

Albany

The capital: the Empire State Plaza, the Capitol and Dutch-row houses on Pearl Street

Albany is the capital of New York State, with a 1899 Capitol building taller than the US Capitol, a Nelson Rockefeller-era plaza of marble towers and the oldest state museum in America. It is a government town on the Hudson, 2.5 hours from New York City, and the gateway to the Adirondacks.

At a glance

CAPITOL	32 years to build, 1867-1899
STATE MUSEUM	The oldest in America, 1836
TO NYC	2 h 20 by Amtrak

When to go

April to October for the Capitol tours and the Hudson riverfront. September is the best — fall foliage starts in the Adirondacks. January brings the Frost Fest at the plaza.

Getting around

Downtown is walkable: the Capitol, the Plaza, the Museum and the riverfront are within a mile. A car is needed for Saratoga (40 min) and the Adirondacks.

What to see

New York State Capitol	Free weekday tours of the 1899 building — the Million Dollar Staircase and the Senate chamber.
Empire State Plaza	Rockefeller's 1965 marble-and-glass complex, with the Corning Tower observation deck and the NYS Museum.
USS Slater	The last destroyer escort afloat in America — a museum ship on the Hudson.
Pearl Street	The 17th-century Dutch row houses, now restaurants and brewpubs.
Washington Park	The 1810 park — tulip festival in May, the Lake House in summer.
Saratoga Springs	40 min north: the 1863 racetrack, the mineral baths and the battlefield.
Howe Caverns	80 min west: a 156-foot underground cave with a boat ride on the Lake of Venus.
Cooperstown	90 min west: the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Glimmerglass opera.

Tours worth booking

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry with reserved entry 5 hours · Culture · 4.7/5 (24800 reviews)

9/11 Memorial & Museum guided visit 3 hours · Culture · 4.8/5 (11200 reviews)

Manhattan helicopter flight over the skyline 1 hour · Adventure · 4.8/5 (15600 reviews)

Top of the Rock and Empire State observatory combo 3 hours · Culture · 4.7/5 (8900 reviews)

Broadway show ticket with pre-theatre dinner 5 hours · Nightlife · 4.7/5 (4300 reviews)

Brooklyn Bridge, DUMBO and pizza tasting walk 4 hours · Food & wine · 4.9/5 (5700 reviews)

Where to stay

Renaissance Albany Hotel Albany · Downtown · Business · From \$160

The Desmond, Albany Albany · Airport · Boutique · From \$130

The Plaza Midtown · Fifth Avenue · Historic · From \$750

The St. Regis New York Midtown · 55th & Fifth · Luxury · From \$820

The Peninsula New York Midtown · Fifth Avenue · Luxury · From \$780

Baccarat Hotel Midtown · 53rd Street · Luxury · From \$890

Day-by-day itineraries

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