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www.skunkandgoattavern.com



Molly Brannigan's

BRANNIGANS 506 State Street, Erie PA

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CONTENTS

A Guide to the Gem City - 4

PA's Gateway to the Great Lakes - 4

How to Use This Guide - 5

Erie's Architectural Hot Spots - 7

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry - 8

Local Eats - 8

A World of Food - 12

Healthy Eating in Erie is Not a Myth - 16

Breakfast & Brunch - 17

Coffee Shops, Cafes & Dinors - 17

Sweeten Your Stay - 20

Lake Erie Wine Country - 22

Wines, Spirits & More - 22

The Lake Erie Ale Trail - 25

Craft Spirits & Distilleries - 26

Craft Breweries - 27

Make It a Mazza - 28

A Home for Arts & Culture - 30

Summer Fun Around the 814 - 32

Beach Rentals - 33

Just for Fun at Waldameer - 33

Dog-friendly Destinations - 34

Fishing Finds - 35

Planning Your Presque Isle Getaway - 37

Fun, Games & Smart Stops - 38

A Little Retail Therapy - 40

Keeping Erie's Think Tank in Mind - 41

Snow Place Like Home - 41

Regional County Fairs - 42

Heritage Festivals & Community Events - 42

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A Guide to the Gem City

You may not know it yet, but you've discovered a gem. Gaze northward over Lake Erie as the sun peeks above the horizon, setting the water's surface sparklingly aglow. During sunrise or sunset, it's obvious why we call this place the "Gem City."

But as we examine Erie from more angles, we see it shine in so many other different lights this gem is resplendent with vibrant and diverse communities, a radiant arts and culture scene, tantalizing cuisine, and abundant outdoor and recreational opportunities, no matter the season.

And it's hardly a diamond in the rough — prospect further out into Erie County and just beyond and you'll be sure to mine up more

treasure, whether it's in the vinous amethysts of Lake Erie Wine Country, the golds and ambers of the Lake Erie Ale Trail, the emeralds of untold acres of forests and the azure sapphires of miles of streams.

It's rich territory to cover, and the Erie Reader is fortunate to cover it as the *only* local voice for news, arts, and culture in this Gem City.

PA's Gateway to the Great Lakes

Pennsylvania is home to 76.6 miles of shoreline. Spoiler alert: all of those reside in Erie County. As far as the Keystone State is concerned, it is *the* gateway to the Great Lakes, the historical heart of commerce in the United States prior to planes, trains, and automobiles.

About halfway along that stretch, curling out into Lake Erie like a bent arm, is the Presque Isle peninsula, cradling Presque Isle Bay like a protective parent. Early settlers of the region tucked themselves behind the bay and its resilient limb, taking refuge in the harbor while enjoying a bounty of natural resources — namely sturdy old-growth timber and healthy stocks of freshwater fish. The indigenous Erielhonan (or Eriez) people inherently knew that setting themselves up here would be setting themselves up for survival.

The first Europeans didn't arrive until hundreds of years later, but they quickly caught on to the intrinsic value of this region, and the role it might play in their empires on the other side of the Atlantic. The French saw this place as a key waypoint between St. Louis and Quebec in their vision of New France, establishing forts at

Presque Isle (French for "almost an island") and LeBoeuf. The British, for their part, thought it would do quite nicely as a piece of New England upon besting the French in the Seven Years' War.

Ultimately, though, the newly established United States of America got dibs. Colonel Seth Reed was the first U.S. citizen to make his home on Presque Isle, and in 1795 was met by the surveying team of Andrew Ellicott, General William Irvine, and Thomas Rees — the same men who would lay down plans for the eventual City of Erie (and also nearby Waterford to the south). They

were all well aware of Erie's advantageous location both economically and militarily as the young nation found its footing.

That positioning was tested soon enough, as Presque Isle Bay became a prized U.S. Navy shipyard while the United States prepared to defend itself from the British once more in the War of 1812. The tree-lined peninsula afforded privacy and security, while dual sandbars at the bay's opening would make any form of potential sabotage virtually impossible. The fleet built by Daniel Dobbins here would fall under the command of Commodore Oliver Hazard



Perry, the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie wherein the British Royal Navy surrendered near Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

From the mid-19th century into the 20th, Erie asserted itself as a bustling port and manufacturing juggernaut, with waves of European immigrants from Italy, Germany, Poland, and Ireland arriving to bolster both the workforce and the culture. Erie's legacy as a welcoming city would live on as refugees from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia have fled hardships in their native countries to find restored hope in America. Whether we've been here for generations or just got here, we continue to reshape Erie's identity in a largely post-industrial 21st century reality.

Ultimately, though, we can see our reflection in the water, the outstretched arm of Presque Isle beckoning residents and visitors hospitably inward.

How to Use This Guide

With Erie's downtown and bayfront undergoing a renaissance, we truly believe the best is yet to come. That being said, each year's Best of Erie awards demonstrate that our current best is plenty good enough.

An annual tradition instituted in 2014 by the Erie Reader – Erie's only independent, locally-owned alternative newspaper – Best of Erie polls Erieites on their favorite people and places, culture and nightlife activities, and food and drink options, with over 120 subcategories to vote on. Both nominations and voting are open to the public, making the year-end list a genuinely crowd-sourced product.

Over 650,000 votes were cast for the 2021 Best of Erie awards — nearly double the number of the year previous. Those results form the foundation of this 2022-23 Best of Erie City Guide, a publicly curated guidebook to all the best to eat, drink, see, and do in Erie, Pa. As you flip through these pages, look for diamonds (Best of Erie category winners) and green highlights (Best of Erie runners-up) as starting points for your explorations.

Best of Erie Winner 🐨

Best of Erie Runner-up

Of course, there are plenty of other gems to discover. Follow along; we'll show you the way.

CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION

On Stage This Summer











Voice and the Violin: Joshua Bell & Larisa Martínez Saturday, June 25

Ben Folds: In Actual Person Live for Real Tour

Tuesday, June 28

Renée Elise Goldsberry Friday, July 8

Aladdin Live in Concert with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, July 9

Sheryl Crow

Featuring Special Guests Keb' Mo' and Southern Avenue Tuesday, July 12

ABBA The Concert

Friday, July 15

Jay Leno

Friday, July 22

Star Wars: The Empire
Strikes Back in Concert with
the Chautauqua Symphony
Orchestra

Saturday, July 23

Carl Reiner at 100: Celebrating a Comedy Legacy

Presented in Partnership with the National Comedy Center Wednesday, July 27

An Evening with Lyle Lovett and his Large Band

Friday, July 29

Brett Eldredge

Friday, August 5

VOCES8

Tuesday, August 9

Girl Named Tom

Friday, August 19

Hiss Golden Messenger & Aoife O'Donovan

Saturday, August 20

Punch Brothers

Monday, August 22

An Evening with Rhiannon Giddens and the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday, August 23

An Evening with The Avett Brothers

Wednesday, August 24

A Very Special Evening with Emmylou Harris and Mary Chapin Carpenter

Thursday, August 25

The Beach Boys and The Temptations

Friday, August 26

Chita Rivera – The Rhythm of My Life

Saturday, August 27



Order at **tickets.chq.org**Or call our Ticket Office at 716.357.6250

All information subject to change.

CHAUTAUQUA, NY • CHQ.ORG

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Erie's Architectural Hot Spots

The Erie area offers a wide variety of architectural styles that make its commercial and residential areas distinctly unique. Ranging from the grand Victorian mansions of the West Sixth Street Historic District to the blue-collar row houses of Lawrence Park, there is plenty of interesting architecture to discover. For more information on any of the buildings noted here, be sure to check out the Erie Buildings Survey completed by Preservation Erie, a local non-profit dedicated to preserving our built environment, at eriebuildings.info

The West Sixth Street Historic District

This is a Nationally Registered Historic District comprising over 100 contributing buildings constructed between 1821 and 1930 — most notably those on "Millionaire's Row," located on West Sixth Street between Peach and Poplar. This stretch contains examples of many architectural styles including Second Empire, Italianate, Richardsonian Romanesque, Tudor Revival, and Shingle Style, and is currently undergoing a mass restoration.

The West 21st Street Historic District

Another Nationally Registered Historic District, this area comprises over 35 examples of historic architecture with construction dates ranging from 1857 to 1939 when this area was considered a trolley suburb. The historic district runs on West 21st Street from Peach to Myrtle and contains beautiful examples of Italianate, Colonial Revival, and Romanesque Styles. If you continue west on 21st Street, you will end up at the Erie Cemetery, incorporated in 1851, which always makes for an interesting historic stroll.

Lustron Homes

Lustron homes were invented shortly after World War II as a government "solution" to the housing shortage for returning Gls. Created by Carl Strandlund, the homes are prefabricated, futuristic, and made entirely of enamel-coated metal. Only about 1,500 Lustrons remain in the US and Erie is home to 21 of them. Notable examples can be found at 156 Parkway Drive and 916 Kahkwa Blvd. For a complete listing visit lustronlocator.com

Craftsman Homes

Erie's stock of Craftsman style homes were largely designed by prolific local architect C. Paxton Cody. The largest concentration of Cody's homes are on Lincoln Avenue from West Sixth Street north to South Shore Drive. Cody's standout Craftsman designs were constructed in the early 1900s and feature overhanging eaves, heavy tapered columns, earth tones, and multi-paneled wood windows. Best examples: 538 Lincoln



Ave. and 445 Lincoln Ave. (both private addresses)

Schoolhouses

Always charming to come across, Erie County has managed to hold on to a number of its historic one-room schoolhouses. Largely found in rural areas throughout Erie County, the "little red schoolhouse" image is an evocative one of pioneer values and simpler times. Some of the best examples of schoolhouses are in Fairview, with notable examples at 6610 W. Lake Road (which has been restored as a restaurant and venue) and 7490 Hathaway Drive (private residence).

Row Houses

A World War I response to a housing shortage for an influx of factory workers into Erie, the historic row houses were designed by Albert Spahr and Charles Downing Lay around 1918, and constructed of brick and slate. These were planned and constructed in Lawrence Park, built to house workers at the General Electric factory nearby, as well as on Lincoln Avenue, south of 12th Street, to house workers at Erie Forge.

Garden Court

Garden Court was Erie's first planned subdivision. Set on the blocks of West Sixth and West Seventh between Cherry and Poplar streets, Garden Court was planned and constructed by James Baldwin (a prolific real estate developer who is responsible for a vast number of Erie's historic homes and neighborhoods). This area contains 27 houses of varying styles built between 1908 and 1930 with a driveway at each corner allowing access to a shared inner courtyard.

Historic Barns

Some of the oldest existing structures in Erie County are the barns built on vast swaths of farmland, scattered throughout the county. Erie has some fine examples of all of the varying architectural styles of barns, most noteworthy are the Octagonal Barn at 11477 Middle Road in North East, the Wisconsin Dairy Barn at 9425 Old Waterford Road, and the Log Barn at 12646 McChesney Road in Springfield Township.

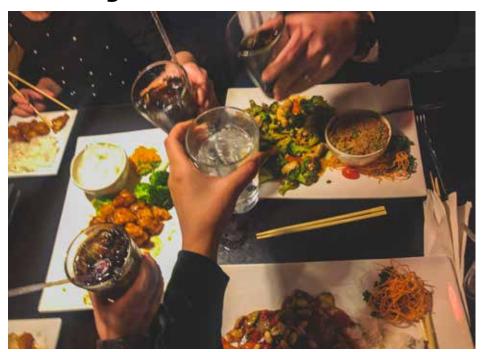


Eat, Drink & Be Merry

What are you hungry for? Don't you dare say "I don't know" or "up to you" – at least not until you've given these lists a look.

Whether you're craving something in particular or anything at all, we are here to feed your appetite with tastes both familiar and new, comforting and surprising. Exiting I-90 and I-79 onto **Peach Street** or Interchange Road will land you in the midst of dozens of your favorite chain restaurants for a fulfilling quick fix (they are also plentiful in the vicinity of **West 12th Street** and Pittsburgh Avenue further to the north). Foraying into **Erie's downtown**, neighborhoods, and the surrounding boroughs and townships will bring you to locally-owned establishments with flavors spanning the globe.

If you're not all that hungry but could use a drink, we are happy to report that in Erie County the cup truly runneth over. Feeling a draft? Give our corner bars and taverns a shot. Longing for a bottle of white, a bottle of red, or perhaps a rosé instead? Lake Erie Wine Country boasts over 20 wineries — we're sure you'll "vine" something you like. Craft beer connoisseurs will want to blaze the Lake Erie



Trail, a multi-county spanning network of award-winning local breweries. And for something with a little chutzpah, our microdistillery scene is shaking things up with handmade spirits and craft cocktails.

We hope we've given you food for thought.

Local Eats

Federal Hill Smokehouse 🐨

The demand is high and the supply low for Federal Hill's cured and smoked meats, so get there early if you'd like a taste of Erie's Best Barbecue (and runner-up for Best Restaurant), open only for lunch. With lines routinely stretching out the door, you can bet your brisket they sell out on a daily basis.

2609 Peach St.

Firestone's

The attached Gordon's Butcher & Market supplies Erie's Best New Business with a succulent source of proteins for its tantalizing array of sandwiches, pizzas, and entree plates. Wash the deliciousness down with a draft from the bar or peruse the coolers at the also attached Paris's Cap & Cork.

4823 Peach St.

Odis 12 Sports Bar & Grille 🐨

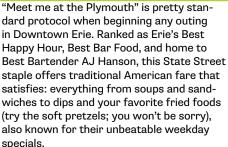
Erie's Best Sports Bar gamely serves over 140 flavors of curiously-named and creatively-sauced wings (don't worry, the menus come with a handy flavor decoder chart to flip through while your hands are still clean), voted Erie's best, also stacking up a 2021 Best Burger win. 3702 W. 12th St.



Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro 🐨

You can be assured that your experience at this beloved bistro will be welcoming. Five-time Erie's Best Chef winner Jean Paul marries American Southern fare with Caribbean influence for food that simply feels good to eat — so much so that Pineapple Eddie was voted Erie's Best Restaurant for five out of the last six years. Locals especially recommend their seafood and romantic atmosphere, as they were voted a Best Of runner-up in each of these categories. 1402 W. 10th St.

The Plymouth Tavern 🐨



1109 State St.

Room 33 Speakeasy

Step behind the bookshelf and back in time at this speakeasy-style bar, which seeks to reproduce the sounds, sights, and tastes of the Prohibition era – between live jazz and blues performances, Art Deco imagery, and expertly crafted cocktails. As winner of Best Cocktail, Room 33 will give you good reason to "cheers" – just keep it on the hush-hush. 1033 State St.

Calamari's Squid Row

Neighborhood bar meets big-city bistro with full cocktail menu and outdoor dining 1317 State St.

The Cork 1794

High quality ingredients with well-balanced flavors, its contemporary dining space is one of Erie's finest.

844 W. Erie Plaza Dr.

Lucky Louie's Beer And Wieners

A must-see gem with unforgettable menu of ingenious hot dog options.

8238 Perry Hwy. & 22 N. Park Row

McGarrey's Oakwood Cafe

Long running family-owned Irish restaurant well-known for their reubens. 1624 W. 38th St.

Molly Brannigan's

This recently renovated downtown establishment has everything you're looking for in an Irish bar. It is comfortable, energetic, and has plenty of delicious drinks on tap, including the black stuff (Guinness Irish Stout, of course). There's no shenanigans in its being

rated Erie's Best Irish Pub multiple times. 506 State St.

One Way Inn

Runner-up for Erie's Best Wings at this smoker-friendly bar.

4344 Peach St.

Peek'n Peak Resort

Expansive resort with seven different dining options on its 130-acre location 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, N.Y.

The Park Tavern

Casual pub featuring some of the region's best-loved wings 4205 E. Lake Rd.

Three B Saloon

The three B's stand for beer, barbecue, and bacon at this Southern-style innovator. 732 W. 4th St.

Cloud 9 Wine Bar & Restaurant

Downtown casual-chic location with relaxed, romantic atmosphere and impressive wine list

25 E. 10th St.

Jekyll & Hyde's Gastropub

Downtown favorite with inventive menu and dozens of beers on tap. 8 E. 10th St.

Shoreline Bar and Grille

Upscale restaurant inside Courtyard at Marriott with bayside views and top-notch menu.

2 Sassafras Pier

The Skunk and Goat Tavern

Comfort meets class in downtown North



East with upscale food and cocktail menu. 17 W. Main St., North East, Pa.

Andy's Pub

3866 Peach St.

Applebee's

7790 Peach St. & 2911 W. 12th St. & 4002 Buffalo Rd. & 2911 W. 12th St.

Avanti'

1662 W. 8th St.

Bay House Oyster Bar & Restaurant

6 Sassafras Pier

taste&see

FRUIT | VEGGIE BAR

Eat Good. Feel Good. Look Good

Taste And See is an urban oasis for seasonal, healthy, fruit and veggie based smoothies, bowls, snacks, salads, wraps, and more! Our mission is simple. We want to make healthy foods like fruits and veggies accessible to the Lake Erie region!



OUR GOALS

- · Become a part of a person's daily healthy lifestyle choices.
- · Educate on the health benefits and nutritional value of our products.
- Introduce and change the perception of fruits and veggies.
- To see the Erie Community active and engaged in nutritional healthy lifestyle choices!

We Deliver Locally-In the Downtown Area to Commercial Businesses/Locations.

We Cater Healthy Breakfast/Lunch! We are always looking to be engaged and actively involved in the Community, through local events! Please reach out if you feel a connection!

Monday – Friday 8am to 7pm; Saturday 9am to 7pm Flagship City Food Hall • 22 North Park Row Erie, PA 16501 • tasteandseesmoothies.com





Black Jax Bar and Grill

8040 Perry Hwy.

Buffalo Wild Wings

2099 Interchange Rd.

Butch's Place Family Restaurant 3330 W. 26th St.

The Cab

5442 W. Ridge Dr.

Charlie's Pub & Eatery

606 Erie St # 1, Edinboro, Pa.

Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen

2085 Interchange Rd.

Chippers Tavern

4608 Wattsburg Rd.

Colony Pub & Grille

2670 W. 8th St.

The Cove

2 State St.

Dickey's Barbecue Pit

3716 Liberty St.

Dina's Authentic Dominican

22 N. Park Row

Edinboro Hotel Bar

100 Meadville St. Edinboro, Pa.

Engine House 39

1000 Washington Dr. Edinboro, Pa.

Fat Willie's Wing House

205 Waterford St., Edinboro, Pa.

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill

680 Millcreek Mall

Five Guys

1408 Peninsula Dr. & 1940 Rotunda Dr.

Harvest Restaurant & Pub

11019 Sidehill Rd., North East, Pa.

Hooch & Blotto's

8071 Peach St.

IHOP

8040 Peach St.

John Russell Brewing Company Brew House & Restaurant

7520 Peach St #101

Johnny B's Restaurant

37 Vine St., North East, Pa.

Local Eat & Pour

1201 State St.

LongHorn Steakhouse

6750 Peach St.

Lorie's Wildridge Restaurant

5455 W. Ridge Rd.

Max & Erma's

2078 Interchange Rd.

New York Lunch

1005 Parade St. & 1525 Peninsula Dr.

New York Lunch East Ave.

922 East Ave.

Outlaw Barbecue Revolution

3802 Elmwood Ave.

Pier 6 Rooftop Bar & Restaurant

6 Sassafras Pier

The Pittsburgh Inn

3725 W. Lake Rd.

Primanti Bros.

5800 Peach St.

Pub 20 / The Ruffed Grouse

10326 W. Main St., North East, Pa.

Quaker Steak & Lube

7851 Peach St.

The Que Abides Pit Stop

6990 W. Lake Rd., Fairview, Pa.

Ringside Restaurant

3202 Sterrettania Rd.

Sandbar Draft House & Grille

2835 W. 8th St.

Smokey Bones Barbeque

2074 Interchange Rd.

Sara's Restaurant

25 Peninsula Dr

Sullivan's Pub & Eatery

301 French St.

Sunset Grill

508 Erie St., Edinboro, Pa.

Taste of Love

22 N. Park Row

Texas Roadhouse

7475 Peach St.

U Pick 6 Harbor House

4454 Buffalo Rd.

U Pick 6 Public House

4575 W. Ridge Rd.

U Pick 6 Tap House

333 State St. #110

Underdog BBQ

3040 W. Lake Rd.

11884 E. Main St., North East, Pa.

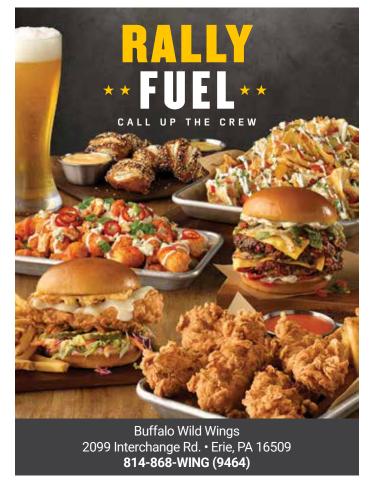
Waterford Hotel

213 High St., Waterford, Pa.

Woody's Backwater BARge & Grill

110 E. Dobbins Landing





Erie's Edible Essentials



Grab a paper plate (or two) and take a seat at the nearest foldout, picnic, or patio table - we're about to recreate the scene of untold millions of Erie cookouts, graduation parties, tailgates, and reunions. If you're vegetarian or vegan, we recommend you skip to the end of this exercise (it's still good, we promise), as there may not be a whole lot for you here. Start with any one or more of these regional delicacies in your party spread and you'll be sure to please. But please don't forget the veggie tray.

Smith's Hot Dogs: Sorry to be so brand-specific here, but in the Erie area there really are no other brands. There are only the skinless or natural casing wieners produced by family-owned, locally-based Smith's Provision Company. Smith's = hot dogs. Hot dogs = Smith's. That's it. Fashioned from a high-quality blend of beef, pork, and Smith's proprietary blend of seasonings, they're terrific on their own or with all the standard hot dog accouterments. Although if you're really after that "World's Best Cook" apron, you'll be sure to serve the dogs alongside a crock of Greek sauce. Like a chili dog without the beans, Greek dogs are laden with a ladleful of seasoned ground beef. While the Greek god physique may have to wait, at least you'll have the praise.

Ox Roast: This is where your paper plate reinforcements come in. Say bonjour to au jus because this fall-apart tender, thinly sliced beef round is served dripping with its own savory juices. The name "ox roast" is only half misleading - although slowly roasted for hours, it is actually zero percent ox meat (like us, oxen work most of their lives and can be tough to deal

with). The Smith's product sold in tubs at the supermarket will be most familiar to locals because of its broader distribution. However, long-time East Erie meat markets Urbaniak Brothers and Trawka's have been supplying us with finely sliced bovine for generations.

Pepperoni Balls: Within Erie city limits, they're a wad of pepperoni, wrapped in baked or fried dough, often stuffed inside our mouths. Stray much further and they're a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma. Despite their superior portability (akin to the size of a baseball) and broad local appeal, word of pepperoni balls has not traveled all that far. In the context of your Erie-themed gathering, they're the ultimate in low-investment, high-reward power plays. Warm them in the oven (the crosshatched Stanganelli's brand are the most iconic and widely available), set them out, and watch as the hungry mobs disperse. Save a few to pop in the microwave for later - hearty and comforting, they're the ideal accompaniment to winding down with your favorite movie or TV show.

Sponge Candy: But what about dessert? While we wouldn't recommend skipping the standard cookies, cupcakes, or brownies to appease the masses, we strongly implore you to keep a bowl of sponge candy on hand for the privileged few (or just yourself). This uniquely light, crispy toffee's texture is thanks to millions of tiny air bubbles trapped in its sugar matrix, formed when baking soda decomposes into carbon dioxide when heated. "Cool story," you say as you tear open another bag of the meltin-your-mouth chocolate-covered morsels. We don't blame you.



**** 5 Star Rated Zillow Premier Agent

A World of Food



Erie may not strike one as a cosmopolitan city at first glance, but its gastronomy is truly all over the map. We owe this in large part to our **rich immigration history**, from the mass waves of Western Europeans that made their way here in the 19th and early 20th centuries to more recent influxes of Eastern Europeans, Middle Easterners, and Southeast Asians. With them they've brought their unique culinary traditions and a market for the key ingredients their signature dishes demand. As our population has diversified, so have our palates.

What "home" tastes like is changing, but to our **New American restaurateurs**, this is what home has *always* tasted like. To them, food is their anchor; it has grounded them in their identity during their transition to a new life. By sharing their specialties, they are both reaffirming their own belonging and inviting others to expand their frames of reference. This is a cultural exchange in the most delicious sense.

Asian & Indian Cuisine

Like My Thai 🐨

Diners can watch as Chef Mike Augustine cooks up and serves Thai, Korean, and Vietnamese classics at this trendy downtown restaurant, which won Best Thai Food. It is also one of the few remaining BYOB establishments in the city, so be sure to bring a bottle of your favorite beer or wine to help beat the heat of some traditionally very spicy dishes. 827 State St.

Samurai Kitchen + Sushi 🐨

The local husband-and-wife team behind Samurai Kitchen + Sushi are as sharp as a katana's edge when it comes to the culinary arts, earning the prize for Erie's Best Asian Restaurant.

2767 W. 12th St.

Chopstix Express

Full menu of Chinese, Mongolian, Thai, Hibachi, and sushi offerings for takeout. 3842 Liberty St.

Golden Wok

Full menu offering delivery, takeout, and dinein options.

3202 Pittsburgh Ave.

Thai Eatery

Huge on flavor and Thai authenticity, with takeout only. 5641 Peach St.



Patio with **BREATH TAKING VIEWS** of the sunset, bay, Presque Isle, and tall ships 2022.

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Courtyard Erie Bayfront • 2 Sassafras Pier Erie, PA 16507 • 814.636.2149

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356 West 6th St. Erie Pa eriehistory.org 814-454-1813 Open Tuesday - Sunday • Admission \$10



Acme Chinese Restaurant

2301 Broad St.

Annapurna Kitchen

1315 Parade St.

Cathay Express

3 E. 18th St.

China Jade

14 E. Main St., North East, Pa.

China Star

566 Millcreek Mall

China Royal Buffet

9139 Ridge Rd., Girard, Pa.

F & F Poke Bowl

2501 W. 12th St. & 6831 Peach St.

Fine Restaurant & Bar

2330 E. 38th St.

Fortune Garden

1210 W. 26th St.

Great Wall Restaurant

1326 E. Grandview Blvd.

Happy Garden

418 State St. A

Happy Wok

1537 W. 38th St.

Hibachi Japanese Steak House

3000 W. 12th St.

Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant

2887 W. 26th St.

Ichiban

4041 Buffalo Rd.

Imperial Buffet

7200 Peach Street Unit 14

Imperial Palace

4646 Buffalo Rd. Jade Garden

2034 E. 38th St.

Ling Ling

1526B W. 26th St.

Little Taipei

2421 Asbury Rd.

Main Moon Chinese Restaurant

102 Erie St., Edinboro, Pa.

Maggie's China Inn

201 High St., Waterford, Pa.

My Way Bar and Grill

2218 E. Lake Rd.

Noodlelove

22 N. Park Roun

Osaki

970 Millcreek Mall

Peking

5526 Peach St.

S&S Super Buffet

1960 Rotunda Dr.

Tandoori Hut Indian Cuisine

2605 Washington Ave.

Tasty Bowl

7400 Schultz Rd.

Italian

Mi Scuzi 🐨



As the 2021 Best Italian Restaurant in Erie and one of the city's favorite fine dining establishments, this family-owned spot is the place for a date - it was also voted Erie's Best Romantic Restaurant in 2020. 2641 Myrtle St.

Colao's Ristorante

Fresh pasta and authentic fare at this intimate, romantic corner establishment. 2826 Plum St

Valerio's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria

Erie mainstay with wide-spanning menu and three area locations plus a catering

2179 W. 32nd St. & 1803 E. 38th St. & 724 Powell Ave.

Barbato's Italian Restaurant

7472 Perry Hwy.

La Bella

802 W. 18th St.

Michael's Restaurant

& Pizzeria

20 S. Lake St., North East, Pa.

Olive Garden Italian Restaurant

5945 Peach St.

Peppino's Italian Chop House 6590 W. Lake Rd., Fairview, Pa.

Ricardo's Restaurant

2112 E. Lake Rd.

Skippereno's Italian

Restaurant

1604 W. Grandview Blvd.



Mediterranean & Middle Eastern

Bistro 26 🐨

When it comes to rich, herby, fresh, and flavorful plates, this bistro is tough to beat. Although its menu references cuisines from around the world, it is its Mediterranean fare that sits squarely atop Erie's Olympus.

3557 W. 26th St.

Casablanca Grill

Enjoy Pitas, hummus, babaghanoush, and more at the charming location owned by Syrian immigrants 2174 W. 8th St.

Habibi Mediterranean Cuisine

Romantic, intimate atmosphere at the Union Station gem, family-owned and

operated

127 W. 14th St.

Fadak International Food Market

2601 Parade St.

Kabab Master 703 State St.

Palm Tree Market

2702 Parade St.

Sham Market

760 E. 12th St.

Shawarma King

1042 W. 26th St

Shawarma Station

22 N. Park Row

Shish Kabob Restaurant 1202 French St.



Fun Fact! In the 1990s before demand spiked dramatically, many local bars and restaurants offered all-you-can-eat chicken wings for as little as \$4 – slightly over \$7 when adjusted for inflation.

Mexican

El Canelo

Erie's Best Mexican Restaurant can be experienced at one of three different locations, each offering a plethora of classic dishes at reasonable prices. Leaving the kids at home? Try one of their freshly made margaritas. 4236 Peach St. & 2709 W. 12th St. & 4459 Buffalo Rd.

El Amigo Mexican Grill

With its very-downtown location, this is a favorite lunch spot for weekday Erieites. 333 State St.

Torero's

This upper Peach St. spot is always in the running for Best Mexican.
1940 Douglas Dr.

Chipotle Mexican Grill

6611 Peach St. & 2204 W. 12th St. & 4165 Buffalo Rd.

Compadres Mexican Restaurant

220 W. Plum St., Edinboro, Pa.

Enrique's Southeast Mexico Tagueria and Tortilleria

Savory Southeast Mexican cuisine served up on fresh homemade tortillas. 1801 Liberty St.

La Chona Movil

1512 Poplar St.



La Cocina Coqui 653 W 26th St.

Lucky's Mexican Food

1719 Parade St.

Mad Mex

5800 Peach St.

Moe's Southwest Grill

2187 W. 12th St. & 2052 Edinboro Rd.

Fun Fact! Before
refrigeration was
commonplace, ice was
harvested from Presque Isle
Bay to help city residents
preserve their food.



Healthy Eating in Erie is Not a Myth

When it comes to dining out in Erie, there's no question that omnivores have it easiest — especially those unconcerned with calories. But rather than uproot, a handful of health-conscious entrepreneurs have dug in to share and tastefully prepare the fruits (and vegetables) of the earth. If you are a visiting vegetarian or vegan (or just watching your figure), don't despair. It is entirely possible to enjoy a local meal sans animal. Here are a few places to start with:

Erie Food Co-Op Cafe & Bakery

1341 W. 26th St. & 34 N. Park Row (Flagship City Public Market)

This westside grocer prioritizes locally or regionally produced, cruelty free, fair trade, natural foods with no GMOs, antibiotics, hormones, or artificial color or flavoring. Their cafe and bakery offers a robust selection of gourmet sandwiches, soups, salads, and desserts (including togo options) customizable to any diet.

The Juice Jar

2620 W. 8th St.

The Juice Jar's mission is to provide

health-sustaining foods, pressed juices, and smoothies while promoting an environmentally conscious attitude. There's not a scrap of meat to be found on the menu, but given the vibrant flavors and thoughtful preparations available, you'd be well-advised to hunt this place down for your next breakfast, lunch, or snack.

Taste & See Fruit and Veggie Bar

22 N. Park Row (Flagship City Food Hall)
Driven by a desire for the hitherto elusive smoothie in Downtown Erie, Taste & See Fruit and Veggie Bar has filled that void with an assortment of plant-based smoothies, smoothie bowls, slushies, infused waters, breakfasts, lunches, and snacks (with a few concessions made for the carnivores in your clan). Blended seamlessly into the Flagship City Food Hall.

Lettuce Head

2167 W. 12th St.

If you happen to be *Romaine* around West Erie with an empty stomach, you'll spring for Lettuce Head's mix of chopped salads, lettuce wraps, grain bowls, and soups in an unassuming, fast-casual environment.









Breakfast & Brunch



What is the reason you get up in the morning? Some may cite their careers, passions, children, or alarm clocks, and that's wonderful. However, many people would tell you that the best part of waking up is the privilege of enjoying breakfast afterwards. Whether you prefer your first meal of the day savory or sweet, here you can have your pancakes and eat them, too. Looking for something light to tide you over til lunch? Visit any of our great coffeehouses for a pastry and a cup of joe. For bigger appetites, dig in at one of our famed local dinors (no, that distinctly Northwestern Pa. spelling is not a mistake) and get some mileage out of that meal. Either way, you're not getting the short end of the stack.

If the morning happens to be Sunday and you've woken up later than you like, don't get your pajama bottoms in the twist (that may or may not be on backwards ... you seem like you had fun last night!), because **brunch** in Erie is also a big deal. From al a carte options to buffets to allout smorgasbords, the 814 has something for any palate. Variety: that's something we can all raise our Bloody Marys or mimosas to.

Quintessential Coffee

For many, coffee is to coping as the bungee cord is to climbing or the parachute is to skydiving. Of course, how you are depends on how you bean. Erie's coffeehouses specialize in a breadth of single-origin, premium, and specialty roasts, unlocking a kaleidoscope of flavors for the coffee connoisseur. With more and more independent shops entering the fold, there has never been a better time to get your daily kickstart — or kick back and relax with whatever company you choose to keep.



Coffee Shops, Cafes & Dinors

The Breakfast Place 🐨

The Original Breakfast Place and Breakfast Place West both offer plenty of breakfast bang for your buck — unless you're one of the rare specimens that can finish their MASSIVE frittata in one sitting. If you're not up for that, there's still plenty of coffee (and lighter choices) to go around.

4108 Peach St. & 2340 E. 38th St.

Flip Cafe 🐨

This Edinboro dinor serves up both a scrumptious breakfast and lunch, but it is the morning meal that had Best of Erie voters stoked enough to vote it Best Dinor. For good reason — offering both delightful and decadent deviations from the more standard and straightforward breakfast fare (although that certainly is still an option), you'll flip for Flip. 103 Meadville St., Edinboro, Pa.

Tipsy Bean 🐨

Famously featured on the Discovery Channel's *Undercover Billionaire: Comeback City*, the Tipsy Bean is worth investing some time (and your appetite) with. Caffeinate and fuel up for the day with a regularly rotating selection of sweet and savory baked goods made in-house — and, if the weather cooperates, the patio area is a great place to let the good vibes percolate.

2425 Peach St.

Brew Ha Ha at the Colony

Espresso, treats, and tea from the Colony Plaza location just five minutes south of Presque Isle State Park. 2612 W. 8th St.

Ember + Forge

Downtown Erie's favorite locally-owned coffee shop, set up in a former chandlery. 401 State St.

Gem City Dinor

Charming west side location bursting with character, from their smash browns, to their burgers, to their eggs benedict. 3545 W. 12th St.

Panos' Restaurant

Long one of Erie's favorite dinors, with breakfast available all day. 1504 W. 38th St.

Franco's Cafe

Popular stop for downtown professionals

highlighted by extensive soup and salad bar. 1001 State St. #106

Bakes and Wakes Super Secret Coffee Shop and Cereal Bar 664 W. 26th St., Front Unit

Butch's Diner

10651 W. Main St., North East, Pa.

Butch's Place Family Restaurant 3330 W. 26th St.

Cafe 7-10

7 W. 10th St.

Coffee In The Park

4007 Main St., Lawrence Park, Pa.

Erie Food Co-op Cafe & Bakery

1341 W. 26th St. & 34 N. Park Row

Dominick's Diner

123 E. 12th St.

Dunkin' Donuts

2545 W. 12th St. & 7165 Peach St. & 5620 Peach St.

Lawrence Park Dinor

4019 Main St., Lawrence Park, Pa.

Main Street Cakery Cafe

7403 W. Ridge Rd. Fairview, Pa. & 2900 Copperleaf Dr. & 930 Peach St.

Panera Bread

4014 Peach St. & 2501 W. 12th St. & 1935 Keystone Dr. & 4299 Buffalo Rd.

Purrista Cat Café

30 W 8th St.

Premium Coffee Company of Erie 1220 W. 38th St.

Pressed

1535 W. 8th St.

Rose Garden Cafe

815 State St.

Starbucks

2205 W. 12th St. & 5800 Peach St. Space #745 & 6801 Peach St. & 6700 Peach St. & 350 Millcreek Plaza

Tim Hortons

209 E. 12th St. & 4231 Peach St. & 815 E. 38th St. & 2565 W. 12th St. & 2745 W. 26th St. & 6850 Peach St. & 8030 Perry Hwy. & 4444 Buffalo Rd. & 5350 Technology Park Dr.

Sunset Cafe

Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle, 301 Peninsula Dr.

Zodiac Dinor

2516 State St.

Pizza

John's Wildwood Pizzeria 🐨

When someone in Erie mentions Edinboro, they are often either talking about the university or John's Wildwood Pizzeria, a made-from-scratch taste and feel that's distinctly delicious. You can also grab a slice of Erie's Best Pizza at the Pub & Pie attached to the Erie Brewing Company brewpub in Knowledge Park.

105 Erie St., Edinboro, Pa. & 6008 Knowledge Pkwy.

Valerio's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria

Full-service Italian restaurant, with traditional pie options in addition to an extensive dine-in and carryout menu.

2179 W. 32nd St. & 1803 E. 38th St. & 724 Powell Ave.

Virgil's Plate

The ideal choice for those who value individualization, with out-of-the-box styles and customizable pie options. 1001 W. 6th St.

Alfee's Pizza & Sub Shop

3001 Glenwood Park Ave.

Blaze Fast-Fire'd Pizza

6601-7501 Peach St.

Colony Pizza & Catering

2666 W. 8th St.

Crazy Oven 35 Peninsula Dr.

Domino's Pizza

1402 Turnpike St. & 1101 Peninsula Dr. Ste. 214 & 3303 Buffalo Rd. & 5158 Peach St.

Donatos Pizza

1535 W. 8th St. Unit A1 & 861 E. 38th St.

Gary's Superette

4703 E. Lake Rd.

Hungry Howie's Pizza

5086 Station Rd. & 128 W. 12th St.

Little Caesars Pizza

1025 Parade St. & 725 W. 38th St. & 1904 W. 8th St. & 2212 Broad St. & 2897 W. 26th St. & 1332 E. Grandview Blvd. & 4490 Buffalo Rd.

Lucky Man's Restaurant

3651 W. 12th St.

Mama Mia's Pizza-Ria

5154 Peach St.

Marco's Pizza

1509 E. 38th St. & 3759 W. 12th St.



Maria's Pizza

2340 W. Grandview Blvd.

MC's pizzeria

1400 E. Lake Rd.

Meeker's Main Street Pizza

9003 Main St., McKean, Pa.

My Dad's Pizza & Deli

4535 Buffalo Rd.

Papa John's Pizza

3870 Peach St. & 1713 E. 38th St.

Patti's Pizza

3403 W. 38th St. & 3700 Pine Ave.

Pizza Hut

5050 Peach St. & 1404 Peninsula Dr. & 4402 Buffalo Rd.

Pizza Pete's

2823 W. 26th St.

Porky's Pizzeria

302 W. 8th St. & 3512 Buffalo Rd.

Presque Isle Pizza Restaurant

3150 W. 32nd St.

Sabo's Pizza

7374 W. Ridge Rd., Fairview, Pa.

Skippereno's Italian

Restaurant & Pizzeria

1604 W. Grandview Blvd.

Slices on French

723 French St.

Steel City Sandwich Company

4801 Peach St.

Stevo's Pizza

1019 State St.

Yonkers NY Style Pizzeria

3701 W. Lake Rd.

Yum Yum's Pizza

312 W. 31st St.

Seafood

Smugglers' Wharf 🛛 🐨

To the immediate east of Dobbins Landing lies this bayside mainstay, voted Best Seafood Restaurant, with fresh seafood and views paralleled by few other eateries in Erie.

3 State St.

Bay House Oyster Bar & Restaurant 6 Sassafras Pier

Bayfront Grille (Located in the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel) 55 W. Bay Dr.

Chippers Seafood and Southern Fusion *1023 State St.*

Hooks Catfish Kitchen

38 N. Park Row

Red Lobster

2040 Edinboro Rd.

Rum Runners Cove

2 State St.

Shoreline Bar & Grille

2 Sassafras Pier

Sloppy Duck Saloon

726 W. Bayfront Pkwy.

Storming Crab

7791 Peach St.

Syd's Place

2992 W. Lake Rd.

Ugly Tuna Tavern

1010 Peninsula Dr. #4153



THREE DISTINCT WINERY EXPERIENCES IN THE LAKE ERIE AVA





SOUTH SHORE WINE COMPANY

1120 FREEPORT RD (RT. 89) NORTH EAST, PA

The Lake Erie region has a long and storied history of sparkling wine production. Sip on bubbly wines made in traditional and contemporary styles along with a collection of interesting and emerging varietals.

COME FOR

Diverse sparkling wines
Emerging varietals
A trio of sweeter selections
Historical cavern tasting room

MAZZA VINEYARDS

11815 E LAKE RD (RT. 5) NORTH EAST, PA

The Mazza family's flagship location for more than 50 years has been home to a lineage of international winemakers who have influenced a fascinating wine list that ranges from crisp and pristine to robust and fruit-forward.

COME FOR

Traditional, European varietals Crowd-pleasing favorites Experimental styles

MAZZA CHAUTAUQUA CELLARS/ FIVE & 20 SPIRITS AND BREWING

8398 W MAIN ST (RT. 20) WESTFIELD, NY

NY State's first combination winery-distillery-brewery is a unique location to enjoy (literally!) all of the flavors that the region has to offer. With an emphasis on local products and a serene patio setting, it's the can't-miss stop on your local beverage tour.

COME FOR

Locally-grown, globally-inspired wines Adventurous spirits and cocktails A rotating and seasonal beer list Seasonal events and food partners

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FOR LOCATION INFORMATION & EVENT CALENDARS





Sweeten Your Stay

Incomparable pastries. Delectable chocolate morsels. Creamy, dreamy custards and sundaes.

No, we're not describing the patisseries, boulangeries, or chocolateries of Paris.

This is Erie we're talking about, a city of tout sweets.

If cookies, pies, and breakfast breads are your butter and jam, swing by **Art's Bakery**, the 2021 Best Bakery winner, located conveniently on West Ridge Road. Their cases are always brimful with a gorgeous selection of cannoli and pastries, plus their famous elderberry pie.

Icing on the Lake is well-established now in their West Erie Plaza location, and they're the destination if you need a cake that will wow. Even better, thanks to their brand-spankin'-new dessert vending machine, you can get cookies, cupcakes, and more at any time of the day or night.

Meanwhile, **Ye Ole Sweet Shoppe** is still holding it down downtown – the perfect spot for a mid-day cookie treat on your lunch break.

Erie knows what Erie likes when it comes to sugar; Ye Ole Sweet Shoppe and Icing on the Lake are both runners-up for the Best Dessert 2021 category; you'll want to hit them up as early as possible to get the best selection because if you wait until dessert time, you could walk away empty-handed.

The winner of Erie's Best Dessert, Romolo Chocolates, always impresses with their wide selection: chocolate, baked sweets, and their divine ice cream, which can be made into flurry-like shakes topped with another Erie-favorite, sponge candy.

It's no surprise, then, that Romolo Chocolates also topped the 2021 Best Chocolates or Candy category, with **Stefanelli's Candies** and **Pulakos Chocolate** taking runners-up. There is no wrong choice when

it comes to these candy makers, who have centuries' worth of experience between them.

Of course, sweets aren't just for dessert; they are also a great way to start your day, particularly when they're round and covered with icing.

See: **Mighty Fine Donuts**, 2021's Best Donut Shop, featuring one of Erie's most iconic logos.

If you can't make it there, stopping by runner-up **H & K Donut Shop** will cure what ails you, but you have to get there early to find the best variety.

Finally, the unofficial herald for spring and summer comes in a surprising form: The announcement that your favorite ice cream shop is reopening for the season.

Whippy Dip took the top spot for Best Ice Cream Shop in 2021; drive by on West 26th Street any night of the week during the hot months and you will see lines circling the parking lot.

Travel just a bit further northwest and you will find **Sara's**, one of the runners-up, located at the mouth of Presque Isle, an Erie tradition for decades.

If you fancy a bit of a drive, though, it's worth a trip to North East to visit the other runner-up, **The Straw Hat Sundae Shop** (with a second location in Downtown Erie's **Flagship City Food Hall**). Open year-round, The Straw Hat serves up extra special delights like ice cream sandwiches made with Mighty Fine Donuts. Two birds, one stone, folks.

Don't be *être* chocolat into thinking you have to visit France for world-class sweets. They're all right here, *bébé*.

Sweets

Art's Bakery 🐨

Erie loves the loaves of 2021's Best Bakery winner, which range from indulgent cinnamon pull-apart bread to the spicily savory pepperoni-stuffed variety that is a regional delight. Their cookies are too good to even make it to the jar and their pies are also among the upper crust.

4380 W. Ridge Rd.

Romolo Chocolates 🐨

In 1926, Italian immigrant Romolo Stefanelli brought his chocolatiering skills to Erie when he opened his first shop with his wife. Today, the family still owns the chocolate company and makes fresh candies daily. The winner of the Best Chocolates or Candy category also offers coffee, ice cream, and baked goods in

their cafe. 1525 W. 8th St.

Mighty Fine Donuts

This eastside icon and runaway winner for Erie's Best Donut Shop has no rival in the minds of many locals, who will speak of the glazed twist and Boston Creme varieties with a twinkle in their eye. Carb connoisseurs will also delight in the various bagels, danishes, muffins, and brownies that grace their case. 2612 Parade St.

Whippy Dip 🖤

This midtown hotspot and Best of Erie Winner is a summer institution, offering sweet treats to help beat the heat. Nearly 50 years after their traditional ice cream stand was established in 1965, they opened a second

location, Whippy Dip 2, on W. 12th St. in Millcreek.

2527 Chestnut St. & 3100 W. 12th St.

Icing on the Lake

This charming shop specializes in cupcakes, cake pops, pies, and assorted other sweet treats.

940 W. Erie Plaza Dr.

Ye Ole Sweet Shoppe

For over 30 years, this locally owned bakery has been crafting cookies, cakes, and pastries.

402 State St.

Pulakos Chocolates

Crafting Old World delights since 1903, this shop has been plenty to satisfy the city's sweet tooth.

2530 Parade St. & Millcreek Mall Starbucks Plaza, 2060 Interchange Rd.

Stefanelli's Candies

One of Erie's biggest chocolatiers, featuring bars, molded treats, gift boxes, and sponge candy.

2054 W. 8th St. & 7200 Peach St. #158 & 3732 Sterrettania Rd.

H & K Donut Shop

Serving Millcreek and west Erie since 1965, featuring fresh-made favorites seven days a week.

3712 W. Lake Rd.

Sara's

This iconic '50s drive-in style right along the entrance to Presque Isle State Park is a true Erie tradition.

25 Peninsula Dr.

The Straw Hat Sundae Shop

With a menu courtesy of the Penn State Creamery, this favorite has a location in North East and in Downtown Erie's Flagship Food Hall.

207 S. Lake St., North East, Pa. & 22 N. Park Row

Baskin-Robbins

5800 Peach St. #570, Millcreek Mall

Cafe 7-10

7 W. 10th St.

Castle Custard

7334 W. Lake Rd., Fairview, Pa.

Cold Stone Creamery

360 Millcreek Plaza

Connie's Ice Cream

3150 W. 32nd St.

Creamland Drive-In

6221 W. Ridge Rd.

Dairy Queen

5800 Peach St. #520 & 3710 Peach St. & 4501 Pine Ave. & 3505 W. 26th St. & 4219 Iroquois Ave.

Denny's Ice Cream Stand

929 Parade St.

The Double Dipper

5320 Buffalo Rd. A

Fat Lenny's - Punk Rock Candy and Toys 443 W. 8th St. & 2926 Buffalo Rd.

Krispy Kreme

7501 Peach St.

Flower Kitchen

Gannon University, 900 State St.

The Freezerie

4393 W. Ridge Rd. #1460

Herb & Honey Bakery

310 E. 24th St.

It Takes the Cake

3018 State St.

Lake Erie Candy Company

Village West, 3330 W. 26th St.

Little Shop of Donuts

45 E. Main St., North East, Pa.

Majestic Baking Company

1501 Walnut St.

Maria's Tasty Delights

1701 W. 26th St.

Mr. Shiver's Custard Treats

11220 Old Rte. 19 N., Waterford, Pa.

Pinkberry

906 W. Erie Plaza Dr.

Rita's Italian Ice

1406 W. Gore Rd. & 427 State St.

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory

5800 Peach St. #275, Millcreek Mall

Fun Fact! In the 1920s, a diner opened up on Peach Street called "The Dinor." Since then, the common spelling of "diner" in the Erie area for breakfast diners continues to be "dinor."



Lake Erie Wine Country

Boasting the largest grape-growing region east of the Rocky Mountains, Lake Erie Wine Country is one of the must-see destinations in the Erie region. As you move east out of the city, into Harborcreek and beyond via Route 5 or Route 20, all roads lead to North East, Pa. There, you'll find the epicenter of our local winemaking industry. Venture through the vintners along the lake into Western New York, into Westfield, and south to Chautauqua and Jamestown and you'll discover plenty more to uncork.

Home to Best of Erie winners and runners-up Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., Mazza Vineyards, and Heritage Wine Cellars, as well as more than 10 other vineyards and wineries, North East is a great place to start. Sample at places like the historic South Shore Wine Co., up the hill to Lake View Wine Cellars, down to the newly-opened Cellar '54.

On the picturesque drive out to wine country, take in the countless rows of vineyards, with an enchanting aroma all around, especially come harvest time. Home to over 20 wineries, the south shore of Lake Erie has the right stuff, geographically speaking. In addition to the vinifera grape varieties that have filled the cups of France and Europe for centuries, we're home to sugar-forward grapes like the Concord and Niagara.



Another juicy detail — North East is also home to world-renowned grape juice producer **Welch**'s largest manufacturing plant. Concords provide the base for your traditional juice, while Niagaras are the key ingredient in white grape juice.

That fruity blend is just one of the things that the region's winemakers excel at. With hosts of different flavor profiles from dry to sweet, you won't run out of options any time soon. One particular treat we're fortunate enough to be able to make is **ice wine**. Requiring a harvest temperature of 17°F,

the water in the grapes freezes, but not the sugars and other solids. The result is a liquid dessert, a superbly sweet concoction you'll have to taste to believe.

It's simple to plan a trip to your new favorite wineries, but be sure to do so responsibly, with six limo, bus, and **vehicle services** recommended in the area. Lake Erie Wine Country even offers a **Visit Visa** booklet filled with coupons, recommendations, and a certified checklist.

For more information go to lakeeriewinecountry.org

Wine, Spirits & More

Altered State Distillery 🐨

Since opening in 2019, Altered State
Distillery has quickly become Erie's jam
– both for its handcrafted spirits (Best
Distillery winner) and its stacked performance schedule, with live music virtually
every night. Savor some of Erie's best
cocktails and alcoholic slushies while
soaking in the sounds.

1535 W. 8th St.

Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co 🐨

There is a rustic charm to this Best Winery Winner, set in a spacious barn with live music performances nearly every Sunday afternoon and other select dates throughout the year. If you prefer fermented grains to fermented grapes, you're in luck — this longtime Lake Erie Ale Trail member also crafts its own brews.

11727 E. Main St., North East

Erie Distillery

Best Distillery runner-up offers cozy cocktail bar just a mile south of Presque Isle.

1101 Peninsula Dr.



Heritage Wine Cellars

Carrying on a 150 year tradition in viticulture, the Bostwick family toasts to their Best Winery consideration.

12160 E. Main St., North East, Pa.

Luminary Distilling

Summit Township distillery featuring Gem City Vodka, a craft cocktail menu, and Fuhrman's Cider Mill. Also stop into their new tasting room in the Flagship City Public Market downtown.

8270 Peach St. & 34 N. Park Row

Mazza Vineyards

Family-owned Lake Erie Wine Country land-mark, best paired with its sister sites, the South Shore Winery (also in North East) and Mazza Chautauqua Cellars (in Westfield, N.Y.). 11815 E. Lake Rd., North East, Pa.



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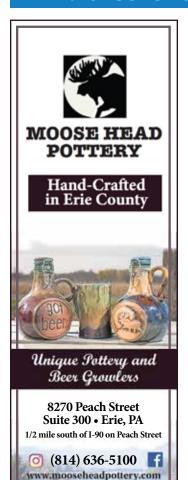
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Woman owned and operated since 2013.



Erie's only cafe with an in-house roaster! Stop by for the freshest coffee in Erie, delicious baked goods, and light cafe fare.



- Homemade baked goods daily
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- Lunch (salads, paninis, toasted sandwiches)
- Full Espresso Bar: Lattes, Cappuccino, Chai & More
- Gluten free & vegetarian options

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f brewhahaerie brewhahacolony

At the Colony 2612 West 8th Street, Erie PA 16505 814-833-2739 brewhahacolony.com

2022-2023 MIAC LIVE SEASON



















The Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture strengthens the vibrancy of the Erie region by presenting world-class performing arts experiences that lift the spirit, galvanize the intellect, stimulate the imagination, and encourage the free exchange of ideas. By making these programs available and accessible to the broadest possible audience, the Institute strives to create an environment of richly varied, inclusive cultural experiences.



Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center miac.mercyhurst.edu | 814-824-3000

GLASS GROWERS GALLERY

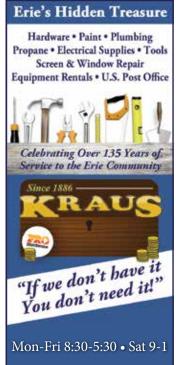
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Cart/Horse Distilling

An intimate, DIY vibe permeates this beautifully woodworked runner-up for Erie's Best Distillery, built in a repurposed automotive garage along Edinboro Road. 12030 Edinboro Rd., Edinboro, Pa.

6 Mile Cellars, Inc. 5727 Firman Rd.

21 Brix Winery 6654 W. Main Rd., Portland, N.Y.

Arrowhead Wine Cellars 12073 E. Main St., North East, Pa.

Burch Farms Country Market & Winery 9210 Sidehill Rd., North East, Pa.

Cellar '54

9368 W. Law Rd., North East, Pa.

Courtyard Winery

10021 W. Main Rd., North East, Pa.

Driftwood Wine Cellars

20 E. Main St., North East, Pa.

Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing 8398 W. Main St., Westfield, N.Y.

Ironstone Meadery

9333 Tate Rd. Rm #205, Green Township, Pa.

Johnson Estate Winery

8419 W. Main St., Westfield, N.Y.

Lakeview Wine Cellars 8440 Singer Rd., North East, Pa.

Liberty Vineyards & Winery

2861 US-20, Sheridan, N.Y.

Noble Winery

8630 Hardscrabble Rd., Westfield, N.Y.

Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards 10225 E. Lake Rd., North East, Pa.

Presque Isle Wine Cellars

9440 W. Main Rd., North East, Pa. & 2658 W. 8th St.

South Shore Wine Company 1120 Freeport Rd., North East, Pa.

Sparkling Ponds Winery 10661 W. Lake Rd., Ripley, N.Y.

Willow Creek Winery

2627 Chapin Rd., Silver Creek, N.Y.

Yori Wine Cellars

18 S. Lake St., North East, Pa.

The Lake Erie Ale Trail



What do you look for in a beer? Crispness? Bitterness? Sweetness? Toastiness? Tartness? Or how about this one — does it exist? Today's savvy craft brewer (and drinker) has a lot of numbers to talk about: ABV (alcohol by volume), degrees Plato (density), IBUs (International Bitterness Units), serving temperature, and more. Given that, it's difficult to imagine a period when Erie's local brewing community had only one number to discuss ... zero. Prior to Prohibition, the city had seen at least 90 breweries open their doors. By 1978, the last of them had tapped out.

That changed in 1993 when **Erie Brewing Company** – then Hopper's Brewpub – surveyed the path for craft beer in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Over the ensuing decades, more young brewers would follow, such as Chris Sirianni of **The Brewerie at Union Station**, hauling wagons laden with fresh ideas and grand ambitions. Now, with the brush cleared away – and consumers' preconceived notions of what beer is allowed to be – the Lake Erie Ale Trail is flourishing. With 14 member breweries and 17 individual locations dotting the regional landscape, you're liable to find liquid gold in any compass direction you go.

In the heart of Downtown Erie, discover

the libations of Lavery Brewing Co., Erie Ale Works, and Voodoo Brewing Erie (folks rave about the tropical fruit-inflected Voodoo Love Child and the brewpub's funky atmosphere).

Travel westward for Black Monk Brewery's Belgian-inspired ales, Erie Brewing Company West's malty mainstay Railbender (consistently chosen as one of Erie's Best Locally Made Beers), or rub antlers with Twisted Elk Brewery's young lineup.

To the east in Lawrence Park you'll find the home of **Nostrovia Brewing** (where homemade pierogies fuel games of Giant Jenga) and Erie Brewing Company headquarters on a scenic outcropping of hill in Knowledge Park (a slice of John's Wildwood pizza with your pint comes highly recommended).

Journey southward and you'll happen upon John Russell Brewing Company (Summit), Riverside Brewing Company (Cambridge Springs), Orr's Brewing Company (Titusville), Voodoo Brewing headquarters, and Timbercreek Tap and Table (Meadville); make your way to the northeast for Arundel Cellars & Brewing (North East) and Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing (Westfield, N.Y.), which both lie along a bucolic stretch of Route 20.

Fun Fact! Though there are many locations that are vocally supportive of our LGBT+ community, the region's only true gay bar is the Zone Dance Club. Open seven days a week until 2 a.m., the Zone regularly hosts drag performances and provides an all-inclusive space to grab a drink and hit the dance floor.

Craft Spirits & Distilleries

Can we interest you in a drink?

We thought so. Whether you prefer yours shaken or stirred, straight up or on the rocks, our cabinet is stocked with topshelf spirits. Take a peek at the labels and you'll notice that many originate right here in Northwest Pennsylvania. Following a statewide trend, microdistilleries (aka craft distillers, defined as those producing 750,000 gallons or less annually) are pouring into our market – and from the looks of it, we haven't even come close to topping off our glasses.





In 2019, Erie Distillery and Altered State Distillery joined elder statesmen Cart/ Horse Distilling and Luminary Distilling (both established 2017) in garnishing our nights and weekends with enticing flavors and inviting spaces, where both libation and like-minded company can be truly savored. Each distillery offers a line of specialty bottled products, covering the spectrum from clear to dark and simple to complex. For those who would stick around, their cocktail menus each showcase a different personality — Luminary's emphasis is on

refreshment (mules take their main stage); Cart/Horse likes to dabble with herbal infusions (they head Edinboro's annual Botanical Beverages at Goodell Gardens); Erie Distillery favors accessibility (recommended to martini-lovers); Altered State seduces the taste buds with its flagship whiskeys (try a classic Old-Fashioned or Manhattan smoked).

And don't forget about **Five & 20 Spirits** and **Brewing** – also a producer of wine and beer, there's something for everyone at this pastorally picturesque spot just across the state line in Westfield, N.Y.

In his writings about the Prohibition Era, local author John G. Carney remarked, "About the only dry thing in Erie was the inside of a light bulb."

A century later, the Gem City has lost nothing of its will to wet its whistle — it's just that we can do so legally. Nonetheless, nostalgia for the days of taboo tipples lends establishments like **Room 33** (Downtown Erie) their persona, as well as the inspiration for its Prohibition-style cocktails. Spare your bathtubs from gin-making and soak up the vintage vibes at this sublime speakeasy instead.

Meanwhile, the West Erie Plaza's **Bar Ronin** and **The Cork 1794** embrace a more metropolitan, new age feel, with creative cocktail combinations and spacious bar and dining areas. For a blend of contemporary and cozy, the mixologists at **Cloud 9 Wine Bar** (Downtown Erie), **The Skunk & Goat Tavern** (North East), and **The Swan Tavern at The Schoolhouse** (Fairview) are more than capable.



Featuring:

- Heritage garden with large Rhododendron collection, Franklinia, Dawn Redwood, PA State Champion Paper Birch
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- Walking trails
- Private event rentals

Craft Breweries

Erie Brewing Company

The Erie Brewing Company sits on the outskirts of scenic Knowledge Park near Penn State Behrend, with panoramic views of the lake to behold from their upper patio, with their new west side location on the site of the former Millcreek Brewing Company. Voted Best Local Brewery and Best Locally Made Beer for their Railbender Scottish Ale.

6008 Knowledge Pkwy. & 4102 W. Lake Rd.

Lavery Brewing Co.

With over a decade in business, this local brewery — which was a runner-up for Best Brewery, Best Locally Made Beer, Best Bartender, and Best Chef — crafts a unique menu of food and beer that breaks boundaries. A particular favorite of locals is their Dulachan Session India Pale Ale, which showcases the bright hoppy flavors characteristic of the style while toning down the bitterness for easier drinking.

Voodoo Brewery Erie

Eclectic vibes and terrific beer with eight regional locations including one in Downtown Erie and two in their home of Meadville, Pa.

101 Boston Store Place & 215 1/2 Arch St., Meadville, Pa. & 834 Bessemer St., Meadville, Pa. (Compound)



Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co.

11727 E. Main St., North East, Pa.

Black Monk Brewery

3721 W. 12th St.

The Brewerie at Union Station

123 W. 14th St.

Churchill's Bourbon & Brew

8199 Perry Hwy. (inside Presque Isle Downs & Casino)

Erie Ale Works

416 W. 12th St.

Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing

8398 W. Main Rd. (Route 20), Westfield, N.Y.

John Russell Brewing Company 7520 Peach St. #101

Nostrovia Brewing Co.

4415 E. Lake Rd.

Riverside Brewing Company 1 Fountain St., Cambridge Springs, Pa.

Orr's Brewing Company 109 S. Franklin St., Titusville, Pa.

109 S. Franklin St., Titusville, Pa

Timbercreek Tap & Table

11191 Highline Dr., Meadville, Pa.

Twisted Elk Brewery 10139 W. Lake Rd., Lake City, Pa.







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Make It a Mazza



Fifty years ago, what we now recognize as Lake Erie Wine Country was largely unincorporated *terroir*. Robert Mazza became one of the early pioneers of the wine trail with his **Mazza Vineyards** in 1972, helping to bridge the *grape* divide between independent vintners and consumers in Northwestern Pennsylvania. In the decades that followed, he and his son Mario expanded the company substantially, as well as its award-winning offerings — blending beers and distilled spirits into its repertoire via two additional production facilities, the **South Shore Wine Company** (2007) and **Mazza Chautauqua Cellars/Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing** (2012/2015).

Today, this family-owned operation has successfully grown its footprint from North East, Pa. to the Northeastern United States, with uncanny attention to detail from ground to glass. But even though you can now order Mazza products from virtually anywhere in the country, there's nothing like going to the source.

Mazza Vineyards

Located along the scenic Great Lakes Seaway Trail, the original Mazza tasting room and bottle shop is an architectural nod to the family's Mediterranean heritage, with a lovely Old World ambiance. From the crowd-pleasing table wines of their Vineyard Country and Bare Bones collections to the carefully crafted specialties of their Tribute and La Familigia collections, there is something for the novices and enthusiasts alike. Among the most unique products is their Ice Wine of Vidal Blanc, a sweet treat extracted from Vidal Blanc grapes left to freeze on the vice.

South Shore Wine Company

Originally founded by William Griffith and Smith S. Hammond during the Civil War Era, South Shore was restored by the Mazza family in 2007, giving visitors an experience of a different vintage. This historic stone wine cellar exudes an atmosphere as irresistible as the aromas that linger over North East's vinevards at harvest.

Mazza Chautaugua Cellars/Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing

Just across the border in Westfield you will find New York state's *first-ever* combination winery-distillery-brewery, set on 80 acres of bucolic farmland. Sample a sensational selection of beers, wine, and spirits in the tasting room or relax on the expansive patio with a refreshing draft or cocktail. The multiplicity of their product offerings allows for some interesting crossovers and flavor combinations, cultivating the family's long-standing thirst for innovation.

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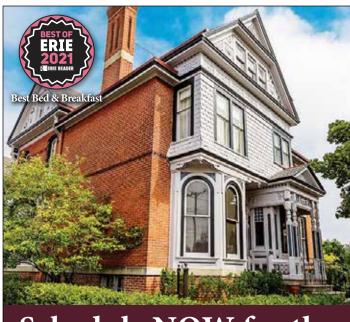




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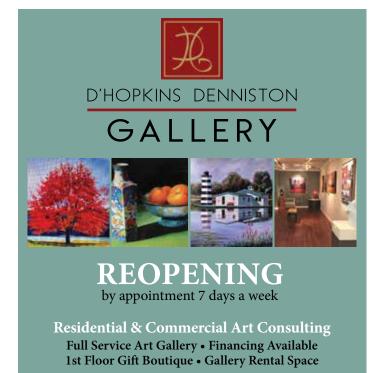


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A Home for Arts & Culture



If you're looking for arts and culture, you've come to the right place. Erie boasts a wide variety of local galleries and also features local art in many cafes and shops around downtown and throughout the city. A perfect first stop for your viewing pleasure is the Erie Art Museum at 20 E. Fifth St., a downtown favorite and Best of Erie Winner of Best Museum in 2021. Interactive and immersive art from Erie Art Company and Noodlefish productions is just one of the rotating featured exhibits this summer. Looking to tour some galleries? See if you can hit each stop as you travel through the city.

Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. Fifth St., is the perfect spot for beautiful gifts, jewelry, and art. You're sure to find something to take home with you that you just can't live without at The Best of Erie 2021 winner of Best Art Gallery and Best Boutique. As you travel up State Street, stop in at City Gallery, 1505 State St., for an ever-changing array of local art, mosaics, sculptures, and live music. Right next door, you'll find PACA - Erie's Performing Artists Collective Alliance, in the historic Mayer Building. Runner-up for Best Art Gallery, this building showcases local art, theater, and so much more. Stop in and visit all the local artists who call this building home.

Other great stops in the city include:

419 Artifacts, 419 W. 10th St., which features contemporary and period art, mid-century barware, rococo, boudoir furnishings, and more.

The 10/20 Collective, 1020 Holland St., is another great spot for local art exhibits, paintings, sculptures, and more.

D'Hopkins Denniston Gallery Fine Art & Boutique, 5 W. 10th St. They are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year.

V Gallery, 3330 W. 26th St., is a multi-use space which features a combination of abstract paintings and photographic prints.

The House of the Potter,

runner-up for Best Art Gallery 2021, can be found just outside the city, four miles east of North East on Route 20. Established in 1975 as a studio and gallery, The House of Potter has evolved to include the work of more than 40 artists and craftspeople.

There are also more than 25 (and counting) exterior murals bringing vibrancy and personality to the city. Have some fun and see how many you can count in your travels around town.

Experience Erie's live theater scene, with performances every weekend. Grabbing a seat at the Erie Playhouse, Best of Erie winner of Best Community Theatre, is a perfect way to start. Just across the street downtown is Dramashop and their progressive performances, with the classic comedies and mysteries of All An Act Theatre on W. 17th St. And of course, there are runners-up PACA and the Mercyhurst University Theatre Program.

No matter what your scene, you'll find a stage for it in Northwestern Pennsylvania.



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Summer Fun Around the 814

The Erie SeaWolves: Erie's boys of summer have been taking the field at UPMC Park (formerly Jerry Uht) since 1995, and it's been one howl of a ride – and quite often a good time. The Erie SeaWolves played their first four seasons as the Short-Season Single-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates; since 2001, our minor league club has been serving up hits for the Detroit Tigers farm system at the Double-A level (after two years as an affiliate of the then Anaheim Angels) as part of the Eastern League.

Swing by to catch the recent multi-million dollar improvements like a new entrance gate, updated scoreboard, new stadium club, and suites, and favorites like the park's two picnic areas, the beer garden, or one of the private Party Deck boxes (and still be on alert for foul balls). Catch an MLB star-in-the-making or enjoy one of the team's wildly inventive promotions, which have recently included "Sugar Rush Night" (which spawned the notorious Cotton Candy hot dog) and "Alternative Facts Night" (which hosted a mock Eastern League championship banner ceremony).

Climb Aboard the Brig Niagara: The U.S. Brig Niagara was a key reliever in the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie, in which a squadron of nine small ships (six of them Erie-made) led by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry defeated the British near Put-in-Bay, Ohio to turn the tide in the War of 1812. It was cause for celebration then and is still cause for celebration now.

The current U.S. Brig Niagara is a replica of the first (with a few pieces from the original), launched in 1988, 175 years after its crucial victory. Through efforts of the Flagship Niagara League and the Erie Maritime Museum, the two-masted, square-rigged sailing vessel is diligently maintained and used for community outreach and maritime education. On select dates this summer, you can set sail on the Niagara or its companion, the Lettie G. Howard (a schooner built in 1893 in Essex, Massachusetts for commercial fishing), experiencing first-hand the ins and outs of how to run a tight ship while learning a little about Lake Erie and its history as well. Visit sailfnl.org for a full list of dates and times, and don't give up the ship!

Summer Adventures at Peek'n Peak Resort: Want to take your summer hangout to greater heights? Then you need to visit Peek'n Peak Resort – it's a jungle out there, on the other side of ski season at least. Unleash your inner Tarzan at their Aerial Adventure Course (a runner-up for the Best Outdoor Adventure Activity), which is



teeming with treetop curiosities for *Homo sapiens* of any level of ability. The course features a total of eight routes and 69 obstacles, including cargo nets, ladders, and ziplines. Of course, if you'd rather fly than climb, you could strap yourself to the **Soaring Eagle** or **Giant Dual Ziplines** and take in a birds-eye view of the resort. How you get down is all up to you.

Join the Club: Golf goes best with warm

weather and a cool head, but those things mean nothing without a good place to tee off. There's no reason for anyone to get their khakis in a bunch on that front, because there are a total of 22 golf courses within 20 miles of Erie. Whispering Woods Golf Course, located within Millcreek Township, consistently ranks the highest among Northwestern Pennsylvanians, as reflected in its 2021 Best of Erie win and a nod from pga.com as the ninth best public



golf course in Pa. In addition to 50 bunkers, plenty of natural obstacles –such as tall trees, streams, and ravines – will test your mettle.

Runners-up in the 2021 Best of Erie vote include the player-friendly Lawrence Park Golf Club, a private lakeside course near the former GE site and Mound Grove Golf Course, the picturesque Waterford 72 par with its rustic barn clubhouse that's also a popular wedding venue.

Or skip the golf cart rental and hassle of hiring a proper caddie with a round of minigolf or disc golf. Fairview's Castle Mini Golf and Edinboro's Sunview Golf are both a short drive away for improving your short game. Hate your swing? Disc golf, which is contested with throwing discs instead of clubs and balls, provides a cost-free alternative on the Penn State Behrend or Edinboro University campuses, Peek'n Peak, or Fairview Township's newly-opened course at Pleasant Ridge Park, to name a few.

This Place Is a Zoo: Lions, tigers, and bears are just the tip of the food chain at the Erie Zoo — voted Best Outdoor Adventure Activity. The 15-acre zoological park boasts nearly 400 animal species in its collection across seven exhibit areas, as well as hundreds of plant species distributed among 11 gardens. Whatever your preferred kingdom, you are sure to be in the presence of nature's majesty in Southwest Erie.

Beach Rentals

Clements Lake Erie Cottages 162 3rd Ave., North East, Pa.

Edinboro Lake Resort

12690 Edinboro Rd., Edinboro, Pa.

Kelso Beach Rentals
1903 West 8th St. PMR 253

1903 West 8th St., PMB 253 Lakeview On the Lake

8696 E. Lake Rd.

Old Lake Road Retreat 11600 Old Lake Rd., North East, Pa.

Swanson Resort Cottages 161 *Kelso Dr.*

Virginia's Beach Lakefront Cabins & Camping

352 Holliday Rd., North Springfield, Pa.

Fun Fact! All 76.6 miles of Pennsylvania's Great Lakes shoreline reside in Erie County, which made the region vital to commerce prior to advances in air and ground shipping.



Just For Fun at Waldameer

There's just something about Waldameer Park. It can be difficult to put into words, but you sense it while walking the grounds — the blazing July sun on your skin, the aroma of the **Potato Patch** hanging in the air, the excited squeals of kids riding the **Comet**. There's a charm, a sense of nostalgia, an authenticity, a perception that the park is somehow yours.

Larger, corporately-owned parks may pack more thrills, but the family-owned and operated Waldameer reminds one of simpler times — and for those of us who grew up here, it does feel like it's somehow ours.

Waldameer Park has been a vital part of the city's fabric for well over a century. It rests upon an area once known as Hoffman's Grove, a 19th century local hotspot for picnics and beach-going. It was in 1896 when the Erie Electric Motor Company recognized the area's potential and leased the land at the end of their trolley line, renaming it Waldameer — German for "woods by the sea."

In many ways, Waldameer has evolved dramatically over the past 125-plus years - especially in the nearly 70 under park patriarch Paul Nelson's direction, with iconic attractions such as the Whacky Shack (the brainchild of legendary dark ride inventor Bill Tracy), Pirate's Cove (another Tracy special), Sky Ride, Sea Dragon, Ferris wheel, and Thunder River becoming fixtures. That's without mentioning Water World, an expansive water park that has been welcoming the pitter-pattering feet of patrons for two generations. Despite all the new additions and modern upgrades, Erie's epicenter for summer fun has maintained its resolutely

retro charm and family-friendly feel.

But that is not to say adrenaline is absent from the amusements. The Ravine Flyer II, a hybrid wooden roller coaster that treats riders to a picture-perfect portrait of Presque Isle at its peak before plunging them down a 120-foot hill and through a tunnel spanning over Peninsula Drive, with a top speed of 60 mph. It's the largest wooden coaster in Pennsylvania, features the state's two highest drops, and is frequently mentioned among the world's best timber-built thrills. One of the park's latest additions, Chaos, spins riders upside down at a height of 60 feet above the midway.

If air is not your element, perhaps you'd feel more at home splashing in Water World's 4-acre, 500,000-gallon Giant Wave Pool — or swirling down the center of its Cannon Bowl tube slide, swinging by The Battle of Lake Erie family water complex for a casual 400-gallon drenching from a tipping replica of the U.S. Brig Niagara, or chuting toward the finish line on the colorful Rally Racer head-first mat racing slide (just added). This is just skimming the surface of what's available at what has been named one of TripAdvisor's Top 10 Water Parks in the U.S.

Waldameer is also exceptional in the fact that it doesn't charge general admission or parking fees, nor does it offer line-jumping passes. Anyone is welcome to "Wally World" (as it's sometimes affectionately called) to take in all its quintessential summer sounds, sights, and smells. To quote the park's famous radio jingle, it truly is just for fun at Waldameer in Erie, Pa.

Dog-friendly Destinations

Erie is at its best when it's taking care of our four-legged, waggy-tailed friends.

Of course, that includes sniff-friendly strolls, and despite the urban setting, there are numerous nature walks all around the region.

The most obvious is **Presque Isle**, which naturally took top honors for Best Place To Take Your Dog in 2021, with two other excellent options being **Frontier Park** and **Scott Park**, located in the city and in Millcreek, respectively.

Venturing west, you can hit up (in order of distance from Erie) Brown's Farm, Pleasant Ridge Park (Fairview/Girard), Lake Erie Community Park (Lake City), and Erie Bluffs State Park (Lake City), for other onleash adventures.

Heading east, **Wintergreen Gorge** is a popular place to hike and splash around (in **Fourmile Creek** that cuts through it).

Worth a special mention is Asbury Woods, a natural gem in Millcreek with loads of trails, plus access to a dual-sided waterfall at Buttermilk Falls, part of Walnut Creek.







The creek even gets deep enough in some areas for pups to practice their doggy paddle. But Asbury Woods is also just as magical – if not more so – in the winter, too.

If off-leash fun is what your doggo seeks, consider the **Humane Society Dog Park**, located just behind the Humane Society building on Zimmerly Road, near the Millcreek Mall. Incredibly, Walnut Creek also runs behind this park, so you can take Fido for a swim in the hot months.

Then there is the incomparable Larry R. Fabrizi Dog Park, nestled in the expansive eastside McClelland Park. This public offleash fenced space features both large and small dog sides, training equipment, and freshwater taps to quench Spot's thirst.

Maybe your pup needs grooming, though? Consider Paws N Claws, which topped the Best Dog Groomer category, followed by Mud Puppies and Buzz n' B's.

Paws N Claws also took the trophy for Best Pet Daycare, with runner-ups **Peninsula Pups** and Buzz N' B's giving Erieites – and their furry friends – plenty of "home away from home" options during the workday.

Finally, there is no denying the heartbreaking number of dogs in need who come from or to Erie, and this area always rises to meet them.

The ANNA Shelter has been doing incredible work for years, so it's unsurprising they received the special nod as Best Place To Adopt a Pet.

But that is not to discount the **Erie Humane Society** and **Because You Care**, two organizations who both work their tails off rescuing and adopting out pets to Erieites who cannot get enough puppy love.

"Gone to the dogs" is supposedly a negative phrase, but in Erie, it's a badge of pride for the love and care we feel for man's best friend.

Fishing Finds

You may have heard that there are plenty of fish in the sea — but you should probably save your best lines for Erie County. Not only does it feature Pennsylvania's *only* shoreline, but it also boasts what some anglers regard as the best freshwater fishing in the country. Lake Erie (and Presque Isle Bay) obviously takes the "pole" position for the ultimate fishing destination, but its various streams and tributaries are also teeming with potential. Grab your tackle box and prepare to get hooked.

Lake Erie

Lake Erie (the shallowest of the Great Lakes on average) consists of three "basins" — western, central, and eastern — becoming progressively deeper as one moves from west to east. Sharp, rocky drop-offs and ledges lie just beyond much of the shoreline, with an average depth of around 30 feet — favored by smallmouth bass and panfish.

Two major geographical features to pay heed to if you're looking for the hookup:

"The trenches" – off the shores of western Erie County, generally advised for those in want of walleye.

"The mountain" – an underwater elevation ringed by a large, deep depression located

in Lake Erie's eastern basin. For seekers of steelhead and lake trout.

Presque Isle Bay

Erie's typical frigid winters turn our harbor into either a skating rink or a fishing paradise, depending on who you ask. Anglers commune out on the ice, huddling in tents as they drill down into the water below, hoping first and foremost to snag yellow perch (the star of many a local fish fry), although bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, northern pike, and steelhead are also commonly pulled to the surface. If you're undeterred by the cold, you might quickly warm up to this one-of-a-kind angling experience.

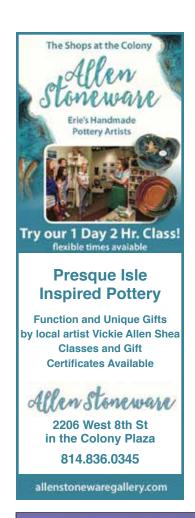
Streams and tributaries

The Pennsylvania Lake Erie watershed constitutes 512 square miles and houses 15 sub-watersheds — within this massive footprint lies an extensive network of waterways, holding countless opportunities for anglers. Steelhead-seekers are advised to head for "Steelhead Alley" in autumn, when mass migrations of the fish fill tributary mouths such as Elk, Walnut, and Twenty Mile creeks.

All told, when it comes to freshwater fishing, Northwest Pennsylvania tips the scales.



Fun Fact! During the early 20th century, Erie garnered a reputation as the "Freshwater Fishing Capital of the World."









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Planning Your Presque Isle Getaway

There's a reason **Presque Isle State Park** is the most visited park in Pennsylvania. It offers a complete range of attractions: beaches, forested trails, diverse recreational opportunities, and stunning natural beauty. Millions visit the park each year, but even on the most crowded beach weekend, quiet corners can be found and explored.

This recurved sandspit has six discrete ecological zones — the shoreline, sand plains and new ponds, dunes and ridges, old ponds and marshes, thickets and sub-climax forests, and climax forests. Because of the diverse habitats, Presque Isle is home to more than 100 rare species of plants and animals, more than any other area of comparable size in Pennsylvania.

Birding enthusiasts come from all over the world to this **Important Bird Area** (IBA) as designated by the Audubon Society. More than 340 species of birds have been recorded at the park, including state and federally endangered birds like the piping plover, which have again started nesting at **Gull Point**.

Rightly known as a beach destination, Presque Isle's lakeside boasts seven miles of sandy shoreline. Visit **Beach 6** for a game of beach volleyball, pack a picnic for **Beach 7**, or stop by the western end of **Beach 10** (aka Sunset Point) to see kites swirl in the sky. **Swimming** is permitted only at the eight guarded beaches from Memorial Day to Labor Day. But come back in winter to see the impressive ice dunes that protect the shoreline from winter storms.

The waters of Presque Isle Bay and the lake offer abundant opportunities to play. Registered **motorboats** and **jet skis** are both permitted, although no internal combustion engines are allowed in the interior lagoons. However, you're welcome to rent a canoe or kayak from the **Presque Isle Canoe and Boat Livery** or enjoy any of several daily free pontoon boat tours. Depending on wind conditions, the waters may be ideal for sailboarding, skimboarding, paddle-boarding, and even surfing.

As the "Fishing Capital of Pennsylvania," Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay offer numerous opportunities to wet a lure. Bank fishing is available in many parts of the park and four boat launches serve various sizes of watercraft. Fuel, bait, and food are available at the **Marina**. Anglers can also try their luck on the frozen bay in winter, too.

The 13.5-mile Karl Boyes Multi-purpose National Recreation Trail winds all the



way around the park and is utilized by walkers, joggers, cyclists, surreys, and inline skaters. Bike and surrey rentals are available at the concession in the Waterworks area.

In the interior are 11 miles of hiking trails. Watch beavers tend their lodges, or find deer, mink, and about eight species of turtles. Be prepared for ticks by wearing long pants with your socks tucked and keep the bug repellent handy. For adventurous souls, a walk out to the natural area of Gull Point is a must. Views from the observation platform include newly forming sand plains and the eastern end of Erie's cityscape and bay. In winter, these trails become cross-country skiing or snowshoeing pathways or just a tranquil walkway through a sleeping forest.

History buffs can learn more about Erie's

part in the War of 1812 at the **Perry Monument**, where Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet overwintered in 1812-1814. Be sure to discover why the adjacent water to **Misery Bay** is called **Graveyard Pond**. Near the monument you can also catch a ride on the 65-foot Great Lakes vessel *Lady Kate*, which offers a 14-mile, 90-minute narrated tour that ventures out onto the open waters of Lake Erie.

The Presque Isle Lighthouse, which went into service in 1873, offers tours that explain the long history of the house and keepers (May-September), as well as a gift shop. A smaller beacon, the North Pier Light, peers out over the north channel.

Presque Isle recently celebrated its **100th Anniversary**, having been set aside as a state park in 1921. Come see this enduring treasure.



Fun, Games & Smart Stops

Do you like watching the puddles gather rain? Or do you fall mainly on Spain's plain? Whatever the case, a little precipitation needn't limit your participation from the flood of fun and frivolity Erie has awaiting you under its roofs. We're well-attuned to the water cycle around here, so here are some ideas to inspire you in case yours have dried up.

Asbury Woods: The Andrew J. Conner Nature Center at Asbury Woods is the cornerstone of their educational programming, providing animal exhibits, a touchand-learn Discovery Classroom and free public access six days per week, in addition to its 205-acre location. The Brown's Farm Barn located on Sterrettania Road provides additional programming space for summer camps, school visits, and community programs.

Escape Game Erie: For a so-called "free" people, we sure do spend an awful lot of time dreaming of escapes. This little quirk of the human psyche has not slipped past the entertainment industry, which has long sought a captive audience. Enter the escape room (and be sure to close the door behind you). The experience involves you, a group of friends or colleagues, a fictional scenario, and solving a series of themed clues and puzzles to create an escape under a strict time limit. Without teamwork, there is little progress, and without progress there can be no egress. Escape Game Erie offers six cunningly conceived scenarios across their two area locations to test you and your crew's mental mettle.

Erie Art Museum: "Be moved" by a collection of more than 8,000 objects, photographs, and comic book art. In addition to its collection, the museum hosts four to five visiting exhibitions annually. Beyond the artwork, the museum also curates a number of community events — the monthly Art After Dark and quarterly Gallery Night events are tremendously popular amongst cultured adults, and the monthly Second Sundays program is the perfect way to spend time crafting with your kids.

Erie County Public Library: What do you want to know? The Erie County Public Library system is an open book, with five branches serving an encyclopedia of interests from A-Z. At the center of it is the Raymond M. Blasco, MD Memorial Library on Erie's east bayfront. With the recent additions of the IdeaLab and Teen Space, Blasco is pretty stacked as both an educational and community resource. There is literally something for everyone, from storytime to seminars to sewing, from 3D printing to photography to recording your own podcast.



expERIEnce Children's Museum: Vibrant, hands-on center with various educational exhibits for kids. The expERIEnce Children's Museum is a place that has been inspiring creativity and imagination in children for 20 years. Located in the historic cultural district of Downtown Erie, its mission is to engage children and families in a fun and enlightening experience. It is committed to educating children across a broad range of topics including math, science, art, culture, literacy, and health.

Hagen History Center: History buffs would be advised not to rebuff the organization formerly known as the Erie County Historical Society, located on the regal stretch of West Sixth Street known as "Millionaire's Row." With a four-building campus and scores of recent renovations, the centerpiece remains the Watson-Curtze Mansion, a handsome building modeled in classic 19th-century Richardsonian Romanesque style. The first floor is a throwback to Victorian-era interior decor, while the second and third floors house the Regional History Museum, which encompasses a variety of themed galleries. The other parts of the complex include The Carriage House (featuring a research library and the Made in America Gift Shop), the King-Marten's Archive Building, and the New Exhibit Building which features famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright's original San Francisco Office.

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park: LEAF's Education Center may be indoors,

but is nonetheless fertile ground for you and your children to cultivate curiosity in nature and the environment.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center: A worthy stop along any trek, TREC is an educational center dedicated to teaching visitors about the unique 3,200 acres of Presque Isle and the many different forms of life that inhabit the peninsula. TREC features interactive exhibits, the Big Green Screen Theater, Nature Shop & Gallery, a regional visitors' center and a 75-foot-high observation tower overlooking the peninsula. The center also serves as home to the Regional Science Consortium and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Presque Isle State Park Main Office.

National Comedy Center: Sometimes all you can do is laugh - especially when the weather doesn't give us many other options. If road conditions aren't an utter tragedy, we recommend a joyride to nearby Jamestown, N.Y., home of the National Comedy Center. Part museum, part playground, the 37,000-square-foot facility features over 50 interactive, immersive exhibits designed to help visitors explore both the art of comedy and their own unique sense of humor. Stop by Aug. 3-7 when the city hosts its annual Lucille Ball Comedy Festival, celebrating Jamestown's most famous daughter and the star of I Love Lucy with some of the comedy scene's most prodigious talents.



Hooch & Blotto's: There's something about Erie's love of bowling that's tough to pin down - but Hooch & Blotto's Prohibition-era duckpin bowling lounge strikes the right chord. Also a great place to enjoy a craft beer and watch the big game on some very big screens.

Playport: Erie's only all-you-can-play arcade is 9,000 square feet of unadulterated joy that sticks. Its fleet of over 100 arcade cabinets spans both the decades

and the genres - classics, point-and-shoot, hack-n-slash, run-n-gun, fighters, racers, and music. Pinball wizards can work their magic along an entire wall of them. Shoot hoops, toss skeeballs, or play a round of glow golf, featuring deviously clever retro arcade-themed course design and artwork.

Round One: Situated within the Millcreek Mall, the Erie location of this national chain offers arcade games, billiards, bowling, darts and ping pong, and even karaoke.

5 Wits: Billed as a "live-action, highly interactive, and completely immersive adventure experience unlike anything else that exists," the recently opened location at the Millcreek Mall boasts a 15,000 square foot adventure center that blends problem-solving, multiple solutions, and teamwork.

Splash Lagoon: Maintained at a constant 84 degrees, this Polynesian-themed indoor water park and resort (named one of the country's 10 best by USA Today for the fifth time in 2021) is equipped with nine water slides, pools and hot tubs, its new FlowRider® bodyboard and surf machine, their 12-level Tiki Tree House, a Tree Tops Ropes Course, a 6,500-square-foot arcade with over 100 games (including Hologate virtual reality), and the Wild Waters Wave Pool (at 200,000 gallons, it is the largest indoor wave pool in the Eastern U.S.).

Trampoline parks: Does your vacation need a jump start? Y'all can bounce to this in Erie. Pa. at one of three indoor trampoline parks - Vertical Jump Park on Interchange Road by the Millcreek Mall, the Flying Monkey Inflata-Park on McClelland Ave., and Flying Squirrel on East Grandview Boulevard.





1020 Collective is an art and multi-faceted event space located in the heart of downtown Erie, Pennsylvania.

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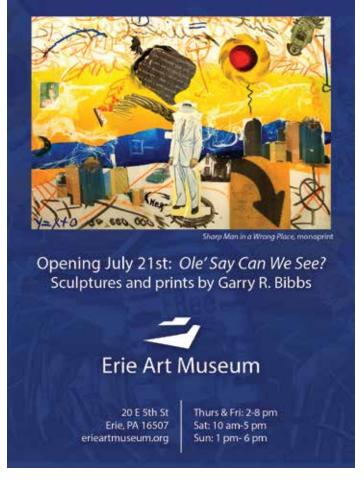
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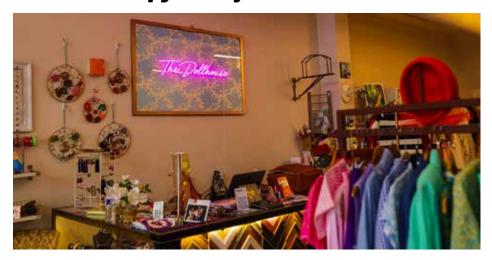
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Retail Therapy & Self-care



If you've come to Erie to relax and unwind, some self-care may be at the top of the priority list. Self-care means different things to different people — to some, it may entail doing something nice for themselves; to others, it may involve getting something nice for themselves. All that matters to us is that you leave feeling better than when you arrived — and maybe even good enough to stick around a while longer.

For the most leisurely and localized experience, the revitalized West Erie Plaza and The Shops at the Colony (over 30 fine stores, all locally owned and operated) are the best places to start, located just a short distance apart on West Eighth Street. The Village West Plaza, situated on West 26th Street, has the look and feel of a New England village with its colonial-style storefronts and unique artisanal offerings. In the City of Erie proper, you'll find the eclectic midtown neighborhood called "The Hill," hip and full of surprises along Peach Street, several blocks north of West 26th. And don't forget our original retail nexus -Downtown Erie, featuring clothing stores, tea and coffee shops, restaurants, and gift shops right in the heart of the city.

If you're looking for a one-stop shop for just about everything under the sun, you can find it all at **Kraus Department Store**. First opening its doors in 1886, Erieites know that Kraus' is much more than a hardware source, where you can find everything from wedding dresses to waffle makers in the 11,000-square-foot retail space.

For shopaholics who don't mind a little bustle, the **Millcreek Mall Complex** is your spot. This sprawling collection of retailers (and restaurants) – featuring many nationally known brands and outlets – is the area's largest. Venture a little farther on upper Peach Street for even more retail-

ers and shopping plazas. Bonus: Clothing is sold tax-free in Pennsylvania so stock up on all of the essentials while you're here.

Salon and Spa Self-care

For those who prefer to relax, renew, and ease tension in the body, there are great options to help you on your path to looking and feeling your best. Perhaps start on the inside by getting a massage. The physiological and psychological benefits of massage are very real; it's been shown to lower stress, promote healing, and improve posture. Releasing stress and tension can make you shine from the inside, but looking good on the outside can certainly add to the equation. Whatever the case, a day at the spa or salon could be just the solution. Whether you're after a simple rejuvenation or a total reinvention (head-to-toe wax, anyone?), we encourage you to give yourself and/or a loved one permission to be pampered at any of our local favorites.

Panache Salon and Spa: The 2021 Best of Erie winner for Best Salon offers a staggering array of services for your hair, skin, nails, and soul, including rarities like Thai herbal ball or cupping massages.

Coventina Day Spa: Take a short drive down

Route 19 to Coventina Day Spa, the 2021 Best of Erie winner for Best Spa. Once you're past I-90 and clear of all the traffic, you're clear to indulge your senses at this Waterford oasis.

Ambridge Rose Spa and Salon: A runner-up in both the Best Spa and Best Salon categories for 2021 Best of Erie voters, this Millcreek spot has a reputation for clients leaving looking and feeling their best and is centrally located.

Massage Envy: Offering personalized massage services, advanced facial treatments, and tension-relieving stretch therapy, Massage Envy has the skilled technicians and quality products for a complete, full-body tune-up.

Moxi Hair Salon: This runner-up for Best Salon earns high marks for being conscientious about both its clients and the environment, with gender-neutral pricing and exclusively cruelty-free and vegan products. Another local favorite, Rejuv, offers spa, salon, wellness, and med-spa services all in one place for achieving all of your wellness and aesthetic goals.

Monacella Massage & Kinesiology: Ride an elevator to the 13th floor in Downtown Erie's Renaissance Building to find this comforting oasis.

Integrated health and wellness services or "alternative therapy" may be best for those who prefer a hands-free or out of the box approach. Acupuncture has been known to relieve pain and release stress. If the needles don't intimidate you, perhaps you should schedule a consultation at Erie Oriental Medicine or Maki Kurata Acupuncture. If you favor less prickly situations, sound therapy may resonate — Acoustic Therapy Partners, Divine Healing LLC, and Nancy Bowden LMT hope to help you vibrate at the right frequency. There is truly something for everyone to find their zen at various spots all across the area.



Keeping Erie's Think Tank in Mind



The Jefferson Educational Society (JES) has from the beginning been a work in progress. JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati is eager to remind folks that the organization, which he's been involved with from the getgo in 2008, is not merely a "history-based type of institution." Of course, engaging with our past is important and yields valuable lessons, but it should be viewed as part of an educational continuum that informs the present, and in turn, the future. He echoes the organizational motto: "We are Erie's think tank for community progress."

Heading into its 15th year, the JES has hosted over 1,000 programs, established

the Civic Leadership Academy, and opened a publication division (books, essays, and journalistic studies) to build a body of knowledge and resources for Erie to draw from as it plots a course forward. Along the way, they've also partnered with power players in the community such as Erie Insurance and LECOM with influence and cachet to affect change. That's without mentioning the Perry 200 Celebration in 2013, which raised over \$2 million and was the most comprehensive commemoration of the War of 1812 in the country. In short, they've done some things thus far.

Most recently, the JES has established sat-

ellite chapters around the region (including Corry, North East, Fairview, and downtown) to improve outreach and accessibility. After all, it takes an audience to mobilize progress. In addition, they have launched the **Scholars-in-Residence program**, wherein senior experts in various fields will be called upon to author essays and offer advice on how to make Erie a better place to be. During the pandemic, JES established a virtual lecture series, which continues to this day in addition to their many in-person events.

The annual **Global Summit** series will carry on into its 14th iteration, with many of the key speakers already locked in for appearances. What *is* the Global Summit, you ask? A decade ago, it was a two-and-a-half-day-long conference with five speakers. Since then, it has evolved into the marquee event on the JES calendar, gathering some of the world's most reputed minds — including former presidents — across a broad spectrum of disciplines, philosophies, and political persuasions. "These people are leading opinion-makers from all over the country," Ferati explains.

To check out the hundreds of archived publications and digital programs, and to see what's coming up at the JES, including the lineup for the 2022 Global Summit, stay tuned to jeserie.org — and most importantly, stay thinking.

Snow Place Like Home



We won't lie – the weather around these parts can be a little flaky. On occasion *very* flaky, depending on which way the wind is blowing. During an average year, snow will fall 57 out of 365 days in Erie, with a total

accumulation of 101.2 inches (i.e., the height of a typical NBA player).

That's quite the *brrr-age*. And although you might hear us complain, deep down, we

kind of like it — or at least like to talk about it. Snow and cold are hard-packed into the region's identity, with the past seasons' most epic storms permanently frozen in our collective memory. Longtime Erieites may be unimpressed by the sight of snow in March or April (and heaven forbid early May), but rarely are they ever surprised.

In other words, we've learned to live with extended and unpredictable winters, and in many cases even *embrace* them. The most visible proof of this can be found in **Presque Isle State Park** in January and February, when average daily lows dip to 20 degrees and the bay freezes over, laying the foundation for dozens of ice fishing encampments scattered across the frozen water's surface. Although the hearty little communities are here and gone in a matter of weeks, their foothold in local tradition is much more permanent.

But that's only the tip of the ice dune (a frozen matrix of sand and spray – a Lake



Erie wave in suspended animation that is extremely dangerous to walk on). Erie's Best Park is also an excellent place to enjoy the tranquil beauty of a winter hike (with Fido, if you'd like — it was also voted Best Place to Take Your Dog), strap on a pair of snowshoes or cross-country skis (if you're interested in either of these hobbies, sign up for a clinic at **Asbury Woods**, another hiking spot beloved by humans and canines alike), or take in one of its characteristically captivating sunsets, which are said to be (perhaps apocryphally) the second best in the world.

Of course, slow and still doesn't fit everyone's bill. Downhill thrillseekers can find their antidote to the winter doldrums at nearby Peek'n Peak Resort (Clymer, N.Y.) or Mount Pleasant of Edinboro, with skis, snowboards, and snow tubes available for rental. On a smaller budget? Don't worry — you can still seize the sleigh. The hills of Frontier Park (Northwest Erie) are the most locally beloved, although if you were to make your way to Erie Golf Course



(Millcreek Township) or **Walczak Park** (Southeast Erie), you'd still be sledding in the right direction.

Alternatively, you might skate circles around your cabin fever at the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center, ERIEBANK Sports Park, or Presque Isle Skating and Event Center. Or watch the Erie Otters junior ice hockey team (to which NHL phenom Connor McDavid once belonged) do it professionally.

And then there are those of us who would sooner axe the idea of winter from our lives altogether. Bury the hatchet with those negative associations at **Stumpy's** or **Erie Axe Throwing** — or put an arrow through them at **Archery Encounters LLC**. If you really just can't stand it anymore, and would rather throw a tantrum instead, take out your frustrations on a host of inanimate objects at **The Rage Ring**.

Whether you love winter weather or loathe it, there's no reason for anyone to feel left out in the cold.



Heritage Festivals & Community Events

North East Firemen's Cherry Festival July 6 - 9 // 31 N. Lake St., North East, Pa.

Panegyri Greek Festival

July 8 - 10 // Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 4376 W. Lake Rd.

Waterford Heritage Days

July 15 - 17 // Fort LeBoeuf Heritage Center, 108 High St., Waterford, Pa.

Dan Rice Days

Aug. 3 - 6 // 34 Main St. W., Girard, Pa.

German Heritage Festival

Sept. 3 - 4 // St. Nick's Grove, 5131 Old French Rd.

Erie's Wild Rib Cookoff & Music Festival: Aka Ribfest

Sept. 14 - 17 // Perry Square, Downtown Erie

Erie Irish Festival

Sept. 17 - 18 // St. Patrick's Church, 130 E. 4th St.

North East Wine Festival

Sept. 23 - 25 // 2 Gibson St., North East, Pa.

St. Joseph's Church Oktoberfest

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 // St. Joseph Church, 147 W. 24th St.

Regional County Fairs



Cochranton Fair

Aug. 1 - 6 // Their 94th year // Cochranton, Pa.

Warren County Fair

Aug. 9 - 13 // Their 91st year // Pittsfield, Pa.

Crawford County Fair

Aug. 21 - 27 // Their 75th year // Meadville, Pa.

Erie County Fair

Aug. 29 - Sept. 3 // Their 137th

year // Wattsburg, Pa.

Spartansburg Community Fair Sept. 5 - 10 // Their 100th year

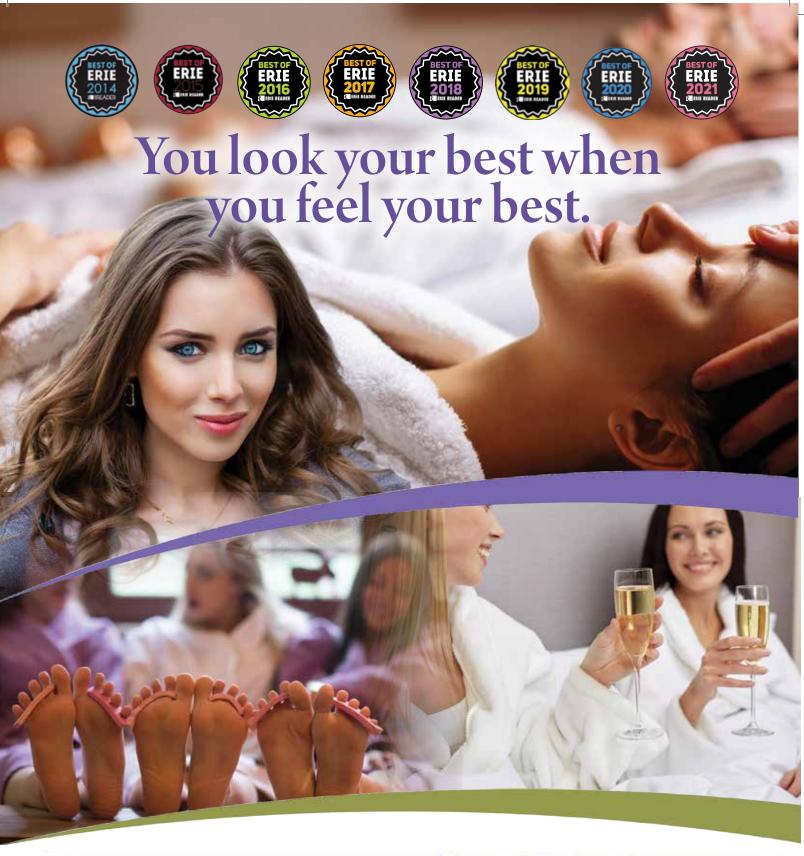
Waterford Community Fair

Sept. 5 - 10 // Their 85th year // Waterford, Pa.

Albion Area Fair

// Spartansburg, Pa.

Sept. 13 - 17 // Their 77th year // Albion, Pa.





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