



Niagara Falls and the Building of America!

Erie Canal Cruise & Dinner - Niagara-on-the-Lake - "I Love Lucy" 75th Anniversary in Jamestown
Made in America Day - "Home of the Buffalo Wing" Anchor Bar - BRAND NEW "Niagara Takes Flight"
Underground Railroad - Maid of the Mist - Roycroft Inn - IceWine - Carousel Horses & Chocolates

June 20 - 26, 2026

7 Days and 6 Nights



Imagine standing right at the edge of the falls, close enough to feel the thunder of millions of gallons of water cascading over - and discover how and why the Falls' immense power stands as the perfect symbol of the entire Niagara region's vital part in the building of our great nation, America!

Just beyond the waterfall's vistas, Niagara also overflows with splendid discoveries, a rich history and fantastic attractions! From the Erie Canal to Delaware Avenue, you'll learn how Buffalo - home to F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mark Twain and Grover Cleveland - became America's wealthiest city with the most millionaires per capita! You'll spend a fascinating day in delightful East Aurora, birthplace of the American Arts and Crafts movement, and in Jamestown for the 75th anniversary of "I Love Lucy" at the Lucy Desi Museum and National Comedy Center! You'll also enjoy a thrilling day across the border to explore lovely Niagara-on-the-Lake, take a NEW flight simulator ride over the falls, taste delicious Icewine, and dine at Prime Steakhouse!

Itinerary

June 20, 2026 - Welcome to Niagara: Erie Canal Cruise+Dinner!

You'll board your flight for **Buffalo** and the mighty **Niagara Falls**! On arrival, you'll embark on a narrated cruise through five of the original locks of the picturesque **Erie Canal**. Its 363 miles were dug solely with shovels and horsepower, and its laborers earned just 80 cents a day! An engineering marvel at its completion in 1825, some called it the **Eighth Wonder of the World** and it transformed Buffalo into an industrial powerhouse! After your cruise you'll enjoy your **dinner at the adjacent dock house**. You'll then transfer to your hotel, the **Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino**, for the next 5 nights where you'll have a \$100 casino credit to try your luck, as well as a \$40 dining credit!

Overnight: **Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino** (D)

June 21, 2026 - The Falls Up Close & the Underground Railroad!

Your morning begins with a breathtaking view of one of nature's marvels, an experience that will last a lifetime! Discovered in 1678, **Niagara Falls** is one of America's first and most dramatic icons, and you'll see and feel both the American and Canadian waters spray all around during the **Maid of the Mist** boat ride! After your morning adventure, you'll have time on your own to enjoy lunch in downtown Niagara, then you'll visit some of the **Underground Railroad's** last stops. Hundreds of heroic local men and women worked with **Harriet Tubman** to lead escaping slaves to Canada over the **Suspension Bridge** at Niagara Falls, cheering them on with Tubman's famous quote that freedom was theirs "once you crossed the line and shook the lion's paw!" Great Lakes steamship sailor William Wells Brown also carried slaves across the Niagara River, and many local churches, homes, farmhouses and other dwellings became hiding places in the Underground Railroad movement. Enjoy dinner on your own back at the resort, perhaps using your dining credit at any of its several enticing fine and casual dining options.

Overnight: **Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino** (B)

June 22, 2026 - Buffalo's Gilded Age and Anchor Bar Wings!

If you've not been to **Buffalo**, prepare to be amazed - this is truly an astounding city, and today you'll discover the best of what she offers! You'll tour the **Darwin Martin House Complex**, one of **Frank Lloyd Wright's** greatest achievements, a classic example of Wright's Prairie House style and home to the famed "Tree of Life" stained glass window. Buffalo's beautiful downtown landmarks create a stunning backdrop for her most important stories. Once known as both "Best

Designed City" and "**America's City**," Buffalo was home to presidents Fillmore and Cleveland, and not surprisingly several master architects as well. Visit its city hall, one of the largest in America, an **Art Deco** masterpiece that sits on **Niagara Square**, the center and cultural heart of Buffalo. Then see the magnificent mansions on **Delaware Avenue**, one of the pre-eminent addresses in America during the 1880s and 1890s. As you make your way down **Millionaire's Row** you'll also see the site of Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration. During your tour today, you'll enjoy lunch at the legendary home of the **Buffalo Wing** — the world-famous "**Anchor Bar**"! After a full day of touring, you'll return to your hotel to enjoy dinner on your own.

Overnight: **Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino** (B/L)

June 23, 2026 - Made in America Day!

After breakfast, you'll head out to **East Aurora, NY**, first visiting the flagship **Made In America Store**! Its founder's proud mission is to create and save jobs in the US by increasing American manufacturing for our children's future. Opened in the darkest days of the 2008 recession and starting with only 50 items made totally in America, the store now offers **over 10,000 products that are 100% American-made**! Next up is East Aurora's **Roycroft Campus**, begun in 1897 by legendary visionary and **American Arts and Crafts Movement** founder Elbert Hubbard. The Campus still breathes the atmosphere of a bygone era, in vogue today thanks to HGTV's design programs featuring Arts & Crafts homes and decor. For over 20 years, Roycroft became a center of entrepreneurship, creativity and learning for more than 500 working artisans and craftsmen, exemplifying the "**Roycroft Way of Life**." In 1905 the **Roycroft Inn**, at whose restaurant you'll enjoy today's lunch, was opened to give both visitors and craftsmen a vivid taste of this emerging community and lifestyle. You'll also watch an **artisan demonstration** of the Roycroft's signature handmade goods that you'll get to take home with you. You're then free to explore downtown East Aurora, the "**most American town in the US**," and so compact that nothing's ever more than 5 minutes away. A walk down bustling Main Street is a delightful step back in time, with its charming specialty shops, restaurants, churches, municipal buildings and carefully preserved homes. Most prominent among these is **Vidler's**, the **largest Five and Dime store in the world**, and the **Millard Fillmore House** built by our 13th President. This evening, relax after this exciting day with dinner on your own back at your hotel and casino.

Overnight: **Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino** (B/L)

June 24, 2026 - Lots of Laughter — Loving Lucy in Jamestown!

After breakfast, you'll head out to Jamestown, New York on Chautauqua Lake, best known as the **birthplace of Lucille Ball** and home of the **National Comedy Center**! On this year's **75th anniversary of "I Love Lucy,"** you'll first visit the **Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum**, celebrating the lives, careers and legacies of the **"First Couple of Comedy,"** with exact re-creations of studio sets from beloved TV sitcom **"I Love Lucy,"** including their **New York City apartment** and Hollywood hotel suite. You'll see screen-used costumes and props, Emmy Awards, and scripts from this legendary TV series. Lucy and Desi were pioneering artists, innovators, and cultural icons with fascinating life stories, including the creation of their powerhouse **Desilu Studios**. You'll also enjoy a nostalgic lunch at the museum's re-creation of the iconic set of the most well-known nightclub in television history - **Ricky Ricardo's glamorous Tropicana Club**! Afterward, you'll explore the **National Comedy Center**, the USA's official cultural institution and museum for presenting the vital story of American comedy and preserving its heritage. Recently named **"Best New Museum"** in the country by USA Today, and one of the "World's Greatest Places" by TIME magazine, the Comedy Center provides a one-of-a-kind immersive entertainment experience filled with laughter - featuring state-of-the-art technology, interactivity and personalization. After this fun-filled day, enjoy dinner on your own back at your hotel and casino.

Overnight: **Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino** (B/L)

June 25, 2026 - "Flying" Over the Falls and Canada's Icewine!

You'll continue your Niagara adventure today with a truly unique view of the **Niagara Region of Canada**! At Table Rock Centre, you'll experience the brand-new "Niagara Takes Flight," a **world-class flying theatre attraction** set just steps away from iconic Horseshoe Falls! This fully-immersive 4-D simulation is the most exciting way to explore the breathtaking landscapes of Niagara from a wholly new perspective. Your "flying theatre ride" takes you on a dynamic journey over the falls, gliding across sweeping landscapes and historic landmarks, as you soar high above the swirling whirlpool rapids and falls, chase boats along the Niagara River, view epic battle re-enactments, and come closer than ever before to the thundering Horseshoe Falls! The show's **innovative**

drone filming techniques immerse you thrillingly into the beauty and grandeur of the Niagara region! Afterward, you'll visit the quaintly historic spot named Canada's **"Prettiest Town" - Niagara-on-the-Lake**! Known to locals as NOTL, its 19th century charm makes this a wonderful place to explore, with forts, grand mansions, colorful gardens and a potpourri of arts and craft shops. Enjoy lunch on your own in this beautiful town that'll enchant you with all its brilliant flowers and charming shops. Afterwards, you'll enjoy a unique **wine tasting experience** that will include Ontario's famed **Icewine**! This dessert wine is produced from grapes that have been frozen, and then picked while still on the vine. As you travel back on the scenic Niagara Parkway, you'll stop at the famous **Floral Clock** whose intricate designs on the clock's face are made from thousands of carpet bedding plants changed twice each year. Tonight's **Farewell Dinner** is at the famed **Prime Steakhouse** restaurant with its fabulous Niagara Falls views and breathtaking vistas from enormous picture windows providing your dramatic backdrop for their delicious cuisine.

Overnight: **Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino** (B/D)

June 26, 2026 - Carousels, Chocolate and a Fond Farewell!

After checking out of your hotel, you'll visit the historic **Herschell Carousel Factory Museum**! The Allan Herschell Company was once the most prolific carousel maker, producing over 3,000 hand carved wooden carousels. Each featured strikingly designed horses, and the company built a worldwide reputation for quality rides. Not only will you see beautifully restored wooden horses, but you'll get to be a kid again and **ride the 1916 carousel with 36 hand carved horses**! You'll also enjoy a tasting and tour of **Platter's Chocolate Factory**, whose multiple viewing areas let you see nearly every chocolate making process. As you watch them whip up a batch of sponge candy and create hollow novelties by hand, you can talk with chocolate experts and taste samples of Platter's famous sponge candy. You might also enjoy their Café favorites like fresh pressed coffee, hot chocolate, ice cream sundaes, and of course **CHOCOLATES**! After a fun-filled morning, you'll transfer to the Buffalo airport for your flight home. **Memories of Niagara featuring amazing Buffalo, charming East Aurora and Jamestown, and the thundering Falls, will last a lifetime!** (B)

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airfare from Houston to Buffalo, NY (from certain major gateway cities only, your pricing may be higher from smaller ones; checked baggage fees are not included)
- Roundtrip transfers from airport to hotel
- 6 nights hotel accommodations at the Seneca Niagara Resort and Casino where you'll have a \$100 casino credit and a \$40 dining credit to be used at your leisure. (Please note that your hotel does not overlook the Falls)
- Breakfast daily at the Seneca Niagara Resort and Casino
- Private motor coach for the entire itinerary
- 3 lunches - Anchor Bar, Roycroft Inn, and Ricky Ricardo's Tropicana Club!
- 2 dinners - Erie Canal Cruise Dock, and Prime Steakhouse by the falls!
- All sightseeing and admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary including Erie Canal Cruise, Darwin Martin House, Maid of the Mist boat ride, Lucy Desi Museum, Niagara Falls State Park, Niagara Takes Flight Theatre Experience, Icewine Tasting, Herschell Carousel Factory and more!
- Porterage of 1 suitcase per person
- All taxes, government fees & service charges

****Please note that itineraries are subject to change.**

Niagara Falls

\$3,998.00

per person / double occupancy

Single supplement is \$1,298.00

Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.

PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS TOUR!

Call today to reserve your space!!

CST # 2057913-10

Reservations for **"Niagara Falls and the Building of America"** are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to February 20, 2026.

Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before February 20, 2026.

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted at least 10 days prior to this date.

100% non-refundable as of February 20, 2026.

Payments may be made by checks made payable to **TRIPS**

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or by credit card by visiting Lamar.edu/cardinaladventures and following the link for this trip.

Your Lamar University contact is Laurie Ritchel, University Travel Programs Coordinator,

who may be reached at (409) 790-4307 or laurie.ritchel@lamar.edu. You may also contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@lamar.edu.

Mikki Walker at TRIPS may also be contacted at (818) 753-4530 or mikki@gotripsinc.com with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

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