

Explore Safely

The Niagara Gorge Trail System is made up of a series of smaller trail sections that parallel the Niagara River Gorge. The trails vary in degree of difficulty. Some trails may be closed to the public at certain times of the year; for your own safety, hiking should occur between **mid-May and November**. Rock falls are most common in the winter and early spring. Trails at the top are well developed footways, and can be hiked with little effort in ordinary footwear. Those in the gorge are more rugged and call for extra caution. Good sturdy hiking boots are recommended for trips into the gorge.



The Niagara Gorge offers visitors a chance to explore a truly unique area rich in wildlife and geologic history. Please respect the sensitivity of this amazing area. We ask that visitors encourage safety and help us preserve the area's beauty by observing the following:

Never hike alone

Leave no litter. The Gorge is a Carry In/ Carry Out area

Be aware of falling rocks.

Stay on marked trails and do not climb gorge walls

Camping, fires, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted

Park hours are dawn to dusk



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You can avoid it by staying on marked trails!

Trail Information

- 1 Robert Moses Recreation Trail**
Skill Level: Easy
Distance 3.2mi (5.1km) one way
Walk, jog, bike, in-line skate, or cross-country ski this paved section.
- 2 Niagara Gorge Rim Trail**
Skill Level: Easy
Distance 6.2mi (9.9km) one way
Sites: Many gorge vistas including the Whirlpool and Devil's Hole rapids.
- 3 American Falls Gorge Trail**
Skill Level: Moderate. Narrow sections
Distance 1.0mi (1.6km)
Sites: Stone wall and debris at site of former power station buildings.
- 4 Great Gorge Railway Trail**
Skill Level: Easy. Gradual grade
Distance 1.1mi (1.8km) one way
Sites: Gorge vistas from overlooks, Whirlpool bridges and rapids.
- 5 Whirlpool Rapids Trail**
Skill Level: Difficult. Stairs, boulder hopping, narrow sections
Distance 1.3mi (2.1km) one way
Sites: Whirlpool and rapids.
- 6 Devil's Hole Trail**
Skill Level: Moderate. Stairs, rock fall
Distance 1.25mi (2.0km)
2.5mi (4.0km) round trip including both staircases and rim trail.
Sites: Side gorge, "Giant Rock," Devil's Hole Rapids.
- 7 Artpark Gorge Trail**
Skill Level: Easy to Moderate
Distance 1.3mi (2.1km)
Sites: Niagara Escarpment, Lewiston-Queenston Bridge.
- 8 River's Edge Trail**
Skill Level: Easy
Distance 1.2mi (1.9km) round trip
Sites: Queenston Shale, river level.

A Natural Wonder

Near the end of the last ice age, around 12,300 years ago, the Niagara River began to flow over a large cliff known as the Niagara Escarpment. This cliff is located at the northern end of the gorge. It is here that Niagara Falls first formed. Over thousands of years the falls carved through the underlying rock, and as the falls receded, formed the 7.1 mile (11.3km) gorge that we see today.

The sedimentary rocks of the Niagara Gorge are studied by geologists from all over the world. However, geology is only part of the marvel. Visitors can also get a close look at a unique environment full of beautiful birds, plants, and breathtaking scenery.



A trail patch is available for purchase at the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center.



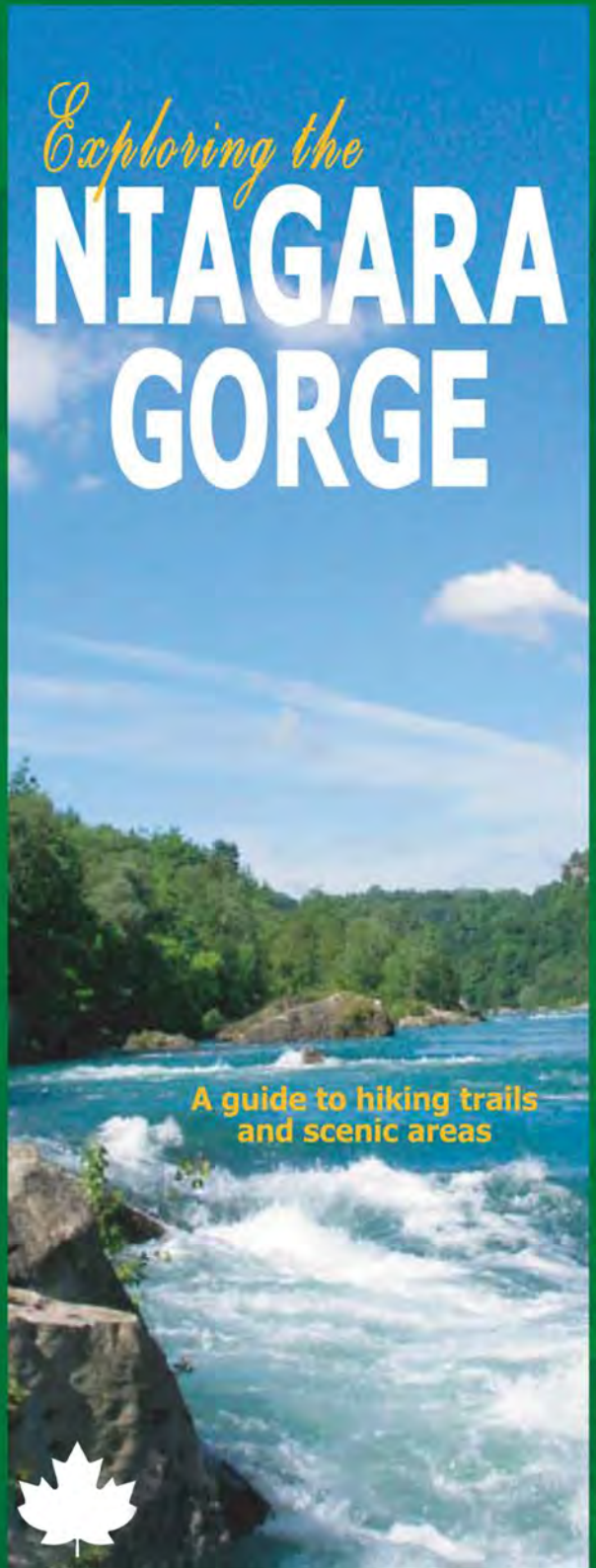
New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Niagara Frontier Region
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Governor

Erik Kulleseid
Commissioner

Mark Mistretta
Director, Western District



Exploring the NIAGARA GORGE

A guide to hiking trails
and scenic areas

Niagara Gorge Trail System



For your own safety
stay on marked trails!

Emergency Numbers

Police Department 911
Fire Department 911
Medical Emergency 911



United States

Canada



Legend

P Parking

? Information

Restrooms (seasonal)

Future Site of the Niagara Falls Welcome Center

Distance in Miles
0 .25 .5
1" = .5mi (.8 km)

- 1** Niagara Scenic Parkway Trail
- 2** Niagara Gorge Rim Trail
- 3** Schoellkopf Power Station Trail
- 4** Great Gorge Railway Trail
- 5** Whirlpool Rapids Trail
- 6** Devil's Hole Trail
- 7** Artpark Gorge Trail
- 8** River's Edge Trail

Some trails are seasonal. For your safety, trails may be closed due to rock falls or adverse weather conditions.

Please call (716) 278-0820 for trail information.

Updated trail closures and many more NYS Parks maps and attractions can be found online at parks.ny.gov or on the New York State Parks Explorer App

