Self-Guided Tour Options

Be immersed in the past at Genesee Country Village & Museum. Students can hear, smell, feel & experience what life was like in the 1800s. Visit the village in your own self-guided groups exploring one of these possible themes. The numbers in parentheses correspond to the map of the museum you’ll receive upon arrival.

From Farm to Table

Visit these locations throughout our village to find out more about the production of food from planting, harvesting, and preserving to sales and consumption.

- Pioneer Farmstead (#6)—Explore what it took to be a self-sufficient pioneer in Western, NY. See the animals on our farm & maybe lend a hand doing some chores.

- Jones Farm (#14)—See our cook prepare or preserve fruits and vegetables grown right outside her kitchen door. Help churn butter or, on select days, watch her turn milk into cheese.

- Shaker Trustees’ Building (#13)—Shakers were well known for their production and sale of seeds as well as the medicines they made from herbs. Find out about growing, harvesting, drying and storing a variety of different plants as well as how they were used by people in the past.

- Altay Store (#28)—Learn about selling or bartering goods at this general store. Discover how the Erie Canal helped New York become an agricultural powerhouse in the 1800s.

- Gardens, Farm Fields, & Orchards—A number of gardens, farm fields and orchards can be found through the museum property which provide food for people and animals today just as they did in the past.
Crafts and Trades

Visit these locations throughout the museum to find out more about the important crafts & trades taking place in our historic village. The numbers in parentheses correspond to the map of the museum you’ll receive upon arrival.

- **Blacksmith Shop (#7)**—Blacksmiths were indispensable to communities in the past. Watch as our blacksmith uses his forge, anvil & hammer to pound pieces of iron into useful items for our villagers.

- **Cooper Shop (#20)**—Barrels, buckets, butter churns and tubs were essential items for people in the past. See the tools & equipment needed to make these items and find out how to properly assemble a bucket.

- **Brewery (#9)**—Beer was a welcomed supplement to a pioneer’s basic diet. Help our brew master grind grain and fill his kettles in preparation for brewing his next batch of beer.

- **Pottery (#17)**—Watch as our potter takes a simple lump of clay and transforms it into a mug or jug before your very eyes.

- **Tinsmith (#46)**—Learn how tinsmiths uses simple tools and equipment to cut and shape flat sheets of tinplate into useful and beautiful household items. **Enhance your self-guided experience by adding a tin ornament making Enrichment Activity to your field trip.**

- **Boot & Shoemaking Shop (#32)**—See the exhibit of tools and equipment used in this important profession.

- **Gunsmith & Cabinet Maker Shop (#45)**—A master gunsmith was the most skilled of the tradesmen of the past. He needed to be an accomplished woodworker and joiner along with knowing how to forge and engrave metals.

- **Humphrey House (#25)**—Examine the tools and equipment used by spinners to turn wool and flax into yarn. Watch as our village weaver uses a loom to make cloth.
19th Century Life

Visit these locations throughout the historic village to get an overview about what life was like in the 19th century. The numbers in parentheses correspond to the map of the museum you’ll receive upon arrival.

- **Pioneer Life (#6)**—Explore what it took to be a self-sufficient pioneer in Western, NY by visiting the Pioneer Farmstead and Kieffer House.

- **Education**—Discover what schooling was available for children in the 1800s by visiting the One-Room Schoolhouse (#4) and the Romulus Female Seminary (#39).

- **Trades**—Watch our tradesmen create the tools and equipment necessary for life in the 19th century by visiting our Pottery Shop (#17), Blacksmith Shop (#7), Tinsmith Shop (#44), and Cooper Shop (#20).

- **Businesses**—Learn how businesses flourished in 1800s by visiting Altay General Store (#28), Hosmer’s Inn (#24), and Grieve’s Brewery (#9).

- **Religion**—View a few of the churches that flourished in New York during the 1800s by visiting the Quaker Meeting House (#2), St. Feehan’s Roman Catholic Church (#33), Brooks Grove Methodist Church (#36), and Shaker Trustees’ Building (#13).

- **Village and City Life**—Explore the homes of some of the area’s citizens and see how technological and economic changes improved life in the 19th century by visiting MacKay House (#26), Livingston-Backus House (#38), Hyde House (#46), and Hamilton House (#47).

Enhance your self-guided experience by adding an Enrichment Activity to your field trip.