



Country Walkers

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Vermont: Fall Foliage

Travel Style - Guided Walking Tour

This small-group Guided Walking Adventure offers an authentic travel experience, one that takes you away from the crowds and deep into the fabric of local life. On it, you'll enjoy 24/7 expert guides, premium accommodations, delicious meals, effortless transportation, and local wine or beer with dinner. Rest assured that every trip detail has been anticipated so you're free to enjoy an adventure that exceeds your expectations.



Every autumn, an ecstasy of color kindles Vermont into an artist's vision of brilliant reds, deep burgundies, glowing oranges, and sunny yellows. In this rural landscape of working farms, rolling hills, old-growth forests, and picture-perfect villages, you'll be perfectly positioned to enjoy New England's grand spectacle. Savor the beauty of Quechee Gorge, a 165-foot-deep, glacially carved ravine punctuated with schist outcroppings, hemlock trees, and cascades of clear water. Walk the ridgeline of Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak, to an amazing view encompassing three states and Canada. Explore a lost pioneer settlement, and then trek through Smugglers' Notch, a mountain pass with a notorious bootlegging history. Trails through pastures lined with birch trees and mountains alive with birdsong lead to quintessential New England towns like Norwich, Woodstock, and Stowe—where you'll find a mix of old-fashioned general stores and chic boutiques. Vermont is our home state, and we'd love to share it with you.

Tour Only Itinerary - 2019

Day 1

Arrival in Burlington

Waitsfield Common Rd; 2-3 miles, easy. Cossingham Road Farm Loop; 2-3 miles, easy

After a brief orientation in Burlington, 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 with only 1,700 full time residents, Waitsfield is known for its natural beauty and two popular ski destinations: Sugarbush Resort and Mad River Glen. It also boasts numerous amazing restaurants, a 100-year-old covered bridge, and The Big Picture Theater, a one-of-a-kind movie theatre. Your first walk today is a stroll along a classic country road with magnificent views over the Mad River Valley towards Sugarbush. On your walk you will also enjoy these notable highlights: the von Trapp Greenhouse and



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Farm and the Skinner Barn, a beautifully restored historic post-and-beam dairy barn originally built in 1891 by the Daniel Skinner family, plus open landscapes and organic farms. End your walk at the intersection with East Warren Road, where you board the vans for a short transfer to lunch.

After lunch, you depart for a one-hour drive to the quintessential New England town of Norwich. With a population of just over 3,400, Norwich has a vibrant downtown, a lovely village green, and the memorable Dan & Whit's general store, whose motto is "If we don't have it, you don't need it!"

This afternoon, you embark on a meandering walk through woods and open fields at the Cossingham Road Farm. Nearly 70 species of birds have been identified by either sound or sight on the farm. Lucky visitors may see a barred owl or moose tracks.

Your final destination today is the Norwich Inn, your home for the next two nights. First established in 1797 by Dartmouth College graduate Jasper Murdock, the inn's Victorian architecture and antique furnishings belie the modern amenities available to its guests. After time to freshen up, you may enjoy a Vermont-made aperitif before dinner at the inn, where you choose from their menu featuring fresh and local ingredients.

Accommodation: Norwich Inn, Norwich

A historic Vermont inn located in the heart of town, featuring rooms decorated with Victorian antiques and traditional furnishings. An on-site microbrewery, outdoor patio, wine cellar, and enclosed terrace dining room complement the inn's many modern amenities.

Day 2

Quechee Gorge

2 miles, easy to moderate. Mt. Tom, 2 miles, easy to moderate

A brief 15-minute drive from Norwich brings you to Vermont's "Little Grand Canyon"—the 165-foot-deep Quechee Gorge. Here you descend into the gorge and walk along the Ottauquechee River before a visit to VINS, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Established in 1972, the VINS Nature Center provides environmental education and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. State-of-the-art enclosures accommodate the largest collection of birds of prey in the Northeast, including bald and golden eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons. More than 400 orphaned and injured birds from Vermont and neighboring New Hampshire are treated annually at the center, and a special one-way viewing window offers a glimpse into wildlife rehabilitation in action.

After, a short drive brings you to the charming village of Woodstock where this afternoon's walk takes you along historic carriage paths and offers expansive views of this idyllic part of Vermont. Here, you learn the story of Mount Tom, located in one of the oldest professionally managed woodlands in America.

Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant known for its impeccably prepared meals.



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Day 3

Union Village Dam

Optional self-guided history walk; 1 mile, easy. Union Village Dam, 3 miles, easy to moderate

Early risers may opt for a brief self-guided history walk along Norwich's Main Street before breakfast at the inn's terrace dining room. Following this refreshing start to your day, you depart for a walk along the Ompompanoosuc River, eventually reaching the Union Village Dam. Built in 1950 as part of a system of 16 dams and reservoirs, it was installed to control flooding along the Connecticut River and its tributaries. This walk offers a window into the history of Vermont industry, as you pass the foundation of an old woolen mill and the sites of former farms and homesteads. In addition, a multitude of birds and other wildlife inhabit the mature hardwood forest surrounding the dam.

Next, a short but scenic drive brings you over a covered bridge and into Thetford, a town made up of six villages lining the Connecticut River and home to the nation's oldest secondary school, Thetford Academy. In East Thetford, you visit the Cedar Circle Farm, an organic farm and education center whose mission is to raise awareness about the importance of local agriculture and to increase access to affordable healthy produce. After a private tour, you enjoy a lunch featuring the farm's delicious fruits, vegetables, and other products made on-site.

Satiated from this special meal, a 90-minute transfer brings you to the classic mountain village of Stowe, where wooded trails welcome and spectacular views abound. Your home for the next three evenings is an inn situated in the heart of Stowe village amidst the Green Mountains. New England charm and excellent cuisine provide a warm welcome at the end of an active day.

Accommodation: The Green Mountain Inn, Stowe

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this property sits in the heart of Stowe village and features rooms with Early American reproduction furniture, stenciling, and handmade quilts.

Day 4

Trapp Family Lodge

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

Today you drive to Smugglers Notch—the deep, boulder-laden passageway between Mt. Mansfield and Sterling Peak. In the early 1800s, Smugglers Notch was used as a route for transporting illegal or embargoed goods in and out of Canada.



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After ascending Mt. Mansfield by van via the winding Stowe Mountain Toll Road, you take in the breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys during a brief stroll from the Visitors' Center to a viewpoint offering 360-degree vistas. Those continuing to the summit of Mt. Mansfield walk along the ridge, enjoying views of Lake Champlain and several mountain ranges along the way, including the Adirondacks in New York, the White and Green mountains of New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as Mount Royal in Canada. Those opting for the walk at Trapp Family Lodge return to the van and continue the short journey to the lodge founded by the famous family who settled in Stowe after fleeing the Nazi occupation of Austria. The walking choices are infinite, as their 2,500 acres boast over 30 miles of hiking trails, which double as cross-country ski trails in winter.

Later in the afternoon, there is time to explore the village of Stowe, take a stroll along its recreation path, or simply relax and enjoy the tranquility of your inn. Tonight you are free to enjoy dinner on your own, choosing from many local restaurants within easy walking distance. Your guides will be happy to assist in your choice.

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Day 5

Bull Moose Pasture

4 miles, easy

Today's walk takes you to beautiful Bull Moose Pasture. On your way to the pasture, your guides share secrets about the art of maple sugaring and tell tales of the little-known political history of the area while you pass working farms, sugar maple groves, and meadows dotted with Vermont's ubiquitous Holstein cows.

This afternoon you take time to visit with George Woodard, a third-generation Vermont organic dairy farmer and storyteller. From George you gain a better understanding of Vermont's history of dairy farming and maple sugaring as you take a hayride through his meadows in fine view of Camel's Hump, Vermont's third-highest peak. This evening you gather for a final dinner, where you toast your Green Mountain adventure and perhaps enjoy a post-dinner swim in the hotel's heated outdoor pool.

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Day 6

Shelburne Farms



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2-3 miles, easy. Departure from Burlington

After breakfast, you depart Stowe for historic Shelburne Farms, a nonprofit center promoting sustainability and conservation. Located on 1,400 acres on the shores of Lake Champlain and designated as a National Historic Landmark, it was established in 1886 as the agricultural estate of William Seward and Lila Vanderbilt Webb. Today, this working farm integrates a host of community and educational activities, with a working dairy with over 100 Brown Swiss cows and cheese-making facility, a seasonal inn, and an organic market garden.

Choosing from numerous trails, you explore the grounds and take in the incredible vistas, while passing by the elegant inn as well as the dairy and coach barns. Lunch today is a locavore's dream—with an ever-changing menu, the Farm Cart offers a host of fresh and creative menu options supplied by local producers and the farm's own Market Garden, a seven-acre mixed vegetable garden that furnishes produce for the inn and local farmers' markets. Dramatic views of the lake and Adirondack Mountains leave a lasting impression of your visit to Vermont. Following your final lunch, you transfer to the Burlington International Airport where you bid farewell to your guides before you continue your onward travels.