

Kingston, NY Report

Fall 2025 ARC100
Introduction to Architecture and
Culture

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<https://kingstonvisitorsguide.com/>



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<https://www.expedia.com/Kingston.dx6056321>

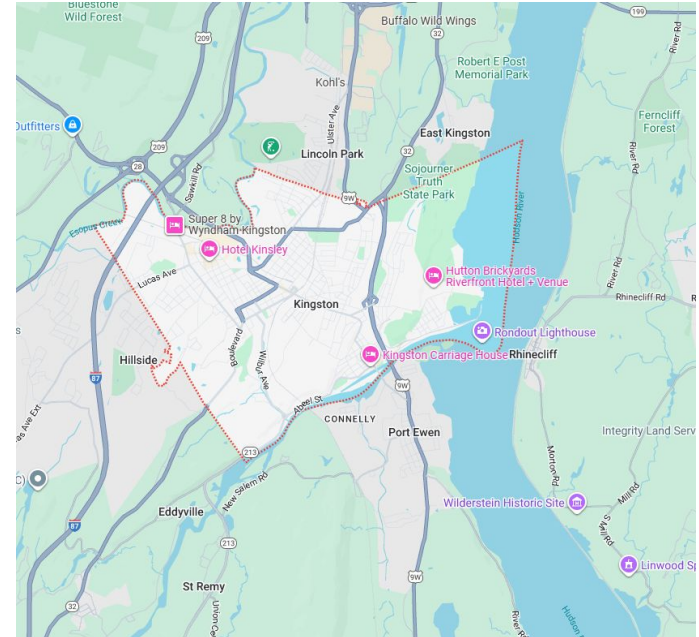


<https://www.oheka.com/photo-gallery.htm>

Building Information

- Building Style - Dutch Colonial
- Address - Kingston, NY (Ulster County)
- Architects - Early Dutch Settlers
- Date Founded - 1652

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Kingston,+NY+12401/@41.9273981,-74.0403688,13z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x89dd0f012dc98127:0x41d7895a5832c913!8m2!3d41.9270367!4d-73.9973608!16zL20vMDFtZ3Nu?entry=ttu&q_ep=EgoyMDI1MTEyMy4xIXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D



Brief History

Founded in 1652, Kingston is one of the oldest cities in New York also being the first ever capital of the state during the revolutionary era. Originally it was a Dutch settlement called Wiltwyck but due to its precise location where the Rondout Creek meets the Hudson River it easily became a colonial hub as a transportation corridor for military, trade, and industry.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingston,
_New_York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingston,_New_York)

Brief History

- **Stockade District**
 - Located on a plateau for defense—this strategic geography shaped the street pattern (a small, tight grid).
 - Stone houses built with available local limestone reflect Dutch traditions modified by the Hudson Valley climate.
- **Rondout District (Downtown)**
 - Built along steep hills descending to the Rondout Creek.
 - The creek's shoreline became a major port during the canal and steamboat era, fueling industrial and commercial growth.
- **Midtown**
 - Developed along the railroad corridor between Uptown and Downtown.
 - Became the manufacturing and transportation center.



<https://kingstonvisitorsguide.com/>

1. One of the Hudson Valley's Strongest Arts Hubs

Kingston has a large population of painters, musicians, designers, and writers, especially concentrated in the Midtown Arts District.



<https://www.artsmidhudson.org/artwalkkingston>

2. First Saturday Art Walks

On the first saturday of each month, galleries and studios open the doors for citywide art walks. One of Kingston's most recognizable cultural traditions



<https://www.artsmidhudson.org/artwalkkingston>

3. A Deep Dutch Cultural Legacy

Kingston Stockade District preserves Dutch stone houses, street names, and historical customs dating back to the 1600's giving the city a strong European cultural identity.



<https://visitulstercountyny.com/plan-your-visit/things-to-do/old-dutch-reformed-church/>

4. The Rondout Waterfront's Maritime Culture

The Hudson River shaped Kingston's identity. Boatbuilding, lighthouses, and maritime festivals are central to its culture today.



5. Major Festival City

Kingston hosts large cultural events such as the O+ Festival, Hooley on the Hudson, Artists Soapbox Derby, and Sinterklaas, drawing thousands of visitors.



<https://www.kingstonweekender.com/calendar/opus-2023>

6. Diverse Food Scene

Kingston is known for global cuisine. Jamaican, Mexican, Middle Eastern, and Italian are few of many.



<https://insideandoutupstateny.com/an-insiders-tip-on-where-to-eat-drink-in-kingston-ny/>

7. Thriving Music Scene Across Genres

Kingston hosts everything from jazz and rock to folk and experimental music, with performance venues in all three districts (Midtown, Stockade, and the Rondout).



<https://hvmag.com/things-to-do/live-music-venues-hudson-valley/>

8. Historic Architecture as Culture

From 17th-century stone houses to Victorian mansions to brick industrial buildings, Kingston's built environment is a core part of its cultural identity.



<https://kingstonhappenings.org/kingston-area-history/kingston-area-history-find-museums-and-historic-sites/>

9. A Literary Tradition

From its early Dutch settlers to modern writers, Kingston has long attracted authors and poets; many literary events reading, and small presses are based here.



<https://redcottage.com/blog/the-best-of-kingston-ny-32-must-visit-local-gems/>

10. Community Murals and Public Art

Murals appear across Midtown and the Rondout, reflecting themes like empowerment, local history, and cultural diversity.



<https://opositivefestival.org/mural-map-2/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thehudsonvalley/posts/4114962032121042/>

Reflection

What I found the most interesting about Kingston, NY is its communities public art and murals. While the buildings in Kingston reflect the old history of the city the murals and art bring it to life showing the creativity of the people that live there now. I also like the one doesn't over power the other in the sense of the old architecture and new vibrant art and murals they have today



<https://hvmag.com/things-to-do/kingston-24-hour-day-trip/>