

Lake Champlain Byway

This brochure was funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration. The Byway works with the Administration's National Scenic Byways Program which promotes the recognition and enjoyment of America's memorable roads. The Byway works to support unique travel experiences and enhance local quality of life by preserving, protecting, interpreting, and promoting its intrinsic qualities. For more information, visit the Byway's website at www.lakechamplainbyway.com.

Photo: Shelburne Bay/Robert Lyons

Explore Vermont's West Coast





The Lake Champlain Byway is a Scenic Byway designated by the State of Vermont located in the northwest portion of the state. From north to south, the formal route is 134 miles (215 km) long and consists of U.S. Route 2 through the Champlain Islands, U.S. Route 7 through the city of Burlington and several surrounding towns, and then south to seven different communities in Addison County including Middlebury and Vergennes.



Sherri Potvin

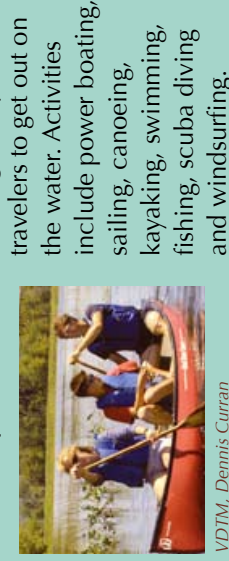
Scenery

Throughout the Byway, the scenery is spectacular no matter where you are. Views of Lake Champlain, Vermont's Green Mountains and New York's Adirondack mountains are always around you (many times all three at once!). The Byway's working landscape of farms and forests—whether bathed in spring and summer green, fall colors or winter's white blanket—brings the traveler a sense of connection to the land.

Bicyclist at sunset photo above by Carolyn Bates, Courtesy of Lake Champlain Bikeways

Nature and Outdoor Recreation

The first and foremost characteristic of the Byway is its ready access to Lake Champlain, the rivers which flow into it and numerous locations to explore nature. There are several state parks, marinas, public boat launches, public beaches and other points of access, making it easy for



VDOTM, Dennis Curran

travelers to get out on the water. Activities include power boating, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing, scuba diving and windsurfing.

The region also has numerous parks and natural areas with hiking and biking trails and campsites. Bike touring along its country roads or designated recreation paths is also popular. Even the Byway's most populous communities contain several pristine areas conserved in perpetuity to enable resident and visitors the chance to relax in nature.

Although quieter in the winter, the region offers several locations to enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, ice fishing and newer sports like Nordic skating and kiteboarding.

History and Culture

Native American Abenaki were the region's original inhabitants. In 1609, French explorer, Samuel de Champlain was the first

European to visit the region. Settlement and agriculture expanded after the Revolutionary War followed by the establishment of numerous shipping and mill towns along the region's waterways. Like the Adirondacks of New York, Lake Champlain became known for its nature-oriented tourism.



Courtesy of KB Compliments

The area features several museums, both large and small, to teach us about the Abenaki, French settlers, rugged Yankees and others who made the Lake Champlain region their home. Vermont's largest city, Burlington, hosts several cultural festivals while the Byway's smaller communities offer the traveler unique experiences such as French-heritage days, farmers' markets, fall harvest festivals, and community suppers and dances.

Explore Vermont's West Coast



Lake Champlain Islands - www.champlainislands.com



Bike Ferry/Local Motion



Vermont Shakespeare Company/John Nagle, Sr.



Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce



Allenholm Farm

Basking in the sun on the bow of the Grand Isle ferry or driving across one of the scenic causeways or bridges that connect us to the mainland. There are a few ways to get here, each its own unforgettable introduction to the Lake Champlain Islands.

Nestled between Vermont's Green Mountains and the Adirondacks of New York, the Islands sit below the Canadian border amidst the sixth largest freshwater lake in the United States. They are 30 miles long, with four historic villages along the Byway, and all the fun and recreation you desire, as well as the solitude you crave.

See the apple blossoms bloom in the spring. Enjoy boating, biking, and beaches come summertime. Apple picking and leaf-peeping are some of fall's favorite activities. Or visit in the winter for ice fishing and lake skating. There are historic sites, lakeside inns and cottages, and several marinas.

Alburgh, on the Canadian border, has bike trails and sand dunes, farmstead cheese and chocolates. The Islands also host five Vermont State Parks providing ample camping opportunities.

North Hero has lakeside inns with fine dining and outdoor theater. Grand Isle's Hyde Log Cabin is Vermont's oldest, and South Hero's apple orchards and vineyards are open in season.

The Lake Champlain Islands welcome you season after season, whether you are entering the Byway from Québec, or coming North from Burlington. Welcome to the Lake Champlain Islands. It's good to be here.

Greater Burlington - www.vermont.org



The eight byway communities of the greater Burlington area present a diverse menu of opportunities for the traveler. It includes densely populated urban areas, growing suburban areas and areas that remain rural.

Burlington is the hub for the region having a classic small city downtown with its numerous museums and arts and entertainment venues and several lakeside parks and beaches. You can get around easily on foot, by public transportation or use the city's famed bikepath that fronts Lake Champlain.

Winooski, an historic mill city, boasts numerous brick and stone buildings reflective of its industrial heritage. The downtown is

completely redeveloped with pedestrian-friendly streets and pocket parks and includes a boardwalk along the roaring Winooski River as well as two fine local museums, quiet nature trails and great fishing holes.

South Burlington is a newer, growing suburban community but has several excellent parks and natural areas all linked by an extensive recreation path system.

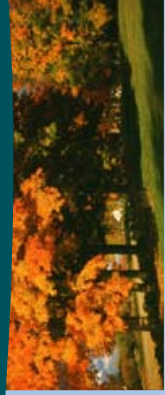
Essex Junction is a compact village that hosts the Byway's only Amtrak passenger station. It is also home to the state's largest outdoor cultural and performance venue, the Champlain Valley Exposition which hosts a traditional country fair around Labor Day and numerous other events year-round.

The towns of Shelburne, Charlotte, Milton and Colchester have histories based upon agriculture and other traditional industries. They host many opportunities for outdoor recreation such as parks and natural areas, rivers, ponds and hiking trails. The traveler can experience classic New England village architecture and tour several well-regarded local museums. Of particular interest are Shelburne Museum and Shelburne Farms, Mt. Philo State Park in Charlotte, Sandbar State Park in Milton and the boating center of Mallett's Bay in Colchester.

Addison County - www.addisoncounty.com



Vergennes Basin/Addison County Chamber of Commerce



Fall Foliage/Addison County Chamber of Commerce



Otter Creek Falls, Middlebury/Addison County Chamber of Commerce



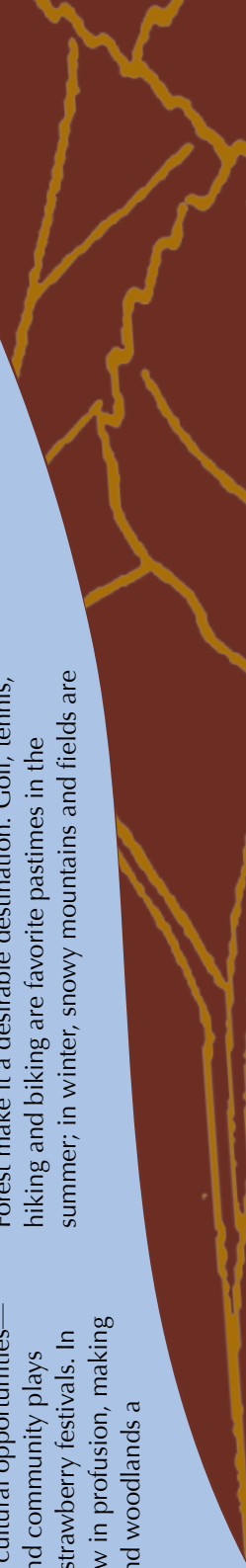
Middlebury Farmers Market/Addison County Chamber of Commerce

Located in the lower Champlain Valley bordered by the Adirondacks to the west and the Green Mountains to the east, Addison County is rich in lake, pastoral and mountain beauty. History comes alive and each community along the Byway offers glimpses of its past along with an array of social and cultural opportunities—from concerts, museums and community plays to pancake breakfasts and strawberry festivals. In springtime wildflowers grow in profusion, making our roadsides, meadows and woodlands a

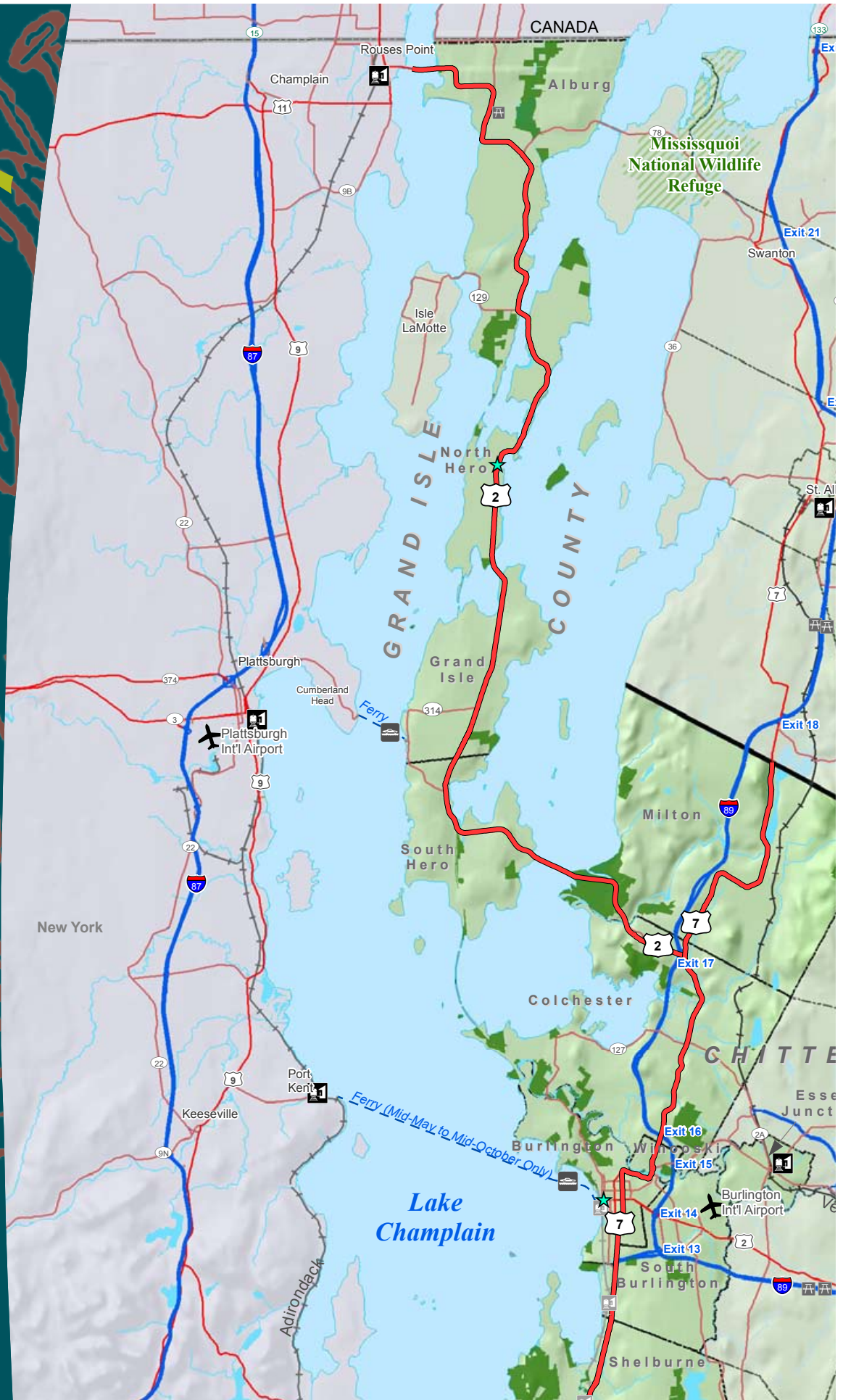
welcoming garden. Nearby mountains, forests and lakes invite you to pack a picnic, enjoy swimming holes, hike the trails or camp under a sea of stars.

The area's proximity to Lake Champlain and year-round recreation in the Green Mountain National Forest make it a desirable destination. Golf, tennis, hiking and biking are favorite pastimes in the summer; in winter, snowy mountains and fields are

perfect for Alpine and Nordic skiing as well as snowshoeing. The golds and reds of autumn make fall foliage some of the most spectacular in the world.



Champlain Byway!





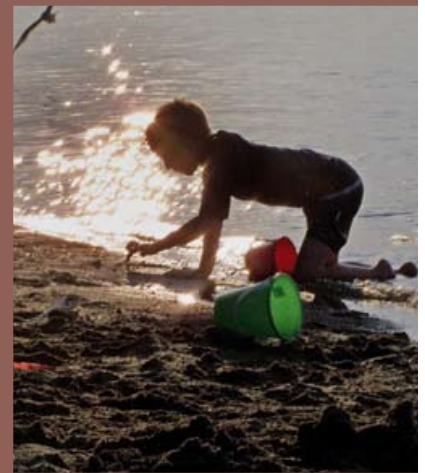
Lou Chiriatti



Addison County Chamber of Commerce



Vermont Mozart Festival at Kingsland Bay State Park/VDTM, Dennis Curran



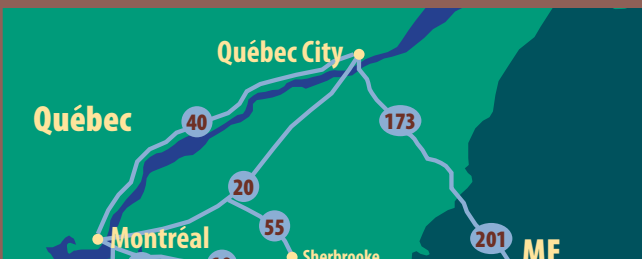
Sandbar State Park/Denise Dennington



Addison County Chamber of Commerce



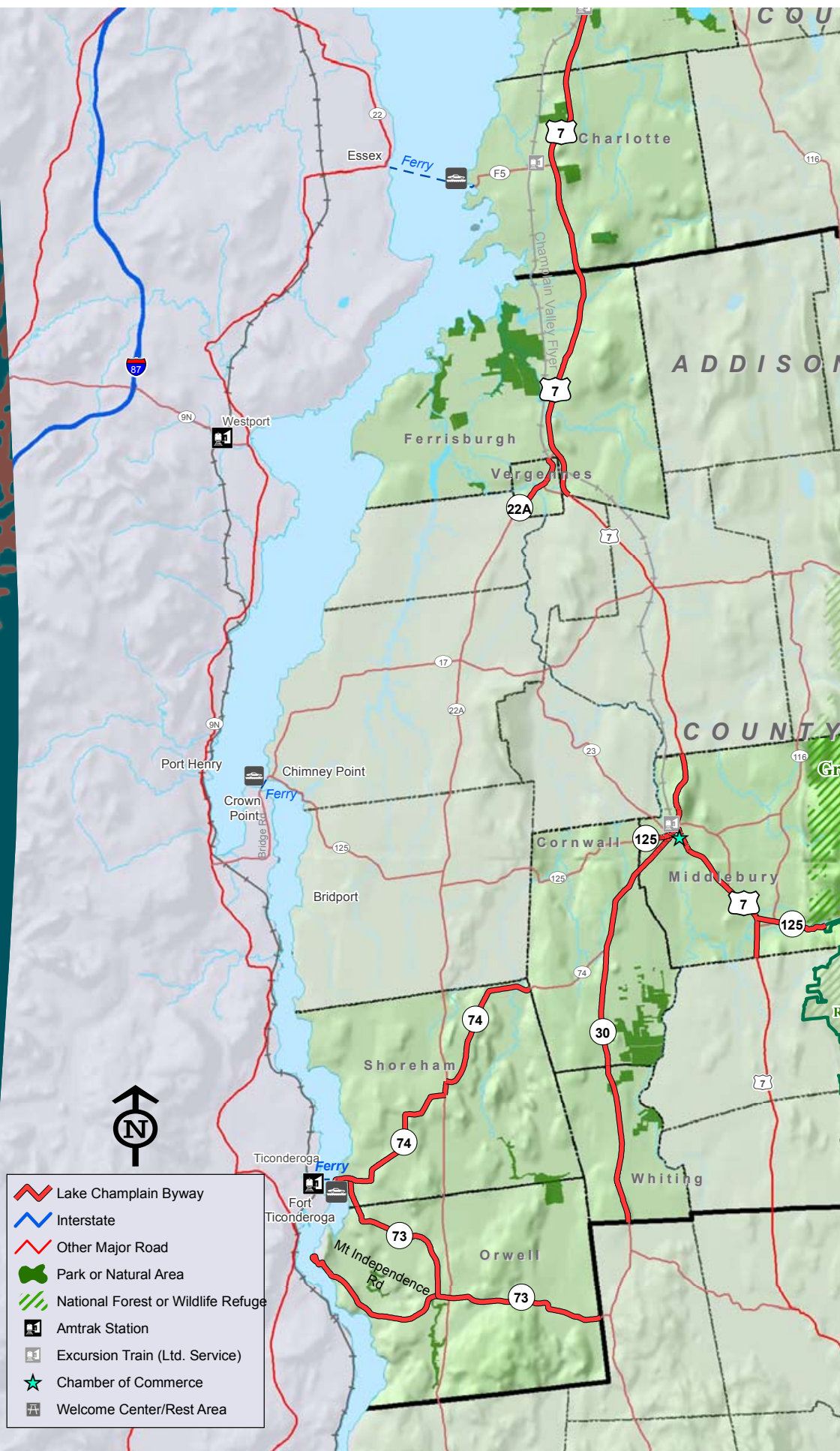
Lake Champlain Ferry/Lake Champlain Transportation Co.



Distances to Burlington, VT

New York City, NY - 298 miles
 Albany, NY - 150 miles
 Boston, MA - 216 miles
 Springfield MA - 209 miles
 Providence, RI - 276 miles
 Hartford, CT - 236 miles

Experience the Lake





Portland, ME - 257 miles
Concord NH - 155 miles
Montréal, QC - 96 miles
Québec City, QC - 240 miles

Visitor Information

The Byway works closely with the chambers of commerce in its three-county area. For detailed information on lodging, shopping, dining, events and other services, visit:

Lake Champlain Islands

www.champlainislands.com, (800) 262-5226

Greater Burlington

www.vermont.org, (877) 686-5253

Addison County

www.addisoncounty.com, (800) SEE-VERMONT

How to get to the Byway

From Québec

The Lake Champlain Byway begins on the Rouses Point Bridge at US Route 2. Head south on Autoroute 15 to US I-87 in New York then take Exit 42 and head east on US Route 11 until you reach the bridge.

From New York

For travelers headed north from Glens Falls area:

Take Route 149 east to link with US Route 4 East. After crossing into Vermont near Whitehall, NY, head north on Vermont Route 22A (or north on US Route 7 near Rutland) to reach the byway's southernmost communities.

For travelers coming across Lake Champlain from I-87:

- Lake Champlain Bridge closed. Take route 9N/22 to connect with year-round ferry service from Crown Point, NY to Addison, VT (see www.nysdot.gov/lakechamplainbridge for updates on bridge and ferry).
- Ticonderoga-Shoreham Ferry (7 minute crossing), check www.middlebury.net/tiferry for schedule
- Essex-Charlotte Ferry (20 minute crossing, year-round), www.ferries.com
- Port Kent - Burlington Ferry (1 hour crossing, mid-May through early October), www.ferries.com
- Plattsburgh - Grand Isle Ferry (20 minute crossing, year-round, 24 hrs./day), www.ferries.com
- Rouses Point Bridge, US Route 2 (see "From Québec" above)

Note: Ferry crossings vary on a seasonal basis and on the weekends so be sure to check the services' websites for detailed schedules and fare information.

From New England

The fastest way to reach the Byway is to connect with US I-89 in New Hampshire and Vermont. Head in a northeasterly direction on I-89 North towards Burlington. At Exit 13, take the short spur of US I-189 to US Route 7 in South Burlington.

Via air

Catch a flight to Burlington International Airport (BTV) or to nearby Plattsburgh International Airport (PBG) in New York.

Via rail (Amtrak)

Take Amtrak's **Vermont** train to Essex Junction, one of the Byway's communities. This train runs between Washington, D.C. and several major east coast cities and ends in St. Albans, Vermont. Or you can take Amtrak's **Adirondack** service running between New York City, Albany and Montréal and get off at several towns on the New York side of Lake Champlain. Both the **Vermont** and **Adirondack** have one northbound trip and one southbound trip per day. Visit www.amtrak.com for details.