

## 2017 VERMONT LAKE CHAMPLAIN SELF-GUIDED 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 the mountains are close enough to provide challenging options for stronger cyclists.*

**Day One: Maple Farm Views** – Arrive at *Sojourn* mid-morning, park your car and drop your luggage, and climb on your bikes! Stop to view the waterfalls in the small village of Vergennes before continuing through rolling farmland offering beautiful views extending to the Adirondack Mountains in New York. Pass through Vermont's only, and one only six remaining, two-lane covered bridges in the entire US as you enter the town of Middlebury. Should you begin cycling earlier in the day, you will have the opportunity to visit the *UVM Morgan Horse Farm* en route to the *Waybury Inn*. You might also stop to visit *Danforth Pewter* and watch Fred Danforth creating beautiful pewter crafts as his family has done since 1755. Continue through town to the *Waybury Inn*, a truly classic Vermont country inn, located in a lovely setting surrounded by huge maple trees that exude vibrant color each fall. Relax on the patio, among the gardens, or take a dip in the clear waters of the Middlebury River. The *Waybury* holds the distinction of being featured for years in the opening scene of the *Bob Newhart Show*. Dinner options this evening are the Inn's dining room or pub.

**Lodging:** *The Waybury Inn* East Middlebury, VT

802-388-4015

[www.wayburyinn.com](http://www.wayburyinn.com)

**Mileage:** 32 miles

**Day Two: Lake Dunmore & the Falls of Lana** – This morning's ride leads through rural valley farmland to Station Covered Bridge, built in 1865 to provide a vital east-west link to the railroad shipping station in Salisbury. Continue on lightly traveled roads offering stunning views of the Green Mountains to the town of Brandon. History buffs will enjoy a visit to the *Brandon Museum* located in the house where Stephen A. Douglas was born. Learn more about this 19<sup>th</sup> century statesman and how the Civil War affected the town. Stop for a bite to eat in town before returning along Lake Dunmore to the *Waybury Inn*. The "Greens" as they are known locally, are part of the northern section of the Appalachian Mountains and the icons that Vermont – the Green Mountain state – are named after. A short walk near *Branbury State Park* leads to the Falls of Lana. If you are up for a challenge, tackle the epic ride up Middlebury Gap or

plan the bulk of your ride today doing a double gap ride through Middlebury and then Brandon Gaps. Dinner options this evening are the Inn's pub or dining room.

**Lodging:** *The Waybury Inn East Middlebury, VT 802-388-4015 [www.wayburyinn.com](http://www.wayburyinn.com)*

**Cycling Options:** *36 and 54 miles (or more with double-gap ride option)*

**Day Three: Bristol, Lincoln & Middlebury** – Spin 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. Browse the shops in town or follow the New Haven River toward its headwaters the tiny hamlet of Lincoln. Nestled along the river beneath the towering peaks of the Green Mountains, Lincoln's only commercial establishment is their timeless general store. The route provides numerous photo opportunities of the tree-lined river, its waterfalls, and boulder strewn riverbed. A dip in one of several swimming holes is a great way to cool off on a warm summer day. For super strong cyclists, an option up Lincoln Gap will burn the quads and lungs of the best of them. Following lunch on your own in town, follow the New Haven River as it meanders west toward Middlebury. Stop to visit Otter Creek Brewery or Vermont's natural soap producer, Vermont Soapworks. The downtown area is full of interesting shops as well as a variety of eating establishments and is only steps from your lodging at the historic Swift House Inn. The lovely Inn, a former governor's mansion, is just two blocks from the heart of downtown. For dinner, choose from a variety of restaurants in this classic New England college town.

**Lodging:** *The Swift House Inn Middlebury, VT 866-388-9925 [www.swifthouseinn.com](http://www.swifthouseinn.com)*

**Cycling Options:** *29 and 43 miles*

**Day Four: Justin Morgan Had a Horse** – Begin the day with a ride through the Pulp Mill Covered Bridge to the *Vermont Morgan Horse Farm*. This architecturally stunning property was created in the late 1800's by Colonel Joseph Battell who began breeding Morgans on this very farm in an effort to preserve the pedigree of America's first, and many argue finest, breed of horse. Learn more and meet some of the breed's finest lineage during a private guided tour of the property. Cross a lovely section of the Otter Creek – Vermont's longest river – and continue past orchards and beautiful farms before arriving in the village of Vergennes. Visit the kitchen shop of a fabulous local chocolatier and sample their creative and delicious gourmet chocolates. Have lunch in town before continuing west along Otter Creek to the shore of Lake Champlain and the Basin Harbor Club where you can visit the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Stronger cyclists can opt for an additional route through the countryside before continuing to Basin Harbor. The Basin Harbor Club is a classic summer resort and has hosted generations of vacationers in its peaceful lakeside setting. The Harbor, as it is known locally, features swimming (lake and pool), non-motorized watercraft, tennis, golf, formal dining room (sport jacket required), and pub-style restaurant. This evening, you will dine in the main dining room or the Red Mill restaurant. Evenings on the lakeshore are blissfully peaceful and is also a perfect setting for star-gazers.

**Lodging:** *The Basin Harbor Club Vergennes, VT 802-475-2311 [www.basinhabor.com](http://www.basinhabor.com)*

**Cycling Options:** *19, 35, and 47 Miles*

**Day Five: Farms & Fields of the Lake Champlain Basin** – Choose from several cycling options, a visit to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, or simply relax at the resort. This relaxing lakeside oasis is just perfect for unwinding in comfortable Adirondack chairs on the lawn overlooking Lake Champlain and Adirondack Mountains to the west. Those who choose to cycle will pedal lightly traveled roads winding through farms, apple orchards and open fields. Cross the bridge over the lake to New York for a visit to the Crown Point Historic Site where you can learn more about this 18<sup>th</sup> century fortress of French, and

then British, power on Lake Champlain. There is also an impressive and unusual stone lighthouse that was constructed to honor French explorer, Samuel de Champlain in 1912. Views along much of the gently rolling and lightly traveled route extend east to the Green Mountains and west across Lake Champlain to the Adirondack Mountains of New York. This evening enjoy a lobster bake on the North Dock (summer) or dinner in the dining room overlooking Lake Champlain.

**Lodging:** *The Basin Harbor Club Vergennes, VT 802-475-2311* [www.basinharbor.com](http://www.basinharbor.com)

**Cycling Options:** 18, 33, and 46 miles

**Day Six: Cruise on Lake Champlain & Visit Historic Essex** – The Lake Champlain Ferry, operating since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, carries you back and forth across the Lake today. Wind your way back to Charlotte then take the beautiful ferry trip across Lake Champlain to ride the scenic roads on the New York side of the Lake. Lightly traveled routes wind through rural sections of New York’s Adirondack Park Preserve and rolling country roads lead to picturesque farmland in a spectacular setting high above Lake Champlain. Views over the Lake extend to the peaks of the Green Mountains to the east 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. Take time to enjoy the self-guided walking tour through this lovely and well-preserved lakeside village. Additional mileage options are available or you might choose to wrap-up your day earlier in order to enjoy a late afternoon and evening in downtown Burlington.

**Cycling Options:** 19 and 37 miles

## TRAVEL & TOUR QUICK FACTS

<b>Tour Start</b>	The tour begins from the Sojourn Office in Charlotte. We recommend starting by noon on Day One.
<b>Tour Conclusion</b>	At your leisure following a 19 or 37-mile ride back to the Sojourn Office.
<b>Travel To/From Tour</b>	The airport in Burlington (BTV) is less than 15 miles from the start and end of the tour. Parking is available at Sojourn for the duration of your trip.
<b>Pre/Post Tour Lodging Option</b>	Burlington area lodging recommendations available upon booking.
<b>Days/Nights</b>	6 days/5 nights
<b>Included Meals</b>	Breakfast each morning and both dinners at Basin Harbor Club.
<b>Rating</b>	Intermediate. 18-47 miles/day over mostly gentle or rolling terrain. Longer and more challenging options are available on most days.
<b>Activities</b>	Cycling, hiking, options for golf, tennis, watersports, and spa facilities.

## STANDARD INCLUDED ASPECTS

<b>Equipment</b>	Road or hybrid bike, helmet, tool bag (spare tube, tire irons, pump), water bottle. Bring clipless pedals, seat, or helmet for custom fit.
<b>Luggage Transfers</b>	Luggage transfers from Sojourn between all inns, and returning to Sojourn.
<b>Ride Information</b>	Detailed route directions and maps are provided.
<b>Office Support</b>	At your service 9AM – 6PM EST, Monday – Friday. 800-730-4771.
<b>Detailed Information</b>	A full complement of detailed trip and travel information will be provided upon confirmation of reservation.

## DATES & PRICING

Vermont Lake Champlain Valley 2017 Self-Guided Details	Per Person DBL Occupancy	Single Room Supplement
May - August	\$1695	\$495.00
September & October	\$1795	\$595.00

\*Pricing is based upon availability of Sojourn’s contracted room types and a Sunday start. Alternative room types and Friday or Saturday night stays may result in pricing increase.

## 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