

2018 VERMONT LAKE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY ITINERARY

Our award-winning tour of the Lake Champlain Valley features Vermont's prized country roads and picture book landscapes. Ride through historic covered bridges and explore quaint villages in one of the most beautiful states in the US. Enjoy stays in charming country inns and a classic turn-of-the-century lakeside resort. Cruise across Lake Champlain to ride fabulous routes on the opposite shore. Sample delicious treats at a local chocolatier and visit a gorgeous horse farm. History buffs will enjoy important sites including those of famous maritime battles and the Underground Railroad. Spectacular Lake Champlain is nestled between Vermont's rolling Green Mountains and the high peaks of New York's Adirondacks. Gentle valley farmland offers miles of fabulous cycling, and mountain foothills are close enough to provide challenging options for those who want them. This is a true inn-to-inn tour—there are no vehicle transfers except for short trips to and from Burlington at the start and end of the tour. The most cosmopolitan city in Vermont, Burlington, is frequently listed as one of the top places to live in the US and is host to our pre- and post-tour lodging. Located just steps from Lake Champlain and Burlington's pedestrian marketplace, our adjacent sister properties are the perfect base from which to explore this easily walkable city. We'll pick you up there for the short trip to the start of the tour, at our office just south of town. Frommer's named this one of the top 10 bike tours in the world and we're pretty sure that you will agree!

Sunday – Day 1: Maple Farm Views – Meet your tour leaders at the Hotel Vermont for the short transfer to the Sojourn office. Ride south along a lightly traveled route through farmland to the charming town of Vergennes. Stop to view the waterfalls cascading into a basin that was the site of an important shipbuilding center during the French and Indian War. Chat with your fellow travelers during a picnic lunch on the town green. The afternoon ride features beautiful views extending over the valley to the Adirondack Mountains in New York. Ride through Vermont's only two-lane covered bridge – one of only six remaining in the entire US. In Middlebury, visit Danforth Pewter to watch family patriarch, Fred Danforth shape beautiful pewter crafts as his ancestors have done since 1755. Continue through town to the Waybury Inn, a truly classic Vermont country inn, surrounded by huge maple trees. Relax on the patio, in the gardens, or wander over to the Middlebury River. The Waybury Inn holds the distinction of being featured for years in the opening scene of the 1980s TV sitcom *Newhart*. Enjoy dinner this evening in the inn's dining room then visit their pub for a nightcap.

Lodging: The Waybury Inn East Middlebury, VT

802-388-4015

www.wayburyinn.com

Cycling Options: 16 and 36 miles

Monday – Day 2: Lake Dunmore and the Falls of Lana – This morning's ride leads through rural valley farmland and one of Vermont's longest covered bridges. Continue along lightly traveled roads offering

stunning views of the Green Mountains as you make your way to Brandon. History buffs will enjoy a visit to the Brandon Museum located in the house where Stephen A. Douglas was born. Here, you can learn more about this 19th century statesman and how the Civil War affected this small Vermont town. You might also enjoy a visit to the artist's cooperative which features a variety of local works. Your tour leaders will host a delicious picnic lunch on the shores of Lake Dunmore situated at the edge of the Green Mountains. The "Greens" as they are known locally, are part of the northern section of the Appalachian Mountains and the icons after which Vermont – the Green Mountain state – is named. Enjoy the short walk to the Falls of Lana or continue on the climb to Silver Lake for expansive views over Lake Dunmore. Those up for a challenge can tackle the climb up Middlebury Gap before returning to the Waybury where you can enjoy a refreshing microbrew in the inn's pub. Join your fellow travelers by the fire on the patio before dinner this evening in the inn's dining room.

Lodging: The Waybury Inn East Middlebury, VT 802-388-4015 www.wayburyinn.com

Cycling Options: 23, 36, and 53 miles

Hiking Option: 1 to 3 miles round-trip

Tuesday – Day 3: A Classic Town Green and Mountain Village – Following a delightful Vermont country breakfast, wind your way north through open farmland to Bristol and its classic town green. Bristol retains its small town charm and features a variety of unique shops, including that of a family run beeswax candle maker. Follow the New Haven River toward its headwaters near the tiny hamlet of Lincoln, a picturesque village nestled along the river below imposing Mount Abraham. The route provides numerous photo opportunities of river, its waterfalls, and boulder-strewn riverbed. For strong cyclists, an option to climb Lincoln Gap will burn the quads of the best of them. Following lunch on your own in Bristol, follow the river downstream as it meanders west toward Middlebury. Stop to visit Otter Creek Brewery, Woodchuck Cider, or Vermont's all-natural soap company, Vermont Soapworks. The downtown area is lined with interesting shops as well as a variety of restaurants. This evening, your accommodations are at the lovely Swift House Inn, a former governor's mansion just steps from the heart of downtown. Dinner is on your own in this classic New England college town.

Lodging: The Swift House Inn Middlebury, VT 866-388-9925 www.swifthouseinn.com

Cycling Options: 15, 29, and 43 miles

Wednesday – Day 4: Justin Morgan Had a Horse – Begin the day with a ride to the University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm. This architecturally stunning property was built in the late 1800s by Colonel Joseph Battell who began breeding Morgans on the farm in an effort to preserve the pedigree of America's first, and many argue finest, breed of horse. Meet some of the breed's exemplary lineage during a private guided tour of the property. Cross a bridge over a lovely section Vermont's longest river—the Otter Creek—and continue past orchards and farms. Stop into the kitchen shop of a fabulous local chocolatier and sample delicious gourmet chocolate. Visit the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum or opt for an extended ride through rolling countryside. Your afternoon destination is the Basin Harbor Club, a classic turn-of-the-century resort that has hosted generations of vacationers in its peaceful lakeside setting. The Harbor, as it is known locally, offers swimming (lake and pool), non-motorized watercraft, tennis, golf, formal dining room, and pub-style restaurant. Evenings on the lakeshore are blissfully quiet and the sunsets absolutely stunning.

Lodging: The Basin Harbor Club Vergennes, VT 802-475-2311 www.basinhabor.com

Cycling Options: 19, 35, and 47 miles

Thursday – Day 5: Historic Sites of the Lake Champlain Basin – Today's ride features lightly traveled roads winding through farms, apple orchards and open fields that offer expansive views. Vistas along much of the gently rolling route extend east to the Green Mountains and west across Lake Champlain to the Adirondack Mountains. Cross the beautiful new bridge spanning Lake Champlain to visit to the Crown Point Historic Site in New York. During the early 19th century, the strategic peninsula overlooking the narrowest section of Lake Champlain was occupied first by the French, then by Vermont's Green Mountain Boys, and ultimately by the British in the ongoing battle for control of north-south travel on the lake. In addition to the stone barracks and earthen embankments of the former fort, there is an unusual stone lighthouse nearby that was constructed in 1912 to honor French explorer Samuel de Champlain, the first European to discover the lake. Later in the day, enjoy a visit to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, take a boat out on the lake, play a game of tennis or round of golf, or simply relax at the resort. This charming lakeside oasis is just perfect for unwinding in comfortable Adirondack chairs on the lawn overlooking Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains to the west. Join your fellow travelers for a final dinner together this evening in the inn's dining room.

Lodging: The Basin Harbor Club Vergennes, VT 802-475-2311 www.basinharbor.com

Cycling Options: 18, 33, and 46 miles

Friday – Day 6: Cruise Across Lake Champlain and Visit Historic Essex – Begin the day with a private cruise across Lake Champlain to the New York side of the lake. Today's routes wind through sections of New York's Adirondack Park and surrounding pastoral farmland. The route culminates in a spectacular setting high above Lake Champlain where sweeping views extend to the ridgeline of the Green Mountains in Vermont. Descend into the charming town of Essex; the entire town of which is listed on the National Historic Register as the most intact ensemble of pre-Civil War architecture in the country. Enjoy walking the towns charming lanes or visiting antique shops in the village. Board a ferry to return back across Lake Champlain for a scenic ride along the lakeshore and through yet another historic covered bridge. Enjoy a delicious picnic lunch in a beautiful lakeside setting (summer) or at a festive cider mill (fall). Visit Fiddlehead Brewing, Shelburne Winery, the eclectic Shelburne Country Store, or stop for an espresso at the coffee shop in town. Sojourn will transport you to the airport in Burlington or to Hotel Vermont/Courtyard Burlington Harbor at the conclusion of your trip.

Cycling Options: 15, 24, and 33 miles

Note: This tour runs in the reverse direction over the September 23, September 30, and October 7 tour dates.

TRAVEL & TOUR QUICK FACTS

Tour Start	9:30am – Meet at Hotel Vermont for transfer to tour start at Sojourn. Those driving to tour should meet at Sojourn at 10:00am.
Tour Conclusion	4:00pm – Group return arrival at Burlington airport or Hotel Vermont. Departure flights should not be scheduled prior to 5:30pm.
Travel To/From Tour	Fly into Burlington International Airport (BTV). Parking available at BTV (fee), Hotel Vermont (fee), or the Sojourn office.
Pre/Post Tour Lodging Option	Book through Sojourn for Hotel Vermont or Courtyard Burlington Harbor . <i>Limited rooms available – please reserve as soon as possible.</i>
Days/Nights	6 days/5 nights
Included Meals	All meals included except for three lunches and one dinner.
Rating	Intermediate. 25 – 45 miles/day over mostly gentle or rolling terrain. Longer and more challenging options are available on most days.
Activities	Cycling, hiking, options for boating, swimming, tennis, golf.

STANDARD INCLUDED ASPECTS

Equipment	Computer-equipped road or hybrid bike, helmet, rear light, seat bag for road bike or rack bag for hybrid, map case, water bottle, t-shirt. Bring clipless pedals, seat, or helmet for a more personalized fit.
Van Support	Rides supported by a Sojourn van as well as a tour leader on a bicycle.
Tour Leaders	Two experienced tour leaders guide each trip from start to finish.
Ride Nourishment	A selection of snacks and refreshments are supplied throughout all rides.
Ride Information	Detailed route directions, maps, and a daily briefing are provided.
Office Support	At your service 9:00am – 6:00pm EST, Monday – Friday. 800-730-4771
Detailed Information	A full complement of detailed trip and travel information will be provided upon confirmation of reservation.

DATES & PRICING

Vermont Lake Champlain Valley 2018 Tour Dates	Per Person DBL Occupancy	Single Room Supplement	Pre & Post Tour Lodging Option Price Per Room SGL/DBL Occupancy
June 24 – 29	\$2,195.00	\$495.00	\$275 SGL / \$300 DBL room
July 22 – 27	\$2,195.00	\$495.00	\$275 SGL / \$300 DBL room
July 29 – August 3	\$2,195.00	\$495.00	\$275 SGL / \$300 DBL room
August 12 – 17	\$2,195.00	\$495.00	\$275 SGL / \$300 DBL room
September 16 – 21	\$2,345.00	\$595.00	\$275 SGL / \$300 DBL room
September 23 – 28	\$2,345.00	\$595.00	\$275 SGL / \$300 DBL room
September 30 – October 5	\$2,345.00	\$595.00	\$300 SGL / \$325 DBL room
October 7 – 12	\$2,345.00	\$595.00	\$300 SGL / \$325 DBL room

WEATHER

Burlington	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	28°	31°	42°	55°	68°	77°	82°	78°	71°	60°	45°	32°
Avg. Low	8°	10°	21°	34°	44°	54°	58°	56°	48°	42°	28°	15°
Avg. Precip.	4.0 in	4.5 in	4.3 in	2.6 in	3.2 in	3.1 in	3.2 in	3.2 in	3.3 in	2.9 in	3.3 in	3.7 in