



Scenic Driving Guide

STOWE HISTORY:

Many people don't realize that Stowe, Vermont, the well-known winter ski resort, was originally a summer destination to many vacationers even before the Civil War.

Surrounded by spectacular scenery, and exceptional vistas, early summer visitors swam in the swimming holes, strolled the village walkways and wandered the fertile hillsides with 8,000 sheep, thoroughly enjoying the cool mountain climate. Then as now, a favorite summer pastime was making a trip up the 4.5-mile toll road to picnic at the summit of Vermont's highest peak, Mt. Mansfield.

At the turn of the century, together with the majority of small towns and villages in Vermont, Stowe turned to dairying. 2,800 dairy cows on more than one hundred family farms then joined summer visitors. At one time the cows outnumbered the residents and summer travelers together! Then, in the 1930's with the advent of downhill skiing, Stowe began to attract year round visitors seeking four seasons of beauty and recreation atop Mt. Mansfield.

Today, although the hotels outnumber the farms, visitors continue to be welcome in the unchanged setting of old. The mountain air is still crisp and clear, the Green Mountains inviting and the townspeople eager to please every traveler.

AREA INFORMATION:

THE LEGEND OF MOUNT MANSFIELD

Many years ago, according to Native American folklore, a giant headed northward on an exploratory journey. Growing tired, the giant laid down. With face upturned to the sky, he took a nap-and is still resting-in the north central Green Mountains of Stowe, Vermont.

This is one of several legends that attempts to explain the uncanny resemblance between Mt. Mansfield's ridge line and a man's facial features; forehead, nose, lips, chin, and Adam's apple. The prominent chin is Vermont's highest point of land at 4,395 feet above sea level. It is on this "face" that many vacationers explore a unique high-altitude ecosystem, seek recreation, and enjoy spectacular, panoramic views of New England countryside.

SMUGGLER'S NOTCH

Smuggler's Notch, elevation 2,162 feet, is a narrow pass through the mountains with 1,000- foot cliffs on either side. In the early days, only a footpath and trail for horses existed. In 1894 the first carriage road was built. In 1918 the first road opened. "Smuggler's Notch" was so named because the forbidden trade with Canada passed through here during the War of 1812 at the time of Jefferson's Embargo Act. Cattle were smuggled into New England through the picturesque gap beside majestic Mt. Mansfield, remote from revenue officers.

Natural wonders abound throughout the "Notch". Fun to spot rock formations include: Smuggler's Head, viewed from Smuggler's Souvenir House; Elephant's Head, above King Rock, a 6,000 ton rock which fell from the mountain in 1910; Hunter and His Dog, most notable scenic feature of Vermont; Singing Bird, high on a cliff outlined against the sky; Smuggler's Face, very high on the cliffs, a large face in relief. Other natural attractions to look for are: Big Spring, Smuggler's Cave and Refrigerator, a rock crevasse, temperature 49 degrees.

THE LONG TRAIL

The Long Trail is a 260-mile footpath running the length of Vermont, from the Massachusetts line to the Canadian Border. This trail crosses the mountain's ridgeline and provides a path for visitors on which to explore Vermont's highest mountain and its ecosystem, a picnic lunch in one hand, and wildflower identification book in the other.

OVERVIEW:

Each self-guided trip starts and ends at the Stowe Area Association. **REMEMBER TO SET YOUR ODOMETER TO "0" BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY.** While enjoying Stowe's scenic back roads, please be aware of bicyclists and runners.

Trip 1: Moscow & Little River – 7.9 miles

Trip 2: Edson Hill & West Hill – 11.1 miles

Trip 3: Brush Hill – 8.6 miles

Trip 4: Elmore Mountain & Randolph Road – 19.7 miles

Trip 5: Stowe Hollow, Little River Dam, Ben & Jerry's, and Cold Hollow Cider Mill – 37.4 miles

Trip 6: Sterling Valley & Mud City – 23.9 miles

Trip 7: Montpelier, Worcester & Lake Elmore – 55.8 miles

Trip 8: Jeffersonville, Johnson & Hyde Park – 42.2 miles

Trip 9: Craftsbury Common, Hazen's Notch & Covered Bridges – 115.8 miles

Trip 10: Stagecoach Road, Johnson & Back – 30.8 miles

Trip 11: Gregg Hill, Winooski Rive, & West Approach to Nebraska Range – 77.7 miles

ROADS & TOURS:

1. MOSCOW AND LITTLE RIVER

Distance: 7.9 miles

This is a short trip along the Little River as it flows from the Lower Village to Adam's Mill in Moscow, a small hamlet named after Moscow, Russia. The Little River is good water for Rainbow Trout fishing, although the bigger fish usually leave the river during July and August. When you turn right at 3.4 miles, you may notice a brook on your left. There are native trout here, you might like to stop and try your luck.

0.0 - Move south on Route 100 from the Stowe Visitor Information Center

0.6 - Turn right onto River Road, across street from Stowe Restoration

0.7 - Bear left on dirt road.

2.4 - Fork in road - sharp right towards Moscow.

3.4 - Turn right onto Barrows Road.

5.2 - Bear right opposite Ten Acres Lodge.

5.8 - Bear right onto Route 108 (Mountain Road)

7.8 - Left on Route 100 (Main Street)

7.9 - Stowe Visitor Info Center - End of trip

the maples end, the view down into the valley, at the village of Stowe and across the Worcester Mountains, is magnificent. The Percy Farm on West Hill welcomes visitors to their Sugar House in the spring to watch them boil sap into maple syrup.

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information center move south

0.5 - Turn right onto Route 108

3.4 - Bear right onto Edson Hill Road

3.9 - Bear left

4.4 - Continue straight

4.7 - Bear right onto Weeks Hill Road

7.5 - Sharp left turn onto Percy Hill Road between house and barn

8.1 - Turn right at fork onto West Hill Road

8.4 - Bear right

10.3 - Right onto Route 100 (just past Shaw's supermarket)

11.1 - Stowe Visitor Info Center - End of trip.

2. EDSON HILL AND WEST HILL

Distance: 11.1 miles

This short drive of a little over 10 miles takes you on a circuit of the upland farms to the northwest of Stowe. Fifty years ago most of this land was used for dairy farming. Now much of it is going back to woodland. The old hard maples arching over the road as you start up Edson Hill and down West Hill are a splendid sight, especially when they take on their autumn coloring. If this vista has a familiar look, you saw it in Hitchcock's "Trouble With Harry" and the "Four Seasons" starring Alan Alda and Carol Burnett. Where

3. BRUSH HILL

Distance: 8.6 miles

This is a beautiful back road trip. We recommend this for the height of Summer or during Fall Foliage. Lots of wildlife abounds, and the views are spectacular.

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center move north on Route 100

3.1 - Bear right off Route 100 onto Randolph Road

3.4 - Turn right onto Moss Glen Falls Road

4.0 - Turn left onto Brownsville Road

6.8 - Bear left. Check out the view.

7.7 - Bear left onto Route 100

8.6 - Back at the Stowe Visitor Info Center - End of trip.

4. ELMORE MOUNTAIN AND RANDOLPH ROAD

Distance: 19.7 miles

On this drive we send you out the Elmore Mountain Road by the Old Elmore Cemetery. Here you get a magnificent view west, across to Mt. Mansfield and the Sterling Range. As you drive back on the Randolph Road, you pass a series of dairy farms and pasture land. These two roads provide excellent examples of old abandoned farmland and the contrasting active acreage.

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center drive north on Route 100

3.0 - Bear right off Route 100 onto Randolph Road

3.5 - Bear right onto Elmore Mountain Road

7.7 - Elmore Mountain Cemetery will be on the right

9.3 - Turn left onto Lower Mountain Road

10.3 - Turn left onto Fitzgerald Road

11.4 - At stop sign, turn left onto paved road.

16.2 - Bear right staying on pavement

16.7 - Go straight onto Route 100

19.7 - Stowe Visitor Info Center - End of trip.

5. STOWE HOLLOW, LITTLE RIVER DAM, BEN AND JERRY'S AND COLD HOLLOW CIDER MILL

Distance: 37.4 miles

This drive is perhaps the most charming hereabouts. Stowe Hollow nestles at the foot of the Worcester Mountains and is drained by the Gold Brook. There are rainbow trout to the covered bridge and natives above and the stream really is gold bearing, although in small quantities. The source of the gold was never found, except possibly by Old Indian Pete, who used to buy his necessities in the Village with his findings. Although continually spied upon, he never revealed his secret. The covered bridge in Stowe Hollow is known as "Emily's Bridge". There are several stories, none authenticated, about how she died at this spot, but her spirit is said to haunt the bridge. The Little River Dam was constructed in the 1930's after the 1927 flood. All pertinent information about the construction is on a site marker at the dam. This is an ideal spot for picture taking and picnicking. And, on the way back, the trip takes you by two of Vermont's most popular attractions, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory and Cold Hollow Cider Mill. Stop by Ben & Jerry's for a sample of the Country's best ice cream or Cold Hollow for a refreshing cup of just-pressed cider. Both sites offer factory tours. Also, don't miss the Cabot Cheese Annex and Lake Champlain Chocolates in between the two!

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center move south on Route 100

1.8 - Turn left onto Gold Brook Road

2.1 - Go over cement bridge. Turn left onto Gold Brook Road and continue.

3.0 - Turn right onto Stowe Hollow Road (Emily's Covered Bridge on left) and go up hill

4.9 - Bear right and continue on. Good view of Camel's Hump & Sugarbush Mountains.

8.2 - Turn left. You are on Loomis Hill.

10.2 - Take the right at the top of the hill onto Ripley Road.

12.7 - Left turn onto Perry Hill. It's the dirt road opposite big farmhouse.

13.5 - Sharp right turn.

16.4 - Bear left onto Lincoln Street.

16.5 - Turn right and go over stone bridge then turn left onto route 100.

17.2 - At stop sign turn right onto Route 2.

18.5 - Turn right onto Little River Road. Good fishing along Little River on right.

20.8 - Left up hill on pavement.

21.3 - You will be at the Waterbury Dam. Stop awhile and look at the sights then turn around and retrace your steps back to Route 2.

24.1 - Turn left onto route 2.

25.0 - Turn left onto route 100.

26.7 - Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory will be on the left. Continue on Rt. 100 north.

29.1 - Cold Hollow Cider Mill is on right (great Vermont made products). Continue on Route 100 north.

29.9 - To Guild Hill Road, on the right.

30.4 - Left onto Maple Street/ to Barnes Hill and Stowe Hollow Road.

34.5 - Come to a true fork (Emily's Bridge is across the street, and bear left staying on Stowe Hollow Road.

37.1 - Turn left onto School Street.

37.4 - Left onto Main Street, and back to the Stowe Visitor Info Center.

6. STERLING VALLEY AND MUD CITY

Distance: 23.9 miles long

These are two valleys running south from the crescent of the Sterling Range. Both were once busy farm areas; now only a few active farms remain, but country homes are taking over. What vein of country humor originally accounted for the name "Mud city" we don't know. Today it is just a stretch of dirt road with a few houses.

Sterling Brook is an entrancing stream. Its covered bridge appears to have been rebuilt and strengthened with iron, but its location high above the water is perfect.

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center drive north on Route 100.

1.7 - Bear left onto Stagecoach Road.

3.4 - Turn left onto Sterling Valley Road.

6.0 - Turn a sharp right over the covered bridge onto Cole Hill Road.
 7.9 - Turn left onto Cole Hill Road.
 8.9 - Continue straight on Cole Hill Road.
 10.0 - At the stop sign, turn left, crossing the bridge onto Walton Road
 10.1 - Take first left onto Mud City Loop Road
 11.9 - The road turns to the left here- pass Rooney Road on right.
 13.1 - Cross metal bridge.
 15.1 - At stop sign turn right onto Cole Hill Road. You now start backtracking a bit.
 16.1 - Bear right at the fork onto McKee Road.
 16.2 - Bear left at the fork.
 17.9 - Cross the covered bridge. Turn hard right. DO NOT go up the hill.
 18.6 - Cross the bridge and continue.
 18.8 - Note the house on the left that was built over the brook.
 19.1 - At the stop sign, turn left onto Moran Loop and cross the bridge.
 21.2 - Turn right at the stop sign onto Percy Hill Road.
 21.8 - Turn left at the stop sign and head down the hill.
 23.2 - Turn left at the stop sign onto Route 108 (Mountain Road).
 23.8 - Turn left at the stop sign in the Village, onto Route 100.
 23.9 - Stowe Visitor Info Center. End of trip.

7. MONTPELIER, WORCESTER AND LAKE ELMORE

Distance: 55.8 miles

The Capitol at Montpelier is certainly one of the finest buildings of the Classic Federalist Period. It houses two of the best-preserved and outstanding legislative chambers in the country. Little publicized in or out of the State, the magnificent hall, where House Representatives meet, and the small room, which houses the Senate, afford a superb picture of the background against which men like Webster and Clay delivered their famous speeches. Just walk upstairs and start exploring! The turn to Worcester is beyond the Capitol up Elm Street, one block before the traffic light. As you leave Montpelier, you are ascending the North Branch of the Winooski River; this is the Abenaki Native American word for "onion". In the more free-spoken days of the American Revolution, Ethan Allen called his land company The Onion River Development Company. As you drive north, you have the Worcester Mountains on your left, which you can see from Stowe to the southeast. At Lake Elmore there is a State Park with picnic grounds, a bathhouse and sandy beach for swimming.

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center move south on Route 100.

9.9 - Waterbury. Turn right onto Interstate 89 South to Montpelier.
 20.0 - Get off at Exit 8 marked Montpelier.
 22.1 - Turn left at the 2nd light.
 22.3 - Turn right at traffic light.
 22.5 - State Capitol on left.
 22.7 - Turn left at Court House onto Elm Street.
 22.8 - Straight at the stop sign.
 28.2 - Worcester Range on the left and picnic area on the right.
 44.0 - Lake Elmore State Park on the left.
 46.3 - Red-blinking light. Go straight onto Route 100 South.
 55.8 - Stowe Visitor Info Center. End of trip.

8. JEFFERSONVILLE, JOHNSON, AND HYDE PARK

Distance: 42.2 miles

This is a trip through Smugglers' Notch from the south to north, which is probably the most scenic approach. This trip follows the course of the annual Stowe Bike Race, and Olympic development race of 90 miles duration, which includes two grueling rides through the Notch. Just on the left in Jeffersonville, as you turn onto Route 15, is a War Memorial, which we think you will find is an imaginative and charming alternate to monolithic statues, old field pieces or piles of cannon balls. Thence you drive up the Valley of the Lamoille, the River of the Gull, as the French named it. Just under a mile out of Jeffersonville, there is a side road to the left with a fine covered bridge over the river and another to the right carrying the railroad across. At Johnson there is Johnson Woolen Mills to visit. As you leave Hyde Park, watch for the one way wooden "Dry Bridge".

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center move south on Route 100.
 0.1 - At the stop sign turn right onto Route 108.
 4.4 - Look for the beautiful covered bridge on left.
 8.4 - Picnic area on the right.
 9.7 - Smugglers' Notch.
 17.0 - Hidden covered bridge on right.
 17.5 - Jeffersonville. Turn right onto Route 15 East.
 17.8 - At intersection turn right toward Johnson.
 26.5 - Johnson Village.
 26.7 - Johnson Woolen Mills on left, continue on Route 15 East.
 31.0 - Bear right heading into Hyde Park Village.
 31.5 - At the Y bear right toward Cady's Falls.
 33.2 - lake Lamoille on left.
 34.2 - Turn left over bridge.
 34.3 - Turn right onto Route 100.
 42.2 Stowe Visitor Info Center. End of trip.

9. CRAFTSBURY COMMON, HAZEN'S NOTCH, AND COVERED BRIDGE

Distance: 115.8 miles

This is a drive of a little over 100 miles, which gives you a succession of splendid views, a number of covered bridges, the charming village of Craftsbury Common, a piece of the old Hazen Military Highway built during the Revolutionary War, and an introduction to one of several surveyor's mistakes that are called "Gores" in Vermont. For artists, photographers and those who simply wish to carry away in their minds a succession of pictures of the beauties of Northern Vermont, we present this tour of approximately four hours duration. WE SUGGEST YOU TAKE A PICNIC LUNCH ON THIS TRIP.

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center move north on Route 100.

8.7 - At the Morrisville stop light go straight ahead.

Take left at Y towards Hardwick on Route 15A.

10.5 - At stop sign turn right onto Route 15 East.

18.7 - Fisher Bridge, a covered railroad bridge, on right.

21.7 - Turn left onto Route 14 to Craftsbury & Craftsbury Common.

26.9 - Lake Elligo is on the right.

27.1 - Lake Elligo Boat Launch and Public Beach is on right.

28.8 - Turn right to Craftsbury, Craftsbury Common is a very picturesque village with many lovely gardens and colonial homes.

32.7 - Bear left at fork toward Craftsbury Common.

34.2 - Stop sign. Turn left onto Route 14.

36.2 - Turn right, going toward North Wolcott.

36.6 - Turn right onto dirt road. A small country store is on the left after the turn.

38.1 - At Y bear left.

43.3 - Stay on road bearing left.

43.6 - Keep on road (staying right) road turns to pavement.

44.1 - Stop sign at bottom of hill. Turn sharp right onto Route 100 North.

44.8 - Lake Eden on right with public beach and camping.

51.9 - Intersection at Lowell. Turn left off Route 100 onto Route 58. This will take you to Hazen's Notch. Stay on RT 58.

52.6 - Stay right on Route 58.

53.4 - At fork bear right (STAY ON ROUTE 58 AT ALL TIMES)

53.8 - At Y turn left

54.6 - Again at Y turn left.

62.4 - At intersection turn right onto Route 118 North.

You are now in Montgomery.

64.8 - At Y in Montgomery bear right (brick church on right). Go through covered bridge and continue.

67.2 - Turn left onto dirt road across from large house with barn

67.5 - At fork bear left.

69.0 - Stop sign. Turn left from dirt road onto Route 118. Continue south.

69.3 - Covered bridge on right.

70.9 - Longley Covered Bridge, built in 1863, on right.

71.7 - Covered bridge on right.

72.0 - Turn right. Head back to Montgomery.

74.5 - Montgomery. Turn right. Continue on Route 118 South heading towards "Avery's Gore."

78.6 - Forked intersection. Bear right onto Route 109 South.

93.5 - Bear right staying on Route 109.

96.6 - Bear left off Route 109.

96.8 - Go through covered bridge, across RR tracks, bear right and turn right at stop sign onto Route 15.

97.0 - Intersection. Turn left onto Route 108 to Jeffersonville.

98.0 - Intersection. Bear right onto Route 108. Heading south you will pass by Smugglers' Notch Ski Area, Smugglers' Notch and Stowe Mountain Resort.

98.3 - Stay right at the fork on Route 108 South.

115.7 - Turn left onto Route 100 North.

115.8 - Stowe Visitor Info Center. End of trip.

10. STAGECOACH ROAD TO JOHNSON AND BACK

Distance: 30.8 miles

This route provides a series of superb views as it runs over the high land between Stowe and Johnson. For this reason, it is an "out and back" tour except for the loop at the end since there is much to see both going and coming. It starts on the same road as the one to Sterling Valley and Mud City. This is the Old Stage Coach Road between Stowe and Morristown Corners. Like many such it followed the high ground, where there was less mud, spring and fall, and where the construction was easier and cheaper. Most old roads - here and in New England - were so built, and may well account for the term "highway". If you take a picnic, you will enjoy eating it on the rocks by the rapids of the Lamoille River, but there is poison ivy, which you should watch out for. Finally, be careful about crossing the railroad tracks.

0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center move North on Route 100.

1.7 - Turn left onto Stage Coach Road.

7.4 - Crossroads. Turn left onto Walton Road.

7.7 - Bear left.

8.2 - Bear right over bridge. Stay on same road.

8.3 - Bear right.

9.2 - Bear left and go up hill.

9.9 - Bear left.

12.6 - Turn right. Go down hill past graveyard.

13.0 - Rapids on right after the bridge.

- 14.0 - Bear left at the stop sign.
- 14.9 - Cross railroad tracks.
- 15.1 - Notice the house across the road (some unusual Vermont architecture). Turn right and go over the iron bridge.
- 15.4 - Turn right onto Route 15 East. You are now in the Village of Johnson.
- 15.5 - Johnson Woolen mills is on the left.
- 19.9 - Bear right leading to the Village of Hyde Park.
- 20.2 - The Hyde Park Opera House is on your left.
- 20.4 - Turn right, and go over the railroad dry bridge (one lane).
- 21.3 - This is the Village of Cady's Falls. Notice the one-room schoolhouse on the right.
- 21.8 - Bear right on to the Stagecoach Road.
- 23.1 - Go straight through the Morristown Four Corners.
- 28.9 - Go straight onto Route 100 South.
- 30.8 - Stowe Visitor Info Center. End of trip.

11. GREGG HILL, WINOOSKI RIVER AND WEST APPROACH TO NEBRASKA RANGE

Distance: 77.7 miles

This is a fairly long trip of many variations and many scenic beauties. Little River Dam Reservoir at the west foot of Gregg Hill is almost entirely hidden from road and farm. That portion which can be seen both from Gregg Hill and from Route 100 with the steep forest on either side will enchant you. You will see the Winooski or "Onion River", stomping grounds of Ethan Allen, his brothers and cronies. The Allen's made a fortune floating timber down this river to Burlington. Camel's Hump was originally known as the

"Crouching Lion". The visitor must determine for him/herself, which he/she prefers. As you drive north on the west slope of Nebraska Range, you will catch a glimpse of Lake Champlain to the West and a most intriguing view of Mt. Mansfield and nearer home, Smugglers' Notch.

- 0.0 - From the Stowe Visitor Information Center move south on Route 100.
- 3.5 - Bear right on to Gregg Hill Road.
- 6.4 - East Lagoon or Little River Reservoir is on your right.
- 7.3 - Turn right onto Route 100.
- 11.5 - Turn right onto Route 2.
- 12.3 - Winooski River and Camel's Hump on left.
- 23.3 - Turn right and go through tunnel under highway.
- 27.9 - At T turn left - West Bolton Golf Course on right.
- 34.2 - At the T turn right onto Route 2. Continue to Richmond Village.
- 37.7 - Turn right at light.
- 42.0 - Jericho Center Country Store is on the left.
- 43.4 - Underhill Fire Station is on the right.
- 44.1 - Mt. Mansfield Union High School is on right.
- 46.1 - Turn right onto Route 15.
- 56.8 - Turn right to Jeffersonville.
- 57.7 - At the blinking light make a right turn.
- 60.0 - South on Route 108. This will take you through Smugglers' Notch.
- 69.8 - Spruce Peak is on your left. Continue on this road to Stowe Village.
- 77.6 - Turn left on Route 100 North.
- 77.7 - Stowe Visitor Info Center. End of trip.