Saratoga National Historical Park

2016 Calendar of Events

Centennial Celebration!
1916 ~ National Park Service ~ 2016
Welcome to Saratoga National Historical Park! The epic Battles of Saratoga and the heroic events which took place here in the autumn of 1777 formed the turning point in America’s Revolutionary War and were key to winning American independence.

Saratoga National Historical Park preserves, protects, and interprets four separate sites associated with this military campaign: Saratoga Battlefield (Stillwater, NY), Schuyler House (Schuylerville, NY), Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument (Victory, NY). Schuyler House, Victory Woods, and Saratoga Monument are located about 8 miles north of the Battlefield.

Visitor Center
Offers ranger programs, park brochures, 20-minute orientation film, fiber-optic light map, artifact displays, seasonal exhibits, museum dioramas, and a museum store.

Hours/Season: 9am to 5pm daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Days

Battlefield
Accessible by foot, vehicle, bicycle, or horse, with 7+ miles of hiking trails, a 5½-mile horse trail, and a 10-mile self-guided driving tour road with a bicycle/pedestrian lane. Park has no bicycle or horse rentals.

Hours/Season: Grounds open daily to pedestrian use during daylight hours
Tour road open to vehicles April 1 – November 30 (closed Thanksgiving Day)
Inclement weather may shorten tour road open season

Schuyler House
1777 country estate of American General Philip Schuyler. Guided tours share the enduring charm and simple elegance of this historic house.

Hours/Season: Open seasonally, call for details, 518-670-2985

Saratoga Monument
155’ granite obelisk commemorating the American victory on October 17, 1777

Hours/Season: Open seasonally, call for details, 518-670-2985

Victory Woods
A 22-acre parcel where forlorn British forces were surrounded during the week before their October 17, 1777 surrender to the American army. The trail is self-guided and offers a raised, accessible 1/2-mile pathway with interpretive signs.

Hours/Season: Grounds open daily to pedestrian use during daylight hours
Trail is not maintained during the winter

Park Fees
Entrance fees are charged for the Battlefield from May 1 to October 31. Passes are valid for 7 days.

- $5 for vehicles
- $3 per adult (age 16 and over) for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding
- $10 for a Saratoga National Historical Park annual pass

“America the Beautiful” Federal Interagency Annual, Senior, Access, Military, and Every Kid in a Park passes are honored, and available for purchase at the Visitor Center.

Valid Golden Age and Golden Access Passes are honored.

There are no entrance fees for Schuyler House, Saratoga Monument, or Victory Woods.
**2016 Events**

Saratoga National Historical Park celebrates the National Park Service Centennial through arts, music, natural, and cultural experiences.

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

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### Fee-Free Days

The following will be fee-free days in ALL National Parks in 2016!

- January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- April 16 through 24 – National Park Week
- August 25 through 28 – National Park Service Birthday (and following weekend)
- September 24 – National Public Lands Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day

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### Frost Faire

**Visitor Center**

**Saturday, January 23**

Frost Faires were hugely popular in the 1700s—help us carry on the tradition at the 21st annual Frost Faire at the Battlefield!

- With snow, bring your snow tube or plastic sled and enjoy the NEW sledding area behind the visitor center!
- Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides to Tour Stop 1 and back.
- Join a noontime wildlife tracking and scavenger hunt with an Adirondack Guide, see winter soldiers fire muskets and cannons, and enjoy a bonfire and hot cocoa in the warm-up hut.

Indoor activities include crafts, games, dancing, and music!

**11am – 3pm**

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### Black History Month

**Visitor Center**

**Sunday, February 7**

**Men of African Descent in the Battles of Saratoga**

A number of remarkable African American men served in the Battles of Saratoga. Hear stories about a few of the many hundreds of free and enslaved black men who fought here!

**Snow date: Sunday, February 14**

**2pm – 3pm**

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### Guided Winter Hikes

**Battlefield**

**Sunday, February 21**

Snow or no snow, get outside and take a hike! Join park rangers for a guided hike through the battlefield, get in touch with the natural surroundings, and learn a few survival skills—all while walking in the footsteps of history!

**1pm – 2:30pm**

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### Women’s History Month

**Visitor Center**

**Saturday, March 19**

**In Their Own Words: Girls and Women in the Revolution**

Artist and colonial-period educator Jennifer Morrow will inspire women of all ages as she presents readings from original letters and diaries of girls and women who lived at the time of the Battles of Saratoga and Revolutionary War. Enjoy English tea while Jennifer shares heartfelt stories of how women and girls lived and loved during the 18th century.

**Snow date: Saturday, March 26**

**2pm – 3pm**

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### Old World Meets New World

**Visitor Center**

**Sunday, April 3**

Historian Dr. Robert Selig illuminates what Germans, French, and Americans thought of each other during the Revolutionary War! He will discuss how mutual preconceptions changed, or were re-enforced, through actual contact.

**2pm – 3pm**
## 2016 Events

### National Park Week  
April 16 – 24  
Saturday, April 23  
**Raptors Rock!**  
**Visitor Center**

Designated by the Audubon Society as an “Important Birding Area” in NY, Saratoga Battlefield offers awesome bird watching opportunities! Wildlife educator and rehabilitator Trish Marki will bring a selection of raptors—owls, hawks, falcons—for you to meet up close and to hear about where they live and how they survive in their habitat.

**Event cancelled if raining.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm – 3pm</td>
<td><strong>Raptors Rock!</strong></td>
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### Sunset Walk: Woodcock Aerial Displays  
Saturday, April 23  
**Battlefield**

Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 6pm and walk to Tour Stop 5 and back (1.5 miles each way). See amazing dusk-time aerial displays by woodcocks, listen for owls, and look for deer or foxes too! Please bring a flashlight, water, insect repellent, and wear sturdy shoes.

**Event cancelled if raining.**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6pm – 7:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Sunset Walk: Woodcock Aerial Displays</strong></td>
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### Birding and Nature Walks  
Saturdays, May 14 & June 11  
**Battlefield**

Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 10am and caravan to special places in the park to see blooming flowers, plants, and migratory birds. Please bring water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes.

**Event cancelled if raining.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10am – 11:30am</td>
<td><strong>Birding and Nature Walks</strong></td>
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### Bike Summit  
Saturday, May 14  
**Visitor Center / Battlefield**

May is National Bike Month, so get your bikes out of winter storage and bring them to Saratoga National Historical Park! Join Saratoga NHP staff, national and local bike outfitters, and local bike clubs to prep your gear for the 2016 biking season. Events to include bike tune-ups, safety checks, and a 5-mile ranger-guided bike tour!

**Rain date: Sunday, May 15**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>11am – 4pm</td>
<td><strong>Bike Summit</strong></td>
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### Living History Day  
Monday, May 30  
**Battlefield**

A single-day event with “living history” demonstrations—presentations of several examples from everyday civilian and military life in 1770s America.

**Event is free, but battlefield entrance fees apply.**

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<tr>
<td>10am – 4pm</td>
<td><strong>Living History Day</strong></td>
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### Independence Day  
Monday, July 4  
**Visitor Center**

Celebrate and give cheers as 20 immigrants become citizens of the USA! Enjoy live fife and drum music by Rural Felicity, and hear the crack of musket fire and booming cannons. Join in 13 lemonade toasts to the “new” United States.

**Join Park Ranger Joe Craig as he portrays a town crier declaring America’s Independence and leads a rousing 13 celebratory toasts. Cannon and musket firing demonstrations all day!**

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<tr>
<td>10am – 11am</td>
<td><strong>Independence Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2pm – 2:30pm</td>
<td>Cannon and musket firing demonstrations all day!</td>
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Early Morning History Strolls
Battlefield
Meet at the visitor center to join Park Volunteers Ray Palmer and Jerry Parker on a series of
time guided tours exploring the first and second Battles of Saratoga. Caravan to various
locations, then walk up to 1 mile over uneven ground. Please bring water and insect repellent and
wear sturdy shoes.
*Event cancelled if raining.*
9am – 10:30am
Tuesday, July 12:
The Battle of Freeman’s Farm, 19 September 1777
Wednesday, July 13:
The Battle of Bemus Heights, 7 October 1777
Wednesday, August 10:
The Battle of Freeman’s Farm, 19 September 1777
Thursday, August 11:
The Battle of Bemus Heights, 7 October 1777

Evening Bike Tours
Battlefield
Join a park ranger for gentle rides along 5-mile sections of the park while hearing a variety of park
stories. Meet by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot. Please bring your bike, water, and
insect repellent. *Helmets required.*
*Event cancelled if raining.*
6pm – 8pm

Army Trades Weekend
Battlefield
Arms in the American Revolution were towns on the move and included important craftsmen
like blacksmiths, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, and tinsmith. Chat with demonstrators and learn
“How it’s Made” 18th-century style!
*Event is free, but battlefield entrance fees apply.*
10am – 4pm

Noontime August Music Series
Visitor Center
The track is closed but music echoes through the Hudson River Valley. Bring a bag lunch and
enjoy the views while listening to noontime concerts every Tuesday. *Sponsored by the Friends of
Saratoga Battlefield.*
12 noon
August 2: Elizabeth Huntley performs 18th-century harp music
August 9: Rich Bala explores the Revolutionary War in NY through songs and ballads
August 16: Linda Russell takes a musical tour through the National Parks
August 23: Fort Ticonderoga Fife & Drum Corps serves up martial music of the Revolutionary War

Children’s Program Series
Visitor Center
Educator Shari Crawford delights children while teaching them about the lives of youngsters in
18th-century America.
July 6: Open Fire Cooking – ash cakes, johnny cakes, fruits, and more
July 13: Toys and Games – playing was fun in the 18th century too!
July 20: English Country Dancing – dance, play, and learn proper etiquette
July 27: Laundry and Dress Up – wash, splash, and dress up 18th-century style

2016 Events
2016 Events

18th-Century Day
Schuyler House, Schuylerville
Sunday, August 14
Step back in time at the historic Schuyler House as the grounds come alive with 18th-century activities. Listen to music, see puppet shows, chair caning, candle dipping, rope making, beer brewing, spinning, dyeing, quilting, tinsmithing, broom making, and more! Hosted by the Old Saratoga Historical Association.
12 noon – 5pm

Centennial Signature Event: FDR Returns
Visitor Center
Thursday, August 25
On the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service’s creation, historian and actor Gary Stamm presents a remarkable performance as Franklin Delano Roosevelt. FDR was personally responsible for establishing Saratoga National Historical Park. In fact, an entire road was built in one day to get him to the top of Fraser Hill, where today’s visitor center stands.

In the fashion of his famous “fireside chats,” FDR will visit with the park’s audience around a bonfire where kids and adults may roast marshmallows while listening to stories of one of America’s most inspiring presidents.
6pm – 7:30pm

Anniversary Encampment
Battlefield
Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18
Marking the 239th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, come explore the lives of men, women, and children of the Revolutionary War! Learn the soldiers’ musket drill, hear cannon and musket firings, smell the aromas of open-fire cooking, take part in a special guided tour of Freeman’s Farm, or help decide a court martial! Kids get to have their own “mini-encampment” this year!

Event is free, but battlefield entrance fees apply.

• Camps open
  Saturday, 10am – 4pm; Sunday, 10am – 3pm

• Wreath laying by Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution. All are welcome!
  Sunday, 2pm

Birding and Nature Walks
Battlefield
Saturdays, September 24 & October 15
Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 10am and caravan to special places in the park to see blooming flowers, plants, and migratory birds. Please bring water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes.

Event cancelled if raining.
10am – 11:30am

Living History Day
Battlefield
Saturday, October 1
A single-day event with “living history” demonstrations—presentations of several examples from everyday civilian and military life in 1770s America.

Event is free, but battlefield entrance fees apply.
10am – 4pm
**Art in the Park**  
Visitor Center / Battlefield  

Meet at the visitor center for basic historical background, then head onto the Battlefield to capture the colors of autumn in paint, pencil, pastel, or pixel! Let the rangers at the front desk know you are coming as an artist and they will give you a **FREE** day pass. If you wish to share your art with the park, post it on our social media outlets (@SaratogaNHP)!  

10am – 4pm

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**Candlelight Tour**  
Schuyler House, Schuylerville  

Step back in time and experience General Philip Schuyler’s 1777 country home in a whole new light! Candlelit tours of the house are offered throughout the evening with light refreshments, period music, and a campfire following the tour. **Hosted by the Old Saratoga Historical Association.**  

6pm – 9pm

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**Surrender Day**  
Special location: Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville  

Witness the recreated surrender of British General Burgoyne to American General Gates, sing patriotic songs with Schuylerville and Salem school children, and drink 13 original toasts to the American Victory! **Sponsored by the Village of Schuylerville and Town of Saratoga.**  

10am – 11am

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**Veterans Day**  
Visitor Center  

Join Saratoga National Historical Park in honoring all those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Continental soldiers and militiamen who served here at Saratoga in 1777. Musket firing demonstrations and discussions about Revolutionary War American soldiers will take place throughout the day.  

10am – 3pm

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**Embattled Landscape - Speaker Series**  

Some 4 years in the making, this new volume edited by archeologists Bill Griswold and Don Linebaugh tells the story of wide-ranging investigations into the locations, layouts, and organizations of camps and battle lines of both American and British forces in the Battles of Saratoga. Several contributing authors will present based on their respective professional disciplines.

- **Bill Griswold and Don Linebaugh** – general background on this project, their goals, and their inspirations to study the topic
- **Eric Schnitzer**, park ranger and military historian – providing a tactical account to place the story in context
- **Christine Valosin**, park curator – “the battles in 50 objects,” a brief virtual tour of the park’s collections with a focus on the battles
“Something More at Stake”
Produced in partnership with Friends of Saratoga Battlefield and Skidmore College, this film tells the compelling story of the battles here which helped form a nation and change the world.

Fiber-Optic Light Map
Get a bird’s-eye view of the battlefield’s four square miles of streams, ravines, and rolling hills on the Hudson River’s western bank. During the narration, trails of blue (American) and red (British) lights travel the landscape, interjected with cannon fire (green) and battle action (white).

“Saratoga: By Choice or by Chance”
Learn about some of the lesser-known stories behind the Battles of Saratoga from the perspectives of several groups of people who served here: German soldiers, women followers, African-American soldiers, children, and Oneida warriors.

Timeline of the Revolutionary War
Walk through each year of the War for American Independence while seeing highlights of key events and themes. The exhibit also introduces the impact Saratoga had on spreading the war internationally, as this was by no means only a local affair. Artifacts and artwork help tell the human stories and illustrate what was in many ways a “war of ideas.”

Special Exhibit: National Park Service Centennial
With the stroke of a pen, President Woodrow Wilson instituted legislation for what has been called the “Organic Act” that created the National Park Service. Today some 22,000 employees care for more than 400 park sites that make up the National Parks. This special exhibit looks at the “who,” the “how,” and the “why!”

Orientation Talks
Given on request in the visitor center, these informal talks employ a diorama and give visitors an overview of the Battlefield as it looked in October 1777. The programs highlight the crucial role of geography in determining where the fighting happened and how the American defenders used it to their advantage.

Official Saratoga Battlefield Guides
Customized, personally guided caravan tours of Saratoga Battlefield with trained, knowledgeable, and courteous guides.

Guided tours are provided by independent contractors with advance reservation only. For scheduling information, please call 518-670-2985 or e-mail SARA_info@nps.gov
**Displays and Exploring the Park**

**Touring with Technology**
Enhance your battlefield tour experience with your own smart device, cell phone, or MP3 player! Informational rack cards available at the visitor center front desk.

- **Mobile App:** this mobile website is available through your smart device’s web browser at: [http://sara.toursphere.com](http://sara.toursphere.com)
- **Cell Phone Tours:** call 518-665-8185 at each tour stop or hike station you visit and follow the audio prompts. Your regular service provider’s rates apply.
- **MP3 Tours:** audio files are also available for both our Tour Road (driving) and the Wilkinson Trail (hiking) as website downloads “www.nps.gov/sara” through the “Cell Phone / MP3 Tours” link.

**Saratoga is Social!**
Join the conversation and share your thoughts, opinions, photos, and park experiences on Facebook and Twitter [@SaratogaNHP](https://twitter.com/SaratogaNHP).

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**For Kids!**

**Junior Ranger Program**
Younger visitors can learn about the park and its resources through fun games and activities. This FREE program is designed for students grades K-8.

**Junior Ranger Station**
Younger visitors can work on their Junior Ranger activity books or learn about the Revolutionary War by reading from a selection of books provided by the Eastern National Museum Store.

**Try-On Tent**
Especially for our younger visitors, here’s a unique way to experience history. Replicas of soldiers’ uniforms and a tent provide a unique chance to experience a little of what life was like for soldiers during the Revolutionary War, in a “kid-friendly” way.

**Wilkinson Trail Hike – Kids’ Version**
A shorter, 2½ mile hike using your very own audio tour narrated entirely by students! TO USE: See “Mobile App” and “Cell Phone Tour” info above.

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**Education Programs**
Area schools can take advantage of these FREE ranger-presented programs throughout the year. They are most popular in the autumn and spring.

More information about these programs can be obtained by calling the visitor center at 518-670-2985.

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**Volunteers in Parks**
Many park programs call on the time, talent, enthusiasm, and dedication of people of many ages to help provide visitors with historical programs, trail safety, nature walks, site information, area directions, and more.

Area residents interested in learning more about volunteering at Saratoga National Historical Park can call the park volunteer coordinator at 518-670-2983.

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**Friends of Saratoga Battlefield:** for over 25 years, this enthusiastic and dedicated nonprofit, volunteer organization has generously sponsored many of the events and programs offered annually at Saratoga National Historical Park. To learn more about their work or to join, visit their website at [www.friendsofsaratogabattlefield.org](http://www.friendsofsaratogabattlefield.org)
Nearby Areas of Interest

**Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor**
www.nps.gov/erie  
www.eriecanalway.org  
Albany to Buffalo, NY. A National Heritage Corridor that helps preserve and interpret the many historical, natural, scenic, and cultural resources of upstate New York’s canal systems.  
*Saratoga National Historical Park is within Erie Canalway; drive times vary with destination.*

**Stillwater Blockhouse Museum**
518-664-1847 ext. 39  
Stillwater, NY. Built in 1927, this replica blockhouse serves as a town historical center.  
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 10 minutes*

**Hudson Crossing Park**
518-796-6832  
www.hudsoncrossingpark.org  
Schuylerville, NY. An environmental-based play and exploration park located in the area where British forces crossed the Hudson River en route to Albany in September 1777.  
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 15 minutes*

**New York State Military Museum**
518-581-5100  
dmna.ny.gov/historic/mil-hist.htm  
Saratoga Springs, NY. The museum preserves, interprets, and shares the story, history, and records of New York State’s military forces and veterans. Features include a special Revolutionary War exhibit.  
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 25 minutes*

**Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site**
518-279-1155  
Hoosick Falls, NY. British forces from General Burgoyne’s army met and were defeated here by American militia troops on August 16, 1777.  
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1 hour*

**Crailo State Historic Site**
518-463-8738  
Rensselaer, NY. The childhood home of Catherine Van Rensselaer, later Catherine Schuyler, wife of American General Philip Schuyler.  
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1 hour*

**Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site**
518-434-0834  
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1 hour*
Nearby Areas of Interest

**Bennington Battle Monument State Historic Site**
802-447-0550
**Bennington, VT.** A 306-foot obelisk marks the location of the storehouse sought by the British in August 1777.
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1¼ hour*

**Fort Ticonderoga**
518-585-2821 — www.fort-ticonderoga.org
**Ticonderoga, NY.** Captured by General Burgoyne’s army from American forces after a short siege in July 1777.
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1¾ hours*

**Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site**
802-273-2282
**Hubbardton, VT.** Retreating American soldiers fleeing Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence were attacked here by pursuing British redcoats on July 7, 1777.
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2 hours*

**Lake Champlain Maritime Museum**
802-475-2022 — www.lcmm.org
**Vergennes, VT.** A non-profit museum dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Lake Champlain.
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2 hours*

**Springfield Armory National Historical Site**
413-734-8551 — www.nps.gov/spar
**Springfield, MA.** The site commemorates the critical role of the nation’s first armory by preserving and interpreting the world’s largest historic US military small arms collection, along with historic archives, buildings, and landscapes.
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2 hours*

**Mount Independence State Historic Site**
802-948-2000
**Orwell, VT.** American fortifications on Mount Independence, across the lake from Fort Ticonderoga, captured by the British in 1777.
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2¼ hours*

**Fort Stanwix National Monument**
315-338-7730 — www.nps.gov/fost
**Rome, NY.** American fort defending the headwaters of the Mohawk River where a British expeditionary force was repelled in August 1777.
*From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2½ hours*