

# Chimney Bluffs STATE PARK



Wolcott, New York



Finger Lakes Region  
2018

## Facilities

**DAY USE:** Permitted activities are posted by the Garner Road and East Bay Road entrances.

Picnic Area: Tables and grills

Interpretive Signs

Comfort Stations

Hiking Trails

While the park is open year-round from dawn to dusk, please check with the Fair Haven Beach park office (315-947-5205) before arriving at the park. Vehicle access may not be available during heavy snow accumulation periods. There is a vehicle-use fee in effect at the park, April 1-Oct. 31.



Accessible parking spaces and restrooms are available. Contact the Fair Haven Beach park office (315-947-5202) for specific information.

## NEARBY STATE PARKS:

Camping and Day-use Facilities:

**Fair Haven Beach:** N.Y.S. Rte. 104A, in Fair Haven - 21 miles

**Cayuga Lake State Park:** N.Y.S. Rte. 89, 3 miles east of Seneca Falls - 31 miles

Day-Use Facilities Only:

**Seneca Lake State Park:** N.Y.S. Rtes. 5 & 20, east of Geneva- 34 miles

## Directions to Chimney Bluffs from Fair Haven Beach

1. Turn right onto Rte. 104A off the park road, and continue to the junction of with Rte. 104. Turn right onto Rte. 104.
2. Drive 9.5 miles west on Rte. 104, and turn right onto Lake Bluff Road (there is a flashing yellow light at the intersection.)
3. Travel north on Lake Bluff Road for 3 miles to Garner Road. Lake Bluff Road takes a sharp left, but you will continue straight onto Garner Road until you see the main park entrance on your left. To reach the East Bay parking lot, continue on Garner Road, take a left onto East Bay Road to reach the parking lot near the lakeshore.

## CHIMNEY BLUFFS STATE PARK

7700 Garner Road

Wolcott, New York 14590

**Fair Haven Beach Park Office:**

**315-947-5205**

**Regional Office and Park Police:**

**607-387-7041**

Jerry Egenhofer, Park Manager

## IN AN EMERGENCY

Park Police.....1-800-255-3577  
Police, Ambulance, Fire.....911

## Special Passes

The **Access Pass** is available to New Yorkers with qualifying disabilities. The **Golden Park Program** allows New York State residents 62 years of age or older unlimited weekday and non-holiday access to all state parks by showing a NYS driver's license or non-driver identification. The **Empire Passport** provides unlimited vehicle entry to most state parks and recreation areas. Passes can be purchased in person at most state parks or recreation areas, or by mail from State Parks, Albany, NY 12238.

## "Carry In-Carry Out" Parks

Our facilities are designated "Carry In-Carry Out." Please take your trash and recyclables home with you for proper disposal.

[www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com)



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## The Finger Lakes Story

Sparkling lakes, breathtaking waterfalls and rolling pastoral land dominate the landscape of the Finger Lakes Region. Over thousands of years, gigantic glaciers and coursing streams carved this landscape shared by generations of people. Located along the south shore of Lake Ontario, Chimney Bluffs State Park is one of 29 facilities of the Finger Lakes State Parks Region where you can enjoy these treasured landscapes and discover the lives of people of the past.

Earthen spires and chimneys rise like badlands 150 feet (45 m) above the ocean-like expanse of Lake Ontario that extends 50 miles north (80 km) to Canada, beyond the horizon. This park features over four miles of trails (6.5 km). Enjoy a stroll along the lakeshore below the towering chimneys or walk on the Bluff Trail above. Top off your hiking experience with a picnic lunch overlooking the vast expanse of Lake Ontario.

## The Nature of Chimney Bluffs

To the geologist, Chimney Bluffs have "Ice Age" written all over them. Lake Ontario was left in an enormous, shallow bedrock pan eroded by the most recent continental glacier, which melted from New York 12,000 years ago. The Chimney Bluffs form the north end of a glacier-made hill called a "drumlin."

There are more than 10,000 drumlins south and east of Lake Ontario. They are made of "glacial till," a mixture of sand, clay, silt, gravel, cobbles and boulders that were scraped, pulverized, pasted, smeared

and dumped on the land beneath the passing mountain of ice. It is thought that the drumlins were created when the overriding glacier worked glacial till into hills that ran parallel to the direction of ice movement under ideal conditions of temperature, melting, ice thickness and land slope. The central New York drumlin field is one of the most extensive in the world and Chimney Bluffs are its most spectacular example. But, the story does not end there.

Imagine a dome of ice as high as the Rocky Mountains covering Ontario and New York, sloping upwards to its greatest height in northern Canada. Then imagine how heavy this must have been, so heavy that the land sank beneath it. When the ice melted away, the depressed land began to rebound and has been rising ever since, though at a decelerating rate (about a foot a century or 0.3 m). The rising land tilted Lake Ontario southward and flooded the drumlin field between Sodus and Oswego, creating bays, marshes, islands and wave-eroded drumlins.

For thousands of years, waves have pounded the northern edge of this drumlin, causing the packed glacial earth to collapse. Rain and melting snow wash out gullies between the chimneys. The whole cliff-face is eroding into the lake, as much as three to five feet annually in places (0.9 to 1.5 m). This is quicker than vegetation can get a foothold, leaving the bluffs bare and vulnerable to yet more erosion. Soil is washed into the lake and stones are left behind on the shore.

Forest grows atop Chimney Bluffs, supporting a rich community of spring wildflowers. West and south of the bluff, natural vegetation is slowly replacing former orchards and farmland that took advantage of the lake's moderating effect on temperature extremes. The top of the bluffs is a good place to watch for migrating birds in spring,

including hawks, which follow the lakeshore eastward on their way to Canada.

## People and Chimney Bluffs

Chimney Bluffs have been a significant landmark for ships on Lake Ontario for centuries. During Prohibition, Canadian smugglers brought bootleg liquor across the lake at night and dropped it off at the bluffs where men took it to barns and other places to be stored until sold.

Chimney Bluffs was an informal, privately-owned recreation area until New York State acquired the property in 1963.

## TO ALL OUR GUESTS

### Trails:

Park trails are for pedestrian use only. Bicycles and horses are not allowed on the trails.

### Pets:

Family pets must be leashed and attended at all times. Proof of rabies vaccination must be by veterinarian's certificate-the collar tag will not be accepted as proof.

### Respecting Wildlife:

Please do not feed or harass any wildlife while visiting the park. If you see any wildlife that appears ill, leave it where it is and contact park personnel immediately. If you come in physical contact with an animal, report it to the Fair Haven Beach park office right away.



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## Chimney Bluffs State Park

### Experiencing the Bluffs

Park your car at the end of East Bay Road and walk west, either along the beach below the bluffs or up above on the Bluff Trail. The Bluffs themselves extend for ½ mile, about one third of the park's shoreline. Explore other areas of the park on the Drumlin Trail, East-West Trail, or the Garner Point Trail. Or park at the Garner Road parking area and take the short paved path to the picnic area with its panoramic view of Lake Ontario.

Bluff Trail	1 1/4 miles (2 km)
Drumlin Trail	3/4 mile (1.2 km)
Garner Point Trail	1/2 mile (0.8 km)
East-West Trail	1 3/4 miles (2.8km)

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