

Vermont: Middlebury & Idyllic Countryside

Bike Vacation Only

Sweeping mountain vistas, rolling farmland, tranquil roads... each day of your Vermont bike tour offers new panoramic views. Explore the charming streets of Middlebury, Vergennes, and Bristol. In town, you'll meet with friendly locals and discover stunning galleries and eclectic small-town shops and on the road you'll enjoy stunning views of Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks, and the Green Mountains. Wake up in your cozy accommodations to the sounds of birds and enjoy a wide range of activities that round out this one-of-a-kind Vermont sojourn. Kayak into a wildlife preserve, pause to explore a historic tavern that hosted Thomas Jefferson, cycle through state forests, swim in shimmering lakes, visit a stable of majestic Morgan horses, and much more.



Cultural Highlights

- Relax in the comfort of an historic inn and a lakeside resort

- Enjoy a ride on quiet country roads to Branbury State Park
- Picnic and swim at delightful Lake Dunmore
- Explore the inimitable New England charms of Middlebury
- Ride along the gently rolling farmland of the Champlain Valley
- Kayak the picturesque Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, a haven for birds and river creatures
- Marvel at views of the Green Mountains as you cycle through Panton village
- Enjoy fine food and browse quaint shops in Bristol, gateway to the Green Mountains
- Follow the banks of Otter Creek to Kingsland Bay State Park
- Tour the fascinating Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
- Stop by the Morgan Horse Farm for a tour and meet its magnificent equines

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 would like assistance with the hills.

Tour Duration: 6 Days

Average Daily Mileage: 15 - 35

Average Cycling Time: 01:00 - 04:15

Group size: 20 max

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

Jun 76°/54°, Jul 81°/59°, Aug 79°/57°, Sep 69°/49°, Oct 57°/39°

Average Rainfall (in.)

Jun 3.0, Jul 4.0, Aug 3.6, Sep 3.0, Oct 3.0

DAY 1: Travel to Middlebury

Pre-Trip Extension guests: : After an included breakfast 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.

Your bike tour in Vermont begins and ends at 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 airport at 2:00 p.m. Meet your trip leader outside the main exit from baggage claim and across the road in the shuttle pickup area. Your trip leader will be wearing VBT staff garments and holding a VBT sign and the van will have VBT signage. This shuttle works on a “show and go” basis with no reservations needed. If you would like to join the transportation from the downtown Burlington hotel but have not purchased the Pre-Trip Extension through VBT, please contact us to be added to this shuttle as a reservation is required.

If your flight arrives after this time, or you are delayed, you will need to arrange transportation to the Swift House Inn at your own expense. You can take any cab available at the Burlington airport or call one of the following taxi companies: Jessica's Vital Transit 802.349.8833, Green Mountain Taxi 802.503.3096 or Burlington Airport Taxi 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 and park your cars here for the week. Parking rates are approximately \$12.00 per day. The 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 Fitness Center in Middlebury to park for the remainder of your tour.

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.

Accommodation: Swift House, Middlebury

Included Meals: Dinner

Today's Ride Choice:

Cumulative Distance Range: 8 miles

Afternoon

Warm-up Middlebury: 8 miles

What to Expect: Your warm-up ride gives you the opportunity to get acquainted with the bike that will be your stalwart companion for the rest of the trip. Cycle through Middlebury's charming downtown and then continue along residential roads around the edge of town and cross the Pulp Mill Covered Bridge before heading back to the inn.

DAY 2: Cycle through Salisbury and along Lake Dunmore

The first full day of your Vermont bike tour starts with a journey through the quiet town of Salisbury, where you'll traverse tranquil roads past antique shops, weeping willows, and stone walls. Your destination is Lake Dunmore and Branbury State Park (whose name is a marriage of the towns of Brandon and Salisbury). After a picnic lunch, enjoy a cool swim in serene Lake Dunmore. Refreshed and renewed, climb back on your bicycle and follow the scenic roads back to Middlebury.

This afternoon, explore the college town of Middlebury with its Main Street full of shops, restaurants, and galleries. Visit Cannon Park and view the 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 any of the town's fine restaurants, all within walking distance of our inn.

Accommodation: Swift House, Middlebury

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today's Ride Choices:

Cumulative Distance Range: 15 – 37 miles

Morning

Lake Dunmore: 15 or 19 or 24 miles

Afternoon

Swift House: 15 miles

What to Expect: Ride out of Middlebury on moderately hilly roads into Vermont's farm country to Lake Dunmore, located in Branbury State Park. A 15-mile option reaches Branbury State Park from the northern end of the lake. The 19-mile ride continues around the entire lake, accessing the park from the southern end. The 24-mile option includes a short out-and-back ride to pretty Forestdale before enjoying a picnic lunch back in the park. After lunch, relax by the lake and then cycle back to the inn.

DAY 3: Cycle north to Bristol and Basin Harbor

Today you will cycle along Middlebury's peaceful back roads, beside the scenic Hogback Mountain Ridge. Continue north to Bristol village, gateway to the Green Mountains. By Vermont standards, 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, Art on Main, and a delightful bakery. After lunch on your own, cycle to Vergennes, passing

picturesque 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 tonight is in Basin Harbor's Red Mill Restaurant.

Accommodation: Basin Harbor, Vergennes

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today's Ride Choices:

Cumulative Distance Range: 16 – 52 miles

Morning

Bristol: 16 miles

Lincoln: 10 miles

Afternoon

Basin Harbor: 26 miles

What to Expect: Cycle peaceful back roads in the shadow of Hogback Mountain Ridge to Bristol village, with its dramatic backdrop of Deerleap and South Mountains. After lunch, you may add a moderate ride to Lincoln along the New Haven River. Then cycle through rolling farmland to Vergennes, enjoying spectacular views of the Adirondacks and Otter Creek.

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

After breakfast, choose from one of three loop rides through Vermont's scenic countryside. First, you can ride through a scenic valley and along gently rolling farm fields to the village of Panton, with panoramic views of the Green Mountains to the east and the Adirondacks to the west. If you wish, ride a little further to the town of West Addison with a stop at WAGS, the bustling West Addison General Store. Today's longer option takes you to Chimney Point Historic Site, home to the 1785 tavern that once served Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and the setting of countless stories of Native American, French colonial and early American history. Enjoy views of the recently rebuilt Champlain Bridge, half a mile long and one of the few bridges that spans Lake Champlain. Later, you'll return to your hotel, riding past farmland, and lake and mountainside vistas.

After lunch at Basin Harbor, head to the shore for your private, guided kayaking excursion through the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, a tranquil haven for birds and river creatures. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Accommodation: Basin Harbor, Vergennes

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today's Ride Choices:

Cumulative Distance Range: 18 – 30 miles

Morning

Panton: 18 miles

OR

Addison: 23 miles

OR

Champlain Bridge: 30 miles

What to Expect: On your choice of three successively longer loop rides, cycle along Lake Champlain and into gently rolling farmland with Vermont's Green Mountains and New York's Adirondacks framing your view. The longest option traverses the delightful flat terrain of the southern Champlain Valley.

DAY 5: Cycle to Vergennes and Kingsland Bay / Farewell dinner

This morning, ride into Vergennes along the Otter Creek River. Dubbed the "smallest city in America," it's an ideal spot for shopping and great food. Be sure to check out all the nooks and crannies, as some of the shops in this tiny hilly city are located below street level. After lunch on your own, continue along Otter Creek River to Kingsland Bay, one of Vermont's loveliest state parks. Follow a route through the gently rolling farmland of the beautiful Champlain Valley to Ferrisburgh, adding to your daily dose of gorgeous views.

You have many options this afternoon. You may walk some of the area's nature trails, swim in the lake, or golf. Don't miss our 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 can also relax on the beautiful Basin Harbor grounds. Gather this evening to share stories about your bike tour in Vermont over a festive farewell dinner celebration.

Accommodation: Basin Harbor, Vergennes

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today's Ride Choices:

Cumulative Distance Range: 7 – 41 miles

Morning

Kingsland Bay and Vergennes: 20 miles

Afternoon

Vergennes to Basin Harbor: 7 miles

Ferrisburgh: 14 miles

What to Expect: Follow the Otter Creek River into Vergennes, where you may pause for shopping and lunch. Ride or shuttle back to the hotel. Today's longer option provides more delightful Champlain Valley vistas as you cycle gentle terrain to Ferrisburgh.

DAY 6: Explore Morgan Horse Farm and Middlebury

This morning, leave Lake Champlain behind as you cycle to the quiet town of Weybridge, where you can admire fanciful Victorian farmhouses and westerly views across the Lemon Fair River. There will be time to explore before continuing to the University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm, dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the Morgan horse through careful breeding and selection. Designated as a National Historic site, the farm plays an important role in the history of the Morgan breed. After your enriching and educational visit, pedal into Middlebury and enjoy lunch on your own.

After lunch meet at Vermont Sun Fitness Center on Exchange Street, where showers are available. VBT has made arrangements for a shuttle from Vermont Sun Fitness Center in Middlebury back to Burlington International Airport, departing at 2:00 p.m. (travel time is approximately 60 minutes). We recommend flights out of Burlington no earlier than 4:00 p.m. If you need to get to the airport prior to that time, the transfer back to Burlington will be at your own expense.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Today's Ride Choice:

Cumulative Distance Range: 24 miles

Morning

Middlebury: 24 miles

What to Expect: Today's ride follows quiet roads past Victorian farmhouses with views of the Green Mountains into Weybridge. After visiting the Morgan Horse Farm, ride into Middlebury for lunch on your own. After lunch meet at Vermont Sun Fitness Center, where showers will be available.