

Bicycle Tours in USA: Vermont & New York's Lake Champlain Bicycling Tour (TourzPlus™)

OVERVIEW

Nestled between two beautiful mountain ranges, the variety of terrain, scenic beauty, and storied history of Lake Champlain region offers something for everyone. Cross Lake Champlain by ferry to visit the lovely town on Essex, NY, one of the most intact ensembles of pre-Civil War architecture in the country. This is a true inn-to-inn bike tour. There are no vehicle transfers other than to return you to the airport at the conclusion of your vacation.

Learn more about our [TourzPlus™ partner tours](#) and how they differ from regular ExperiencePlus! bicycle tours.

HIGHLIGHTS

Lake Champlain, Burlington, VT, guided kayak tour, Essex - listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Shelburne Farm, Vergennes

TOUR FACTS

Tour Style	■ TourzPlus: Learn more about our TourzPlus tours at https://www.experienceplus.com/choosing-the-best-tour/styles/tourzplus
Includes	Use of a quality 24-27 speed bicycle; 5 nights accommodation; all meals except one dinner and one lunch (excluding drinks); guided kayak tour; transfer back to Burlington at tour end
Countries	USA
Begin/End	Burlington, VT
Arrive/Depart	Burlington Int'l Airport (BTV)
Total Distance	97 - 198
Avg. Daily Distance	18 - 55 miles per riding day
Tour Level	▶▶▶▶▶
Keep in Mind	We work hard to maintain consistency across all of our tours, but some trips have unique differences. Here are some things to keep in mind about this tour. Wonderful inns, scenic rides, great food and fun

Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the ■ [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/bike-tours/usa/vermont-new-york-lake-champlain-bicycle-touring>

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DATES & PRICES

DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

Day	Distance/Gain	Terrain	Day Level	Notes
1	63km / 0m (39mi / 0ft)			
2	82km / 0m (51mi / 0ft)			
3	85km / 0m (53mi / 0ft)			
4	71km / 0m (44mi / 0ft)			
5	74km / 0m (46mi / 0ft)			
6	61km / 0m (38mi / 0ft)			

Bicycle Tours in USA: Vermont & New York's Lake Champlain Bicycling Tour (TourzPlus™)**Burlington to East Middlebury****Highlights** Bike fit, and welcome dinner

Meet your tour leaders this morning. Following the bike fitting and route review, ride south along a lightly traveled route. Stop to view the waterfalls in the small village of Vergennes before continuing through rolling farmland offering beautiful views extending to the Adirondack Mountains in New York. Pass through Vermont's only, and one only six remaining, two-lane covered bridges in the entire US as you enter the town of Middlebury. Visit Danforth Pewter to watch Fred Danforth creating beautiful pewter crafts as his family has done since 1755. Continue through town to the Waybury Inn, a truly classic Vermont country inn, located in a lovely setting surrounded by huge maple trees that exude vibrant color each fall. Relax on the patio, among the gardens, or take a dip in the clear waters of the Middlebury River. The Waybury holds the distinction of being featured for years in the opening scene of the Bob Newhart Show. Enjoy dinner this evening in the Inn's dining room and then visit their cozy pub for a nightcap.

East Middlebury**Highlights** Brandon, Lake Dunmore, optional ride up Middlebury Gap

This morning's ride leads through rural valley farmland to Station Covered Bridge, built in 1865 to provide a vital east-west link to the railroad shipping station in Salisbury. Continue on lightly traveled roads offering stunning views of the Green Mountains to the town of Brandon. History buffs will enjoy a visit to the Brandon Museum located in the house where Stephen A. Douglas was born. Learn more about this 19th century statesman and how the Civil War affected the town. Your tour leaders will host a delicious picnic lunch on the shores of Lake Dunmore situated at the edge of the Green Mountains. The "Greens" as they are known locally, are part of the northern section of the Appalachian Mountains and the icons that Vermont - the Green Mountain state - are named after. Following lunch, join your leaders for the short walk to the Falls of Lana or continue on the climb to Silver Lake for expansive views over the area. Those up for a serious challenge can tackle the epic ride up Middlebury Gap before returning to the Waybury where a refreshing local microbrew awaits. Dinner this evening is in the Inn's dining room.

Middlebury**Highlights** Quiet roads, Shelburne Farms

Following a delightful Vermont country breakfast, wind your way north through open farmland to Bristol and its classic town green. Ride a beautiful route through open farmland offering stunning views of the Green Mountains. Bristol retains its small town charm and features a variety of unique shops, including that of a family run beeswax candle maker. Browse the shops in town or follow the New Haven River toward its headwaters the tiny hamlet of Lincoln. Nestled along the river beneath the towering peaks of the Green Mountains, Lincoln's only commercial establishment is their timeless general store. The route provides numerous photo opportunities of the tree-lined river, its waterfalls, and boulder strewn riverbed. For super strong cyclists, a 27-mile option up Appalachian Gap will burn the quads and lungs of the best of them.

DAY 1: Sun, Oct 7th**Distance** 63 km (39 mi)**Meals** Dinner**DAY 2: Mon, Oct 8th****Distance** 82 km (51 mi)**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch**DAY 3: Tue, Oct 9th**

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Following lunch on your own at Bristol Bakery, Mountain Greens, or Almost Home Market, follow the New Haven River as it meanders west toward Middlebury. Stop to visit Otter Creek Brewery or Vermont's natural soap producer, Vermont Soapworks. The downtown area is full of interesting shops as well as a variety of eating establishments and is only steps from your lodging at the historic Middlebury Inn. The Inn features a huge covered porch overlooking the town green, a day spa, a tavern, and is a short walk to most everything in town. This evening, dinner is on your own at one of many restaurants in this classic New England college town.

Distance 85 km (53 mi)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Vergennes

Highlights Justin Morgan Had a Horse

Begin the day with a ride through the Pulp Mill Covered Bridge to the Vermont Morgan Horse Farm. This architecturally stunning property was created in the late 1800's by Colonel Joseph Battell who began breeding Morgans on this very farm in an effort to preserve the pedigree of America's first, and many argue finest, breed of horse. Learn more and meet some of the breed's finest lineage during a private guided tour of the property. There are 60-180 registered stallions, mares and foals on the farm, providing excellent stock to Morgan breeders worldwide. Cross a lovely section of the Otter Creek - Vermont's longest river - and continue past orchards and beautiful farms before arriving in the village of Vergennes. Visit the kitchen shop of a fabulous local chocolatier and sample their creative and delicious gourmet chocolates. Have lunch in town before continuing west along Otter Creek to the shore of Lake Champlain and the Basin Harbor Club where you can visit the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Stronger cyclists can opt for an additional route through the countryside before continuing to Basin Harbor. The Basin Harbor Club is a classic summer resort and has hosted generations of vacationers in its peaceful lakeside setting. The Harbor, as it is

Highlights Kayak features a naturalist (fisherman and pilot) on the lake. Watercraft Basin, golf, formal dining room, and pub-style restaurant. Evenings on the lakeshore are blissfully peaceful. Enjoy a morning off your bike to explore by canoe or kayak with a local naturalist. Visit quiet tributaries and learn about the natural resources of this unusual region that plays host to so many migratory birds and resident wildlife. Later, choose from several cycling options, a visit to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, or simply relax at the resort. This relaxing lakeside oasis is just perfect for unwinding in comfortable Adirondack chairs on the lawn overlooking Lake Champlain and Adirondack Mountains to the west. Those who choose to cycle will pedal lightly traveled roads winding through farms, apple orchards and open fields. Take the bridge or the ferry across the lake to New York for a visit to the Crown Point Historic Site to learn more about this 18th century fortress of French, and then British, power on Lake Champlain. There is also an impressive and unusual stone lighthouse that was constructed to honor French explorer, Samuel de Champlain in 1912. Views along much of the gently rolling and lightly traveled route extend east to the Green Mountains and west across Lake Champlain to the Adirondack Mountains of New York. Lunch is on your own today either at the Basin Harbor Club or along the route. This evening enjoy a delicious meal

Highlights Cruise on Lake Champlain & Visit Historic Essex

Begin the day with a private cruise from the Basin Harbor Club across Lake Champlain to Westport, New York. Lightly traveled routes wind through rural sections of New York's Adirondack Park Preserve and rolling country roads lead to picturesque farmland in a spectacular setting high above Lake Champlain. Views over the Lake extend to the peaks of the Green Mountains to the east in Vermont. Descend into the charming town of Essex, the entire town of which is listed on the National Historic Register as the most intact ensemble of pre-Civil War architecture in the country. Follow the informative self-guided walking tour before your leaders host a delicious picnic lunch in a beautiful lakeside setting. Board the Lake Champlain Ferry, operating since the 19th century, to return to Vermont for a scenic ride through

DAY 4: Wed, Oct 10th

Distance 71 km (44 mi)

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5: Thu, Oct 11th

Distance 74 km (46 mi)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: Fri, Oct 12th



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Charlotte to Shelburne where you can visit the Shelburne Country Store. Showers will be available for you before you depart. Sojourn will transport you to the airport in Burlington or the Courtyard Burlington Harbor at the conclusion of your trip. We advise that you not make flight reservations prior to 6:00PM.

Distance 61 km (38 mi)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch