

## HUDSON RIVER

The Hudson River stands at 315 miles long, 216 feet deep, and as much as 3.5 miles wide. This phenomenal river was first discovered in 1524 by the Italian explorer Giovanni Verrazano, but it was named after the explorer Henry Hudson in 1609 as he was looking for a passage to the Orient.

This river, used for trade and transportation, originates at the Lake Tear of the Clouds, and it flows both north and south through the state of Eastern New York. Although many cities throughout New York and New Jersey reside along this river, the two major cities that flourished first by the Dutch near this waterway are New York City and Albany. The historic West Point Military Academy also is situated along this great river.

During the French & Indian War and the Revolutionary War, the Hudson played an important role as both the British and the Americans fought to control the waterway. In the 1750's, the British used the Northern part to help their defense against the French invading from Quebec. In 1776, the British and Americans were both fighting to control the waterway. The Continental Army built forts on both sides of the river and even used logs across to make an iron chain to keep the British from moving upstream.

When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, Fulton tested out the steamboat on the Hudson River. The waterway provided the Americans lower costs for moving goods as well as reducing the time to transport goods. The Hudson River Railroad also helped expand trade in 1851 and brought wealthy New Yorkers along the Hudson to build their homes.

Travel around the Hudson is made possible through the PATH (Port Authority Trans-Hudson) system, a subway-like rail system that allows travel to take place beneath the Hudson River. It connects New Jersey with Manhattan, New York. The Lincoln Tunnel is another old tunnel under the Hudson connecting the two states. The Tapan Zee Bridge, the longest bridge crossing the Hudson, also allows people to travel this river from side to side.

Present day, many have gone to great lengths to help keep this river clean and unpolluted. In 1984, Robert Kennedy, Jr. in charge of the group keeping this river free of chemicals and cleansed from waste dumped into it previously. Thanks to these measures, the river is much cleaner and sea life is returning.

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