

# Greater Niagara region is scenic and relaxing

BY ROGER PETERSON  
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Treat your taste buds to some quality wines, take in a jazz concert or museum exhibit, then take a hike or just explore some quality scenery. It's all in western New York state, and there are plenty of Web guides to help you find your way.

Between lakes Erie and Ontario, the Buffalo area — <http://www.buffaloveb.org/home.html> — has things to entertain you and places to stay — and an airport if you're not driving into the region.

Look under "Sports and Recreation" for information on the Bills and Sabres, plus horse racing and drag strips. Save some time to explore the city itself; click on "Architecture" to learn about stately homes and the city's parks.

For places to see outside the city, click on "Attractions" to reach

"Driving Tours." They'll guide you all over the place: along the Erie Canal, southwestward along the Erie shore, to gardens and museums, and to historical sites.

Take a quick look at the scenery by visiting [Buffalo.com](http://www.buffalo.com) — <http://www.buffalo.com/> — and looking for the Web Cams of Buffalo and the nearby Niagara Falls area.

## FALLS AREA

The falls complex is Niagara Falls State Park — <http://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/> — the nation's oldest state park. Click

on "Gallery of the Falls" for pictures. And be sure to hit "Related Links" to find your way to the local Convention & Visitors Bureau, with its information for visitors, and the Maid of the Mist boat ride.

Then head out into the countryside of the Greater Niagara Region — <http://www.greterniagara.com/> — a five-county area full of scenery, history, and places to relax.

Southwest of Buffalo, relax and exercise your mind at the Chautauqua Institution — <http://www.chautauqua.org/> — the famous not-for-profit educational center established in 1874.

The center is located in Chautauqua County — <http://www.tourchautauqua.com/> — home of parks, beaches, camping, hiking and fishing, plus art galleries and places to dine and spend the night.

Chautauqua County is part of the Chautauque-Allegeny tourism region — <http://www.chautauque-allegeny.org/> — which also includes Cattaraugus and Allegany counties, which have more places to explore.

## FINGER LAKES

One of the gems of western New York is the Finger Lakes region, holding 11 long, glacier-carved lakes. Finger Lakes Tourism — <http://www.fingerlakes.org/> — is chock full of information on the lakes, seasonal activities, historic sites, recreation and the more than 70 wineries in the area. There's even a list of boat launch sites

on the lakes. Click on "Destinations for an interactive map that will take you to counties and cities in the region, with links to Web sites. Head to Steuben County for the Corning Museum of Glass, or Tompkins County, site of the city of Ithaca, Cornell University and spectacular waterfalls.

Winter, you asked? Uncork New York — <http://www.nywine.com/> — is a guide to vineyards all over the state.

Serious hikers can try sections of the Finger Lakes Trail — <http://www.fingerlakes.net/itr/allsystems/> — which stretches 550 miles through the area from the Catskills to the Alleghenies. If hiking isn't your thing, GORP has *Biking the Finger Lakes* — <http://gorp.com/gorp/publications/countyman/bik.htm> — a series of excerpts from a guide book they just happen to have for sale.

Swing up to Rochester — <http://www.visitrochester.com/> — where the "Things to Do" include a visit to the George Eastman House, home of the founder of Kodak and a photographic museum. And if your schedule allows it, take in the Rochester International Jazz Festival — <http://www.rochesterjazz.com/> — June 6-14.

Take your fishing gear along. The state Department of Environmental Conservation — <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/web/site/efvnm/funfish.html> — has what you need to know about licenses and other information.



Niagara Falls State Park is the oldest state park in the United States. To see more fabulous falls photos like this one, visit <http://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com>, and click on "Gallery of the Falls."

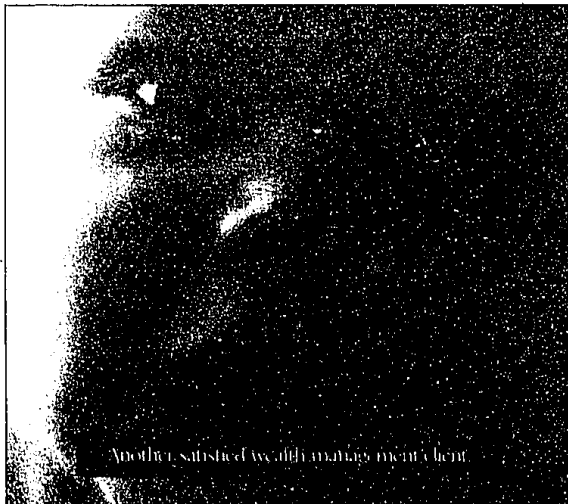
## GETAWAYS

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**Expedition to Peru**  
The Detroit Zoo is recruiting volunteers to participate in two ongoing conservation projects in the Peruvian rain forest. The first is April 26 to May 3 and May 9-16. The second expedition, a Herpetology Census to Manu, departs in mid-May. The cost is \$1,200 per person, plus airfare. Includes room, board, and guides. Volunteers must be at least

21 and in good physical condition. Call (248) 398-0903, Ext. 3130, or e-mail [ststinton@detroitzoo.org](mailto:ststinton@detroitzoo.org). Volunteers on the Adopt A School expedition in April and May to Iquitos, Peru will help provide educational materials to over 3,000 children living in the Amazon region. Volunteers will also have opportunities to explore the rain forest. On the Herpetology Census to Manu, volunteers will help survey reptile and amphibian populations. Volunteers will help photograph and identify all specimens found.

**St. Louis**  
Valid through Dec. 31, the St. Louis Family Attractions Card makes a visit to St. Louis more affordable. The card offers more than \$500 in savings at many popular attractions. Visit the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission's Web site [www.explorestlouis.com](http://www.explorestlouis.com) and click on the "Tickets and Deals" icon. The card is also available with copies of the *Official St. Louis Visitors Guide* which can be ordered online at [www.explorestlouis.com](http://www.explorestlouis.com) or call (800) 918-0040.



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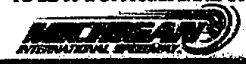
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