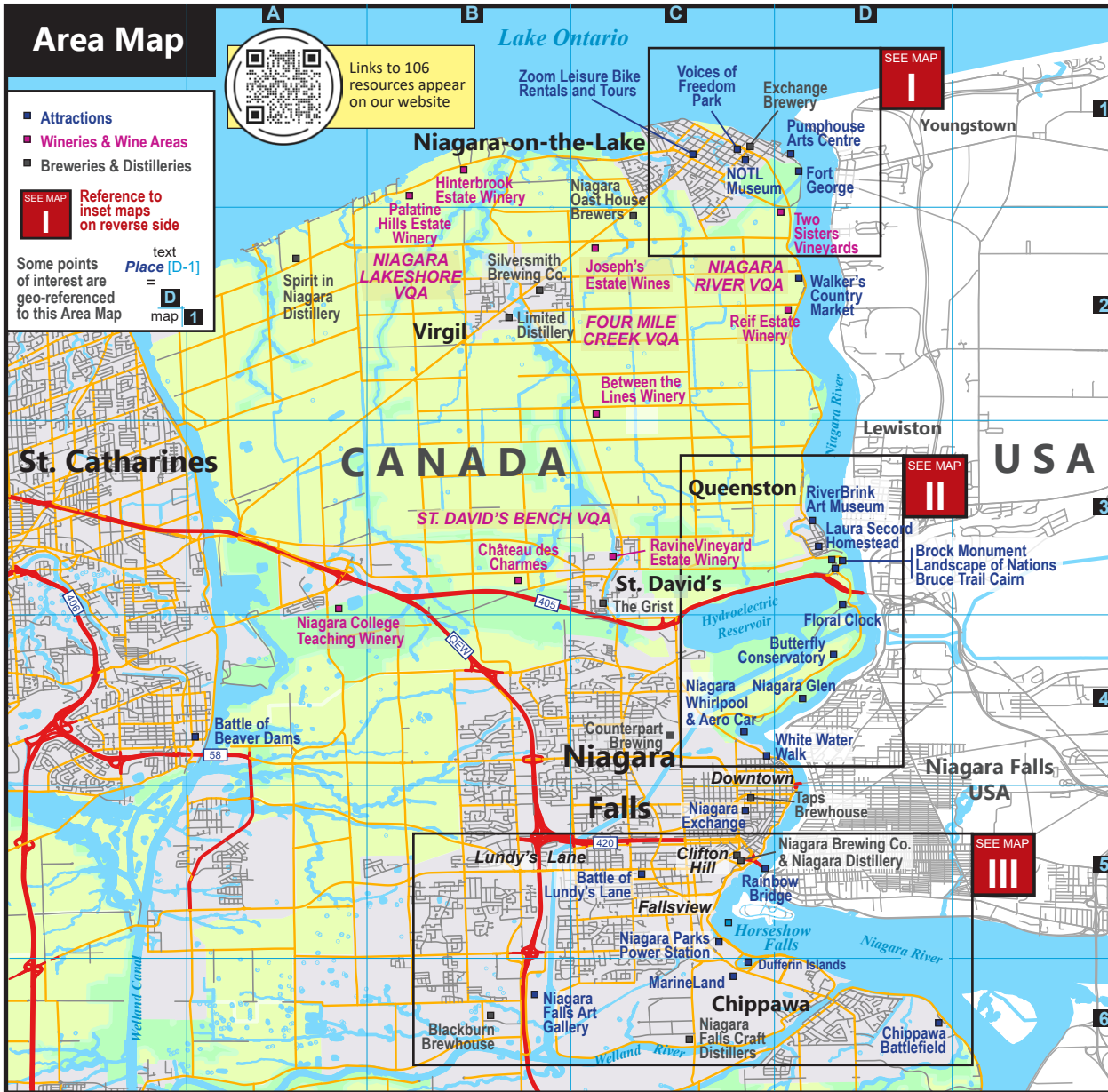


INFO ON THE GO

Niagara Falls • Niagara-on-the-Lake



INFO ON THE GO

These maps are designed to maximize orientation so that you can easily plan a day out, which may include art, history, gardens, breweries, wineries, cycling, hiking, and food. People say that you can do Niagara Falls with one overnight stay, but - they missed most of what's available.

A link to every resource on this map appears on our website by location and theme. Just scan the QR Code below or go to our website at communitymapco.com.

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Geography

In the scope of time, Niagara Falls is quite young. Some 12,000 years ago water plunged over the edge of the Niagara Escarpment - a steep slope that begins near Rochester, New York and crosses Ontario at a length of 725km in Ontario, including the Bruce Peninsula. Again to the American side, the escarpment stretches west across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and over 1,000 km down the west coast of Lake Michigan to terminate near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Since the escarpment is most famous as the cliff over which the Niagara River drops off at Niagara Falls, it was named the Niagara Escarpment.

The Niagara Escarpment was formed and existed before glaciation, more than 400 million years ago. The escarpment formed through differential erosion by weather, streams, and rocks of different hardnesses. It has a caprock of dolostone which is more resistant and overlies weaker, more easily eroded shale rocks. The formation of Niagara Falls was a slow process that still continues today. The annual freezing and thawing of the Niagara River wears away at the rocks under the surface and gradual erosion and periodic rockfalls steadily move Niagara Falls farther upstream.

The deepest spot in the Niagara River is just below the Horseshoe Falls. Here the water is roughly 170ft (52m) deep. The erosion from the tumbling water has gouged into the river bed, creating a depression almost as deep as the falls are tall. Under the American Falls, piles of rock debris keep the immediate area shallow.

The **Bruce Trail Southern Terminus Cairn** [D-3] is located between road and the parking lot for Queenston Height National Historic Site (Brock's Monument). This cairn marks the southern terminus of the 900km long Bruce Trail, a cross-country foot trail established along the Niagara Escarpment from Tobermory on Georgian Bay in the north, to this southern terminus at Queenston Heights.

Settlement

Oral tradition and archaeological evidence show that Indigenous peoples lived along the Niagara River for some 13,000 years. In these times the falls were located near where the present-day Lewiston-Queenston bridge spans the international border between Canada and the United States, a distance of approximately 9km from its current location.

The Neutral peoples have been recorded as one of the earliest native tribes residing in the Niagara region. In the early 1600's, the Neutrals had a population of 20,000-40,000. Their territory extended from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie. This entire district was called Onguiaahra, which means, "the strait" or "thundering water". The name Niagara was derived from this word.

The Neutrals received their name from French explorer Samuel de Champlain when he came to the region in 1615. He named them "The Neutrals", because they were neutral in the ongoing battles between the feuding Iroquois-speaking Senecas, who lived south of the Neutrals, and the Hurons who lived to the north.

The Senecas took control of the Niagara region while destroying the Neutral villages. Many of the surviving Neutrals were forced eastward to Albany. The Senecas were known as fierce fighters and they were feared by native tribes and settlers alike.

A French priest, Father Louis Hennepin is said to have been the first European to popularize the Falls. During a 1678 expedition, he was overwhelmed by the size and significance of Niagara Falls. When he returned to France, Hennepin published an account of his travels in *A New Discovery*. The book brought Niagara Falls to the attention of the western world for the first time and inspired further exploration of the region.

Today, the **Landscape of Nations Memorial** [D-3] is dedicated to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and Indigenous allies that participated in the War of 1812. It is located in Queenston Heights Park.

Power of the Falls

Four of the five Great Lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie) drain into the Niagara River before emptying into Lake Ontario. These five Great Lakes make up almost one-fifth of the world's fresh water supply. 3,160 tons of water flows over Niagara Falls every second; or, 75,750 gallons of water per second over the American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls, and 681,750 gallons per second over the Horseshoe Falls. The water falls at 32 feet per second, hitting

the base with 280 tons of force at the American and Bridal Veil Falls, and 2,509 tons of force at the Horseshoe Falls.

The world's first large-scale hydroelectric generating station opened in Niagara Falls in 1895. The plant used a direct current (DC) system; however, it could only transmit electricity 100 yards.

In 1896, the famous electrical engineer Nikola Tesla proved that he could transmit electric from Niagara Falls to Buffalo, New York, using an alternating current (AC) induction motor. That marked the first long distance commercial use of the AC system that is still used around the world today.

Hydroelectricity is one of Niagara Falls' most important products. Together, power plants on both the American and Canadian sides of the Falls have the capacity to produce up to 4.9 million kilowatts of electricity. Under an international treaty, the flow of water over Niagara Falls is reduced during the night to allow more of the water to flow into the intakes used for power generation. This plan ensures that the Falls' natural beauty remains unaffected during prime viewing hours.

A recently developed attraction, the **Niagara Parks Power Station** [C-5] is an educational experience that highlights the remarkable history and unique architectural features of a 115-year-old engineering marvel. It is located a 12 minute walk up stream of Horseshoe Falls.

WAR OF 1812

The Niagara frontier was a scene of numerous battles during the War of 1812, which lasted until 1814. To protect their interests in Upper Canada, the British had formerly constructed a fort across along the Niagara River. Control of the river supply route was essential to the survival of the forts west of the Niagara region. By 1802, Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake had been completed and became headquarters for the British army, local militia and the Indian Department.

Major General Sir Isaac Brock was a British officer put in charge of defending Upper Canada against the Americans during the war. When the Americans invaded Upper Canada on July 12, 1812, Brock was ready. He had recruited a force of citizens and forged alliances with First Nations peoples. When the American Fort Detroit fell to the British army, Brock was hailed a hero.

After Detroit, the main American threat existed in Niagara, and Queenston Heights would be the first major battle in the area. The British were victorious at Queenston Heights, but Brock lost his life leading the charge. The 56-metre-high **Brock Monument** [D-3] stands where he was interred. Visitors can climb to the top of the limestone structure, which consists of a 235-step staircase, and experience incredible views of Niagara from perches in the monument walls.

Following the American defeat at Queenston in October 1812, the next invasion occurred at Fort George in May 1813 when Americans succeeded in taking it. U.S. forces used the fort as a base with the ambition to invade the rest of Upper Canada. After a seven-month occupation, the fort was retaken and remained in British hands for the remainder of the war. After the war, the fort was partially rebuilt, and by the 1820's it was falling into ruins. During the 1930's, the original plan documents for the fort guided the reconstruction of **Fort George** [D-1] as a National Historic Site. Fort George is 22km from Niagara Falls. While the site is open year-round, musical performances and military demonstrations peak during the summer months.

In June 1813, As the Americans pushed the invasion forward from Fort George, a surprise night attack by about 700 British regulars under Lt.-Col. John Harvey at Stoney Creek began a series of victorious steps in the recovery of the Niagara district. Battle of Stoney Creek National Historic Site of Canada is a memorial park built on the site of a battlefield, marking the most advanced position achieved by American forces on the Niagara frontier. It is located at the edge of the Niagara escarpment on the east side of the town of Stoney Creek within the Municipality of Hamilton. The site is 67km (about 45 minutes) from Niagara Falls.

The **Battle of Beaver Dams** [A-4] took place also in June 1813, where American troops marched from Fort George and intended to surprise the British. Laura Secord, a woman living in Queenston, learned about this plan and set off on a journey to warn the British. When the Americans resumed their trek to Beaver Dams, they were ambushed by Mohawk and other Indigenous warriors. The Americans lost the battle, surrendering to British troops led by Lieutenant James Fitzgibbon. The Battle of Beaver Dams National Historic Site plaque is located in Thorold, Ontario, which is 13km from Niagara Falls. Nearby, is the **First Nations Peace Monument**, a memorial designed by world-renowned architect and human rights activist Douglas Cardinal. It is intended to reveal the central role of the Haudenosaunee and other allies in the pivotal Battle of Beaver Dams.



The death of General Brock at the Battle of Queenston Heights by John David Kelly, published 1896.

The **Laura Secord Homestead** [D-3] in Queenston has been turned into a museum and visitors can learn more about Secord's background and story. It is located 11km from Niagara Falls.

The capture of Fort Niagara took place late in 1813. The American garrison was taken by surprise, and the fort was captured in a night assault by a select force of British regular infantry. Fort Niagara was an important American post near the outlet of the Niagara River into Lake Ontario. During the early days of the war, it was involved in several exchanges of artillery fire against the British at Fort George on the other side of the river.

The **Battle of Chippawa** [D-6] occurred in July of 1814. It began when a British and Indigenous force of about 2,000 men, under Major-General Phineas Riall, attacked an invading American army of about 3,500 men, under Major-General Jacob Brown. The British saw the gray coats of their American adversaries and believed them to be American militiamen; they expected them to scatter and flee after a few volleys and cannon shot. However, by the time General Riall realized his mistake, it was already too late. Brown crossed the Chippawa Creek and forced the British to retreat to Fort George. It was an American victory.

Niagara Parks has developed a self-guided walking tour that retraces the Battle of Chippawa. This preserved battlefield covers 300 acres. Memorial Cairn is a focal point of the tour, which is dedicated to the regiments and First Nations warriors who fought in the battle and commemorates the peace that has prevailed between Canada and the United States ever since. The site is 8km from Niagara Falls.

On 25 July 1814, the Americans, who were advancing after the Battle of Chippawa, attacked the British defensive position. Following a bitterly contested engagement, the Americans withdrew. The six-hour long battle was one of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812 and marked the end of American offensive action in Upper Canada. The losses on both sides were the heaviest in the entire war. The British had suffered 878 casualties, 84 of whom were killed; the Americans suffered 853 casualties, with 171 killed. The site is roughly four-blocks square. **Battle of Lundy's Lane** [C-5] National Historic Site is in a grassed area of the Drummond Hill Cemetery where the plaque commemorating the site is located.

The Treaty of Ghent ended the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain. Peace negotiations began in Ghent, Belgium, starting in August of 1814. After four months of talks, the treaty was signed on December 24, 1814. Ultimately, the War of 1812 ended in a draw on the battlefield, and the peace treaty reflected this.