“There is no place like it. No resort. No spa. Not anywhere else in the country, or anywhere in the world — it is at once a summer encampment and a small town, a college campus, an arts colony, a music festival, a religious retreat and the village square — and there’s no place — no place — with anything like its history.”

— David McCullough historian, author
ABOUT CHAUTAUQUA

Chautauqua — a summer community on Chautauqua Lake that encompasses the arts, education, religion and recreation; a place, removed from the day-to-day world, where some of the leading thinkers of our time come to speak to the concerns and issues of today; a place where music, dance, opera, theater and the visual arts create the “Chautauqua Mix” that draws over 100,000 people each summer.

Chautauqua Institution is a festival for the mind, body and spirit.

Chautauqua is perhaps best known for its morning lecture series, when the Amphitheater stage becomes the platform for distinguished speakers across a broad range of disciplines. Susan B. Anthony argued for women’s suffrage in 1892, and Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his "I Hate War" speech in 1936. Margaret Mead, Amelia Earhart, Thurgood Marshall, Freeman Dyson, Jane Goodall, Sandra Day O’Connor and Kurt Vonnegut have all spoken here.

Founded in 1874 as a training camp for Sunday School teachers, the Institution’s Christian tradition continues with Sunday to Friday morning worship services. There are daily Roman Catholic Masses, and Friday afternoon and Saturday morning Jewish Shabbat services, as well as Muslim Jum’ah Prayer on Fridays. The Abrahamic Program endeavors to teach about and build relationships among the Family of Abraham: Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Two art galleries feature the works of distinguished contemporary and traditional artists.

Children’s School and the Boys’ and Girls’ Club, considered the oldest summer day camp in the country, contribute to programming for Chautauqua’s youth.

The Special Studies program offers youth and adults more than 400 open-enrollment classes in a variety of disciplines, from art history and photography to yoga and the culinary arts. Master classes are led by the week’s speakers and other renowned experts, providing opportunities for deeper engagement with the week’s theme.

Popular entertainers attract crowds to the Institution’s open-air Amphitheater throughout the season. Recent performers include The Avett Brothers, Huey Lewis and The News, Wynton Marsalis, Punch Brothers, Diana Krall, The Temptations & The Four Tops, Capitol Steps, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Sheryl Crow.

Sailing, two 18-hole golf courses and a learning center, a tennis center with fast-dry courts, two fitness centers (one open year-round), boat rentals from the Sports Club and four public beaches cater to visitor’s recreational needs.

The Smith Memorial Library, a full-service public library, offers computer access, story hours and a well-stocked children’s book collection.

The Chautauqua Institution Archives located in the Oliver Archives Center serve as a research center for graduate students, writers and others. A federal post office, the Huribut Memorial Church and the Chautauqua Bookstore are also available to the community.

As a non-profit organization, Chautauqua’s programming is dependent upon the philanthropic support of its patrons. Revenue from ticket sales covers only a fraction of the cost of presenting Chautauqua each summer. Gifts to the Chautauqua Fund help offset these costs so that we may continue to enrich the lives of all who enter these gates.

chq.org
The power of Chautauqua is not in our convening. The power of Chautauqua is in the returning to our home communities, ready to bring all we’ve learned and practiced to the world in life-giving ways. You, my friends, are the solution to what ails a broken world. My prayer for you, for all of us really, is that this Assembly creates a veritable force of healers, ready to engage a world desperately in need of the best in human values — the best in each of you.”

— Michael E. Hill, 18th president of Chautauqua Institution
Chautauqua as a community celebrates, encourages, studies the arts, and treats them as integral to all of learning.

**Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra**, founded in 1929, continues its legacy as the center of musical life at Chautauqua. Performing 21 concerts in the Amphitheater with leading soloists. The CSO is a professional orchestra that draws its membership from around the country and, indeed, from around the world.

**Chautauqua Opera Company**, also founded in 1929, is the longest continuously producing summer opera company in the United States. With fully staged productions in the Amphitheater and Norton Hall, and pop-up performances all through the Chautauqua grounds, the company emphasizes quality in both professional performances and the training of emerging opera singers.

**The Visual Arts at Chautauqua Institution** extend into and throughout the Chautauqua community through professional and student gallery exhibitions, two lecture series and community events. Instructional programs in the visual arts catch the light from youngsters at Children’s School and full-term students in the School of Art, from adults in beginning levels of painting and drawing and skilled lifelong amateur ceramists and painters.

**Chautauqua Theater Company** has a unique role to play in the American Theater — it offers our loyal and discerning audience the best in classical, contemporary, and new plays and features a company made up of internationally acclaimed professional actors, directors, designers, playwrights and faculty, joined by 14 of the finest emerging actors in the country.

**Chautauqua’s School of Music** boasts a superb faculty, an established and exciting curriculum and outstanding students who typically come from more than 40 states and six foreign countries to study in the school’s instrumental, voice and piano departments. With the mix of the professional and educational fine and performing arts, the recent investment of over $7 million in facilities and the designation as an All-Steinway Music Festival, the School of Music continues to strive for excellence in providing a unique learning experience for students.

**Chautauqua Dance** includes performances by a number of celebrated guest companies along with Chautauqua’s renowned School of Dance, directed by Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux.

In addition to masterpieces in classical ballet, Chautauqua Dance stages modern dance and contemporary ballet. Each season, guest companies present a number of performances in the Amphitheater, including two with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra.

“Chautauquans have the daily opportunity to have their lives infused with the performing and visual arts. From experiencing a performance or rehearsal to interacting with professional and student artists on the grounds, Chautauqua fosters an intimate and interactive relationship with the arts.”

— Deborah Sunya Moore, Vice President of Performing and Visual Arts
EDUCATION

Self-improvement through lifelong learning was at the heart of the impulse that motivated Americans and founded Chautauqua. That tradition continues today.

Special Studies
Each summer, 10,000 lifelong learners of all ages enroll in Special Studies courses, in subjects ranging from music and dance to science and history. More than 300 teachers, experienced in subjects they love, arrive each summer to create this amazing slate of courses.

Learning Through Reading and Discussion
Chautauqua Literary Arts offers myriad opportunities every summer to celebrate and discuss great literature, including the annual Chautauqua Prize and Chautauqua Janus Prize, respectively awarded for a new book of narrative prose and a new work of short, innovative prose. Our annual literary journal, Chautauqua, supplies a reading guide to support meaningful discussion.

The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (CLSC), however, represents our most historic commitment to lifelong learning. Since 1878, the CLSC has enrolled over a half-million readers. Today, CLSC books address critical and ethical issues of the day through a variety of genres, and each week a different CLSC author presents on their book. These books are used by reading circles around the world, and here they live at the heart of weekly porch conversations.

In 1994, the CLSC initiated a Young Readers program focusing on the enjoyment of learning through reading for 9- to 14-year-olds. At least nine books are highlighted each summer through weekly events.

Learning Through Writing and Discussion
The Chautauqua Writers’ Center, established in 1988, hosts 20 of the best author-educators in North America every summer, each of whom offers a five-day workshop in poetry or prose, a public craft lecture, and a public reading from their work. The affordable tuition and housing scholarship program make it one of the most accessible writing resources of its caliber.

Chautauqua Literary Arts extends this tradition to youth ages 14 to 18 through the Young Writers Institute — and into the critical and ethical issues of the day through our annual preseason Writers’ Festival, which offers workshops, lectures, readings, panels and breakout sessions to any writer that registers. For details on each of our literary programs, visit literaryarts.chq.org.

The Smith Memorial Library
Open year-round on Bestor Plaza, Chautauqua’s historic library is a favorite gathering space, providing print, audio and digital resources to the greater Chautauqua community.

Oliver Archives Center
The 140-plus years of Chautauqua are preserved at the Oliver Archives Center, which presents programs of historical interest each week as part of the Heritage Lecture Series.

“From a unified curriculum for Sunday School teachers to a correspondence reading course that brought education to every corner of the nation, Chautauqua in its earliest form was dedicated to continuous learning. That’s a tradition we’ve honored and expanded in the decades since; it remains the backbone of our work. From our robust Special Studies program to our historic lecture platform, there are chances every day for Chautauquans of every age to learn something new — about themselves, about our world and, perhaps most importantly, from each other.”

— Matt Ewalt, Vice President and Emily and Richard Smucker Chair for Education
John Heyl Vincent said in 1875, “The Chautauqua aim is to take people on all sides of their natures, … making men, women and children everywhere more affectionate and sympathetic as members of one family.” Chautauqua’s Department of Religion takes this worthy mission as its own and is flourishing. Faith is experienced, inquiry encouraged, healing and pastoral care offered, and the involvement of diverse participants valued.

Celebrating Our Ecumenical Pulpit and Multifaith Worship
Chautauqua’s ecumenical pulpit presents nationally and internationally respected preachers. Chautauqua sermons, delivered over more than 140 years, constitute a history of America’s religious conscience. Sixteen denominations representing Abrahamic faiths and others are coordinated by the Department of Religion. A vibrant sacred Christian music program draws all denominations and all faiths. Worship for non-Christian faiths is sponsored and facilitated.

Offering Interfaith and Multifaith Afternoon Lectures
Daily religion lectures in the historic Hall of Philosophy are both interfaith and multifaith in focus. Religious scholars and practitioners from all faiths explore and dialogue about controversial issues at the intersection of faith and life. Such notables as Bryan Stevenson, Sister Joan Chittister, John Dominic Crossan, John Shelby Spong, Ambassador Rabbi David Saperstein, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Karen Armstrong, Marian Wright Edelman, the Rev. Jim Wallis and Eboo Patel relate beliefs to ethical choices and issues.

Building a Multifaith and Diverse Community
A multifaith, multifaceted program, guided by a distinguished group of international religious leaders, is positioned to reach out nationally and internationally to build bridges of understanding and appreciation among Jews, Christians and Muslims, as well as among all the major faith traditions.

Chautauqua is committed to working toward building a multifaith community in which the harmony of the Family of Abraham and the mutual respect for all faiths might lay the groundwork not only for peace among the religions, but for peace in the world.

Engaging Youth
The Abrahamic Program for Young Adults is designed for ages 16 to 22. Just like everything else in Chautauqua, there’s something to do almost every night of the week. Sports Night, Movie Night, Hot Topic Discussion Night, Culture Night and Porch Chat Night with famous people provide a wide range of stimulating and fun activities.
RECREATION & YOUTH

Tennis
The Chautauqua Tennis Center, is located directly behind the Turner Community Center on Route 394. It boasts eight state-of-the-art, fast-dry courts. Two of the courts are illuminated for night play.

Golf
Golf Digest ranks both the Lake (Donald Ross design) and Hill courses at the Chautauqua Golf Club as “four-star.” A 25-acre Learning Center is a complete practice and training facility for golfers of all skill levels.

Swimming
Four public beaches, including the popular Children’s Beach, plus an indoor pool at the Turner Community Center, are open daily and are staffed by certified lifeguards.

Fitness
Chautauqua Health & Fitness with two locations — Turner Community Center (open year-round) and Heinz Beach (summer only) — offer access to state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment. Personal trainers, swimming instructors and pilates reformer trainers are available for hire.

Sailing
The Sailing Department, located at the John R. Turner Sailing Center on the south waterfront, offers a diverse curriculum with courses for young and old, novice and experienced sailors. Private sailing lessons as well as sailboat and paddleboards rentals are also available.

Sports Club
The Chautauqua Sports Club provides diverse recreation opportunities for the entire family, including pontoon, pedalboat and kayak rentals, shuffleboard, lawn bowling, Old First Night Run/Walk Race, Color Sprint, bridge and more.

Children’s School / Group One
Children’s School is a developmental preschool for youth ages 3 to 5. The program includes a wide range of social, recreational and educational activities. Group One is a special all-day program designed for children who will enter first grade in the fall and serves as a transition between Children’s School and Boys’ and Girls’ Club.

Boys’ and Girls’ Club
Boys’ and Girls’ Club provides an opportunity for young people ages 7 to 15 to actively participate in a safe and supportive recreational day camp. A varied program including swimming, kayaking, sailing and field games are offered, plus nature study and STEAM classroom instruction through the Club Plus program.

Youth Centers and Classes
The Youth Activities Center (middle and high schoolers) and the Pier Club (16 and up) provide welcoming sites for informal social, recreational, educational and entertainment activities. Additionally, many Special Studies classes are open to youth enrollment.

“Recreational activities are one of the great pleasures of a Chautauqua stay. It’s walking to a morning lecture, riding a bike to Boys’ and Girls’ Club or taking advantage of organized activities like golf, tennis and sailing. Recreation always has been and always will be an integral part of the Chautauqua experience.” — Meg Pickard, Director of Recreation
ACCOMMODATIONS

Gingerbread-style cottages, quaint shops, fine dining, lodging, a library, post office and charming gardens create an ambiance enjoyed by nearly 100,000 people each summer.

On-grounds accommodations include hotels, inns, guest houses, single- and multi-family homes, condominiums and apartments. Nightly stays are available all year long.

Finding Accommodations Online
Chautauqua’s web-based accommodations service is an easy way to find the perfect place to stay during your Chautauqua visit. With a click of the mouse you’re able to check the availability of hotels, houses, inns, guest houses, apartments, condos, denominational houses and rooms for specific dates. Property owners are able to update information on their lodgings on a daily basis and answer your questions by e-mail. To plan your stay, visit Chautauqua Institution’s website at accommodations.chq.org.

Athenaeum Hotel
The Athenaeum Hotel, built in 1881 in grand Second Empire style, is one of the few vacation hotels of its kind still in operation in the United States. Located adjacent to the Amphitheater, the hotel has provided accommodations for distinguished speakers and performers. Thomas Edison is said to have used the floor-to-ceiling windows of the dining room to escape overzealous admirers. In 1996, the Athenaeum became the Executive Mansion of the President of the United States when President Bill Clinton spent a week at the hotel preparing for his debate with Sen. Bob Dole. Throughout the Chautauqua Institution season, the Athenaeum Hotel offers many all-inclusive vacation packages. For hotel reservations or to learn more about special offers, please call 800-821-1881 or visit athenaeum.chq.org.

Chautauqua on a Budget
Chautauqua on a Budget is a weeklong dormitory accommodation special that is only available during Week Eight and Week Nine of the Chautauqua season. This discounted special includes lodging, breakfast and dinner and a Chautauqua gate pass that provides admission to all Amphitheater programs. Call 716-357-6262 or email groupprograms@chq.org for current pricing, or visit budget.chq.org.

Group Tours
Experience the unique mix that Chautauqua Institution has to offer with a trip designed to fit the requirements of day-trippers, travelers on tight schedules, or those that want a structured or longer experience. Customize the group trip and experience an elegant culinary experience from the historic Athenaeum Hotel, stellar live concerts, theater and opera performances, guided group tours, lakeside activities, enlightening speakers and classes. Call 716-357-6262 or email groupprograms@chq.org to plan your group tour.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Weddings
Chautauqua Institution and the Athenaeum Hotel provide unique options and a beautiful location for your special event. With exceptional service, any wedding, rehearsal dinner, shower, banquet or conference is simply enchanting at Chautauqua. Weddings and special events are only available in the fall and spring.

Getting married in Chautauqua Institution allows for many options. Many choose to get married in the Hall of Philosophy, a more traditional and very romantic wedding hall, reminiscent of an early Greek temple. The Athenaeum Hotel also provides many options for your reception including at the Athenaeum Hotel’s grand dining room, the parlor or the front porch. Lodging is also available for all of your guests. Contact our weddings and events specialists at 716-357-4444 ext. 1108 or weddings@chq.org.

Conferencing
Chautauqua has served as an important conference and retreat center for more than 100 years. During the spring and fall season, the Athenaeum Hotel offers a full-range of conferencing services and Bellinger Hall, a 115-room dormitory with meeting space and dining facilities, is available year-round.

The Hultquist Center provides modern and flexible classroom and meeting space. Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall is an 8,000-square-foot structure that functions as both performance and conference space. With movable risers, the hall can accommodate a 30-member ensemble or a single speaker and an audience of 500 people.

LOCATION
Chautauqua Institution, located in the southwestern corner of New York State, is easily accessible via Interstate 90 (the New York State Thruway), New York Route 394, and the Southern Tier Expressway (I-86).

Chautauqua is served by the Buffalo Niagara International Airport (70 miles northeast of Chautauqua); the Erie, Pennsylvania, airport (40 miles southwest of Chautauqua); and the Chautauqua County Airport (15 miles southeast of Chautauqua).

Privately owned transportation service for travel to and from any airport is available.
FAQ

When should I come to Chautauqua?
Chautauqua is a picturesque destination year-round, with a primary programming season that lasts nine weeks each year, from late June through late August. Most guests stay for one week so they can enjoy the entire lecture series and the full array of arts and entertainment offerings. Guests who stay for less than a week often stay at the Athenaeum Hotel. Additional programming, such as farm-to-table dinners and our Winter Village, is held throughout the year.

How do I plan my Chautauqua vacation?
Visit chq.org for tips on how to plan your stay, as well as accommodations and ticketing information. Call our information office at 800-836-ARTS for additional information.

What fees are involved?
Gate tickets are required during the summer assembly season and vary according to time period, programming and length of stay. Visit our ticketing website at CHQTickets.com for the most up-to-date information and prices or call 716-357-6250 for further information.

There is a reduced rate for youth ages 13 to 25. There is no charge for a gate ticket for anyone 12 and younger or 90 and older. No gate fees are charged on Sundays.

Single opera and theater ticket prices vary based on seating and performance. Theater and opera packages are also available. Advance purchase is highly recommended as performances do sell out.

Chautauqua offers Preferred seating on the floor of the Amphitheater for select evening programs for an additional fee. The Preferred seating ticket guarantees a seat in the reserved floor section on a first-come basis until the start of the performance. All other Amphitheater seating is General Admission.

Parking fees vary according to length of stay.
Active-duty military receive a free pass.

What kinds of accommodations are available?
On-grounds accommodations include hotels, inns, guest houses, single- and multi-family homes, condominiums and apartments. Weekly rentals are the most popular accommodations. Nightly stays are available all year long. Visit accommodations.chq.org or call 716-357-6200 for more information.

The Athenaeum Hotel offers many all-inclusive vacation packages. For hotel reservations or to learn more about special offers, please call 800-821-1881 or visit athenaeum.chq.org.

What is there for kids to do outside the various youth programs offered?
Most kids on the grounds participate in Children’s School, Group One or Boys’ and Girls’ Club, but there are many additional activities available during the summer assembly season.

The Youth Activities Center is designed as a gathering spot for middle schoolers and high schoolers, with a snack bar, games, pool tables and table tennis, as well as television and lounge areas. Dances and weekly special events are also offered.

The Sports Club offers board and lawn games, ping pong, and hosts the annual beach to beach color sprint — a young crowd favorite. There is also foot golf at the Golf Learning Center.

Still have questions about Chautauqua?

A Visitors Center is located on Bestor Plaza and is a one-stop location for visitors. Staff on site will help visitors plan their current stay with information about programming, purchasing tickets, as well as securing accommodations for a return visit. It welcomes and introduces all with media and historical displays that tell the story of Chautauqua Institution.
FAQ

What is there for kids to do? (continued)
The Pier Club serves as a meeting place for young adults ages 16 and up. In addition to providing comfortable lounges, table tennis and pool tables, a snack bar and beach area, the club initiates special programs as guided by member interest, including guest speakers, movies and live entertainment.

A Family Entertainment Series is presented one evening most weeks featuring singers, musicians, actors, puppeteers and storytellers.

A number of Special Studies classes are especially designed for young people. Many multigenerational classes are also listed in the Special Studies catalog. Find out more information or register for Special Studies classes online at classes.chq.org.

The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Young Readers program features nine books and related activities throughout the summer. The program has been designed to provide reading enrichment for youth ages 9 to 14.

Golf, sailing and tennis opportunities are also available for youth. For costs and additional information on youth activities, visit youth.chq.org.

What about meals?

If your accommodations have a kitchen, you may want to stock up on the basics before departing for or en route to Chautauqua, as there is only a small convenience store on the grounds. A daily Farmers Market with fresh prepared and baked goods from local vendors is also available. The weekly Bestor Fresh Market features fresh produce, meat and other raw ingredients for sale by local vendors on Bestor Plaza. More complete grocery shopping is located at markets from 2 to 15 miles away. A number of restaurants operate on the Institution’s grounds with full bar service. Hours are limited outside the summer assembly season. View a comprehensive listing of restaurants both on and off the grounds at dining.chq.org.

How will I get around the grounds?

Because Chautauqua is a walking community with narrow streets, the use of automobiles on the grounds is restricted. You will be given a free, limited-time street permit to unload and load luggage at your accommodations. The Institution provides regularly scheduled complimentary shuttle bus and tram service on the grounds during the season.
FAQ

Should we bring our bicycles?
Bicycles are an efficient and pleasant way to get around the grounds. **They must be equipped with a bell or other signaling device and have brakes in working order. After sunset a headlight and rear reflector are required, and New York state law requires that bicyclists under 14 wear a safety helmet.** A bicycle rental shop is located on the grounds during the season.

Please register your bicycle with the ticket office when ordering tickets or when you arrive at the Main Gate ticket window.

In-line skating/skateboarding?
In-line skating is allowed on certain streets. Skateboarding is not permitted on the grounds.

Which Special Studies classes will be offered during our stay?
During the summer assembly season, classes vary by week, and a weekly index of classes is provided in the Special Studies catalog or at classes.chq.org.

What about our boat?
You may reserve rental moorage on a space-available basis at our Central Dock office. For weekly mooring or first-time registrations of season boats, please call 716-357-6288 after the first week in June. Full-season boat renewals may call 716-357-6250.

What if we’d like to bring our motor home?
There are no facilities for campers or motor homes on the grounds. For information regarding nearby campgrounds, contact the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau at 800-242-4569.

Does anything happen on the grounds between fall and spring?
Chautauqua offers custom-tailored conference, wedding, meeting and event packages for large and small groups throughout the year. Catering services ranging from modest to luxurious are available at a variety of locations, including the Athenaeum Hotel. For more information contact our wedding and events staff at 716-357-4444 ext. 1108 or weddings@chq.org.

Information regarding year-round accommodations on the grounds may be obtained on our website, chq.org, or by calling 716-357-6200.

Turner Fitness Center and Pool operate year-round and also offer group exercise classes and personal training. Golf and tennis is open mid-May–mid-October.

Do you offer programs for older adults?
Chautauqua partners with a number of organizations that cater to older adults including those who wish to travel with grandchildren. Call 716-357-6269 or email our Group Programs office at groupprograms@chq.org to learn about Road Scholar.
FAQ

What about banking services?
An automatic teller machine (ATM) is located in the Colonnade, Main Gate Welcome Center, Brick Walk Cafe and the Athenaeum Hotel; money orders are available at the Chautauqua post office. On-grounds banking services are available on the second floor of the Colonnade.

Do you offer group discounts?
Groups of 20 people or more can take advantage of special rates. For details, call 716-357-6262.

What kinds of assistance do you have for people with disabilities?
Designated parking is available in our Main Lot. Wheelchairs and electric scooters may be rented at our Main Gate Welcome Center Information Desk (subject to availability.) Audio receivers for the hearing impaired are available during the season on a first-come basis for events in our major performance facilities. There is a tram and bus service available on the grounds. Contact our information staff at 716-357-6200 regarding any other accommodations.

Please register your electric scooter at the Main Gate Welcome Center upon arrival.

Are medical services readily available?
A medical clinic offering non-emergency treatment is located on the grounds during the season. There are nearby hospitals in Westfield and Jamestown. Emergency fire services are provided by the Chautauqua Volunteer Fire Department. A paramedic is on duty 24/7 during our summer season.

And pets?
Chautauqua is a pet-friendly community and many rental properties allow tenants to bring pets; be sure to check to see whether your accommodations permit house pets. The Athenaeum Hotel does offer pet-friendly rooms for a fee.

Pets should be registered, for a small fee, at the Chautauqua Police Department. Dogs must be leashed and cleaned up after and are not permitted in certain areas on the grounds. With the exception of service animals, pets are not permitted in any Chautauqua Institution buildings or program facilities.

A dog park is located at the north end of Turner Community Center. Dogs can run inside a fenced area and play with fellow canines.
For tickets and accommodations, visit us online at chq.org or call 800.836.ARTS (2787)

Sign up for our e-newsletter at chq.org/e-newsletter