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## **U.S. Brig Niagara Arrives at Canalside**

*Tours and sailing trip available to the public*

The historic U.S. Brig Niagara arrives at Canalside at 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 10. The Brig Niagara will come into port firing her 32 lb. carronades, and carrying as much sail as conditions permit. The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation invites everyone to gather on the boardwalk to welcome the Brig Niagara to Buffalo. She is a reproduction of the relief flagship of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry in a major naval battle of the War of 1812.

“The U.S. Brig Niagara is a sight to see, especially when she is under sail,” said Robert Gioia, ECHDC Chairman. “We welcome her captain and crew to Canalside and invite the public to tour this excellent example of a two-masted squared-rigged sailing vessel that tells the story of an important part of Western New York’s history. This is one of hundreds of activities families can enjoy at Canalside this summer.”

On September 10, 1813, nine small ships—six of them, including Niagara, constructed in Erie, Pennsylvania—defeated a British squadron of six vessels in the Battle of Lake Erie. A pivotal event in the War of 1812, it secured the Northwest Territory, opened supply lines and lifted the nation’s morale.

At 198 feet long, The U.S. Brig Niagara ([pictured here](http://www.flagshipniagara.org/)) is a two-masted, square-rigged sailing vessel, referred to as a “brig.” She was launched in 1988 and completed in 1990. Niagara sails with a crew of 18 professional merchant mariners and up to 30 crew and trainees. She carries four 32-pounder carronades, which are fired during educational day sails and for historical demonstrations. Original 1813 timbers, which were recovered from the 1913 and 1933 reconstructions, are incorporated into her construction. (<http://www.flagshipniagara.org/> )

Public tours of the ship will be available at specified times during her visit, with tickets available to purchase dockside. Prices are: \$7 for adults, \$5 for children age 12 and under.

A public Educational Sail Day will be offered on Monday, July 14, providing participants with an introduction to square rig and traditional seamanship .Sailing onboard NIAGARA is an unusual opportunity to experience the long-vanished world of the wooden square rigged sailing ship. You are stepping into a pre-industrial society, to see first-hand, and to lay your hands on, an ancient set of traditions. The ship is a wind and muscle powered machine full of the sights, sounds, and smells of maritime history. The underway experience gives some insight into the problems faced and challenges met by our forbears. Participants in the one day program receive frequent short talks explaining the various tasks and maneuvers performed by the crew. Hands-on participation is voluntary and typically limited to walking away with the halyards to hoist the topsails. This program is an introductory overview for the completely uninitiated. Day sail tickets are \$100/person and can be purchased directly from the Brig Niagara’s website: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/754152>.

**Tour/Day sail times are as follows:**

Friday 7/11/14	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Public Tours
Saturday 7/12/14	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Public Tours
Sunday 7/13/14	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Public Tours
Monday 7/14/14	1 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Public Day Sail

In addition to the Niagara, on Saturday the 12th, the Buffalo Maritime Center will be hosting an in-the-water display of classic and antique boats from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM at the same location.

For more information, please go to [www.eriecanalharbor.com](http://www.eriecanalharbor.com)

**About Canalside**

Canalside is a growing regional destination and entertainment district, situated on 21 historic acres along downtown Buffalo’s emerging waterfront on the Buffalo River. Canalside earns its name from its storied past, when the Erie Canal Harbor was built in 1825 as the western terminus of the Erie Canal. Until five years ago, the land was barren and inaccessible, but the area has been reclaimed by the state’s Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. and developed with millions of dollars in public and private investment. With more than 1,000 yearly events and nearly 1 million annual visitors, Canalside is fast becoming the go-to place for in- and out-of-towners of all ages to learn, play and relax. For more information, visit [www.canalsidebuffalo.com](http://www.canalsidebuffalo.com).

**About Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation**

The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) is governed by a nine-member board consisting of seven voting directors and two non-voting, ex-officio directors. The seven voting directors are recommended by the New York State Governor and are appointed by the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development as sole shareholder of ECHDC. The two non-voting, ex-officio director positions are held by the Erie County Executive and the City of Buffalo Mayor.

As a subsidiary of Empire State Development, the state's chief economic development agency, the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation supports and promotes the creation of infrastructure and public activities at Canalside, the Ohio Street corridor and the Outer Harbor that is attracting critical mass, private investment and enhance the enjoyment of the waterfront for residents and tourists in Western New York. Its vision is to revitalize Western New York's waterfront and restore economic growth to Buffalo based on the region's legacy of pride, urban significance and natural beauty. For more information on ECHDC, visit [www.eriecanalharbor.com](http://www.eriecanalharbor.com).

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