

The Welland Canal

The Welland Canal connects Lakes Ontario and Erie. It was the first lake canal and is an essential link in the St. Lawrence Seaway. It is 25 miles long and lifts Lake freighters 325 feet up over the escarpment. The first canal, opened in 1829, had locks of timber and was only eight feet deep. The second, built in 1842, had locks of escarpment stone. A third was built in 1870 with locks 45 feet wide and 270 feet long. The present canal opened in 1932, and a seven-mile bypass around the centre of the city of Niagara Falls was built in 1973.

Bridges

The Niagara River is only thirty-five miles long. It has an average width of 3,500 feet, and it falls 326 feet between Lakes Erie and Ontario.

It is the only river in the world to turn completely around and flow under itself, as it does at the Whirlpool below the Falls.

It is crossed by six international bridges:

Whirlpool Rapids Bridge, two miles north of the cataracts, was built in 1897 on the site of two earlier bridges.

Peace Bridge, opened in June, 1927, is the most important traffic artery between Canada and the United States, connecting Fort Erie, Ont., and Buffalo, N.Y.

Rainbow Bridge, opened in November, 1941, reaches gracefully from Niagara Falls, N.Y., to Niagara Falls, Ont. Its predecessor, called the Honeymoon Bridge, collapsed under the stress of an ice jam in 1938 after forty years of use.



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The only bridge within the walls of the Niagarian Gorge is the 840-foot-long suspension bridge between Lewiston, N.Y., and Queenston, Ont., which lies only sixty feet above the water.

There are also two railroad bridges: the Canadian National Railway's International Bridge at Buffalo, a mile and a half north of Peace Bridge, and the New York Central Bridge near Whirlpool Rapids Bridge.



The Peace Bridge.