

Classic Vermont



Classic Vermont Bike Vacation

The charming town of Middlebury anchors your loop through valleys of the Green Mountain state. Clean mountain air will whet your appetite for discovery as you spin through the hush of a state forest, hear the splash of your paddle as you kayak through a marsh, marvel at the majesty of Morgan horses, behold stunning mountain peaks and delve into early American history. And satisfy your appetite with generous included meals, including picnic lunches and delicious dinners at an historic inn and a lakeside resort with breathtaking views.

Cultural Highlights

- Delight in 5 nights in a historic inn and a lakeside resort
- Cycle quiet country roads to Branbury State Park
- Gather for a picnic by Lake Dunmore and take a dip
- Enjoy free time to discover the charming town of Middlebury
- Pedal back roads beside the Hogback Mountain Ridge
- Ride past rolling farms with grand views of the Champlain Valley
- Discover a beautiful protected creek and marsh on a kayak
- Cycle through Panton village, with views of the Green Mountains
- Share an included lunch at the spectacular Basin Harbor Club
- Explore historic Vergennes, noted for its fine food and shopping

- Pedal along Otter Creek to Kingsland Bay State Park
- Enjoy an included visit to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
- Tour the Morgan Horse Farm and admire this historic breed

What to Expect

This tour offers the full range of easy terrain mixed with moderate hills, and is ideal for both beginning and experienced cyclists. Our VBT van support shuttle is always available for those who need assistance with the hills.

Average Daily Mileage: 15 – 35 miles

Average Cycling Time: 2 – 4 hours

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F) – Middlebury

Jun 77°/54° Jul 82°/59° Aug 78°/57° Sep 71°/50° Oct 59°/39°

Average Precipitation (in.) – Middlebury

Jun 4 Jul 4.3 Aug 4.2 Sep 3.7 Oct 4

DAY 1 Arrive in Middlebury

Your tour begins and ends at the Burlington International Airport (airport code: BTV). Please plan to have lunch before leaving the airport, or bring a packed lunch with you. VBT will offer a shuttle to the award-winning Swift House Inn in Middlebury departing from the Burlington International Airport at 2:00 p.m. The shuttle works on a “show and go” basis. Reservations are not required or available. Meet your Trip Leader outside the main door and across the road in the shuttle pickup area. Your Trip Leader will be wearing VBT staff garments, holding a VBT sign, and the van will have VBT signage on it. If you are scheduled to arrive at the airport after this departure, or are delayed, you must take a taxi at your own expense. Please allow for traffic delays.

If your flight arrives after this time, you will need to arrange your own transportation to the Swift House Inn at your own expense. Please take any cab available at the Burlington airport or call one of the following taxi companies: Jessica’s Vital Transit (telephone 802-349-8833), Green Mountain Taxi (telephone 802-503-3096) or Burlington Airport Taxi (telephone 802-239-1515).. Travel time from the Burlington airport is approximately 60 minutes.

Guests driving to the tour should meet the group at Burlington International Airport (BTV) and park your cars here for the week. Parking rates are approximately \$12.00 USD per day. Burlington International Airport offers both short and long term parking in their newly expanded, multi-level, covered parking garage. The main parking entrance is located just past the terminal building on the left. Credit cards and cash are acceptable payment methods. Alternatively, you may park at the Swift House Inn, in Middlebury for the first two days of your tour. Then your Trip Leaders will escort you to Vermont Sun, Middlebury, VT for parking for the remainder of your tour.

VBT Pre-Trip Extension guests: You have another morning to enjoy Burlington. At 1:30 p.m., the shuttle company will meet and transfer you to the Swift House Inn in Middlebury. This transfer is only available to guests who purchase the pre-trip extension through VBT.

Meet your VBT Trip Leaders at 3:30 p.m. in your cycling clothes for a bike fitting and brief cycling-skills clinic. This will be immediately followed by a short warm-up ride. Then gather at 6:00 p.m. for an orientation meeting and welcome cocktail. You will enjoy a candlelit dinner at the inn at 7:00 p.m.

Hotel: Swift House Inn

Meals: B, D

Daily Options: 4.5 miles

DAY 2 Cycle through Salisbury and along Lake Dunmore

Today’s ride takes you past antique stores, weeping willows, and stone fences along quiet roads leading to Lake Dunmore and Branbury State Park (whose name is a portmanteau derived from the towns of Brandon and Salisbury). After a picnic lunch, take a swim in refreshing Lake Dunmore before getting back on your bicycle. Finish the day with a scenic ride back to Middlebury. Explore the college town of Middlebury, with its Main Street full of shops, restaurants, and galleries. Visit Cannon Park and view a historic marker commemorating John Deere and his invention of “the plow that broke the plains.” From 1821 to 1825, Deere apprenticed at an area blacksmith shop before moving to Illinois, where he built the world’s first steel moldboard plow. Tonight your Trip Leaders can direct you to one of the town’s fine restaurants, which are all within walking distance of our inn.

Hotel: Swift House Inn

Meals: B, L

Daily Options: 19, 24 or 39.5 miles

DAY 3 Cycle north to Bristol and Basin Harbor Club

Today you cycle along Middlebury's peaceful back roads and beside the Hogback Mountain Ridge, a major foothill of the Green Mountains. Continue north to Bristol village, gateway to the Green Mountains. The village is amazingly flat due to ancient geologic events that deposited a level "fan" of gravel at the New Haven River "water gap" through the mountain ridge. Bristol has many interesting shops, including Vermont Honeylights and Art on Main. After lunch on your own in Bristol, we'll cycle to Vergennes, passing Cedar Lake and rolling farm fields. Take in spectacular views of the Champlain Valley, the Adirondacks, and Otter Creek as you make your way to Basin Harbor. Dinner is served in the Basin Harbor Club's Red Mill Restaurant.

Hotel: Basin Harbor Club

Meals: B, D

Daily Options: 16 miles and/or 10 or 42 miles

DAY 4 West Addison and Chimney Point / Kayaking on Dead Creek

You'll cycle today along the gently rolling farm fields in the quaint village of Panton, with panoramic views of the Green Mountains to the east and the Adirondacks to the west. Continue south to visit Chimney Point Historic Site and the Champlain Bridge, half a mile long and one of the few bridges that spans Lake Champlain. Riding in a clockwise loop, follow Lake Street with its apple orchards and Arnold Bay Road northward back to Basin Harbor, enjoying lake and mountainside vistas along the way. After an included lunch at the Basin Harbor Club, head to the shore for your private, guided kayaking excursion through the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Hotel: Basin Harbor Club

Meals: B, L

Daily Options: 19, 23 or 30 miles

DAY 5 Cycle to Vergennes and Kingsland Bay / Farewell dinner

Spend some time in Vergennes, dubbed the "smallest city" in America, for some shopping and great food (lunch is on your own). Consider stopping into Vergennes Laundry, a French bakery that has been named one of America's Best Bakeries by *Travel + Leisure*. Be sure to check out all the nooks and crannies, as some of the shops in Vergennes are located below the main level. Your ride today is along the tranquil Otter Creek to Kingsland Bay, one of Vermont's newest state parks. It continues northeasterly to Ferrisburgh, then heads west, adding to your daily dose of gorgeous views.

You have many options this afternoon—perhaps walking on nature trails, swimming, or golfing. Enjoy an included visit to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. With more than a dozen exhibit buildings, the museum presents a comprehensive overview of the maritime history and nautical archaeology of the Champlain Valley. You could also relax on the beautiful Basin Harbor grounds. Gather this evening for

a farewell dinner celebration in a private room off the club's main dining room.

Hotel: Basin Harbor Club

Meals: B, D

Daily Options: 14 miles and/or 21 miles and/or 7 miles

DAY 6 Explore the Morgan Horse Farm and Middlebury

Leaving Lake Champlain, ride southeast to the quiet town of Weybridge, with its Victorian farmhouses and westerly views across the Lemon Fair River. Next, continue on to the UVM Morgan Horse Farm for an included visit. The farm is dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the Morgan horse through careful breeding and selection. Designated as a National Historic Site, the farm is a significant chapter in the history of the Morgan breed. After your visit, pedal into Middlebury and enjoy lunch on your own. The tour concludes at Vermont Sun Sports and Fitness on Exchange Street, where showers are available. VBT has made arrangements for a shuttle from Vermont Sun and Fitness in Middlebury back to the airport at 2:00 p.m. (travel time approximately 60 minutes). We recommend flights out of Burlington no earlier than 4:00 p.m. If you need to get back to the airport prior to that time, the transfer back to Burlington will be at your own expense.

Meals: B

Daily Options: 24 miles