

Planning Your Trip to the 1000 Islands



Welcome to the 2018 Spring NYSDSC Conference! As we hold this year's conference at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY, we'd like to help you enjoy your time in the area. The beautiful St. Lawrence River borders northern New York state and Ontario, Canada. The 1000 islands actually number around 1,800 and dot the river, offering visitors gorgeous views, rich history and unique culture.

Visiting Canada:

If you would like to visit Canada during your time here, the closest bridge from Clayton is the 1000 Islands Bridge. You will be required to have a U.S. passport or New York State enhanced driver's license to cross the border. You will pass through Canadian customs on your way into Canada and U.S. customs on your way back into New York. There are limits as to what you are allowed to bring in/out of the country.

For a shorter trip, visit Kingston, Ontario. The drive is under an hour from the hotel, and is located on the waterfront. The city features 1-hour "hop-on, hop-off" Trolley tours to explore their attractions, sailing, biking, great restaurants and historical Fort Henry, which has daily performances by the Fort Henry Guard featuring rifle and cannon drills.

If you have more time, visit the capital of Canada, Ottawa. Located about a 2-hour drive from the hotel, it is home to many art and natural history museums. Ottawa is a charming city built around the Rideau Canal.

As of April 10, 2018, the monetary exchange rate favors the U.S., where \$1 U.S.= \$1.26 Canadian.

The Island Experience:

The best way to experience the St. Lawrence river area is to take one of the local boat excursions. Offered at different points in the day and evening, these leave from either Clayton or Alexandria Bay. Prices range from \$20 per person, to \$40 per person, and run from 1 hour to 3+ hours.

For more information:

- Uncle Sam Boat Tours

Website: www.Usboattours.com

Telephone: 315-482-2611

- Clayton Island Tours

Website: <http://claytonislandtours.com/>

Telephone: 315-686-4820

- Coyote Moon Wine Cruise (evening only)

Website: <http://www.coyotemoonvineyards.com/Cruise>

Telephone: 315-686-5600

Wellesley Island is the only 1000 island that you can drive to, and is only one exit off of the 1000 Islands bridge. It hosts public camping and beaches—an excellent place to extend your stay in the area if you'd like.

Boldt Castle is one of the most famous attraction in the 1000 Islands, and is accessible by tour from Clayton Island Boat Tours or Uncle Sam's Boat Tours. George C. Boldt, proprietor of the world famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, set out to build a castle on Heart Island in Alexandra Bay to show his love for his wife, Louise in 1900. In January 1904, Boldt telegraphed the island and commanded the workers to "stop all construction." Louise had died suddenly. Boldt never returned to the island, leaving behind the structure as a monument of his love. It was left untouched until 1977, when preservation efforts began. Try to take advantage of the chance to see this beautiful piece of history!

Clayton, NY is accessible without a car and is full of quaint shops, restaurants and things to do. There are also local museums to visit featuring boating and area history exhibits.

Alexandria Bay, NY is 11 miles from Clayton, NY and is a bustling summer tourist town. There are many attractions including water activities, restaurants, exhibits, museums and a drive-in movie theater.

Massena, NY is another popular tourist destination. Here, you can observe ships from all over the world pass through the Seaway Locks on the St. Lawrence River from the observation deck.

We hope you enjoy your time in the 1000 Islands and thank you again for joining us for the 2018 Spring NYSDSC Conference!

For more information, visit:

www.seaway.gov
www.1000islands.com

www.1000islandsharborhotel.com
www.visitalexbay.com