

## Vermont: Middlebury & Idyllic Countryside

### Bike Vacation Only

For a picture-postcard reel through Vermont, join VBT in our backyard. With relaxing stays in the charming towns of Middlebury and Vergennes, gently rolling farmland, tiny New England villages, and the scenic shores of Lake Champlain are just a ride away. Cycle through a pastoral state forest, swim in shimmering lakes, kayak into a wildlife preserve, and take in splendid Green Mountain vistas. Along the way, visits with majestic Morgan horses, a stop at a tavern that hosted Thomas Jefferson, and delicious farm-fresh picnics round out this one-of-a-kind Vermont sojourn.

### Cultural Highlights

Relax amidst the comfort of an historic inn and a lakeside resort  
Enjoy a reel on quiet country roads to Branbury State Park  
Picnic alongside Lake Dunmore and go in for a swim  
Explore the inimitable New England charms of Middlebury  
Cycle in view of the scenic Hogback Mountain Ridge  
Take a spin among gently rolling farmlands of the Champlain Valley  
Kayak the waters of picturesque creek and marsh  
Marvel at views of the Green Mountains as you cycle through Panton village  
Visit the spectacular Basin Harbor for lunch  
Enjoy the fine food and shopping of historic Vergennes  
Trace 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 residents

### 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

## 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: VBT Bicycle Vacation begins / Arrive in Middlebury

Your tour 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 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 exit door 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; the van will have a VBT sign on it.

If your flight arrives after this time, or you are delayed, 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, Vermont, to park 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 you 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: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Options: 8.1 miles

## DAY 2: Cycle through Salisbury and along Lake Dunmore

After breakfast, cycle through the quiet town of Salisbury, passing antique stores, weeping willows, and stone walls along tranquil roads. 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 more 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 one of the town's fine restaurants, which are all within walking distance of our inn.

Hotel: Swift House Inn

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Daily Options: 15, 19, or 24 miles in morning and 14.6 miles in afternoon

## DAY 3: Cycle north to Bristol and Basin Harbor

Today you cycle along Middlebury's peaceful back roads and beside the scenic Hogback Mountain Ridge, a major foothill of the Green Mountains. 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 Honey Lights and Art on Main. 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.

Hotel: Basin Harbor

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Options: 16 miles and/or 10 and /or 26 miles

## **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 may cycle through a scenic valley and along the gently rolling farm fields to the quaint 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. 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 Champlain Bridge, half a mile long and one of the few bridges that spans Lake Champlain. After time here, 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 birdlife and river creatures. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Hotel: Basin Harbor

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Daily Options: 19 or 23 or 30 miles

## **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 Vergennes are located below street level. After lunch on your own, continue along Otter Creek River to Kingsland Bay, an area known for bald eagle sightings.. Follow our route through 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. And 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 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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Options: 14 miles and/or 20 miles and/or 7 miles

## DAY 6: Explore Morgan Horse Farm and Middlebury / VBT Bicycle Vacation ends

Leave Lake Champlain behind this morning, cycling to the quiet town of Weybridge, where you can admire fanciful Victorian farmhouses and westerly views across the Lemon Fair River. There'll 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 is a significant chapter in the history of the Morgan breed. After your enriching and educational 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 Burlington International Airport, departing 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: Breakfast

Daily Options: 24 miles

## Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

### Basin Harbor (Days: 3,4,5)

Basin Harbor is a peaceful lakeside inn surrounded by spectacular lake and mountain views. For more than a century, the resort has delivered authentic Vermont hospitality, and is the first heritage accommodation in the state to receive a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation. Enjoy modern comforts like air conditioning and native touches like locally quarried marble fireplaces and custom mill-work. Relax in the beautiful gardens, swim in the lake, or head to the golf course. The 700-acre resort, operated by fourth-generation innkeepers, is a wonderful place to relax after a day of exploring.

## Swift House Inn (Days: 1,2)

Just outside Middlebury's downtown center, the Swift House offers luxurious, air-conditioned accommodations within walking distance of the town's many excellent restaurants and shops. Relax in this cozy 1814 inn—a former governor's mansion—while you enjoy its lovely gardens, exquisite dining in Jessica's Restaurant, a cozy bar, and fireplaces.