Explore Vermont’s West Coast

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
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.

A Byway is designated for its unique intrinsic qualities or resources. The Lake Champlain Byway is notable for its scenic, natural, recreational, historic and cultural resources.

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.

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 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.

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

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.

The region also has numerous parks and natural areas with hiking and biking trails and campsites. Bike touring along its Byway works with the State Highway 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 America’s scenic, cultural, and historic roadways.

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 bikeway 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.

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.
How to get to the Byway

From New England
• Take Exit 15 off I-89 for a quick route to the Byway's southern communities.
• Take Route 149 east to link with US Route 4 East. After crossing into Vermont near Whitehall, NY, head north on Route 22A to reach the byway's southernmost communities.

For travelers headed north from Glens Falls area:
• Take Route 9N/22 to connect with year-round ferry service from Crown Point, NY to Addison, VT (see www.nysdot.gov/lakechamplainbridge) during the fall foliage season.
• The Lake Champlain Bridge closed. Take route 9N/22 to connect with year-round ferry service from Crown Point, NY.

From New York
• In New York then take Exit 42 and head east on US Route 11 until you reach the bridge.

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.

Lou Chiriatti
Addison County Chamber of Commerce

www.ferries.com
www.middlebury.net/tiferry
www.ferries.com
www.lakechamplaincruise.com
www.plattsburghgrandisle.com
www.champlainislands.com
www.wisconsinferry.com
www.addisoncounty.com, (800) SEE-VERMONT
www.vermont.org, (877) 686-5253
www.ontariocanada.com, (800) 267-7487
www.champlaincruise.com, (800) 262-5226
www.lakechamplaincruise.com
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Distances to Burlington, VT
• New York City, NY - 298 miles
• Boston, MA - 216 miles
• Portland, ME - 257 miles
• Montreal, Quebec, CA - 267 miles
• Hartford, CT - 236 miles
• Springfield MA - 209 miles
• Manchester NH - 155 miles
• Concord NH - 155 miles
• Burlington, VT - 7 miles

Champlain Byway!
Experience the Lake Champlain Byway!

How to get to the Byway

From Québec

How to get to the Byway

From New York

From New England

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
The fastest way to reach the Byway is to connect with US I-89 in New Hampshire and Vermont. Head in a northeasterly direction towards Addison, VT (see www.nysdot.gov/lakechamplainbridge for updates on bridge and ferry).

Distance to Burlington, VT:
- From Québec: 173 miles
- From Concord NH: 155 miles
- From Hartford, CT: 236 miles
- From Providence, RI: 276 miles
- From Albany, NY: 150 miles
- From New York City, NY: 298 miles
- From Sherbrooke: 201 miles

For travelers coming across Lake Champlain from I-87:
• 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 those heading south from Vermont Route 2:
• Take Route 15 east to link with US I-87 and get off at Exit 14.

Take Amtrak's Vermonter to Burlington. Amtrak has one northbound trip and one southbound trip per day.

Amtrak Station: Burlington, VT

Welcome Center/Rest Area: North Williston, VT

607-876-2456

For more detailed schedules and fare information:
- Addison County Chamber of Commerce (800) SEE-VERMONT www.addisoncounty.com
- Great Burlington www.greaterburlington.org (877) 686-5253
- Greater Burlington dining, events and other services, visit: www.addisoncounty.com

For Chamber of Commerce in its three-county area. For detailed information on lodging, shopping, events and other services, visit: www.addisoncounty.com

Vermont Mozart Festival at Kingsland Bay State Park/Denise Dennington
Lou Chiriatti Addison County Chamber of Commerce

From New England:
• Take Route 11 east until you reach the bridge.

From New York:
• Take US I-87 south to Exit 42 and head east on US Route 11 until you reach the bridge.

From Québec:
• Take Autoroute 15 east to US I-87 at Exit 14.

From Québec City, QC:
- 240 miles

From Sherbrooke:
- 201 miles

From St. Albans, VT:
- 2 miles

From Addison, VT:
- 6 miles

From Addison County:
- 27 miles

For more information:

From Vermont Route 22A:
• Take Route 149 east to link with US Route 4 East. After crossing into Vermont near Whitehall, NY, head north on Route 149 to reach the byway.

From US Route 7 near Rutland:
• Take Route 149 east to link with US Route 4 East. After crossing into Vermont near Whitehall, NY, head north on Route 149 to reach the byway.

For more information:
- Addison County Chamber of Commerce (800) SEE-VERMONT www.addisoncounty.com
- Great Burlington www.greaterburlington.org (877) 686-5253
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Vermont Mozart Festival at Kingsland Bay State Park/Denise Dennington
Lou Chiriatti Addison County Chamber of Commerce

For more details:
www.amtrak.com

Both the Adirondack and Vermonter trains have one northbound trip and one southbound trip per day. There are various Amtrak stations along the route including New York City, Albany, and Montréal.

The Lake Champlain Byway begins on the Rouses Point Bridge at US Route 2. Head south on Autoroute 15 to US I-87 and get off at Exit 14.

For the best experience on the Lake Champlain Byway:
- Explore the stunning scenery of Lake Champlain.
- Visit the charming towns and villages along the Byway.
- Enjoy the outdoor activities available in the region.
- Discover the rich history and culture of the area.

To plan your visit to the Lake Champlain Byway:
- Visit www.addisoncounty.com
- Contact the Addison County Chamber of Commerce at (800) SEE-VERMONT

For more information on other towns and activities along the Byway, visit the Addison County Chamber of Commerce website or call (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](http://www.nysdot.gov/lakechamplainbridge) for updates on bridge and ferry).
- Ticonderoga-Shoreham Ferry (7 minute crossing), check [www.middlebury.net/tiferry](http://www.middlebury.net/tiferry) for schedule
- Essex-Charlotte Ferry (20 minute crossing, year-round), [www.ferries.com](http://www.ferries.com)
- Port Kent - Burlington Ferry (1 hour crossing, mid-May through early October), [www.ferries.com](http://www.ferries.com)
- Plattsburgh - Grand Isle Ferry (20 minute crossing, year-round, 24 hrs./day), [www.ferries.com](http://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 [Vermonter](http://www.amtrak.com) 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](http://www.amtrak.com) 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 [Vermonter](http://www.amtrak.com) and [Adirondack](http://www.amtrak.com) have one northbound trip and one southbound trip per day. Visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) for details.

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

Distances to Burlington, VT
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- Concord NH - 155 miles
- Montréal, QC - 96 miles
- Québec City, QC - 240 miles