



Overnight Lodging Location Info and Who's Riding: Refer to "whos riding and lodging2024.pdf" document that uses "Who's Riding & Lodging 2024" page header.

Background Information and Training advice: Refer to "notes ride 2024.pdf" document that uses "Notes for Erie Canal Trail Ride 2024" page header.

Buffalo trail info: Shoreline Trail (formerly called Riverwalk Trail) is closed to through traffic from Erie St. (south end) to Porter Ave (north end). This is due to the multiyear construction of the new Ralph Wilson Park (formerly LaSalle Park), scheduled for completion in the fall of 2025. **Detour** around this area on city streets per <https://rwparkbuffalo.org/shoreline-trail-detour-follow-this-route/> and shown as orange line (as opposed to regular green line along the water front) on <https://empiretrail.ny.gov/buffalo-rochester/city-buffalo> map, heading north in downtown Buffalo. Note that the I190 highway path into downtown Buffalo from the north, was where the Erie Canal originally extended into the city, so very small canal boats wouldn't be exposed to the large waves at east end of Lake Erie. That original canal western terminus waterfront location, which connected to Lake Erie, is now called "Canalside" (<https://buffalowaterfront.com/canalside>) in downtown Buffalo today, far from the present-day western end of the now supersized canal in Tonawanda. This "Canalside" location is close to the Buffalo Naval Military Park (<https://buffalonavalmilitarypark.org/>). So now you know the reason why the Shoreline Trail distance is included into all historical "Erie Canal Trail" rides across the state. Note that since the official **detour** this summer uses city streets that are 1/2 mile east of the waterfront, our ride won't actually start at the official "Erie Canalway Trail Mile Marker Zero" landmark on satellite photo below. Instead, some of us will be staying overnight well northeast of that waterfront landmark, and riding west in the morning to the official detour route. The result will be a little additional distance added to Saturdays ride total, not a subtraction.

Blue line on map was original Erie Canal layout:



Photo of Canalside today (original location of Erie Canal connection to Lake Erie):



Crossing NY State: Note that our "canal path" across the state follows the original Erie Canal layout (had a path for mules to pull small canal boats), for the most part. The supersized canal of today frequently has no "path" along it, since it was dug for large motorized marine traffic. Due to its greatly enlarged width and frequent barge traffic (requiring frequent lift bridge raising, obstructing street traffic), it was rerouted to avoid some towns/cities during WW1. As a result of this canal width expansion and rerouting, our historical "canal path" ride is sometimes 10 miles away from the modern enlarged Erie Canal (part of New York State Canal System), next to separated segments of the abandoned runt of the original Erie Canal.



Fairport on Friday 7/5 afternoon: Both SAG wagons will stop in Fairport to pick up Rochester riders at a time **TBD**; there is a total of 12 seats (7 in VW Bus and 5 in Jeep, including drivers) between the 2 vehicles; Bus has a 4-bike rack in back for enroute rescues; closed trailer is 5'x8' and will have a lock.

Friday 7/5 overnight in Buffalo: The Vrbo house that my core group of riders is staying in, is one block south of a major replenishment center, the beer-plex called The Buffalo Olde Brewery <https://www.thebuffalooldebrewery.com/>, open till 11pm. We'll have dinner there and hope any additional riders will use Uber to join us. *Besides the recent inventions of chicken wings and the beef on weck sandwich, the Queen City was originally famous for being the world's largest grain port while positioned at the west end of the Erie Canal, at east end of Lake Erie, in the 1800's.*

Sat 7/6 ride to Medina: Canal trail segment length* (from "Erie Canalway Trail Mile Marker Zero" landmark in downtown Buffalo to North Main St in Medina) = 49 miles, which doesn't include the significant **detour** around Ralph Wilson Park in Buffalo; a second **detour** is located near Middleport; an optional side trip to NY Beer Project (<https://www.nybeerproject.com/locations/lockport>) is available on our route map at Pendleton; our route total miles, without option, is **54 miles**.

Sat 7/6 overnight in Medina: Our dinner spot is Fitzgibbons Public House (<https://www.fitzgibbonspub.com/>), open till midnight.

Sunday 7/7 ride to Fairport: Canal trail segment length* to downtown Fairport = 58 miles, not counting the expected Rochester west side canal path resurfacing **detour** which has yet to be defined; many breweries open along the way, beginning in Spencerport with our first stop at <https://www.brindlehausbrewing.com/> (opens at 12). After that, it's riders choice of <https://lock32brew.com/> (opens at 12), <https://www.copperleafbrewingco.com/> (opens at 1), or <https://www.brewaurora.com/rochester> (opens at 12). Our route map was constructed to include a stop at Brindle Haus Brewing in Spencerport, but the others for the rest of the ride/day are optional. Our route total is **61 miles**. **Note that I've been told the CSM Alumni Association is going to put out an email that says, be at Lock 32 Park (Pittsford) at 4, for our ride through at 4:30. Be aware that T-storms could delay our arrival timing, as we'll have to hide from those.**

Sunday 7/7 overnight in Fairport: Restaurants are numerous (including Lane: <https://mulconrys.com/> and <https://donnellysph.com/>) and there are also 4 local breweries (<https://www.fairportbrewing.com/locations/fairport-brewing-company-fairport> [open 12-9], <https://preservationbeercompany.com/> [open 12-8], <https://faircraftbrauhaus.com/> [open 12-5], <https://triphammerbierwerks.com/> [open 1-7]). *Fairport is famous for the old American Can factory that still stands (with 2 microbreweries inside), where the beer can was invented and first produced in late 1934.*

Monday 7/8 ride to Weedsport: Canal trail segment length* = 54 miles; all the breweries along the way there are closed on Mondays, so no options in that regard; we ride by Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park (<https://newyorkcanals.org/the-heritage-park>) and can easily stop there. Our route total is **56 miles**.

Monday 7/8 overnight in Weedsport: Lunkenheimer Craft Brewing is in Weedsport, but closed on Mondays and the one other pub in town is closed on Mondays also. But pizza places and conventional diners are open for dinner, within walking distance. Alternatively, if the posse desires a more interesting dinner spot, we could use SAG vehicles and Ubers to drive 8 miles south to <https://www.prisoncitybrewing.com/state-street> in Auburn. It's inside an old armory, but closes at 9. *Weedsport is famous for hosting the Weedsport Speedway and the Dirt Museum & Hall of Fame (dirt track racing).*

Tuesday 7/9 ride to Canastota: Canal trail segment length* = 49 miles; after only 24 miles, we'll stop at Buried Acorn Brewing (<https://www.buriedacorn.com/>) in the Syracuse Inner Harbor area, as it is right on our route; can also stop at Camillus Erie Canal Park (store and museum, <https://eriecanalcamillus.org/>), the restored 1844 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct (<https://eriecanalcamillus.org/visit-us/aqueduct/>), and Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse (<https://eriecanalmuseum.org/>) along our way, if desired; our route total is **50 miles**.



Tuesday 7/9 overnight in Canastota: Canastota has Erie Canal Brewing, but they are closed on Tuesdays; there is Three Pines restaurant and bar open till 9 for dinner. *Canastota is famous for hosting the International Boxing Hall of Fame and was once called the “Onion Capital of the World”.*

Wednesday 7/10 ride to Herkimer: Canal trail segment length* = 54 miles; at 22 miles Rome has <https://www.coppercitybrewing.com/> but it doesn't open till 2, too late; in Rome we also pass right by the Fort Stanwix National Monument (<https://www.nps.gov/fost/index.htm>), so perhaps we will stop and check it out; at 38 miles we reach Utica, where there is Saranac (but it's closed on Wednesdays) and <https://www.baggssquarebrewing.com/home> which opens at noon; at 50 miles we reach Frankfort, where there is <https://heelpathbrewingco.com/> open 2-7. Riders have a choice to stop at either Bagg's Square Brewing or Heal Path Brewing. Our route total is **55 miles**, without optional brewery stop additional distance.

Wednesday 7/10 overnight in Herkimer: Herkimer has no breweries, but plenty of restaurants, including Asteroga Ale House (open for dinner from 4 till 9). We can utilize SAG vehicles and Ubers to reach that dinner spot. *Herkimer is famous for Herkimer Diamonds – the quartz crystals unique to that area, that are open pit surface mined by fools.*

Thursday 7/11 ride to Amsterdam: Canal trail segment length* = 49 miles; we only pass closed breweries on the way. We may stop at Herkimer Home State Historic Site (<https://parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/14/details.aspx>) since we'll ride right through it. Our route total is **51 miles**.

Thursday 7/11 overnight in Amsterdam: While Amsterdam has no breweries, we could use SAG vehicles and Ubers in the evening to go 7 miles east of town to <https://www.wolfhollowbrewing.com/>, which is open from 4 to 9 with a food truck on site for dinner. *Amsterdam was once the top-quality carpet-making city in the US. Sadly, in more recent times, Cabbage Patch Dolls were also manufactured there.*

Friday 7/12 ride to Albany: Canal trail segment length* = 47 miles; as we leave Amsterdam, we may briefly visit visiting Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Bridge (<https://www.amsterdamny.gov/242/Mohawk-Valley-Gateway-Overlook-Bridge>); we reach Schenectady at 18 miles and we have early options of <https://frogalleybrewing.com/> or <https://www.druthersbrewing.com/locations/schenectady/>; we reach Troy (across the river) at 40 miles and it has 2 breweries (riders optional choice to stop at one or not), one opens at 12 (<https://www.brownsbrewing.com/troy-taproom>), the other at 4pm (<https://www.rareformbrewing.com/>); then we reach Albany and it has 5 breweries north of our downtown hotel (riders option), (<https://www.fortorangebrewing.com/> , <https://www.druthersbrewing.com/locations/albany/> , <https://www.fidensbrewing.com/taproom> , <https://commonrootsbrewing.com/albany/> [next door to our Hyatt Place Hotel]). Note that on our route final approach, we enter downtown Albany using the new Skyway (<https://www.cnu.org/what-we-do/build-great-places/albany-skyway>). Our route total is **48 miles**, excluding optional stops.

Friday 7/12 overnight in Albany: after our release from police custody, our hotel Hyatt Place Albany has <https://commonrootsbrewing.com/albany/> brewery right next door for dinner, or take the SAG vehicles and Ubers to <http://thecitybeerhall.com/> for dinner. *Albany is famous for taxes (!) and being the oldest continuous settlement in the original 13 English colonies, habitation beginning in 1613 as a Dutch fort.*

Saturday 7/13: fly, be free!

*Distance doesn't include trail detours, optional side trips to breweries, side trip to/from end point hotels. Actual daily miles riding total, along with daily ride map, have been emailed to riders. Route maps are built in MapMyRide (<https://www.mapmyride.com/>) and if that app is downloaded into a smartphone, a cyclist can run each daily route map while riding, to avoid getting lost. But be warned, running a route map on your phone with the display constantly ON, will deplete any smartphone's battery before you reach 50 miles distance. Buy an external rechargeable battery for your phone.



Erie Canal Trail Ride 2024 by Scott Saunders, 6/27/24



Table of Route Miles:

Day	Total Route Miles**	Road Miles (unprotected)	Bike Path Miles***	Paved Path Miles***	Stone-dust Miles
1	54	15	39	26	13
2	61	2	59	13	46
3	56	22	34	4	30
4	50	4	46	15	31
5	55	16	39	16	23
6	51	2	49	45	4
7	48	5	43	43	0
TOTAL	375	66	309	162	147
%	100	18	82	43	39

**Doesn't include optional side trips (on roads) offered on daily route sheets.

***Includes median protected bike lanes next to road and a few sidewalks we utilize.