

HAUNTED HISTORY TRAIL *of* New York State

ABOUT THE 1000 ISLANDS REGION

The 1000 Islands Region of New York State is home to nearly 2,000 islands, the sparkling blue bays of Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River's crystal-clear waters, and hundreds of miles of picturesque coastline. Rich in activity, you can find your fair share of fishing, boating, river cruises and water sports among the regions 28 state parks. The 1000 Islands also has a strong history, as seen in the many castles, villages, and forts that can be found here.

DAY 1

Start your haunted journey at the **Fort Ontario State Historic Site**. Known as the "Guardian of the Northern Frontier" Fort Ontario was built in 1755 and became the final resting place for hundreds of soldiers and civilians who perished at the fortress during three centuries of military activity. The site of a "Ghost Hunters" episode in 2012, the fort has reported paranormal activity including a woman in an upstairs window, a child calling his cat, strange lights and music, and apparitions in the cemetery.

Next, head over to **Starr Clark Tin Shop & Underground Railroad Museum**. In this building, abolitionist and tinsmith Starr Clark hosted meetings and gave refuge to African-American slaves from the mid 1830s through the Civil War. A well-documented site of the Underground Railroad, the refurbished building includes exhibits and artifacts from this time. Museum guides will take you through, while sharing the many paranormal stories that have come out of the shop – including reported shadows, voices, and the feeling of being touched.

Just down the road in Mexico, NY to visit **Casey's Cottage at Mexico Point State Park**. The original building began as a carriage house, where guests would arrive by train and request pick-up from the inn by horse-drawn carriage. The carriage house became obsolete after the invention of the automobile, and was abandoned for several years. During the 1930s, two artists transformed the building into a medieval manor house. Since then, visitors have reported hearing faint organ music and have felt a touch or as though they were being watched. Fleeting glimpses of ethereal forms moving through rooms, keys disappearing only to be found in strange places, and cries for help echoing from the lake have also come out of this haunted history trail stop.

In the evening, make your way upstate to Alexandria Bay and take a walking ghost tour of the haunted businesses and hotels of the area. Local guides lead the

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Thousand Islands Ghost Tour, and are more than willing to share the creepy histories and paranormal activity found in the area. This four-hour, ghostly experience is not to be missed when visiting the Thousand Islands.

DAY 2

Start the day in Alexandria Bay with an Uncle Sam Boat Tour over to Heart Island, where you will find the historic **Boldt Castle**. The six-story, 120-room castle was built on the island by George Boldt, but was never finished. Boldt abandoned the project after the death of his wife – too broken hearted to continue. Now, Uncle Sam Boat Tours drops visitors off at the island for self-guided tours of this can't-miss attraction.

TOUR AT A GLANCE

Timeframe: 2 Day

Distance Day 1: Approx. 90 miles

Distance Day 2: Approx. 5 miles

Stops: Fort Ontario State Historic Site, Starr Clark Tin Shop & Underground Railroad Museum, Casey's Cottage at Mexico Point State Park, 1000 Islands Ghost Tours in Alexandria Bay | Boldt Castle

Alternate stop:

- Thompson Park Vortex