



Seaway Trail Scuba Diving Fact Sheet

If you find this information of interest, please cite Seaway Trail, Inc or the Great Lakes Seaway Trail as the source. For more info: www.seawaytrail.com, Teresa Mitchell, 800-SEAWAY-T.

The Next Great Scuba Diving Destination: The Great Lakes Seaway Trail

Why?

- Hundreds of shipwrecks spanning two and a half centuries
- Pristine freshwater diving conditions
- The freshwater of the St Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Niagara River, Lake Erie
- Fine charter and dive services Trailwide
- Visibility: in some locations you can see 40 feet at a depth of 110 feet
- New York's 1st Underwater Cultural Site in Lake Ontario
- Dives for all level of experience
- Uncrowded waters

“Scuba divers are quickly discovering that this region (Seaway Trail) provides some of the best fresh water diving in the world” — Phil Church, Oswego Maritime Foundation

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER — *Wolfe Islander I,I* a massive car ferry built in 1946, worked between Wolfe Island and Kingston, Ontario for 30 years before being intentionally sunk off the Island's north shore. Doors and hatches are welded open for interior exploration. Reach the Island today via Horne's Ferry, Cape Vincent.

LAKE ONTARIO — Lake Ontario is reported to have close to 1,500 ships and several aircraft under water. In 1944 the B-24 bomber known as “Getaway Gertie” crashed into the Lake some where east of Oswego. A wing section was the only part recovered. Divers have been looking for “Gertie” ever since.

New York State's first Submerged Cultural Preserve in Lake Ontario is near Oswego — David W Mills, a 202-foot steambarge built in 1874, was lost in 1919. Prominent pieces of the ship are strewn about in 12-22 feet of water. The Oswego Maritime Foundation publishes a guide to this site and to the nearby tugboat wreck, the Mary Kay.

Pultneyville, east of Rochester, is home to *St Peter*, a 135-foot three-masted schooner for advanced divers only. It sank in 1898 and is said to be haunted. Many ship's artifacts are at the Wayne County Historical Society in Lyons. “It Was A Dark and Stormy Night,” by Richard J Kilday III writing about the wreck, is kept at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. For other maritime legends and lore, visit Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum in Sodus Point.

The Homer Warren, discovered in 2003, was the oldest wooden straight deck bulk freighter working the Great Lakes when it foundered near Pultneyville in 1919.

NIAGARA RIVER — The River's currents (negligible to about 8 mph) are perfect for drift diving. You'll find ample parking at Isle View Park in Tonawanda and you can dive from shore.

LAKE ERIE — “One of the most extraordinary collections of (submerged) wooden ships in North America” — Arthur B Cohn, director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, talking about the area of eastern Lake Erie known as the Quadrangle site of many shipwrecks. At least one Lake Erie wreck is scheduled to join the Seaway Trail submerged cultural dive sites trail according to David White, Great Lakes Program Coordinator, New York Sea Grant, Oswego.

