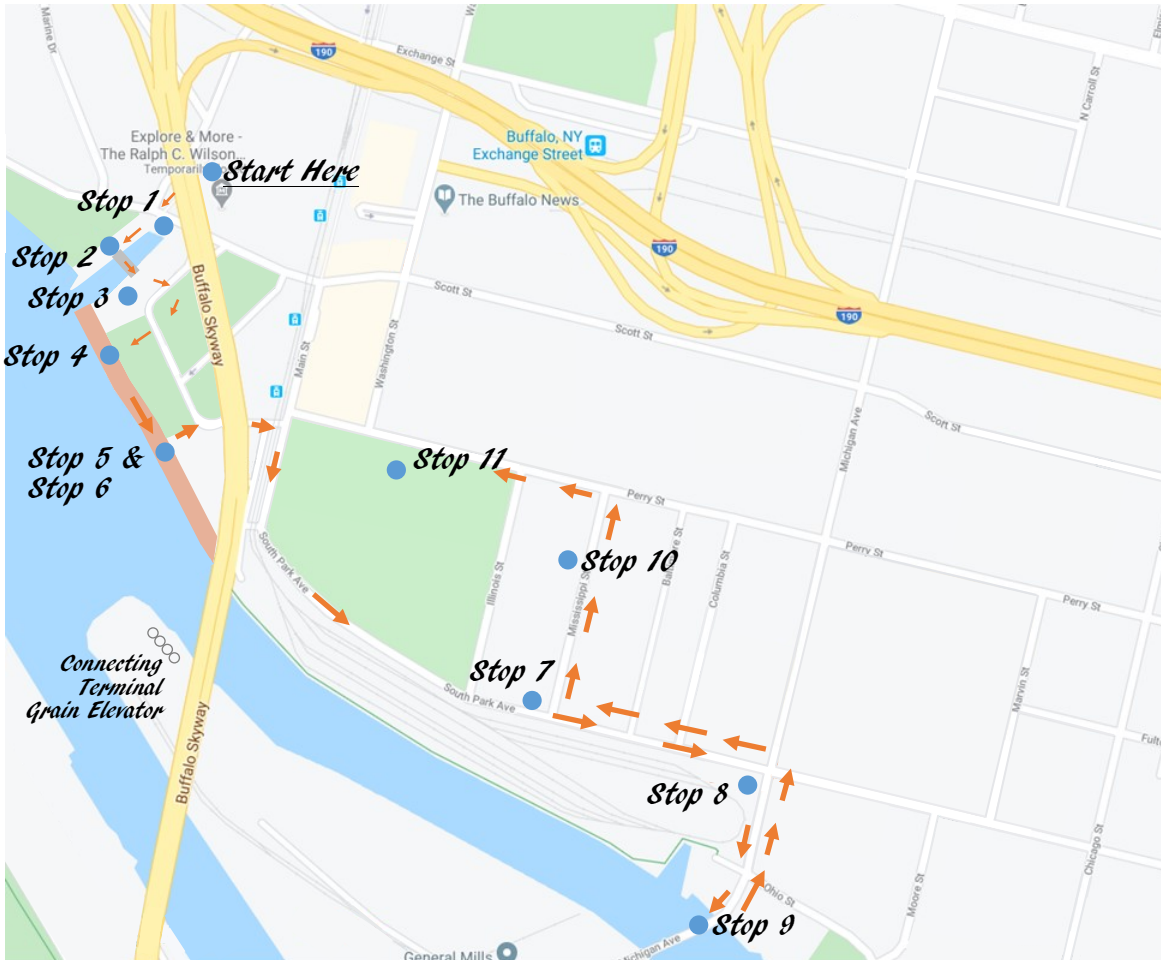




Canalside's Inner Harbor Highlights Walking Route

~1.6 mile | 3,200 steps



Overview:

When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, the 363-mile canal connected the Great Lakes with the Hudson River and the Atlantic Ocean, dramatically reducing travel time between the two. With the western end of the Erie Canal here in Buffalo, the Canal brought to Buffalo a boom in commerce, industry, an wealth that transformed the city.

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Starting Location – Replica Canals / Explore & More

- Site of Memorial Auditorium (1940-2009). “The Aud” was home to the Sabres (1970-96) & the NBA’s Buffalo Braves (1970-78).
- Replica Canals follow the path of the Erie Canal and connected slips.
- Ralph C. Wilson Explore & More Children’s Museum opened in 2019.

Stop 4– Canalside Boardwalk

- From this end of the Boardwalk, you can see the Buffalo River as it makes its way to Lake Erie – this is Buffalo’s Inner Harbor (the Outer Harbor is across the Skyway, along Lake Erie)
- The harbor was created starting in 1819, and once built, led to the Erie Canal’s arrival here in 1825.

Stop 8– EM Cotter Fireboat from the Michigan St. Bridge

- Built in 1900 and still operating: the oldest fireboat on the Great Lakes
- Used to fight fires and for icebreaking; can pump 15,000 gallons per minute.

Stop 1– Commercial Slip

- The Commercial Slip was the original Western Terminus of the Erie Canal, connecting the canal to the Buffalo River and thus to the Great Lakes.
- The Commercial Slip was filled in in the 1920s, and this portion was restored and reopened in 2008.

Stop 5– Connecting Terminal

- Across the river from the Boardwalk; built in 1915 (right section) and 1954 (left section)
- Grain elevators were created in Buffalo in 1842 to increase grain transfer and storage capacity – switching from manual labor to mechanical process to unload shiploads of grain.

Stop 9– Watchman’s Tower

- A replica of an 1880s US Lifesaving Service Watchman’s Tower that once stood at the entrance to the Buffalo Harbor (near the lighthouse).
- Replica completed in 2014; Weathervane on top depicts Seneca chief Farmer’s Brother.

Stop 2– Whipple Truss Bridge

- Engineer Squire Whipple designed a bowstring iron truss arch for bridges in 1841, and they became common for bridge construction.
- The Naval Park was established in the 1970s and is now home to the USS Little Rock, USS The Sullivans, and USS Croaker; this new museum was built in 2008.

Stop 6– General Mills

- Washburn Crosby Co. arrived here in 1903, & became General Mills in 1928.
- Produces flour and cereal: primarily Cheerios and Lucky Charms.
- Wheat for the flour mill is still delivered by lake freighter.

Stop 10– “Go!” Mural/ Cobblestone District

- By Augustina Droze and Bruce Adams, 2015.
- Design inspired by Pop Art, Bauhaus School, and Piet Mondrian.
- Cobblestone District was for many years home to warehouses and small factories; some buildings have been redeveloped.

Stop 3– Longshed

- Will house the construction of The Seneca Chief packet boat which Dewitt Clinton traveled on when the Erie Canal opened in 1825.
- Project is lead by the Buffalo Maritime Center and will take place over the next 3 years.
- The Seneca Chief replica will be 73 feet and the public will be able to take part in building it.

Stop 7– DL&W Terminal (1917)

- = Delaware, Lackawanna, & Western Railroad.
- Cargo trains came in on the 1st floor, & passenger trains came in on the 2nd floor.
 - Closed 1962, & the passenger terminal part of the building was demolished (1979).

Stop 11– French Connection Statue (2012)

- Depicts 3 of the Sabres’ most memorable players: Rene Robert, Gilbert Perreault, and Richard Martin: all French-Canadian players.
- Perreault was the first Sabres player to have his number retired, in 1990.

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