

# BEHIND THE SCENES OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

#### DAY ONE

#### Herkimer Diamond Mines - Herkimer, NY

Did you know that there are diamond mines in New York State? Herkimer Diamonds, in fact. These quartz crystal gemstones are 500 million years old and have a geometrical shape similar to real diamonds. Mine your own Herkimer Diamonds in the above-ground mine and keep what you find.

### Meyda Tiffany Lighting - Utica, NY

What began as a hobby evolved into America's leading and oldest manufacturer of Tiffany lamps and decorative lighting. Tour the factory and shop the spectacular retail store!

#### The Stanley - Utica, NY

The design motif of the Stanley Theater is dubbed "Mexican Baroque" because of its unique blend of styles. Check out all areas of the theatre, including the lobbies, mezzanine, loge and orchestra levels, and backstage and support areas plus the haunted basement! Concluding the tour, have a catered meal on the theater's stage.

#### Stay in Utica!

There are multiple hotel options, including full-service, renovated properties like Delta by Marriott and DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Utica. There are also other budget friendly options such as Fairfield Inn & Suites, Hampton and Holiday Inn Express.

#### DAY TWO

#### Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute - Utica, NY

MWPAI is full of history, art and unique architecture. Munson has a permanent collection that's free and open to the public and features artists like Jackson Pollock and Thomas Cole. They have rotating exhibitions that have ranged from Monet to Matisse to Wedded Perfection.

#### Erie Canal Cruises - Herkimer, NY

Imagine yourself in the early 1800's traveling the Erie Canal, being raised and lowered in the lock and listening to tales being spun by the captain. This experience can be yours aboard Lil' Diamond II. Hear the history of the canal, from its origin in Rome, to its current role. Experience the thrill of being raised and lowered 20 feet inside the lock – the smoothest elevator you've ever ridden. Arrive early and shop around at Gems Along the Mohawk!

#### Saranac/F.X Matt Brewery - Utica, NY

Tour the FX Matt Brewing company where Saranac beers and soft drinks are created. Learn the history of this legacy brewery and the Matt family's German heritage. Stop in the 1888 Tavern after the tour or anytime as we are now open to the public for sampling or purchase. Did You Know? F X Matt Brewery was the first brewery in the nation to sell a beer at the end of Prohibition in 1933! Brewery Tours: Friday & Saturdays.

#### Head to Dinner at Aqua Vino - Utica, NY

Aqua Vino offers seafood, steak, American, and Italian flare, serving the Mohawk Valley since 2007 all while overlooking the Erie Canal that you were cruising down before!

#### DAY THREE

## Utica Zoo - Utica, NY

Connect with nature while visiting exotic and domestic animals from all over the world. Utica Zoo is the perfect destination to bring your family, friends, or that special someone. Catch a California sea lion feeding, or visit the adorable endangered red pandas. Listen to the roar of the majestic African lions, or take a hike on our wooded North Trek nature trail.

#### New York Power Authority's Visitor Center - Utica, NY

Discover the new state of the art exhibits and interactive displays demonstrating how our power is made and how it is used. Learn about energy and hydropower, with videos and computer technology helping to explain the science of energy and electricity to children and adults alike. Set to open Summer 2020!

All tours are available by appointment; all meals and lodging require reservations.

## MADISON CERMAK

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Get away to it all.