

Rochester

George Eastman's photography museum, the Finger Lakes and the Lilac Festival

Rochester is the home of Kodak and the George Eastman Museum — the world's oldest photography museum — the Strong National Museum of Play (the toy hall of fame), and the Genesee River gorge at High Falls. It is the gateway to the Finger Lakes wine country, 45 minutes south.

At a glance

EASTMAN MUSEUM	Photography and cinema, since 1949
STRONG MUSEUM	The National Toy Hall of Fame
FINGER LAKES	45 min south — 100+ wineries

When to go

May for the Lilac Festival in Highland Park; September to October for Finger Lakes wine harvest and foliage. Summer for the lake beaches at Seabreeze.

Getting around

Downtown, the Eastman Museum and High Falls are walkable. A car is needed for the Finger Lakes (45 min) and Letchworth State Park (60 min).

What to see

George Eastman Museum	The 1905 mansion and the world's oldest photography museum, with cameras from Daguerre to digital.
Strong Museum	The National Museum of Play — the Toy Hall of Fame, the butterfly garden and the video game history.
High Falls	A 30-metre waterfall in the centre of the city, on the Genesee River gorge.
Mount Hope Cemetery	Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass are buried here — a 1960s garden cemetery.
Nick Tahou's	The home of the Garbage Plate — mac salad, home fries, meat hot sauce and a bun, since 1918.
Seabreeze	A 1879 amusement park on Lake Ontario — the fourth-oldest in America.
Finger Lakes	45 min south: 100+ wineries, Keuka and Seneca lakes, and the Watkins Glen gorge.
Letchworth	60 min south: the Grand Canyon of the East — three waterfalls on the Genesee.

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

The Strathallan, Rochester Rochester · East End · Design · From \$150

Hyatt Regency Rochester Rochester · Downtown · Business · 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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