



## Finger Lakes Region Itinerary

The Finger Lakes Region of New York State is a 9,000 square mile, four-season playground, set against a backdrop of Mother Nature's best work – from waterfalls and gorges to thick, cool woods to rolling hills to miles of spectacular shoreline on 11 glacial lakes and one Great Lake. No matter what you like to do, you'll find it in abundance in the Finger Lakes.

### DAY 1

Begin your time in the Finger Lakes with a visit to the [National Warplane Museum](#) in Geneseo, NY. The museum is dedicated to the restoration, display, and flight of World War II and Korean War era aircraft. Every July, the museum conducts the "Greatest Airshow on Turf" at their grass runway airport. The show features historic aircraft and stunt planes from all over the U.S. and Canada. *(Approximately 3 hours)*

Travel 8 miles south to spend the remainder of the day viewing historic paintings commissioned by President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration at the [New Deal Gallery](#). If you prefer the great outdoors, don't miss a visit and seasonal free tour of the [Mount Morris Dam](#) or a drive through [Letchworth State Park](#), the "Grand Canyon of the East", which features 17 miles of beautiful gorge scenery and three major waterfalls. It's easy to see why the park was voted the #1 State Park in the U.S. by USA TODAY readers. Soar over the river and gorge on a breathtaking early evening hot air balloon flight with [Balloons Over Letchworth](#) before turning in for the night.

Overnight at one of the historic inns and bed & breakfasts in the park's vicinity.

#### Optional Add On:

Schedule a glider ride with the [Finger Lakes Soaring Club](#) in Dansville or attend the four-day [NYS Festival of Balloons](#) in September. If you prefer lake views, enjoy a ride above the waters and valleys of the Finger Lakes with [Liberty Balloon Company](#).

## DAY 2

Enjoy a scratch made breakfast at your accommodations before heading 50 miles southeast to Stueben County.

Get your aviation fix for the day at the [Glenn H. Curtiss Aviation Museum](#). The museum was established to highlight the significant role of the town of Hammondsport in early aviation history and, in particular, the contributions to aviation made by Glenn Curtiss. The museum contains artifacts relating to aviation and to the history of the local area. There is also as part of the museum, an active restoration shop that has built and restored vintage aircraft and vehicles. *(Approximately 3 hours)*

Don't miss a stop 3 miles north at [Bully Hill Vineyards](#) for a complimentary wine tasting before heading south for the afternoon. Upon arrival in Corning, NY, visit the [Corning Museum of Glass](#) for one of their live hot-glass shows, shopping in the city's [Gaffer's District](#), and a visit to the [Rockwell Museum](#), a Smithsonian affiliate showcasing American art.

Overnight in Corning at your choice of hotel.

## DAY 3

Head 10 miles east to get the day started at the [Wings of Eagles Discovery Center](#). The center uses hands on and interactive methods to engage young and old alike in the study of science, technology, engineering, and math through aerospace subjects. The center has a historic aircraft collection on display that covers a range of technological and cultural advances in aviation and aerospace from World War II to the present. *(Approximately 2 hours)*

Continue your aviation experience a few miles south with a visit to the [National Soaring Museum](#) in Elmira. Elmira is regarded as the soaring capital of America. The museum was chartered in 1972 and has sponsored sailplane meets held on the grass runway in front of the museum building. Its collection includes glider, sailplanes, and soaring memorabilia representing the history of soaring in the U.S. *(Approximately 3 hours)*

Appreciate the mechanics of flight with a glider ride at [Harris Hill Soaring Corporation](#). Experience the wonder of silent soaring ride with an FAA-certified commercial glider pilot.

Round out the day 15 miles southeast with a visit to [Newtown Battlefield State Park](#), the historic site of a major Revolutionary War battle. View the granite monument and enjoy some of the park's facilities that were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.

Overnight in Elmira, NY.

**Optional Add On:**

If time allows, head an hour north to the Heritage Center at Ithaca Commons to visit "**Tommy Comes Home**". The Tommy Come Home project is a part of the Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation. Its goal is to bring to life the rich aviation history of the Ithaca area through the restoration of a 1918 Thomas Morse Scout biplane. The Thomas Morse Aircraft Corp. built Scouts for the U.S. Army and Navy. The restored aircraft is planned to fly only once on its centennial birthday (September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018) and then rest on display at its permanent home in Ithaca Commons.

**Tour At A Glance:**

**Timeframe:** 3 day, 3 night

**Historical Aviation Trail of New York State**  
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