



Destination Guide: Niagara Falls



Top Picks From AAA Travel Editors - Travel information you can trust

AAA Destination Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks

AAA Destination Guide: Niagara Falls includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.

From conventioners to honeymooners to families on vacation, people of all walks of life—millions of them—travel each year to Niagara Falls chasing the heady rush of a carnival-style thrill ride, the tranquility of a garden path or more recently, the suspense of a dice roll or spin of a roulette wheel. But ultimately, they all come for one thing—to experience the cool mist, the thundering roar, the utter violence of a half million gallons of water crashing into a rocky gorge every second. It's not just a spectacular scene; it's a spectacular scene in unrelenting motion.

Who would not be transfixed by the three separate cataracts that make up Niagara Falls? Rocky American, tiny Bridal Veil and show-stealing Horseshoe, over which the lion's share of the river flows, spawned a tourism industry here nearly 200 years ago. Today businesses entice visitors by offering views of this natural marvel from every possible angle: below, above, beside and even behind. And almost from the beginning attractions sprang up that were either only marginally related or completely unconnected to the falls' grandeur—from daredevil high-wire acts to amusement rides to museums flaunting the bizarre and macabre.



Rampant development and industrial exploitation threatened the falls early on, and in response to public outcry, New York bought land adjacent to the falls to create America's first state park, while Ontario acted similarly by establishing a park on its side. International accords now regulate how much water can be diverted from the falls to produce power, guaranteeing that Niagara Falls will continue to astound visitors for generations to come.

Essentials

Sample the spectacular views along the [Niagara Parkway](#) from the Rainbow Bridge to Table Rock, and choose your favorite vantage point from which to behold the three waterfalls—American, Bridal Veil and Horseshoe—known collectively as [Niagara Falls](#).

Stroll across the footbridge over the roiling American Rapids to [Goat Island](#) in [Niagara Falls State Park](#) for an up-close look at the river as it plunges 184 feet into Niagara Gorge.

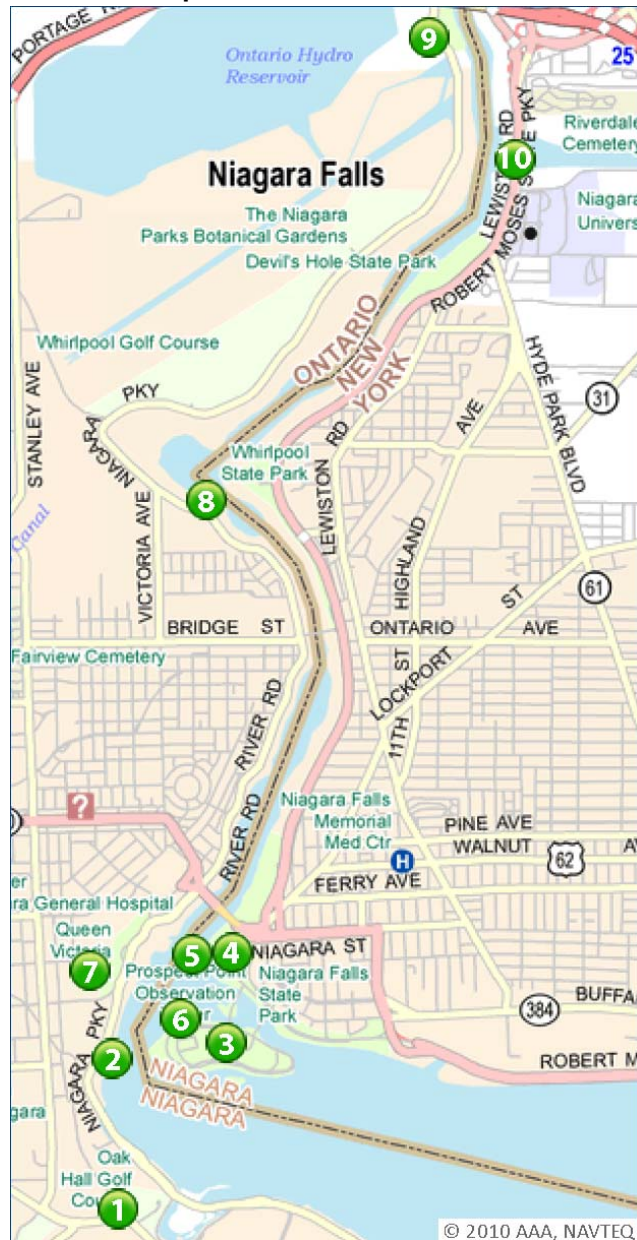
Cruise past the American and Bridal Veil falls aboard [Maid of the Mist](#) for a drenching, deck-rocking rendezvous with the seething caldron of river water churned up at the base of the massive Horseshoe Falls.

Slip on a complimentary rain poncho and pair of rubber sandals in preparation for a very moist encounter with Bridal Veil Falls as part of the [Cave of the Winds Trip](#).

Wander among the game-packed arcades, neon-lit souvenir shops, themed restaurants and carnival midway-style rides that crowd the Clifton Hill area, just a short walk from your best view of the American Falls.




Essentials Map



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Essentials Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)

 - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

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|--|--|
| <p>1. Niagara Parkway
Niagara-on-the-lake, ON L0S 1J0</p> <p>2. Niagara Falls
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T2</p> <p>3. Goat Island
Niagara Falls, NY 14303</p> <p>4. Niagara Falls State Park
1 Prospect St
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Phone: (716) 278-1796</p> <p>5. Maid of the Mist
1 Prospect St
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Phone: (716) 284-8897</p> <p>6. Cave of the Winds Trip
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Phone: (716) 278-1730</p> | <p>7. Skylon Tower
5200 Robinson St
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3N4
Phone: (888) 673-7343</p> <p>8. Whirlpool Aero Car
3050 Niagara Pkwy
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 6R5
Phone: (905) 354-5711</p> <p>9. Sir Adam Beck II Generating Station
14000 Niagara Pkwy
Queenston, ON L0S 1L0
Phone: (905) 357-2379</p> <p>10. Power Vista
5777 Lewiston Rd
Lewiston, NY 14092
Phone: (866) 697-2386</p> |
|--|--|

Feel your spirits lift along with your body as you ride a glass-walled elevator to the top of **Skylon Tower** for a fantastic bird's-eye view of the falls, the gorge and the countryside for miles around, including—on clear days—the skyscrapers of Buffalo and Toronto.

Take a hike along the scenic Niagara Gorge Rim Trail, which extends 6 miles north from the Horseshoe Falls through three state parks, connecting to seven other trails along the way.

Glide 250 feet above the slowly revolving whirlpool formed at a bend in the Niagara River courtesy of insubstantial-seeming steel cables

supporting the [Whirlpool Aero Car](#), a ride that has been safely carrying passengers between cliff edges since 1916.

Marvel at the colossal feat of engineering represented by two huge power plants facing each other across the Niagara Gorge: Ontario's [Sir Adam Beck II Generating Station](#), which offers tours of its facility, and the Niagara Power Project, which uses a host of entertaining hands-on exhibits to explain hydropower production at its [Power Vista](#) visitor center.

Bask in the rainbow-hued glow of Niagara Falls at night when brilliant spotlights illuminate the roaring curtains of water, a sight that is accompanied by fireworks every Friday and Sunday nights in summer.

Restaurants

If you want to combine sightseeing with a tasty meal, then you can't beat [Top of the Falls Restaurant](#) on [Goat Island](#) in [Niagara Falls State Park](#). Every table in the tiered dining room or out on the open-air deck affords a magnificent view of the falls. Trendy cuisines created by a world-class master chef revive the senses of even the most weary tourists. The



restaurant's signature dish—top sirloin coulette steak with Kentucky bourbon onions—is delicious. The citrus-glazed chicken dusted with Montreal seasoning is another good choice, or try the pan-seared salmon filet with honey peppercorn glaze and salted herbs.

A short walk from the state park, [The Red Coach Inn](#) has stood guard over the Niagara River rapids since 1923. This historic English Tudor-style B&B features one of Niagara Falls' oldest and best dining establishments: [The Red Coach Inn Restaurant](#). Warm up to a delicious meal in the Grill Room with its natural stone fireplace or relax and unwind with a book or a cocktail in the Fireside Room. Open seasonally, the patio offers the best view of the rapids. Whether you're in the mood for seafood

delivered fresh from Boston or succulent prime rib, a relaxing meal awaits at this historic landmark.

Located in Niagara Falls' Little Italy, which is centered along Pine Avenue, [Como Restaurant & Deli](#) has been serving Italian-American cuisine since 1927, when Italian immigrant Francesco Antonacci realized his dream of opening a restaurant that would serve traditional recipes. The dining room reflects the friendliness of the Antonacci family and is decorated out of a love for the style of Old Italy. After a day of sightseeing, the generous portions—served by knowledgeable, friendly staff—are a welcome sight.

Just a few blocks east on Pine Avenue is [Michael's](#), another stand-out for Italian-American cuisine. This small bistro diner serves consistently great Italian comfort food made from family recipes. You'll have a difficult time making up your mind when faced with the menu's myriad choices; there are more than 45 sandwich combinations alone. The mainstay pastas—lasagna, gnocchi, rigatoni, and linguine—are all offered with your choice of well-balanced sauces and accompaniments. Michael's beans and greens are some of the best, and everything comes in belly-busting portions. Come early or be prepared to wait, although even a long wait would be worthwhile.

Within a half-hour drive from Niagara Falls, you have the much larger choice of restaurants offered by Buffalo. Although there are too many to list here, one in particular is worth a visit: [Anchor Bar & Restaurant](#), birthplace of the Buffalo chicken wing. Inside the 70-year-old landmark the décor is eclectic: Harley-Davidson memorabilia mixed with family portraits and photos of celebrity diners. Patrons chow down on more than a ton of spicy chicken wings every day; all servings come with a few celery sticks—to keep up the pretense of healthy greens—along with a side of cooling blue cheese dip. A few dos and don'ts: Do forget the diet; do bring a big appetite; do try the Suicidal Wings (but at your own risk);

don't wear a white shirt or any dry-clean-only outfit; and do dig in with both hands and enjoy what are undeniably the best wings on the planet.

Back in Niagara Falls, on the Ontario side of the river, two restaurants combine good food with outstanding views of the falls. The dining room at [Elements on the Falls Restaurant](#) directly overlooks the Horseshoe Falls and offers a relaxed family-oriented setting. The menu at this popular tourist pick operated by the Niagara Parks Commission features traditional fare such as prime rib, steaks and seafood enhanced with fresh local and regional ingredients. The views are wonderful, especially each evening when the falls are lit with colorful lights.

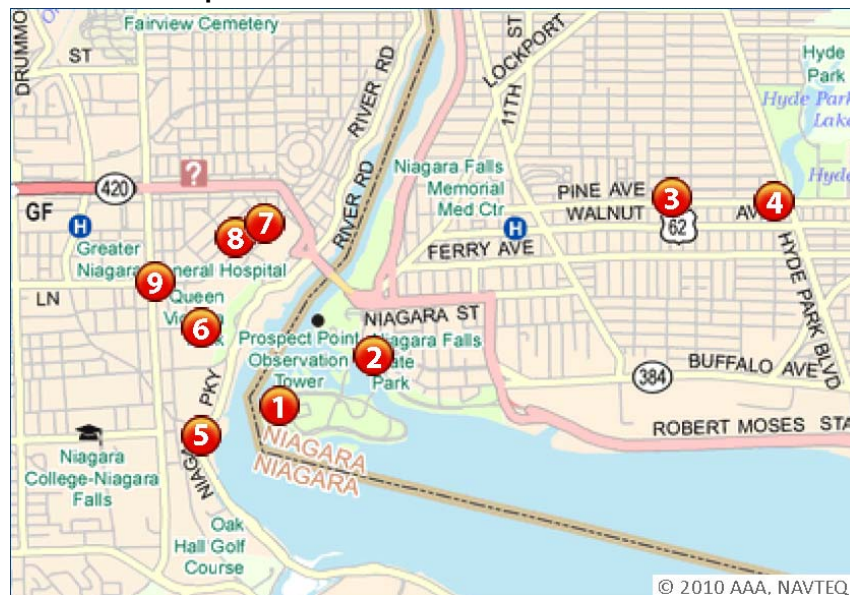
The second restaurant offering stunning views of the falls sits high atop the landmark [Skylon Tower](#), an attraction first-time visitors won't want to miss. Because it's the only revolving restaurant in the area, [The Skylon Tower Dining Rooms](#) is an attraction on its own. In season it's a very popular choice, so expect a bustling ambience with some close table spacing. The menu features such traditional fare as prime rib, steaks and seafood. As with most revolving restaurants, you pay a premium for the

view and the ambience, but you are sure to have a memorable dining experience.

A short walk away from Skylon Tower, just off attraction-packed Clifton Hill, is the ever-popular [Mama Mia's](#). No trip to Niagara is complete without a visit to this well-established, casual Italian eatery, which offers excellent value to diners—a plus in this busy tourist area. Fresh home-style cooking featuring such old-time favorites as spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna and homemade ravioli keep both tourists and locals coming back. The décor is comfortable and inviting, and the central location makes it convenient to stroll down to the falls after a hearty meal.

Restaurants Details - [Get additional information on AAA.com](#);
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)

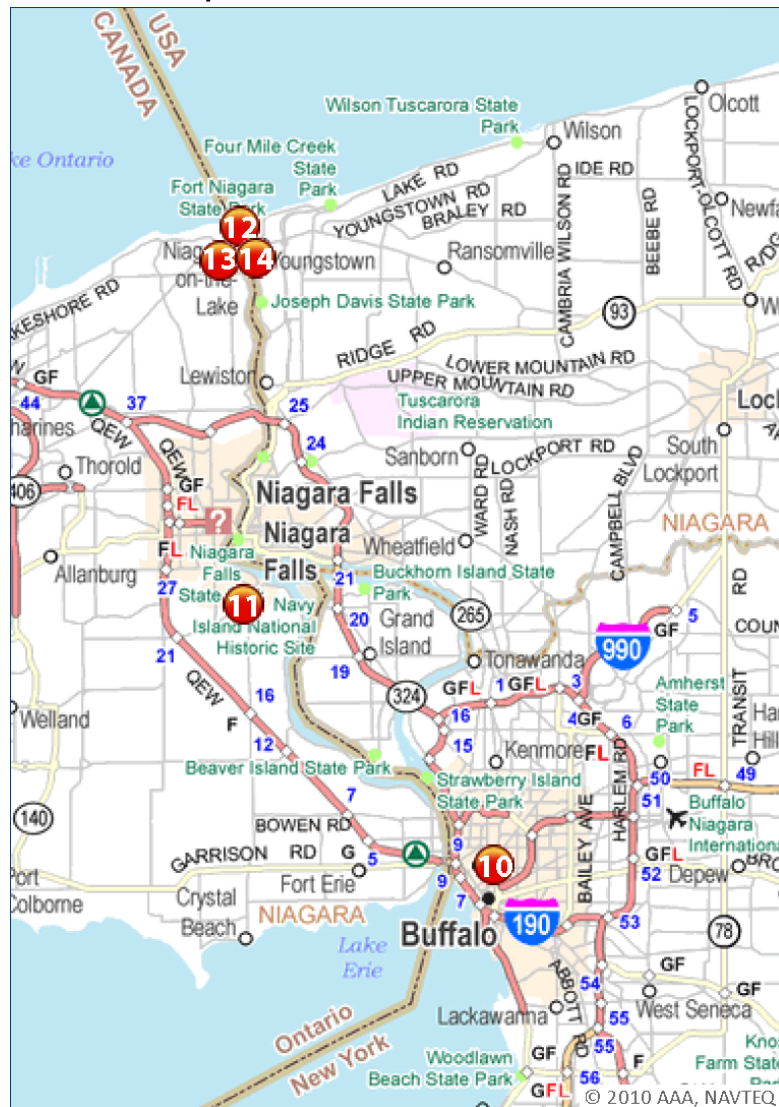
Restaurants Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

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|--|---|
| <p>1. Top of the Falls Restaurant </p> <p>Goat Island-American Falls Park
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302
 Phone: (716) 278-0340</p> | <p>6. The Skylon Tower Dining Rooms </p> <p>5200 Robinson St
 Niagara Falls, ON L2G 2A3
 Phone: (905) 356-2651</p> |
| <p>2. The Red Coach Inn </p> <p>2 Buffalo Ave
 Niagara Falls, NY
 Phone: (716) 282-1459</p> | <p>7. Mama Mia's </p> <p>5719 Victoria Ave
 Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3L5
 Phone: (905) 354-7471</p> |
| <p>3. Como Restaurant & Deli </p> <p>2220 Pine Ave
 Niagara Falls, NY 14301
 Phone: (716) 285-9341</p> | <p>8. Beef Baron </p> <p>5019 Centre St
 Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3N5
 Phone: (905) 356-6110</p> |
| <p>4. Michael's </p> <p>3011 Pine Ave
 Niagara Falls, NY 14301
 Phone: (716) 282-4043</p> | <p>9. Capri Restaurant </p> <p>5438 Ferry St
 Niagara Falls, ON L2G 1S1
 Phone: (905) 354-7519</p> |
| <p>5. Elements on the Falls Restaurant </p> <p>6650 Niagara Pkwy
 Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T2
 Phone: (905) 354-3631</p> | |

Restaurants Map



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**Restaurants Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;
AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds**

10. Anchor Bar & Restaurant
1047 Main St
Buffalo, NY 14209
Phone: (716) 886-8920

**13. Peller Estates
Winery Restaurant**
290 John St
Niagara-on-the-lake, ON L0S 1J0
Phone: (905) 468-4678

11. Betty's Restaurant
8921 Sodom Rd
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S6
Phone: (905) 295-4436

**14. Riverbend Inn
Dining Room**
16104 Niagara River Pkwy
Niagara-on-the-lake, ON L0S 1J0
Phone: (905) 468-8866

12. The Olde Angel Inn
224 Regent St
Niagara-on-the-lake, ON L0S 1J0
Phone: (905) 468-3411

Right around the corner, you'll find another local institution: Beef Baron, known for its full-course meals and an emphasis on prime rib and hearty steaks. The restaurant's casual atmosphere features bright, ornate décor. Because it's a must-do for visitors to Niagara Falls, you might encounter long lines during the tourist season. After dinner you can enjoy the lively ambience along Clifton Hill, which lies just across Victoria Avenue.

Follow Victoria Avenue south a couple blocks beyond where it becomes Ferry Street to arrive at the family owned and operated Capri Restaurant, a Niagara Falls tradition for generations. The owners share family photographs in the foyer and are proud to say Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman once dined there. Locals enjoy the consistency of the home-style Italian cuisine and the comfortable, yet sophisticated ambience. Tourists like the diverse menu selections, ranging from homemade pastas to broiled meats to seafood, and a price tag that's quite reasonable for such a highly trafficked tourist area.

A couple miles south of the falls, Betty's Restaurant offers the perfect place to escape the tourist frenzy and get some good, down-home cooking. Well-known for its fish and chips, Betty's has a loyal local following and is a good value for tourists. It offers a simple diner-style setting and friendly, personable service.

About a half-hour drive north of the falls is the picturesque town of [Niagara-on-the-Lake](#), Ontario. If you decide to take this worthwhile side trip, be sure to visit [The Olde Angel Inn](#), a historic pub embodying the charm and local character the town is known for. There's even talk of a resident ghost. You're likely to find locals at the casual bar sipping their pints of beer alongside a mix of tourists from all over the world. The restaurant offers a fine assortment of pub fare including fish and chips and ploughman's lunch as well as a more substantial dinner menu available in the back dining rooms. Arrive at the right time of year, and you can enjoy selections from the "peach menu," which lists an interesting mix of dishes using fresh-picked Niagara peaches.

Any visit to the Niagara region should include a drive through scenic wine country to experience the wonderful variety of local wines. A perfect way to cap off this day trip is a meal at [Peller Estates Winery Restaurant](#), a fine dining establishment that enjoys an outstanding setting with spectacular views. The chef here has created an innovative tasting menu featuring dishes paired with the vineyard's extensive wine selection. Because Peller Estates is popular with visitors and groups, make reservations and expect a sometimes boisterous atmosphere as fellow diners delight in the wine.

Nearby, acres of vineyards surround the elegant [RiverBend Inn Dining Room](#), the perfect choice for a refined meal. In season you can enjoy spectacular outdoor dining on a large terrace in a quieter setting than the ever-popular winery restaurants. The dining room is located within a country inn featuring fine artwork and elegant chandeliers. The chef has created a menu that highlights fresh local and regional cuisine to complement the local wines.

Attractions

In a destination with dozens of attractions, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for Niagara Falls as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."

The awesome sight of water from four of the five Great Lakes pouring over a 170-foot-high precipice at the rate of 600,000 gallons a second has fascinated visitors to [Niagara Falls](#) for well over a century.

Unsurprisingly, most attractions on both the fall's Ontario and New York sides focus on this natural wonder—and most are AAA GEMs.



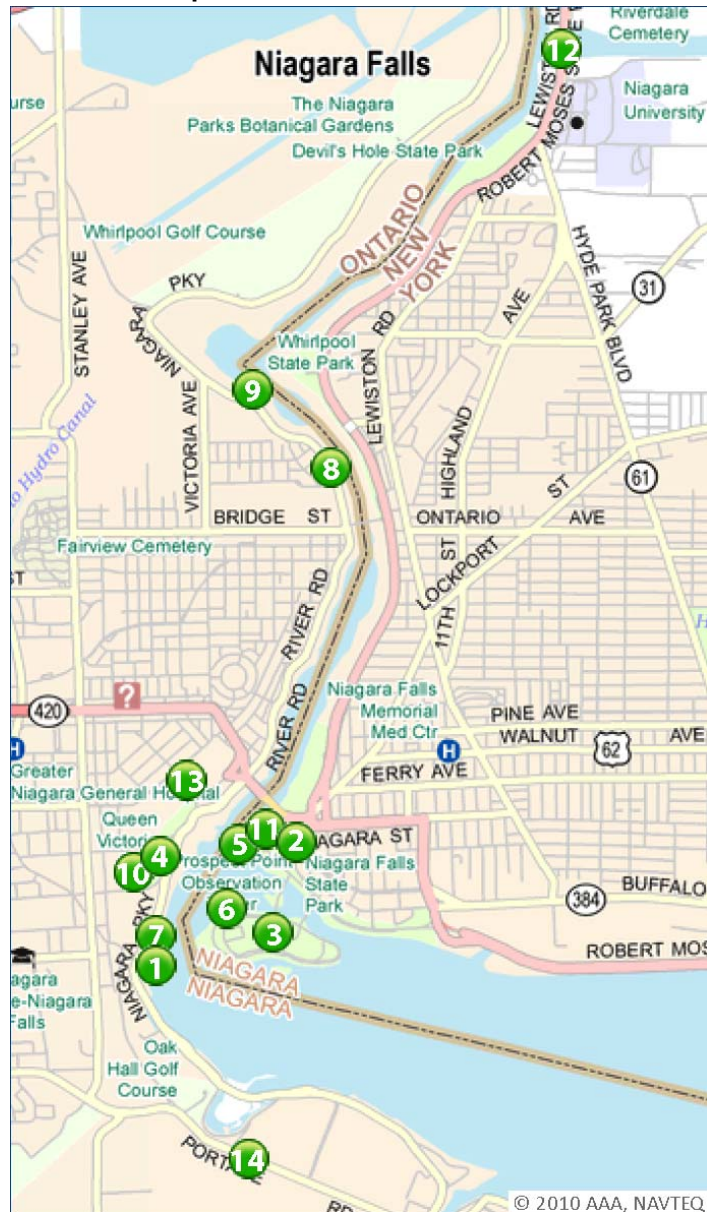
If Niagara Falls were an award-winning play, then [Niagara Falls State Park](#) would be a front-row seat. No other spot allows you to get as close to the brinks of all three falls: Terrapin Point on [Goat Island](#) overlooks the Horseshoe Falls, and tiny Luna Island sits between the American and Bridal Veil Falls. Paths wind within woodlands and along both the American and Horseshoe rapids as well as the Niagara Gorge's rim on either side of Rainbow Bridge.

Across the border, [Queen Victoria Park](#) offers a more formal, manicured version of its wilder American counterpart. The falls are at their most picturesque from this angle thanks to a sharp turn in the river. Strategically located benches dot the park's broad lawns, which are bordered by trees, shrubs and seasonal flower beds. Old-fashioned street lamps enhance the area's charm, as do the horse-drawn carriages passing along Niagara Parkway.

The [Maid of the Mist](#) departs from docks on either side of the river for a brief voyage past the American and Bridal Veil falls into the spray-filled basin at the foot of the Horseshoe Falls. Thundering sheets of water nearly surround you when you're this close, so you'll want to wear one of the free plastic rain ponchos distributed by the crew. The alternative is sopping wet clothing.

Speaking of wet, the only way to get closer to the falls would be to step into them, which is exactly what you do at the [Cave of the Winds Trip](#) with



Attractions Map



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the help of an elevator down to the river and a boardwalk at the base of the Bridal Veil Falls. Water actually splashes across sections of the boardwalk, which is why you receive rubber sandals after buying your ticket.

Attractions Details - Get additional information on AAA.com

-  - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*
-  - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

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|--|--|
| <p>1. Niagara Falls</p> <p>2. Niagara Falls State Park
1 Prospect St
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Phone: (716) 278-1796</p> <p>3. Goat Island
Niagara Falls, NY 14303</p> <p>4. Queen Victoria Park
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 6R5</p> <p>5. Maid of the Mist
1 Prospect St
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Phone: (716) 284-8897</p> <p>6. Cave of the Winds Trip
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Phone: (716) 278-1730</p> <p>7. Journey Behind the Falls
6650 Niagara Pkwy
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 6R5
Phone: (905) 354-1551</p> <p>8. White Water Walk
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T2
Phone: (905) 374-1221</p> | <p>9. Whirlpool Aero Car
3050 Niagara Pkwy
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 6R5
Phone: (905) 354-5711</p> <p>10. Skylon Tower
5200 Robinson St
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3N4
Phone: (888) 673-7343</p> <p>11. Prospect Point Observation Tower
1 Prospect St
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Phone: (716) 284-8897</p> <p>12. Power Vista
5777 Lewiston Rd
Lewiston, NY 14092
Phone: (866) 697-2386</p> <p>13. Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum
4960 Clifton Hill
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3N4
Phone: (905) 356-2238</p> <p>14. Marineland
7657 Portage Rd
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6X8
Phone: (905) 356-9565</p> |
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Similarly, [Journey Behind the Falls](#) on the Canadian side transports visitors down through 150 feet of rock to an outside observation platform. Tunnels lead to portals where the attraction lives up to its name by offering views from behind the thunderous Horseshoe Falls. Just a couple miles downstream on the Canadian side is [White Water Walk](#), which conveys visitors via elevator down into the gorge—in this case arriving at a 1,000-foot-long pathway along the Niagara River's white-water rapids.

If being packed into an elevator gives you the heebie-jeebies, then the nearby [Whirlpool Aero Car](#) might be your cup of tea. This Canadian open-air gondola carries passengers from one cliff to another while the river's whirlpool lazily turns 250 feet below.

You're also unlikely to feel claustrophobic riding in the glass-walled elevator up to the observation deck in [Skylon Tower](#)—though you might experience a touch of vertigo. The unmistakable profile of this Niagara Falls landmark, a 525-foot-tall concrete mast that flares toward its base, dominates the skyline on the Canadian side. The panorama from the outdoor observation deck is unforgettable.

On the American side, 260-foot [Prospect Point Observation Tower](#) would stand out more if its base weren't inside the Niagara Gorge. As it is, less than half its height juts above the gorge's rim, yet its proximity to the American Falls combined with an observation deck that projects out over the river commands a superb view of all three falls.

You can enjoy very different views of the gorge downstream at [Power Vista](#), perched atop the massive Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant near Lewiston, New York. Filled with kid-friendly exhibits that explain power generation, this visitor center has a large observation deck from which you'll see no fewer than three gargantuan concrete-and-steel power plants: the Robert Moses, and the Sir Adam Beck I and II on the Ontario side.

Other attractions have sprung up catering to tourists who have somehow had enough of Niagara Falls' spectacular scenery. On the Canadian side, the Clifton Hill district—within sight of the falls—is all about carnival-style

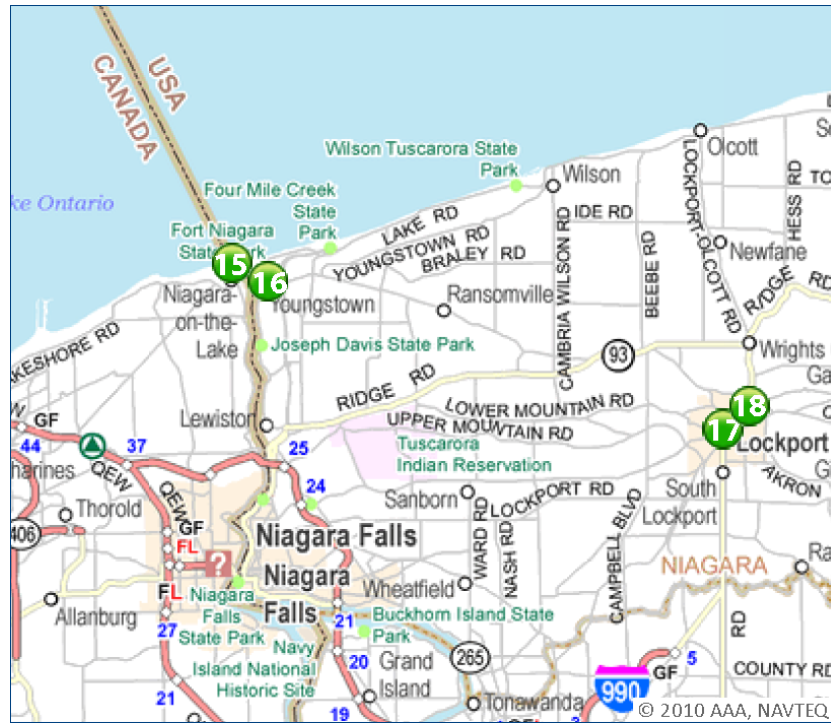
amusements and attention-grabbing themed restaurants. Anchoring the boisterous fun here is the [Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum](#), part of the chain famous for its collection of oddities. Statue of Liberty made of matchsticks? Check. Kitten born with two faces? Check. Three-thousand-year-old mummified falcon? Check. In recognition of its location, one museum exhibit recounts the exploits of Blondin, the 19th-century tightrope walker who crossed over Niagara Falls carrying a man on his back.

Also on the Canadian side, [Marineland](#) displays a dual personality. On the one hand it's an animal park with exhibits like Friendship Cove, where you can see killer whales up close from below the water as well as above, and Arctic Cove, where you can touch and even feed beluga whales. On the other hand, Marineland offers theme park-style rides, including the Sky Screamer tower drop and the Dragon Mountain rollercoaster.

Though somewhat removed from Niagara Falls, consider visiting [Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site](#) in [Youngstown](#), N.Y. French, British and American flags have flown over this strategic position where the Niagara River meets Lake Ontario. Take the self-guiding tour and you can tramp along the wide, brick-reinforced earthwork walls, climb up one of two squat towers called redoubts and enter the fort's centerpiece: the "French Castle," a formidable three-story stone citadel built in 1726.



Also within the New York vicinity lies [Lockport](#), where you can board the [Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises](#) for a 2-hour round-trip journey on the historic Erie Canal. You'll float through original sections of the 19th-century waterway, which was dug by hand to connect the Hudson and Niagara rivers. A highlight of the narrated trip: passing through locks that raise and lower boats to compensate for the Niagara Escarpment's 50-foot elevation change.

Attractions Map



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Attractions Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)

-  - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*
-  - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

15. Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site

Youngstown, NY 14174
Phone: (716) 745-7611



16. Youngstown, NY

17. Lockport, NY

18. Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises

210 Market St
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 433-6155



Events

In addition to its many cultural and historic landmarks, this destination hosts a number of outstanding festivals and events that may coincide with your visit. GEMs are “Great Experiences for Members.”

If you’re a theater-lover, then head to nearby [Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario](#), for the [Shaw Festival](#), a AAA GEM event showcasing the plays of George Bernard Shaw, but also including the work of his contemporaries and plays set during Shaw’s long lifetime: 1856-1950. The season lasts from April through November and draws around 350,000 theatergoers annually to three downtown venues.

During the [French and Indian War Encampment](#), a AAA GEM event orchestrated in early July in nearby [Youngstown, N.Y.](#), roughly a thousand re-enactors gather at [Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site](#), a AAA GEM attraction, to re-create the 1759 British siege of what was then a strategically located military post. Mock battles and living history camps are part of the educational fun.

While the falls may be the big draw, increasing numbers of visitors come to sample the products of the region’s wine country. In late September, the Ontario town of [St. Catharines](#) celebrates the industry with the [Niagara Wine Festival](#), a AAA GEM event during which connoisseurs and others enjoy tours and tastings offered by more than 30 area wineries. Entertainment, parades, wine appreciation seminars and a gourmet food fair round out the festival’s schedule.

In late October, nearly 3,000 runners compete in a 26.2-mile footrace from Buffalo, N.Y., to Niagara Falls, Ontario, during [The Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort International Marathon](#). Organizers describe it as the only marathon starting in one nation and ending in another. The route passes through downtown Buffalo, across the Peace Bridge and along the picturesque Niagara Parkway to a finish above the magnificent Horseshoe Falls, providing athletes with a variety of scenery to enjoy.

Perhaps the area's most popular happening with well over a million attendees is the Winter Festival of Lights, a AAA GEM event held from early November through early January in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Each year festival organizers transform a 5-kilometer-long stretch of the Niagara Parkway into a winter wonderland with millions of lights and more than 100 whimsical displays, including animated displays created by The Walt Disney Co. Nightly fireworks along with nighttime parades, concerts and stage shows round out the entertainment, and everything happens against the backdrop of the beautifully illuminated falls.

The Winter Festival of Lights reaches a boisterous and nationally televised crescendo with New Year's Eve in the Park, a free outdoor concert held in Queen Victoria Park. Of course a fireworks spectacular heralds the New Year's arrival.

Things to Do

Shopping

Souvenirs of the falls can be found downtown on Main Street, just a few minutes from the Rainbow Bridge. Three Sisters Trading Post offers gifts, souvenirs and American Indian crafts. Nearby Artisans Alley at 10 Rainbow Blvd. is a shop and gallery featuring the works of more than 600 artisans. A 1-mile strip of Pine Avenue/Niagara Falls Boulevard known as Little Italy is lined with unique shops, Italian eateries and an open-air market.

For those on a budget or just looking for a good deal, Fashion Outlets at 1900 Military Rd. offers savings on such items as clothing, glassware, jewelry, shoes, accessories and toys; stores include Banana Republic, Bass, Liz Claiborne and Ralph Lauren.

Visitors to the Canadian side can shop for discounted merchandise at the Niagara Duty Free Shop. Duty Free Americas, a tax and duty free store, is located in the Rainbow Bridge Plaza.

Note: Visitors to Niagara Falls, Ontario, should be aware that currency exchange rates vary by merchant and are sometimes lower than the official rate offered by banks. U.S. Customs regulations limit or prohibit the importation of certain goods (such as sealskin products) from Canada; further information is available at customs offices or in the Border Regulations section of the Canadian TourBooks.

Sports and Recreation

Niagara Falls has several city and state parks that offer recreational opportunities, as do nearby lakes Erie and Ontario. Most parks offer picnicking, scenic views and nature trails; several have fishing, swimming, tennis courts, bike trails and playgrounds. Boating and fishing are available at many sites on lakes Erie and Ontario, which also have sandy beaches for swimming.

In the southeast are Griffon, Hennepin, Jayne and LaSalle parks; in the southwest, Niagara Falls State comprises Prospect Park, Upper Rapids Park and Goat Island. In the northwest are Devil's Hole and Whirlpool state parks and Centre Court and Unity city parks.

In the center of Niagara Falls at Hyde Park Boulevard and Pine Avenue is Hyde Park, the largest of the city parks. Hyde Park has one 18-hole and two nine-hole public golf courses and a swimming pool.

During winter several of the nature trails in the area's parks convert to cross-country skiing and snowmobile trails. Downhill skiing is available within an hour's drive at HoliMont, Holiday Valley or Kissing Bridge.

For further information about recreational facilities phone the state parks commission at (716) 278-1770, or the city parks service at (716) 286-4940.

Performing Arts

Theatrical and musical performances can be found in nearby Buffalo and at Earl W. Brydges ArtPark, 7 miles north on Robert Moses Parkway in Lewiston.

Insider Info

Niagara Falls Tickets

The Niagara Parks Commission Passes provide savings for guests interested in visiting several Niagara Falls attractions.

The Niagara Falls and Great Gorge Adventure Pass includes admission to four attractions—*Maid of the Mist*, Journey Behind the Falls, Niagara's Fury and White Water Walk—as well as two days transportation on the People Mover and Falls Incline Railway. The pass also includes coupons, including a half-price discount for the Whirlpool Aero Car and the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory, and Niagara Heritage Trail sites: Old Fort Erie, The Laura Secord Homestead, McFarland House and Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum. The passport is available May through October. Fee \$39.95; ages 6-12, \$24.95 (includes butterfly conservatory audiotape).

The pass can be purchased at all Niagara Parks attractions and information centers and many hotels.

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