

VACATION ESCAPE

New York's Canal System Offers Exciting Boating Adventures

(NAPSA)—A leisurely, European-style vacation is available to those who wish to be captain of their domain without leaving the country. A growing number of vacationers are finding unexpected adventures by cruising the New York State Canal System.

This inland waterway has been named one of the 10 "Great American Cruises" by *Boating World* magazine. It calls the scenery "majestic," with a mix of rolling countryside, man-made canyons and small towns.

The 524-mile Canal System is comprised of four historic waterways—the Erie, the Champlain, the Oswego and the Cayuga-Seneca Canals—and is open from May until early November.

There are a number of different ways vacationers can take advantage of what the Canal System has to offer. Visitors can take a tour, rent a houseboat, enjoy a week-long cruise and much more. For example:

- Throughout the Canal System, there are approximately 10 day-tour boat operators, two overnight operators, eight self-skippered charter boat operators and four charter operators.
- For boat owners who wish to tour the Canal System on their own, there are more than 70 marinas that offer boater services and amenities. These include transient and overnight dockage, utilities, fuel and pumpouts.
- Anglers can cruise along the New York State Canal System seeking opportunities to tangle



The New York State Canal System, open from May until early November, offers many exciting boating opportunities.

with small and large mouth bass, walleye, panfish, northern pike, blueback herring, channel catfish, crappie and Coho Salmon.

- Tour boats that travel the waterway offer vacationers an opportunity to dock in historic towns along the Canal and enjoy 19th century lodging and dining, antique shops and specialty shops, as well as other unique attractions.

- Catered events are welcome on many boats and lunch and dinner cruises are available for those who are looking for historical and scenic dining. Daily cruises are thought by many to be right for those with only a couple of hours to spend on the water.

For more information about the New York State Canal System, call 1-800-4CANAL4 or visit the Web site at www.canals.state.ny.us.