ROAMING YETI SIDE QUEST GUIDE TO Rochester, NY

Rochester, New York doesn't always make the top of the travel list. And that's exactly why it should be on yours.

This is a city with serious creative DNA, the birthplace of Kodak, the home of one of the world's greatest photography museums, and a music scene that punches well above its weight.

It sits on the southern shore of Lake Ontario with the Erie Canal running through its backyard and a food culture that is deeply, unapologetically its own.

Garbage plates. Zweigle's hot dogs. Abbott's frozen custard. Genny Cream Ale. If you don't know what any of those are yet, you will.

These are the Roaming Yeti-style side quests worth a look in Rochester: the quirky, the historic, the local legends, and the places that make you say, "Wait, that's here?"

Not every place on this list is somewhere we've visited. Some are on our list. All of them belong on yours.

Before you roam, be sure to check location hours.

View Locations in Google Maps

Get more info and other ideas on the blog at:
theroamingyeti.com

ROAMING YETI SIDE QUEST GUIDE TO:

Rochester, NY

Rochester Red Wings

https://www.mlb.com/milb/rochester

The oldest continuously operating minor league baseball franchise in North America, dating back to 1899. A perfect side quest for any visit to Rochester.

The Strong National Museum of Play

https://www.museumofplay.org/

Not just for kids. Experience why play matters and see the National Toy Hall of Fame inside. Plan more time than you think you need.

George Eastman Museum

https://www.eastman.org/

The world's oldest photography museum on the estate of Kodak founder George Eastman. The collection will surprise you.

Parkside Whispering Pines Mini Golf

https://parksidediner.com/mini-golf/

The oldest continuously operating miniature golf course in the United States. It has been open since 1930 and is still going strong.

House of Guitars

https://houseofguitars.com/

A Rochester legend. A music store so stuffed with instruments and memorabilia it feels like a museum. Go prepared to spend time.

Record Archive

https://recordarchive.com/

One of the best independent record stores in the country. Vinyl, CDs, pop culture collectibles, and serious music cred.

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ARTISANWorks

https://artisanworks.net/

A jaw-dropping private collection of art, antiques, and curiosities housed in a former factory. One of those places that's impossible to describe until you're standing in it.

Clock of Nations

https://www.racf.org/news/clock-of-nations/

A 28-foot tall clock with marionette dioramas that was a beloved Rochester landmark for 40 years, spent a decade in storage, and was just restored and rehomed downtown.

Marge's Lakeside

https://www.margeslakesideinn.com/

Marge’s is a haven for locals, musicians, and anyone chasing the perfect summer evening. Tiki beach bar on the shores of Lake Ontario. No frills, but exactly right.

Genesee Brewery

https://www.geneseebeer.com/brewhouse/

Brewing in Rochester since 1878. It’s one of America's oldest continuously operating breweries. Restaurant and tasting room beers you can't get anywhere else.

Sea Breeze Amusement Park

https://www.seabreeze.com/

One of America's oldest amusement parks, originally built as a trolley park in 1879. The Jack Rabbit wooden roller coaster has been thrilling riders since 1920.

Jell-O Gallery Museum — LeRoy NY

https://leroyhistoricalsociety.org/jell-o-gallery/

30 minutes from Rochester and absolutely worth the drive. Jell-O was invented here in 1897, and the museum is delightfully quirky.

WHAT TO EAT IN:
Rochester, NY

Snack Society Field Notes - Rochester Foods

Garbage Plate
Rochester's most famous and divisive food. A combination of macaroni salad, home fries, meat, and hot sauce that shouldn't work but does. Nick Tahou Hots is the original, but you can find a version of it in just about every restaurant around Rochester. I like hot dogs instead of burgers on my plate.

Zweigle's Hot Dogs
Rochester's beloved white and red hot dogs. A regional staple since 1880. Try both. Zweigle Dogs are often used on plates but are delicious on their own. If you have a Wegmans near you, you will probably find them there.

Abbott's Frozen Custard
Rochester's beloved frozen custard institution since 1902. I'm not even a soft serve fan, and I enjoyed it. That should tell you something.

Wegmans
Rochester born and bred since 1916, Wegmans isn't just a grocery store — it's a way of life. The Fairport Road location opened in 1958 and is the oldest continuously operating store in the entire chain. If you have never been to a Wegmans, this is worth the stop. Locals will tell you it's the best grocery store in America. They're not wrong.

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