

A series of four maps with vital information for all paddlers.

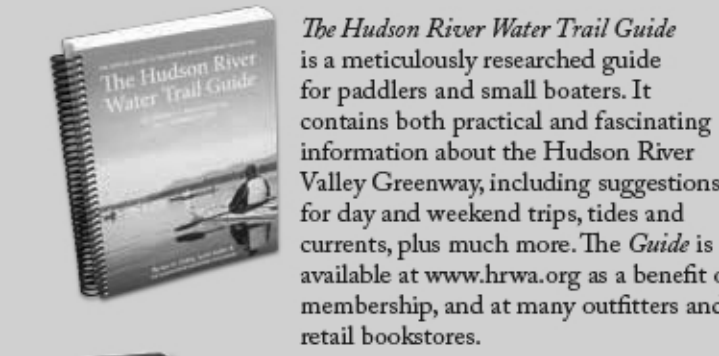


The Hudson River Greenway Water Trail is a 256-mile paddlers' trail, extending from the Adirondack Park and Lake Champlain to Battery Park in Manhattan.



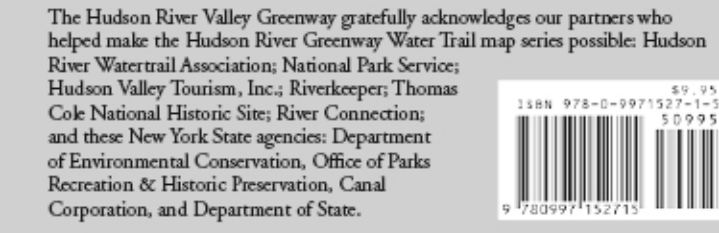
Saratoga-Albany Region

As you proceed downriver from Fort Edward you will pass through rural and urban landscapes. At Troy you will pass through the Federal Lock and then enter the Hudson River Estuary, where the river is tidal and flows in both directions. Tides affect both the height and direction of flow of the water. Highlights of this segment include:
- Locking through six locks on the Champlain Canal and the Federal Lock at Troy
- Troy, the Collar City, built on the wealth of the industrial revolution features amazing architecture
- Historic Albany, New York's Capital, located where the first permanent Dutch settlement in North America was established in 1624 at Fort Orange
- Soaring bald eagles



Maps are viewable on our web site: HudsonRiverGreenwayWaterTrail.org

Financial support for this project provided by the NYS Department of Economic Development. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the DED.



Cannon overlooking the Hudson River at Saratoga National Historical Park. Courtesy Saratoga National Historical Park



A barge moving downriver. Scott Keiser



Camping along the river. Scott Keiser



Paddling close to shore. Scott Keiser



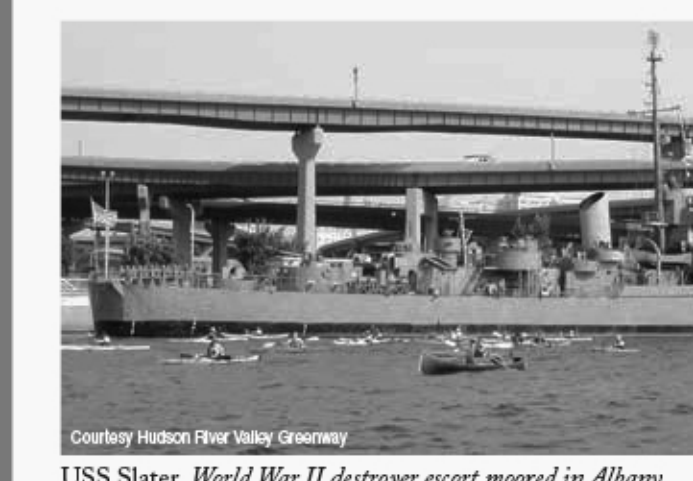
Glacial Lake Albany

Glacial Lake Albany was formed when ice "plugged" the Hudson between Storm King Mountain and Breakneck Ridge (see Map 4) about 16,000 years ago. The lake existed for about 4,000 years. The surface of the lake was roughly 150' (feet) above current sea level. The 150' contour interval shown on this map represents Glacial Lake Albany's shoreline and shows where you would have been able to paddle then. A drysuit would have been essential!

Revolutionary War History

From the beginning of the Revolutionary War, both the British high command and General George Washington realized the strategic importance of controlling the Hudson River Valley. In December 1775 and January 1776, Colonel Henry Knox first highlighted the great resources of New York when he dragged 59 cannons from Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain to Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston Harbor. That effort helped force the British evacuation of Boston. The British then descended on and drove the Continental Army out of New York City and into the Hudson River Valley. In 1777, the British devised a three-pronged invasion of the valley. The main force, under Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne, would head south from Canada via Lake Champlain and Lake George. Lt. Col. Barry St. Leger would push east along the Mohawk Valley to Albany. Sir William Howe would head north from New York City to assist Burgoyne's operation.

The Americans effectively delayed the British advances. Engineer Colonel Tadeusz Kosciuszko brought Burgoyne's forces to a crawl by dropping trees across his route south of Lake Champlain. With the help of Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys, General John Stark defeated British forces in the Battle of Bennington on the Wallaboutsac River in New York. Still, Burgoyne pressed on toward Albany but was stopped at the Battle of Freeman's Farm (the first Battle of Saratoga) on September 19. After the battle, he fortified and awaited reinforcements. They never arrived.

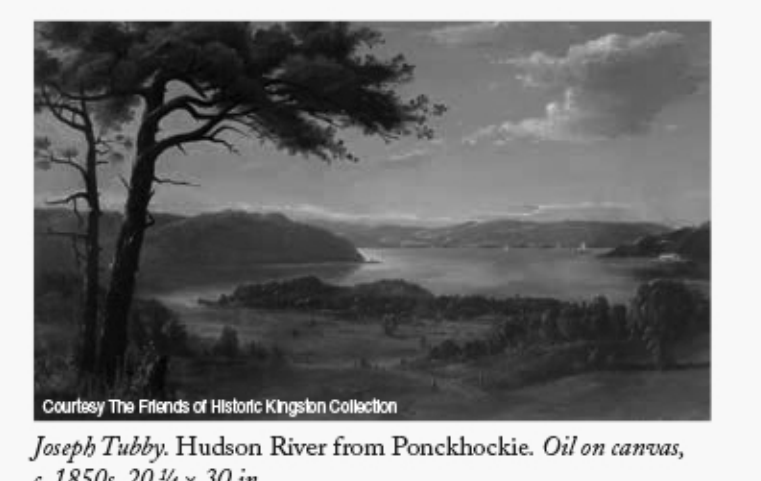


USS Slater, World War II destroyer escort moored in Albany. Courtesy Hudson River Valley Greenway

After winning at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, the British under St. Leger lost valuable time besieging Fort Stanwix and subsequently retreated to Canada. The supporting British contingent in New York City, commanded by Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, got a late start but succeeded in capturing Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton in a fierce day of fighting on October 6. They cut through a massive iron chain the Americans had installed across the Hudson, moved upriver to the state capital at Kingston, and set fire to the town. But they were too late to help Burgoyne. On October 7, American Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates defeated Burgoyne in the second Battle of Saratoga near Bemis Heights. The British capitulation convinced the French to join the American cause and proved to be the turning point in the war.

The British cut through a massive iron chain the Americans had installed across the Hudson...

In 1779 the British tried to lure General Washington into a decisive battle in New York, but American Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne, in a daring midnight bayonet attack on July 15 and 16, captured their fortification at Stony Point (now a water trail site and a state historic site featuring battle reenactments and a lighthouse). The British returned briefly but never again threatened the Hudson Highlands. In August 1781, Washington's and the French Comte de Rochambeau's armies linked up at Philipsburgh, New York, before proceeding to Virginia for the decisive Battle of Yorktown. After winning the battle, Washington returned to the Hudson River Valley, bringing over 7,000 soldiers, some with their families, to New Windsor for their final winter encampment. He set up his headquarters in the Hasbrouck farmhouse (Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site) in Newburgh, from which he issued his order on April 19, 1783, for a "cessation of hostilities." The troops stayed until June. Washington oversaw the British evacuation of New York City on November 25, 1783.



Joseph Tabbey, Hudson River from Ponckhockie. Oil on canvas, c. 1850, 20 1/4 x 30 in. Courtesy The Friends of Historic Kingston Collection

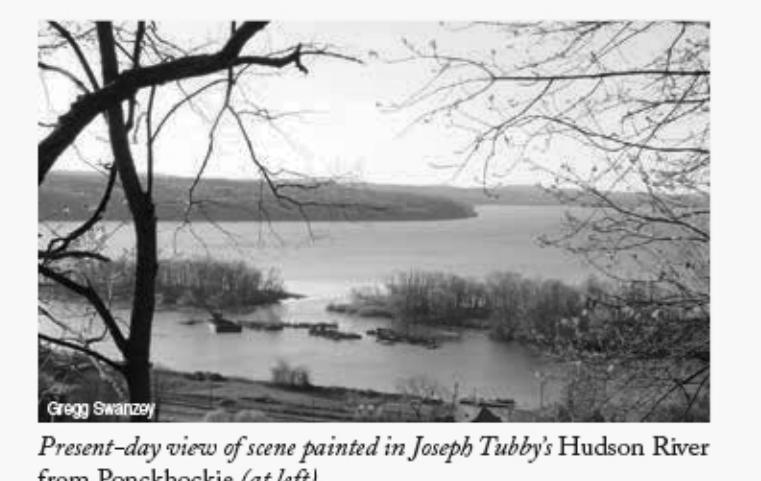
The Hudson River was one of the original "highways" used by Native Americans and continues to be a corridor of commerce to this day. This 65-mile section of the Trail features the meeting of the Champlain Canal and the Hudson River Estuary at Troy. It passes by the Saratoga Battlefield, where the Revolutionary War turned in favor of the Continental Army, the junction of the Erie Canal, and the Port of Albany, the largest port north of New York City.

Hudson River School of Painters

The Hudson River School is the first coherent American art style, and was the prevalent genre of the 19th-century. With roots in European Romanticism, the Hudson River painters defined a distinct vision for American art through sweeping depictions of its landscape. The movement is credited with having a major influence on America's understanding of its natural environment, its national destiny, the idea that nature reflected the divine, and the desire for touring the country's natural wonders. It is thought to have included over 100 artists over a span of 50 years, between 1825 and 1875, when the movement fell out of favor. In recent years the Hudson River School has experienced a resurgence of interest and scholarship, and today enjoys widespread popularity once again.

A popular Hudson River Art School Trail was dedicated on National Trails Day in June 2005. The trail maps the painting sites of 19th-century artist Thomas Cole and his contemporaries including Frederic Church, Jasper Cropsey, Sanford Gifford, and Asher B. Durand. Forming the core of the Hudson River School, these artists liked, sketched and painted in the region surrounding Thomas Cole's home in Catskill and Frederic Church's home near Hudson. Many of these views are spectacularly preserved and accessible to the public. The Hudson River School Art Trail maps many locations nearby from which these painted views can be seen, and enables the public to find and compare the painted and actual views today. For more information visit the Hudson River School Art Trail website at: www.hudsonriverschool.org.

Frederic Church's home, Olana (Olana State Historic Site, Olana.org) and Thomas Cole's home, Cedar Grove (Thomas Cole National Historic Site, ThomasCole.org) are both open to visitors. Hanging on the walls of Olana is one of the most important collections of Frederic Church's artwork, and the Thomas Cole site presents special exhibitions featuring Hudson River School and contemporary works.



Saratoga Battle Monument, Village of Victory. Courtesy Saratoga National Historical Park



Water sampling on the Riverkeeper patrol boat. Courtesy Riverkeeper

How's the Water? Better, but Not Perfect

While water quality is improving in the "Albany Pool," sewage discharge remains a persistent problem in the long-suffering stretch of the Hudson River that cuts through the center of the Capital District. The risks faced today from sewage are in some ways a legacy from having solved acute problems associated with serious illnesses more than a century ago. At that time, the best solution devised for ridding communities of disease-causing sewage was to channel into sewers that could be flushed by the rain, and discharged into the river, which flushed the waste further away. These outdated combined sewer systems collect



Saratoga Battle Monument, Village of Victory. Courtesy Saratoga National Historical Park

rainwater, sewage, and industrial wastewater in one pipe and remain all too typical in the Capital District, throughout the Hudson River Valley and beyond.

Most of the time, combined sewer systems transport all of their wastewater to a sewage treatment plant, where it is treated and then discharged to a water body. During periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, however, the wastewater volume in a combined sewer system can exceed the capacity of the sewer system or treatment plant resulting in a combined sewer overflow which discharges the excess wastewater directly to nearby streams, rivers, or other water bodies.

Prior to investments made thanks to New York's Pure Waters Bond Act and the federal Clean Water Act, the Albany Pool's sewage choked off life in the river for miles downstream, a particularly damaging affront to river life,



Day paddlers enjoying a sunny day on the Hudson River. Scott Keiser

given the area's importance to spawning fish like American shad. Today, the problems remain serious, but there are reasons to be hopeful.

Advocates argue for the most comprehensive, long-lasting fixes to these old problems, recognizing that clean water is critical to healthy ecosystems, vibrant communities, and building a sustainable future. A 15-year project to reduce combined sewer overflows in the Albany Pool area began in 2014, with historic investments that included the disinfection of effluent from major regional sewage treatment facilities. More than 50 projects and programs will be implemented and will significantly improve water quality.

More Information

Consult Riverkeeper's water quality data and reports to make educated choices about when and where to swim: http://bit.ly/1iCIHEL. To avoid water fouled by known sewage releases, sign up to receive real-time messages via NY-Alert: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/90315.html#spill.



Osprey are often seen nesting along the Hudson River. Scott Keiser

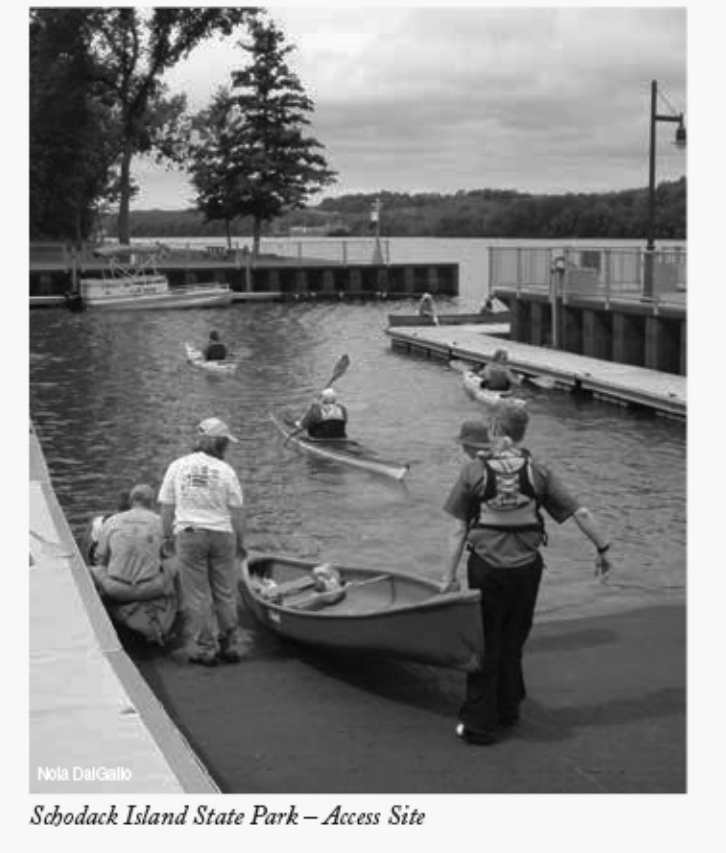
Find realtime notices for combined sewer overflows, based on modeling in the Capital District at AlbanyPool.org and based on monitoring in Kingston at bit.ly/1MjdnL. To learn more about combined sewers, including where overflows occur statewide, visit http://on.ny.gov/1Nd78Tt.

Water Quality

Following European settlement, the Hudson River was used for industrial waste discharge and untreated sewage disposal. At the height of these practices, recreational use of the river nearly disappeared. In the late 1960s, citizen environmental groups—coupled with changes in environmental regulatory policies and enforcement policies—spearheaded a river cleanup. A cleaner river has led to renewed interest in recreation. Today, the Hudson River estuary is among the healthiest on the eastern seaboard, and sustained efforts by many groups continue to keep the river clean.



Burden Iron Works in Troy, NY. Hudson Mohawk Historical Gateway



Shodack Island State Park - Access Site. Matt DeSantis



Paddlers must always be aware of other boaters on the river. Knickerbocker/Chinabrace

Ice Industry

From the early 19th century until the advent of mechanical refrigeration, entrepreneurs harvested and sold natural Hudson River ice throughout the United States and to countries as far away as China, India, and Australia. The biggest market for Hudson River ice was New York City. Monumental icehouses were built to store the harvested ice, the largest being able to store around 50,000 tons. Most icehouses were located between Albany and Catskill, in the freshwater section of the river. Ice was cut and guided onto floating aprons, moved by conveyors into icehouses, packed in sawdust or hay, and stored until needed. Ice was shipped by barge and rail to market. The most well preserved remnant of this Hudson River industry is the R.W. Scott Icehouse power station which is located at the Nutten Hook Reserve Icehouse Road Launch.



R.W. Scott Icehouse c. 1900. Note: the icehouse in the background is 200' x 300'. Remnants of the power station (foreground) can still be seen today. Courtesy Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. Located at Icehouse Road Launch (42.35829, -73.78822) of the Nutten Hook Reserve.

Hudson River Valley Greenway and National Heritage Area

The Hudson River Valley Greenway was created by New York State to continue and advance the state's commitment to the preservation, enhancement and development of the world-renowned scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Hudson River Valley while continuing to emphasize economic development activities and remaining consistent with the tradition of municipal home rule. The Greenway's programs include regional planning, a land and water trail system, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. On the web: www.hudsonrivervalley.ny.gov.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was designated by Congress in 1996 and is one of forty-nine federally-recognized National Heritage Areas throughout the United States. Through a partnership with the National Park Service, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area collaborates with public agencies, non-profit groups and private sector partners to interpret, preserve and celebrate the nationally-significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley. In this way, the Heritage Area works to inspire public stewardship for these resources and related economic development activities for the benefit of the nation. The Heritage Area has established a network of designated Heritage Sites, classified by theme and amenities. On the web: www.hudsonrivervalley.com.

