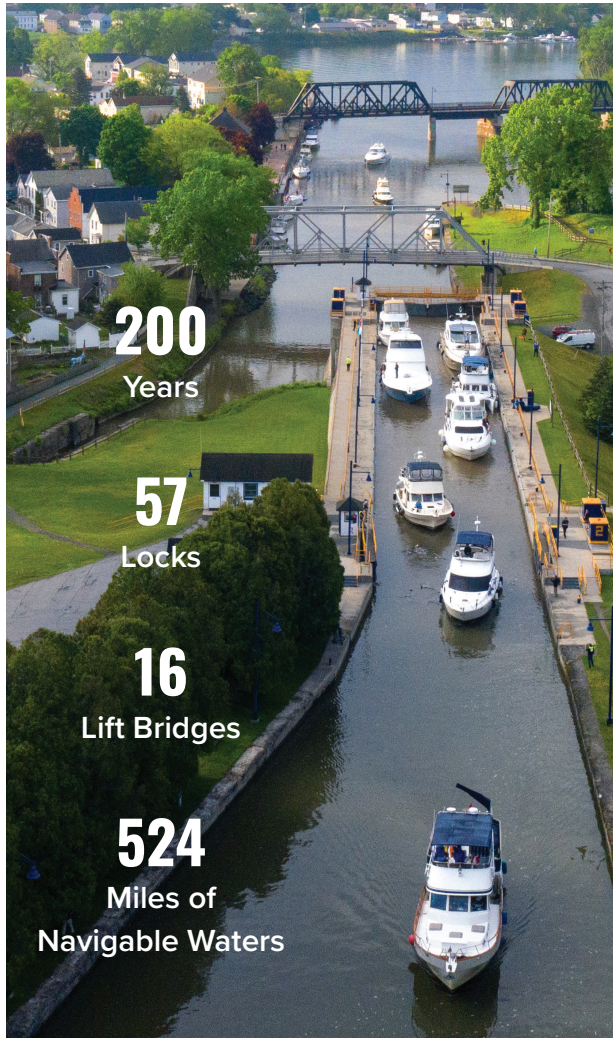


# 2025 NAVIGATION SEASON FACT SHEET



- The New York State Canal system will open on Friday, May 16th
- This year marks the 201st consecutive season of navigation along New York's Canals and the 200th anniversary of the original Erie Canal's completion and opening on October 26, 1825
- As part of the Erie Canal's Bicentennial commemoration, the Canal Corporation is extending this year's navigation season — the Canal system will remain open for both recreational and commercial vessels until Monday, November 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm
- This year's extended navigation season is being offered to accommodate vessels traveling to and from New York City with the Buffalo Maritime Center's replica Erie Canal Boat Seneca Chief in late October
- In addition to the voyage of the replica Seneca Chief, other notable activities occurring as part of the Erie Canal's Bicentennial include New York State hosting the World Canals Conference in Buffalo, the Albany Symphony Orchestra performing canalside concerts, WMHT-TV's debut of a new Erie Canal documentary, and dozens of community events throughout the year
- Standard hours of operation are 8:00 am – 6:00 pm with some high-demand locks and lift bridges operating until 9:00 pm throughout the height of the summer
- The Canal system is comprised of four canals — the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca
- The Canal system connects the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie — it also includes Oneida Lake, Cayuga Lake, and Seneca Lake



Canal  
Corporation

# 2025 NAVIGATION SEASON FACT SHEET



- In total, it is 524-miles of navigable waters — you can go anywhere in the world on a boat from the canal
- More than 200 Upstate New York municipalities are throughout the canal corridor
- Transit along the Canal system is free for recreational vessels; commercial operators and tour boats pay an annual fee
- The Canal Corporation operates 57 locks and 16 lift bridges
- During the 2024 navigation season, the Canal Corporation logged 73,569 lockings — that recording does not account for vessels that navigate within a given pool (between locks) and the data collected is the number of lockages, not the number of unique vessels. The numbers represent the number of boats that pass through a lock at any given time.
- Now primarily a recreational waterway, the Canal system is still a viable and active commercial shipping corridor to move oversized manufactured items and bulk cargo
- Constructed between 1905 and 1918 as the Barge Canal, the third and current version of the Canal system, each lock is 328 feet long and 45 feet wide — the lift changes at each location depending on the elevation
- On average, two to three million gallons of water is used per locking
- In addition to the waterway, the Canal Corporation manages and owns much of the cross-state Erie Canalway Trail and Champlain Canalway Trail, both now part of the Empire State Trail
- In 2023, nearly four million people utilized the Canalway Trail for recreational activities
- Now in its sixth season, the Canal Corporation's "On the Canals" program has attracted more than 37,000 participants taking part in free recreational activities for people with and without disabilities — excursions include kayaking, cycling, history tours, painting, birding, fishing, and more!
- The Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority, employs approximately 500 individuals year-round with an additional 200 employees hired during the navigation season
- The New York Power Authority invests approximately \$140 million into the Canal system annually for maintenance, operations, and the capital improvements required to keep the infrastructure safe and operable

Visit our website at [canals.ny.gov](https://canals.ny.gov) to learn more.

