

Top 15 Things to See and Do in Vermont

Vermont Cheese Trail – Vermont, home to cheesemakers since the 1800s, is a national leader in the American artisanal cheese renaissance. More than 35 Vermont cheesemakers produce over 100 varieties of small-batch, specialty cheeses and have won scores of awards for their efforts.

Vermont Culinary Delights – Thanks to a strong network of consumers, food producers, policy makers and business owners, Vermont has the most per-capita direct sales from farmers to consumer in America, with sales five times greater than the national average. This attitude makes for a truly unique culinary experience. It means that items like ham and eggs, Italian parsley and mesclun salad greens are likely to come fresh from a producer down the road.

Ben & Jerry's – What's your favorite flavor? Vermont's famous ice cream guys have come a long way since Ben & Jerry opened their very first scoop shop in a dilapidated gas station in Burlington, Vermont in 1978. More than 30 years later, Ben & Jerry's is still living the dream by making the best possible ice cream in the nicest possible way. Take a tour at the Ben & Jerry's ice cream factory in Waterbury and try some delicious samples.

The Green Mountains – Running 160 miles up the spine of Vermont, the Green Mountain range varies in width from 20 to 36 miles, with peaks rising to more than 4,000 feet. The Long Trail runs the length of the range and scenic Route 100 meanders through the valleys and villages along its eastern flank. The Green Mountains are home to alpine and Nordic ski areas and offer thousands of acres of pristine forestland.

Alpine/Nordic Skiing – Vermont has 20 alpine ski resorts and 30 cross-country touring centers throughout the state with 6,052 acres of alpine terrain, 1,269 trails, 179 lifts, and 885 miles of Nordic trails. From the advanced downhiller to the training toddler, visitors can enjoy moguls and snowboarding, quiet cross-country excursions on skis or snowshoes and everything else in between.

Lake Champlain - Approximately 120 miles long, 12 miles across at its widest point, and 399 feet deep, Lake Champlain offers many opportunities for swimming, boating, fishing, scuba diving and paddling. Lake Champlain is one of the nation's most historic waterways and contains about 300 shipwrecks dating back to the 1700s. These wrecks include military, commercial and private vessels that can be seen by experienced SCUBA divers or by taking a shipwreck boat tour equipped with remotely operated underwater equipment.

Fall Foliage Tours – During Vermont's legendary fall foliage season, the magnificent countryside shimmers in red, orange, green and gold—drawing millions of visitors from all corners of the globe. You can experience foliage by taking a scenic drive, going for a hot-air balloon ride, hiking in the Green Mountains or taking a stroll through picturesque villages and historic downtowns.

For more information, contact:

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Vermont Maple Syrup - Vermont is the United States' leading producer of maple syrup with annual production between 400,000 and 500,000 gallons. Vermont's high concentration of sugar maple trees is also one of the reasons it consistently offers the nation's most vibrant fall foliage. You'll find producers of pure, delicious Vermont maple syrup all across the state. Every March during the height of sugaring season, Vermont sugarmakers host the annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend, giving visitors the opportunity to tour sugarhouses and sample maple products.

Country Stores – Most of the small towns and villages dotting the landscape of Vermont have a unique general store—also known as a country store. For decades, the general store was a place to buy necessities, meet with friends and catch up on the news of the day. What makes general stores central to their communities and special places to visit are their senses of history and sociability, where making new friends, or a chance meeting with old friends, is as important as whatever need brings you inside.

Covered Bridges – Vermont's home to about 100 covered bridges that are spread throughout the state and are among Vermont's most popular attractions. Covered bridges were built for protection from the elements—not for the people crossing, but for the bridge itself. A historic Vermont covered bridge is waiting for you in every corner of Vermont.

Arts and Culture – Vermont is home to a variety of art centers, galleries, local theatres, and museums, many of which feature work of local artists, as well as Vermont-made crafts, handmade quilts and historic artifacts. Local artists open their doors for the Open Studio Weekend every May and many lodging properties offer retreats and workshops year-round to help visitors find their own artistic inspiration. These packages may include culinary workshops, quilting classes or watercolor painting retreats.

Vermont also boasts a rich historical heritage at its many State Historic Sites. Ranging from early settlements and pivotal Revolutionary War locations to historic houses and the private homesteads of U.S. Presidents, these sites provide visitors with a deeper understanding of Vermont's fascinating history.

Historic Downtowns – Vermont's downtowns feature unique local businesses, historic buildings and rich cultural and social activities that form the state's strong sense of community. The attractiveness of Vermont's downtowns and villages is widely recognized as a key part of the state's allure to international visitors. From locally-owned retail businesses that have survived with a smile for 150 years, to fine dining restaurants serving food and wine as delicious as you will find anywhere in the world, Vermont's downtowns are the centers of proud communities.

Festivals and Events – Vermont hosts hundreds of fantastic events throughout the year. In the spring, summer and fall, visitors will find an array of farmer's markets, culinary events, agricultural fairs, parades, arts and craft festivals, outdoor concerts and more. During the winter there are dozens of holiday festivals to choose from as well as winter carnivals, ski races and music hall performances. Vermont hosts the statewide Maple Open House Weekend in March and Open Studio Weekend in May.

Shopping for Vermont Products – Around the state visitors will find galleries, shops and general stores filled with one-of-a-kind Vermont-made products from talented craftspeople, artists, cheesemakers, bakers, photographers, painters, potters, woodworkers and glassblowers.

Vermont Byways – As carriages of the 19th century gave way to the more modern vehicles of the 20th century, Vermont's scenic, historic highways and backroads presented visitors with attractive touring routes. Within the last decade, several of the meandering roads created by generations past have received state or national recognition as byways. Vermont's byways include the Connecticut River Byway, Lake Champlain Byway, Mad River Byway, Crossroad of Vermont Byway, Shires of Vermont Byway, Green Mountain Byway, Scenic Route 100 Byway, Stone Valley Scenic Byway, and Molly Stark Byway.

