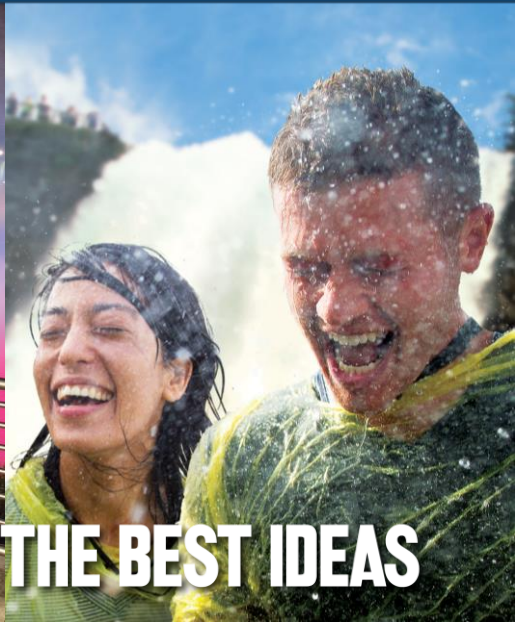




NIAGARA FALLS
USA



THE BIGGEST STORIES START WITH THE BEST IDEAS

A Wonder of the World

Niagara Falls State Park is the oldest park in the United States with a view that never gets old. It was established in 1885 and designed by America's first landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, also known for New York City's Central Park. Niagara Falls, comprised of three waterfalls— American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and the Horseshoe Falls, has about 750,000 gallons of water rushing over each second. This awe-inspiring view attracts about 8 million people from all around the world every year.

Cave Decks

Cave of the Winds, an attraction that gets you closer than you could imagine! From the wooden decks, you stand directly in front of the Bridal Veil Falls. You can choose to walk higher to the Hurricane Deck, where you are literally immersed in the thundering waters.

Every year, to prevent ice damage in the winter, the decks are removed and rebuilt in the spring. Because of the frigid waters, teams of skilled workers can only work 20 minutes at a time re-building the decks.

Home to History

Niagara Falls USA is not only home to the iconic Niagara Falls but also to countless historic sites that have played a vital role in America's story. You will truly be captivated in all of the history that can be explored here. Sit back as **Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruises** guide you through Locks 34 & 35 on the hand dug Erie Canal. Or brace yourself for a musket firing at **Old Fort Niagara**, an 18th century fortress. In Niagara Falls USA, you can do more than just read facts off a wall, it's where history comes alive.

The Great Outdoors

It's easy to get in touch with nature in Niagara Falls USA with all the opportunities for hiking, biking, birding, and fishing. The Niagara River Corridor is recognized internationally as an "Important Bird Area" (IBA); attracting birders to view the abundance of birds all year long. Fishermen are also hooked, when you can fish all four seasons! Niagara Falls USA is globally known for having one of the most diverse and spectacular freshwater sport fisheries. Surrounded by water, Niagara Falls USA has a place for every fisherman of all ages and skill levels in and on Lake Ontario, the Niagara River and the Erie Canal. From bike paths to beautiful vistas, the State Parks in Niagara Falls USA offer miles of outdoor fun for everyone.

Adventure

In Niagara Falls USA there is one thing that will surely get your heart pounding, besides the Falls themselves of course. As millions of gallons of water rush over the Falls, it continues into the Niagara Gorge creating a whirlpool that circles counterclockwise. The whirlpool has even been known to change direction depending on the current. The Devil's Hole Rapids, class V white water rapids, can be seen from all different angles but the best way for an adventurous spirit is from on a jet boat. Whether it's with **Niagara Jet Adventures** or **Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours**, it will be a thrilling ride on the lower Niagara River.

Bountiful Niagara

With over 800 farms in Niagara County, it's no wonder that the largest industry is agriculture and with that comes agri-tourism. **Becker Farms & Vizcarra Vineyards**, a fifth-generation family farm, offers the freshest U-Pick fruits, vegetables and grows all of the ingredients for its on-site winery. The farm also features a brewery, a bakery with homemade goods, and educational school tours. The combination of a Lake Ontario driven climate and the nutrient rich soil of the escarpment also makes for a unique wine region. **Niagara Wine Trail, USA** boasts over 22 wineries, breweries and cideries.



Arts & Culture

Whether you're surrounded by art at **Castellani Art Museum**, listening to sounds of it at **Artpark** or just taking it in as part of a festival—Niagara Falls USA offers an opportunity to experience art in a truly unique way. From historic and cultural sites to performing art centers like the **Riviera Theatre**, home of the Mighty Wurlitzer, the entire region is rife with artistic affluence.

The Formation

Over 12,000 years ago, near the end of the Ice Age, large torrents of water were released from the melting ice, draining into what is now known as the Niagara River. The water began to flow over a large cliff known as the Niagara Escarpment. It is here that the Niagara Falls first formed. Over the years, the brink had eroded, sometimes as much as six feet per year, to its present site and carved through underlying rock forming the 7-mile gorge that we see today.



NIAGARA RIVER, NIAGARA FALLS

Underground Railroad

For many freedom seekers from the South, the Niagara River was one of the final destinations on the Underground Railroad network before crossing over into Canada, and freedom! Dozens of churches, homes, farmhouses and other dwellings in Niagara County were used as hiding places in route to the river. Today, visitors can tour many of these sites and discover the secrets of the dangerous journey that thousands of slaves experienced as they escaped to freedom.

Hear authentic stories of secret-agent waiters and view the striking images of the men and women who fled slavery—and those who assisted them at the **Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center**.

RAINBOW AIR INC., NIAGARA FALLS



Thrill-Seekers

See Niagara Falls in the most unique and thrilling way possible—by helicopter. Soar above the Niagara River, Goat Island and of course, the iconic Falls with **Rainbow Air Inc., Helicopter Tours**. Continue the thrills with **Niagara Zipper** as you fly over the historic waters of the Erie Canal basin gorge, 85 feet above at speeds up to 40 mph on a zip-line.

Adventurers

The Niagara Gorge allows you to explore a truly unique area rich in wildlife and geologic history. The Niagara Gorge is home to 14 species of rare plants, some threatened and endangered. You may even be able to see a Peregrine Falcon or an American Bald Eagle on your trek.

Start with the Niagara Gorge Rim Trail, a relatively easy hike, to get your body moving. Then take an adventure on the Whirlpool Rapids Trail, a more challenging trail. When you reach the bottom, admire the sights and sounds of the Niagara River and maybe do some “boulder hopping”.



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