



Oswego County has your Passport to History!

Discover our unique heritage and how it left its mark on the pages of time.

Learn about local people and the events that helped shape the history of the state and the country.

Begin at **Fort Ontario State Historic Site**



Enjoy a guided tour of the fort, prominent in nine colonial & American wars including the French and Indian War, the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Overlooking Lake Ontario, the first fort was built in 1755 by the British army. Over the next 100 years, it was destroyed & re-built four times. Today, it stands restored to its 1868 appearance and visitors will learn how officers and soldiers lived during this time.



www.fortoswego.com

Safe Haven



Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter Oswego, New York

From August 1944 to February 1946, Fort Ontario was the only shelter for European refugees in the United States. This is the story of those people and the town that was their home for that brief period.

Next, cross the street to the **Safe Haven Museum and Education Center**. During World War II, the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter was the only place in the America to house Jewish refugees of the Nazi Holocaust. From August 1944 to February 1946, nearly 1,000 evacuees were welcomed to Oswego at the invitation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Learn their stories here, previously the shelter's administrative headquarters.

www.safehavenmuseum.com

Visit the **John D. Murray Firefighter's Museum** at the Oswego East Fire Station. Enjoy a full mural in homage to the history of firefighting along the side of the station. Inside, you'll discover antique fire trucks, exhibits and memorabilia and a gift shop.



36 E Seneca St., (315) 343-0999



It's great history.

Enjoy a boxed lunch and a presentation about the **Underground Railroad** at the **Oswego Public Library**, which was founded in 1853 by abolitionist Gerrit Smith with the condition that it “shut out no person on account of their race, complexion, or condition.” The building was constructed in the popular Norman-style re-creating a medieval castle appearance. It is the oldest remaining public library building in New York State that is still being used as a library.

www.oswegopubliclibrary.org



Then stop at the **Richardson-Bates House Museum**. This historic home was completed in 1890 for local attorney Maxwell Richardson and contains 95 percent of the original furnishings. The luxurious interiors of the ornate Italian-style villa 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 offers a unique glimpse at Victorian America’s fascination with history, art, education and travel.



www.rbhousemuseum.org

Next, head over to the **Oswego Railroad Museum** and view ever-changing exhibits and displays honoring the days of rail. The museum features an excellent operating layout of southern Oswego County in the 1950s along with a variety of other model and toy train layouts. (West Van Buren St.)



Complete your tour with a visit to the **H. Lee White Marine Museum**, located on a pier overlooking Oswego Harbor. View paintings, pictures, models and artifacts that depict 300 years of Oswego County’s maritime history. Step aboard a 1925 NYS Canal Boat, the “Lance Knapp,” the last steam-powered vessel on the Barge Canal and a World War II Tug, the “LT-5,” the last remaining large tugboat from the Normandy invasion fleet. In 1992, the latter was named a National Historic Landmark for the heroic actions of her crew on D-Day.



For more information:

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www.visitoswegocounty.com

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