


# ROCHESTER

NEW YORK



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA FALL STUDY TOUR  
**SEPTEMBER 24 - 27, 2025**



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SEPTEMBER  
24 - 27, 2025

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

OPENING RECEPTION AT THE INN ON BROADWAY, ROCHESTER

5:00 P.M. MEET THE GROUP IN THE COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT LOBBY

5:15 P.M. DEPART FROM THE HOTEL ON FOOT

5:30 P.M. OPENING RECEPTION AT THE INN ON BROADWAY

Meet in the hotel lobby and proceed on foot to the Inn on Broadway for the Opening Reception to kick off the Victorian Society in America's Fall Study Tour. Enjoy drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres and an introduction to Rochester's historic architecture by our keynote lecturer Cynthia Howk, former Architectural Research Coordinator for the Landmark Society of Western New York.

*Designed by architect Leon Stern and completed in 1929 as the clubhouse for the University Club of Rochester, the building was a showpiece and an anchor for the quickly developing East Avenue area.*

*Now it functions as the Inn on Broadway, a charming boutique hotel located in the heart of downtown Rochester, offering a perfect blend of historic elegance and modern luxury.*



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

EAST AVENUE, GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE, SUSAN B. ANTHONY HOUSE

BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN

9:30 A.M. DEPART FROM THE HOTEL ON FOOT

LUNCH INCLUDED

4:00 P.M. RETURN TO HOTEL

DINNER AND EVENING ON YOUR OWN

Meet in the hotel lobby and join Cynthia Howk on a **walking tour along East Avenue**, which was once one of the most glamorous and beautiful avenues in the nation – a result of the city's boomtown wealth of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These estates were raised by the nation's industrial, financial, and commercial elite, who amassed great fortunes in an era of expansion of the tobacco, railroad, steel, and oil industries coinciding with a lack of both governmental regulation and the absence of a personal income tax. The manor homes and city seats were designed by prominent architects of the day and decorated with antiques, furniture, and works of art from the world over.

Our walk concludes at the **George Eastman House**, with a tour of the house and free time to see the Museum of Photography and Film on your own.

*The historic mansion and gardens at the George Eastman Museum provide a glimpse into the life of one of the greatest American innovators and entertainers in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Original furnishings and artifacts, careful reproductions, and beautifully restored landscapes transport visitors to George Eastman's time. The Colonial Revival mansion, built between 1902 and 1905, served as Eastman's primary residence until his death in 1932. The Italianate Terrace Garden is the oldest and most formal garden on George Eastman's estate. It was designed between 1902 and 1904 by Alling DeForest to complement the mansion and its principal rooms.*

We board our coach for the short ride to our lunch stop - the **1872 Cafe** on the site of the polling place where Susan B. Anthony and 14 other women illegally voted on November 5, 1872. The cafe name takes its inspiration from that event and the actual historic ballot box is in the garden outside.

After lunch, we tour the **Susan B. Anthony House**. You will explore all three floors of the National Historic Landmark home while learning her incredible story. One of the many highlights is the front parlor, the room where Susan B. Anthony was arrested for voting in the 1872 presidential election.

*NOTE: You may wish to visit the University of Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery this evening, open on Thursdays until 8 P.M.*





**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN****9:15 A.M. DEPART FROM THE HOTEL BY COACH****LUNCH AND BANQUET DINNER INCLUDED****8:30 P.M. RETURN TO HOTEL**

We begin this morning with a tour of **Mount Hope Cemetery**, America's first municipal Victorian cemetery, a Rochester community treasure since its founding in 1838.

*Driving along Mount Hope Ave. en route to the cemetery we see one of the most distinctive areas of the city, with many mature specimen trees & lush landscaping, all dating back to the mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> century when much of this neighborhood was part of the 600-acre Ellwanger & Barry Nursery—the largest nursery company in the U.S. at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

After the cemetery tour, we drive to beautiful Canandaigua, where we have lunch at **New York Kitchen**, with a stunning view of Canandaigua Lake, one of the five Finger Lakes. Following lunch, we proceed to **Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion**, a 50-acre New York State Historic Park offering one of the few remaining estates with a Queen Anne Victorian-style mansion and formal gardens in America. Walking tour guides will enlighten us as we tour the gardens, greenhouses, and many of the mansion's stately rooms.

*The present 40-room mansion was designed and completed between 1886 and 1887 by Boston architect Francis Allen. New York City financier Frederick Ferris Thompson and his wife, Mary Clark Thompson, the daughter of New York State Governor Myron Holley Clark, purchased the property in 1863 when it featured just a brick farmhouse on 14 acres. As business prospered, the couple purchased additional acreage and replaced the farmhouse with the mansion. After Frederick Ferris Thompson's death in 1889 at age 62, additions and renovations were made to the mansion.*



Later in the afternoon, we arrive at the **Granger Homestead**, where we tour the historic homestead as well as the outbuildings that include the Hubbell Law Office, School Annex (Carriage Barn 1), Agricultural Barn, and Pole Barn (Carriage Barn 2).

*The Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum is an 1816 Federal-style mansion in Canandaigua, New York. Learn about Gideon Granger, the longest serving Postmaster General of the United States, and the four generations of Grangers who lived in this magnificent home on over 12 acres of land. Two barns on the property hold close to 100 antique carriages and sleighs, the largest horse-drawn carriage collection in western New York. One barn has a large collection of original Granger family farming equipment.*

After touring the estate, we gather for dinner in this elegant setting.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27****CORN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD, HERVEY ELY HOUSE, THE GENESEE BREWERY****BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN****8:45 A.M. DEPART FROM THE HOTEL BY COACH****(LUGGAGE ON BOARD IF FLYING TODAY)****LUNCH INCLUDED****2:30 P.M. DROP AT FREDERICK DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ROC)**

Board our coach and head to the beautiful **Corn Hill Neighborhood**, located on the banks of the Genesee River and a short walk from the city's business district. We join our guides for a walking tour of the "Oldest Residential Neighborhood in Rochester, New York."

*Around 1812 this area was called Rochesterville; population three hundred. Once known as the Third Ward, Corn Hill is a showplace of historic architecture, manicured streets, and inviting parks. The congenial and diverse community of Corn Hill is committed to protecting the character of the area and nurturing goodwill among its members.*

Then we conclude our walk with a tour of the **Hervey Ely House** (1837).

*Rochesterville drew Hervey and Elisha Ely, along with Josiah Bissell, from*

*Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Hervey was only 22, but within weeks, he had opened a general store. Together, they built their first gristmill near Court Street. Within weeks they were prosperous, and Hervey began construction of his home on the hill. He used stucco over brick scored to resemble stone blocks. It's one of the few surviving Greek Revival mansions in the city and has been the headquarters of the local Irondequoit chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) since the 1920s. The historic 1830s interiors remain intact & feature some of the most impressive decorative plaster work/ceilings in the region.*

We close the Fall Study Tour with lunch at **The Genesee Brewery** - one of the largest and oldest continually operating breweries in America. The Brew House and the building itself were, in fact, part of the original Genesee Brewery campus more than 100 years ago, now transformed into a special place that tells the story of brewing beer in Rochester, New York.

After lunch, the coach will drop off at the hotel before continuing to Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC).

Cover: Rochester, New York. Photo by Carol M. Highsmith. Page 2: The Inn on Broadway; Susan B. Anthony House front parlor; the George Eastman House. Page 3: Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park; The Patrick Barry House; University of Rochester Memorial Art Gallery entrance. Photo by Carol M. Highsmith; Genesee Brewery, Rochester. Photo by Carol M. Highsmith.



# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO TWENTY-FIVE (25) PARTICIPANTS. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL MEMBERS WHO PLAN TO ATTEND REGISTER WITH THE SOCIETY AND MAKE THEIR HOTEL RESERVATIONS UPON RECEIPT OF THIS BROCHURE.**

**RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN ADVANCE OF THE CUT-OFF DATE OF **AUGUST 24**, AS THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS BEING HELD.**

**The Study Tour Package** includes site admission fees; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday lunches; Wednesday reception and Friday dinner. Transportation to and from Rochester and hotel accommodations are NOT included in the Study Tour Package. **Bear in mind that there will be extensive walking so please bring comfortable shoes.** We regret that we cannot provide alternate means of transportation for those who have walking or endurance difficulties. (Public transportation or Uber or Lyft may be available in some areas, but participants will be responsible for the cost if they use them).

## Getting There

Rochester is served by the **Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC)** and there are flights from most major U.S. cities. Depending on where you live, Rochester is also accessible by Amtrak and bus (various companies), as well as by car. Uber, Lyft and taxi service are available at the airport and train stations for transportation to the hotel.

## Weather & What to Wear

The typical average daytime temperature in Rochester in late September is 73°F, with a nighttime low of 54°F. It is advisable to check the local forecast before departure and pack accordingly. Layers are always practical.

## Eating Out

Restaurants of various types and price points are within walking distance of the hotel. A list of local restaurants will be provided.

## Hotel Information

Our headquarters hotel is the **Courtyard by Marriott Rochester Downtown**, 390 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607.

Use this link to make reservations:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yp4ntd2p>

OR scan the QR code  
to make reservations



**Please note: rooms booked through a third party will NOT be credited to the Society**

Guests should identify themselves as part of the Victorian Society group and provide their name, requested type of room, preferred bed type (e.g., king, double/double, queen, twin, or suite), and check-in / check-out dates.

We reserved a block of rooms at a group discounted rate at \$189.00 single or double, plus 14% tax until **August 24, 2025**. After this date, the discounted rate will no longer be in effect and the rooms will be subject to availability. The discounted group rates will be available for 2 days pre- and 3 days post-meeting dates. Overnight parking is complimentary. Check in time is 4:00 P.M. and check out time is 12:00 noon.

**MAKING RESERVATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE HOTEL ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND AT YOUR EXPENSE. THE SOCIETY'S ONLY ROLE IS TO SECURE THE DISCOUNTED GROUP RATE.**

## How to Register

We recommend reserving as soon as possible, as **space is limited to 25 participants**. Registrations can be made via check (preferable), or credit card. Your spot in the program is secured only after we receive payment. Checks should be made payable to The Victorian Society in America and mailed to the address shown below.

## Cancellations

Cancellations received on or before **August 24, 2025** will be refunded less a \$100 administrative fee. **There will be no refunds after August 24.** If there is a chance that you will need to withdraw from this program, you should consider purchasing trip insurance. Trip insurance protects you against any unforeseen need to cancel and can cover the Society's fee and your airfare and hotel costs. There are many providers of this type of insurance, including [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com) (phone 800-487-4722). The Society is providing this information as a service to you, and does not receive any compensation from any insurance organization.

## Disclaimer

The Victorian Society in America is not responsible for accidents, injury or loss of personal items during this program. The Victorian Society in America reserves the right to make such changes to the schedule, sites to be visited, or personnel as may become necessary or desirable. Anyone wishing to depart from the planned itinerary must notify one of the tour leaders of their plans before the day of the change. Unused or unattended parts of the trip will not be refunded.

	COST	NO. OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
Rochester Study Tour	\$875	_____	= _____
Membership in the VSA (if not already a member)			
Individual	\$55	_____	= _____
Household	\$65	_____	= _____

*Non-members wishing to attend the Study Tour must join the VSA*

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## There are two ways to pay:

1. By check made payable to the Victorian Society in America
2. Phone in your credit card reservation to the National Office at **(856) 216-8124**, Monday-Friday, 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. EST

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name tag \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Name tag \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail the completed form with your payment to:**

The Victorian Society in America  
24 Wilkins Avenue, 1st Floor  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033-2406