



# Vermont

802 / POP 620,000

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Blue Bird Tavern (p370)
- » Main Street Bar & Grill (p383)
- » Mint (p362)
- » White Cottage Snack Bar (p356)
- » Pangea (p346)

## Best Places to Stay

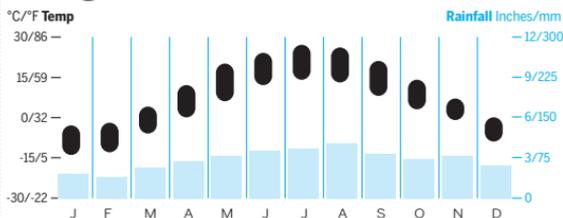
- » Equinox (p349)
- » Old Red Mill Inn & Restaurant (p341)
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## Why Go?

With miles and miles of serene farmland yielding maple syrups, cheeses and fresh produce, Vermont is a gourmet meal of enchanting thrills. Microbrews dominate and localvore restaurants outnumber those that serve air-freighted produce. The celebrated slopes of Killington, Mt Snow and Stowe entice with the finest skiing and snowboarding on the East Coast. In summer a capillary network of hiking trails beckons and in autumn a blaze of spectacular foliage erupts along scenic roads and banks of squiggling rivers. Surprises lurk – wineries are sprouting up across the state, a puppet museum inhabits a massive barn, and llamas graze in the backyard of rural B&Bs. Burlington spews hip but relaxed urban diversions and rocking nightlife. It's all governed by a laid-back culture, endlessly lovable for its eccentricities. That's Vermont's allure – it slows you down while you inhale its crisp, organic air, preferably with a bottle of local beer in hand.

## When to Go

### Burlington



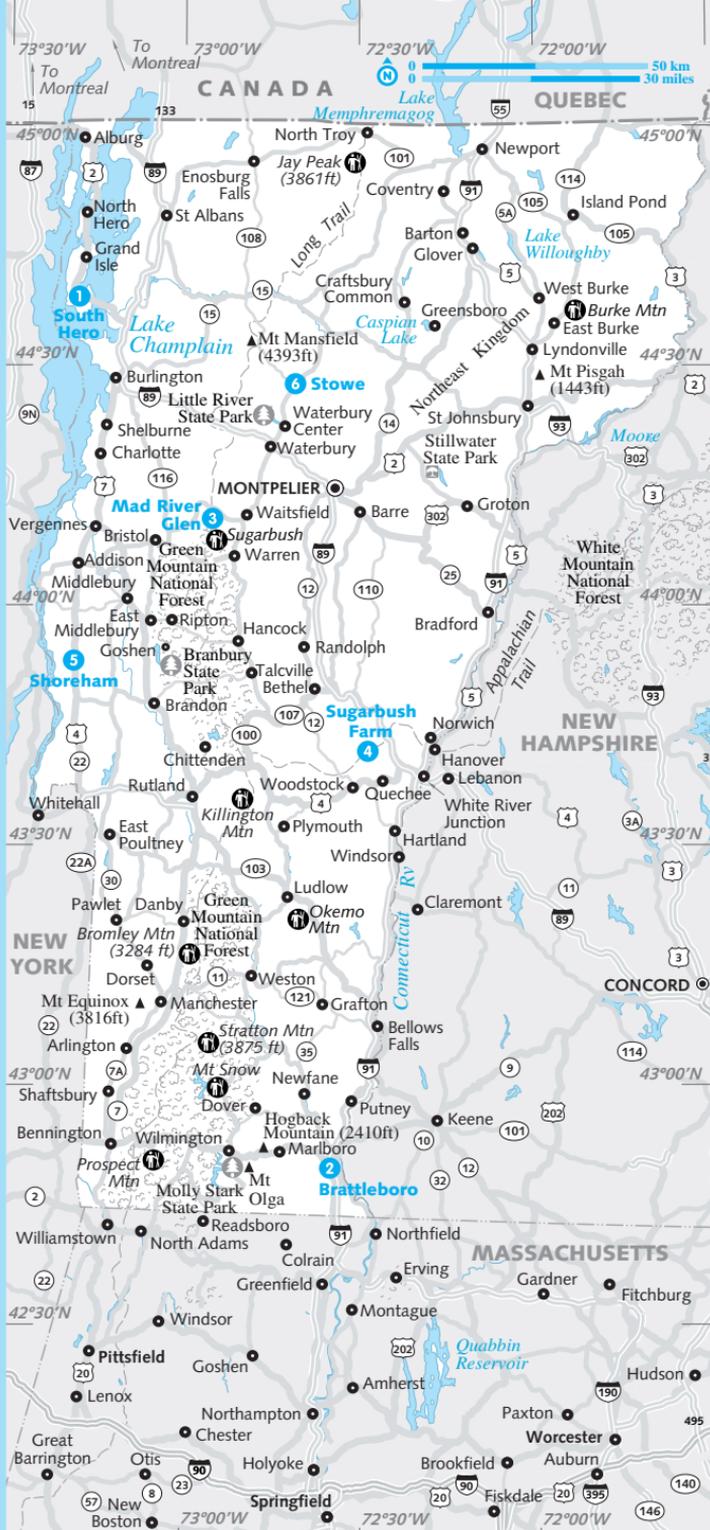
**Winter** Pummel down snow-covered pistes at New England's paramount ski resorts.

**Summer** Catch a performance at the Discover Jazz Festival or the Vermont Mozart Festival.

**Fall** Gaze at the swath of rust, yellow and amber colors during leaf-peeping season.

# Vermont Highlights

- 1 Sip ice wine at **Snowfarm Winery**, Vermont's oldest winery (p367)
- 2 Take a hay- or sleigh ride and watch how maple syrup is made at **Robb Family Farm** (p336)
- 3 Ride on the nation's sole surviving single chairlift, an antique relic from skiing in a bygone era, at **Mad River Glen** (p361)
- 4 Watch how hickory and smoked cheddar are made, and sample your way through to your favorite at **Sugarbush Farm** (p353)
- 5 Pick your own apples and more at **Atwood Orchards** (p358)
- 6 Drive through one of Windham County's 30-plus **covered bridges** (p382)
- 7 Hop on an inner tube from **Lazy River Tours**, drift downstream and spend an hour doing absolutely nothing but floating and laughing (p377)



### **i** Information

**Vermont Chamber of Commerce** ([www.vtchamber.com](http://www.vtchamber.com)) Additional information on hotels, restaurants and other tourist services.

**Vermont Division of Tourism and Marketing** ([www.vermontvacation.com](http://www.vermontvacation.com); 1 National Life Dr, Montpelier) Produces a free, detailed road and attractions map and camping guide. Also maintains a fabulous Welcome Center on I-91 near the Massachusetts (MA) state line, another on VT 4A near the New York state line and another on I-89 near the Canadian border.

**Vermont Ski Areas Association** ([www.skivermont.com](http://www.skivermont.com)) Helpful information for planning ski trips. For daily ski condition reports (in winter only), call ☎802-229-0531.

**Vermont State Parks** ([www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com)) Complete camping and parks information.

### **i** Getting There & Around

**AIR** Vermont's major airport is in **Burlington** ([www.burlingtonintlairport.com](http://www.burlingtonintlairport.com)), but there is also a small commercial airport in **Rutland** ([www.flyrutlandvt.com](http://www.flyrutlandvt.com)). Burlington is served by Continental, Delta, JetBlue, Northwest, United and US Airways.

**BOAT Lake Champlain Transportation Company** ([www.ferries.com](http://www.ferries.com)) Runs ferries between Plattsburgh, New York and Grand Isle; between Port Kent, New York and Burlington; and between Essex, New York and Charlotte.

**Fort Ti Ferry** ([www.forttiferry.com](http://www.forttiferry.com)) Runs from Larrabees Point in Shoreham to Ticonderoga Landing, New York, from May through October.

**BUS Greyhound** ([www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)) Connects major Vermont towns, making forays to Manchester and Keene, New Hampshire; Boston; and Albany. Also operates between Burlington and Montreal.

**CAR** Vermont is not particularly large, but it is mountainous. Although I-89 and I-91 provide speedy access to certain areas, the rest of the time you must plan to take it slow and enjoy the winding roads and mountain scenery. Having said that, I-91 north of St Johnsbury offers expansive vistas, as does I-89 from White River Junction to Burlington.

**TRAIN Amtrak** ([www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)) Relaxing, albeit inconvenient. The *Ethan Allen* departs New York City and stops in Fair Haven and Rutland. The *Vermont* heads from New York City to Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Windsor, White River Junction, Randolph, Montpelier, Waterbury, Burlington-Essex Junction and St Albans. If you're a cyclist, you can buy one ticket on the *Vermont* and get on and off as many times as you like, as long as you reserve a space for yourself and your bicycle ahead of time.

## SOUTHERN VERMONT

White churches and inns surround village greens throughout historic southern Vermont, a region that's home to several towns that predate the American Revolution. In summer the roads between the three 'cities' of Brattleboro, Bennington and Manchester roll over green hills; in winter, they wind their way toward the ski slopes of Mt Snow, southern Vermont's cold-weather playground. For those on foot, the Appalachian Trail passes through the Green Mountain National Forest here, offering a colorful hiking experience during the fall foliage season.

### VERMONT'S MICROBREWRIES

The same easy access to fresh ingredients and commitment to local craftsmanship that enhances the state's restaurants also fuel its microbreweries – as does a simple, honest love of beer. Boasting more craft breweries per capita than any other state (roughly one beermaker for every 28,000 people), Vermont pours an acclaimed and diverse array of beers.

Several microbreweries offer free tours (and samples):

- » **Magic Hat Brewery** (p366)
- » **Otter Creek Brewing** (p359)
- » **Harpoon Brewery** (☎802-674-5491; [www.harpoonbrewery.com](http://www.harpoonbrewery.com); Windsor)

Others operate pubs that are well worth the visit:

- » **Long Trail Brewing Company** (p355)
- » **Vermont Pub & Brewery** (p373)
- » **Maple Leaf Malt & Brewing** (☎802-464-9900; Wilmington)
- » **McNeill's Brewery** (p339)

## Brattleboro

POP 11,500

Perched at the confluence of the Connecticut and West Rivers, Brattleboro is a little gem that reveals its facets to those who stroll the streets and prowl the dozens of independent shops and eateries. An energetic mix of aging hippies and the latest crop of pierced and tattooed hipsters fuels the town's sophisticated eclecticism, keeping the downtown scene percolating and skewing its politics decidedly leftward.

Whetstone Brook runs through the south end of town, where a wooden stockade dubbed Fort Dummer was built to defend Vermont's first colonial settlement (1724) against Native Americans. The town received its royal charter a year later, named for Colonel William Brattle Jr of the King's Militia, who never set foot in his namesake.

At the Old Town Hall (location of the current Main Street Gallery), many celebrated thinkers and entertainers, including Oliver Wendell Holmes, Horace Greeley and Will Rogers, held forth on the concerns of the day. Rudyard Kipling married a Brattleboro woman in 1892, and while living here he wrote *The Jungle Book*.

### Sights & Activities

While most of the action is easily found in the downtown commercial district, the surrounding hillsides are well salted with farms, cheesemakers and artisans, all awaiting discovery on a pleasant back-road ramble.

#### Robb Family Farm

FARM

(☎888-318-9087; www.robbfamilyfarm.com; 827 Ames Hill Rd; ☉10am-5pm Mon, Tue, Thu-Sat & 1-5pm Sun in season) The 400-acre Robb Fam-

ily Farm has been run by the same family for about a century. Maple-sugaring demonstrations take place from late February to early April. There are fun hay- or sleigh rides (\$7/5 per adult/child, reservations essential), which usually end with a hot chocolate and doughnuts. The farm is located west of I-91 on VT 9; take a left on Greenleaf St (which becomes Ames Hill Rd), head 3 miles and look to the right.

#### Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

MUSEUM

(www.brattleboromuseum.org; 10 Vernon St; adult/under 6yr \$6/free; ☉11am-5pm Thu-Mon) Located in a 1915 railway station, this museum hosts a wealth of inventive exhibits by local artists in a variety of media. It also boasts a rotating multimedia exhibition program of contemporary art.

#### Brattleboro Farmers Market

MARKET

(www.brattleborofarmersmarket.com; ☉10am-2pm Wed early Jun-mid-Oct, 9am-2pm Sat early May-mid-Oct) Offering an excellent crash course in Vermont food, the market boasts as many as 70 local vendors selling cheese, free-range beef and lamb, honey, pastries, maple syrup and fruit. Live music and a lively crafts scene round out the experience. The Saturday market is located just west of town by the Creamery Bridge, while the Wednesday market is held in the Merchants Bank Building parking lot off Main St.

#### Gallery Walk

WALKING TOUR

(www.gallerywalk.org; ☉5:30-8pm) On the first Friday of each month, join like-minded folk on the immensely popular Gallery Walk. Since the early 1990s, galleries and businesses have opened their walls to artists from an ever-increasing geographic reach and renown. A free monthly publication, available throughout town and on the website, maps the locations for this self-guided tour.

#### Vermont Artisan Designs

GALLERY

(www.vtartisans.com; 106 Main St; ☉seasonal) This contemporary crafts gallery sells outstanding creations by Vermont artists. Don't miss it.

#### Brattleboro Bicycle Shop

BIKE SHOP

(☎802-254-8644, 800-272-8245; www.brattbike.com; 165 Main St; bike hire per day \$25; ☉10am-5:30pm Mon-Sat) Rents hybrid bicycles and dispenses plenty of advice about where to use them. It doesn't have racks or kids' bikes, though.

### COVERED BRIDGES

Covered bridges straddle Vermont's rivers across the state, but Windham County alone contains over 30 well-maintained covered bridges. For a full listing, visit the **Brattleboro Chamber of Commerce** (p339), which distributes a large amount of information and can give you advice on which ones to visit based on your itinerary. Alternatively, for an overview of bridges beyond Windham County, visit [www.coveredbridgesite.com/vt/vt\\_home.html](http://www.coveredbridgesite.com/vt/vt_home.html).



## Vermont Canoe Touring

CANOEING

(☎802-257-5008; Veterans Memorial Bridge, 451 Putney Rd; canoe/kayak per day \$40/35; ☼late May–mid-Oct) Rents kayaks and canoes. While away an afternoon by bird-watching in the estuaries or visiting an unofficial nude sunbathing spot up the White River.

## Sleeping

### Forty Putney Road B&B

B&amp;B \$\$

(☎802-254-6268, 800-941-2413; www.fortyputneyroad.com; 192 Putney Rd; d incl breakfast \$170-230; @☎) This 1930 B&B with a small cheery pub is a sweet spot just north of town. It has a glorious backyard and a tiny pub, four rooms plus a cute, separate, self-contained cottage. Overlooking the West River estuary, it also offers boat and bike rentals that are just a five-minute walk away. Request a room at the back if you want peace and quiet.

### Artist's Loft B&B

B&amp;B \$\$

(☎802-257-5181; www.theartistsloft.com; 103 Main St; ste \$138, incl breakfast \$158-188; ☎) In the heart of downtown, this B&B has only one room, but what a room! Innkeepers (and artists) Patricia Long and William Hays rent a spacious 3rd-floor suite (the size of a large one-bedroom apartment)

## Brattleboro

### Top Sights

Brattleboro Farmers Market.....B3  
Brattleboro Museum & Art Center.....B3

### Sights

1 Vermont Artisan Designs.....B2

### Activities, Courses & Tours

2 Brattleboro Bicycle Shop.....B1

### Sleeping

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4 Latchis Hotel.....B3

### Eating

5 Amy's Bakery Arts Cafe.....B2  
6 Brattleboro Food Co-op.....B3  
7 Carol's Main Street Café.....B2  
8 India Palace.....A2  
9 Mocha Joe's.....B2  
10 TJ Buckley's.....A3

### Drinking

11 McNeill's Brewery.....A2  
12 Moles Eye Cafe.....B2

### Entertainment

Latchis Theater.....(see 4)  
13 Weather Vane Music Hall.....A2

that overlooks the Connecticut River and the seasonally changing canvas of Wantastiquet Mountain.

### Latchis Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(☎802-254-6300; www.latchis.com; 50 Main St; r \$90-170, ste \$170-200; ☎) You can't beat the location of these 30 reasonably priced rooms and suites, in the epicenter of downtown. The hotel's art deco overtones are refreshing, and wonderfully surprising for New England.

### Meadowlark Inn

INN \$\$\$

(☎802-257-4582, 800-616-6359; meadowlarkinvt.com; Orchard St; r incl breakfast \$220-245; ☎) You'll find exquisite peace here, where you can relax on the porch or escape to one of the eight thematically decorated rooms. The innkeepers are culinary-school graduates and serve breakfast and treats just like you wish your mamma used to.

### Fort Dummer State Park

CAMPING \$

(☎802-254-2610; www.vtstateparks.com; 517 Old Guilford Rd; campsites/lean-tos \$18/21; ☼Mar-Oct) This great 217-acre park has 51 sites (10 of them lean-to shelters), hot show-

ers and nature trails. From I-91 exit 1, go north a few hundred yards on US 5. Then go a half-mile east on Fairground Rd, then a mile south on Main St to Old Guilford Rd. There are no RV (recreational vehicle) hookups here.

**Hidden Acres Camp Resort** CAMPING \$  
(☎802-254-2098, 866-411-2267; www.hiddenacresvt.net; 792 US 5, Dummerston; campsites/RV sites \$28/40; ☺May–mid-Nov; ☹) This area has 40 open and wooded sites (12 just for tents), a large RV safari field, a game room, a rec hall and miniature golf. It's about 3 miles north of I-91 exit 3.

**Colonial Motel & Spa** MOTEL \$  
(☎802-254-5040, 800-239-0032; www.colonialmotelspa.com; 889 US 5; r \$85-140, ste \$140; @☎☹) Some of the units in this place north of the town center are suites and some also have a kitchen. As for the spa part of the name, it includes Jacuzzis, saunas and steam rooms, and a cramped space with a handful of exercise machines.



## Eating

**TJ Buckley's** AMERICAN \$\$\$  
(☎802-257-4922; 132 Elliot St; meals \$32-39; ☺dinner Thu-Sun) This upscale but classic and authentic 1927 diner seats just 18 souls, but those lucky 18 are in for an exceptional dinner. The menu of four mains changes nightly, and locals rave that the food here is Brattleboro's best. Reservations are strongly recommended; credit cards are not accepted.

**Amy's Bakery Arts Cafe** CAFE \$  
(113 Main St; dishes \$3-10; ☺8am-5pm Mon-Fri, from 10am Sat, from 9am Sun) Of the many bakeries in town that inspire poetic accolades, this one garners the most. Enjoy breakfast breads, pastries and coffee with views of the river and local art. Lunchtime offerings include salads, soups and sandwiches, and local, roasting art (all for sale) covers the walls.

**Marina Restaurant** AMERICAN \$\$  
(www.vermontmarina.com; 28 Springtree Rd) The spirited atmosphere and a sublime location on the banks of the West River make this local fixture (with a killer Sunday brunch) one of Brattleboro's favorite places to grab a bite. It shut down due to a fire in July 2010, but is scheduled to reopen again in spring 2011. Check the website for updates.

## DON'T MISS

### GRAFTON VILLAGE CHEESE COMPANY & RETREAT PETTING FARM

Just outside Brattleboro lies the cheesemaking facility of **Grafton Village Cheese Company** (www.graftonvillagecheese.com; 400 Linden St/VT30; ☺10am-6pm), where you can see the sublime cheddars being made, taste and discover your favorite, and pick up a chunk to take with you. The shop also sells wine and local beer. Next door is the Retreat Petting Farm, where you can say hello to farm animals (May through October only) and bask in the stunning setting. The farm also gives out information about local trails on its doorstep. Look for the large cluster of red barns (or listen for the goats).

**Mocha Joe's** CAFE \$  
(82 Main St; pastries \$2; ☺7am-9pm Mon-Thu, 7am-11pm Fri & Sat, 7:30am-8pm Sun; ☹) Before your eyes spy this ultrahip, subterranean space, your nose will locate the exceptionally rich brews and excellent pastries.

**India Palace** INDIAN \$\$  
(☎802-254-6143; 69 Elliot St; meals \$10-28; ☺lunch & dinner) This is *the* place for northern Indian cuisine, especially tandoori; lunchtime curries are a bargain, best sampled with a mango *lassi*.

**Brattleboro Food Co-op** GROCER, DELI \$  
(2 Main St; ☺8am-9pm Mon-Sat, from 9am Sun) This is the perfect place to load up your picnic basket with ready-made eats and treats. It also offers whole-food groceries, a juice bar, organic produce, and an incredible cheese department stocked with local varieties.

**Carol's Main Street Café** GROCER, DELI \$  
(73 Main St; ☺7am-5pm Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm Sat) Another great place for picnic fixings – those in the know come for turkey specials on Monday and Friday, tacos on Wednesday and hamburgers on Thursday. Or you can explore delectables from an amazing variety of gourmet hot and salad dishes sold by the pound.



## Drinking & Entertainment

### McNeill's Brewery

BREW PUB

(☎802-254-2553; 90 Elliot St; ☎5pm-2am Mon-Thu, 2pm-2am Fri-Sun) This classic pub is inhabited by a lively, friendly local crowd. The place flows with award-winning suds by its namesake microbrew, McNeills, including its flagship Firehouse Amber and award-winning Pullman Porter. But with 10 varieties plus a few seasonal options, there's a beer for every taste here.

### Moles Eye Cafe

BAR

(cnr Main & High Sts; ☎4pm-midnight Mon-Thu, 11:30am-1am Fri & Sat) This popular, suburban hangout in an oak-paneled cafe has live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights (cover charge \$5 to \$8) and good meals at moderate prices (dishes from \$7 to \$11) served until 9pm. Thursday's open mike is usually a blast.

### Latchis Theater

CINEMA, PERFORMANCE

(☎802-254-6300; www.latchis.com; 50 Main St) The nicely restored, art deco Latchis Building houses this theater where you can see mainstream and indies on three screens nightly, catch live music performances (such as a string quartet) or catch the NY Metropolitan Opera broadcast live on the screens.

### WeatherVane Music Hall

LIVE MUSIC, BAR

(www.myspace.com/weathervanemusichall; 19 Elliot St; ☎8am-2am; @) This great hangout is where you'll find the kind of cool, witty guy behind the counter that you always see in movies. Slide into one of the giant booths and enjoy the full bar and live music, which is usually bluesy/folky, but can also be wild and ear-splitting on select nights.



## Information

**Post office** (☎802-254-4110; 205 Main St; ☎8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat)

**Brattleboro Chamber of Commerce** (www.brattleborochamber.org; 180 Main St; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat)

**Brattleboro Chamber of Commerce Information Booth** (☎9am-5pm Thu-Mon mid-May-late Oct) On the town green just north of downtown.



## Getting There & Away

**Greyhound** (www.greyhound.com) runs a bus service between Brattleboro and Boston (\$41, four hours).

By car, it takes 1¼ hours (40 miles) to traverse scenic VT 9 from Brattleboro to Bennington.

From Northampton, Massachusetts, it takes less than an hour (40 miles) straight up I-91 to reach Brattleboro.

**Brattleboro Taxi** (☎802-254-6446) While Brattleboro is very easy to get around on foot, you can call a taxi for transportation beyond its limits.

**Amtrak** (www.amtrak.com) The *Vermont* train stops in Brattleboro. The trip from New York City to Brattleboro costs \$53 to \$60 one-way and takes five to six hours.

## Around Brattleboro

### NEWFANE

POP 100

Vermont is rife with pretty villages, but Newfane is near the top of everyone's list. All the postcard-perfect sights you'd expect in a Vermont town are here: tall old trees, white high-steeped churches, excellent inns and gracious old houses. In spring Newfane is busy making maple sugar; in summer, the town buzzes around its flea market; fall lures leaf peepers; and winter brings couples seeking cozy rooms in warm hideaways.

Newfane is on VT 30, just 12 miles northwest of Brattleboro, and 19 miles northeast of Wilmington. A short stroll exposes Newfane's core: you'll see the stately **Congregational church** (1839), the **Windham County Courthouse** (1825), built in Greek Revival style, and a few antique shops.

Visitors with panache stop in Newfane just long enough for a meal or a night at **Four Columns Inn** (☎802-365-7713, 800-787-6633; www.fourcolumnsinn.com; 21 West St; r incl breakfast \$200-350, ste \$350-400; ☎), an

## VERMONT FRESH NETWORK

Locavore food dominates in Vermont, and the state has its own label: the farm and chef partnership **Vermont Fresh Network** identifies restaurants that focus on sustainable, locally sourced food. Just look for the green-and-white square sticker with a plate and silverware drawn in it – you'll see them everywhere, and it is an easy way of knowing that the venue probably got its eggs from a neighboring farm. For a full listing of restaurants with this label, visit [www.vermontfresh.net](http://www.vermontfresh.net).

## DUTTON BERRY FARM STANDS

You're likely to pass a **Dutton Berry Farm Stand** Newfane (☎802-365-4168; VT 30; ☉10am-7pm year-round), Manchester (VT 11 & 30; ☉10am-7pm year-round), West Brattleboro (VT 9; ☉10am-7pm May-Dec) at some point in your travels – and that's a good thing. With three locations scattered across southern Vermont, the stands sell fresh produce, artisanal bread, honeys and cheese, and a smattering of New England gifts and trinkets from local producers, plus their own maple syrups, homemade biscuits, cider, berries and fudge – they're a one-stop shop for everything local. Each location manufactures its own specialty – for example, cider in Newfane, fudge and maple syrup in Manchester. At the Newfane location, you can also **pick your own strawberries or raspberries** between late June and August – inquire for details and what's available. They close earlier in winter months.

1830s Greek Revival inn on the common; it offers both rooms and an excellent dining room serving outstanding New American cuisine. Accommodations (with many containing gas fireplaces and/or Jacuzzis) range from elegant, 'simple' country rooms to larger suites. The sylvan property surrounding the inn is excellent for hiking or snowshoeing.

Just outside of town, **West River Lodge** (☎802-365-7745; www.westriverlodge.com; 117 Hill Rd; r incl breakfast \$90-140) features English riding workshops (it has its own stables) and eight farmhouse accommodations to fit your family's needs. Less expensive rooms share bathrooms.

**Townshend State Park** (☎802-365-7500; www.vtstateparks.com; VT 30; campsites \$18; ☉mid-May–mid-Oct), tucked deep into the forest about 3 miles north of Newfane, is one of the state's better places to camp, with 34 tent sites. Hiking trails include the sometimes steep, challenging path to the summit of Bald Mountain (1680ft), a rocky climb that rises 1100ft in less than a mile. Other trails within Townshend State Park are easier. There's swimming and boating at the nearby Army Corps of Engineers' Recreation Area at Townshend Dam. The West River is good for canoe trips.

### MARLBORO

POP 975

This village 8 miles west of Brattleboro is pretty but unremarkable: a white church, a white inn, a white village office building and a few white houses. It's a short distance off the so-called Molly Stark Trail (VT 9), a road named for the wife of General Stark, the hero of the American Revolution's Battle of Bennington. Head west from

Marlboro on VT 9 until you get to Augur Hill Rd, where a nice detour awaits. Take this side road for about 8 miles to South Newfane. It's a hard-packed spur road that leads past classic farms, alongside little Rock River and through the woods. Take the right split for South Newfane, through a covered bridge dating to 1870 and past the Williamsville General Store. If you're still having fun, backtrack a few miles and take VT 30 north to Newfane proper.

Otherwise, remain on VT 9, which brings you to the top of **Hogback Mountain** (2410ft), where you'll find the **Southern Vermont Natural History Museum** (☎802-464-0048; www.vermontmuseum.org; adult/5-12yr \$5/2; ☉10am-5pm late May–late Oct, weekends Nov–late May; ☉vary – call to confirm), an interesting little place that features mounted specimens of more than 600 New England birds and mammals as well as a small center devoted to live raptors.

To chamber-music lovers, Marlboro looms very large as the home of the **Marlboro Music Fest** (☎215-569-4690, 802-254-2394; www.marlbormusic.org; 135 S 18th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103; tickets \$5-35), held on Saturdays and Sundays from early July through to mid-August. The festival was founded in 1951 and directed for many years by the late Rudolf Serkin, and attended by Pablo Casals. The small Marlboro College comes alive with enthusiastic music students and concertgoers, who consistently pack the small, 700-seat auditorium. Many concerts sell out almost immediately, so it's essential to reserve seats, by phone or mail, in advance. All seating is reserved.

# Wilmington

POP 2300

Wilmington is the gateway to Mt Snow, one of New England's best ski resorts and an excellent summertime mountain-biking and golfing spot. Many restaurants and stores cater to families, who are the resort's main clientele. The state's central north-south highway, VT 100, goes north from Wilmington past Haystack and Mt Snow. Wilmington's main street is VT 9, the main route across southern Vermont.

## Sights & Activities

### Mt Snow

SKI RESORT

(www.mountsnow.com) The terrain at Mt Snow is varied, making it popular with families. High season runs from late December through February. The resort has 132 trails (20% beginner, 60% intermediate, 20% expert) and 23 lifts, plus a vertical drop of 1700ft and the snowmaking ability to blanket 85% of the trails. Area cross-country routes cover more than 60 miles. As if that weren't enough, you can also undertake snowmobile tours and winter mountain tubing.

Come summer, Mt Snow has lots of hiking possibilities, and hosts one of the best mountain-biking schools in the country. To reach Mt Snow/Haystack from Wilmington, travel 10 miles north of town on VT 100. The free bus service, **MOO-ver** (www.moover.com), transports skiers from Wilmington to the slopes of Mt Snow for free at least every hour between 7am and 5pm.

## Sleeping

### White House of Wilmington

INN \$\$\$

(☎802-464-2135, 800-541-2135; www.whitehouseinn.com; VT 9; r incl breakfast \$200-235, ste \$290; 🍷🍷) Local legend says that this place is haunted by the ghost of the wife of the lumberman who built it in 1915. Whether that's true or not, this white Colonial Revival mansion perched on a hill on the eastern outskirts of town boasts great cross-country trails and 16 luxury rooms - it adds up to a particularly romantic stay. Some guest rooms come with a whirlpool bath and fireplace. There's an on-site spa and in summer guests can tumble down the property's hill by sphereing (rolling down inside a massive plastic ball); in winter, you can snow-tube down instead. It's also home to one of the best restaurants in the area and a convivial tavern.

### Old Red Mill Inn & Restaurant

INN \$

(☎802-464-3700, 877-RED-MILL; www.oldredmill.com; VT 100N; s \$55-\$65, d \$70-80; 🍷) Smack in the center of town, this converted former sawmill offers simple rooms (chunky wood furnishings, checkered bedspreads) at bargain prices. Original millworks occupy the common areas and the property overlooks the North Branch of the Deerfield River. On-site food varies by season: in summer, picnic fare is served at Jerry's Deck Bar & Grill; in winter, the rustic interior dining room takes over with hearty New England favorites.

### Molly Stark State Park

CAMPING \$

(☎802-464-5460; www.vtstateparks.com; VT 9; campsites \$18; 🌞late May-mid-Oct) This 160-acre state park, named for the wife of American Revolution general John Stark, is about 3 miles east of Wilmington. From this park's 23 sites and 11 lean-tos, a trail leads to the fire tower on Mt Olga, which affords spectacular views.

### Nutmeg Inn

INN \$\$\$

(☎802-464-3351, 800-277-5402; www.nutmeginn.com; VT 9; r incl breakfast \$140-175, ste \$225-250; 🍷) Just west of Wilmington, this 18th-century farmhouse has 10 rooms and four suites with antiques and reproduction pieces. Ask for the Grand Deluxe King Suite, with skylights and a marble bath.

### Snow Goose

INN \$\$\$

(☎802-464-3984, 888-604-7964; www.snowgooseinn.com; VT 100, West Dover; r incl breakfast \$185-250, ste \$210-350; 🍷) Only a mile from the ski slopes, this elegant, romantic inn on three sylvan acres has 13 large rooms and suites with large Jacuzzis, fireplaces and private decks overlooking the forest. Breakfasts are sumptuous (the Snow Goose bacon is seasoned on site); complimentary wine and Vermont cheese is served each afternoon.

## Eating & Drinking

### Wahoo's Eatery

AMERICAN, SNACKS \$

(VT 9; burgers, sandwiches & wraps \$5-7.25; 🌞lunch & dinner) Less than a mile west of VT 100, this local institution is a mere roadside snack shack, but it whips up quality burgers (made with grass-fed Vermont beef), hand-cut fries and handmade conch fritters, plus wraps, sandwiches hot dogs, salads and ice cream. There's no interior seating area, so in winter it's a takeout joint and in summer, people flock to its picnic tables.

## VERMONT'S PARKS & WILDLIFE

With more than 150,000 acres of protected forest set aside in more than 50 state parks, Vermont isn't called the Green Mountain State for nothing! Finding an exceptional and often underutilized state park in Vermont is about as easy as breathing. Whether you're interested in swimming, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, camping or fishing, you'll find plenty of places that fit the bill. For complete information contact **Vermont State Parks** (☎802-241-3655; [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com)) or the **Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation** (☎802-241-3665).

### Dot's

DINER \$

(dishes \$4-16; ☺breakfast, lunch & dinner) Wilmington (Main St); Mt Snow (VT 100, Mt Snow) Probably the last place you'd expect to find outstanding chili, this down-home diner with pine paneling and a long Formica counter serves up a spicy Jailhouse Chili, coated in a layer of melted cheese, that's renowned throughout New England. With locations in the village and in Dover nearer the slopes, Dot's is justly popular with locals and skiers in search of cheap sustenance like steak and eggs for breakfast.

### Fennessy's

PUB FARE \$\$

(20 W Main St; meals \$11-28; ☺dinner) This casual restaurant-pub is a local favorite – relax at the wood-paneled Irish pub (with plenty of Irish Coffee concoctions on offer) and grab a burger or dine in the airy main room, bedecked with Americana (old road signs, New England antiques) and anchored by a fireplace. It's a cozy spot to dig into steaks, and other traditional staples like shrimp scampi or chicken saltimbocca.

### White House of Wilmington

INTERNATIONAL \$\$\$

(☎802-464-2135, 800-541-2135; VT 9; meals \$29-33; ☺dinner daily, brunch Sun; 🍷) Stylish dining in a stylish setting with a fireplace, wood paneling and views of the Deerfield Valley. Dishes include homemade crab cakes, roasted Vermont duckling (topped with oranges and blueberries) and a daily vegetarian special, complemented by an

acclaimed wine list. Sunday's brunch stars the lobster omelette (in season).

## i Information

**Mt Snow Valley Region Chamber of Commerce** ([www.visitvermont.com](http://www.visitvermont.com); West Main St; ☺10am-5pm) Maintains a village office.

## i Getting There & Away

Wilmington is 21 miles west of Brattleboro (a drive of 45 minutes on the winding road) and 20 miles east of Bennington (40 minutes).

## Bennington

POP 15,600

Bennington is a mix of historic Vermont village (Old Bennington), workaday town (Bennington proper) and college town (North Bennington). It is also home to the famous Bennington Monument that commemorates the crucial Battle of Bennington during the American Revolution. Had Colonel Seth Warner and the local 'Green Mountain Boys' not helped weaken British defenses during this battle, the colonies might well have been split. Robert Frost, one of the most famous American poets of the 20th century, is buried in Bennington, and a museum in his old homestead pays eloquent tribute. As it's located within the bounds of the Green Mountain National Forest, there are many hiking trails nearby, including the granddaddies of them all: the Appalachian and Long Trails.

## 👁 Sights & Activities

### Bennington Center for the Arts

GALLERY, MUSEUM

([www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org](http://www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org); cnr Gypsy Lane & VT 9; adult/under 12yr \$9/free; ☺10am-5pm Thu-Tue Jun-Nov, closed Dec) About half a mile west of the Old First Church, this arts center has one gallery called the **Great Outdoors**, which is home to wind sculptures and fanciful metal whirligigs that respond to the breezes. Inside, other galleries feature fine art, Native American art and artifacts and several rotating exhibits by contemporary artists.

The only one of its kind, the center's **Covered Bridge Museum** reveals the evolution and intricacies of these bridges, of which just over 100 still stand in Vermont. If inspired, you can design your own with the help of a computer.



## Old Bennington

### HISTORIC DISTRICT

The charming hilltop site of colonial Old Bennington is studded with 80 Georgian and Federal houses (dating from 1761 – the year Bennington was founded – to 1830).

The **Old First Church** (1 Monument Circle) was built in 1806 in Palladian style. Its churchyard holds the remains of five Vermont governors, numerous American Revolution soldiers and poet Robert Frost (1874–1963), the best-known, and perhaps best-loved, American poet of the 20th century. In nearby Shaftsbury, be sure to visit the Robert Frost Stone House Museum. One of his farms, Frost Place (p426), is near Franconia, New Hampshire, and another is in Ripton, Vermont (p360), near Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English. His gravestone here bears the epitaph 'I had a lover's quarrel with the world.'

## Bennington

### Top Sights

Bennington Monument.....	A1
Old First Church.....	A3

### Sights

1 Bennington Museum.....	B3
2 Bennington Potters.....	D2

### Sleeping

3 Four Chimneys Inn.....	A3
4 South Shire Inn.....	C4

### Eating

5 Alldays & Onions.....	D4
6 Bennington Station Restaurant & Lounge.....	C3
7 Madison Brewing Co Pub & Restaurant.....	D4
8 Rattlesnake Café.....	D3
9 South Street Café.....	C4
10 Walloomsac Farmers' Market.....	C3

Up the hill to the north, the **Bennington Monument** ([www.historicvermont.org/bennington](http://www.historicvermont.org/bennington); 15 Monument Circle; adult/child \$3/1; ☉9am-5pm mid-Apr–Oct) offers impressive views from the obelisk, which was built between 1887 and 1891. An elevator whisks you two-thirds of the way up the 306ft tower.

**FREE Bennington Battlefield Historic Site**

HISTORIC SITE

To reach the actual battle site 6 miles away, follow the 'Bennington Battlefield' signs from the monument, along back roads, through a historic covered bridge (there are two others nearby) to North Bennington, then go west on VT 67 to the Bennington Battlefield Historic Site. Admission is free, and picnic tables are provided under welcome shade.

**Park-McCullough House Museum**

MUSEUM

(☎802-442-5441; [www.parkmccullough.org](http://www.parkmccullough.org); 1 Park St; adult/under 12yr/student \$10/free/7; ☉10am-4pm mid-May–mid-Oct) Just off VT 67A in North Bennington, look for the Park-McCullough House Museum. Built in 1865, this 35-room mansion holds period furnishings and a fine collection of antique dolls, toys and carriages. The house is also open for Victorian tea (by reservation) and seasonal celebrations.

**Bennington Potters**

POTTERY MANUFACTURER

([www.benningtonpotters.com](http://www.benningtonpotters.com); 324 County St; ☉10am-6pm Mon-Sat, to 5pm Sun) The artisans at this pottery are maintaining a strong tradition of local handmade stoneware manufacturing that dates back to the 1700s. Take a self-guided tour through the manufacturing area, which reveals how much hand work still goes into the company's mass-produced items.

**Robert Frost Stone House Museum**

MUSEUM

([www.frostfriends.org](http://www.frostfriends.org); 121 VT 7A, Shaftsbury; adult/under 18yr \$5/2.50; ☉10am-5pm Tue-Sun May-Dec) When he moved his family to Shaftsbury (4 miles north of Bennington), Frost was 46 years old and at the height of his career. This modest museum opens a window into the life of the poet, with one entire room dedicated to his most famous work, 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,' which he penned here in the 1920s.

**Norman Rockwell Exhibition**

MUSEUM

(☎802-375-6423; VT 7A, Arlington; admission \$2; ☉9am-5pm May-Oct) In nearby Arlington, a 10-mile drive north, a tiny maple syrup shop (the sweet stuff is made on site)

houses this exhibition of 500 of Rockwell's *Saturday Evening Post* covers and prints. It also shows a short film about the artist, who lived in this town from 1939 to 1953.

**Bennington Museum**

MUSEUM

([www.benningtonmuseum.com](http://www.benningtonmuseum.com); W Main St, VT 9; adult/under 12yr \$10/free; ☉10am-5pm Thu-Tue, plus Wed Sep & Oct, closed Jan) Head half a mile west from downtown Bennington on VT 9 for this museum. The museum's outstanding collection of early Americana includes furniture, glassware and pottery (made in Bennington), colonial paintings, dolls, military memorabilia and the oldest surviving American Revolutionary flag in the world. The museum is especially noted for its rich collection of paintings by Anna Mary Moses (1860–1961), better known as 'Grandma Moses.' She started painting her lively, natural depictions of farm life at the age of 70 and continued until she was 100.

**Battenkill Canoe Ltd**

KAYAKING, CANOEING

(☎802-362-2800, 800-421-5268; [www.battenkill.com](http://www.battenkill.com); 6328 VT 7A, Arlington; canoe or kayak daily \$40-72; ☉9:30am-5:30pm May-Oct) Head 10 miles north of Arlington for access to some great paddling. It can rent you equipment or set you up with trips for one or more days on the lovely Battenkill River.

**Prospect Mountain Cross-Country Ski Touring Center**

SKIING

(☎802-442-2575; [www.prospectmountain.com](http://www.prospectmountain.com); VT 9, Woodford; ☉9am-5pm) About 7 miles east of Bennington, Prospect Mountain has more than 40km of groomed trails. It offers ski rentals and lessons as well as snowshoe rentals.

**★ Festivals & Events**

**Bennington's Garlic & Herb Festival**

GARLIC & HERBS

([www.lovegarlic.com](http://www.lovegarlic.com); VT 9/Camelot Village; adult/child \$5/1) Go gaga for garlic at this annual festival, which takes place over a weekend in early September. Garlic ice cream and jellies, roasted garlic and garlic braids lure garlic lovers from all over. The festival also includes kid-friendly games and activities like face-painting, hay mazes and hair-braiding, plus an adult-friendly beer-and-wine garden.

**🛏 Sleeping**

**Alexandra B&B-Inn**

B&B \$\$\$

(☎802-442-5619, 888-207-9386; [www.alexandrainn.com](http://www.alexandrainn.com); Orchard Rd, VT 7A; r incl breakfast \$175-215; ☉) About 2 miles north of Bennington,

with a view of the monument, this 19th-century farmhouse and adjacent colonial house offer elegant and spacious rooms, each with a gas fireplace, four-poster bed and fine linen. There is also an on-site bistro (only open to guests of the B&B) where you can dine by candlelight to (mainly) locally sourced New England fare – reservations essential.

### South Shire Inn

INN \$\$\$

(☎802-447-3839; www.southshire.com; 124 Elm St; r incl breakfast \$175-255, ste \$265; 🍷) An extremely plush, antique-filled Victorian inn, the centrally located South Shire Inn offers high-ceilinged rooms (scattered across a

main house and carriage house) with raised plastic moldings, some of which have fireplaces. Complimentary afternoon teas held in the mahogany library enhance the sense of luxury here, which is remarkable given the reasonable prices.

### Four Chimneys Inn

INN \$\$

(☎802-447-3500; www.fourchimneys.com; 21 West Rd; r incl breakfast \$145-275, ste \$275-295; 🍷) The only B&B in Old Bennington, Four Chimneys is a grand white 1910 mansion set amid 11 acres of verdant manicured lawns on which guests can play bocce. All spacious rooms are cheery, some with country furnishings

## HIKING VERMONT'S LONG LONG TRAIL

America's first long-distance hiking trail, Vermont's Long Trail, is a 264-mile mountainous corridor that runs the length of the state from Massachusetts to Canada.

Backpackers have been hiking the south–north ridge of the Green Mountains since 1930, when the Green Mountain Club finished clearing the length of the trail. Today the club has over 9500 members and maintains the trail system, which covers 440 miles when you include the 175 miles of side trails.

And what an impressive network of trails it is. Often only 3ft wide, the Long Trail crosses streams, skirts ponds and weaves up and down mountains on open ridges to bare summits that offer exceptional vistas of the entire state. Wave after wave of hillside gently rolls back to a sea of green dotted with the occasional pasture or meadow. A little less than half of the trail is located inside the **Green Mountain National Forest** (☎802-747-6700).

The trail is best taken from south to north so that you don't have to read the *Guide Book of the Long Trail* backwards. Another couple of fine companion are the *Day Hiker's Guide to the Long Trail* and *The Long Trail End-to-Ender's Guide*, both packed with nitty-gritty details on equipment sales and repairs, and mail drops and B&Bs that provide trailhead shuttle services – honestly, if you are going to do a multiday hike, you need these guides. All three guides are published by the expert on the trail, the **Green Mountain Club Visitors Center** (☎802-244-7037; www.greenmountainclub.org; 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd, Waterbury Center, VT 05677; ☀9am-5pm daily Jun-Aug). It maintains more than 60 lodges and lean-tos along the trail, all quite basic and rustic. Hikers can easily walk from one shelter to the next in a day because the rest stops were built at 5- to 7-mile intervals. However, it is imperative that you bring a tent in case a shelter is full.

Although the trail is wonderful for a trip of several days, it is also popular for day hikes. If you're in the area, drop by the visitors center for information: otherwise, the center's staff are happy to take a call and hike you through an itinerary or starting point. Alternatively, the website is chock-full of valuable information. Some of the top day hikes in the state are listed here – the relevant chamber of commerce in each town carries maps and details about starting points:

- » **Mt Tom – Woodstock Trail, Woodstock** An easy climb (round-trip roughly 3 miles, 45 minutes to one hour), locally known as the Faulkner Trail. Features stellar views of Woodstock and Okemo Mountain as well as the Ottauquechee River.
- » **Abbey Pond – Middlebury Trail, Middlebury** This hike (round-trip just under 2 miles, roughly 2½ to three hours) takes you past the tranquil Abbey Pond; the trail hugs a stream with several waterfalls.
- » **Wilmington-Somerset Trails, Wilmington** Hike all the way up to Haystack Mountain and Mt Snow along reservoirs and rivers along a variety of local trails.

and a bit of frill and others in a French style with light bedspreads. Many units come with a fireplace as well as a porch. The best suite is a revamped former ice house with two floors and a spiral staircase. The restaurant offers fine (mainly French) locavore fare and has seated such guests as Walt Disney, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

### Knotty Pine Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎802-442-5487; www.knottypinemotel.com; 130 Northside Dr, VT 7A; r \$67-95; ☺) On VT 7A in a commercial strip just off US 7, this friendly, family-run motel has a fairly convenient location and no-frills rooms paneled in knotty pine (surprise!). More-expensive units are efficiencies with kitchenettes.

### Camping on the Battenkill

CAMPING \$

(☎802-375-6663, 800-830-6663; www.campingonthebattenkillvt.com; VT 7A, Arlington; campsites \$24; ☺mid-Apr–mid-Oct) Fishing is the forte at this campground just north of Arlington, which boasts 100 sites split between forest, meadow and open areas. Call early to reserve the popular riverside sites. Multiday stays are required during peak periods.

### Greenwood Lodge & Campsites

HOSTEL, CAMPING \$

(☎802-442-2547; www.campvermont.com/greenwood; VT 9, Prospect Mountain; campsites \$22, dm \$24; ☺mid-May–late Oct) Nestled in the Green Mountains in Woodford, this 120-acre space with three ponds holds one of Vermont's best-sited hostels. Accommodations include 17 budget beds and 40 campsites. You'll find it easily, 8 miles east of Bennington on VT 9 at the Prospect Mountain ski area. Facilities include hot showers and a game room.



## Eating & Drinking

### Pangea

INTERNATIONAL \$\$

(☎802-442-7171; 1 Prospect St, North Bennington; meals \$13-25; ☺dinner Tue-Sun) Whether you opt for the airy dining room (which feels more like a tastefully decorated living room than a restaurant), the intimate lounge or the small terrace, you'll be served with exceptional food here. The menu uses fresh ingredients and appropriates a variety of international influences – try the Thai shrimp on organic udon noodles in a curry peanut sauce or the Provence-rubbed Delmonico steak topped with gorgonzola. This is one of the finer restaurants in the state.

### South Street Café

CAFE \$

(South St; ☺breakfast, lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm Sun; ☺) Sink into a velvet sofa and sip a cup of joe (four types of coffee always available, all roasted locally) in this pleasant, tin-ceilinged cafe. Soups, sandwiches or quiche top out at \$3.25. Located in Bennington's center, it's an oasis for warm mugs of deliciousness and bakery treats.

### Alldays & Onions

AMERICAN \$\$

(519 Main St; meals \$8-23; ☺breakfast, lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, brunch Sun) For lunch, create your own sandwich or try one of this excellent eatery's inventive offerings (like the Neil, with hot pastrami, tortellini and melted cheese) or staples like liver and onions or fish-and-chips. At night, try the special 'chicken Alldays' – roasted breast meat with blue cheese and red pepper sauce.

### Rattlesnake Café

MEXICAN \$\$

(☎802-447-7018; 230 North St; meals \$9-17; ☺dinner Tue-Sun) You can't go wrong at this artsy, local Mexican joint with hefty burritos, standard Mexican plates and a wide range of inventive margaritas – they're worth every peso. It's also known for its Sanga-Rita (a mix of Margarita and Sangria, which sounds odd but goes down oh-so-swimmingly).

### Madison Brewing Co Pub & Restaurant

PUB FARE \$\$

(☎802-442-7397; 428 Main St; meals \$10-24; ☺lunch & dinner) This pleasant pub features fare ranging from sandwiches and burgers to steak and pasta. As an added bonus, it has six to eight of its own brews on tap.

### Bennington Station Restaurant & Lounge

AMERICAN \$\$

(☎802-447-1080; 150 Depot St; meals \$9-27; ☺lunch & dinner) Set in a beautifully restored 100-year-old train station, this spacious restaurant features an extensive menu of prime rib, fish, pasta, salad and children's dishes. Its popular all-you-can-eat express lunch buffet (\$8.95) is excellent value, with two soups, mains plus a massive salad bar. Its tavern also serves lighter pub fare.

### Walloomsac Farmers' Market

FARMERS MARKET

(www.walloomsac.org; Bennington Station, cnr Depot & River Sts; ☺3:30-5:30pm Tue, 10am-1pm Sat May-Oct) Seemingly all of Bennington drops by this convivial market, which features fresh local vegetables, breads, cheeses and crafts. Occasionally, a few guitar players entertain the crowd.

## **i** Information

**Post office** (108 Elm St; ☎8 am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat)

**Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce** ([www.bennington.com](http://www.bennington.com); 100 Veterans Memorial Dr, US 7; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun mid-May-mid-Oct) Offers current and historical information and a self-guided walking tour of historic Old Bennington.

## **i** Getting There & Away

Bennington is 40 miles west of Brattleboro via VT 9 and 19 miles south of Manchester via US 7.

## Manchester

POP 4300

Manchester has been a fashionable resort town for almost two centuries. These days, the draw is mostly winter skiing and upscale outlet shopping (there are more than 100 shops, from Armani to Banana Republic).

Two families put Manchester on the map. The first was native son Franklin Orvis (1824-1900), who became a New York businessman but returned to Manchester to establish the Equinox House Hotel (1849). Franklin's brother, Charles, founded the Orvis Company, makers of fly-fishing equipment, in 1856. The Manchester-based company now has a worldwide following.

The second family was that of Abraham Lincoln (1809-65). His wife, Mary Todd Lincoln (1818-82), and their son Robert Todd Lincoln (1843-1926), came here during the Civil War, and Robert returned to build a mansion - Hildene - a number of years later.

## **👁** Sights

### Hildene

MUSEUM, FARM

([www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org); VT 7A; museum & grounds adult/child \$13/5, grounds only \$5/3; ☎9:30am-4:30pm) The wife and children of Abraham Lincoln had tragic lives. Mary went mad and only one of four sons lived to adulthood. That son was Robert Todd Lincoln, who served on General Grant's staff during the Civil War. He later became a corporate lawyer in Chicago, president of the Pullman Palace Car Company, and secretary of war and minister (ambassador) to Great Britain. Robert Todd Lincoln's 24-room Georgian Revival mansion, which he named Hildene, is a national treasure. He enjoyed the house until his death in 1926, and his great-granddaughter lived in the house until her death in 1975. It was then converted into a museum, and

## CHEESEMAKING

Local cheesemakers have been around since colonial times in Vermont, but it's only in the last few decades that artisanal cheese has come into vogue and become available in a wider range. Sheep's and goat's milk are now used in addition to cow's milk, adding variety to the traditional staples of cheddar and Colby. The **Vermont Cheese Council** ([www.vtcheese.com](http://www.vtcheese.com)) lists 38 farms for visiting on its Cheese Trail, but if you're less ambitious you should check out **Sugarbush Farm** (p353), **Shelburne Farms** (p366) or the **Grafton Village Cheese Company** (p338).

filled with many of the Lincoln family's personal effects and furnishings. These include the hat Abraham Lincoln probably wore when he delivered the Gettysburg Address, and remarkable brass casts of his hands, the right one swollen from shaking hands while campaigning for presidency. Free tours of Hildene depart every 30 minutes. Be alert for the 1000-pipe Aeolian organ, which springs to life during tours.

The museum ticket includes access to the surrounding grounds, or opt for a grounds-pass only. It is home to 14km of **walking trails**, an **observatory** with a telescope, the **Cutting and Kitchen Garden** (a pretty herb and vegetable garden used to prepare the family meals) and the **Hoyt Formal Garden**, an exquisite flower garden designed to resemble a stained-glass Romanesque cathedral window (panes of glass are represented by colored flowers, and a hedge was planted to represent the leading between the panes). Additionally, the grounds contain an **agricultural center** with a solar-powered barn. It houses a herd of goats that produce Hildene cheese (you can watch it being made along a special viewing corridor, and purchase it at the museum gift shop).

As is all of that isn't enough, Hildene also has a packed calendar of **concerts and lectures**; check its website for up-to-date listings. From June to September it also offers weekend **wagon rides** that end at the farm (adults/kids \$2/1) and between mid-December and mid-March you can **cross-country ski and snowshoe**.

**Mt Equinox**

(www.equinoxmountain.com; car & driver \$12, each additional passenger \$2; ☉9am-dusk May-Oct as snow allows) To reach 3816ft Mt Equinox, follow VT 7A south out of Manchester and look for Skyline Dr. From Manchester to the summit is just 5 miles via this private toll road that winds seemingly up to the top of the world. It's believed that the mountain's name is a corrupted Native American phrase meaning 'place where the very top is.' Rather than drive, you could undertake the five-plus-hour hike (2918ft elevation gain) on Burr and Burton, and Lookout Rock Trails, which will take you to the summit and back. Hiking information is available at the Equinox hotel and resort, where the trail begins.

SCENIC DRIVE, HIKE

**Southern Vermont Arts Center**

(☎802-362-1405; www.svac.org; West Rd; adult/child \$8/3; ☉galleries 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, noon-5pm Sun) In addition to excellent outdoor sculpture, this center's 10 galleries of classic and contemporary art feature touring shows of sculpture, paintings, prints and photography. Lectures and jazz concerts are held in the 430-seat Arkell Pavilion. After enjoying the museum and surrounding trails, consider staying for a light lunch at its Garden Cafe. The center also hosts a number of music events covering all genres (including the Manchester Music Festival, where classical is the focus).

MUSEUM

**American Museum of Fly Fishing & Orvis**

(www.amff.com; 4070 VT 7A; adult/child \$5/3; ☉10am-4pm Tue-Sun) This museum has perhaps the world's best display of fly-fishing equipment. This includes fly collections and rods used by Ernest Hemingway, Bing Crosby and several US presidents, including Herbert Hoover. If you can believe it, the latter penned the tome *Fishing for Fun & to Wash Your Soul*.

MUSEUM

**Activities****Appalachian Trail**

The **Appalachian Trail** passes just east of Manchester, and in this area it follows the same route as Vermont's Long Trail (p345). Shelters pop up about every 10 miles; some are staffed from June to early October. Good day hikes include one to the summit of Bromley Mountain and another to Stratton Pond. For details and maps, contact the **USFA Green Mountain National Forest** (☎802-362-2307; www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl;

HIKING, BIKING

2538 Depot St, VT 11/30), about 3 miles east of Manchester Center. The chamber of commerce also has detailed printouts.

About a mile from Manchester Center, **Battenkill Sports Bicycle Shop** (☎802-362-2734, 800-340-2734; cnr US 7 & VT 11/30; ☉9:30am-5:30pm) rents road, mountain and hybrid bikes for as little as \$28 daily, including helmet, lock, trail recommendations and map. It also does repairs.

**Stratton Mountain**

(☎800-843-6867, 802-297-2200; www.stratton.com; VT 30, Bondville) Stratton Mountain is an all-season playground about 16 miles southeast of Manchester. For downhill skiing and snowboarding (mid-November through April, conditions permitting), it has 90 trails and 100 acres of glade- and tree-skiing terrain, 13 lifts (including a summit gondola) and a vertical drop of more than 2000ft on a 3875ft mountain. There are also 20 miles of cross-country trails. Summer activities include golf, tennis, squash, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and tons more.

SKI RESORT

**Bromley Mountain**

(☎802-824-5522, 800-865-4786; www.bromley.com; VT 11, Peru; per ride \$3.50-7.50, book of 10 rides \$55; ☉9am-5pm Jun-Oct, 8:30am-4:30pm Nov-Apr, closed May) Approximately 5 miles from town, 3284ft Bromley Mountain is a small family-oriented resort featuring 43 downhill ski runs and 10 chairlifts. In summer you can try the Alpine Slide (the longest run in North America), a climbing wall, trampolines, a water slide, a children's adventure park and more. Chairlifts whisk hikers and sightseers up to trails. The Long/Appalachian Trail runs right through Bromley.

SKI RESORT

## ★ Festivals & Events

**Free Live Music Performances**

(Manchester Town Green, Depot St) Each Tuesday evening between 6pm and 8pm from mid-July to mid-August you can catch live music performances (mainly local folk bands) alfresco at the town green.

LIVE MUSIC

**Manchester Music Festival**

(www.mmft.org) This series of seven to eight classical music concerts takes place from early July to late August at the Southern Vermont Arts Center.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

**Stratton Arts Festival**

(☎802-362-0110) One of Vermont's biggest fall festivals, from mid-September to

ARTS &amp; CRAFTS

mid-November this arts and crafts extravaganza showcasing works by Vermont artists takes place at nearby Stratton Mountain.

## Sleeping

### Equinox

RESORT \$\$\$

(☎802-362-4700, 800-362-4747; www.equinoxresort.com; 3567 Main St, VT 7A; r \$280-580, ste \$490-1400; @☎☎) One of Vermont's most famous resorts, this grand property in the center of the town is set across one main house and four separate buildings. The main house and adjacent Charles Orvis Inn building boast elegant rooms and suites, some with fireplaces – the inn has its own library and front porch, and in the Main house, the lap of luxury is truly found in the Dormy House – a duplex suite with a mirrored Jacuzzi, slate flooring and a patio with a private barbecue. The resort's 1811 House is a Federal building containing antique-filled rooms with canopied beds and oriental rugs; cottages boast wood-burning fireplaces. Luxury town houses with full kitchens are also available. And then come the grounds: an 18-hole golf course, two tennis courts, a state-of-the-art fitness center and full-service spa. Other activities include falconry, archery, off-road driving and snowmobiling.

### Johnny Seesaw's Country Inn & Restaurant

INN \$\$

(☎802-824-5533, 800-424-2729; www.jseesaw.com; 3574 VT 11; r incl breakfast \$100-140, ste \$110-150, 2-r cottage \$130-375; ☎) Two hundred yards north of Bromley Mountain, this rustic, laid-back lodge has a huge, circular, stone fireplace in the common/dining room. While the cottage and its 18 guest rooms are basic, the tales told around the fire are tall and unforgettable. Just imagine what Charles Lindbergh said when he stayed; he heads the cast of characters who have visited. On a more prosaic note, you can catch live (usually acoustic) music Friday through Sunday, or play tennis on the inn's clay court.

### Weathervane Motel

MOTEL \$\$

(☎802-362-2444; www.weathervanemotel.com; VT 7A; r incl breakfast \$95-175; ☎☎) This resort-type motel was recently spruced up and is now a fantastic, tidy stretch of simple, no-frills rooms arched across six gorgeous acres of land. The common areas (including a comfy, laid-back lounge) are peppered

with antiques, and the grounds with wagons and seasonal decorations (an old wagon, pumpkins, scarecrows), which give it a relaxed New England-y feel. The congenial owners round out the experience – this is one of the best-value places in the area.

### Barnstead Innstead

INN \$\$

(☎802-362-1619; www.barnsteadinn.com; 349 Bonnet St; r \$150-275, ste \$150-160; ☎☎) Barely a half-mile from Manchester Center, this converted 1830s hay barn exudes charm in a good location. Rooms have refrigerators and homey braided rugs, while the porch features wicker rockers for watching the world pass by.

### Seth Warner Inn

INN \$\$

(☎802-362-3830; www.sethwarnerinn.com; 2353 VT 7A; r incl breakfast \$150; ☎) Named after the colonel who, along with his Green Mountain Boys, was instrumental in winning the Battle of Bennington, this five-room inn dates back to 1800. Its rooms have exposed beams and country quilts, antiques, period restoration and the occasional moose straying through the backyard. No children under 10 years old.

### Inn at Manchester

INN \$\$

(☎802-362-1793, 800-273-1793; www.innatmanchester.com; 3967 VT 7A; r incl breakfast \$175-245, ste \$200-310; ☎☎) This restored inn and carriage house offers rooms and suites with comfy quilts and country furnishings, each named after an herb or flower. There's a big front porch, afternoon teas with fresh-baked goodies, an expansive backyard and comfortable common rooms, one with a wee pub.

### Inn at Ormsby Hill

INN \$\$\$

(☎802-362-1163, 800-670-2841; www.ormsbyhill.com; 1842 VT 7A; r incl breakfast \$240-535; ☎) Just southwest of Manchester, Ormsby Hill is arguably one of the most welcoming inns in all of New England. Fireplaces, two-person Jacuzzis, flat-screen TVs, antiques, gracious innkeepers and 2.5 acres of lawn are among features that draw repeat guests. The inn's breakfast is without equal (from bacon-and-egg risotto to pancakes baked in the shape of a top hat).

### Casa Blanca Motel

MOTEL, CABINS \$

(☎802-362-2145, 800-254-2145; www.casablancamotel.com; 5927 VT 7A; cabins \$90-120; @☎☎) This tidy collection of cabins on the northern fringes of town has units that have been decorated in different country themes.

## Eating & Drinking

### Little Rooster Cafe

CAFE, BISTRO \$\$

(VT 7A; dishes \$7-11; ☺breakfast & lunch Thu-Tue, dinner Fri & Sat Jun-Oct) This colorful spot serves dishes such as Asian vegetables with noodles, and chicken or grilled portobello focaccia. It's very popular with locals and shoppers so be prepared to wait for a table. In summer it serves a bistro menu (from burgers with locally sourced beef to lentil and sweet potato curry, mains \$14 to \$22) on weekend evenings. Cash only.

### Mrs Murphy's Donuts & Coffee Shop

DOUGHNUTS, COFFEE \$

(VT 11/30 E; dishes \$4-6; ☺5am-6pm Mon-Sat, 5am-4pm Sun) Pull up to the counters at Manchester's favorite down-home, basic diner, which serves fresh doughnuts and bacon-and-egg 'tuck-ins' throughout the day – and that's about it. Be sure to order more than one doughnut, though, or you'll regret it.

### Up for Breakfast

AMERICAN \$

(4935 Main St; dishes \$7-15; ☺7am-noon) This artsy nook serves breakfast dishes ranging from cheddar omelette to wild turkey hash (a regional specialty). Sit at the tiny counter to catch all the action in the kitchen.

### The Lawyer & the Baker

AMERICAN \$

(32 Bonnet St; sandwiches & salads \$5-11; ☺7am-3pm; ☺) Run by Kevin (the lawyer) and Jessica (the baker), this relaxed bakery-cafe packs in the loyal followers daily for its homemade baked goods, salads and sandwiches. The popular curried chicken salad is to die for.

### Perfect Wife

PUB FARE \$\$

(☎802-362-2817; 2595 Depot St; all-day menus \$5-9, meals \$12-21; ☺dinner Tue-Sat) In addition to international fare such as sesame-crusted salmon and filet mignon in its

cobblestone-walled restaurant, the Perfect Wife's tavern serves pub fare and is an excellent evening hangout with live music most nights (mainly rock, blues and folk).

### Ye Olde Tavern

AMERICAN \$\$\$

(☎802-362-0611; 214 N Main St; meals \$22-30; ☺lunch & dinner) Hearthside dining at candlelit tables enhances the experience at this gracious roadside 1790s inn. The menu is wide-ranging, but the 'Yankee favorites' like traditional pot roast cooked in the tavern's own ale and New England scrod (baked with Vermont cheddar) seal the deal.

### Bistro Henry

INTERNATIONAL \$\$\$

(☎802-362-4982; VT 11/30; meals \$25-33; ☺dinner Tue-Sun) This casual, chef-owned bistro serves creative modern cuisine highlighting fresh seafood, aged meats and fresh vegetables. Its acclaimed wine selection features eclectic and hard-to-find labels.

### Mistral's

FRENCH \$\$\$

(☎802-362-1779; 10 Toll Gate Rd; meals \$32-42; ☺dinner Wed-Mon) Nestled deep in the woods (off VT 30 and VT 11 east of town) and overlooking Bromley Brook, Mistral's offers fine dining on Norwegian salmon or roast duck in an incredibly intimate setting.

### Manchester Farmers Market

FARMERS MARKET

(Adam's Park, cnr VT 7A & Center Hill; Jun-early Oct) This tiny but fun affair takes place every Thursday between 3pm and 6pm June through early October at a triangular patch of green in the center of town. In addition to the usual farm produce, local jams and honey, cheese, breads and small crafts, the market also features live music – usually two or three guys and a guitar, merrily entertaining the friendly crowd.

#### DON'T MISS

### FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH COFFEE & SWEET SHOP

Don't let the name, **Fountain of Youth Coffee & Sweet Shop** (☎802-362-1172; 4659 Main St; snacks & sandwiches \$5-12; ☺breakfast & lunch, open most weekend evenings; ☺), fool ya – this isn't just another coffee shop. In addition to mugs of teas and java, it sells pretty glass containers with colorful candies, plus ice cream. The baked goods (deep, dark, chewy brownies; cookies chock-full of macadamia nuts; flaky, delicate croissants and Danish pastries) make your taste buds spin, and savory items such as quiche, soups and salads are excellent and made on site. Munch it all in a space that's a cross between an airy wine bar and an upscale coffee house (in warmer weather, head to the few tables on the front porch). It also features light dinners (\$9 to \$14) and live music (mainly local bands, from jazz to folk) or open mike nights on some summer and autumn weekends.

## **i** Information

**Post office** (300 Seminary Ave; ☎8 am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat)

**Manchester and the Mountains Regional Chamber of Commerce** ([www.manchester.vermont.net](http://www.manchester.vermont.net); 5046 Main St, Suite 1, Manchester Center; ☎10am-5pm Mon-Sat year-round, 10am-2pm Sun late May-mid-Oct) Maintains an information office on the village green in Manchester Center. Staff help visitors find rooms and have printouts for hikes of varying difficulty within the Green Mountain National Forest.

## **i** Getting There & Away

Manchester is 32 miles (one hour with traffic) south of Rutland via US 7, but it's far more scenic to head north on VT 30 through Dorset and onward to Middlebury.

## Around Manchester

Manchester's a terrific base for visiting quintessential Vermont towns, whether they are pristine like Dorset or more workaday like Pawlet.

### **DORSET**

POP 2050

Six miles northwest of Manchester along VT 30, Dorset resembles a prototypical Vermont village: pristine beauty in the form of a stately inn (the oldest in Vermont), a lofty church and a village green. The difference between this and other Vermont villages, however, is that in Dorset the sidewalks, the church and lots of other buildings are made of creamy marble.

Settled in 1768, Dorset became a farming community with a healthy trade in marble. The **quarry**, about a mile south of the village center on VT 30, supplied much of the marble for the grand New York Public Library building and numerous other public edifices, but it's now filled with water. It's a lovely place to picnic.

Dorset is most well known as a summer playground for well-to-do city folks (a role it has held on to for over a century) and the home of a renowned theatre, the **Dorset Playhouse** (☎802-867-5777; [www.dorsetplayers.org](http://www.dorsetplayers.org); Cheney Rd), which draws a sophisticated audience. In summer the **Dorset Theatre Festival** ([www.dorsettheatrefestival.org](http://www.dorsettheatrefestival.org)) takes over, and actors are professionals; at other times they're community players, the Dorset Players. Recent summer performances include Agatha Christie's

*Murder on the Nile* and *Agnes of God*. On Fridays and Saturdays in summer, the playhouse features Tapas and Music in the Gallery Café from 7pm until showtime; the cafe also hosts art exhibits throughout the summer season – check the website for details.

Vermont's oldest continuously operating inn (in business since 1796), the **Dorset Inn** (☎802-867-5500, 877-367-7389; [www.dorsetinn.com](http://www.dorsetinn.com); cnr Church & Main Sts; s incl breakfast \$200-275, r \$300-425; ☎) is still going strong. Just off VT 30 facing the village green, this traditional but plush inn has 25 guest rooms and suites, some with fireplaces and whirlpool baths. The front-porch rockers provide a nice setting for watching the comings and goings of this sleepy Vermont town. The on-site restaurant, serving bistro food and locally sourced items, is highly regarded – or pop into the spa for some pampering.

Innkeepers Jean and Jim Kingston greet travelers at the tidy 1800s **Dovetail Inn** (☎802-867-5747, 888-867-5747; [www.dovetailinn.com](http://www.dovetailinn.com); VT 30; r/ste incl continental breakfast \$125/200), which faces the village green. Breakfast is served in the comfort of the 11 well-kept guest rooms across two houses.

Just north of East Dorset, the 430-acre **Emerald Lake State Park** (☎802-362-1655; [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com); US 7; campsites/lean-tos \$18/27; ☎late May-mid-Oct) has 105 sites, including 32 lean-tos. You can swim and canoe on the 80ft-deep lake and hike through the mountains; some trails connect with the Long Trail.

**Dorset Union Store** (☎7am-7pm Mon-Sat, 8am-6pm Sun) sells all manner of edible Vermont items, especially high-end gourmet goodies and picnic fixings including cheese (of course) and a well-stocked wine room. It also has a full deli and a fridge full of gourmet prepared food for takeout, including its award-winning mac-and-cheese.

### **GRAFTON**

POP 620

Right next to Newfane on that shortlist of must-see villages, Grafton lies at the junction of VT 121 and VT 35, only about 15 miles north of Newfane. Grafton is graceful, but it's not that way by accident. In the 1960s the private Windham Foundation established a restoration and preservation program for the entire village, and it has been eminently successful.

Head a half-mile south of the village to find mouthwatering and nose-tingling cheddars at the **Grafton Village Cheese**

**Company** ([www.graftonvillagecheese.com](http://www.graftonvillagecheese.com); 533 Townshend Rd; admission free; ☺10am-6pm) shop, where you can sample and pick up the succulent cheddars (the store also serves wine and beer). The maple-smoked and stone-house cheddars regularly win awards at international cheese festivals. To see the actual cheese being made, visit its Brattleboro location, p338.

Set up high on 200 acres, just outside of Grafton off Middletown Rd, is the **Inn at Woodchuck Hill Farm** (☎802-843-2398; [www.woodchuckhill.com](http://www.woodchuckhill.com); r \$130-165, ste \$200-240). This restored 1790s farmhouse offers guest rooms and suites filled with lovely antiques, as well as complimentary Grafton cheddar and crackers; a number of suites have private decks and/or are located in a converted barn (one suite includes a full kitchen). Relax in the sauna in the woods next to the pond – itself great for swimming, fishing and canoeing. Or tire yourself by hiking or cross-country skiing the farm's private network of trails. It also offers a 2000-sq-ft cottage – which includes a large kitchen, sprawling porch and a fireplace – that sleeps up to seven (\$425).

The **Old Tavern at Grafton** (☎802-843-2231, 800-843-1801; [www.old-tavern.com](http://www.old-tavern.com); cnr VT 35 & Townshend Rd; r incl breakfast \$195-255, ste \$295-325; ☺), the double porch of which is Grafton's landmark, has played host to such

notable guests as Rudyard Kipling, Theodore Roosevelt and Ralph Waldo Emerson. While the original brick inn is quite formal, many of the 45 guest rooms and suites – scattered around houses within the village – are less so. The inn has tennis courts, a sand-bottomed swimming pond and cross-country skiing trails. The dining room is New England formal and the cuisine is refined New American with a seasonal menu. Its casual on-site pub, **Phelps Barn** (☺5-9pm Thu-Sun), features live music every Saturday night and serves light pub food and a wide range of Vermont microbrews; or pop in for Flatbread Fridays, when it serves pizza cooked in 'Big Red,' its beloved pizza oven.

## CENTRAL VERMONT

Vermont's heart features some of New England's most bucolic countryside. Cows begin to outnumber people just north of Rutland, Vermont's second-largest city. Lovers of the outdoors make frequent pilgrimages to central Vermont, especially to the resort areas of Killington, Sugarbush and Mad River Glen, which attract countless skiers and summer hikers. For those interested in indoor pleasures, antique shops and art galleries dot the back roads between picturesque covered bridges.

### DON'T MISS

#### YODELING PICKLES & THE VERMONT COUNTRY STORE

On the eastern side of the Green Mountains, **Weston** (population 630) is another of Vermont's pristine towns. Its common is graced with towering maples and a bandstand, and is home to an acclaimed summer theater. But Weston also draws fans from far and wide to its famed **Vermont Country Store** ([www.vermontcountrystore.com](http://www.vermontcountrystore.com); VT 100), a time warp from a simpler era when goods were made to last, and quirky products with appeal (but not a mass-market appeal) had a home. Here you'll discover plastic, electronic yodeling pickles (because everyone needs that, right?), taffeta slips, Tangee lipstick, three kinds of shoe stretchers with customizable bunion and corn knobs, personal care items and clothing – in short, everything you didn't know you needed. Additionally, it carries small toys and games of yesteryear Americana (think wooden pick-up-sticks and vintage tiddleywinks). Last, the store contains entire sections filled with candy jars and cases of Vermont cheese.

Beyond the famed shop, Weston is also home to the renowned summer theatre at the **Weston Playhouse** (☎802-824-5288; [www.westonplayhouse.org](http://www.westonplayhouse.org); tickets \$22-45; ☺performances late Jun–early Sep), Vermont's oldest professional theatre. It occupies an old church on the town common and backs onto the West River, and enjoys an excellent reputation for musicals and drama, and some performances catering to kids. Recent shows include Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (starring Christopher Lloyd of *Back to the Future* fame), Tony award-winning *Avenue Q* and child-friendly *Seussical*.

Weston is located on VT100, northeast of Grafton and east of Manchester.

## Woodstock & Quechee Village

POP 3300

Chartered in 1761, Woodstock has been the highly dignified seat of scenic Windsor County since 1766. It prospered in this role. The townspeople built many grand houses surrounding the oval village green, and four of Woodstock's churches can claim bells cast by Paul Revere. Senator Jacob Collamer, a friend of Abraham Lincoln's, once observed, "The good people of Woodstock have less incentive than others to yearn for heaven."

Today Woodstock is still very beautiful and very wealthy. Spend some time walking around the green, surrounded by Federal and Greek Revival homes and public buildings, or along the Ottauquechee River, spanned by three covered bridges. The Rockefellers and the Rothschilds own estates in the surrounding countryside, and the well-to-do come to stay at the grand Woodstock Inn & Resort. Despite its high-tone reputation, the town also offers some reasonably priced lodgings and meal possibilities.

About five minutes east of Woodstock, small, twee Quechee Village is home to Quechee Gorge, Vermont's answer to the Grand Canyon, as well as several outstanding restaurants and working farms.

Many nearby state parks offer hiking trails and lakes good for swimming, boating and canoeing.

### Sights

#### Sugarbush Farm

FARM

(www.sugarbushfarm.com; 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd; ☉8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat & Sun) While this working farm at the end of a bucolic road also collects maple sap, cheddar's the king here. See how it's made and sample the 14 varieties – from the mild sage cheddar to the jalapeño and cayenne pepper variety to the prize-winning hickory and smoked cheddar. Wax-coated bars of the curd are sold and travel well.

#### Billings Farm & Museum

FARM, MUSEUM

(☎802-457-2355; www.billingsfarm.org; VT 12; adult/child/student \$12/3/6, May-Oct combo ticket incl Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park adult/child 16-17 \$17/15; ☉10am-5pm daily May-Oct, closed Mar & Apr) After your walk around Woodstock pay a visit to this farm museum less than a mile north of the village green, at River Rd. Railroad magnate Frederick Billings founded the

farm in the late 19th century and ran it on sound 'modern' principles of conservation and animal husbandry. In 1871 he imported cattle directly from Britain's Isle of Jersey, and the purebred descendants of these early bovine immigrants still give milk on the farm today. Life on the working farm is a mix of 19th- and 20th-century methods, all of which delight curious children. Call for details about the daily demonstrations, audiovisual shows and special programs.

#### Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National

##### Historical Park

HISTORICAL PARK

(www.nps.gov/mabi; Elm St; tours adult/child \$8/free, May-Oct combo ticket incl Billings Farm adult/child 16-17yr \$17/15; ☉10am-5pm May-Oct) This mansion and park, off VT 12, focuses on the relationship between land stewardship and environmental conservation. Tours are run every 30 minutes. While there is an admission fee to the mansion, the 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are free for exploring and the view across the valley from 1250ft-high Mt Tom warrants the trek. In winter the roads and trails are groomed for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Some start on the far side of the Ottauquechee River from the village green, along the east edge of the cemetery.

#### Vermont Institute of Natural Science

SCIENCE CENTER

(www.vinsweb.org; VT 4; adult/child \$10.50/8.50; ☉9am-5:30pm) Learn all about raptors and other birds of prey at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, just before you reach Quechee coming from Woodstock. It houses two dozen species of raptors, ranging from the tiny, 3oz saw-whet owl to the mighty bald eagle. The birds that end up here have sustained permanent injuries that do not allow them to return to life in the wild. The three self-guided nature trails are delightful for hikes in summer or for snowshoeing in winter.



### Activities

#### Suicide Six

SKI RESORT

(☎802-457-6661, 800-448-7900; www.suicide6.com; VT 12, Pomfret; ☉mid-Dec-Mar) In 1934 Woodstockers installed the first mechanical ski tow in the USA, and skiing is still important here. Three miles north of Woodstock, this resort is known for challenging downhill runs. The lower slopes are fine for beginners, though. There are 23 trails (30% beginner, 40% intermediate, 30% expert) and three lifts.



## TOOLING BETWEEN WOODSTOCK & QUECHEE VILLAGE

Woodstock, off US 4, is part of the Upper Connecticut River Valley community that includes Hanover and Lebanon, in New Hampshire, and Norwich and White River Junction, in Vermont. People think nothing of driving from one of these towns to another to find accommodations, a meal or an amusement. Quechee lies further east along US 4.

### Woodstock Sports

BIKE RENTAL

(☎802-457-1568; 30 Central St; ☎8:30am-5:30pm Mon-Sat) Rents mountain and speed bicycles and provides maps of good local routes. Full-day rentals are \$27.

### Cyclery Plus

BIKE RENTAL

(☎802-457-3377; 490 Woodstock Rd, US 4; ☎10am-5pm Mon-Sat) Rents mountain and speed bicycles and provides maps of good local routes. Full-day rentals are \$26.

### Tours

#### Bike Vermont

BICYCLE

(☎800-257-2226; www.bikevermont.com) Operates two- to six-night bike tours in the area, including inn-to-inn tours.

#### Woodstock Ski Touring Center

SKIING

(☎802-457-6674; www.woodstockinn.com; VT 106) Just south of town, rents equipment and has 50 miles of groomed touring trails, including one that takes in 1250ft Mt Tom.

### Sleeping

#### Applebutter Inn

INN \$\$

(☎802-457-4158, 800-486-1374; www.applebutterinn.com; 7511 Happy Valley Rd, Taftsville; r incl breakfast \$140-195; ☎) Just 3 miles east of Woodstock and set on 12 extraordinary acres with one of Vermont's most picturesque barns, the Applebutter is an 1854 Federal-style house with six guest rooms and a wonderful old kitchen. The six-room inn is furnished with period pieces and plush rugs that partly cover the wide-plank floors.

#### Ardmore Inn

INN \$\$

(☎802-457-3887, 800-497-5692; www.ardmoreinn.com; 23 Pleasant St; r incl breakfast \$135-205; ☎) Congenial centrally located inn in a stately 1867 Victorian-Greek Revival build-

ing that features five antique-laden rooms with oriental rugs and private marble bathrooms. The owners are especially helpful and the breakfasts are seemingly never-ending.

#### Shire Motel

MOTEL \$\$

(☎802-457-2211; www.shiremotel.com; 46 Pleasant St; r \$98-228; ☎) Set within walking distance of the town center on US 4, this motel is located on the Ottauquechee River, which visitors can mull over from rockers on a wraparound porch while sipping a mug of their complimentary coffee or tea. It offers 42 comfortable rooms, some with fireplaces and most with river views.

#### Village Inn of Woodstock

INN \$\$

(☎802-457-1255, 800-722-4571; www.villageinnofwoodstock.com; 41 Pleasant St; r incl breakfast \$200-350; ☎) This lovely Victorian mansion, situated on a 40-acre estate, has eight guest rooms. Most feature four-poster feather beds, down comforters and period details like oak wainscoting and tin ceilings. Art by the owner and his mother graces the walls. Enjoy the welcoming terrace or cozy tavern (open only to guests) with its stained-glass windows and full bar. Chefs David and Evelyn prepare a luscious breakfast that includes granola, pastries and breads, all made on site.

#### Parker House Inn

INN \$\$

(☎802-295-6077; www.theparkerhouseinn.com; 1792 Main St, Quechee; r incl breakfast \$150-295; ☎) A Victorian-style redbrick house built

### DON'T MISS

## QUECHEE GORGE

Lurking beneath US 4, less than a mile east of Quechee Village, the **gorge** is a 163ft-deep scar that cuts about 3000ft along a stream that you can view from a bridge or easily access by footpaths from the road. A series of well-marked, undemanding trails, none of which should take you over an hour, cut away from the stream.

After your hike, drop by the **Charlotte Village Winery tasting room** (3968 Greenbush Rd, at the parking lot for the gorge; ☎11am-5pm) for free samples of its grape and other fruit varietals, like peach chardonnay or dry blueberry wine, a remarkably complex, spicy tippie that packs a punch.

in 1857 for former Vermont senator Joseph Parker, this antique-laden inn features seven large guest rooms, all renovated in 2009. A riverside porch just begs to be part of your day. It's just 100 yards from one of the Ottauquechee River's covered bridges and a waterfall. The on-site restaurant is excellent.

**Woodstock Inn & Resort** INN, RESORT \$\$\$  
(☎802-457-1100, 800-448-7900; www.woodstockinn.com; 14 The Green; r \$199-299, ste \$454-559; 🍷🍷) One of Vermont's most luxurious hotels, this resort has extensive grounds, a formal dining room and an indoor sports center. A fire blazes in the huge stone fireplace from late fall through spring, making this famous inn even more welcoming. Rooms are done up in soft, muted colors and Vermont-crafted wood furnishings. Facilities include an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, cross-country skiing, a fitness center and a spa.

**Quechee Gorge State Park** CAMPING \$  
(☎802-295-2990; www.vtstateparks.com; 190 Dewey Mills Rd, White River Junction; campsites/lean-tos \$18/25; ☀mid-May-mid-Oct) Eight miles east of Woodstock and 3 miles west of I-89 along US 4, this 611-acre spot has 54 pine-shaded sites (with seven lean-tos) that are a short stroll from Quechee Gorge.

**Silver Lake State Park** CAMPING \$  
(☎802-234-9451, 886-2434; www.vtstateparks.com; campsites/lean-tos \$17/25; ☀mid-May-mid-Oct) This 34-acre park (off VT 12 in Barnard) is 10 miles north of Woodstock and has 47 sites (with seven lean-tos), a beach, boat and canoe rentals and fishing.



## Eating & Drinking

If you have a picnic lunch, take it to the George Perkins Marsh Man and Nature Park, a tiny hideaway right next to the river on Central St, across the street from Pane e Salute.

**Skunk Hollow Tavern** AMERICAN \$\$  
(☎802-436-2139; Hartland Four Corners; meals \$12-26; ☀dinner Wed-Sun) Fear not – there are no skunks on the menu at this tiny 200-year-old tavern 8 miles south of Woodstock, with worn wooden floors that ooze history. You can have burgers or fish-and-chips at the bar or head upstairs, where it's more intimate, to enjoy rack of lamb. (Tip: On Wednesday it offers a Vermont grass-fed burger and a beer deal for \$14.95) The same menu is available upstairs and downstairs.

## DON'T MISS

### MORE THAN HOT AIR

While the Quechee-Woodstock general area affords no end of outdoor activities, none is likely to prove as memorable as a balloon ride. **Balloons Over New England** (☎800-788-5562; www.balloonsovernewengland.com) does it in style, with 'champagne' trips that last 2½ to three hours from \$350 per person.

It's a treat when there's live music (usually on Fridays) and the band takes up half the room.

### Long Trail Brewing Company

BREWERY, PUB FARE \$  
(☎802-672-5011; www.longtrail.com; cnr US 4 & VT 100A; meals \$10-14; ☀10am-7pm) Halfway between Killington and Woodstock, the brewer of 'Vermont's No 1 Selling Amber' draws crowds for its grub as well as beer. Weather permitting, you can sit on the patio by the river, have a sandwich or burger and wash it down with a cold hearty stout or a fruity blackberry wheat ale. It has won awards for its ongoing effort to brew as sustainably as possible. There are free tours of the brewery.

### Mountain Creamery

DESSERT, CAFE \$  
(33 Central St; dishes \$4-6; ☀7am-3pm) In addition to serving Woodstock's most scrumptious apple pie, this place offers sandwiches, salads, soups and other yummy picnic fare. The house-made ice cream is particularly revered.

### Osteria Pane e Salute

ITALIAN \$\$  
(☎802-457-4882; 61 Central St; meals \$8-25, prix fixe menus \$42; ☀lunch & dinner) Specialties include authentic Italian pastries and the best cup of espresso this side of the Connecticut River. Expect buttery panettone, rolls filled with ricotta, pear and chocolate, and Florentine coffee cake. In the evening, you'll be rewarded with classic northern Italian dishes, complemented by an extensive wine list, which focuses on Italian wines from small boutique vineyards (with many biodynamic options).

### Wasps Snack Bar & Diner

DINER \$  
(☎802-457-3334; 57 Pleasant St; meals \$4-10; ☀breakfast & lunch) Don't let the simple long white structure fool you, this tiny greasy

spoon with a 10-stool counter serves satisfying home-cooked diner fare and some larger staples (like eggs Benedict) in the endearing, simple space.

### Prince & the Pauper

AMERICAN \$\$

(☎802-457-1818; 24 Elm St; meals \$25-29, bistro menus \$14-20, prix fixe menus \$49; ☺dinner) Woodstock's elegant New American bistro serves a sublime three-course fixed-price menu. You might order applewood-smoked ruby trout with grilled corn cake and crème fraîche from the menu. Depending on your appetite, lighter bistro fare is always an enticing option as well.

### Simon Pearce Restaurant

INTERNATIONAL \$\$

(☎802-295-1470; The Mill, Main St, Quechee; meals \$15-33; ☺lunch & dinner) Be sure to reserve a window table in the dining room suspended over the river in this converted brick mill. Local ingredients are used to inventive effect here to produce such delicacies as crab and cod melt or the seared chicken (with roasted corn mascarpone polenta). The restaurant's beautiful stemware is blown by hand in the Simon Pearce Glass workshops, also in the mill. This place is difficult to leave.

### Parker House Inn

FRENCH \$\$\$

(☎802-295-6077; 16 Main St, Quechee; meals \$26-37; ☺dinner) Catching much of the overspill of Simon Pearce next door, the slightly pricier Parker House serves modern French fare in the front room or out on the terrace overlooking the waterfall. The menu is seasonal, but look for the likes of bouillabaisse and local goat's-cheese-stuffed chicken.

### White Cottage Snack Bar

AMERICAN \$

(462 Woodstock Rd; meals \$5-15; ☺lunch & dinner) This Woodstock institution has been serving loyal locals fried clams, burgers and ice cream from this glorified snack shack since 1957.



## Shopping

### Old Mill Marketplace

CRAFTS, FURNITURE

(VT 4, Bridgewater; ☺10am-6pm) This three-storey converted 1820s mill has space for some 20 local craftspeople selling soap, pottery, furniture, jewelry and more. The Hillbilly Flea Market in the basement is an upscale treasure trove open from Thursday to Sunday.

### Simon Pearce Glass

HOMEWARES

(www.simonpearce.com; 1760 Main St, Quechee; ☺store 9am-4pm, glassblowing 9am-9pm) At this exceptional studio and shop, visitors can watch artisans produce distinctive pieces of original glass.



## Information

### Woodstock Area Chamber of Commerce

(www.woodstockvt.com; 18 Central St; ☺9:30am-5pm May-Oct) Has a small information booth on the village green that can be quite helpful, particularly with accommodations. Parking places are at a premium in Woodstock, and enforcement is strict, so obey the regulations.



## Getting There & Away

It's a straight shot (two hours, 89 miles) via US 4 east to I-89 north to Burlington from Woodstock. It'll take a mere half-hour (20 miles) to reach Killington via US 4 west.

**Greyhound** (www.greyhound.com) buses stop at nearby **White River Junction** (☎802-295-3011; Sykes Ave). If you take the bus to White River Junction on your way to Woodstock, you will need to take a taxi (drivers wait at the bus station) from there to Woodstock, a distance of 16 miles.

**Amtrak** (www.amtrak.com) Runs the *Vermont* train, which stops at nearby White River Junction.

## Killington Mountain

POP 1100

The largest ski resort in the east, Killington spans seven mountains, highlighted by 4241ft Killington Peak, the second highest in Vermont. It operates the largest snow-making system in North America and, while upwards of 20,000 people can find lodging within 20 miles, its numerous outdoor activities are centrally located on the mountain. Officially, the mountain town is Killington Village, but all the action can be found along Killington Rd on the way up the mountain.



## Sights & Activities

### Killington Resort

SKI RESORT

(☎802-422-3261, 800-621-6867; www.killington.com) Vermont's prime ski resort is enormous, yet the East Coast's answer to Vail runs efficiently enough (it has five separate lodges, each with a different emphasis, as well as 32 lifts) to avoid overcrowding.

**K-1 Lodge** boasts the Express Gondola, which transports up to 3000 skiers per hour in heated cars along a 2.5-mile cable and is the highest lift in Vermont. **Snowshed Lodge** is an ideal base for adults looking for lessons or refresher courses. Free-ride enthusiasts should check out **Bear Mountain Lodge** for pipe action, tree skiing or rail jibbing, not to mention Outer Limits, the steepest mogul run in the East. **Ramshead Lodge** caters to children and families, as well as those looking for easier

terrain, while **Lodge** is the home of the Sky-ship Gondola, a two-stage gondola with quick and direct access to the Skye Peak. Each of the lodges has food courts, restaurants, bars and ski shops.

The ski season runs from early November through early May, enhanced by the largest snowmaking system in America. Two hundred runs snake down Killington's seven mountains (4241ft Killington Peak, 3967ft Pico Mountain, 3800ft Skye Peak, 3610ft Ramshead Peak, 3592ft Snowdon Peak, 3295ft Bear Mountain and 2456ft Sunrise Mountain), covering 1215 acres of slopes. A quarter are considered easy, a third moderate and the rest difficult, most infamously **Outer Limits**, a double black diamond run.

Snowboarders will find six challenging parks, including superpipes with 18ft walls.

**Mountain Bike & Repair Shop** BIKE SHOP  
(☎802-422-6232; Killington Rd; ☺Jun–mid-Oct) This shop rents mountain bikes for \$52 daily; helmets and trail maps are included. Serious riders will want to take the 1.25-mile K-1 gondola ride to the top of Killington Mountain and find their way down along the 45 miles of trails. Mountain-bike trail access costs \$10 daily or \$32 for trail and gondola access. Inquire about guided tours and packages.

The shop also has an excellent (free) map of 14 self-guided nature **hikes**. Hikers can ride the **gondola** to the top (adult/child \$10/6) and hike down. If you want to ride up and down, the gondola costs \$14/9 per adult/child.

## Sleeping

**Inn at Long Trail** INN \$\$  
(☎802-775-7181, 800-325-2540; www.innatlongtrail.com; 709 US 4; r incl breakfast \$120-135, ste \$150; ☺) The first hotel built (in 1938) expressly as a ski lodge, the inn is also temporary home to hikers pausing along the nearby Long Trail. The rustic decor makes use of tree trunks (the bar is fashioned from a single log), the rooms are cozy and suites include fireplaces.

**Gifford Woods State Park** CAMPGROUND \$  
(☎802-775-5354, 886-2434; www.vtstateparks.com; Gifford Woods Rd, Killington; lean-to/camp-sites \$20/27; ☺late May–early Oct) A half-mile north of US 4 and VT 100, this park has 48 campsites (including 21 lean-tos) set on 114 acres. Added bonuses are the playground, hiking trails and fishing in Kent Pond.

**Inn of the Six Mountains** INN \$\$  
(☎802-442-4302, 800-228-4676; www.sixmountains.com; 2617 Killington Rd; d incl breakfast

\$90-320; ☎☺) Well situated a third of the way up the mountain, this hotel features all the modern conveniences in addition to a Jacuzzi, exercise rooms, tennis courts and a spa.

## Eating

**Choices Restaurant** AMERICAN \$\$  
(☎802-422-4030; Glazebrook Center, Killington Rd; dishes \$14-24; ☺lunch & dinner Wed-Sun, brunch Sun) Can't decide what you're in the mood for? Grazers happily munch away on appetizers here, while serious eaters find plenty of satisfying main dishes on the huge menu. Meals range from soups and salads to pastas, steaks and a raw bar.

**Sunup Bakery** BAKERY FARE \$  
(☎802-422-3865; 2250 Killington Rd; dishes \$3-10; ☺breakfast & lunch) Fresh muffins and bagels are baked daily along with yummy breakfast sandwiches, great soy lattes and an emphasis on friendly (ie not fast) service. It makes great box lunches to go.

**Casa Bella Inn** ITALIAN \$\$  
(☎802-746-8943; VT100; meals \$17-21; ☺dinner) Chef-owner Franco Cacoza, who turned this former stagecoach stop into a pleasant restaurant, offers a traditional menu of authentic Italian dishes. They're complemented by a good cellar filled with Italian wines.

**Sushi Yoshi** JAPANESE \$\$  
(☎802-422-4241; 1915 Killington Rd; meals \$15-35; ☺lunch & dinner, Nov–mid-Apr) A gourmet Chinese restaurant that has successfully added Japanese food to its repertoire, Sushi Yoshi is one of the more exotic restaurants on the main drag. Its eight hibachi tables are extremely popular.

**Vermont Inn** AMERICAN, STEAK \$\$\$  
(☎802-775-0708; US 4; meals \$15-28; ☺dinner) Popular with skiers, and one of the mountain's best-value dining options, this inn offers rack of lamb, local veal and variations on the steak theme. The varied menu changes nightly and is served next to a cozy fireplace in winter. A good children's menu is available year-round and early specials are offered until 6:30pm in summer.

**Casey's Caboose** AMERICAN \$\$  
(☎802-422-3795; Killington Rd; dishes \$16-27; ☺lunch Sat & Sun, dinner daily) Families should head here, where the atmosphere is great, the buffalo wings are free during happy hour and there's a good children's menu.



## SEASONAL HOURS IN KILLINGTON

Unlike other resort towns in Vermont, Killington hibernates outside of ski season. Many restaurants, shops and hotels close down altogether between mid-April and November, others close in spring and summer or in spring only, still others only remain open on weekends or Thursday through Sunday. Got it? In short, hours are all over the slope. We've listed details in individual reviews where applicable, but note that seasonal hours change quicker than an Olympian in a toboggan, so outside of winter be sure to call in advance to confirm hours.



### Drinking & Entertainment

With over 25 clubs, and lively bars in many restaurants, Killington is where the après-ski scene rages. Many of these nightspots are on the 4-mile-long Access Rd.

**Pickle Barrel** BAR, LIVE MUSIC  
(☺)from 4pm Oct–mid-Apr) Showcases great rock-and-roll bands.

**Jax Food & Games** BAR  
Combines an indoor gameroom-bar with an outdoor deck for cracking atmosphere.

**McGrath's Irish Pub** PUB, LIVE MUSIC  
(US 4) At the Inn at Long Trail. Has live Irish music on winter weekends.

**Wobbly Barn** BAR, LIVE MUSIC  
(☺)from 3:30pm Nov–mid-Apr) Has dancing, blues and rock and roll.



### Information

**Killington Central Reservations** (☎800-621-6867; [www.killington.com](http://www.killington.com); US 4; ☺8am-9pm Nov-May) The best place to go for accommodations advice and help. Check in advance for info on package deals.

**Killington Chamber of Commerce** ([www.killingtonchamber.com](http://www.killingtonchamber.com); US 4 W; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri, peak seasons in winter 10am-2pm Sat) Conveniently located on US 4.



### Getting There & Away

From Burlington, take US 7 south to VT 4 east (two hours, 93 miles) to reach Killington. It'll take a mere hour (45 miles) to reach Killington from Manchester via US 7 north and VT 4 east.

## Middlebury

POP 8200

Prosperity resides at the crossroads, and Middlebury obviously has its share. Aptly named, Middlebury stands at the nexus of eight highways and as a result the center of town is always busy with traffic. Middlebury was permanently settled at the end of the 18th century. In 1800 Middlebury College was founded, and it has been synonymous with the town ever since. Poet Robert Frost (1874–1963) owned a farm in nearby Ripton and co-founded the renowned Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College.

Despite Middlebury's history of marble quarrying, most buildings in the town's center are built of brick, wood and schist. Middlebury College, however, contains many buildings made with white marble and gray limestone.

### Sights

**Middlebury College** UNIVERSITY, MUSEUM

For Middlebury College tours, contact the **admissions office** (☎802-443-3000; [www.middleburycollege.com](http://www.middleburycollege.com)) in Emma Willard House, on the south side of S Main St (VT 30). Within the Center for the Arts, the **Middlebury College Museum of Art** ([www.middlebury.edu/arts/museum](http://www.middlebury.edu/arts/museum); S Main St, VT 30; admission free; ☺10am-5pm Mon-Fri, noon-5pm Sat & Sun, closed Mon mid-Aug–early Sep & mid-Dec–early Jan) presents rotating exhibits as well as its fine permanent collections of Cypriot pottery, 19th-century European and American sculpture, and works by such luminaries as Man Ray, Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí.

**Atwood Orchards** FARM

(Barnum Hill, Shoreham; ☺10am-5:30pm Jul–mid-Oct) The countryside surrounding Middlebury is rife with apple farms, and these orchards have branches ripe for the picking in September and October. Pick cherries or enjoy pre-ordered peaches in July. To find this orchard, head west on VT 125, then south on VT 22A; it's 3 miles south of Shoreham village.

**Neshobe River Winery** WINERY, TASTING ROOM

(☎802-247-8002; [www.neshoberiverwinery.com](http://www.neshoberiverwinery.com); 79 Stone Mill Dam Rd, off RT 7, Brandon; ☺12am-6pm Fri-Sun) Sixteen miles south of Middlebury is this fantastic tasting room decorated with tree trunks, brick and a long bar created with a long, polished slab of wood

stacked onto old wine barrels. Tastes are free and fun with the friendly staff. There's also the on-site, four-room Old Mill Inn B&B (rooms from \$149) in stumbling distance of the winery.

**Henry Sheldon Museum** MUSEUM  
(www.henrysheldonmuseum.org; 1 Park St; adult/under 6yr/6-18yr \$5/free/3; ☎10am-5pm Tue-Sat year-round) This 1829 Federal-style brick mansion-turned-museum owes its existence to Henry Sheldon, a town clerk, church organist, storekeeper and avid collector of 19th-century Vermontiana. His collection runs the gamut from folk art and furniture to paintings and bric-a-brac, but is highlighted by an upstairs room devoted to such curios as a cigar holder made of chicken claws and Sheldon's own teeth.

**Otter Creek Brewing** BREWERY  
(☎802-388-0727, 800-473-0727; www.ottercreekbrewing.com; 85 Exchange St) One of New England's best, this brewery makes a rich Stovepipe Porter, Copper Ale and other specialty microbrews, including its organic Wolaver's line.

**University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm** FARM  
(☎802-388-2011; www.uvm.edu/morgan; Horse Farm Rd, Weybridge; adult/child \$5/2; ☎9am-4pm May-Oct) In 1789 Justin Morgan and his thoroughbred Arabian colt, named Figure, came to Vermont from Springfield, Massachusetts. The colt grew to a small bay stallion, and the hardy farmers and loggers of Vermont looked upon him as pretty but not particularly useful. Morgan, however, proved to them the horse's surprising strength, agility, endurance and longevity. Renamed Justin Morgan after his owner, the little horse became the USA's first native breed, useful for heavy work, carriage draft, riding and even war service. You can see 70 registered Morgans and tour their stables and the farm grounds at the farm, about 3 miles from Middlebury. Drive west on VT 125, then north onto Weybridge St (VT 23) to the farm.



## Activities

Undulating with rolling hills and farms, the pastoral countryside around Middlebury makes for great biking.

**Bike Center** BIKE SHOP  
(☎802-388-6666; www.bikecentermid.com; cnr 74 Main St & Frog Hollow; equipment rental per hr/day/weekend \$5/20/35; ☎9:30am-5:30pm

Mon-Sat year-round, 1-4pm Sun summer) This bike shop has plenty of equipment to rent and information on regional biking.

**Green Mountain National Forest District Office** HIKING INFORMATION  
(☎802-388-4362; US 7; ☎8am-4pm Mon-Fri) There are lots of good day hikes in the region. Drop by for free, detailed printouts of 30 or so hikes.

## Sleeping

**Middlebury Inn** INN \$\$  
(☎802-388-4961, 800-842-4666; www.middleburyinn.com; 14 Court House Sq, VT 7; r \$120-270; ☎) This inn's fine old main building (1827) has beautifully restored formal public rooms with wide hallways, and its charming guest rooms have all the modern conveniences. The adjacent Porter Mansion, with Victorian-style rooms, is full of architectural details. The inn opposes the green and overlooks the bandstand. The lower-priced guest rooms are in the less interesting modern motel units (basic spaces, no antiques) in the back. Complimentary tea is served daily from 2:30pm to 5:30pm.

**Swift House Inn** INN \$\$  
(☎802-388-9925; www.swifthouseinn.com; cnr Stewart Lane & US 7; r/ste incl breakfast from \$145/245; ☎) This grand white Federal mansion was built in 1814, served as the family estate of philanthropist Jessica Stewart Swift and is surrounded by fine formal lawns and gardens. In addition to standard luxurious rooms in the main house and adjacent carriage house, the inn boasts suites featuring a fireplace, sitting area and Jacuzzi. Other welcome luxuries include a steam room and sauna, a cozy pub, a library, a sun porch and gracious amenities. It also owns a third building half a block down the road from the main inn (at the corner of Stewart Lane and US 7), offering simpler rooms at lower rates (from \$105).

**Waybury Inn** INN \$\$\$  
(☎802-388-4015, 800-348-1810; www.wayburyinn.com; VT 125, East Middlebury; r/ste incl breakfast from \$180/220; ☎) A favorite of Robert Frost, this former stagecoach stop has a popular pub and sumptuous guest rooms. The inn's exterior was used in the 1980s TV show *Newhart* to evoke the traditional New England inn (though Bob's never actually been here). In the summer, laze away an afternoon in the swimming hole underneath the nearby bridge; in winter, warm yourself

## HIKING THE ROBERT FROST INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

In 1920 Robert Frost moved from New Hampshire to Vermont seeking 'a better place to farm and especially grow apples.' For almost four decades Frost lived in the Green Mountain State, growing apples and writing much of his poetry in a log cabin in Ripton, a beautiful hamlet set in the Vermont mountains 10 miles southeast of Middlebury on VT 125, where he kept a summer home.

Today the Ripton area in the Green Mountain National Forest has been officially designated Robert Frost Country. In addition to a picnic area and a memorial drive named after the poet, this area encompasses the **Robert Frost Interpretive Trail** and the **Bread Loaf School of English**, which Frost helped found while teaching at Middlebury College. Roughly 0.75 miles, the circular trail is marked by half a dozen of his poems, while the surrounding woods and meadows are highly evocative of his work. To get here from Ripton, take VT 125 east for 2 miles and look for the trail on the right side of the road.

in the pub. There's also an on-site restaurant serving New England-focused dinners (\$15 to \$25) in a cozy, wood-paneled space inside, or out on the porch and terrace in summer.

### Inn on the Green

INN \$\$

(☎802-388-7512, 888-244-7512; www.innonthegreen.com; 19 S Pleasant St; r incl continental breakfast \$200-240, ste \$300-340; @☎) Lovingly restored to its original stateliness, this 1803 Federal-style home offers spacious rooms and suites across the main house and in an adjoining carriage house (the latter's rooms are more modern). One of its signature treats is breakfast served in bed each morning.

### Blue Spruce Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎802-388-4091, 800-640-7671; US 7; r/ste incl continental breakfast from \$65/125) A mere 3 miles south of the town center, Blue Spruce has basic but comfortable rooms and suites (which are more like mini apartments, some of which can sleep four).

### Branbury State Park

CAMPGROUND \$

(☎802-247-5925; www.vtstateparks.com; VT 53; RV sites \$23-25, campsites \$18-20; ☀May-mid-Oct) About 10 miles south of Middlebury on Lake Dunmore, this place has 39 sites (including six lean-tos) on 96 acres. Hiking trails lead to spectacular views.



## Eating & Drinking

### 51 Main

ECLECTIC, LOUNGE \$\$

(☎802-388-8209; www.go51main.com; 51 Main St; meals \$8-22; ☀11:30am-midnight; ☎) Over-looking Otter Creek, this restaurant, lounge, bar and live-music venue was started by a few Middlebury College students who want-

ed to create a fun social space where people could dine, perform and generally hang out. It stocks a number of board games (entire families often come in to play), holds live music concerts, features a convivial, casual bar and serves light, international fare (anything from savory crêpes and quiche to Bunny chow and mac-and-fromage, made with Vermont cheddar, of course). It's an airy, high-ceilinged place that never seems to feel that crowded even when it's packed with loyal patrons.

### Otter Creek Bakery

BAKERY \$

(14 College St; sandwiches \$4-5; ☀7am-6pm Mon-Sat, 7am-3pm Sun) This bakery, with some outdoor seating, is popular for takeout pastries, strong coffee and creative sandwiches. Traveling with a pooch? It'll lick your face if you buy it an Otter Creek dog biscuit.

### Storm Cafe

CAFE \$

(3 Mill St; lunches \$3-8, dinners to go \$6-13; ☀11am-6pm Tue-Sat) In the basement of Frog Hollow Mill, this creekside cafe has soups, salads, sandwiches and the like. The black-board menu highlights more substantial dishes like vegetarian lasagna to take away for a late-afternoon picnic or early dinner. In good weather, sit on the terrace overlooking Otter Creek to enjoy what some consider to be the most imaginative menu in town.

### Mister Up's

AMERICAN \$\$

(25 Bakery Lane; dishes \$8-16; ☀11:30am-midnight) Exceptionally popular with Middlebury College undergrads, Mister Up's serves burgers, steak and seafood, with a portobello sandwich or two thrown in for good measure. You can dine outside on

the riverside deck or inside the brick and stained-glass greenhouse. The bar is a mecca for town nightlife.

### Fire & Ice

AMERICAN \$\$\$

(☎802-388-7166; 26 Seymour St; meals \$13-34; ☺lunch Tue-Sun, dinner daily) In a setting rich in stained glass and mahogany, quirky Fire & Ice (the name comes from a Frost poem) is locally known for its hearty seafood and steaks (notably the steak Rockport – filet mignon with lobster tail in a hollandaise sauce). The salad bar is something to behold: featuring over 50 items, it is made from an old motorboat.

### i Information

#### Admission County Chamber of Commerce

(www.midvermont.com; 2 Court St; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri year-round, noon-4:30pm Sat late Jun-mid-Oct) Ensnared in a grand mansion on the north side of the creek facing the town green, this place dispenses plenty of information.

### i Getting There & Away

Middlebury is located right on US 7. To get from Burlington to Middlebury take US 7 south (50 minutes, 35 miles); from Manchester take US 7 north (1¼ hours, 73 miles).

## Mad River Valley & Sugarbush

POP 1700 (WARREN); 1690 (WAITSFIELD)

North of Killington, VT 100 is one of the finest stretches of road in the country – a bucolic mix of rolling hills, covered bridges, white steeples and farmland so fertile you feel like jumping out of the car and digging your hands in the soil. Forty-five miles (or an hour) north of Killington, you'll land in the Mad River Valley, a virtual advertisement for Vermont. Nestled in the valley are Waitsfield and Warren, two villages that exude a certain timelessness, as well as two major ski areas, Sugarbush and Mad River Glen. Both feature the New England skiing of yore, a time when trails were cut by hand and weren't much wider than a hiking path.

The 'gap roads' that run east to west over the Green Mountains offer some of the most picturesque views of the region: VT 73 crosses the Brandon Gap (2170ft) from Brandon to Rochester and Talcville; VT 125 crosses the Middlebury Gap from East Middlebury (2149ft) to Hancock. A narrow local road crosses Lincoln Gap (2424ft)

from Bristol to Warren. (The Lincoln Gap road is closed in wintertime due to heavy snowfall.)

Crossing the Appalachian Gap (at 2356ft) from Bristol to Irasville and Waitsfield, VT 17 offers the best views of all.

### 👁 Sights & Activities

Winter skiing is the big draw here, but canoeing and kayaking are prime on the Mad River (along VT 100) and White River (along VT 100 near Hancock) in April, May and early June, and on the larger Winooski River (along I-89) in the spring, summer and fall.

#### Mad River Glen

SKI RESORT

(☎802-496-3551; www.madriverglen.com) Subaru wagons with Vermont license plates often have bumper stickers that present this dare: 'Mad River Glen, Ski It If You Can.' Bumper stickers don't lie. This is the nastiest lift-served ski area in the east, a combination of rocks, ice, trees – and snow, of course. Unlike Sugarbush, cooperatively owned Mad River Glen is largely averse to change. Snowboarding isn't even permitted here, in an effort to keep the slopes as near as possible to the mountain's gnarled primal state (telemark skiing is allowed, however). Very little artificial snowmaking is used.

Such is Mad Glen's commitment to preservation that it still operates the only **single chairlift** in the country. The vintage 1948 model was restored in 2008 and sits firmly in the past.

#### Sugarbush

SKI RESORT

(☎802-583-6300; www.sugarbush.com) Lincoln Peak (3975ft) and Mt Ellen (4083ft) are the main features of Sugarbush. The two peaks were linked only a dozen years ago by a chair. In all, the two afford skiers 111 trails, many of which hurtle through a rolling tapestry of maple, oak, birch, spruce, pine and balsam. This is particularly evident as you ski Paradise, Castlerock or the backcountry runs in between, which braid through the forest. There are 508 acres for skiing here overall, and snowboarding is also available.

#### Clearwater Sports

BIKE RENTAL, WATERSPORTS

(☎802-496-2708; www.clearwatersports.com; VT 100, Waitsfield; canoe rentals per day \$55-80, bike rentals per day \$25, 4hr canoeing & kayaking trips incl lessons per person from \$80; ☺9am-6pm Mon-Sat, to 5pm Sun) This friendly shop rents canoes (price depends on whether you

need a shuttle service or prefer to borrow one of its roof racks), kayaks, river-floating tubes (\$25 per person; they drop you off and pick you up), in-line skates, bicycles, snowshoes, telemark demo gear and many other types of sports equipment. Clearwater also organizes kayak tours, family overnight tours and one-day guided canoeing and kayaking trips.

### Sugarbush Soaring

GLIDERS

(☎802-496-2290; <http://sugarbush.org>; 20-30min rides \$129-169; ☀10am-5pm May-Oct) This place offers an unconventional activity. You take off from Warren-Sugarbush Airport in a glider towed by a conventional aircraft. After gaining altitude, you cast off the towrope and soar quietly through the skies above the mountains and river valleys, kept aloft by updrafts of warm air.

### Ole's Cross Country Ski Center

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

(☎802-496-3430; [www.olesxc.com](http://www.olesxc.com); 2355 Airport Rd, Warren; ☀noon-5pm when not snowing, 9am-5pm when snowing) One of the biggest ski-touring centers, this local center features more than 100 miles of groomed cross-country trails.

## Sleeping

Because the Sugarbush area is primarily active in the winter ski season, there are no campgrounds nearby. Many accommodations are condos marketed to the ski trade. The largest selection of condos is rented by **Sugarbush Village** (☎800-451-4326; [www.sugarbushvillage.com](http://www.sugarbushvillage.com)), right at the ski area. Rentals cost about \$200 to \$750 per day, depending on condo size and location, and your date of arrival and length of stay.

### Inn at Round Barn Farm

INN \$\$\$

(☎802-496-2276, 800-721-8029; [www.roundbarninn.com](http://www.roundbarninn.com); 1661 E Warren Rd, Waitsfield; r/ste incl breakfast from \$175/300; ☀☎) This inn gets its name from the adjacent 1910 round barn, one of the few authentic examples remaining in Vermont. The decidedly upscale inn features antique-furnished guest rooms with mountain views, gas fireplaces, canopy beds and antiques. All overlook the meadows and mountains. In winter guests leave their shoes at the door to preserve the hardwood floors. The country-style breakfast is huge.

### Hyde Away

INN \$\$

(☎802-496-2322, 800-777-4933; [www.hydeawayinn.com](http://www.hydeawayinn.com); VT 17, Waitsfield; r/ste incl breakfast from \$80/170; ☀) This 1830 farmhouse, sawmill

and barn boasts its own mountain-bike touring center; hiking, and snowshoeing trails. The rooms, suites and bunks range from one- and two-person rooms to a suite that sleeps five. Some rooms have private bathrooms, while some are basic bunk rooms with shared bathroom. The property also includes a restaurant and tavern serving American and pub fare, respectively.

### Inn at Mad River Barn

INN \$

(☎802-496-3310, 800-631-0466; [www.madriverbarn.com](http://www.madriverbarn.com); VT 17, Waitsfield; s incl breakfast \$75, d \$90-125; ☀☎) This is one of the last old-time Vermont lodges. Betsy Kratz operates this 1940s ski lodge and rents rustic, wood-paneled rooms with bright quilts, some of which are in the annex, with steam bathrooms. The charm of the old lodge is preserved with a massive stone fireplace, deep leather chairs and a deck overlooking landscaped gardens. A pool hidden in a birch grove welcomes guests in summer.

### Waitsfield Inn

INN \$\$

(☎802-496-3979; [www.waitsfieldinn.com](http://www.waitsfieldinn.com); VT 100; d incl breakfast \$139-180; ☀) This converted parsonage features 12 tastefully decorated rooms as well as various nooks and dining areas to help you unwind. All rooms have private bathrooms and some have four-poster beds. It also offers dinner (New England comfort fare) on weekend evenings and there is a tiny, on-site pub that serves home-flavored fruit vodkas (blueberry or raspberry mixed with pineapple).

## Eating

Skiers' taverns abound in this area. Restaurants are quite busy in the ski season, but quite sleepy at other times. Outside of winter, call ahead to verify opening hours – they change quite frequently.

### Mint

VEGETARIAN, TEA LOUNGE \$

(☎802-496-5514; 4403 Main St, Waitsfield; meals \$8-10; ☀noon-8pm or 9pm Wed-Sun) Tiny on number of dishes but huge in flavor, this modern, (95%) organic vegan and vegetarian spot serves sandwiches, salads, soups and desserts, including falafels, vegetable bowls and its signature 'Mint' salad (spinach, arugula, pears, toasted almonds, shaved parmesan and cranberries, all tossed in a mint vinaigrette). It's run by an Eastern European couple who came to Waitsfield (by way of many years in California) and has been an instant hit since it opened in 2009. You're also welcome to

## VERMONT ICELANDIC HORSE FARM

Icelandic horses are one of the oldest, and some say most versatile, breeds in the world. They're also friendly and unbelievably affectionate beasts, and are fairly easy to ride even for novices – they tend to stop and think (rather than panic) if something frightens them. The **Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm** (☎802-496-7141; N Basin Rd, Waitsfield; rides 1-3hr \$50-100, full day incl lunch \$195; ☺year-round, riding tours by appointment), located roughly 1000 yards south of the town common, takes folks on one- to three-hour or full-day jaunts year-round; it also offers two- to five-day inn-to-inn treks (some riding experience required, inquire for details). The farm also runs the pleasant **Mad River Inn** (www.madriverinn.com; r incl breakfast \$125-175) just a short trot away.

come by just to tuck into one of the homemade desserts (tofu-pumpkin pie, for example) and sip a cup of tea from the long selection of loose-leaf varieties (all for sale at the on-site tea shop).

**Warren Store** SANDWICHES, COUNTRY STORE \$ (☎802-496-3864; Main St, Warren; dishes \$4-9; ☺8am-6pm or 7pm) This atmospheric country store serves the area's biggest and best sandwiches as well as a sumptuous breakfast. In summer, eat on the deck overlooking the waterfall (except when there are swarms of bees). As a full country store it also sells New England novelties, cheeses and old-school candy in massive glass jars, plus a large wine selection.

**John Egan's Big World Pub and Grill** AMERICAN \$\$ (☎802-496-3033; VT 100, Waitsfield; dishes \$10-17; ☺dinner Sep-mid-Apr) Don't let the exterior decor fool you. Extreme skier John Egan has hired a renowned chef from New England Culinary Institute and the venison and lamb dishes are arguably the finest in the Green Mountain State. That makes foodies happy, but John Egan's is also a brewpub at heart, a hangout for skiers who heartily consume the house brew, Egan's Extreme Ale.

## i Information

**Sugarbush Chamber of Commerce** (www.madrivervalley.com; General Wait House, VT 100, Waitsfield; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Assists with lodging and the latest skiing info; has additional hours on Saturday (10am to 5pm) during the summer, fall and winter tourism seasons.

## i Getting There & Away

From Waitsfield, it's 22 miles (40 minutes) to Stowe via VT 100, and about the same if you're taking a detour to Montpelier (via VT 100 north to I-89 south).

## NORTHERN VERMONT

Home to the state capital, Montpelier, northern Vermont also contains the state's largest city, Burlington. Never fear, though: this area still features all of the rural charms found elsewhere. Even within Burlington, cafe-lined streets coexist with scenic paths along Lake Champlain. Further north, the pastoral Northeast Kingdom offers a full range of outdoor activities, from skiing to biking, in the heart of the mountains.

## Burlington

POP 38,700

Vermont's largest city would be a small city in most other states, but Burlington's size is one of its charms. With the University of Vermont (UVM) swelling the city by 13,400 students, and a vibrant cultural and social life, Burlington has a spirited, youthful character. And when it comes to nightlife, this is Vermont's epicenter. Just due south of Burlington is Shelburne, an upscale village that's home to the crown jewel of the area, Shelburne Museum. The village is considered more of an extension of Burlington rather than a separate suburb – people think nothing of popping down for an evening meal to one of its fine restaurants.

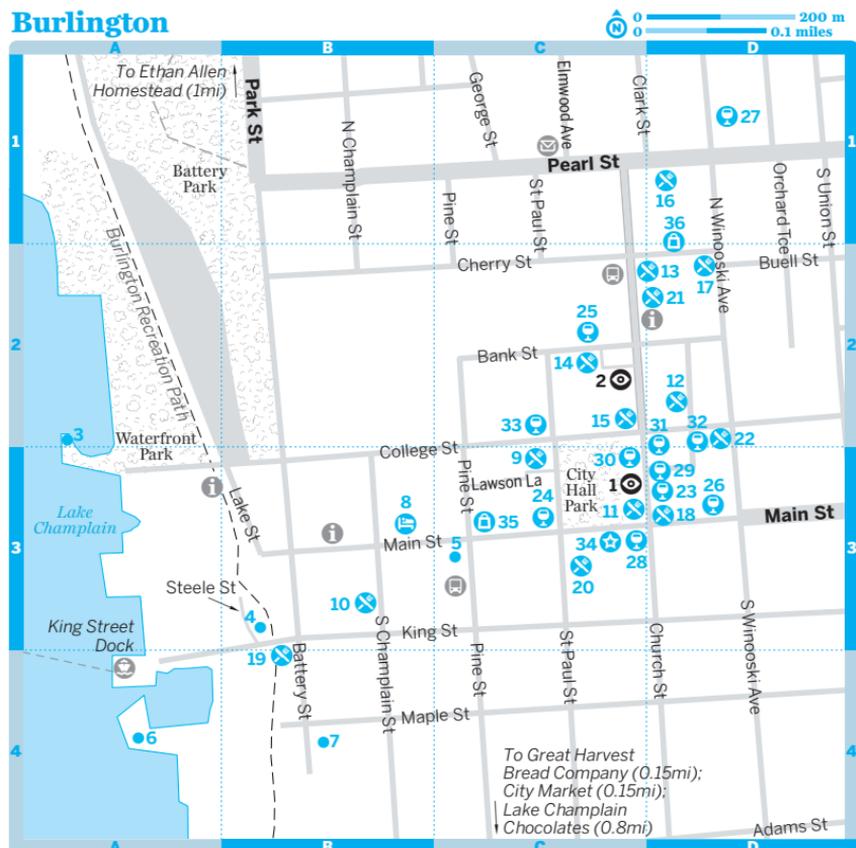
Perched on the shore of Lake Champlain, Burlington is less than an hour's drive from Stowe and other Green Mountain towns. In fact, the city can be used as a base for exploring much of northwestern Vermont.

## 👁️ Sights

### Waterfront

OUTDOOR SPACE

A five-minute walk from the center of town, the **waterfront** is unencumbered by the souvenir stands and chain stores that crowd the more developed waterfronts of



most American cities. Instead, it's a low-key promenade with a 7.5-mile bike path, a pier for **boat trips** on Lake Champlain, the Echo Lake aquarium and the Discovery Landing, a modern **observatory** with a cafe that's great for watching the sun set over the lake.

### Ethan Allen Homestead

HISTORIC HOUSE

([www.ethanallenhomestead.org](http://www.ethanallenhomestead.org); adult/child \$7/3; ☉10am-4pm Thu-Mon May-Oct) American Revolution hero Ethan Allen, often referred to as 'Vermont's godfather,' lived in this 18th-century colonial homestead. Be sure to take the guided tour (included in entrance fee; tour times vary) of the historic house. The center features multimedia exhibits documenting the exploits of Allen's Green Mountain Boys and also has walking trails behind the house. To reach the homestead, take the North Ave Beaches exit and follow the signs. It's 1 mile north of Burlington on VT 127.

### Church Street Marketplace

PEDESTRIAN MALL

Burlington's pulse can often be taken along this four-block pedestrian zone running from Pearl to Main St. When the weather's good, buskers (now licensed by the town), craft vendors, soapbox demagogues, restless students and curious tourists mingle in a vibrant human parade.

### Shelburne Museum

MUSEUM

([www.shelburnemuseum.org](http://www.shelburnemuseum.org); US 7; adult/under 6yr/6-14yr \$20/free/10, tickets valid for 2 consecutive days; ☉10am-5pm early May-late Oct) This extraordinary museum, 9 miles south of Burlington off US 7, occupies 45 acres near the former Vanderbilt/Webb estate. HO and Louise Havemeyer were patrons of the arts and collectors of European and old masters paintings. Their daughter Electra's interests, however, tended toward Americana. Electra Havemeyer Webb (1888-1960) amassed a huge, priceless collection of American works of art and craft that she

## Burlington

### 📍 Sights

- 1 Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts ..... C3
- 2 Frog Hollow Craft Center ..... C2

### 🎨 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 3 Burlington Community Boathouse ..... A2
- 4 Local Motion ..... B3
- North Star Cyclery ..... (see 35)
- 5 Ski Rack ..... C3
- Spirit of Ethan Allen II ..... (see 3)
- 6 Waterfront Boat Rentals ..... A4
- 7 Waterfront Diving Center ..... B4
- Whistling Man Schooner Company ... (see 3)
- Winds of Ireland ..... (see 3)

### 🏠 Sleeping

- 8 Sunset House B&B ..... B3

### 🍴 Eating

- 9 Blue Cat Cafe & Wine Bar ..... C3
- 10 August First Bakery & Café ..... B3
- 11 Burlington Farmer's Market ..... C3
- 12 Daily Planet ..... D2
- 13 Dobra Tea ..... D2
- Dueno! ..... (see 27)
- 14 Henry's Diner ..... C2
- 15 Leunig's Bistro ..... C2

- 16 Parima ..... D1
- 17 Penny Cluse Cafe ..... D2
- 18 Red Onion ..... D3
- 19 Shanty on the Shore ..... B4
- 20 Trattoria Delia ..... C3
- 21 Uncommon Grounds ..... D2
- 22 Zabby & Elf's Stone Soup ..... D2

### 🍷 Drinking

- 23 1/2 Lounge ..... D3
- 24 Drink ..... C3
- 25 Farmhouse Tap & Grill ..... C2
- 26 Nectar's ..... D3
- 27 Radio Bean ..... D1
- 28 Rasputin ..... C3
- 29 Red Square ..... D3
- 30 Ri-Ra The Irish Pub ..... C3
- Splash at the Boathouse ..... (see 3)
- 31 Sweetwaters ..... D2
- 32 Three Needs ..... D2
- 33 Vermont Pub & Brewery ..... C2

### 🎭 Entertainment

- 34 Flynn Center for the Performing Arts ..... C3

### 🛍 Shopping

- 35 North Star Cyclery ..... C3
- 36 Outdoor Gear Exchange ..... D1

put on display in the numerous buildings of the museum. Indeed, the buildings themselves are exhibits. Many were moved here from other parts of New England to ensure their preservation.

The collections – 150,000 objects housed in 39 buildings – include folk art, decorative arts, impressionist masterpieces and New England architecture. Items include a sawmill (1786), a covered bridge (1845), a lighthouse (1871), a luxury private rail coach (1890), a classic round barn (1901), a railroad station complete with locomotive (1915), the Lake Champlain side-wheeler steamship *Ticonderoga* (1906), and a circus building and 1920s carousel.

### University of Vermont & Fleming Museum

UNIVERSITY, MUSEUM (UVM; ☎802-656-3131; [www.uvm.edu](http://www.uvm.edu)) Chartered in 1791, this is the fifth-oldest university in New England. Occupying a verdant 460-acre campus east of the town center, it features a number of 18th-century buildings,

but it's the youthful vigor of its 10,700-student body that has the biggest impact on Burlington life. From fall to spring, the main event at the Gutterson Field House is hockey, which consistently draws sellout crowds to watch the UVM Catamounts; call ahead for information on getting tickets to these thrillers. One of the best things to see on campus is the **Fleming Museum** ([www.flemingmuseum.org](http://www.flemingmuseum.org); 61 Colchester Ave; adult/student & senior \$5/3; ☉noon-4pm Tue-Fri & 1-5pm Sat & Sun May-Aug, 9am-4pm Tue-Fri & 1-5pm Sat & Sun Sep-Jun), which boasts a collection of over 20,000 objects from a variety of civilizations, from African masks, Indian drums and samurai armor to an Egyptian mummy. Highlights of the American collection are colonial portraiture, a series of Stieglitz photos and canvases by Winslow Homer and Andy Warhol.

**Burlington City Arts & Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts** ARTS CENTER & ORGANIZATION (BCA; [www.burlingtoncityarts.com](http://www.burlingtoncityarts.com)) This local arts organization mounts area installations

and runs classes, workshops, studios and programs – it is worth checking online if anything is going on while you're in town. Under the auspices of BCA, the **Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts** ([www.burlingtoncityarts.com/fcva](http://www.burlingtoncityarts.com/fcva); 135 Church St; ☉noon-5pm Sun-Thu, noon-8pm Fri & Sat May-late Oct) is an exciting locus for art exhibits, classes and discussions. Ongoing open studios involve the community with an artist in residence. A community darkroom has open-studio hours, classes and discussions.

### Shelburne Farms

FARM

(☎802-985-8686, 802-985-8442; [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org); off US 7; with tour adult/3-17yr \$11/7, without tour \$8/5; ☉cheesemaking, tours, inn & farmyard 9am-5:30pm mid-May-mid-Oct, walking trails only 10am-4pm year-round, weather permitting) In 1886 William Seward Webb and Lila Vanderbilt Webb built a little place for themselves in the Vermont countryside on Lake Champlain. The 1400-acre farm, designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (who also designed New York's Central Park and Boston's Emerald Necklace), was both a country house for the Webbs and a working farm. The grand, 24-bedroom English-style country manor (completed in 1899), now an inn (p370), is surrounded by working farm buildings inspired by European romanticism.

Today, you can tour Shelburne Farms and buy some of the cheese, maple syrup, mustard and other items produced here. Or hike the **walking trails** and visit the animals in the **children's farmyard**. The guided 1½-hour **tours** (from a truck-pulled open wagon) begin at 9:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm.

The farm is 8 miles south of Burlington, off US 7.

### **FREE** Frog Hollow Craft Center

CRAFT CENTER

(☎802-863-6458; [www.froghollow.org](http://www.froghollow.org); 85 Church St; ☉10am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun) This excellent contemporary and traditional craft center feels more like a museum gallery than the retail store that it is. A rigorous jury process screens artisans for acceptance.

### Echo Lake Aquarium & Science Centerlain

SCIENCE MUSEUM

([www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org); College St; adult/3-17yr \$10.50/8.50; ☉10am-5pm Fri-Wed, 10am-8pm Thu) The colorful past, present and future

of Lake Champlain is explored at this lively museum perched on the edge of the lake. A multitude of aquariums wiggle with life and many exhibits invite inquisitive minds and hands to splash, poke, click, listen and crawl. Frog World contains a cacophony of frogs from six continents and the Be a Weatherman section is where you can report about highs and lows in the makeshift TV studio, and even bring your own weather report home on DVD.

### Shelburne Vineyard Tasting Room

WINERY, TASTING ROOM

(☎802-985-8222; [www.shelburnevineyard.com](http://www.shelburnevineyard.com); 6308 Shelburne Rd; tastings 8 wines \$4; ☉11am-5pm) One of the best tasting rooms in the state, this converted barn offers samples of Shelburne's award-winning whites and reds in a lofty space – local art (changing monthly) graces the walls and it regularly hosts wine-makers who don't have their own tasting room. On our visit, we sampled award-winning Eden Ice Cider, a delicate, sweet wine produced from 100% Vermont apples.

### Vermont Teddy Bear Factory

MUSEUM, FACTORY

(☎802-985-3001; [www.vermontteddybear.com](http://www.vermontteddybear.com); 6655 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne; adult/under 12yr \$2/free; ☉9am-5pm) A 30-minute tour takes you through the factory and demonstrates how they generate ideas through sketches, create, stuff and stitch the smiling soft friends into the beloved handmade toy you can't let go of. You'll also learn about custom-made bears and the bear 'hospital,' which patches up tattered beasts for their devoted owners (Vermont Teddies come with a lifetime guarantee).

### Magic Hat Brewery

BREWERY

(☎802-658-2739; [www.magichat.net](http://www.magichat.net); Bartlett Bay Rd; ☉Mon-Sat 10-7pm, to 5pm Sun) You can drink in the history of one of New England's most dynamic microbreweries on the fun, free, self-guided 'Artifactory' Tour (once you see the whimsical labels, this factory name makes perfect sense) and learn all the nuances of the beer-making process. Afterwards, sample a few favorites or pick up a six-pack to take home.



## Activities

### Boating & Water Sports

Approximately 120 miles long and 12 miles wide, **Lake Champlain** is the largest freshwater lake in the country after the Great Lakes. Consistently good wind, sheltered

## LAKE CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS

Unfolding like a forgotten ribbon just north of Burlington lie the desolate Champlain Islands, a 27-mile-long stretch of four largely undeveloped isles – all connected by US 2 and a series of bridges and causeways. It's an easy day-trip from Burlington, and select stretches boast stellar views of the water, but really, it's best explored in summer by turning off the main road, letting yourself get a little lost and dropping by for a taste of wine and a bite to eat.

Vermont's first vineyard, **Snowfarm Winery** (☎802-372-WINE; 190 West Shore Rd, South Hero; www.snowfarm.com; ☀10am-5pm May-Oct) boasts a sweet tasting room tucked away down a dirt road (look for the signs off US 2). Sample its award-winning whites or a sip of ice wine in the rustic barn (three tastes are free), or drop by on Thursday evening for the free **concert series** (Jun-Aug; ☀6:30-8:30pm) on the lawn next to the vines – expect anything from jazz to folk to light rock and roll.

The **Hyde Log Cabin** (☎802-828-3051; www.historicvermont.org; US2; adult \$2; ☀11am-5pm Sat & Sun Jun–mid-Oct), one of the oldest (1783) log cabins in the US, is worth a short stop to see how settlers lived in the 18th century and to examine traditional household artifacts from Vermont.

Up on North Hero, with incomparable, front-row views of the water is **North Hero House** (☎802-372-4732; US2, North Hero; www.northherohouse.com; r from \$140; ☎), a country inn hometo a restaurant (New American cuisine, meals \$18 to \$28), open for dinner, and the fantastic outdoor **Steamship Pier Bar & Grill** (sandwiches \$10-18; ☀lunch & dinner Jun-Sep), which feeds you kebabs, burgers and lobster rolls with a fresh cocktail smack on the pier, the water glistening beside you.

bays, lack of boat traffic, hundreds of islands and scenic anchorages combine to make this immense lake one of the top cruising grounds in the northeast. Whether you pilot your own vessel or kick back on a cruise, make sure you get out on that water.

The departure point for hourly and daily boat cruises and boat rentals is **Burlington Community Boathouse** (☎802-865-3377; www.enjoyburlington.com; foot of College St at Lake Champlain; ☀mid-May–mid-Oct), a popular hangout fashioned after Burlington's original 1900s yacht club. Traveling with your own yacht? Transient dock space is available. The boathouse is easy to spot on the waterfront's 8-mile recreational path.

There's no finer way to enjoy Lake Champlain than to set out on a multiday paddling trip on the **Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail** (☎802-658-1414; www.lakechamplaincom mittee.org). Paddlers are encouraged to join the ecofriendly Lake Champlain Committee (\$40 per year), for which they receive an essential guidebook that details the trails, campsites and rules of the nautical road.

**Whistling Man Schooner Company**

SAILING CRUISE

(☎802-598-6504; www.whistlingman.com; Boathouse, foot of College St at Lake Champlain; 2hr cruises adult/child \$35/20; ☀May-Sep, 3 trips

daily, times vary by month) Sail around Lake Champlain on the 'Friend Ship,' a classic 43ft New England beauty that holds up to 17 passengers. Captains and staff are knowledgeable about the area, and they encourage you to bring food and drink on board, so you can bob about with a breeze in your hair while sipping a Vermont microbrew and eating local cheddar – it's all about the good life, after all. Reservations required. Private charters also available (from \$275 for two hours); inquire for more details.

**Winds of Ireland**

BOAT RENTAL

(☎802-863-5090, 800-458-9301; www.windsofireland.net; Boathouse, foot of College St at Lake Champlain; ☀late May–early Sep, trips 11:30am, 2:30pm & dusk) You can charter sailboats, yachts and powerboats of 30ft to 41ft from a half-day to a week. The company of a sailing guide will cost you \$25 per hour.

**Spirit of Ethan Allen II**

CRUISES

(☎802-862-8300; www.soea.com; Boathouse, foot of College St at Lake Champlain; ☀mid-May–mid-Oct) In addition to lunch and dinner cruises, this ship plies the lake with a 1½-hour, scenic, narrated day cruise (adult/child \$15/6) at 10am, noon, 2pm and 4pm, and a 2½-hour sunset cruise (adult/child \$20/13) at 6:30pm.

## KENNETH ALBERT: OWNER & WINEMAKER, SHELBURNE VINEYARD

Kenneth Albert has been producing mainly organic wine at **Shelburne Vineyard** since 2000. His tasting room has won awards for its sustainable design, and is known among local winemakers as one of the Vermont pioneers in the industry.

### Vermont Wines

One of the reasons why Vermont wineries have thrived recently is due to science – the hardy red Marquette grape, a fairly new breed invented in the late 1980s in Minnesota – is one of few that can survive our frigid winters.

### Must Do

One of the most fascinating museums and working farms is right here in Shelburne, and the factory tour is a hoot for all ages:

- » Shelburne Farms
- » Shelburne Museum
- » Vermont Teddy Bear Factory

### Must Eat

Burlington's Grocery Coop, **City Market**, carries an extensive selection of Vermont wines (and beers), and is one of the best places to buy local Vermont cheeses, meats and bread. And **Bistro Sauce** is favored by locals for its casual atmosphere and fantastic local food – plus the occasional live music makes it a great hangout.

## Waterfront Boat Rentals

KAYAK, CANOE, ROWBOAT RENTAL

(☎802-864-4858, 877-964-4858; [www.waterfrontboatrentals.com](http://www.waterfrontboatrentals.com); Perkins Pier; canoes 1/2/4/8hr \$15/25/40/60, kayaks \$14/28/40/60, double kayaks \$16/\$32/\$42/\$64, rowboats 1/2/4hr \$10/20/30; ☀10am-dusk May-Oct) Rent all manner of boats at this popular shop. Skiffs are priced depending on size and horsepower as well as the rental duration.

## Diving

Ever since the 18th-century French and Indian War, 120-mile-long Lake Champlain has been a major thoroughfare from the St Lawrence Seaway to the Hudson River. During the American Revolution and the War of 1812, numerous historic battles were fought on the lake to control this navigational stronghold. In the latter half of the 19th century, commercial vessels replaced gunboats. Many of these military and merchant ships sank to the lake's deep, dark bottom as a result of a cannonball or bad weather.

The misfortunes of these vessels make lucky finds for scuba divers. Two hundred wrecks have already been discovered, including the 54ft American Revolution boat *Philadelphia*, pulled from the waters in 1935 (and now sitting in the Smithsonian

Institution in Washington, DC). Unfortunately, many of the earlier wrecks are far too deep for scuba divers, but six of the commercial vessels that lie on the lake's floor have been preserved by the state of Vermont as an underwater historical site.

All divers must obtain a free permit, available at the Burlington Community Boathouse, with limited permits available on a first-come basis.

## Waterfront Diving Center

DIVE SHOP

(☎802-865-2771, 800-238-7282; [www.waterfrontdiving.com](http://www.waterfrontdiving.com); 214 Battery St; ☀9am-6:30pm Mon-Fri & 8:30am-5:30pm Sat & Sun early May-mid-Oct) This dive shop offers rentals, charters, instruction and a full line of snorkeling, swimming, scuba and underwater photography gear.

## ★ Festivals & Events

### First Friday Art Walk

ART

([www.artmapburlington.com](http://www.artmapburlington.com)) The First Friday Art Walk takes place in town on the first Friday of each month.

### Discover Jazz Festival

JAZZ

([www.discoverjazz.com](http://www.discoverjazz.com)) Burlington plays host to jazz in early to mid-June at the waterfront and various venues around town.

**Vermont Brewers Festival**

(<http://vtbrewfest.com>) Held in mid-July, by the waterfront. **BEER**

**Champlain Shakespeare Festival****SHAKESPEARE**

At the University of Vermont from late July through August; contact the chamber of commerce for details.

**Vermont Mozart Festival****CLASSICAL MUSIC**

([www.vtm Mozart.org](http://www.vtm Mozart.org)) Takes place from late July through early August around various venues in northern Vermont, including events in Burlington and Shelburne.

**First Night****WINTER**

([www.firstnightburlington.com](http://www.firstnightburlington.com)) A very big and festive winter festival featuring a parade, an ice- and snow-sculpture exhibition, music and lots more – on December 31.

** Sleeping**

Burlington's budget and midrange motels are on the outskirts of town. It's not usually necessary to reserve in advance, but if you call ahead on the day you intend to stay and ask for the 'same-day rate' you may get a discount. Many of the chain motels lie on Williston Rd east of I-89 exit 14; there's another cluster along US 7 north of Burlington in Colchester (take I-89 exit 16). But the best selection is along Shelburne Rd (US 7) in south Burlington.

**Lang House****B&B \$\$\$**

(☎802-652-2500, 877-919-9799; [www.langhouse.com](http://www.langhouse.com); 360 Main St; r \$195-245) Burlington's most elegant B&B occupies a centrally located, tastefully restored 19th-century Victorian home and carriage house with 11 spacious rooms, some with fireplaces. Breakfasts are truly sumptuous affairs in an alcove-laden room decorated with old photographs of the city. Additional small touches like wine glasses and robes in each room, and wine, beer and cheese for sale at the inn round out the feeling that you are truly being pampered here. Reserve far in advance to snag one of the 3rd-floor rooms with views of the lake.

**Willard Street Inn****INN \$\$\$**

(☎802-651-8710, 800-577-8712; [www.willardstreetinn.com](http://www.willardstreetinn.com); 349 S Willard St; r incl breakfast \$150-240, ste \$250; ☎) Perched on a hill within easy walking distance of UVM and the Church St Marketplace, this mansion, fusing Queen Anne and Georgian Revival styles, was built in the late 1880s. It has a

fine-wood and cut-glass elegance, yet radiates a welcoming warmth. Many of the guest rooms overlook Lake Champlain.

**One of a Kind B&B****B&B \$\$\$**

(☎802-862-5576, 877-479-2736; [www.oneofakindbnb.com](http://www.oneofakindbnb.com); 53 Lakeview Tce; ste incl breakfast \$150-200, cottage from \$250; ☎) Located in Lakeview Terrace, a quiet neighborhood just to the north of downtown, this two-unit place is a treat: tucked at the back of a sweet, peaceful and creatively renovated 1910 house is one suite with a cozy sofa, colorful art on the walls and a view that overlooks Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. Take your generous breakfast – including croissants and assorted local cheeses – into the backyard (with a tiny tree swing!) and savor the lake views. Set aside from the main house is the Carpe Diem cottage, which features a full kitchen, soft colors, sturdy wood furnishings and your own tiny garden to loll about in.

**Sunset House B&B****B&B \$\$\$**

(☎802-864-3790; [www.sunsethousebb.com](http://www.sunsethousebb.com); 78 Main St; r \$110-149; ☎) This sweet B&B features four tidy guest rooms. Bathrooms are shared, and there's a small common kitchen. This is the only B&B smack in the center of downtown (within easy walking distance of the waterfront), and the congenial owners make you feel like you are part of the family.

**DON'T MISS****SWITCHBACK BREWERY**

Magic Hat Brewery may get most of the fame, but in recent years Burlington microbrewer **Switchback** has been cultivating a vocal local following since it debuted its flagship Switchback ale in 2002. In fact, in early 2010 its ale was designated Vermont's Best Microbrew by local listings mag *7Days*, beating out the old hat. It doesn't bottle its concoctions, so you'll need to sample it on a night out or take a free **brewery tour** (☎802-651-4114; [www.facebook.com/SwitchbackBrewingCompany](http://www.facebook.com/SwitchbackBrewingCompany); 160 Flynn Ave), including tastings, on Saturdays at 1pm to decide for yourself. Many Burlington bars carry the brew on tap, including Ri-Ra, the Farmhouse and Leunig's Bistro.

## WALKING & BIKING YOUR WAY IN & AROUND BURLINGTON

Within the core of town, it's pedestrian central. You could also spend your entire Burlington vacation on a bike – if you are staying for a number of days during the non-snowy months, consider renting a bike for your entire stay (you'll fit in well with the ever-so-green locals, who passionately use bikes as a primary mode of transport). Bike paths cover the entire city and most suburbs, and vehicles generally give cyclists plenty of breathing space.

The **Burlington Recreation Path**, a popular 7.5-mile route for walking, biking, in-line skating and general perambulating, runs along the waterfront through the Waterfront Park and promenade. Rent bikes at **Ski Rack** (☎802-658-3313; www.skirack.com; 85 Main St; bike rental 1/4/24hr \$18/23/28; ☺May–Nov). You can also rent in-line skates, roller-skis, tandems, trailer bikes, snowshoes and skis (of course). Catch Tour de France action here on a big-screen TV. Another spot to rent bikes (between mid-May and mid-November) is **North Star Cyclery** (☎802-863-3832; www.northstarsports.net; 100 Main St; bike rental 1/4/8hr \$18/23/28).

**Local Motion** (☎802-652-2453; www.localmotion.org; 1 Steele St; bike rental per 1/4/24hr \$18/23/24; ☺10am–6pm mid-May–mid-Oct, from 9am Jul–Aug), a nonprofit group located at the trailside center, spearheads ongoing efforts to expand bike trails and sustain existing ones – it's also like an encyclopedia of advice on where to go locally for an excellent day out on a bike and offers bike rentals, maps, gifts, tours and refreshments. Highly recommended is the **12-mile Island Line Trail**. It combines with the waterfront bike path, beginning just south of the boathouse and ending on the narrow Colchester causeway that juts 5 miles out into the lake.

### Inn at Shelburne Farms

INN \$\$

(☎802-985-8498; www.shelburnefarms.org; 1611 Harbor Rd, Shelburne; r with shared bathroom \$165-200, with private bathroom \$220; ☺mid-May–mid-Oct; ☺) One of the top 10 places to stay in New England, this inn, 7 miles south of Burlington off US 7, was once the summer mansion of the wealthy Webb family. Relive their opulent lifestyle by taking tea (served every afternoon), or chill out playing billiards or relaxing in one of the common areas, complete with elegant, original furnishings from this gracious, welcoming country manor. If you're feeling more energetic, the hiking trails are a not-to-be-missed highlight. It also rents four cottages (scattered across the property) with full kitchens, from \$315 per night.

### North Beach Campground

CAMPGROUND \$

(☎802-862-0942, 800-571-1198; www.enjoyburlington.com; 60 Institute Rd; campsites \$25; ☺May–mid-Oct; ☺) This great place should be the first choice for tent campers. Right on Lake Champlain, it has 67 tent sites on 45 acres of woods and beach near the city center. To find it, get to Burlington's waterfront, then head north along Battery St and North Ave (VT 127), turning left on Institute Rd.

### Hartwell House B&B

B&amp;B \$

(☎802-658-9242; www.vermontbedandbreakfast.com; 170 Ferguson Ave; r incl breakfast \$90; @☺☺) Linda Hartwell offers two clean rooms (with shared bathroom) in her welcoming home in a residential neighborhood just five minutes' drive from the center of town. A pool is available in good weather, as is the deck for continental breakfasts.

### Northstar Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎802-863-3421; www.northstarmotelvt.com; 2427 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne; s/d incl breakfast \$40/80; ☺) These plain, tidy rooms are neat as a pin and the staff are wonderful.



### Eating

A large cluster of eateries is located on and near the Church St Marketplace. But if you explore just a little bit further out, your taste buds will be richly rewarded.

### Blue Bird Tavern

INTERNATIONAL \$\$

(☎802-540-1786; 317 Riverside Ave; meals \$9-25; ☺dinner Tue–Sat) Nominated for a James Beard award within its first year of operation, Blue Bird is one of Burlington's most experimental locavore eateries. Its menu (which changes daily) is a series of small and large plates – expect anything from pork belly with snow peas and horseradish

to pig's ear salad to a gourmet hot dog with charred onion aioli and roasted halibut in a spring vegetable broth. Order a cone of fries and they come with homemade ketchup and mayonnaise. Add a wood-paneled space with brick walls and a speakeasy, a bar area with exquisite libations and its own raw bar, plus live music on the weekends and Blue Bird is easily Burlington's culinary highlight.

**Blue Cat Cafe & Wine Bar** INTERNATIONAL \$\$\$  
(☎802-363-3639; One Lawson Lane at College & St Paul; meals \$25-354; ☺dinner) This tucked-away wine bar and restaurant serves up huge steaks (from grass-fed, local cows), seafood and wine from a lengthy wine list, in a tiny space with tablecloth-laden tables – but nothing about the upscale air is stuffy. This is serious gourmet fare whipped up with expertise and love. The bar is a popular hangout for those seeking a quiet glass of wine and an appetizer.

**Dueno!** INTERNATIONAL \$  
(10 N Winooski Ave; meals \$5-12; ☺lunch & dinner) Attached to Radio Bean, this chill street-food-inspired spot features anything from crêpes to noodle bowl to fried plantains and Dutch frites (fries), as well as sliders and Cuban sandwiches in the chill space with dark tables and crimson walls.

**Red Onion** CAFE \$  
(140½ Church St; dishes \$4-8; ☺7:30am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-8pm Sat, 11am-8pm Sun) Expect lines at lunch, even in the blustery days of winter, at this popular spot offering deeply gorgeous baked goods. Tempting specials include the Red Onion sandwich: turkey, sun-dried tomato mayo, green apples, red onion, smoked Gruyère and bacon.

**Parima** THAI \$\$  
(☎802-864-7917; 185 Pearl St; meals \$13-25; ☺lunch & dinner; ☺) Since 1994 this decadent Thai haunt has been feeding Burlington its traditional curries and stir-fries. It also has a new noodle bar where you concoct your own creation from a condiment tray after selecting among noodle dish and soup versions (with or without broth) and an array of seafood and meats. There's also a lounge-bar on site, featuring regular live music, from jazz to rock and roll.

**Great Harvest Bread Company** BAKERY \$  
(382 Pine St; sandwiches \$3.50-5.50; ☺7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm Sat; ☺) A soft, yeasty scent surrounds you and an array of

samples tempts you the minute you enter this sunny, airy, baking paradise a five-minute walk south of the town center. The monthly bread specialties are always imaginative. Great Harvest mills its own flour and offers a delectable variety of grilled panini.

**Henry's Diner** DINER \$  
(115 Bank St; dishes under \$8; ☺6am-6pm Mon-Fri, 6am-4pm Sat & Sun) A Burlington fixture since 1925, this diner has daily specials for around \$5. The food is simple (you can get breakfast all day), the atmosphere homey and pleasant, the prices unbeatable.

**Bistro Sauce** INTERNATIONAL \$\$  
(☎802-985-2830; 97 Falls Rd, Shelburne; meals \$15-28; ☺lunch & dinner daily, brunch Sun) At this delightful place, expect anything from market fish with preserved lemon risotto to vegetable tarte with curried quinoa at this relaxed but casual farmhouse bistro. It takes locavore a step further than most: even its butter comes from nearby farms and it features seasonal wild-foraged mushrooms. A stellar wine list and regular local, live music round out a meal; the bar is also a prime place for a snack and quiet conversation.

**Penny Cluse Cafe** CAFE \$  
(169 Cherry St; meals \$8-10; ☺breakfast & lunch) One of Burlington's most popular breakfast spots whips up pancakes, biscuits and gravy, breakfast burritos, omelettes and tofu scrambles along with sandwiches, fish tacos and salads in the airy corner spot right downtown. Expect to wait in line for least an hour on weekends – best bet is to put your name down, grab a coffee and take a pre-meal wander.

**Vietnam Restaurant** PAN-ASIAN \$\$  
(☎802-859-9998; 169 Church St; meals \$11-24; ☺dinner) Despite its name, this elegant downtown spot covers most of Southeast Asia and beyond. You can slurp your pho, dip into Chinese hot pot, sample dim sum (weekends only) and dig into pad Thai at this crowd-pleaser.

**Shanty on the Shore** SEAFOOD \$\$  
(181 Battery St; meals \$11-28; ☺lunch & dinner) With its fine lake views, this combo seafood market and eatery serves fresh lobster, fish and shellfish. The raw bar is exquisite, the outdoor deck is wonderful in summer, and the array of potent drinks enhances the sunset.

**August First Bakery & Cafe** PIZZA, BAKERY \$\$\$  
(149 S Champlain St; meals \$9-14; ☺11:30am-5pm Mon-Thu, to 5pm & 6-9pm Fri, 8am-3pm Sat) Most days this bakery-cafe is a hot spot for a cup of coffee, baked goods and sandwiches, not to mention its famous breads served by the loaf. But its Flatbread Fridays are a huge hit, when the tables are pushed together (so people can eat family style) and it opens for pizza and beer with unlimited flatbread (that's pizza, on a flat crust) and salads for \$12 (\$9 for kids 10 and younger). Expect anything from traditional pepperoni to more exotic gorgonzola-and-pear pizzas, and everything in between.

**Leunig's Bistro** FRENCH \$\$\$  
(☎802-863-3759; 115 Church St; meals \$23-40; ☺11am-11pm Mon-Fri, 9am-11pm Sat & Sun) 'Live well, laugh often and love much' advises the sign over the bar at this stylish brasserie with an elegant, tin-ceilinged dining room, and you'd do well to heed it. This place is a Burlington staple and is as much fun for the people-watching (windows face the busy Church St Marketplace) as it is for the excellent wine list and food.

**Great Harvest Bread Company** BAKERY \$  
(Pine St; sandwiches \$3.50-5.50; ☺7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm Sat) A soft, yeasty scent surrounds you and an array of samples tempts you the minute you enter this sunny, airy, baking paradise a five-minute walk south of the town center. The monthly bread specialties are always imaginative. Great Harvest mills its own flour and offers a delectable variety of grilled panini.

**Dobra Tea** TEAHOUSE \$  
(80 Church St; dishes \$3-7; ☺11am-10pm Mon-Thu, 11am-11pm Fri & Sat, noon-10pm Sun) This Czech-owned tearoom offers over 50 varieties, some seasonal, all hand-selected directly from their regions of origin. Sit at a table, an up-ended tea box, or on cushions around a small, low pedestal.

**Daily Planet** CAFE \$\$  
(15 Center St; meals \$13-22; ☺4-10pm; ☎☺) Offers a changing menu of creative dishes such as potato-crust salmon with Moroccan vegetable sauté, or Thai shrimp salad.

**Zabby & Elf's Stone Soup** CAFE \$  
(211 College St; dishes \$3-9; ☺7am-8pm Mon & Sat, 7am-9pm Tue-Fri; ☎☺) A big hit for its homemade soups, the salad bar and sandwiches with home-baked bread.

**Uncommon Grounds** COFFEE SHOP \$  
(42 Church St; dishes \$2-5; ☺7am-10pm Mon-Thu, 8:30am-11pm Fri & Sat, 9am-10pm Sun; ☎) Take your newspaper, order a cup of joe and a muffin, grab a sidewalk table and people-watch in good weather. And muse about how good life is.

**Trattoria Delia** ITALIAN \$\$\$  
(☎802-864-5253; 152 St Paul St; meals \$16-32; ☺dinner) A longtime favorite, this dimly lit Italian restaurant with a large stone fireplace serves homemade pastas and specialties like osso buco, coupling them with selections from its award-winning wine list.

**City Market** FOOD CO-OP \$  
(400 Pine St; ☺7am-11pm) If you're self-catering, be sure to hit the city's popular gourmet co-op grocery. It's chock-full of local produce and products (over 1600 Vermont-based producers are represented), a huge takeout section (salads, soups, pastas, coffee, falafels, breakfast wraps - most under \$7), a massive microbrew-focused beer section, a pharmacy section with natural soaps, shampoos and alternative medicine, and best of all, a 'Hippie Cooler', where you'll find all the tofu and tempeh you could dream for. There are also a few tables on site if you'd like to enjoy your takeout on the premises.

**Burlington Farmer's Market** FARMERS MARKET \$  
(www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org; City Hall Park, 149 Church St; ☺8:30am-2:30pm May-Oct) Every Saturday from May through October, City Hall Park bursts into life with this busy farmers market; during the rest of the year, the market moves indoors to the Memorial Auditorium (250 Main St). It's enormously popular and all vendors must grow or make precisely what they sell - expect fresh produce, prepared food, cheeses, breads, baked goods and crafts.

**Drinking**  
Burlington nightlife usually revolves around live music and mugs of beer, though more sophisticated endeavors turn up a few nuggets throughout town. The *Burlington Free Press* carries a special weekend entertainment section in its Thursday issue, and the free, energetic tabloid *Seven Days* tells all with a sly dash of attitude. Otherwise, head to the center of Burlington nightlife, Church St Marketplace (the pedestrian mall), thick with restaurants and sidewalk

## MAPLE SUGARING

Ranking first among states in maple syrup production, Vermont produces over 400,000 gallons of the sweet stuff – 36% of America's entire output. This is particularly impressive considering almost 40 gallons of sap must be tapped from maple trees for a mere quart of syrup. Demonstrations can be seen and samples tasted at the **Robb Family Farm** (p336), **Shelburne Farms** (p366), **Maple Grove Farms** (p384), or innumerable roadside farms in spring.

cafes. Late at night on summer weekends, the south end (by Main St) feels like one massive outdoor bar.

### Splash at the Boathouse

BAR

(☎802-658-2244; Boathouse, foot of College St at Lake Champlain; ☺11:30am-2am) The top floor of this floating dock (the boathouse) is home to Splash, a sometimes low-key (even for Burlington), sometimes raucous restaurant and bar with stellar views over Lake Champlain. It serves a full menu (salads, sandwiches, burgers – all rather mediocre). But that's not the point anyway – you come here to kick back with an evening cocktail or beer to watch the boats lolling about in the lake, preferably at sunset when yellow and purple shadows seem to dance across the water.

### Radio Bean

CAFE, BAR

(8 N Winooski Ave; ☺8am-midnight) This is the social hub for the arts and music scene. A low-power FM radio station (105.9) beams over the airwaves from this funky cafe-bar. Espressos, beer and wine keep things jumping, and grilled sandwiches and baked goods (\$4 to \$7) feed the soul. Live performances nightly include jazz, acoustic music and poetry readings.

### 1/2 Lounge

COCKTAIL BAR

(136 1/2 Church St; ☺from 6pm) Step downstairs to this cave-like speakeasy for delectable cocktails, excellent boutique wines and occasional live music. It's sophisticated and sheltered from the raucous scene that unfolds upstairs on Church St on weekend evenings. In addition to its award-winning martini list, it serves light tapas until the wee hours.

### Nectar's

BAR, LIVE MUSIC

(www.liveatnectars.com; 188 Main St) Indie darlings Phish got their start here, and the joint still rocks out with the help of aspiring acts. Grab a vinyl booth or chill at the bar or dance upstairs at **Club Metronome**, which hosts a slew of theme nights (every Friday is '80s night) but also features larger live acts.

### Vermont Pub & Brewery

BREW PUB

(www.vermontbrewery.com; 144 College St; dishes \$5-15; ☺11:30am-1am Sun-Wed, 11:30am-2am Thu-Sat) This large pub's specialty and seasonal brews are made on the premises. Try the Burly Irish Ale, the highly popular Dogbite Bitter and Mick's Smoked Stout. There's also plenty of British pub fare (\$8 to \$14) to accompany the pints.

### Drink

WINE BAR

(www.wineworks.net; 133 St Paul St; ☺from 4:30pm Tue-Sat) A lengthy wine list dominates, though an armada of inventive mojitos will sink those in search of stiffer treatment. Small plates of New England delicacies (such as scallops wrapped in bacon, and mini crab cakes) complement the drinks admirably.

### Farmhouse Tap & Grill

GASTROPUB

(160 Bank St; meals \$9-20; ☺dinner) Part pub, part grill, this newcomer labels itself a gastropub, which translates in this instance to a bar and grill (most food sourced locally). Modern space packs 'em in every night.

### Three Needs

BAR

(207 College St; ☺4pm-2am) Whatever *your* needs, this small college hangout doles out award-winning suds from its microbrewery. The crowd gravitates toward the pool table in the back, which can get pretty raucous on weekends.

### Red Square

COCKTAIL BAR

(136 Church St; ☺4pm-2am Mon-Fri, 5pm-2am Sat & Sun) With a stylish Soho-like ambience, this is where Vermonters in the know go to sip martini or wine, munch on good bar food (including sandwiches) and listen to Burlington's best roadhouse music.

### Rasputin

BAR, CLUB

(163 Church St; ☺4pm-2am) A popular UVM hangout with pool tables, oodles of TVs, regular DJ nights (spinning mainly top-40 and oldies) and occasional live music.

### Ri-Ra The Irish Pub

PUB

(123 Church St; ☺11:30am-2am) This Irish pub was restored in Ireland, dismantled and shipped to the US. Regular live music (mainly folk) provides entertainment.

**Sweetwaters**

(120 Church St; meals \$9-20; ☺lunch & dinner)  
Drenched in heavily nouveau-Victorian decor, this local watering hole attracts the young and upwardly mobile.

**Entertainment****Flynn Center for the Performing Arts**

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

(☎802-863-5966; www.flynncenter.org; 153 Main St) Broadway hits, music and dance, and theater grace the stage at this art deco masterpiece. Expect anything from the Khmer Arts Ensemble to Liza Minnelli.

**Shopping****Lake Champlain Chocolates**

CHOCOLATE

(www.lakechamplainchocolates.com; 750 Pine St; ☺9am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun, tours hourly 9am-2pm Mon-Fri) The aroma of rich chocolate is intoxicating as you make your way past the gift shop (if you can) to the glass wall overlooking the small factory here. No, you can't run through the chocolate waterfall, but you'll probably savor some samples during one of the tour's several taste tests. Back in the store, you can purchase an array of chocolate truffles, bars, coins and placesetting snowmen or gift baskets. The cafe serves coffee drinks and its own luscious ice cream.

**Outdoor Gear Exchange**

OUTDOOR GEAR

(www.gearx.com; 152 Cherry St; ☺Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, 11am-6pm Sun) This place rivals major outdoor-gear chains for breadth of selection, and trumps them on price for a vast array of used, closeout (clearance) and even new gear and clothing. You name the outdoor pursuit and staff can probably outfit you.

**North Star Cyclery**

OUTDOOR GEAR

(www.northstarsports.net; 100 Main St; ☺10am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun) Head to this friendly, laid-back local favorite for an unusually complete selection of clothing, gear and bikes specifically designed for women. Don't worry, guys; there's plenty here for you too. For winter fun, it offers Nordic skis, snowshoes and outerwear. It's open for slightly longer hours in summer.

**Information**

One of the best resources for getting a comprehensive idea of what's going on in the area is *Seven Days* (www.sevendaysvt.com). This hip, free tabloid is found in stacks just about everywhere around town.

BAR

**Post office** (11 Elmwood Ave; ☺8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat)

**Information kiosks** (www.blumap.com;

☺10am-5pm daily mid-Jun-late Aug, 10am-5pm Sat & Sun mid-May-mid-Jun & late Aug-mid-Oct) One at the lake end of College St, and another on Church St.

**Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce** (60 Main St; ☺8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri,

10am-6pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun late May-early Sep) Although staff at the Main St branch provide information, they seem to prefer you to pick up brochures at the rest stop just north of the Williston exit on I-89, or at the airport location (open 9am to midnight).

**Getting There & Around**

**AIR** A number of national carriers, including Jet Blue, serve **Burlington International Airport** (www.burlingtonintlairport.com), 3 miles east of the city center. You'll find major car-rental companies at the airport.

**BUS Greyhound** (☎800-231-2222; 219 S Winoski St; www.greyhound.com) Operates buses daily between Burlington and Montreal, Canada (one-way \$32, about 1¼ hours), Boston (one-way \$56, 4¾ hours) and White River Junction, VT (\$32, two hours).

**Chittenden County Transportation Authority**

(CCTA; ☎802-864-2282; www.cctaride.org) Operates buses from its Cherry St terminal to Burlington International Airport. Buses depart Cherry St every half-hour or so, less often on Sunday. There are no services on major holidays. Fares to the airport and around town are \$1.25 for adults, and 60 cents for children aged six to 18 and seniors.

A free College St **shuttle bus** runs a loop route from Waterfront Park near the Burlington Boathouse, stopping at Battery St, St Paul St, Church St Marketplace, Winoski Ave, Union St and Willard St, ending at the UVM campus. In summer, shuttle buses run every 10 minutes from 11am to 6pm.

**TRAIN** The **Amtrak** (☎800-872-7245; www.amtrak.com) *Vermont* train stops in Essex Junction, 5 miles from Burlington. The station is served by local buses run by CCTA.

**CAR** By car, it takes 4½ hours (230 miles) to reach Burlington from Boston; take I-93 to I-89. It's another 1¼ hours (102 miles) from Burlington to Montreal.

**FERRY Lake Champlain Transportation Co**

(☎802-864-9804; www.ferries.com; King St Dock) runs car ferries connecting Burlington with Port Kent, New York, at least nine times daily from late May to mid-October; there's no service off-season. The one-way voyage takes 70 minutes and costs \$17.50 for a car and driver,

and \$4.95/2.20 for each additional adult/child aged six to 12.

The company also operates ferries connecting Charlotte, Vermont, with Essex, New York, (south of Burlington) for as long as the lake stays unfrozen; and 24-hour, year-round service from Grand Isle, Vermont, (north of Burlington) to Plattsburgh, New York.

## Stowe

POP 5100

In a cozy valley where the West Branch River flows into the Little River and mountains rise to the sky in all directions, the quintessential Vermont village of Stowe (founded in 1794) bustles quietly. A high concentration of local artisans shares gallery space with those of world renown. A bounty of inns and eateries lines the thoroughfares almost all the way up through stunning Smuggler's Notch, halted at the border of the Green Mountain National Forest where the highest point in Vermont, Mt Mansfield (4393ft), towers in the background. More than 200 miles of cross-country ski trails, some of the finest mountain biking and downhill skiing in the east, and world-class rock and ice climbing make this a natural mecca for adrenaline junkies and active families. If the *Sound of Music* is one of your favorite things, there's also a lodge built by the Von Trapp family, which offers activities and accommodations.

### Sights & Activities

#### Stowe Mountain Resort

SKI RESORT

(☎802-253-7311; www.stowe.com; Mountain Rd) The great Stowe Mountain Resort encompasses two major mountains, Mt Mansfield (which has a vertical drop of 2360ft) and Spruce Peak (1550ft). It offers 48 beautiful trails, 16% of which are earmarked for beginners, 59% for middle-of-the-roadies and 25% for hard-core backcountry skiers – many of whom get their adrenaline rushes from the 'front four' runs: Starr, Goat, National and Lift Line.

#### Smuggler's Notch Resort

SKI RESORT

(☎800-451-8752; www.smuggs.com; VT 108) Consistently less crowded than Stowe, family-oriented Smuggler's Notch Resort, just over the Notch, was founded in 1956. Spread over Sterling (3010ft), Madonna (3640ft) and Morse (2250ft) mountains, the resort offers incredible alpine and cross-country skiing (78 trails and 14 miles'

worth), dogsled rides (reservations strongly recommended), a lit tubing hill, nightly family entertainment, and the only learn-to-ski program for two- to five-year-olds in the country.

#### Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

Stowe boasts the second-largest cross-country skiing network in the country (200 miles of groomed and backcountry trails), which links a handful of ski areas, including four of the top ski touring centers in the state, connected via groomed trails as well as tough backcountry ski runs.

Within Stowe's wide network of trails that traverse mountains and skirt lakes is the longest cross-country ski trail in the United States, a 300-mile-long route that runs the length of Vermont. Known as the **Catamount Trail**, it starts in southern Vermont at Readsboro and ends at North Troy on the Canadian border. In between lies some of the finest skiing in the east, from backcountry trails on Mt Mansfield to 11 ski touring centers (some within the Green Mountain National Forest), including **Blueberry Hill** (☎802-247-6735, 800-448-0707; www.blueberryhillinn.com; Ripton Rd, Goshen) and **Mountain Top Inn & Resort** (☎802-483-2311, 800-445-2100; www.mountaintopinn.com; Mountaintop Rd, Chittenden). Contact the **Catamount Trail Association** (☎802-864-5794; www.catamounttrail.org) for more information.

If snowshoeing is more your speed, purchase or rent a pair at **Umiak Outdoor Outfitters** (☎802-253-2317; www.umiak.com; 849 S Main St; ☉9am-6pm). Umiak guides lead popular snowshoeing jaunts (\$15 to \$45) such as moonlight wine and cheese, Ben & Jerry's and Fondue Dinner.

#### Edson Hill Nordic Center

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

(☎802-253-7371; www.edsonhillmanor.com; 1500 Edson Hill Rd)

#### Green Mountain Club

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

(☎802-244-7037; www.greenmountainclub.org; 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd, Waterbury Center, VT 05677)

#### Stowe Mountain Resort Touring Center

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

(☎802-253-7311, 800-253-4754; www.stowe.com; Mountain Rd)

#### Nordic Barn

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

(☎802-253-6433; www.nordicbarnvt.com; 4000 Mountain Rd)



## Stowe & Around

### 📍 Sights

- 1 Helen Day Art Center ..... C1
- 2 Robert Paul Galleries..... B1  
Stowe Craft Gallery & Design  
Center ..... (see 3)
- 3 Straw Corner Shops..... B1  
Straw Corner Mercantile..... (see 3)
- 4 Vermont Ski Museum ..... B1
- 5 West Branch Gallery & Sculpture  
Park..... C3

### Activities, Courses & Tours

- 6 AJ's Ski & Sports ..... B1
- 7 Edson Hill Nordic Center..... B2
- 8 Mountain Sports & Bike Shop ..... C3  
Stowe Mountain Resort ..... A2
- 9 Stowe Mountain Resort Touring  
Center ..... (see 9)
- 10 Topnotch Touring Center ..... A2  
Trapp Family Lodge..... (see 24)
- 11 Umiak Outdoor Outfitters..... C4

### 🏠 Sleeping

- 12 Brass Lantern Inn B&B ..... C3
- 13 Fiddler's Green Inn ..... A2

- 14 Grey Fox Inn & Resort..... C3
- 15 Hob Knob Inn..... B3
- 16 Inn at Turner Mill ..... A2
- 17 Innsbruck Inn..... A2
- 18 Ski Inn ..... A2
- 19 Smuggler's Notch State Park..... A1
- 20 Stowe Motel & Snowdrift..... B3
- 21 Stowehof Inn & Resort..... B2
- 22 Sun & Ski Inn ..... B3
- 23 Topnotch at Stowe..... A2
- 24 Trapp Family Lodge ..... B3

### 🍴 Eating

- 25 Blue Moon Café ..... C1
- 26 Depot Street Malt Shoppe..... B1  
Dutch Pancake Café ..... (see 14)
- 27 Gracie's Restaurant ..... B1  
Stowe Coffee House ..... (see 3)
- 28 Trattoria La Festa..... A2

### 🍷 Drinking

- 29 Charlie B's..... B3
- 30 Matterhorn Bar & Grill ..... A2  
Rusty Nail Bar & Grill..... (see 5)
- 31 Shed Restaurant & Brewery..... B3

which becomes Moscow Rd. Continue for 5.8 miles to the Lake Mansfield Trout Club. The trail follows an old logging road for a while and then ascends past beaver dams and grand views to join the Long Trail at Taylor Lodge.

**Stowe Pinnacle** (moderate difficulty, 2.8 miles, three hours) Follow VT 100 south of Stowe and turn east onto Gold Brook Rd, proceeding for 0.3 miles; cross a bridge and turn left to continue along Gold Brook Rd. About 1.6 miles later, you come to Upper Hollow Rd; turn right and go to the top of the hill, just past Pinnacle Rd, to find the small parking area on the left. The hike to Stowe Pinnacle (2651ft), a rocky outcrop offering sweeping mountain views, is short but steep.

### Biking

Several bike shops can supply you with wheels for light cruising or backwoods exploration.

**Mountain Sports & Bike Shop** BIKE RENTAL  
(☎802-253-7919; www.mountainsportsvt.com; 580 Mountain Rd; recreation path bikes per day \$26, mountain bikes per day \$32; ☉9am-6pm Mon-Sat, to 5pm Sun) Rents bikes.

### AJ's Ski & Sports

BIKE & SKATES RENTAL

(☎802-253-4593, 800-226-6257; www.ajssports.com; Mountain Rd; in-line skate rental per day \$27; ☉9am-5pm) Rents in-line skates as well as bikes.

### Canoeing & Kayaking

#### Umiak Outdoor Outfitters

CANOE & KAYAK RENTAL

(☎802-253-2317; www.umiak.com; 849 S Main St; per day canoes \$44, kayaks \$34; ☉9am-6pm) This place rents canoes and sport kayaks and will shuttle paddlers and boats to the river and then pick them up at the put-out (\$30/40 for a two-/four-hour trip per person, which includes transportation and boat rental).

### tubing

#### Lazy River Tours

TUBE RENTAL

(☎802-279-7178; www.lazyrivertours.us; per trip \$12, incl lunch \$25) This mom-and-pop operation meets you at the bank of a river (you must meet them at the starting point) with inner tubes and provides a fun afternoon out floating on the water. At the end point, cars meet you and transport you back to the starting point. They float in various rivers around Stowe; tours include

## VERMONT SKI MUSEUM

Located in an 1818 meeting house that was rolled to its present spot by oxen in the 1860s, this **museum** ([www.vermontskimuseum.org](http://www.vermontskimuseum.org); 1 S Main St; suggested donation \$3-5; ☉noon-5pm Thu-Tue) is an inspired tribute to skiing history. It holds much more than an evolution of equipment (including 75 years of Vermont ski lifts) and a chance to chuckle at what was high slope-side fashion in the '70s. A huge screen shows ski footage so crazy that you can hardly keep your footing. The most moving exhibit tells the tale of the famous 10th Mountain Division of skiing troops from WWII – it inspires wonder at how they held out with the (then cutting-edge) canvas- and leather-based gear.

roughly one hour of floating time. There is no set schedule: call to inquire about what's available.

### Galleries & Art Spaces

Stowe has no shortage of galleries and fine craft shops with artists of local and international renown.

**Straw Corner Shops** ART, CRAFT  
(cnr Main St & Mountain Rd) The offerings within this group of shops, are surreal, traditional, contemplative, sometimes prankish and always finely hewn. Look for the **Straw Corner Mercantile** (57 Mountain Rd; ☉10am-6pm), featuring folk art, Americana, prints and artsy home accessories; and **Stowe Craft Gallery & Design Center** ([www.stowecraft.com](http://www.stowecraft.com); 55 Mountain Rd; ☉10am-6pm, to 8pm Thu-Sat Jul-Aug), which offers some of the most adventurous, eclectic and surreal works of art and craft.

**West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park** ART, SCULPTURE  
([www.christophercurtis.com](http://www.christophercurtis.com); 17 Towne Farm Lane; ☉11am-6pm Tue-Sun, park open dawn to dusk) Don't miss the winding, sculpture-filled paths along the river's edge. A captivating collection of contemporary sculpture, paintings, photography and fountains fill this gallery and sculptural park, found 1 mile up Mountain Rd from Stowe village.

**Helen Day Art Center** COMMUNITY ART CENTER  
([www.helenday.com](http://www.helenday.com); School St; ☉noon-5pm Tue-Sun Jun-mid-Oct & Dec, noon-5pm Tue-Sat mid-Oct-Nov & Jan-May) In the heart of the village, this gently provocative community art center has rotating traditional and avant-garde exhibits. It also sponsors 'Exposed,' an annual townwide outdoor sculptural show that takes place from mid-July to mid-October.

**Robert Paul Galleries** ART GALLERY  
([www.robertpaulgalleries.com](http://www.robertpaulgalleries.com); 394 Mountain Rd; ☉10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun) On your way up Mountain Rd, pause to take a gander at this acclaimed collection of painting, photography and sculpture.

### Sleeping

Stowe has a wide variety of lodging, with dozens of inns, motels and B&Bs; many are along Mountain Rd. The **Stowe Area Association** (☎802-253-7321, 800-247-8693; [www.gostowe.com](http://www.gostowe.com)) helps with reservations.

**Little River State Park** CAMPING \$  
(☎802-244-7103; [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com); Little River Rd, Waterbury; campsites \$18; ☉late May-mid-Oct) Just north of I-89, this place has 81 campsites (including 20 lean-tos) next to Waterbury Reservoir (sorry, there's no beach), on which you can canoe, kayak, fish and swim. Head 1.5 miles west of Waterbury on US 2, then 3.5 miles north on Little River Rd.

**Trapp Family Lodge** LODGE \$\$\$  
(☎802-253-8511, 800-826-7000; [www.trappfamily.com](http://www.trappfamily.com); 700 Trapp Hill Rd; r from \$270; ☉☎☎) Off Luce Hill Rd from Mountain Rd, with wide-open fields and mountain views, this is *the* spot for taking a twirl and pretending you're Julie Andrews. The Austrian-style chalet, built by Maria von Trapp of *The Sound of Music* fame, houses traditional lodge rooms, or you can rent one of the modern villas or cozy guesthouses (prices highly variable, call to inquire) scattered across the property. The 2700-acre spread offers excellent hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

**Inn at Turner Mill** INN \$  
(☎802-253-2062, 800-992-0016; [www.turnermill.com](http://www.turnermill.com); 56 Turner Mill Lane; r \$75-85) Hidden on 9 acres next to Notch Brook, this streamside inn is just a sweet 1-mile ski from Stowe's lifts. It's a rustic place with only two rooms and two small apartments (\$110), but it makes up for lack of quantity

with the innkeepers' encyclopedic knowledge of local outdoor activities.

### Grey Fox Inn & Resort

INN \$\$

(☎800-544-8454; [www.stowegreyfoxinn.com](http://www.stowegreyfoxinn.com); 990 Mountain Rd; r \$165-260; @☎☎) Just off the Stowe Recreation Path, the Grey Fox has a good mix of old and new accommodations, the main offerings of which are in a former ski lodge. Amenities on the 9-acre property include a fitness room, bike rentals, Jacuzzi and a bar, and guests receive 15% off breakfast at the attached Dutch Pancake Café.

### Fiddler's Green Inn

INN \$

(☎800-253-8124, 800-882-5346; [www.fiddlersgreeninn.com](http://www.fiddlersgreeninn.com); 4859 Mountain Rd; r from \$80) This 1820s farmhouse less than a mile from the lifts has rustic pine walls, a fieldstone fireplace and seven guest rooms geared to outdoor enthusiasts. Not surprisingly, guests congregate around the hearth; it's all quite homey. It also rents a four-bedroom cottage (from \$450 per night).

### Sun & Ski Inn

INN \$\$

(☎800-253-7159, 800-448-5223; [www.stowe.sunandski.com](http://www.stowe.sunandski.com); 1613 Mountain Rd; r \$105-140, ste \$185-200; ☎☎) A nicely landscaped inn adjacent to the recreation path – the 25-room lodge has a fireplace, Jacuzzi and sauna. It also rents several basic two- and three-bedroom apartments and a four-bedroom house (\$230 to \$400 per night).

### Ski Inn

INN \$\$

(☎800-253-4050; [www.ski-inn.com](http://www.ski-inn.com); 5037 Mountain Rd; r incl breakfast & dinner winter \$150, incl continental breakfast summer \$75-95) The Catamount Trail runs right through the 28-acre property of this traditional inn, which was opened in 1941 just after the first chairlift was built in the area. It features 10 clean and simple rooms (some with shared bathroom) and a homey common area. You can cross-country ski, hike and mountain bike right out the back door. Catch the Stowe Mountain shuttle at the end of the driveway and you can alpine and Nordic ski back to the inn at the end of the day.

### Hob Knob Inn

INN \$\$

(☎800-253-8549, 800-245-8540; [www.hobknobinn.com](http://www.hobknobinn.com); 2364 Mountain Rd; r incl breakfast \$95-230; ☎) The two large rooms here (some with fireplace, some with private balconies) are spread across two buildings on 10 acres. The on-site restaurant is one of Stowe's best steak houses.

### Innsbruck Inn

INN \$\$

(☎800-253-8582, 800-225-8582; [www.innsbruckinn.com](http://www.innsbruckinn.com); 4361 Mountain Rd; r incl breakfast \$95-230; ☎☎) A modern interpretation of a traditional alpine inn (with a health spa and heated outdoor pool); the rooms and efficiencies (microwave, sink and fridge) here are comfy and well equipped. It also rents a five-bedroom Austrian chalet (from \$350 per night).

### Stowe Motel & Snowdrift

MOTEL, APARTMENT \$\$

(☎800-253-7629, 800-829-7629; [www.stowemotel.com](http://www.stowemotel.com); 2043 Mountain Rd; r \$130-180, ste \$150-200; apt 160-210; @☎☎) In addition to the efficiency rooms (with kitchenettes), suites, apartment and houses (from two to six bedrooms, rates highly variable, call to inquire), this motel set on 16 generous acres offers such amenities as a tennis court, hot tubs, badminton and lawn games. You are also able to borrow bicycles or snowshoes to use on the recreation path.

#### WORTH A TRIP

### BOYDEN VALLEY VINEYARD & FARM

Venture 19 miles north of Stowe along VT 108 to sample wines – including an exquisite ice wine – at **Boyden Valley Vineyard & Farm** (☎800-644-8151; [www.boydenvalley.com](http://www.boydenvalley.com); Junction VT 15 & VT104, Cambridge; tastings 6 wines; ☎10am-5pm daily May-Dec, Fri-Sun only Jan-Apr). Sip the award-winning varietals (with samples of Vermont cheddar and fresh bread) in the Big Red Barn tasting room, or take a free tour of the winery (usually twice per days, times vary by season so call ahead). It also produces its own maple syrup (for sale in the tasting room, of course) and offers 'French Gourmet' afternoons in the barn or on the terrace overlooking the vines – for \$18.95 you get artisanal cheeses, bread, grapes, meats and a glass of wine – dates and times vary, call for details. Or stop by for the mid-September **Harvest Festival**, where you can pick grapes off the vines, view grape-crushing and listen to live music (usually blues or folk).

**Stowehof Inn & Resort**

INN \$\$  
 (☎802-253-9722, 800-932-7136; www.stowehofinn.com; 434 Edson Hill Rd; r incl breakfast \$210-500; 🍷🍷) In addition to a dramatic hillside location, this rustic 46-room inn has a very good dining room, sauna, Jacuzzi, outdoor hot tub, and 30 acres of hiking and cross-country ski trails. Rooms are divided into three categories: classic (decorated with antiques), traditional (appointed in an 'alpine' manner) and premier (rooms at the top with great views and fireplaces).

**Topnotch at Stowe**

RESORT \$\$\$  
 (☎802-253-8585, 800-451-8686; www.topnotchresort.com; 4000 Mountain Rd; r \$250-\$350, ste \$500-785; @🍷🍷) Stowe's most lavish resort really is top-notch. Amenities include a bar, fine dining, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, a skating rink and a touring center. The spa is legendary, with a waterfall Jacuzzi and luxurious pampering services. It also offers immaculate two- and three-bedroom homes (from \$600 per night) on the property, with access to all of the resort's amenities.

**Arbor Inn**

B&B \$\$  
 (☎802-253-4772; www.arborinnstowe.com; 3214 Mountain Rd; r \$100-145, ste \$175-220; @🍷🍷) This spotless, cheery space features simply furnished rooms with wood paneling; suites include extras such as wood-burning fireplaces, Jacuzzi tubs and kitchenettes. There's a sleek yet cozy common lounge with a tiny bar, fireplace and modern art gracing the walls, a game room with a pool table and yet another fireplace, and an on-site hot tub.

**Brass Lantern Inn B&B**

B&B \$\$  
 (☎802-253-2229, 800-729-2980; www.brasslanterninn.com; 71 Maple St, VT 100; r incl breakfast \$130-220; 🍷) Just north of the village, this beautiful inn has spacious antique-laden rooms with handmade quilts, some featuring fireplaces and views of Mt Mansfield.

**Smuggler's Notch State Park**

CAMPING \$  
 (☎802-253-4014; www.vtstateparks.com; 6443 Mountain Rd; campsites \$18; 🌅late May-mid-Oct) This 35-acre park, 8 miles northwest of Stowe, is perched up on the mountainside. It has 81 tent and trailer sites and 20 lean-tos and walk-in sites.

**Eating****Frida's Taqueria & Grill**

MEXICAN \$\$  
 (☎802-253-0333; 128 Main St; meals \$20-30; 🌅lunch & dinner) This newcomer was an instant hit in Stowe, with its fresh dishes from various regions of Mexico, highlighted with

ingredients that rarely show up in the Green Mountains. Traditional tacos (the tortillas are homemade) and plates exist alongside interesting salads with cactus and greens and calamari with red chili sauce. The bar is a popular hangout – the lengthy tequila selection is one reason, but really, it's a friendly, convivial setting and the only place in town to get an expertly mixed margarita with ingredients this fresh.

**Blue Moon Café**

INTERNATIONAL \$\$\$  
 (☎802-253-7006; 35 School St; meals \$18-31; 🌅dinner Wed-Sun) In a converted house with a little sun porch, this intimate bistro is one of New England's top restaurants. Mains change monthly, but the contemporary cuisine usually includes something like crab cakes, salmon dishes, steak with chipotle and jicama or dishes utilizing locally foraged mushrooms. The cheese plate, compiled from local artisan varieties, is exquisite.

**Gracie's Restaurant**

INTERNATIONAL \$\$  
 (☎802-253-8741; Main St; meals \$9-26; 🌅lunch & dinner) Behind Carlson Real Estate, Gracie's has dog-themed specialties, such as a Mexican plate called 'South of the Border Colie.' Or stick to big burgers, hand-cut steaks, Waldorf salad and garlic-laden shrimp scampi. Try its famous 'Doggie Bag' dessert: a white-chocolate 'bag' filled with chocolate mint mousse and hot fudge.

**Trattoria La Festa**

ITALIAN \$\$  
 (☎802-253-8480; 4080 Mountain Rd; meals \$12-24; 🌅dinner Mon-Sat) North of Topnotch at Stowe, this trattoria has family-style Italian fare inside an old barn – it also features an award-winning (mainly Italian) wine list; servers are knowledgeable and happy to guide you through the list. It rents five simple rooms (from \$80) above the restaurant.

**Edelweiss Mountain Deli**

DELI \$  
 (2251 Mountain Rd; sandwiches \$4-8; 🌅6:30am-6pm) This one-stop gourmet purveyor dishes out cold mains by the pound, wonderful Vermont cheeses, salads and sandwiches and easy box lunches, perfect for a picnic on the mountain. The attached shop contains a massive selection of Vermont microbrews and excellent supplies with everything you could need.

**Black Cap Coffee & Townsend Gallery**

COFFEE, BAKED GOODS \$  
 (144 Main St; dishes \$5-7; 🌅7am-6pm Mon-Sat, from 8am Sun; 🍷) What's art without coffee? After a browse through the adjacent

art galleries (featuring rotating exhibits by mainly local artists), drop into this coffee shop, which serves baked goods and coffee concoctions in the modern space. It's housed in an old house with a small but delightful front porch; complimentary magazine and newspapers stacked around make it a fantastic place to unwind.

**Dutch Pancake Café** DUTCH \$  
(☎802-253-8921; 900 Mountain Rd; dishes \$6-12; ☉7:30am-12:30am Dec-Apr, from 8:30am May-Nov) Located within the Grey Fox Inn, this Dutch-owned eatery decked in Delft tiles makes more than 80 kinds of *pannekoeken* (Dutch pancakes); some have a Southern American twist, with sausage and gravy.

**Cliff House** AMERICAN \$\$\$  
(☎802-253-3665; 5781 Mountain Rd; meals \$19-25; ☉lunch daily, dinner Fri & Sat Jun-Aug) The true nexus of Stowe Mountain is Cliff House restaurant, accessible by an eight-passenger gondola at an elevation of 3625ft. It affords spectacular views of the Green Mountains as well as Stowe village. While the view atop the mountain is worth the visit alone, the food (made largely from local produce) is quite a revelation. Try the crêpe of the day, the house burger (made from Wood Creek Farm beef) or the lamb skewer. You won't be in a rush to descend.

**Depot Street Malt Shoppe** DINER \$  
(57 Depot St; dishes \$4-10; ☉11:30am-9pm) Burgers, chocolate sundaes and old-fashioned malteds reign at this fun, 1950s-themed restaurant. The egg creams hit the spot in any season.



## Drinking & Entertainment

**Rusty Nail Bar & Grill** BAR  
(www.rustynailbar.com; 1190 Mountain Rd; ☉11:30-1am) You wonder where the wild things are? They're here, hanging around three bars, plenty of pool tables and a dance floor, where they groove to live bands dishing everything from alt rock to jazz funk to calypso. The martini bar has some local renown. Oh yeah, there's food too, with an inventive menu.

**Matterhorn Bar & Grill** BAR, LIVE MUSIC VENUE  
(http://matterhornbar.com; 4969 Mountain Rd; cover free-\$15; ☉5pm-late daily late Nov-mid-Apr, Thu-Sat mid-Apr-late Nov) At the top of Mountain Rd, this place is always hopping, beginning at 5pm when skiers start to hobble off the slopes. Bands play Friday and Saturday nights during ski season. A recent addition is the excellent sushi bar on the lower level,

where you can bite into your tuna roll with a view of the river out back.

**Charlie B's** PUB  
(1746 Mountain Rd; ☉noon-1am) If you're searching for a standard après-ski scene with a bit more class and basic pub fare, head to this place, at the Stoweflake Inn and Resort.

**Shed Restaurant & Brewery** MICROBREWERY  
(1859 Mountain Rd; ☉11:30am-10pm Sun-Thu, 11:30am-11pm Fri & Sat) This little micro-brewery always has six fresh beers on tap and a crowd of locals tucking into pub fare.



## Information

**Stowe Area Association** (☎802-253-7321, 800-247-8693; www.gostowe.com; 51 Main St; ☉9am-8pm Mon-Sat & 9am-5pm Sun Jun-late-Oct, 10am-6pm Mon-Fri & 9am-5pm Sat & Sun late-Oct-May) This association is well organized and can help you plan your trip, including making reservations for rental cars and local accommodations.



## Getting There & Around

**TRAIN** The **Amtrak** (☎800-872-7245; www.amtrak.com) *Vermont* train stops daily at Waterbury. Some hotels and inns will arrange to pick up guests at the station.

By car, it's 36 miles (45 minutes) to Burlington from Stowe; head south on VT 100, then north on I-89.

If you don't have your own vehicle, the Stowe Trolley runs every half-hour daily during ski season from Stowe village, along Mountain Rd, to the ski slopes. Pick up a schedule and list of stops at your inn or the Stowe Area Association's information office.

## Waterbury & Around

Although there's little to detain you in Waterbury, 10 miles south of Stowe on VT 100, it does have an Amtrak station and serves as an excellent base for the legions of visitors to Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory as well as the nearby Cold Hollow Cider Mill.

In 1978 Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield took over an abandoned gas station in Burlington and, with a modicum of training, launched the outlandish flavors that forever changed the way ice cream would be made. While a tour of **Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory** (www.benjerry.com; VT 100N, Waterbury; adult/under 12yr \$3/free; ☉9am-9pm Jul-mid-Aug, 9am-7pm mid-Aug-late Oct)

is no over-the-top Willie Wonka experience, there is a campy video that follows the company's long, strange trip to corporate giant – albeit a very nice giant with an inspiring presence of community building and environmental leadership. Then you head to a special glassed-in room where you glimpse the production line in action and a staff member explains how it is done. (Note: They generally only make ice cream Monday through Friday, so if you come on the weekend you'll likely see the production line video). After chowing your (very teeny) free scoops, linger a while in the final hallway, which is festooned with mementos of how they've changed the world one scoop at a time. Behind the factory, a mock cemetery holds 'graves' of Cool Britannia, Holy Cannoli and other flavors that have been laid to rest. In summer, cows roam the pastures surrounding the factory. The factory is 1 mile north of I-89.

Several miles north of Ben & Jerry's on VT 100N, **Cold Hollow Cider Mill** ([www.coldhollow.com](http://www.coldhollow.com); VT 100; ☀8am-7pm Jul-late Oct) shows how it makes its famous cider doughnuts (guaranteed love at first bite). The cider itself tastes so crisp and fresh you'd swear there was a spigot coming right out of the apple. The gift shop is packed with the most inventive gourmet goodies selection in town, including corn relish, horse-radish jam and piccaililli.

## Montpelier & Barre

POP 8000

Montpelier (pronounced *mont-peel-yer*) would qualify as a large village in some countries. But in sparsely populated Vermont it is the state capital – the smallest in the country. You may want to visit Montpelier for a good meal or if you are intensely interested in Vermont history and affairs.

Montpelier's smaller neighbor Barre (pronounced *bar-ee*), which touts itself as the 'granite capital of the world,' is a 10-minute drive from the capital.

### Sights

#### Rock of Ages Quarries

QUARRY

([www.rockofages.com](http://www.rockofages.com); 773 Quarry Hill Rd; admission free, tours adult/child \$5/2.50; ☀8:30am-5pm Mon-Sat & 10am-5pm Sun May-Oct, 8:30am-5pm daily mid-Sep-mid-Oct) The world's largest granite quarries, 4 miles southeast of Barre off I-89 exit 6, cover 50

acres. The granite vein that's mined here is a whopping 6 miles long, 4 miles wide and 10 miles deep. The beautiful, durable, granular stone, formed more than 330 million years ago, is used for tombstones, building facades, monuments, curbstones and tabletops.

The quarry tour includes a short video and historical exhibits. This 35-minute guided minibus tour of an active quarry heads off-site. At the on-site Rock of Ages Manufacturing Division you can watch granite products being made – some with an accuracy that approaches 25 millionths of an inch.

#### Covered Bridges

BRIDGES

Vermont is rife with these classic beauties, but you generally don't get two (and almost three) for the price of one. From Montpelier, take VT 12 southwest to Northfield Falls to the intersection of Cox Brook Rd, where two covered bridges straddle a river within walking distance of each other. **Station Bridge** and **Newell Bridge** both span a section of the river that's about 100ft across. **Upper Bridge** is a bit further up Cox Brook Rd. Fittingly, a general store marks the intersection where these timeless icons remain as sentinels.

#### Hope Cemetery

CEMETERY

Where do old granite carvers go when they die? In Barre, they end up in Hope Cemetery, just a mile north of US 302 on VT 14. To granite carvers, tombstones aren't dreary reminders of mortality but artful celebrations of the carver's life. And what celebrations! A carver and his wife sit up in bed holding hands, smiling for eternity; a granite cube balances precariously on one corner. Other gravestones reproduce the deceased's favorite soccer ball or even a small airplane. If a cemetery can ever be amusing, this one is. It's open to the living all the time.

#### State House

HISTORIC BUILDING

([www.vtstatehouse.org](http://www.vtstatehouse.org); State St; ☀8am-4pm Mon-Sat, tours every 30min 10am-3:30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-2:30pm Sat Jul-mid-Oct) The front doors of the State House are guarded by a massive statue of American Revolutionary hero Ethan Allen. The gold dome was built of granite quarried in nearby Barre in 1836. You can wander around the building during weekday business hours, or take one of the free tours.

**TW Wood Art Gallery**

GALLERY

(www.twwoodgallery.org; 36 College St; Tue-Sat adult/under 12yr \$2/free, admission free Sun; ☺noon-4pm Tue-Sun) This gallery, at E State St on the Vermont College campus, was founded in 1895 by Thomas Waterman Wood (1823-1903), a native of Montpelier, who gained a regional reputation for his portraits and genre paintings. The museum has a large collection of Wood's art as well as Depression-era paintings. Changing exhibits, especially of arts created in Vermont, fill the main gallery.

**Vermont Historical Society**

MUSEUM

(http://vermonthistory.org; State St; adult/student \$12/3; ☺10am-4pm Tue-Sat, noon-4pm Sun May-Oct) Next door to the State House, the Pavilion Building houses an excellent museum that recounts Vermont's history with exhibits, films and re-creations of taverns and Native American settlements.

 **Sleeping****Inn at Montpelier**

INN \$\$\$

(☎802-223-2727; www.innatmontpelier.com; 147 Main St, Montpelier; r incl continental breakfast \$150-185, ste from \$225; ☺) Good enough for repeat visitor Martha Stewart, this first-rate inn made up of two refurbished Federal houses right in the heart of town boasts deluxe rooms with fireplaces. Hosts Rita and Rick Rizza have renovated these stately houses and furnished them luxuriously. Coffee in wicker rocking chairs on the wraparound veranda is the perfect tonic for a lazy afternoon.

**Betsy's Bed & Breakfast**

B&amp;B \$\$

(☎802-229-0466; www.betsysbnb.com; 74 E State St, Montpelier; 2 incl breakfast \$90-140; ☺) This restored Victorian house on an inclined road leading to Vermont College offers gracefully appointed rooms and suites decorated with period antiques. Updated amenities include phone and TV; the suites even have kitchens. Despite the feeling of seclusion, you are a quick walk from the middle of town.

 **Eating**

As Montpelier is home to one of the country's finest cooking schools, the **New England Culinary Institute** (NECI; ☎802-223-6324; ww.neci.edu), your best bet is to support someone's learning curve at a NECI-run restaurant in town: La Brioche or Main Street Bar & Grill.

**Main Street Bar & Grill**

AMERICAN \$\$\$

(☎802-223-3188; 118 Main St; Sun brunches \$18, meals \$16-25; ☺brunch Sun, lunch & dinner daily) This NECI signature restaurant is a multi-level spot boasting an open window to the kitchen – this allows you to watch first-year student chefs at work. The fare features locavore food, and Sunday brunch is an excellent all-you-can-eat affair. There's also an on-site lounge serving Mediterranean tapas, and live music on Tuesdays (mainly jazz, blues, folk).

**La Brioche**

CAFE, BAKERY \$

(89 Main St; sandwiches \$5-8; ☺6:30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 7:30am-5pm Sat & Sun) This casual bakery and cafe offering soups and sandwiches on homemade bread, among other things, was NECI's first restaurant. It starts running out of sandwich fixings at about 2pm, so you'd better time it right if you're hungry.

 **Information****Vermont Chamber of Commerce** (www

.centralvt.com; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Distributes a wealth of information.

 **Getting There & Away**

From Montpelier to Burlington, it's an easy drive on I-89 (38 miles, 45 minutes).

**Amtrak** (☎800-872-7245; www.amtrak.com)

The *Vermont* train stops in Montpelier on its way to St Albans. The fare from Brattleboro to Montpelier is \$25 to \$38, depending on the day of the week.

**Northeast Kingdom**

When Senator George Aiken noted in 1949 that 'this is such beautiful country up here. It ought to be called the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont,' locals were quick to take his advice. Today, the Northeast Kingdom connotes the large wedge between the Québec and New Hampshire borders. Less spectacular than spectacularly unspoiled, the landscape is a sea of green hills, with the occasional small village and farm spread out in the distance.

Here, inconspicuous inns and dairy cows contrast with the slick resorts and Morgan horses found in the southern part of the state; the white steeples are chipped, the barns in need of a fresh coat of paint. In a rural state known for its unpopulated setting (only Wyoming and Alaska contain fewer people), the Kingdom is Vermont's

equivalent to putting on its finest pastoral dress, with a few holes here and there. It's a region that doesn't put on any airs about attracting tourists, and locals speak wryly of its 'picturesque poverty.'

While St Johnsbury is easily reached by I-91 or I-93 (a three-hour drive from Boston through New Hampshire), the rest of the Northeast Kingdom is spread out. Use I-91 as your north-south thoroughfare, and then use smaller routes like VT 5A to find dramatically sited Lake Willoughby, or VT 14 to find picturesque Craftsbury Common.

## Sights

### St Johnsbury Athenaeum

MUSEUM

(www.stjathenaeum.org; 1171 Main St, St Johnsbury; admission \$6; ☉10am-8pm Mon & Wed, 10am-5:30pm Tue, Thu & Fri, 9:30am-4pm Sat) Home to the country's oldest art gallery still in its original form, the athenaeum was founded in 1871 when Horace Fairbanks gave the town a library. Comprising some 9000 finely bound books of classic world literature, the library was soon complemented by the gallery, built around its crown jewel, Albert Bierstadt's 10ft-by-15ft painting, *Domes of the Yosemite*. The rest of the collection consists of works by such Hudson River School painters as Asher B Durand, Worthington Whittredge and Jasper Cropsey, as well as dozens of copies of old masters.

### Maple Grove Farms

FARM

(www.maplegrove.com; 1052 Portland St or US 2) Actually a factory, the farms about half a mile east of St Johnsbury have been making maple candy for almost a century and are the world's largest producers of the saccharine stuff. Stop by to see how the molding process works and satisfy your sweet tooth – the popularity of the Santa Claus-shaped candies transcends all seasons.

### Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium

MUSEUM, PLANETARIUM

(☎802-748-2372; www.fairbanksmuseum.org; 1302 Main St, St Johnsbury; adult/child & senior \$8/6; ☉9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun, closed Mon mid-Oct-mid-Apr) In 1891, when Franklin Fairbanks' collection of stuffed animals and cultural artifacts from across the globe grew too large for his home, he built the Fairbanks Museum of Natural Science. This massive stone building with a 30ft-high barrel-vaulted ceiling still displays more than half of Franklin's original collection. Over 3000 preserved animals in glass cases can be seen, including a 1200lb moose shot

in Nova Scotia in 1898, an American bison from 1902 and a Bengal tiger. There are planetarium shows at 1:30pm (\$5 per person), and also in July and August Mondays through Fridays at 11am.

### Craftsbury Common

PARK

Even if you don't plan on skiing at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, you should take a drive over to Craftsbury Common, where you'll find what may be Vermont's most spectacular village green. White clapboard buildings surround a rectangular lawn that hasn't changed one iota from the mid-19th century.

## Activities

Not surprisingly, this sylvan countryside is the perfect playground for New England outdoor activities. Almost any such pursuit is at its best in the Northeast Kingdom.

### Skiing

#### Jay Peak

SKI RESORT

(☎802-988-2611; www.jaypeakresort.com; VT 242) When it's balmy in Boston in winter, you can still expect a blizzard at Vermont's northernmost ski resort, 8 miles north of Montgomery Center. Bordering Quebec, Jay gets more snow than any other ski area in New England (about 350in of powder). Being so far north, Jay also sees far more Quebeckers than New Yorkers. Black-diamond lovers enjoy the steeper tree runs off the tram, while novices find the trails in Bonaventure Basin to their liking. Add the natural off-trail terrain, and you have some of the most challenging backcountry snowboarding and skiing runs in America.

#### Burke Mountain

SKI RESORT

(☎802-626-3305; www.skiburke.com) Off US 5 in East Burke, Burke Mountain is relatively unknown to anyone outside the Northeast Kingdom. Locals enjoy the challenging trails and empty lift lines. Burke has 33 trails (30% beginner, 40% intermediate, 30% expert) and four lifts, including one quad chair and one lift with a vertical drop of 2000ft.

#### Craftsbury Outdoor Center

SKI RESORT

(☎802-586-7767; www.craftsbury.com; Lost Nation Rd) Cross-country skiers are bound to end up at this full-service resort 3 miles from Craftsbury Common. The 80 miles of trails – 50 of them groomed – roll over meadows and weave through forests of maples and firs, offering an ideal experience for all levels.

## THE BREAD & PUPPET MUSEUM

Rolling through the Northeast Kingdom, it's easy to become jaded at the sight of yet another barn. One in Glover definitely warrants a detour though – not for its livestock but for the cosmological universe of the **Bread & Puppet Museum** ([www.breadandpuppet.org](http://www.breadandpuppet.org); 753 Heights Rd, Glover; admission free; ☺10am-6pm Mon-Sat), lurking within.

Formed in New York City by German artist Peter Shumann in 1963, the Bread & Puppet Theater is a collective-in-training that presents carnivalesque pageants, circuses, and battles of Good and Evil with gaudy masks and life-size (even gigantic) puppets. The street theater of its early performances gave voice to local rent strikes and anti-Vietnam War protests as well as an epic parade down Fifth Ave in the early '80s to protest nuclear proliferation. By then, it had moved its operation to Glover, where it currently occupies two barns.

The first barn is a two-floor space crammed with puppets and masks from past performances. The high-ceilinged top floor is especially arresting, with its collection of many-headed demons, menacing generals, priests, bankers, everyday people and animals, and an array of gods (some as large as 15ft). A second barn features performances in July and August – Bread & Puppet is on tour the rest of the year – for which Schumann bakes the bread that gives the enterprise half its name.

To get to the Bread & Puppet Museum, take I-91 to exit 24, then take a right onto VT 122 and continue 13 miles.

### Highland Lodge

SKI RESORT

(☎802-533-2647; [www.highlandlodge.com](http://www.highlandlodge.com); Craftsbury Rd, Greensboro) Has 40 miles of trails that slope down to the shores of Caspian Lake.

### Mountain Biking

On VT 114 off I-91, **East Burke** is a terrific place to start a mountain-bike ride. In the summer of 1997 John Worth, co-owner of East Burke Sports, and several other dedicated locals linked together more than 200 miles of single and double tracks and dirt roads to form a network they call the **Kingdom Trails**. Riding on a soft forest floor dusted with pine needles and through century-old farms makes for one of the best mountain-biking experiences in New England.

### East Burke Sports

BIKE RENTAL

(☎802-626-3215; [www.eastburkesports.com](http://www.eastburkesports.com); VT 114; bikes per day from \$20; ☺9am-6pm Mon-Sat, to 5pm Sun) Rents bikes and supplies maps.

### Hiking

Hiking through the stunning beauty of **Lake Willoughby** will leave even a jaded visitor in awe. Sandwiched between Mt Hor and Mt Pisgah, cliffs plummet more than 1000ft to the glacial waters below and create, in essence, a landlocked fjord. The scenery is best appreciated on the hike (three hours) to the summit of **Mt Pisgah**. From West Burke, take VT 5A for 6 miles

to a parking area on the left-hand side of the road, just south of Lake Willoughby. The 2-mile (one-way) **South Trail** begins across the highway. It's about a 30-minute drive from St Johnsbury to Mt Pisgah.

### Sleeping

#### Rodgers Country Inn

INN \$

(☎802-525-6677, 800-729-1704; 582 Rodgers Rd, West Glover; r incl breakfast per person per day from \$70) Not far from the shores of Shadow Lake, Jim and Nancy Rodgers offer five guest rooms in their 1840s farmhouse. Hang out on the front porch and read, or take a stroll on this 350-acre former dairy farm. This inn appeals to people who really want to feel what it's like to live in rural Vermont.

#### Craftsbury Inn

INN \$\$

(☎802-586-2848, 800-336-2848; [www.craftsburyinn.com](http://www.craftsburyinn.com); Craftsbury Village; s/d incl breakfast from \$90/100, with shared bathroom \$60/90; ☺) A charming B&B across from the village general store, half a mile east of Craftsbury Common. Breakfasts on the back porch are hearty affairs, enlivened by the occasional sighting of one of the llamas the owners keep with their farm.

#### Inn at Mountain View Farm

INN \$\$

(☎802-626-9924, 800-572-4509; [www.innmtmview.com](http://www.innmtmview.com); 3383 Darling Hill Rd, East Burke; r incl breakfast r from \$175, ste \$275; ☺) Built in 1883 as a gentleman's farm, rooms here reflect

## LYNDONVILLE FREIGHTHOUSE

It's tough to throw a label on the **Lyndonville Freighthouse** (☎802-626-1400; 1000 Braid St, Lyndonville; ☎6:30am-5:30pm Mon-Thu, to 8pm Fri-Sun). The authentic 1870 railroad freighthouse houses a family restaurant serving organic, locally sourced American fare – including many items grown on the owner's farm (anything from omelettes to burgers to veggie plates); a deli and ice-cream counter; a country store (selling Vermont cheeses, trinkets, maple syrups); and a local art gallery (all pieces for sale). But most importantly of all, head upstairs for the tiny railroad museum, really a small section of the shop with miniature train track (push the button and watch it whistle its way along the track).

the charm of a spacious, elegant farmhouse. The farm's 440 acres are ideal for mountain biking, cross-country skiing or simply taking a long stroll on the hillside. There's also an on-site animal sanctuary, which is a rescue center for large farm animals – guests are encouraged to visit.

**Wildflower Inn** INN \$\$\$  
(☎802-626-8310, 800-627-8310; www.wildflowerinn.com; 2059 Darling Hill Rd, Lyndonville; r incl breakfast from \$200, ste \$240-320; ☎Dec-Mar & May-Oct; ☎) This smart inn (country furnishings) is a favorite with families – the hayrides, mountain-bike trails, petting zoo with sheep and goats, playground, tennis courts and heaps of other on-site activities keep everyone amused.

Also recommended:

**Inn on Trout River** INN \$  
(☎802-326-4391, 800-338-7049; www.troutinn.com; 241 Main St, Montgomery Center; r incl breakfast \$60-90; ☎) This village house, built by a lumber baron, features two restaurants (one fancy and one a pub). Jay Peak (skiing) is 10 minutes away

**Stillwater State Park** CAMPGROUND \$  
(☎802-584-3822; www.vtstateparks.com; Groton; campsites \$18; ☎mid-May–mid-Oct) Near Ricker Pond State Park, off VT 232, Stillwater has 107 sites and a prime

swimming spot on the northwestern shores of Lake Groton.

## Eating

Although the region is not replete with restaurants, it does offer some fine dining with surprisingly inexpensive tabs.

**Miss Lyndonville Diner** DINER \$  
(US 5, Lyndonville; dishes \$3-11; ☎breakfast, lunch & dinner) Five miles north of St Johnsbury and popular with locals, this place also offers friendly and prompt service. Large breakfasts are cheap; sandwiches cost a bit more, but the tasty dinners (like roast turkey with all the fixings) are a real steal.

**River Garden Cafe** NEW AMERICAN \$\$  
(VT 114, East Burke; meals \$12-25; ☎lunch & dinner Tue-Sun, brunch Sun) Love and talent ooze into this cafe's salads, pastas, staples like porterhouse steaks and chicken masala, and stir-fried dishes served in a casually elegant atmosphere (you'll enjoy the back porch, open year-round) and summer patio within earshot of the river. It also serves over 20 wines by the glass, and dispenses plenty of advice about each variety. This is a rare find in this part of Vermont, and well-worth the trek.

Also recommended:

**Anthony's Diner** DINER \$  
(50 Railroad St, St Johnsbury; dishes \$3-14; ☎breakfast, lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, breakfast & lunch Sun) A local institution with a large counter (try the mountain-size Vermont woodsman burger). The homemade soups, chowders and desserts are a deserved source of pride.

**Elements** NEW AMERICAN \$\$  
(98 Mill St, St Johnsbury; dishes \$8-24; ☎lunch Tue-Fri, dinner Tue-Sat) The setting in a former mill complements the menu, which uses local ingredients whenever possible.

## Information

**Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce** (www.vermontnekchamber.org; 357 Western Ave, St Johnsbury; ☎8:30am-5pm mid-Jun–mid-Oct) Runs a convenient information booth at Courthouse Park on Main St, as well as the St Johnsbury location, with plentiful regional information.

## Getting There & Away

By car, St Johnsbury is 39 miles (about 45 minutes) from Montpelier via US 2 east, or 76 miles (1½ hours) if you're coming directly from Burlington. The only way to get around the Northeast Kingdom is by car.

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