



RUN DOWN

This sample itinerary begins in Auburn, NY, with 2 overnights and then moves to Ithaca, NY with overnight.

We can certainly adjust the itinerary to begin in Ithaca or be a true hub and spoke, overnighting in one location.

Experience the Finger Lakes Region of New York State, a 5 hour drive from NYC, 2 hours from Buffalo NY and only 1 hour from Syracuse NY.



Cayuga & Ithaca Itinerary

Day One- 4 or 5 pm-Arrival Day.

Begin your tour by checking into the Hilton Garden Inn Auburn and enjoy dinner at the Refinery, inside the Hilton. The Hilton is conveniently located in downtown Auburn, walking distance to shopping and dining.

Day Two- Auburn - Start your adventure at the **NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center** (1 hr). As Auburn's Welcome Center, it features a state-of-the-art exhibition titled "Seeing Equal Rights in NYS" where New York State's progressive history supporting equality comes to life through interactive displays. Experience the creative ways New Yorkers organized to stand for justice and learn about key contributors from the 1800s to modern day. You can also take a walking tour from the National Park Service, departing from the Harriet Tubman Statue in the courtyard of the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center.

Located next door is the **Seward House Museum** (1 hr) which was the home of William Henry Seward (1801-1872). It opened to the public in 1955 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. The home displays one of the most original collections of any historic home in America.

Take a break for lunch at **Curley's**. With new owners it's the same old Curley's with new life.



Day 2

Visit the **Harriet Tubman Home** (1-1.5 hr). 2022 marked the 200th birthday of Harriet Tubman. Her spirit lives on in her chosen hometown of Auburn, NY. Astound at the connections and pathways of historic figures and the strides made that still have impact today.

Did you know that the strawberry was a favorite fruit of Harriet Tubman?

At **Strawberry Fields Hydroponic Farm** (1-1.5 hr), you can stretch your legs and get some fresh air with u-pick strawberries. Strawberries grow from June through October in special containers up off the ground, making them easy to pick for everyone! Browse the unique gift and floral shop before your next activity!

From floor to ceiling, the incredible **Willard Memorial Chapel** (1 hr), is the only complete and unaltered Tiffany Chapel known to exist. Included in the Tiffany interior are 14 opalescent windows, a rose window, a large figure window, nine Mooresque styled chandeliers, memorial tablets of glass mosaic tile and gilt bronze, furnishings of oak inlaid with metal and glass mosaic, a ceiling with gold leaf stencils, and mosaic flooring.

The modern gastropub **Oak & Vine at Springside Inn** offers you a delicious dinner in a vibrant & neighborly atmosphere. Fun fact about the Springside Inn; it was a stop on the Underground Railroad!

Complete your day with an overnight at **Hilton Garden Inn Auburn**, the ideal location for visitors to stay and take a walk around downtown Auburn.



Day 3

Grab a tasty breakfast from **New Hope Mills** before heading south to the **Sherwood Equal Rights District**. You don't come across many destinations with the Equal Rights Historic District designation so soak it in at the **Howland Stone Store Museum** (1 hr) where you can see an actual Underground Railroad letters, and diaries of Emily Howland and more in this treasure of a destination. Just down the road visit the **Opendore Project** (1 hr), the fascinating story of Emily Howland and how the new 21st century version of Opendore came to be. It is a true example of a community coming together to keep history alive.

About a mile down the road is the **Historic Howland House and 19th, Century Farm Museum** (1-1.5 hr), in the early stages of opening. It has the goal of becoming a working farm museum to host events and tours and has held the "Women's Suffrage Celebration March & Tea Party". Currently open by appointment only, but so worth the visit with the knowledgeable Jodi to see artifacts and the chance to ignite a new passion!

Enjoy lunch and a leisurely afternoon among stunning wineries and internationally famous retail. Try a tasting at Long Point Winery (1 hr) with lunch at Amelia's Deli at the winery, then stop at the world-famous Mackenzie-Childs Outlet (1.5 hr) and production barn in Union Springs.

Another favorite of Harriet Tubman's were apples. Stop in Cayuga on your way back and visit the **Apple Station Winery** (1 hr). Taste their unique fruit wines and spirits and if you're coming in the apple picking season, bring home a bushel! Complete your stay in Auburn with a walk around **Fort Hill Cemetery** (.5 – 1hr). Among the many notable historic figures laid to rest, is Harriet Tubman. Visit her gravesite and pay your respects before leaving her chosen hometown with a new sense of purpose, bravery and quest for knowledge and peace.

Depart Auburn for a 45-minute drive to Ithaca. Check into one of Ithaca's group friendly hotels! Let Visit Ithaca help coordinate a block of rooms for your group's overnight stay.



Day 4

Have a relaxing group dinner at **Coltivare**, a downtown restaurant that is home to our community college's culinary arts program. The restaurant supports four related degree programs, offering its students hands on learning and sourcing much of its produce from the college's TC3 Farm in Dryden, NY. Serving seasonal New American fare locally sourced and inventively prepared, they let the flavors of the Finger Lakes shine through.

Day 4- After breakfast at your hotel, a scenic lakeside ride brings you to the most outstanding view in the region. **Taughannock Falls** (.5 hrs) plunges 215ft past rocky cliffs that tower nearly 400ft above the gorge. Take time for pictures at the Taughannock Falls Overlook and marvel at how the steep-walled gorge formation was carved by ice, thousands of years ago. Visit Ithaca's Visitor Center is waiting for you here with spacious rest rooms and retail shop.

At **Lively Run Goat Dairy** (1-1.5 hrs), get a behind the scenes look at a working goat farm and learn how high-quality cheese is made. Meet the curious goats and see where they live. You may even encounter some "kids"! Taste their award winning Chevre, Bleu, Feta, Gouda, and Cheddar, and visit their cozy gift shop.

Enjoy a wine tasting with lunch at **Knapp Winery** (1.5-2 hrs)! Under new ownership, Knapp offers premium reds alongside signature whites. Knapp Vineyard Restaurant is known for its eclectic, casual, gourmet meals, using local ingredients from area farms. Located steps away from the tasting room, the restaurant opens to an outdoor patio, shaded by a trellis of grape vines overlooking the estate vineyards. A three-choice lunch menu is available for groups to pre-order.



Day 5

Next, the **Museum of the Earth** (1hr) provides a unique opportunity to explore our world through natural history displays, interactive science features, and art exhibitions. The museum takes visitors on a journey through 4.5 billion years of history, from Earth's origin to present day.

Don't forget to grab a scoop at local favorite, **Purity Ice Cream** (:30-:40min). Ithaca is the birthplace of the ice cream sundae, after all!

Before heading back to the hotel to refresh for dinner, take a photo at 150ft **Ithaca Falls** (15 min), in Ithaca's Fall Creek neighborhood. At 175ft wide, the falls are one of the region's mightiest.

The **Bistro at La Tourelle** offers a warm, relaxing crossroad, with a menu featuring regionally inspired, farm-to-table cuisine with seasonally fresh herbs and produce from the hotel's very own gardens. Family owned and operated by the Wiggins Family, Jessica Wiggins will greet your group, talk about the history of La Tourelle and where the food you are enjoying comes from!

Day 5- After breakfast at your hotel, revel in the sound of the roaring waters of **Buttermilk Falls** (15 min) as it descends in a series of plunging cascades and rapids that converge into a beautiful basin.

Stroll the extensive **Cornell Botanical Gardens** (1-2 hrs). Experience 35 acres, featuring various specialty gardens and arboretum on your own or with a guided tour. Be sure to save time for a group photo at the Nevin Overlook located in the Arboretum. (A guide is recommended for the Arboretum)



Showcasing a panoramic view of Ithaca and Cayuga Lake, the **Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art** (1 hr) on the Cornell University campus offers a collection spanning six millennia and encompassing most world cultures.

Head to the **Downtown Ithaca Commons** (2-3 hrs for lunch on your own and shopping). A vibrant pedestrian center lined with the city's most historic architectural facades, eclectic boutiques and diverse dining options that make the Commons the centerpiece of Ithaca. While downtown, stop into the Tompkins Center for History & Culture (.5 hrs) for a little local history!

Discover views only seen from the water aboard **Discover Cayuga Lake's MV Teal** (2 hrs) with a Wine Tasting Cruise! While enjoying the scenic beauty, your group will be lead through a private tasting of a variety of wines from Cayuga Lake's wineries by local sommelier Laura Winter Falk of Experience! The Finger Lakes.

Bid Farewell to Ithaca and depart for home or stay overnight and depart the next day.

TOUR
CAYUGA
in the FINGER LAKES

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