

Historic Tram Tours

School Tram Tours

\$50 per motorcoach

Includes a brief overview of Salt Museum, the history surrounding the Marina and EST, the Iroquois Confederacy at Hiawatha Pt, pottery hunt at Children's Landing, the Golden Age resorts that dotted the shoreline from Long Branch to the city and historic Mud Lock on the Oswego Canal.

*Call (315) 453-6712 for more information
45 ppl. per tour, M-Th, 9:30am and 11:30am,
end of April thru Mid-June,
Mid-September thru Mid-October.*



the Friends
of
Historic Onondaga Lake Inc.

The Friends of Historic Onondaga Lake, a not-for-profit organization that works to preserve the history of Central New York's Onondaga Lake.

They provide volunteers and funding for the Salt Museum and the nationally acclaimed Onondaga Lake Park.

The Friends also support Onondaga County Parks in providing education, maintaining the lake's recreational assets and numerous other programs.

Consider joining us in this important endeavor. We're always glad to make new Friends!

Applications are available at the Salt Museum.



While in Liverpool, be sure to also visit Sainte Marie among the Iroquois Living History Center. Located across Onondaga Lake Parkway/Route 370 from

Onondaga Lake Park, the museum features a re-creation of the 1657 French Mission that once stood on the shore of Onondaga Lake.

Browse the museum and learn about the 17th century culture of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), the French and their meeting here.

Visit the Interpretive Center and converse with the costumed interpreters about daily life in the 1650's. See demonstrations in carpentry, blacksmithing, cooking and other activities.

Closed Mondays. The museum is open May 9-October 16, weekends 12-5pm and weekdays 9:30am-2:30pm. Admission is \$3 adults, \$2.50 seniors, \$2 ages 6-17, \$10 family. For more information, call 453-6768.

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FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Onondaga Lake Park
-BLFSAWFT-VWFSEPM/:-
(315) 453-6712
or www.OnondagaCountyParks.com



*Take a self-guided
tour of the
Salt Museum!*

Hours are 1:00 pm-6:00 pm
May 9 - Columbus Day (October 12)

**ONONDAGA
COUNTY**
Parks

Take a self guided tour of the Salt Museum!

For school tours of the Salt Museum, please call 453-6712.

If you have any questions, please stop by the gift shop counter and we will answer them. While you're there, why not get yourself a souvenir of your visit!

Self guided tour written by Friends of Historic Onondaga Lake.



1. The Salt Museum stands as a reminder of the great industry that once took place on the shores of Onondaga Lake. The museum itself was built in 1933 as a part of an Onondaga County work relief program during the Great Depression.

2. The brine (salt water) came from springs around Onondaga Lake – the lake itself is a fresh water lake. In 1806, the first salt well was dug. It measured 20' square by 30' deep and every salt manufacturer, by common hand pump, supplied his own brine works. The next development in procuring the brine was the use of a large drilling rig.

4. Brine was released into the kettles and brought to a boil by heat from the firing pit. As the brine boiled, impurities called bittern settled at the bottom of the kettle onto a bittern pan. Salt crystals that formed at the top were removed with a wooden shovel and placed in splint ash baskets to drain and then stored to dry for two weeks.

3. Although the Onondaga People were aware of the brine springs and had shown them to Father LeMoyne in 1656, they were not utilized until after the Revolutionary War. In 1788, two Revolutionary War Veterans – Asa Danforth and Comfort Tyler – came to the area and with the help of the Onondaga erected the first salt works.

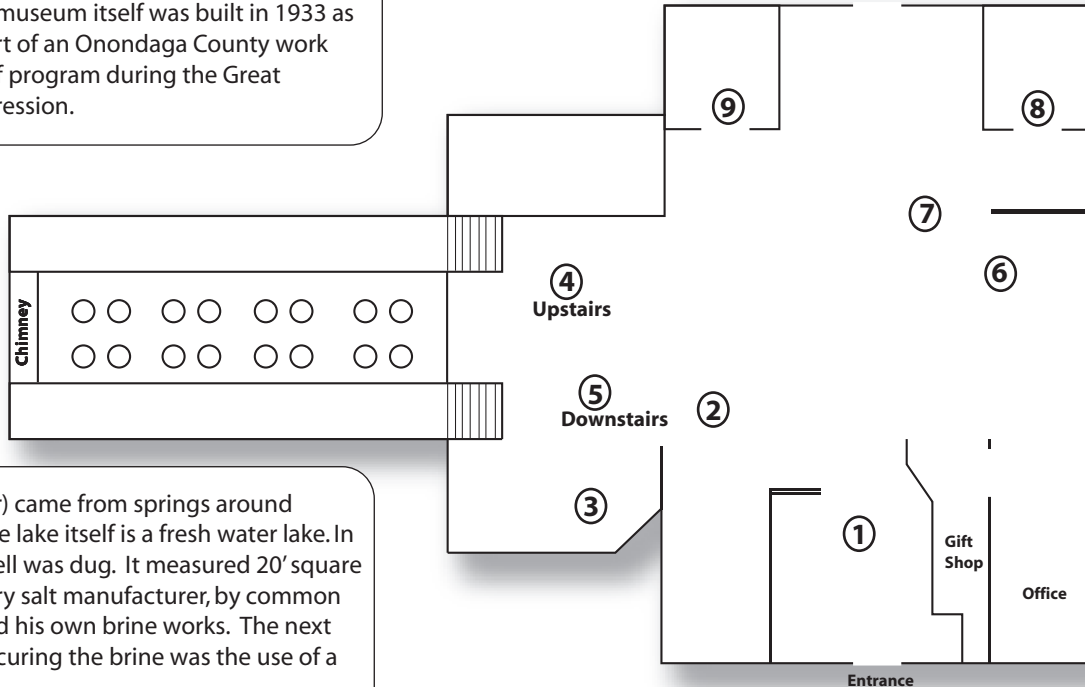
5. In the firing pit, fires were built under the first few kettles. Parallel flues ran beneath the rows of kettles. The 100' tall chimney would draw the heat (and smoke) under the remaining kettles. Because there were usually up to 50 or more kettles in the block, the kettles became progressively smaller and also of thinner material.

6. By 1848, due both to salt production and intensive farming, the supply of wood was nearly depleted and the manufacturers began to use coal from Pennsylvania for their fuel needs. Of course, this added to the cost of producing the salt. At this time, the industry changed over to the solar salt method. Before the brine was brought to the "aprons" or "covers", it was allowed to sit while the impurities settled to the bottom of the holding vats. As the salt crystals formed, the men would push them (with a tool called a muddle) to the front of the apron. Here they would be placed in wooden buckets, which had holes in the bottom for drainage. The salt was then taken to the salt warehouse.

7. Weather in this area is, of course, not always sunny! The manufacturers each had a Salt Boss who kept an eye on the weather. If rain threatened, he would ring the bell. Everyone, no matter what they were doing (including children), were responsible for responding quickly to push the covers over the "crop" so it wouldn't be spoiled.

8. Future exhibit area – working on showcasing a typical salt worker's home.

9. The Salt Industry prompted the creation of many other businesses such as basket weaving (splint ash baskets), blacksmithing (salt scoops and bittern pans), and coopering (barrels for shipping the salt).



If you take the tram ride through Onondaga Lake Park, you will be riding on a portion of the old Oswego Canal!