

Syracuse

Green Lakes, the Destiny USA mall and the Erie Canal Museum

Syracuse is the crossroads of upstate New York, with Green Lakes State Park (one of the world's few meromictic lakes — no mixing layers, so the water is turquoise), the Destiny USA mall (one of America's biggest), the Erie Canal Museum and the Great New York State Fair in August and September.

At a glance

GREEN LAKES	A meromictic lake — the water doesn't mix
DESTINY USA	2.4 million sq ft — top 6 US mall
STATE FAIR	Late August to early September, since 1841

When to go

Late August to early September for the State Fair; June to September for Green Lakes swimming; October for the Finger Lakes foliage.

Getting around

Downtown, the Erie Canal Museum and Destiny USA are within a 15-minute drive. A car is needed for Green Lakes (15 min east) and the Finger Lakes (45 min south).

What to see

Green Lakes State Park	Two meromictic lakes with turquoise water, swimming and a 15-km trail around Round Lake.
Destiny USA	2.4 million sq ft of shopping, dining and a regulation-sized curling rink.
Erie Canal Museum	The 1850 weighlock building — the only surviving canal boat weighing station.
Everson Museum	I.M. Pei's 1968 building — one of the best ceramic and American art collections upstate.
Dinosaur BBQ	The original Syracuse BBQ, in a 1920s building downtown.
Heid's	Coney Island hot dogs and Texas hots, since 1916, in Liverpool.
Finger Lakes	45 min south: wineries, waterfalls and the Watkins Glen gorge.
Cooperstown	90 min east: the Baseball Hall of Fame and Otsego Lake.

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

Marriott Syracuse Downtown Syracuse · Downtown · Historic · From \$140

The hotel Skyler, Syracuse Syracuse · University Hill · Boutique · From \$120

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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