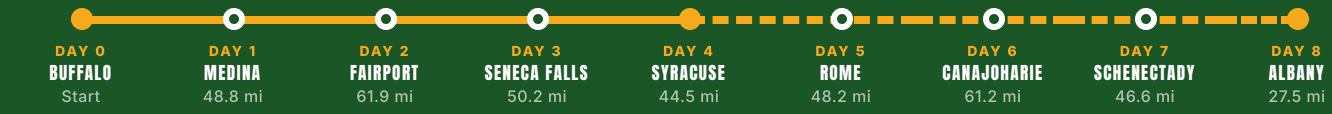
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WELCOME

UPDATED IN V1.1

THE ROUTE

About 400 miles along the Erie Canal, Buffalo to Albany



Buffalo-to-Syracuse 4-day ride (about 200 mi) — Syracuse-to-Albany 4-day ride (about 200 mi)

The 8-day ride covers both.

Picture eight days rolling along the historic Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany, camping in canal towns, and meeting friends you haven't met yet. That is Cycle the Erie Canal: a fully supported camping tour on the Erie Canalway Trail, with two four-day options, Buffalo to Syracuse and Syracuse to Albany. You'll ride at your own pace while we carry your gear, mark the route, stock the rest stops and look after you along the way.

Dates	Saturday, July 10 (Day 0) through Sunday, July 18, 2027
Start	Nichols School, 1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo, NY 14216
Finish	Quackenbush Square, Albany (8-day ride and Syracuse-to-Albany 4-day ride), or Burnet Park, 522 Burnet Park Dr, Syracuse, NY 13204 (Buffalo-to-Syracuse 4-day ride)
Distance	27.5 to 61.9 miles a day, about 400 miles in all (about 200 miles for each 4-day ride)
Riders	Up to about 650, plus staff and volunteers
Lodging	Camping each night (outdoor tent or indoor space). Hotels are optional and at your own cost
Run by	Parks & Trails New York with CCSD Sport Event, PTNY's contracted tour director
Daily routes	ridewithgps.com/events/510815-cycle-the-erie-canal-2027 (Ride with GPS)
Register	ptny.org/events/cycle-the-erie-canal/registration

Dear Cycle the Erie Canal Rider,

This is Parks & Trails New York's 29th annual Cycle the Erie Canal, and we can't wait to ride with you. Cyclists from across the country and around the world join us each summer. This handbook is your guide to all of it, from training to tent stakes, so read it start to finish. The more you know before Day 0, the more fun you will have on the trail.

Questions before the tour go to cycletours@ptny.org or 518-434-1583.

We'll see you on the trail!

Dylan Carey, Director of Policy and Planning
Rob Panzera, Tour Director

YOUR RIDE SUPPORTS SOMETHING BIGGER

Parks & Trails New York is the statewide advocate for New York's public lands, and since 1985 it has helped create more than 2,000 miles of greenways, bike paths, river walks and trails across the state. Cycle the Erie Canal supports that work. Want to do more? Consider a tax-deductible donation or a membership.

DID YOU KNOW?

Digging on the Erie Canal began in Rome, New York, on July 4, 1817, and the canal opened on October 26, 1825. You are about to ride the same Buffalo-to-Albany corridor, on a towpath that mules once walked.

START HERE

NEW TO THE TOUR?

UPDATED IN V1.1

First time on a bike tour? Welcome. Most of our riders were once in your shoes (or clipless pedals), and these are the questions newcomers ask us most. More detail is in the sections that follow.

THE RIDE ITSELF

Is this a group ride?
Not in the way you might fear. There will be no mass start, and nobody will set the pace. You'll leave camp whenever you're ready after breakfast and ride at whatever speed makes you happy. Paint will mark the route, a cue sheet will be waiting for you each evening, and SAG vehicles and cyclists will be out there looking after you.

How hard is it?
It will be a real week of riding: about 45 to 62 miles on most days for eight days, with a short final day of 27.5 miles into Albany. You'll ride on stone dust and paved surfaces, mostly on the car-free Erie Canalway Trail, and daily climbing will range from about 375 to 1,080 feet. Show up with back-to-back 40- to 60-mile training days behind you and you will be in good shape to enjoy it. The training plan shows how.

What does "fully supported" mean?
Everything except the pedaling. We'll truck your luggage from camp to camp, mark the route, stock two rest stops a day with drinks and snacks, and keep a mobile mechanic and SAG crew on the road. Breakfast and dinner will be provided each riding day (except two dinners on your own), and a medical professional will hold office hours each evening. Lunch will be on you, which is a good excuse to explore the canal towns.

What if I get hurt or break down?
Call the SAG number printed on your cue sheet, or flag down a fellow rider or volunteer if you don't have a phone. SAG can carry you and your bike to camp or a bike shop. You'll pay for repairs and parts, but you won't be on your own out there.

Can I ride only part of the tour?
Yes. There will be two 4-day rides. The first will take you from Buffalo to Syracuse (July 11 to 14), with an optional return shuttle to Buffalo. The second will start in Syracuse and ride to Albany (July 15 to 18), finishing with the 8-day riders. Park in Albany and take the Day 4 shuttle from Quackenbush Square to Syracuse. If you need to leave the 8-day ride early, you arrange your own transportation and no refund is given.

CAMPING AND DAILY LIFE

Do I have to camp?
Nope. Pitch your own tent, rent one that will be set up for you by Comfy Campers, an independent vendor (2027 details are yet to be finalized), sleep indoors in a gym or similar space, or book a hotel or B&B at your own cost. Indoor spaces are basic and some are limited, so bring tent gear as a back-up. See alternate lodging.

What about showers and toilets?
Every camp will have portable toilets, plus a shower trailer or indoor locker rooms.

What is Day 0?
The Saturday before the ride (July 10) will be check-in day. Check in, join an optional pre-ride, enjoy dinner and music, and hear opening remarks. Riding will start Sunday, July 11. See the opening weekend schedule.

Is there help for first-timers?
Yes. The Bike Tour Buddy Program will pair first-time riders with experienced riders before the tour, so everyone has a friendly face at the start. Sign up on the registration form; register before April 30 to be matched in May.

What happens to my luggage?
Hand your bags to the luggage truck crew between 6:00 and 8:00 each morning, and they'll be waiting at camp when you roll in. You won't be able to reach them during the day, so carry rain gear and anything you'll want on the bike. Bag limits are in Bike, Gear & Luggage.

Where can I charge my phone?
Phone charging stations will be available at camp each evening, but outlets will be limited and we can't guarantee a spot, so pack a backup battery. Laptops, CPAP machines and e-bike batteries can't use the phone stations.

What about food and dietary needs?

We'll feed you at the start and end of each riding day, except two evenings (Seneca Falls and Rome) when you are free to try local restaurants (with a shuttle where needed). Vegetarian options will be available, and we're working with a variety of caterers to provide gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options, but there is no guarantee. Lunch will be on your own.

Can I do laundry?

Laundromats are located near camp in Syracuse and Rome.

BIKES AND GEAR

Do I need a special bike?

No. Hybrids are the most popular, but touring, cyclocross and gravel bikes all work, and tandems, recumbents and trikes are welcome. Class I and II e-bikes are allowed (see E-Bike Policy). No bike? Rentals will be available through a rental partner (to be confirmed for 2027).

Do I need to fix my own flat?

It helps, but you are in good company. Carry spare tubes and basic tools, and know that plenty of fellow riders and the mobile mechanic can help.

Do I have to wear a helmet?

Yes, at all times while you are riding. No exceptions.

FAMILIES, TRAVEL AND MONEY

Can children come?

Yes, families are welcome. Anyone under 18 needs a Minor Participant Agreement, including children in trailers, on tag-alongs or in child seats. A Responsible Adult age 21 or older (a parent, guardian or another adult registered for the same tour, such as a grandparent) must supervise them and ride with them at all times.

How do I get to Buffalo and home from Albany?

See Getting to Buffalo & Home. Two common plans are to park in Buffalo and take the return shuttle from Albany, or to park in Albany and take the Day 0 shuttle to Buffalo.

Do I need cash?

Bring a card and some cash for lunches, town stops and the two dinners on your own, plus your ID and health insurance card.

Is there help with the cost?

Tour Access Program: PTNY offers free and reduced-cost registrations to riders for whom cost or other barriers would otherwise prevent them from joining the tour. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis through March 31, 2027, and we aim to respond within two weeks. Accepted riders receive a registration code. Apply here. Questions? Email cycletours@ptny.org.

What if I need to cancel?

See Changes & Cancellations for deadlines and fees.

> **DID YOU KNOW?**
> A mule can carry only about 250 pounds, yet on the towpath one could pull a barge weighing as much as 60,000 pounds. You only have to move yourself and a bike.

START HERE

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2027

A SECOND 4-DAY RIDE: SYRACUSE TO ALBANY

Alongside the Buffalo-to-Syracuse 4-day ride, you can now ride the second half of the tour. Park in Albany, take the Day 4 shuttle from Quackenbush Square to Syracuse on Wednesday, July 14, then ride from Syracuse on Thursday, July 15 and finish at Quackenbush Square with the 8-day riders on Sunday, July 18. Shuttle details.

COMING SOON

A few parts of the 2027 tour are still being finalized. Here is what to look forward to; we'll add details here as they are set.

RIDE WITH AN ERIE CANAL MUSEUM HISTORIAN

A historian from the Erie Canal Museum will ride with us each day and give talks about the places, locks and stories you'll pass.

More detail coming soon

THEMED RIDE DAYS

On selected days, riders will wear a jersey or shirt that matches the day's theme, a fun way to build community and connect with the towns we ride through. More detail coming soon

ALSO COMING SOON

- Optional Day 0 pre-rides to Niagara Falls and downtown Buffalo
- Bike shipping from the finish with Freewheel Bike Shop

HANDBOOK UPDATES

This is **Version 1.1 · Published November 13, 2026** of the handbook. When we publish an update, the changes will be listed here, and updated sections will be marked in the menu.

- **Version 1.1** (November 13, 2026): Added links to the 2027 daily routes on Ride with GPS. Clarified meals, dietary options, showers and locker rooms, luggage drop-off, laundry and phone charging.
- **Version 1.0** (November 12, 2026): First published version of the 2027 handbook.

DID YOU KNOW?

Even the Erie Canal changed its plans. It opened 40 feet wide and 4 feet deep, then was enlarged to 70 feet wide and 7 feet deep, starting in 1834.

START HERE

TOUR RULES & SIGNED POLICIES

UPDATED IN V1.1

A tour of hundreds of people runs on a few shared ground rules. Here they are in plain language.

When you register at ptny.org/events/cycle-the-erie-canal/registration, you accept the 2027 policies online. If anything in this handbook conflicts with the policies, the policies apply. The Participant Responsibilities & Code of Conduct applies to every rider and volunteer through the Release of Liability & Participation Agreement they accept at registration. It lists this handbook as a Tour Policy, so the rules here apply to all participants.

WHAT YOU SIGN

Policy	Who signs	What it covers
Release of Liability & Participation Agreement	Every rider and volunteer	Assumption of risk, release of claims, indemnity, emergency medical consent, photos and media, legal terms
Minor Participant Agreement	Parent or guardian, the minor, and any non-parent Responsible Adult, for anyone under 18	Supervision by a Responsible Adult
E-Bike Policy	Anyone bringing an e-bike	Classes, batteries, charging, $25 fee
Shuttle, Parking & Transport Release	Anyone reserving a shuttle or parking	Loading, departures, parking risk
CTEC Cancellation & Refund Policy	Every rider	Deadlines, fees, refunds, credits

Cycle the Erie Canal is produced by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) with **CCSD Sport Event**, PTNY's contracted tour director.

THE RULES IN SHORT

These rules summarize the Participant Responsibilities & Code of Conduct, which covers tour rules and staff guidance, conduct, removal, travel, bikes and equipment, unattended property, health and fitness, and illness. It doesn't need a separate signature: it applies to every rider and volunteer through the Release.

- **On the Tour** means all tour activities and your time and travel from arrival at any tour site, parking lot or shuttle site until you leave. It includes riding between camp and town and travel between parking and the start or finish.
- Follow the tour rules and any guidance from PTNY or CCSD Sport Event staff. Staff guidance overrides this handbook.
- **Wear a helmet at all times while riding.**
- Obey traffic laws and trail rules, stay on the route, do not trespass, and report hazards.
- Tour staff may remove a participant under the Participant Responsibilities & Code of Conduct. No refund or credit is given.
- Volunteers follow the same policies and staff guidance.
- Bring a lock and secure your bike whenever it's unattended and not loaded for transport.
- Your bike must be legal under New York State and local law. You are responsible for its condition and for all repair and part costs.
- Anyone under 18 stays under the direct supervision of a Responsible Adult at all times and rides with that adult. The Responsible Adult must be 21 or older: a parent or guardian, or another adult registered for the same tour, such as a grandparent, who signs to accept supervision. The parent or guardian is responsible for damage the minor causes and for pickup if the minor is removed from the tour.
- PTNY and CCSD Sport Event do not guarantee the safety of baggage, bikes or equipment. Staff have no duty to watch, collect or return unattended or left-behind items, and any item PTNY chooses to hold may be discarded or donated after 30 days.
- You arrange your own travel and lodging. Rental, shipping, tent and lodging vendors are independent businesses, not PTNY. If you stay in independent lodging, you arrange your own daily transportation. Off-route travel and free time are unsupported, and if you leave the tour early you arrange your own transportation.
- Crossing the border, for example on the Niagara Falls pre-ride into Canada, requires valid travel documents.

Illness: if you have symptoms, take a rapid test. If you test positive, leave the tour. Wear a mask on SAG vehicles when you are ill. The Ride Director may cancel indoor camping for public-health reasons.

GET READY

TRAINING TIPS

A little preparation now saves a lot of grumbling at mile 35. If you can ride 400 miles or more before the tour, you will be in excellent shape, but some training is always better than none. Join a local club, add an organized ride or two, and use a spin class or indoor trainer if it is too cold to ride outside.

BASIC TRAINING SCHEDULE

APRIL 5-mile rides

Start with 5-mile rides. Once comfortable, ride 5 miles twice in a row.

MAY 10 up to 25 miles

Ten-mile rides for a couple of weeks, then add 5 miles at a time until you reach 20 to 25 miles.

JUNE 30 to 50 miles

Move up to 30 to 35 miles. About a month before the tour, complete at least two 50-mile rides the way you will ride on tour: stop often, sightsee, and pace yourself.

TRAIN CHILDREN TOO

Families should practice before the tour so children ride confidently in a straight line and follow traffic laws. If you plan to bring a child in a trailer, test it beforehand. No one wants to find out 30 miles from the start that a child cannot tolerate the motion.

HYDRATE AND EAT

Drink before, during and after riding, even when you are not thirsty. Wind dries sweat so fast that many riders do not realize they are losing fluid, and dehydration can lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Eat breakfast and keep eating carbohydrates while you ride. Skipping meals can cause “bonking,” a sudden loss of energy; simple sugars bring you back. Stretch all major muscle groups, not only your legs.

RIDING SAFELY WITH HUNDREDS OF OTHERS

RIDE PREDICTABLY

- Straight lines, no weaving, no hands off the bars
- Get off the path **before** you stop

LET THEM KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING

- Signal with your voice and hands when braking, turning and passing
- Say “on your left” when passing and “braking” or “slowing” before you slow
- Warn riders behind you about potholes and glass, and riders ahead about vehicles approaching from behind

WAIT YOUR TURN

- Don’t bunch up, especially at stops
- Most collisions happen in the first few feet of starting up

STAY ALERT OFF THE TRAIL

- Obey stop signs and traffic lights, and take extra care at road crossings and on roads between trail sections. It is easy to let your guard down after miles of traffic-free trail.

A FAMILY THAT BIKES TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

- Anyone under 18 rides with their Responsible Adult

GET READY

BIKE, GEAR & LUGGAGE

YOUR BIKE

Bring a bike in good mechanical condition that you find comfortable, and have your local shop tune it up beforehand. Hybrids are most common; touring, cyclocross and gravel bikes also work, and tandems, recumbents and trikes are welcome. Tell us if your bike has unusual dimensions and you plan to use a shuttle. Small parts of the Erie Canalway Trail are single track, which matters for trikes.

TIRE RECOMMENDATIONS

You ride up to about 62 miles a day on stone dust and pavement. Choose puncture-protected tires, 28 to 42 mm wide for 700c wheels or 1.3 to 1.6 inches for 26-inch wheels. On a road bike use the widest tires your frame allows. On a mountain bike use non-aggressive tires or slicks.

CARRY ON THE BIKE

A helmet (CPSC-certified, **required**), multi-tool, mini pump, patch kit, tire levers, two spare tubes, a spare derailleur hanger for your bike, lights, a lock, water bottle cages or a hydration pack, and a bag for repair items, snacks and rain gear. You cannot reach your luggage until camp.

A bike computer or handlebar map holder helps you follow the cue sheet; phone apps such as Ride with GPS work but can drain a battery.

CLOTHING

If you missed purchasing a CTEC jersey at registration, visit ptny.org/shop. Jerseys and other merchandise will be available at camp on select nights during the tour, subject to availability.

Padded bike shorts (apply chamois cream), gloves, and shoes you can walk in. If you use clipless pedals, choose recessed cleats. In cool or damp weather, synthetic wicking fabrics keep you warm and dry.

LUGGAGE

3 soft-sided bags per person, each 40 pounds or less. Nothing strapped to the outside.

Three is a guide, not a hard limit: a few more, smaller bags are fine and they help our luggage crew. Camping gear goes inside the bags; tents and sleeping bags do not count separately. Strap nothing to the outside of a bag (no sleeping bags, chairs, tent poles or bungee cords). No bins. Use waterproof bags or line them with plastic.

WILL MY LUGGAGE AND BICYCLE BE SAFE?

Put your name and phone number on every bag and make it easy to spot with a ribbon or bandana. Theft is rare; picking up the wrong bag is the usual problem. PTNY and CCSD Sport Event do not guarantee the safety of baggage, bikes or equipment (see Tour Rules).

GET READY

E-BIKE POLICY

Class I and Class II e-bikes are welcome. Class III e-bikes are not permitted on the tour.

Class I (pedal assist, no throttle) and Class II (throttle) e-bikes are welcome, with assist up to 20 mph. Every e-bike needs a manufacturer's label showing its class, and **e-bikes without one are not allowed.**

$25 E-BIKE CHARGING FEE

The charging fee is mandatory for anyone bringing an e-bike and is due at registration. It is fully refundable, with no fee, if you cancel by the refund deadline (May 31). Nothing is refunded or credited after that date, and credits don't include it.

IF YOU ATTEND WITH AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE

- E-bikes are faster and heavier than other bikes and **may take longer to slow and stop**. Share the path with care and follow posted rules.
- Batteries must be original or manufacturer-certified, with UL or equivalent certification. You need a separate charger for each battery, and chargers must be original or manufacturer-certified.
- A designated charging area will be provided, but charging at overnight sites will be limited. Charging can take up to 6 hours, so go there as soon as you reach camp. **Never charge unattended.**
- Batteries may not be packed in luggage. Personal generators are not allowed.
- The mechanic and local shops may not be able to repair electrical systems. Bring compatible spares.
- State and local rules apply, and local governments can restrict e-bikes on their facilities.

SHUTTLE POLICY FOR E-BIKES

On shuttles, remove the battery and carry it on the bus. Buses will be air-conditioned. If the battery can't be removed, you must contact PTNY at cycletours@ptny.org before the tour, with the make, model and year, to confirm the bike can travel with the battery in place. Bikes that aren't approved won't be transported.

SAG SUPPORT POLICY FOR E-BIKES

SAG drivers may ask you to remove the battery, and you may be asked to lift your own bike onto a SAG vehicle.

DID YOU KNOW?

"Low bridge, everybody down!" was a real safety warning: passengers riding on canal boat roofs had to duck or get off before a low bridge. Thomas Allen's 1905 song "Low Bridge, Everybody Down" is about a mule named Sal. Today's version of the warning is to call out hazards to the riders behind you.

GET READY

PACKING CHECKLIST

UPDATED IN V1.1

Check items off as you pack.

CYCLING EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Bike helmet (CPSC-certified, required)
- ☐ Repair kit: multi-tool, mini pump, patch kit, tire levers, two spare tubes
- ☐ Spare derailleur hanger for your bike
- ☐ Bike computer or handlebar map holder
- ☐ Water bottle cages and bottles, or a hydration pack
- ☐ Bag for repair items, snacks and rain gear
- ☐ Bike lock
- ☐ Rear-view mirror
- ☐ Front and rear lights

CYCLING CLOTHING

- ☐ CTEC jersey (optional; add when you register, picked up Day 0 in Buffalo) (link)
- ☐ Jerseys or short-sleeve shirts
- ☐ Padded bike shorts
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Bike shoes
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Wind vest or jacket
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Headband or helmet liner
- ☐ Bandana
- ☐ Sunglasses

CAMP CLOTHING

- ☐ Short-sleeve shirts
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Pants
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Walking shoes
- ☐ Shower shoes
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Fleece
- ☐ Hat

Pack clothes in sealed plastic bags to keep them dry. Laundromats are located near camp in Syracuse and Rome.

CAMPING GEAR

- ☐ Distinctive duffel(s), labeled with name and phone number
- ☐ Small tent with rain fly
- ☐ Ground cloth
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Sleeping pad
- ☐ Camp pillow
- ☐ Headlamp or flashlight
- ☐ Camp chair
- ☐ Clothesline and clothespins
- ☐ Detergent and a sink stopper for hand washing

TOILETRIES

- ☐ Towel and washcloth
- ☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ☐ Lotion
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Lip balm
- ☐ Chamois cream
- ☐ Soap and shampoo
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hygiene items
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Common medications
- ☐ Bandages
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Hand wipes and sanitizer

OTHER

- ☐ Phone and charger
- ☐ Charging cables (GPS, rear light, CPAP)
- ☐ Spare CPAP battery, if needed
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Glasses
- ☐ ID
- ☐ Health insurance card
- ☐ Cash and a card
- ☐ Passport (if joining the Niagara Falls pre-ride)
- ☐ Ear plugs
- ☐ Extra plastic bags
- ☐ Bag for dirty laundry
- ☐ Cycling the Erie Canal guidebook (optional) (link)

GET READY

BIKE TOUR BUDDY PROGRAM

The PTNY Bike Tour Buddy Program will connect new riders with experienced community members to provide support and guidance on their first bike tour, so every new rider knows a friendly face when the tour starts. This program is for all first-time riders, including BIPOC, women, non-binary and trans tour participants. Mentors and first-time riders can be located anywhere, as all communications will be virtual until buddies meet in Buffalo on the first day of the tour.

Sign up when you register. The Buddy Program questions are part of the registration form, whether you'd like to be a mentor or be matched with one. If you register before April 30, we'll be in touch in May to let you know if you've been matched. If you register after that date, we'll still do our best to match you with a buddy.

HOW IT WORKS

1. In early May, PTNY will match up buddies based on the Buddy Program answers in the registration form.
2. PTNY will host a virtual training session in May for all selected mentors.
3. PTNY will send a welcome email connecting each mentor with their first-time rider, with contact information and the Buddy Program answers from registration to help buddies get to know each other.
4. During the spring and leading up to the tour, mentors will be available to answer questions from their first-time riders as they come up.
5. Buddies are encouraged to meet up in Buffalo on Saturday, July 10 (Day 0) to put a name to a face. PTNY may help set a time and place for all buddies to get together.
6. On the ride, enjoy the camaraderie of a new friend!

Buddies and mentors are fellow participants, not PTNY staff, and the program doesn't create any duty of supervision or care.

MENTOR EXPECTATIONS

- Have ridden Cycle the Erie Canal with PTNY at least one time
- Be familiar with this handbook and know where to go for answers (the PTNY website, the Cycling the Erie Canal Facebook group or cycletours@ptny.org)
- Attend the virtual mentor training in May
- Be responsive and available to answer questions by email or phone leading up to the tour
- Arrange to meet up with their buddy on Day 0 in Buffalo

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1973, three stretches of towpath (Lockport to Rochester, Pittsford to Fairport, and a section in Oneida County) were converted into recreational trail, early pieces of the Erie Canalway Trail you will ride.

GET THERE

GETTING TO BUFFALO & HOME FROM ALBANY

Buffalo to Albany is a one-way trip, so a little planning pays off. The tour will start in Buffalo and end about 400 miles later in Albany, so you'll need a plan for your car or your trip home. Riders generally have two shuttle options: the start shuttle from Albany to Buffalo on Day 0, or the return shuttle from the finish back to Buffalo. You'll arrange any other travel yourself.

Buffalo and Albany both lie on the Thruway and Amtrak corridor and have international airports, Greyhound or Trailways bus service and ride share. If you are flying, we suggest flying into Buffalo and out of Albany.

YOUR THREE MAIN PLANS

1. **Park in Buffalo, ride to Albany, take our post-ride shuttle back to your car.** Buy Buffalo parking and the return shuttle when you register (see Shuttles & Parking), and you skip the train, the rental car and the bike shipping.
2. **Park in Albany, shuttle to Buffalo, ride back to your car.** Buy Albany parking and the Day 0 shuttle when you register. Spaces are limited.
3. **One-way travel.** Fly, take the train or bus, or rent a car one way. Ship your bike if that helps.

AIR TRAVEL

	Albany International	Buffalo Niagara International
Address	737 Albany Shaker Rd, Albany, NY 12211	4200 Genesee St, Cheektowaga, NY 14225
Contact	(518) 242-2200 albanyairport.com	(716) 630-6000 buffaloairport.com
Distance	About 20 minutes (about 5 miles) from downtown Albany and the finish	About 20 minutes (about 7 miles) to Nichols School

GROUND TRAVEL OPTIONS

Mode	Albany	Buffalo
Amtrak	Albany-Rensselaer (ALB), 525 East Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144, across the river from downtown	Exchange Street (BFX), 75 Exchange St, Buffalo, NY 14203, about 6 miles to the start, **no baggage service**. Depew (BUF), 55 Dick Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14043, about 10 miles to the start
Bus	Albany Bus Terminal, 34 Hamilton St, Albany, NY 12207, under 2 miles from the finish	Buffalo Metropolitan Transportation Center, 181 Ellicott St, Buffalo, NY 14203, about 5.3 miles to the start

Uber, Lyft and taxis operate in both regions; call ahead if you have a bike. Amtrak bike space is limited and fills fast, so call 1-800-872-7245 early and check Amtrak's bicycle page. PTNY and a national coalition are working with Amtrak to improve bike service.

Bus: Greyhound 1-800-231-2222 and Trailways of NY 1-800-858-8555.

ONE-WAY CAR RENTAL

You must be 18 or older with a valid license and a major credit card; surcharges may apply under 25, and some agencies do not allow bike racks. All four agencies operate at both airports.

Agency	Albany airport	Buffalo airport
Hertz 1-800-654-4173	(518) 456-1777	(716) 632-4774
National 1-844-393-9989	(844) 366-2648	(833) 813-5271
Budget 1-800-214-6094	(518) 242-4450	(716) 632-6400
Enterprise 1-855-266-9565	(844) 934-1076	(833) 813-5266

GET THERE

SHUTTLES & PARKING

Shuttles will bring riders and their bikes from their car to the start of their ride, or from the end of the ride back to their car. Riders generally have the option of taking the start shuttle or the return shuttle.

You reserve shuttles and parking when you register, and your signature on the Shuttle, Parking & Transport Release is tied to those reservations. To change a reservation, email cycletours@ptny.org.

RULES FOR EVERY SHUTTLE

- **You'll load and collect your own luggage** in the bus luggage compartment.
- Bikes will travel on separate trucks, and mechanics and volunteers may help load them. Prepare your bike as instructed: turn the handlebars 90 degrees to the right and remove bottles, bags and panniers; on **e-bikes**, remove the battery and carry it on the bus. Protective padding is your choice and responsibility. Wait in the bike corral until you are released.
- You will not have access to your bike or luggage during the trip, so carry water, lunch and anything personal with you.
- Shuttles may leave as soon as they're full and won't wait for late riders. **If you miss a shuttle, you arrange your own transportation and no refund is given.**
- Shuttles will not pick up or drop off anywhere except the stated stops.

THE SHUTTLES

Shuttles to the start pick up riders and bikes at Quackenbush Square in Albany and take them to Buffalo or Syracuse.

Shuttle	When and where	Fee
Day 0: Albany to Buffalo	Saturday, July 10. Arrive at Quackenbush Square by 8:00 am; buses may leave as soon as they're full, with a lunch stop (bring your own). Arrives at Nichols School about 3:00 pm; bikes will be ready about 4:00 pm, after mechanics straighten the handlebars	$125
Day 4: Albany to Syracuse Syracuse-to-Albany 4-day riders	Wednesday, July 14. Morning departure from Quackenbush Square. Check in at Burnet Park that afternoon	$95
Day 4: Syracuse to Buffalo Buffalo-to-Syracuse 4-day riders	Wednesday, July 14. Be ready to board at Burnet Park (522 Burnet Park Dr) by **4:00 pm**; the shuttle may leave as soon as it's full, with no stops. Arrives about 6:30 pm at Buffalo State Lot G-20	$95
Day 8: Albany to Buffalo 8-day riders	Sunday, July 18. Board by 1:00 pm; the shuttle may leave as soon as it's full, with a brief midway stop. Arrives about 7:00 pm at Buffalo State Lot G-20	$125

SHUTTLES FROM ALBANY, STEP BY STEP

Bike trucks will be in the parking lot under the highway overpass near Common Roots. Bus loading will take place on Broadway, in front of The Olde English Pub + Pantry.

1. **Arrive at Quackenbush Square at the published time.** There won't be time for coffee after parking, so eat breakfast first.
2. If you parked in the garage, go straight there. If you were dropped off or did not buy parking, use the unloading zone as volunteers direct.
3. Unload **only** your bike. Turn the handlebars 90 degrees right and remove bottles and bags. Remove an e-bike battery.
4. Take the bike to the trucks and load it with a volunteer.
5. Check in and receive your bus ticket. Keep it until you board.
6. Get your luggage from your car and leave it in the staging area for your bus.
7. When the buses arrive, load your own luggage, then hand your ticket to PTNY staff as you board.
8. Stay near the buses. Buses do not wait.

FINISH-LINE RETURN SHUTTLES

The return shuttle will bring you, your bike and your luggage back to Buffalo. At the finish, check in at the shuttle tent for your bus ticket, move your luggage from the luggage trucks to the shuttle luggage zone, and take your bike to the truck **at least one hour before departure**.

- **Buffalo-to-Syracuse 4-day ride** will end at Burnet Park, 522 Burnet Park Dr, Syracuse, NY 13204. The zoo snack bar will be open 11 am to 3 pm, and admission will be free with a tour bracelet.
- **8-day ride and Syracuse-to-Albany 4-day ride** will end at Quackenbush Square, Albany.

PARKING

	Buffalo	Albany
Location	SUNY Buffalo State, Lot G-20, Letchworth St entrance at Grant St, Buffalo, NY 14222. For GPS, use 667 Grant St, Buffalo, NY 14213 (the Alumni and Visitor Center beside the lot). 2.5 miles from Nichols School	Quackenbush Garage, 25 Orange St, Albany, NY 12207, between Broadway and Water St. Use the Orange St entrance and park on **Level 4 or above**
Cost	$25 for the week, bought at registration	$125 for the 8-day ride; $70 for the Syracuse-to-Albany 4-day ride (Wednesday to Sunday). Limited spaces, reserve at registration
Opens and closes	Will open 9:00 am Saturday, July 10, and close about 8:00 pm Sunday, July 18	Reserve when you register
How it works	Check in at Nichols School first to drop luggage and get your parking pass, then drive to the lot. Walk, bike or take the shuttle back	Albany parkers take a shuttle from Quackenbush Square to Buffalo (Day 0) or Syracuse (Day 4) and ride back to their cars. There is no parking in Syracuse. You will get an email with instructions and an access code the week before
Notes	No long-term parking at Nichols School. Campus police will patrol the lot, but the university takes no responsibility for loss or damage	Roof racks may not clear the garage entrance, so check the clearance. Remove your bike if needed

Parking is at the owner's risk. PTNY does not take custody of vehicles. Vehicles outside assigned areas or left after closing may be towed. No camping or overnight parking at Nichols School before Day 0. If you arrive Friday, see hotels in Buffalo, or find more lodging and campgrounds at visitbuffaloniagara.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Syracuse's Weighlock Building, opened in 1850, is the last of seven weighlock buildings that once stood along the canal. Boats were weighed there to set their tolls, and in 1866 one captain was fined $20 for falsifying his boat's empty weight. It has housed the Erie Canal Museum since 1962.

GET THERE

BIKE SHIPPING & RENTALS

Shipping your bike can make train, bus or air travel easier. Shops and services below are independent businesses, not PTNY.

GETTING YOUR BIKE HOME FROM ALBANY

Freewheel Bike Shop (3c Vatrano Rd., Albany; (518) 704-3696; freewheelfix@gmail.com) will be able to pack and ship bikes from the finish. More detail coming soon

PACKING YOUR BIKE

A free box from your local bike shop works, or buy a hard case or reusable box (Trico Sports 818-899-7705, Tri All 3 Sports 1-800-733-7231, Crateworks 1-800-934-5214). Ship with BikeFlights.com or UPS (1-800-742-5877). Shipping takes 2 to 8 days, so ship at least 7 days early.

RENTING A BIKE

Rental bikes, including e-bikes, will be available through a rental partner that will deliver bikes near the start and pick them up near the finish. Rental partner to be confirmed for 2027.

DID YOU KNOW?

Before the canal, a stagecoach trip from Buffalo to New York City took about two weeks, and canal supporters expected to cut transport costs by about 95 percent. That is why the state dug a ditch across New York.

DID YOU KNOW?

In July 1848, nearly 300 people answered the call to the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention, the beginning of the U.S. women's rights movement. The Cayuga-Seneca Canal had been linked to the Erie Canal by 1828, which made travel in the area easier. You will spend Night 3 in Seneca Falls.

ON THE TOUR

A DAY ON TOUR

UPDATED IN V1.1

Wake up to breakfast, ride all day, roll into camp. Here is how a day on tour will usually unfold.

A TYPICAL DAY

6:00–8:00 am	Breakfast. Luggage trucks will be open to load your bags	**6:30 am**	Staff will brief riders on the route, local sights and special events. A short logistics recap will follow at 7:00 am
After breakfast	Riders will leave camp whenever they're ready. There will be no mass start	**About 7:30 am**	Car SAG vehicles will be on the route
8:00 am	Camp closes; all riders should be on their way	**8:00–11:00 am**	Morning rest stop, 15 to 20 miles from the start. Drinks and snacks
11:00 am–4:00 pm	Afternoon rest stop, 15 to 20 miles from camp. Lunch will be on your own in the towns along the way	**Afternoon**	Arrive at camp. Collect your bags from the truck, pitch your tent, shower, charge your phone and relax
Evening	Dinner (except two nights on your own). Pick up the next day's cue sheet. Medical office hours. Information tent for local tours and sign-ups		

ROUTE AND CUE SHEETS

The route will be marked with paint. Each evening you'll receive turn-by-turn directions for the next day, and all directions will use mileage, so an odometer helps. The 2027 daily routes are on Ride with GPS: ridewithgps.com/events/510815-cycle-the-erie-canal-2027.

SAG SUPPORT

Bicycle and vehicle SAGs (support and gear) will follow the route daily. The assistance number will be on every cue sheet. If you don't have a phone, ask another rider or a volunteer.

BIKE REPAIR

A mobile mechanic and SAG wagons can fix problems or take you and your bike to a shop. Local shops may not stock parts for trikes, folding bikes with small wheels, tandems or recumbents with long chains, or e-bikes with many electronic parts, so bring spares. **You pay all repair and part costs.**

MEDICAL SERVICES

A medical professional will accompany the tour and hold office hours each evening.

CAMPING

Each night you'll set up at the official campsite, usually on school grounds, in a city park or on similar open space. Portable toilets will be provided, plus a shower trailer or indoor locker rooms. See the list of overnight locations.

Bring a small tent, or rent one with setup and breakdown from Comfy Campers (comfycampers.info), an independent vendor. Specifics for 2027 are yet to be finalized. Supplies will be limited, so reserve early.

INDOOR CAMPING

Indoor camping will be available at every overnight location, though facilities will be basic and conditions will vary.

- Some locations will have limited space or be very basic, such as a covered outdoor hockey rink. Most will not have air conditioning.
- Bring tent and sleeping gear as a back-up in case space runs out or a local venue cancels.
- No bicycles or cleats, and no tents, in indoor camping areas.
- Share the space: keep gear close and do not set up chairs when space is tight.
- The Ride Director may cancel indoor camping for public-health reasons.

Prefer a real bed? You can stay at hotels and B&Bs at your own cost. See alternate lodging.

MEALS

PTNY and host communities will provide breakfast and dinner each riding day. Two evenings, in Seneca Falls (Day 3) and Rome (Day 5), will be on your own at local restaurants, some walkable and some served by a continuously running shuttle. Vegetarian options will be available, and we're working with a variety of caterers to provide gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options, but there is no guarantee. Two rest stops a day will offer snacks and drinks. Lunch will always be on your own.

DEVICE CHARGING

Phone charging stations will be available at camp each evening. They won't be able to handle laptops, CPAP machines, e-bike batteries or other heavy-use devices. A separate station will be set up for e-bike batteries (see E-Bike Policy).

- Outlets will be limited and not guaranteed, and you'll be responsible for charging your own devices.
- CPAP users should bring two batteries.
- Outlets for direct-plug-in CPAP will be in the indoor camping areas. Extension cords may not be run out of the buildings overnight.

LAUNDRY

Laundromats are located near camp in Syracuse and Rome.

TALENT SHOW

Riders and volunteers will show off their talents on the final Saturday evening (July 17) after dinner. Sign up at the Information Tent starting the day before.

SHARE YOUR RIDE

Post with **#CycleTheErie** and tag Parks & Trails New York and the Erie Canalway Trail: @parkstrailsny and @eriecanalwaytrail on Instagram, @parksandtrailsny and @eriecanalwaytrail on Facebook.

> **DID YOU KNOW?**
> The famous mule song says "fifteen miles on the Erie Canal," the average distance a mule pulled a boat (the lyric was once "fifteen years"). You will ride a few times that every day, with much better snacks.

ON THE TOUR

OPENING WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Check-in will be 2:00–5:00 pm on Day 0 and 6:30–7:30 am on the first riding day. You'll receive your rider packet and any parking pass you purchased.

SATURDAY, JULY 10 (DAY 0) AT NICHOLS SCHOOL

9:00 am–4:00 pm	Information booth open	**Noon–4:00 pm**	Long-term parking shuttle
2:00–5:00 pm	Check-in	**4:20–6:30 pm**	Wine tasting (21 and older)
4:30–7:00 pm	Dinner with music outside	**7:00–8:00 pm**	Opening remarks and information

SUNDAY, JULY 11 AT NICHOLS SCHOOL

There will be no mass start. Riders will leave whenever they're ready after breakfast.

6:00–8:00 am	Breakfast and luggage loading	**6:30 am**	Full morning meeting. A short version will run at 7:00 am
6:30–7:30 am	Check-in and long-term parking shuttle	**7:30 am**	Car SAG on route
8:00 am	Site closes. See you in Medina!		

OPTIONAL DAY 0 PRE-RIDES

We'll offer optional Day 0 rides to Niagara Falls and to downtown Buffalo. **More detail coming soon**

The Niagara Falls ride will cross the Peace Bridge into Canada, so you need valid travel documents. Check the Canada Border Services Agency site for the latest rules. U.S. citizens can use:

- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- Enhanced Driver's License (REAL ID is not accepted)
- A Trusted Traveler card (NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST)
- Children under 16 who are U.S. citizens: a birth certificate (original or copy) or other proof of citizenship

Canada also recommends that a child traveling without both parents carry a signed consent letter from the absent parent or guardian.

DID YOU KNOW?

Medina has the only place where you can drive under the Erie Canal: a stone arch culvert built in 1823. Cyclists and walkers on the canal path can watch cars disappear beneath them, and it once made it into Ripley's Believe It or Not!

ON THE TOUR

OVERNIGHT LOCATIONS

Dates, daily routes and mileage follow the 2027 routes on Ride with GPS. Bring a tent as backup if you plan to camp indoors.

DAY 0: BUFFALO

Saturday, July 10

CHECK-IN

2–5 pm

TENT CITY

Nichols School, 1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo, NY 14216

INDOOR

Indoor ice rink — No AC

DAY 1: BUFFALO TO MEDINA — 48.8 miles

Sunday, July 11

TENT CITY

Clifford H. Wise Middle School, 1016 Gwinn St, Medina, NY 14103

INDOOR

Middle school gym — No AC

DAY 2: MEDINA TO FAIRPORT — 61.9 miles

Monday, July 12

TENT CITY

Center Park West, 1100 Ayrault Road, Fairport, NY 14450

INDOOR

Community center gym, up a hill from camp — No AC

DAY 3: FAIRPORT TO SENECA FALLS — 50.2 miles

Tuesday, July 13

TENT CITY

Seneca Falls, venue to be announced

DINNER

On your own. Walk or take the provided shuttles.

DAY 4: SENECA FALLS TO SYRACUSE — 44.5 miles

Wednesday, July 14 — Buffalo-to-Syracuse ride ends

TENT CITY

Burnet Park, 522 Burnet Park Dr, Syracuse, NY 13204

INDOOR

Covered outdoor ice rink — No AC

DAY 5: SYRACUSE TO ROME — 48.2 miles

Thursday, July 15 — Syracuse-to-Albany ride starts

TENT CITY

Fort Stanwix, 200 N. James Street, Rome, NY 13440

INDOOR

Church community room, 2 blocks away — Limited space

DINNER

On your own. Walk or take the provided shuttles.

DAY 6: ROME TO CANAJOHARIE — 61.2 miles

Friday, July 16

TENT CITY

Canajoharie High School, 136 Scholastic Way, Canajoharie, NY 13317

INDOOR

Gym — No AC

DAY 7: CANAJOHARIE TO SCHENECTADY — 46.6 miles

Saturday, July 17

TENT CITY

Schenectady Jewish Community Center, 2565 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12309

INDOOR

Community center room — Limited space — AC
or gym — No AC

DAY 8: NISKAYUNA TO ALBANY — 27.5 miles

Sunday, July 18 — Finish

FINISH LINE

Quackenbush Square, Albany. The finish festival will run 9 am–1 pm. Collect all luggage by 1 pm.

ON THE TOUR

ALTERNATE LODGING

Prefer a real bed some nights? That is allowed, too. Hotels, motels and B&Bs below are within about 5 miles of the overnight locations, at your own cost. **Reserve early because rooms fill fast.** Airbnb and Vrbo may also have options.

You are responsible for getting there and back each day, so a good approach is to leave most gear on the luggage truck, ride to your lodging, and carry only what you need for the night in a small bag.

Each hotel name links to its website. A listing is not an endorsement. Look for certified Bike Friendly New York businesses (marked with a star), which offer secure overnight bike storage.

NIGHT 0: BUFFALO

More options are in downtown Buffalo, about 5 miles from Nichols School. There is no Friday camping or overnight parking at Nichols School.

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to Camp
The Parkside House B&B	B&B	(716) 480-9507	0.6 miles
The Richardson Hotel	Boutique hotel	(716) 493-2610	2.0 miles
The Edward Hotel	Boutique hotel	(716) 355-1296	2.4 miles
InnBuffalo off Elmwood	B&B	(716) 303-4403	2.4 miles
Oscar's Inn	B&B	(716) 381-8605	3.3 miles
University Manor Inn	Motel	(716) 837-3344	3.5 miles
Buffalo Harmony House	B&B	(716) 886-1779	3.9 miles

NIGHT 1: MEDINA

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to Camp
Medina Inn	Motel	(585) 798-0016	0.4 miles
Hart House Hotel	Boutique hotel	(585) 735-6031	0.8 miles
Bent's Opera House Hotel	Boutique hotel	(585) 318-2110	0.8 miles
Comfort Inn & Suites	Chain hotel	(585) 798-6777	1.1 miles
Garden View B&B	B&B	(585) 798-1087	1.4 miles

NIGHT 2: FAIRPORT/PERINTON

Limited options are available in the immediate Fairport area, but there are numerous additional hotels in the broader Rochester area within 10 miles.

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to Camp
Budget Inn Fairport	Motel	(585) 223-1710	2.0 miles
Hilton Garden Inn Rochester/Pittsford	Chain hotel	(585) 248-9000	3.4 miles
Woodcliff Hotel & Spa	Hotel	(585) 381-4000	3.9 miles

NIGHT 3: SENECA FALLS

The 2027 Seneca Falls camp is to be announced. Distances below are from the 2026 camp, near downtown Seneca Falls.

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to Camp
The Gould Hotel	Boutique hotel	(315) 712-4000	1.2 miles
Microtel Inn & Suites	Chain hotel	(315) 239-0503	1.3 miles
The Lux Hotel & Conference Center	Chain hotel	(315) 577-6068	1.5 miles
Hampton Inn Seneca Falls	Chain hotel	(315) 539-3939	1.5 miles
The Laura Hubbell House B&B	B&B	(315) 712-4382	1.6 miles
Barrister's Bed & Breakfast	B&B	(315) 568-0145	1.8 miles
OYO Hotel Starlite Seneca Falls	Budget hotel	(315) 216-5352	2.9 miles

NIGHT 4: SYRACUSE

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to Camp
Ophelia's Garden Inn	B&B	(315) 488-3621	0.4 miles
Courtyard by Marriott Syracuse Downtown at Armory Square	Chain hotel	(315) 422-4854	1.8 miles
Best Western Syracuse Downtown	Chain hotel	(315) 425-0500	2.0 miles
Aloft Syracuse Inner Harbor	Chain hotel	(315) 422-1700	2.4 miles
Marriott Syracuse Downtown	Chain hotel	(315) 474-2424	2.5 miles
Clarion Pointe Syracuse Downtown	Chain hotel	(315) 308-0920	2.6 miles
The Parkview Hotel	Hotel	(315) 701-2600	2.9 miles
Embassy Suites by Hilton Syracuse	Chain hotel	(315) 303-1650	2.9 miles

NIGHT 5: ROME

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to Camp
Hampton Inn Rome	Chain hotel	(315) 709-0000	2.0 miles
Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites	Chain hotel	(315) 334-4244	3.2 miles

NIGHT 6: CANAJOHARIE

Lodging is very limited around Canajoharie, and the Haslett House B&B in nearby Fort Plain has only a few rooms. Airbnb listings nearby are worth exploring.

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to Camp
Palatine Bridge Motel	Motel	(518) 673-1050	2.2 miles
Haslett House	B&B	(518) 224-4808	4.6 miles

NIGHT 7: NISKAYUNA

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to Camp
Courtyard by Marriott Schenectady	Chain hotel	(518) 579-6620	2.7 miles
Homewood Suites by Hilton	Chain hotel	(518) 579-6727	2.7 miles
The Landing Hotel at Rivers Casino & Resort	Hotel	(518) 579-8800	3.0 miles
DoubleTree by Hilton Schenectady Downtown	Chain hotel	(518) 393-4141	3.1 miles
Hampton Inn Schenectady Downtown	Chain hotel	(518) 377-4500	3.3 miles
The Stockade Inn	Boutique hotel	(518) 348-6000	3.5 miles

NIGHT 8: ALBANY (DOWNTOWN)

The finish festival runs from 9 am to 1 pm on Sunday, July 18. These listings are for riders whose travel plans need an extra night; all luggage must be collected from the finish festival by 1 pm. There are also options near Albany International Airport, but biking there from the finish line requires roads that are not ideal for cycling.

Name	Type	Phone	Distance to finish
Hyatt Place Albany/Downtown	Chain hotel	(518) 977-7778	500 feet
Hampton Inn & Suites Albany-Downtown	Chain hotel	(518) 432-7000	0.3 miles
Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Albany Downtown	Chain hotel	(518) 434-7410	0.5 miles
Hilton Albany	Chain hotel	(518) 462-6611	0.6 miles
Renaissance Albany Hotel	Chain hotel	(518) 992-2500	0.7 miles
Country Inn & Suites by Radisson	Chain hotel	(518) 434-4111	0.7 miles
Morgan State House Inn	Boutique hotel	(518) 427-6063	1.3 miles
The Argus Hotel	Boutique hotel	(518) 930-4700	1.7 miles
Washington Park Inn	Boutique hotel	(518) 930-4747	1.9 miles

NEED HELP?

CHANGES, CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS & CREDITS

Plans change. Here is how our cancellation and credit rules work.

This is a summary. The CTEC Cancellation & Refund Policy you sign at registration controls. To cancel, submit the Rider Cancellation Form; your cancellation date is the day PTNY receives it. Calls, emails and messages to tour staff don't count as a cancellation. To add or change a shuttle or parking reservation, email cycletours@ptny.org.

KEY DATES

Registration opens	November 12, 2026, at ptny.org/events/cycle-the-erie-canal/registration
Tour Access Program applications due	March 31, 2027 (see Is there help with the cost?)
Refund deadline	**May 31, 2027**. Cancel by this date for a refund minus the cancellation fee
Credit deadline	**Friday, June 25, 2027**. Cancel after May 31 and by this date for a credit minus the cancellation fee. No refund or credit after this date
Late registration	If you register after May 24, 2027, you have 7 days to cancel (and by June 25) for a refund minus the cancellation fee

FEES AND FULL TERMS

Cancellation fees, refund and credit rules, and what isn't covered are in the CTEC Cancellation & Refund Policy you accept at registration (ptny.org/events/cycle-the-erie-canal/registration).

NEED HELP?

CONTACTS & SOCIAL MEDIA

We are here to help. This is how to reach us before and during the tour.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TOUR

Email cycletours@ptny.org or call PTNY at 518-434-1583. Email is strongly preferred, and the week before the tour staff will be busy preparing and may not return calls promptly.

DURING THE TOUR

Emergency contact numbers for tour week will be shared with registered riders closer to the tour.

CONNECT WITH FELLOW RIDERS

The Cycling the Erie Canal Facebook group is a good place to swap training and packing tips.

SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE TOUR

Post updates and photos with **#CycleTheErie** and tag Parks & Trails New York and the Erie Canalway Trail (both managed by PTNY) for a chance to have your posts featured.

Instagram	Facebook
@parkstrailsny	@parksandtrailsny
@eriecanalwaytrail	@eriecanalwaytrail

DID YOU KNOW?

At the 1825 opening celebration, Gov. DeWitt Clinton poured Lake Erie water into New York Harbor aboard the Seneca Chief, and a keg of Atlantic Ocean water was later poured into Lake Erie. The ceremony was called the Wedding of the Waters.