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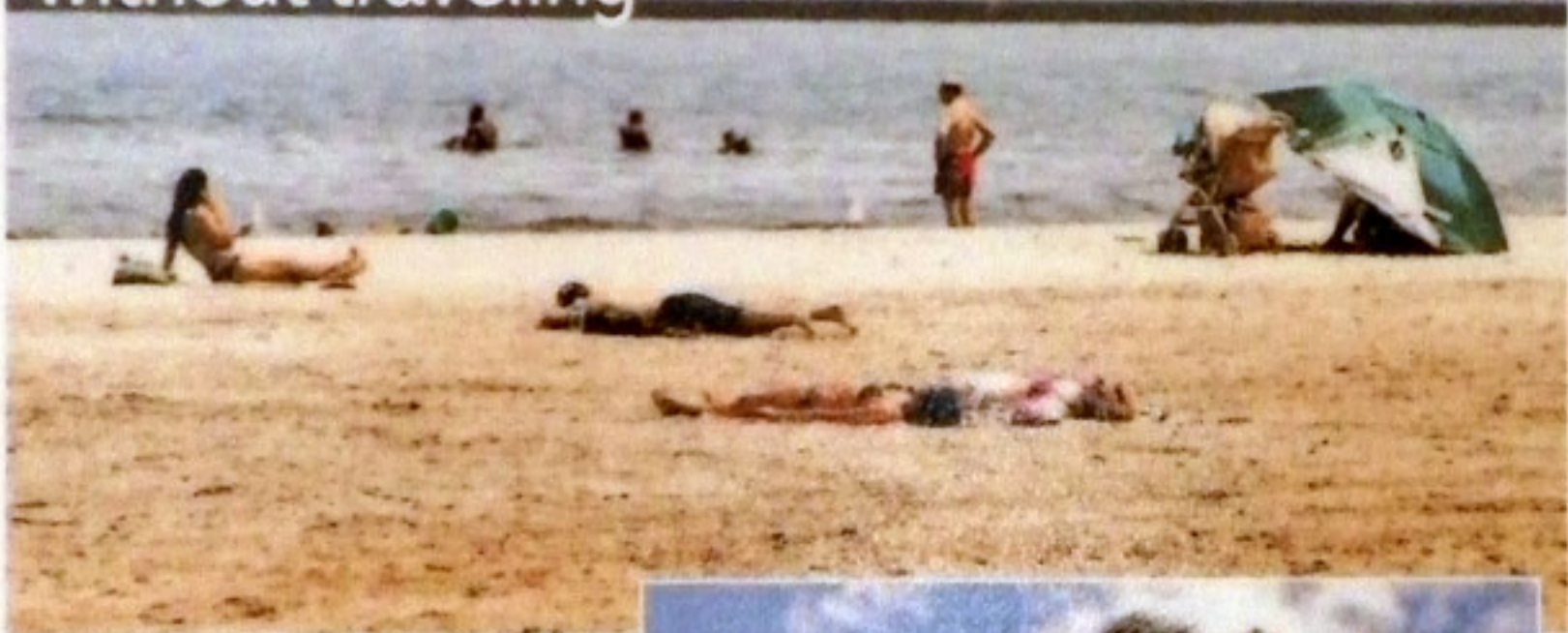
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

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STAYCATION » IDEAS FOR FUN

HOTEL HOME

Have a destination vacation without traveling



Warm weather brings people to Ontario Beach Park. There are free concerts and movies at the park during the summer, and tours of the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Museum. TINA YEDESKY PHOTOGRAPHER

Pretend you're a tourist. What would you do here on vacation? That's what we asked, and readers responded with more ideas than we can print.

From Lake Ontario to the Finger Lakes, museums in the Neighborhood of the Arts to destination stops in Auburn and Sodus Point, readers told us their favorites. We've compiled them for you here, taking the liberty of combining some ideas to make 10 ideas destination day plans for the Rochester and Finger Lakes area.

1. Enjoy Charlotte and Ontario Beach Park. Walk along the pier to the lighthouse. South of the park is the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Museum. On Tuesday nights in July and August are free movies, on Wednesday nights free concerts. If you walk down a few blocks along Beach Avenue, there is a narrow sidewalk that takes you down to a walkway along the beach where several private homes have beautiful gardens to see. Several restaurants offer good food and a view of the lake as well.

2. Finger Lakes territory has many options. You can follow the wine trails and see many sights along the way as well as the wineries themselves. On Canandaigua Lake, Onanda Park offers swimming, fishing, tennis and picnic grounds. Along the lake in the city of Canandaigua — which has Granger Museum & Homestead and Sonnenberg Gardens among its tourism sites — is Kershaw Park with another public beach. You can hike up Barr Hill on the southeast end of Canandaigua Lake. And on Friday and Saturday nights, you can take a tour and watch the stars at C.E.K. Mees Observatory at Gannett Hill in the Bristol Hills.

3. Boat, kayak, canoe, fish, bike or hike around Hemlock and Canadice lakes. Swimming is not allowed to help preserve the watershed, but more than one person called this area the Adirondacks of the Finger Lakes with an old-growth forest on the southwest shore with bald eagles overhead, easy to moderate trails along both, and pristine water. The state maintains a park with a pavilion, playground and grills on the north end of Hemlock. Canadice has a maintained trail along the west side that connects to a quiet, wooded road on the east. It's about an eight-mile bike ride around the lake.

4. Heading to Cayuga Lake, you can try wineries such as Buttonwood Grove, Knapp and Cayuga Ridge (one of the oldest in the Finger Lakes). Aurora has the Mackenzie-Childs home goods factory, which is located on a nice farm and estate that is a destination in itself. From there, you can head toward Skaneateles Lake with a stop first at Auburn for the Seward House Museum, historic home to William Seward, Abraham Lincoln's secretary of state, and the Harriet Tubman House. Skaneateles has a number of good res-



Rmani Crawford, left, and his brother Lamr Crawford enjoy the Revolution 360 ride at Seabreeze Amusement Park, one of the oldest parks of its kind in operation in the country. SHAWN DOWDRIE PHOTO 2010

taurants and shops. **5.** Seneca Lake has some great parks. Then if you continue east, you can visit the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls. You can cap off the day at the Waterloo Premium Outlets.

6. Head east along Lake Ontario to Sodus Bay to see the historic murals on the side of the fire hall and the Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum. The lighthouse has free concerts on Sunday afternoons and beautiful gardens. There are also free movies on the beach at various times during the summer.

7. Head to downtown Rochester. At the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County in the children's depart-

ment is the "Secret Room." This summer, see dolls from around the world. On the second floor the Rundel Building is the Rochester Historical Society, with "All Business: 190 Years of Rochester Ingenuity" exhibit through Sept. 29. There are parks along the Genesee River where you can eat, seeing the Erie Canal Aqueduct and the statue of Mercury.

8. The Neighborhood of the Arts and its surrounding area hold many treasures. There's the outdoor ArtWalk, with several art galleries and interesting architecture along University Avenue. The Strong National Museum of Play (just outside the area), then the Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester Museum & Science Center and George Eastman House (all have great cafés). Just outside the

area in the other direction **9.** Eat at Parkside Diner, then head outside to Parkside Pines, the oldest miniature golf in the country. Up the street is Seabreeze Amusement Park, one of the oldest operating of its kind in the country.

10. opposite sides of town but worth the stops. The Susan B. Anthony House is on Madison Street in the city, and the Ganondagan State Historic Park is in Victor, Ganondagan, the site of a once-flourishing village of Seneca people, has special events throughout the summer and also has public access to great trails for hiking. □

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Parkside Diner
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