

Seven Day Scenic Coastal Drive

Day 1 Starting at Ogdensburg, NY, you may be surprised to learn that Frederic Remington Art Museum is located there. Perhaps most widely known for his bronze sculptures, he is one of America's most respected 19th century painters and illustrators who often used his beloved North Country as subject matter. Continue west along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail signed highway system enjoying the views of the St. Lawrence River and Thousand Islands to Alexandria Bay. Take a boat tour of the islands and stop at Boldt Castle, learn the Gilded Age Love Story of George and Louise Boldt and how this wealthy New York City hotel owner wished to create a symbol of his love; hear and see what happened. Overnight: Alexandria Bay or Clayton.

Day 2 If your favorite place is near the water, you are smiling. At the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton take the tour including 200 antique utilitarian to luxurious boats or keep going and take a wooden skiff out on the river and get some exercise. Continue west to Oswego to the Safe Haven Museum & Educational Center by Fort Ontario. 982 adult and child refugees from Nazi terror stayed at site from 1944-46. Overnight: Oswego or Fair Haven.

Day 3 If your visit lands on one of the six weekends each summer for the Sterling Renaissance Festival you will think you are in 1585 Warwick, England but actually you will be in Sterling, on the Great Lakes Seaway Trail. If maritime history is your favorite, see Sodus Point Lighthouse, it was built in 1871 to guide boats in and out of busy Sodus Bay, now a sailing and fishing paradise. For an alternative experience walk Chimney Bluffs State Park to see the amazing land forms of rocky shoreline and spire bluffs. Overnight: Sodus Point

Day 4 Rochester has a great collection of places to visit. Try George Eastman House, a Georgian-Revival Mansion, a photography museum, art cinema and luscious gardens. Did you remember Mr. Eastman was the founder of Eastman Kodak and the man who developed photography into a hobby for millions. The National Museum of Play at The Strong includes an indoor butterfly garden, and will dazzle kids of all ages. Overnight: Rochester

Day 5 Continue your drive and look for all the Cobblestone buildings. Local beach stones were gathered to build structures from 1825 to 1865; today the Cobblestone Society Museum in Childs shows you a collection up close. Follow Lake Ontario west along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail to where the Lake meets the Niagara River and see Old Fort Niagara with its French Castle dating to 1727. No trip to Niagara Falls would be complete without venturing up close to hear the magnificent power of the falls on the Maid of the Mist. Overnight: Niagara Falls.

Day 6 Take a ride on an old-fashioned carousel in North Tonawanda at Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum in the world's only carousel museum. Then get out of the car and walk, bike or Kayak around Erie Canal Harbor and explore Buffalo's role as "Gateway to the West." Climb aboard the ship at the Naval & Military Park to see the country's largest inland floating history museum. Continue west along Buffalo's skyline and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail to see Darwin Martin's country home Graycliff designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Overnight: Buffalo or Dunkirk

Day 7 Did you know there are 30 lighthouses along the 500-mile Great Lakes Seaway Trail? See the Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse and Veteran's Park Museum. Stop along Lake Erie Wine Country, several wineries are on the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, start at Sparkling Ponds Winery in Ripley and head west. In Erie, PA don't miss the Erie Maritime Museum and the Brig Niagara and end your week at the 3,200-acre sandy peninsula that arches into Lake Erie, Presque Isle State Park, a magnificent seashore for that one last swim, hike or bike ride.

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