

Vermont: Fall Foliage

Tour-Only Itinerary

If you're looking for a walking adventure that reveals the authentic Vermont, look no further! As a Vermont-based company, we know these scenic trails like our own backyard. Meet some of our closest friends—including George Woodard, a third-generation dairy farmer and captivating storyteller. Unwind at your stylish riverside retreat just outside the storybook village of Woodstock, where covered bridges, charming shops, and cozy cafés await. Enjoy colorful fall foliage along the shores of Lake Champlain and explore the inviting boutiques and art galleries of Stowe—a town famously reminiscent of the Austrian Alps. Visit a local organic farm for a spectacular farm-to-table lunch. At the pinnacle of your Vermont adventure, explore the crest of Mount Mansfield with its stunning foliage views.



Highlights

- Walk a stretch of the nation's first long-distance hiking trail—the Long Trail—atop Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak, in scenic Stowe. Country Walkers is proud to support its preservation.
- Explore the historic village of Woodstock, from its covered bridges and vibrant shops to the forested trails of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.
- Step into New England's rich past at charming Vermont Inns, where antique furnishings, warm hospitality, and local character bring each stay to life.
- Visit a third-generation dairy farmer and friend of Country Walkers to learn about Vermont's deep agricultural roots and maple sugaring traditions firsthand.
- Discover the legacy of Vermont craftsmanship and conservation at Shelburne Farms, a 1,400-acre former Vanderbilt estate on Lake Champlain—now a working farm and nonprofit education center.

On all Fully-Guided Adventures you can count on ...



Expert local guides to introduce you to the best of your destination.



Gracious accommodations that are a clean, comfortable home away from home.



Off-the-beaten-path places you'd never find on your own.



Experts to handle all the details.



A maximum of 18 fun-loving fellow travelers to share the journey.



Air Packages include plane tickets, airport car service, and pre- and post-tour accommodations.



Delicious, authentic multi-course meals—virtually all are included.

Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate, with daily walks averaging 2 to 6 miles and occasional optional routes. Terrain is varied, including dirt roads, forest paths, and some rocky trails with uneven footing. Most walks feature long, flat stretches, with the occasional short but steep ascent lasting no more than 45 minutes.

DAY 1

Your Country Walkers Vacation Begins. Travel to Waitsfield and

Woodstock

Waitsfield Common Road; 2-3 miles, easy

Country Walkers Pre-Tour Extension Guests:

Following an included breakfast, please meet your Country Walkers leaders and fellow travelers at 9:00 a.m. in the lobby. Your leaders will be wearing Country Walkers shirts for easy identification.

Country Walkers Tour-Only Guests:

Your leaders will meet you at our pre-tour hotel—the Courtyard Burlington Harbor Hotel in Burlington, Vermont—at 9:00 a.m. in the lobby. You may take a bus, rideshare, or taxi from Burlington International Airport to the hotel. They'll be wearing Country Walkers shirts for easy identification. Please be dressed for walking: comfortable, weather-appropriate attire, sturdy footwear, and a daypack (to carry essentials such as rain gear and a water bottle) are required.

After a brief orientation meeting, you depart for an introductory walk in the town of Waitsfield, located in the heart of Vermont's Mad River Valley. Situated 40 miles from Burlington and home to just 1,700 full-time residents, Waitsfield is known for its natural beauty and proximity to two popular ski destinations: Sugarbush Resort and Mad River Glen. It also boasts charming restaurants and a 100-year-old covered bridge.

Today's walk follows a classic country road with magnificent views over the Mad River Valley toward Sugarbush. Along the way, you'll visit two notable highlights: the von Trapp Greenhouse and Farm and the 1891 Skinner Barn. You'll end your walk at the intersection with East Warren Road, where you'll board a van for a short drive to today's lunch spot.

Hearty Vermont pub fare served in a lively local taproom provides a relaxed midday break in a casual, welcoming atmosphere.

After lunch, you depart for a one-hour and 15-minute drive to the quintessential New England town of Woodstock. Nestled in the beautiful Green Mountains, Woodstock is known for its storybook charm, featuring an iconic covered bridge and a classic village green.

Your final destination today is one of the town's most delightful inns, your home for the next two nights. Tucked just outside Woodstock, this boutique, family-owned property is set on six acres of stunning riverside grounds. Soak in the surrounding nature and Vermont charm from the riverside rocking chairs or balconies. After time to freshen up, you may enjoy a Vermont-made aperitif before dinner at the inn, where you'll choose from a menu highlighting fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

Included Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Independent Exploration of Woodstock

The Pogue and King Farm; 4.5 miles, easy to moderate, 550-ft. elevation gain and loss OR Mt. Tom; 4.5 miles, moderate, 650-ft. elevation gain and loss

After a hearty country breakfast buffet—featuring fresh pastries, eggs, coffee, and more—you'll set off for a full day of exploration in and around Woodstock. The day begins with a short five-minute drive to Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, a site with a rich legacy of conservation and land stewardship. Once the estate of early environmentalist George Perkins Marsh, and later home to Frederick Billings and the Rockefeller family, the park showcases historic woodlands, scenic carriage roads, and sweeping views of the surrounding Green Mountains.

You'll have two walk options this morning. The easier option follows a gently rolling trail from the Carriage Barn Visitor Center through mixed hardwood forest to The Pogue, a peaceful 14-acre mountain pond. From there, continue on to King Farm, a quiet meadow with lovely views, before looping back. The path is mostly shaded and well-maintained, offering a relaxed pace with mild elevation changes. The second option is a more moderate hike to the summit of Mt. Tom. This route ascends steadily via historic carriage roads, winding through forested terrain to reach a viewpoint that looks out over the village of Woodstock and the broader valley below. A different trail leads back down, creating a satisfying and varied loop.

After your walk, enjoy a scenic picnic lunch on the park grounds. You'll then have time to explore the

Billings Farm

& Museum—a working dairy farm and engaging heritage site—and browse the exhibits at the Carriage Barn Visitor Center, which sheds light on the park's legacy and the families who shaped it.

Later this afternoon, return to downtown Woodstock for time at leisure. Spend the rest of the day as you wish—meandering through the town's charming streets, browsing local shops, cafés, and art galleries. Delve into local history at the Woodstock Historical Society, founded in 1929, or visit Simon Pearce, a 19th-century mill and glassblowing studio perched above a scenic waterfall. You may also wish to stop by Gillingham's—the oldest store in town—for classic Vermont goods and souvenirs.

Dinner is on your own this evening in downtown Woodstock. Choose from a variety of restaurants, each offering its own distinctive character and seasonal Vermont flavors. Many Country Walkers guests have enjoyed dining at The Red Rooster. We highly recommend making dinner reservations in advance of your walking tour.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

VINS Nature Center Canopy Walk. Quechee Gorge

VINS; 1 mile, easy. Quechee Gorge; 2 miles, easy to moderate

A 20-minute drive from the hotel brings you to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) Nature Center, a leading hub for wildlife education and environmental stewardship. Nestled in the forest canopy, the center invites you to stroll along a mellow one-mile Forest Canopy Walk, elevated above the forest floor and offering treetop views of the surrounding landscape. Along the way, interactive exhibits highlight the importance of native habitats and spark a deeper appreciation for Vermont's natural world. Your visit concludes with a live raptor show, where expert educators introduce you to native birds of prey—such as owls, hawks, and falcons—and share insights into their behavior and critical role in the ecosystem.

Just down the road, you'll explore Quechee Gorge, one of Vermont's most dramatic natural landmarks. Often referred to as the state's

“Little Grand Canyon,” this striking 165-foot-deep chasm was carved by glacial activity approximately 13,000 years ago. You’ll descend into the gorge and follow a peaceful trail along the Ottauquechee River, surrounded by forested cliffs and cascading water. Above the gorge, several casual restaurants and cafés near the visitor center offer options for lunch on your own.

Following your discoveries, a 90-minute drive brings you to the charming mountain town of Stowe, where wooded trails await and spectacular views abound. Your home for the next three evenings is an inn nestled in the heart of Stowe Village, surrounded by the Green Mountains. Here, cozy comforts welcome you, with Vermont-crafted furnishings and authentic New England charm. Like many inns in this region, this one is deeply connected to the story of Vermont—its natural beauty, railroads, and evolving industries. Splendid cuisine greets you at the end of your active day.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4

Trapp Family Lodge. Independent Exploration of Stowe

2-4 miles, easy to moderate OR Mt. Mansfield Ridgeline; 3 miles, moderate to challenging

This morning, you drive through Smugglers’ Notch, a dramatic, narrow mountain pass nestled between Mt. Mansfield and Sterling Peak. Towering cliffs and massive boulders flank the winding road, creating a rugged and scenic corridor. The Notch earned its name in the early 1800s, when smugglers used the remote passage to transport illegal or embargoed goods to and from Canada—first during the Embargo Act of 1807 and later during Prohibition.

Today is devoted to exploring the trails in and around the iconic mountain town of Stowe. Depending on conditions, you may choose to walk on the expansive trail network at the Trapp Family Lodge or venture to the base—or even the summit—of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont’s highest peak. Ascending Mt. Mansfield by van along the scenic Stowe Mountain Toll Road, you reach the Visitors’ Center and enjoy a short walk to a viewpoint offering sweeping 360-degree vistas. Those who wish to continue can follow the Ridge Trail along the summit, which is part of the Long Trail—the nation’s first long-distance hiking trail. Country Walkers is proud to support the Green Mountain Club, stewards of this iconic 270-mile route. This alpine section features rare arctic-alpine flora—such as diapensia, alpine sandwort, and bearberry willow—and views that stretch to the

Adirondacks, the White Mountains, and even Mount Royal in Canada on a clear day.

Alternatively, at the Trapp Family Lodge, you may explore a vast network of over 30 miles of trails that crisscross the property's 2,500 scenic acres. Founded by the von Trapp family—whose story was immortalized in *The Sound of Music*—the lodge blends Austrian heritage with Vermont hospitality. Trails range from forested paths to wide open meadows with peaceful mountain views.

Lunch today is served at the lively von Trapp Bierhall, where traditional Vermont and Austrian dishes are paired with the family's own craft-brewed lagers.

Later in the afternoon, you'll have time to explore Stowe Village at your own pace. Enjoy a stroll along the scenic Stowe Recreation Path, stop into local shops or galleries, or simply relax and soak in the charm of your inn. Dinner is on your own this evening, with many restaurants located within easy walking distance. Your leaders will be happy to help with recommendations.

Stowe is more than just a ski town—this vibrant New England village offers a delightful blend of outdoor adventure, cultural attractions, and small-town charm. From craft breweries and fine dining to boutique galleries and mountain views, Stowe captures the spirit of Vermont in every season.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5

Sweet Road

3 miles, easy

This morning's walk takes you to Sweet Road in the neighboring town of Waterbury, where low-traffic country lanes offer sweeping views of Vermont's Green Mountains—including Mount Mansfield and Camel's Hump. Starting at the Hunger Mountain trailhead, follow a gently rolling dirt road before a brief stretch on pavement leads to a wooded path through George Woodard's property. Beginning at his rustic sugar shack, the trail winds through peaceful forest before opening to a meadow where lunch is served.

In the afternoon, you're welcomed by George Woodard, a third-generation organic dairy farmer, maple sugarmaker, and beloved local storyteller. With warmth and humor, George shares firsthand accounts of

the joys and challenges of farming in Vermont, offering a deeper understanding of the state's rich agricultural heritage. You'll board a hay wagon for a relaxed ride through his meadows, passing weathered barns and hillside pastures as you take in sweeping views of Camel's Hump—Vermont's third-highest and most iconic peak, recognizable by its distinctive silhouette.

This evening, gather for a festive farewell dinner with your fellow travelers, celebrating the beauty, history, and warm hospitality you've experienced in Vermont. Share favorite memories from the week and raise a glass to your Green Mountain adventure. Later, you may wish to unwind with a quiet swim beneath the stars in the hotel's heated outdoor pool.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6

Shelburne Farms. Travel to Burlington. Your Country Walkers Vacation Ends

2-3 miles, easy

After breakfast, you depart Stowe for historic Shelburne Farms, a nonprofit education center for sustainability located on the shores of Lake Champlain. Spanning 1,400 acres and designated a National Historic Landmark, the farm was established in 1886 as the agricultural estate of William Seward and Lila Vanderbilt Webb. Today, this working farm and campus blends environmental education with sustainable agriculture, offering a rich array of community programs, a working dairy, and hands-on learning opportunities.

The property is home to more than 100 Brown Swiss cows, a farmstead cheese-making facility, a seasonal inn housed in the original Webb family home, and an expansive organic market garden. As you explore the grounds along a network of scenic trails, you'll pass the stately inn, the architecturally impressive Coach Barn, and the historic Farm Barn, where the dairy and creamery are located. Panoramic views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains provide a stunning backdrop and a lasting visual memory of your time in Vermont.

Following a final picnic lunch, you travel to Burlington International Airport or to the Courtyard Burlington Harbor Hotel, where you bid farewell to your leaders and continue your onward

travels. The tour concludes at approximately 3:00 p.m. at the airport and 3:30 p.m. at the Courtyard hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

What's Included

Tour Only

Exceptional boutique accommodations	✓
13 on-tour meals: 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners	✓
Local leaders with you throughout tour	✓
Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary	✓
Telescopic walking sticks provided on tour	✓