

NEW YORK ESTABLISHES SCUBA DIVING TRAILS



For those looking for adventure in the outskirts of New York's metropolis, then most holiday makers tend to enjoy hiking, climbing and camping. Diving has never really and seriously been uttered in the same sentence as New York, with diving enthusiasts from around the world preferring to visit tropical waters with great reefs and masses of colourful marine creatures. However, many forget that New York is home to some of the greatest freshwater scuba diving in the United States and nearby waters provide the final resting place for a large number of shipwrecks. Local authorities have seen the opportunity to exploit this particular area of New York tourism and have opened 2 new diving trails for visitors to enjoy.

The first trail, the Dive the Seaway trail, is a waterway filled with shipwrecks, rock formations and aquatic life. Amongst the shipwrecks is the Mills wreck, an 88-year-old wreck which tends to be the focal point of many dives. The trail was indeed formed in 2003 just after the Mills wreck had been declared a state submerged cultural preserve. The second trail, the Underwater Blueway trail, is designated towards providing maritime heritage not only for diving specialists, yet also to amateurs. Buoys are located on both trails to help such inexperienced divers find their targets.

Furthermore, nearby Lake George is home to the oldest wreck in the western hemisphere. Just 200 miles from downtown Manhattan, the Land Tortoise, a result of the French/Indian conflict is still remarkably intact and attracts a host of diving experts. Further points of interest are the St. Peter, a 135ft. wreck which is said to be haunted in Lake Ontario and the Eagle Wings, a huge ancient rock formation.

Even without a concentrated advertising campaign, the popularity of scuba diving around New York is on the up. Almost \$108 million is being pumped into the industry annually without any real effort. It is enjoying a very natural development.

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