Things to Do when you visit Cornell

☐ Wander through the many beautiful gardens and hidden nooks on campus. Take a rest in Wee Stinky Glen, enjoy Minns Garden (in front of Plant Sciences), and step inside the nearby Liberty Hyde Bailey Conservatory to see plants from around the world.

☐ Climb the 161 steps of McGraw Tower and watch a chimesmaster at work.

☐ Learn the first two verses of Cornell’s alma mater:

VERSE 1
Far above Cayuga’s waters,
With its waves of blue,
Stands our noble alma mater,
Glorious to view.

CHORUS
Lift the chorus, speed it onward,
Loud her praises tell;
Hail to thee, our alma mater
Hail, all hail, Cornell!

VERSE 2
Far above the busy humming
Of the bustling town,
Reared against the arch of heaven,
Looks she proudly down.

☐ Visit the I. M. Pei–designed Johnson Museum of Art, home of Cornell’s extensive, global art collection. Head up to the fifth floor to take in a spectacular view of Cayuga Lake and Ithaca’s hills and valleys.

☐ Go to an ice hockey game and cheer for the Big Red!

☐ Cornell lore says that if a couple walks around Beebe Lake hand in hand, they’ll end up together. Enjoy this (mostly) flat one-mile loop between North Campus and the College of Human Ecology.

☐ Bowl a few frames at Helen Newman Lanes.

☐ Visit the Hartell Gallery in Sibley Dome. After taking in the art, go down to the Green Dragon for a cup of coffee and listen to architecture students banter about their latest studio projects.

☐ Make a few stops on the Cayuga Wine Trail and check out the burgeoning Finger Lakes beer, cider, and spirits industries.

☐ Stop in at 626 Thurston Ave., Cornell’s Center for Intercultural Dialogue, which fosters mutual understanding and community and provides meeting space for over 100 student organizations.

☐ Take a tour of our solar system on the Sagan Planet Walk, beginning downtown on the Ithaca Commons.
Go on a campus tour and ask about the Ostrander Elms memorial on East Avenue and other Cornelliana.

See a campus theater or music production, or catch a student improv, a cappella, or dance group.

Visit the third floor of the Space Sciences Building to touch a meteorite.

Visit the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection showcasing 300 years of design on display in the College of Human Ecology. Have a snack at Martha’s, named for Martha Van Rensselaer, who helped make Cornell a pioneer in women’s education.

Enjoy a Cornell-made ice cream cone at the Cornell Dairy Bar.

The Cornell Botanic Gardens are adjacent to campus, yet they take you to a world apart, with native plantings, spectacular gardens, natural areas, and one of Ithaca’s best sledding hills. Start at the Nevin Welcome Center for trail guides.

Watch an Ithaca sunset from the top of Libe Slope.

Go to the recently restored ROTC museum in Barton Hall, which displays World War I uniforms, photos, and other memorabilia.

Tie on some skates and hit the ice at Lynah Rink.

Pick up a cup of locally roasted Gimme! Coffee at Gates Hall. Then check your watch’s time against the sundial on Rhodes Hall and take a walk through the Engineering Quad.

Sit in Sage Chapel and admire the stained glass windows, then find the wall plaque quoting Charlotte’s Web, by Cornell 1921 alumus E. B. White.

Visit your child during First-Year Family Weekend.

View historical labor photos in the Kheel Center collections at Catherwood Library and appreciate the dramatic improvements in labor standards and safety we have today, thanks to the continued work of the ILR school.

Play frisbee on the Arts Quad . . . or juggle, sit on the steps of Goldwin Smith Hall, listen to the chimes, or nap in the grass under the trees.

Visit the Heasley Mineralogy Museum and the seismograph station in Snee Hall.

On a clear Friday night, visit the Fuertes Observatory to watch the stars and planets.

Go to the Rare and Manuscript Collections in Kroch Library and see some of Cornell’s greatest treasures—home to one of the five copies of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln’s hand, the Cornell Hip Hop Collection, Shakespeare folios, and E. B. White’s desk and typewriter.

Shake the hand of Cornell’s president.

Walk between the Arts Quad statues at midnight. Legend has it that you’ll see the founder and the first president come together to shake hands in the middle. Or stop by during the day and join the many who have had their picture taken in A. D. White’s lap.

Go watch a classic film at Cornell Cinema.

See the birds in Seeley Mudd Hall.

Experience the diversity of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a visit to Mann Library, where you can sample one of Cornell Orchards’ apples from a vending machine offering old favorites and brand-new varieties, participate in a student-led research experiment, or explore Mann’s makerspace.
Get a snack from one of the hot trucks on North or West Campus or in Collegetown.

Head to one of Ithaca’s many waterfalls. From state parks like Taughannock, Treman, and Buttermilk to local gems like Ithaca Falls, right downtown.

Check out the bugs and butterflies in Comstock Hall.

Grab a bite to eat in one of the Statler Hotel’s eateries. You will likely be served by a Hotelie, who may very well become one of the hotel industry’s next leaders.

Visit Uris Library, Cornell’s central undergraduate library, where students gather in “The Fishbowl” and are inspired by the beauty within the A. D. White Library.

Keep up with campus life by reading The Cornell Daily Sun online or in print.

Take a rest outside The Cornell Store on the Centennial Memorial bench, which commemorates the founding at Cornell of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the first intercollegiate fraternity of African American men.

Visit one of the campus war memorials that honor Cornell’s graduates, beginning with the World War I War Memorial in the cloister between Lyon and McFadden Halls.

See the Farrand Garden in full bloom behind the A. D. White House.

Attend a lecture by a world-renowned Cornell faculty member and gain a sense of why your student loves attending Cornell.

Handpick some apples or pick up some fresh cider from the Cornell Orchards.

The Lindseth Climbing Wall in Bartels Hall is the largest indoor natural rock-climbing wall in North America. Stop by and watch students practice safety maneuvers, climbing, and bouldering.

Hit some balls at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course.

Visit the Lab of Ornithology and hike the trails at Sapsucker Woods.

Attend a seasonal event on the Ithaca Commons downtown: the Apple Harvest Festival, Wizarding Weekend, Ice Festival, Chowder Cook-Off, Chili Cook-Off, and the Ithaca Festival.

Enjoy a cup of soup from the Temple of Zeus in Klarman Hall. You’ll feel immersed in the humanities while you dine among faculty and students as plaster casts of Venus, Nike, and other statues look down.

Visit the Ithaca Farmers Market at Steamboat Landing on Cayuga Lake.

Take a bike ride, walk a dog, or jog on the 5.5-mile Cayuga Waterfront Trail, which passes through two waterfront parks with playgrounds and playing fields.

Step back in time by dining in the Risley Dining Room, designed to look like the Christ Church Refectory at Oxford University.

Head to Collegetown for something to eat: sit on the patio at CTB, dive into the deep-dish pizza at the Nines, or explore other cuisines from around the world.

Visit the Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room to read the inspirational words of Willard Straight.

Attend Convocation and Commencement.