

HAUNTED HISTORY TRAIL *of* New York State

ABOUT THE FINGER LAKES REGION

The Finger Lakes Region of New York State is named for the 11 pristine, glacier-cut lakes that spread like fingers across the heart of the state. Home to deep gorges, sparkling waterfalls, lush forests, and sun-kissed vineyards, the Finger Lakes wows with its spectacular beauty – and has a little something for everyone to love.

DAY 1

Start your journey through the Finger Lakes Region of New York State at the **Seward House Museum** in Auburn, NY. Its former resident, William Henry Seward was one of the foremost politicians of the nineteenth century in America – a New York State Senator, Governor, and then Secretary of State in the Lincoln and Johnson administrations. On the night of Lincoln's assassination, an attempt on Seward's life was also made, and the politician received five stab wounds to his neck and face. His family and staff were also victims of the attack. With such a grisly past, it is no wonder that supernatural tales pervade the house – even today.

Enjoy lunch along the way as you head towards the **Museum of Wayne County History** in Lyons, NY. The museum is located in the 1856 Wayne County Jail and sheriff's residence. Tour the 13 room space and hear the tale of William Fee, the only man ever hanged in Wayne County – in the jail in 1860.

In the next town over, visit the **William Phelps General Store and Home** in historic Palmyra. The old general store and adjoining living quarters are full of antique items to discover, in addition to the ghost hunting available year-round. Each tour is specific to your own group, with guides sharing stories, photographs, and EVPs collected in the haunted space. Or choose to explore on your own and keep the history a secret – the guides will verify your findings at the end of the tour.

End your evening with dinner in Mount Morris, NY, at the **Allegiance B&B**. The historic and elegantly restored, circa-1838 mini-White House mansion, is tastefully decorated to reveal the grandeur of the Victorian era. Friendly spirits Karen and Ray reside in the building year round and enjoy interacting with guests in mysterious ways – though Ray is commonly known to be the chattier of the two. Guests who have stayed in the B&B have also reported sightings of a ghost cat that prowls the mansion at night.

HAUNTED HISTORY TRAIL *of* New York State

DAY 2

Start your second day by driving through Letchworth State Park - "The Grand Canyon of the East." While not necessarily haunted, the park provides beautiful hiking trails and spectacular views of the gorge. Whether you choose to spend one hour or a few in the park, Letchworth is definitely worth a visit.

Next, stop at **Heaven Sent B&B** and the **Anastassia Event Center** for lunch. Located at the southern end of Letchworth State Park, this 1800s converted church and rectory is now a charming - yet haunted - bed and breakfast catering to guests in the area.

Next, head to **The Naples Hotel** for a private ghost tour. Built in 1895, The Naples Hotel has been home to countless travelers over the years, some of whom have never left. Today, the hotel's 32 rooms are haunted by at least six friendly spirits - including a woman and her children, and a gentleman named Topper. They are known to move pictures, turn lights on, and lock doors!

Stop for tasting at **Miles Wine Cellars** next - a Greek revival mansion that overlooks Seneca Lake. The home was originally built in 1802, and there is little doubt that today it is inhabited by more than the Rieslings that the Finger Lakes is known for. Strange happenings like slamming doors, footsteps, and unexplained sounds have manifested on the property for years. Miles Wine Cellars even produces a "Ghost" wine - a Chardonnay and Cayuga blend - in honor of its otherworldly residents.

End your evening in Owego, NY - home to two more of our Haunted History Trail stops. First, visit **Owego's Parkview Restaurant and Pub** and take a tour through all three floors of this historic hotel building. Every room in the Parkview has something to discover, but secrets truly lie on the second floor - where rooms have remained dusty and quiet for many years. One room, sealed off after a small fire in the 1970s, was rediscovered 40 years later by the owner herself! Many people have come through these doors since it was built in the 1800's - from owners and their families, to hotel residents and patrons of the bar and restaurant. Some even left their spirits behind for all of us to enjoy.

For another haunting experience, walk down the block to the **Calaboose Grille** and dine in an old jail. Built over 100 years ago, what was once the Owego Town Jail is now home to the Calaboose Grille. The current foundation was built by the prisoners at the time - an actual chain gang - who were made to work in the town stone yard

HAUNTED HISTORY TRAIL *of* *New York State*

when not housed in the jail. Now, visitors can dine in the very cells that housed the inmates, while enjoying pasta, burgers, sandwiches, and more.

TOUR AT A GLANCE

Timeframe: 2 Days

Distance Day 1: Approx. 105 miles

Distance Day 2: Approx. 150 miles

Stops: Seward House Museum, Museum of Wayne County History, William Phelps General Store and Home, Allegiance B&B | Heaven Sent B&B and Anastassia Event Center, The Naples Hotel, Miles Wine Cellars, Owego's Parkview Restaurant and Pub, Calaboose Grille