



adirondacks, usa

Lake Champlain region 250th anniversary of the nation

The 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War and its connection to the Adirondack Park in upstate New York began more than a year before July 1776.

The Lake Champlain region, located on the eastern edge of the Adirondack Park is a region filled with history. It's a bit different from the rest of the Adirondacks, in that the mountains offer lower-elevation hiking opportunities, the vistas are wide open and the sense of history is evident - we often say that it offers "wide open spaces and legendary places." **The 250th anniversary of our nation is coming up in 2026 - this particular story idea offers a sneak peek into the plans for that, "setting the stage" for visiting the region in the upcoming months.**

For the Lake Champlain region, May 10, 1775 is an important date (250 years ago this coming May) - **the first Revolutionary War victory took place at Fort Ticonderoga**. On that day, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, along with Benedict Arnold, attacked and captured the fort, then occupied by the British, in the dead of night. The victory provided the Continental Army with much-needed artillery and cannons, which were transported to Boston to fortify Dorchester Heights and ended the siege of Boston.

This itinerary provides a preview to the [250th Revolutionary War anniversary](#) exhibit and plans at Fort Ticonderoga.

- [The Essex Inn](#)
- [Fort Ticonderoga](#) (with many plans for the 250th celebration)
- Low-elevation hikes - [Champlain Area Trail System](#) with Vistas overlooking Lake Champlain - offering the same views that existed 250 years ago.
- Essex NY - largest intact collection of pre-Civil War architecture in the US
- The [Crown Point Historic Site](#)
- Restaurants that also offer a link to history: [Deer's Head](#) and [War Cannon Spirits](#).
- Sidenote: Noctourism is another popular activity in the region - the vistas are SO wide open!

Additional background:

Ticonderoga

May 10, 1775

The Battle of Fort Ticonderoga, which took place on May 10, 1775, was the first offensive victory for the American forces in the Revolutionary War.

- The battle took place at Fort Ticonderoga in New York, across Lake Champlain from Vermont
- The Green Mountain Boys, a militia led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, attacked the British garrison at the fort
- The Americans captured the fort and artillery, including cannons, mortars, and howitzers
- The victory boosted morale and provided the Continental Army with key artillery. The cannons were later transported to Boston by Colonel Henry Knox and used to break the siege of Boston. The fort also became a staging ground for the Continental Army's planned invasion of Canada.
- Fort Ticonderoga is now a tourist attraction that includes a museum. The fort was originally captured by the British in 1759 during the French and Indian War.

Essex NY

- The historic core of the hamlet of Essex comprises early-19th-century buildings. The predominant building materials are clapboarded wood frame, brick, and stone and none of the buildings exceed 2.5 stories.
- The oldest documented structure is Dower House, built prior to 1793. Other notable buildings include Wright's Inn (1798), Essex Free Library (1818), and "Hickory Hill" (1822), "Rosslyn" (ca. 1830), the "Old Brick Schoolhouse" (1830), and "Greystone" (1853).
- It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.
- "New York's Most Historic Hamlet"

CATS Trails

- CATS has developed 60 miles of trails. Some of those trails will be part of a 30-mile trail loop between Westport and Essex. CATS is working to create trails that make it possible for people to "Hike the Lake" by walking from hamlet-to-hamlet.
- The local landscape offers farms, forests, low mountains, charming hamlets, and breathtaking views.
- Many of the views of the lake and the valley are the same as they were in 1776.

Deer's Head Inn

- The Inn first opened in 1808 during Thomas Jefferson's presidency, served as a hospital for troops injured in the War of 1812 and as an illicit liquor cache during Prohibition.
- John Brown's widow stayed at the inn when her husband's casket lay at the county courthouse.
- The Deer's Head guest books feature entries by U.S. presidents Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland.

Essex Inn

- The Essex Inn first welcomed guests to the Adirondack Coast in 1810.
- In the 1820's Essex was the busiest seaport on the Lake. Through it funneled timber, iron, cattle and hides. At one time there were more than 10 inns in the community. As the town grew in the early 19th century, the Essex Inn was the North Country's social hub for merchants, travelers, and residents alike.
- Like many other buildings in the hamlet, the Inn was built in stages. The first structure was erected in 1810, utilizing Essex's classic Federal style. A Greek revival colonnade was later added to the front of the building (circa 1835), adding 11 wooden columns that support the two-story building and give it the Greek temple look it still has today.
- The Essex Inn was a hotbed of espionage in the War of 1812. "Spies and military people using the Essex ferry would hang out at the Inn trying to find intelligence," according to local historian Morris Glenn. At that time, local militiaman Delavan Delance owned the Inn and regularly housed troops there.