



Oswego War of 1812 Peace Garden Group Tour Itinerary

The War of 1812, sometimes known as the “Second American Revolution” began on June 18, 1812 when the United States declared war on Great Britain. Well-known events of the war include the Battle of New Orleans, which established future President Andrew Jackson as a hero; the burning of the White House as part of a British attack in 1814; and the composition of the Star Spangled Banner during the Battle of Baltimore.

Lesser known in the national memory were key battles along the Great Lakes, a major action theatre of the war. Harbors housed ship building ports and military strongholds and many campaigns were fought along the shores of Lake Ontario. The military strategy was simple: whoever controlled the lake also controlled the outcome of the war.

More than just the location of long-forgotten historic events, Oswego County hosts several historic sites that highlight both the War of 1812 and early American history.

DAY 1:

9 a.m.: Arrive in the town of Oswego, NY for a farm fresh morning treat

Ontario Orchards

Stroll through the garden center of one of New York State's largest and most complete farms. Open year-round, this family-owned farm market specializes in locally grown produce in season. On site, there is a cider mill, in-house bakery, garden center, greenhouses, and a complete nursery.

www.ontarioorchards.com.

10:15 a.m.: Take a short drive to the city of Oswego for a full day of exploring!

10:30 a.m. Stop portside and dive into Oswego’s colorful maritime history

H. Lee White Marine Museum

Located on a pier overlooking Oswego Harbor, you’ll find a trove of treasures at the marine museum. Paintings, models and artifacts take you back through 300 years of maritime history to tell the fascinating story of a major port on the Great Lakes in the 19th century. Step aboard the 1925 NYS Canal Boat, “Lance Knapp,” which was the last steam powered vessel on the Oswego Canal and the “LT-5,” the last remaining large tugboat from the Normandy invasion of World War II. It was named a National Historic Landmark in 1992 thanks to the heroic action of her crew on D-Day. www.hleewhitemarinemuseum.com.

12:30 p.m.: Enjoy a welcoming lunch in the Port City

<http://visitoswegocounty.com/food-lodging-2/dining-night-life/>

1:30 p.m. Take in the fresh floral display in this charming park

Oswego War of 1812 Peace Garden

This scenic garden overlooks the Oswego River to commemorate the role the people of Oswego played in the War of 1812. Modeled on the International Peace Garden concept, this beautiful flowering park is a reminder of the peace that has existed between the United States and Canada for the past 200 years.

2:30 p.m.: Step back in time to tour an historic Oswego home

Richardson Bates House Museum

This ornate Italian villa was built for local attorney Maxwell Richardson in the late 19th century. The luxurious interiors contain 95 percent of the original furnishings and portray the family's wealth and Mr. Richardson's position as a civic leader in Oswego. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the house is maintained as it appeared around 1890, and offers a unique glimpse of Victorian America's fascination with history, art, education, and travel. www.rbhousemuseum.org.

4:30 p.m.: Check in to one of our inviting hotels, unpack and freshen up for the evening.

<http://visitoswegocounty.com/food-lodging-2/accomodations/>.

5:30 p.m.: Depart for dinner and evening entertainment on Oswego's scenic shores

DAY 2:

9 a.m.: Learn about Oswego's unique role in American history

Safe Haven Museum and Education Center

On the grounds of Fort Ontario was the site of the only American shelter to welcome Holocaust refugees during World War II. Nearly 1,000 European evacuees came to the United States at the invitation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In August 1944, they were transported to the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter where they lived as his guests for 18 months until the war ended. The museum once served as the shelter's administrative headquarters and features first-person accounts of the experiences and many later accomplishments of these courageous people.

www.safehavenmuseum.com.

10:30 a.m.: Take a short walk over to the fort and explore its diverse past

Fort Ontario State Historic Site

Overlooking Lake Ontario, the first fort was built in 1755 by the British army. Over the next 100 years, it was destroyed and re-built four times. Fort Ontario played a prominent role in nine colonial and American wars including the French and Indian War, American Revolution and the War of 1812. The fort has been restored to its 1860s appearance, showing visitors how officers and soldiers lived during that time. A guided tour of the fort and military demonstration can be arranged with advance notice. www.fortontario.com.

12:30 p.m. Arrive in Fulton, NY and enjoy lunch along the old Oswego Canal

<http://visitoswegocounty.com/food-lodging-2/dining-night-life/>

1:30 p.m. This beautifully restored home chronicles Fulton's remarkable past

John Wells Pratt House Museum

This historic home was built in 1861 for Mr. Pratt, a successful farmer, businessman and civic leader in Fulton. The museum features a beautifully carved staircase, two marble fireplaces, antique musical instruments, early framed maps, an original telephone switchboard and a Victorian period kitchen. Here you'll learn about past industry and canal activities and see special displays about local community history. 315/598-4616.

2:30 p.m.: Head over to Brewerton, N.Y. to see early treasures

3 p.m.: Discover ancient artifacts from the area's first settlers

Fort Brewerton-Oliver Stevens Blockhouse Museum

For over 10,000 years, Native Americans occupied the site on the Oneida River where Fort Brewerton now stands. The original fort was built at the west end of Oneida Lake, and is one of the best-preserved archeological sites of its type. The museum contains extensive Native American exhibits, antique tools, Revolutionary and Civil War artifacts, a painting of the original fort and several artifacts from the Oliver Stevens family; the first white settlers in Oswego County. Today's block house is a replica of their home. www.fortbrewerton.org.

4 p.m.: Return home or enjoy a dinner on the waterfront