

Chautauqua County New York Suggested Tour Itinerary



Charming Chautauqua Villages and Amish Adventures

Step back in time with a tour of the renowned Chautauqua Institution. This historic village is Chautauqua's premier lakeside learning destination founded in 1874. This is a National Historic District with Victorian homes, amphitheaters, grand hotels, and recreational facilities. Follow brick walkways, and tree-lined streets to find gardens, meditation nooks, art galleries, nature trails, and sandy beaches. This culture rich village offers performing arts, music classes, lectures, and ecumenical worship services in a community of growth and renewal. Visit for a lifelong learning experience.

4 hours, all day or spend a week Group rates and times: www.ciweb.org

Just a few miles down the road, the village of Mayville, is home to the historic Chautauqua Belle steamboat. Experience a steamship cruise on Chautauqua Lake while in Mayville. Take a narrated cruise, or package lunch, dinner or cocktails with a cruise. After the cruise visit the many art galleries, farm markets and even a candy factory in Mayville. Be sure to save room for lunch or dinner at one of the many dining options offered in this rural village.

4 hours or all day Group rates and times: www.269belle.com and www.mayvillevents.com

Take the bridge across Chautauqua Lake and experience Bemus Point. Explore the many specialty shops that offer antiques, apparel and amazing gift ideas. Then be sure to attend one of the shows on the Bemus Bay Floating Stage. In the summer there is always an exciting line up of entertainment. There are also many dining options available in this quaint little village.

2 hours or all day Times: www.shopbemus.com and www.bemusbaypops.com

Head west to enjoy the little village of Findley Lake on the scenic shore of Findley Lake. Here are some of the region's most unique selection of gifts, antiques and collectibles. Enjoy fine or casual dining, biking, birding, and horseback riding. Tour the candle factory. Visit the Nature Center with a working water wheel and Wildlife Education Center to see nearly 300 trophy animal specimens from six continents. See an organic beef and chicken farm as well as a micro winery. There is something for everyone in each of the four seasons.

2 hours or all day Times: www.findleylakeinfo.org

A tour of Chautauqua County villages would not be complete without stopping in some of the Amish communities that can be found along the way. There is no hint of commercial development in the Amish community. The culture is slower, quiet, simple and void of technology. Motor coach tours are by permission only. Many shops are located in Amish homes. There is an abundance of artisan products to choose from. There are approximately 40 shops of fine arts, crafts, collectibles, edible delights, and farm produce. Open Saturdays 9-5 only and some holidays. Maps are available through the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau.

4 hours or all day

Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau – P.O. Box 144 –Chautauqua, NY 14772 - 866-908-4569- tourchautauqua.com

Chautauqua County New York Suggested Tour Itinerary



More Charming Chautauqua Villages and Amish Adventures

Amish Flair Tours organized by Carol Lorenc provide the most extensive views and introduction to Amish culture and products. She conducts bus tours and van tours. A guided tour through Amish shops, homes, and farms is a truly educational and remarkable experience. These tours generally include a luncheon or tea at the Cherry Creek Inn in the lovely historical village of Cherry Creek.

4 hours Group rates and schedules: www.cherrycreekinn.net and lorenc@foxefarm@netsync.net

Lily Dale Assembly, a small village in northern Chautauqua County on Cassadaga Lake, is the World's Largest Center for the Science Philosophy and Religion of Spiritualism. Each day of their season offers a series of events and experiences. There are daily lectures on the wonders of psychic phenomena. Demonstrations of clairvoyance are given at services held every day for visitors by mediums devoted to their service.

4 hours Group rates and hours: www.lilydaleassembly.com

Fredonia known for SUNY at Fredonia campus offers many festivals, farm produce stands, wineries, and dining spots. Be sure to make time for a visit to the 1891 Fredonia Opera House. Fredonia Opera House was beautifully restored and reopened in 1994 as a regional performing arts center. Come for the live performances, cinema series or a guided tour. Tours are a look behind the scenes at the theatre from a performer's prospective. There is free parking near the building and excellent restaurants and shops are within easy walking distance.

45 minutes for tours Group rates and hours: www.fredopera.org

Westfield offers vintage charm with a contemporary spirit. Enjoy a walk on the beach of Lake Erie, or on a tree shaded street lined with magnificent 19th century architecture. Visit the McClurg museum home of the Chautauqua County Historical Society. This 24 room Federal style mansion was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Period displays are featured on three floors. Experience a fine winery, unique boutique, restaurant or café in Westfield.

4 hours or all day www.westfieldny.com and www.mcclurgmuseum.org

Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau – P.O. Box 144 –Chautauqua, NY 14772 - 866-908-4569- tourchautauqua.com