



# Amsterdam, New York

## Family-Friendly, Festivals and Fun!

About 30 miles west of Albany, Amsterdam, New York, is a city with great diversity and culture with proximity to the beautiful Mohawk River. Amsterdam offers outdoor activities from stock car racing at Fonda Speedway to quieter pursuits at seven recreation areas. Amsterdam has over 50 different local eateries you can discover. The City of Amsterdam Recreation Department maintains more than 50 of the City's parks, [9/11](#) and veteran's [memorials](#), traffic islands, bridges, pools and athletic fields. The Recreation Department also organizes and hosts the major events in the City throughout the year as well as community activities, and recreational adult and youth sports leagues.

### **Education**

The City of Amsterdam, [The Greater Amsterdam School District](#) and all of its quality educators are committed to helping children learn, excel and set higher goals for themselves. The following higher education institutions are all within a 45 minute drive of Amsterdam: Empire State College, Albany College of Pharmacy, Siena College, Excelsior College, Maria College, SUNY Albany, Hudson Valley Community College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, College of Saint Rose, Russell Sage College, Union College [and more](#).

### **Things to do**

The [Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook \(MVGO\) Bridge](#) spans 511 feet between the north and south banks of the Mohawk River, and uniquely combines a park-over-the-water setting with an introduction to the history of the Mohawk Valley and its peoples. The curved structure has twelve stopping points throughout that are marked with icons representing major topics in the history of the valley with an explanatory text. Here, you can explore numerous [parks](#), [trails](#), ride along the picturesque [Erie Canal Bike Path](#), which is over 300 miles long, and learn and discover a multitude of historical sites. Golfers challenge their skills at the 18-hole [Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course](#), designed by legendary course designer, Robert Trent Jones Sr. Catch an [Amsterdam Mohawks](#) collegiate baseball game at the beautiful Rao Family Stadium at Shuttleworth Park in late May through the end of July. Have a ball watching the eight-time, perfect-game Collegiate Baseball League Champions in action and enjoy great food with fun activities for kids. With a rich heritage that spans almost 150 years, Amsterdam's arts and culture are a big part of the community, and available locally are [several libraries and museums](#) to visit. Being surrounded by many rural areas, the [Amsterdam Farmers/Crafters Wednesday Market and Farmers Saturday Market](#) is filled with the best farm fresh produce that upstate New York has to offer. Come out and shop for the finest local produce, fresh cut flowers, delicious baked goods, natural products and hand made goods.

### **Festivals and events**

Enjoy annual festivals such as the SoupFest, OktoberFest, Trick or Treat on the MVGO Bridge, RiverFest, ItaliaFest, St. Paddy's Day Pub Fest, WingFest, Spring Fling and Independence Day Fest. In months of July and August, Movies in the Park shows a variety of free, family-friendly films at different city parks at dusk on a big screen! Also held throughout the summer are [summer camps](#) and Sunset Festivals on Saturday evenings, before and after [Riverlink Concert Series](#), with fun family-friendly activities like fireworks and sand art. For a week in the months of February and July, a Taste of Amsterdam allows you to enjoy a wide array of specials where local favorite restaurants offer special selections for \$18.85, as Amsterdam was established in 1885. To learn more about these events please [click here](#).

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