Explore Rochester

Compiled by
University of Rochester EM Students

Top 40 Things to do in Rochester, NY

1.) Park Avenue Festival

2.) Trip to Finger Lakes wineries

3.) Kayak downstream from Ellison Park to Irondequoit Bay (Oak Orchard Canoe Kayak Experts)

4.) Lighthouse scenic walking trail on Lake Ontario

5.) Visit Letchworth and Stony Brook parks (waterfalls and trails to hike).

6.) Eat at Good Luck Restaurant

7.) Camping in the Adirondacks (Lake Placid, Saratoga Springs, & Lake George). Mirror Lake Inn Resort & Spa in Lake Placid is a must

8.) Attend a concert at the Eastman School of Music

9.) During the holiday season, (if you celebrate Christmas, cut down a tree at one of the local tree farms)

10.) Purchase a delicious cake at Goodness Cakes

11.) Attend the world famous Rochester Jazz Festival

12.) Clothesline Art Festival

13.) Take a trip to the nearby Corning Museum of Glass

14.) Take a canal boat ride from Schoen Place to explore the Pittsford Canal Locks. Sit on the deck of Aladdin's post your cruise to take in the sunset

15.) Eastman House backyard garden concerts

16.) Visit Hamlin Beach (30 minute drive)

17.) Take a trip to Charlotte Beach (15 minute drive) and eat dinner at the Pelican's Nest or Ollie's

18.) Take a stroll through the beautiful lilacs at Highland Park

19.) Take a visit to the many local public markets
20.) Attend a sporting event: Rochester Americans (hockey), Red Wings (baseball), Knighthawks (Lacrosse), Rhinos (soccer). Venture a bit farther and see a Buffalo Bills (football) or Buffalo Sabres (hockey) game
21.)Attend a local theatre show at Broadway Theatre, Geva Theatre, Downstairs Cabaret, and/or see a concert at the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (Eastman)
22.) Cornhill Art Festival
23.) Take a hike through Mendon Parks Park
24.) Watch the sun set/rise at the reservoir on Cobbs Hill. Amazing views of the city
25.) Walk your dog(s) at Ellison Park and Corbitt Glen Park
26.) Visit the Memorial Art Gallery, bring your URMC id for free entry
27.) See a movie at the Little Theatre, small, mostly foreign films
28.) Get a relaxing massage at the Spa at the Del Monte
29.) Book a getaway at Bristol Harbor Golf Resort
30.) Visit Seneca Park Zoo
31.) Visit Marge's bar on Irondequoit Bay and enjoy the scenic view on the water
32.) Visit the butterfly garden at Strong National Museum of Play
33.) Make a trip to Wegmans (our local grocery store)
34.) Go to a laser show at the planetarium
35.) Visit Niagara on the Lake
36.) In the winter go sledding at Powder Mill Park
37.) Visit Sonnenberg Gardens
38.) Go ice skating at Highland Park
39.) Get delicious BBQ at Sticky Lips or Dinosaur Bar-B-Que
40.) Go skiing or snowboarding at Bristol Mountain

Explore Outside the City:

1.)Ontario Beach Park (25 minute drive north)
Explore the lighthouse and eat at Pelican's Nest or Olie's

2.) Hamlin Beach (40 minute drive northwest).
Beautiful scenery

3.) Mendon Ponds (20 minute drive south)
Walking trails, visit Henrietta Hots for a "garbage plate"

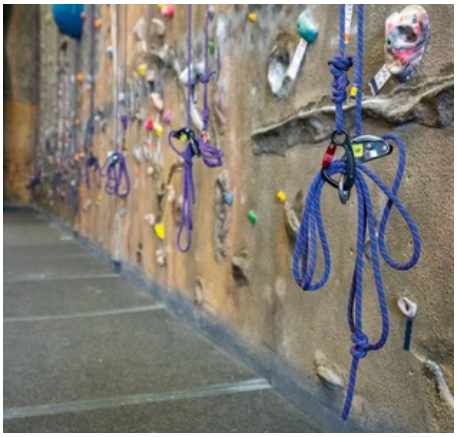
4.) Durand-Eastman Park (25 minute drive north)
Enjoy live music & a scenic beachfront patio at Marge's Lakeside Inn

Visit Bill Gray's or Don's for a bite to eat

5.) Seneca Park Zoo (20 minute drive north)

Exercise

Yoga at Breathe Yoga, Atman, or Bodhi Tree (Penfield)
Rock Climbing at RocVentures
Run, walk, bike the Erie Canal Trail or Highland Park
Cross Country Skiing at Mendon Ponds (Bring your own skis)



Full Day Adventures:

Brunch at Frog Pond, tour the George Eastman Museum, Cobbs Hill Park, dinner at Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, and a show at Geva Theatre.

Breakfast at Jines then spend the day at the Strong Museum of Play followed by dinner and drinks at The Old Toad (British pub), and end the night with a movie at the Little Theatre or a Rochester Amerks hockey game.

Explore the Rochester Public Market in the AM, lunch at Fare Game, followed by an afternoon tour of Mt. Hope Cemetery, and dinner at Henrietta Hots.

Take a stroll along the Genesee Riverway Trail in the morning, followed by lunch at Kainos, and spend the afternoon at the Strong Museum of Play and dinner at Tony D's.

Half Day Adventures:

Strong Museum of Play
Lamberton Conservatory
Coffee at Equal Grounds or Boulder Coffee
Movie at the Little Theatre
Explore outdoors at Highland Park, High Falls, or Genesee Valley Park

Rochester Public Market:
Open 6 AM - 1PM Tuesdays & Thursdays
5 AM -3 PM Saturdays

Brighton Farmers Market:
Open 9 AM -1 PM Sundays

Explore Rochester Dining

Breakfast:

Charlie Brown's

Enrights

Frog Pond

Fuego Coffee Roasters

Village Bakery

Deli and Sandwiches:

DiBella's Subs

Orange Glory

Magnolia's Deli & Café

Rubino's Italian Foods

Barbecue:

Dinosaur Bar-B-Que

Sticky Lips BBQ

Italian:

Fiamma Centro

Rocco (known for their Butterscotch Budino)

Pasta Villa

Grappa

Rochester Icons:

Nick Tahou's -Birthplace of the famous garbage plate

Jeremiah's Tavern

The Distillery

Dogtown

Trendy Restaurants:

Good Luck

Nosh

Cure

Locals Only

Diners:

Jim's on Main

Jine's Restaurant

Asian:

Han Noodle Bar

White Swans Asia Cafe Chen Garden

Cantonese House

SEA (Vietnamese)

Sodam (Korean)

The King & I (Thai)

Tokyo Japanese Restaurant

Dumpling House

Mexican:

Bitter Honey

John's Tex Mex

Old Pueblo Grill

Salena's

Indian:

India House

Tandoor of India

Amaya

Hyderabad Biryani House

Vegan:

The Red Fern

Fine Dining:

Next Door Bar & Grill

Ox and Stone

Redd

The Revelry

Dessert:

Simply Crepes

Cheesy Eddie's (known for their carrot cake)

Abbott's Frozen Custard

Pittsford Dairy Farms

Breweries, Wineries & Distilleries:

Black Button Distilling
Fairport Brewing
Fifth Frame Brewing
Genesee Brew House
Iron Smoke Distillery
Iron Tug Brewing
Mullers Cider House
Swiftwater Brewing
Roc Brewing
Rohrbach's Brewing
Three Heads Brewing
Triphammer Bierwerks

Finger Lakes Wineries

Niagara Wine Trail