you (many times all three at once!). The Byway’s working landscape of farms and forests - whether washed 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.

The region also has numerous parks and natural areas. 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.

Even the Byway’s most populous communities contain several pristine areas conserved in perpetuity to enable residents and visitors the chance to relax in nature.

**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.
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 185 miles (298 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 through nine different communities in Addison County.

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.

**Off-Season State Park Use**

Many of Vermont's state parks are open to off-season day use and even camping during the winter months. Park staff are only present sporadically during the off-season, but you are welcome to access the parks for sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice skating, ice fishing or sledding. Camping is also available November 1 - April 15 with an off-season camping permit available online starting October 31. For a complete list of state parks open for off-season day use or winter camping, please visit: www.vtstateparks.com/htm/off_season_daycamp.htm. See www.vtstateparks.com/pdfs/off_season_access.pdf for parks with plowed parking.
Winter Activities
along the 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: VermontVacation.com/Dennis Curran
Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding

Known for their exceptional conditions and panoramic views, Vermont’s famous alpine ski resorts are a favorite destination for beginners and experts alike. Although there are none in the Byway’s towns, several are within an hour’s drive, dotting the spine of the Green Mountains. In addition, many Byway towns host ski shops for rentals and expert advice.

Ice Fishing

Whether you’re experienced or new to this sport, ice fishing is a wonderful way to take advantage of the brisk and beautiful Vermont winter. Lake Champlain is one of Vermont’s premier fishing destinations. Ice fishing season usually lasts from January through March. Visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com for local safety tips, license information, and more.
X-C Skiing & Snowshoeing

The perfect way to experience one of Vermont's many sunny winter days. A variety of Nordic ski areas can be found close to the Byway. Most public parks and natural areas also allow cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at no cost. Bundle up, pack a hot thermos lunch and bring the family for a day of exploring Vermont's renowned outdoors.

Ice Skating

There are a number of indoor and outdoor skating rinks to enjoy along the Byway. Leddy Arena in Burlington, Cairns Arena in South Burlington, and Memorial Sports Center in Middlebury all offer public skating and rentals. Many Byway towns also create impromptu outdoor skating areas; check the Recreation Department pages of the towns' websites for details and locations.
Sledding
A thrilling way to take in the Vermont outdoors, sledding is the ideal winter pastime. Many towns have favorite hills used by locals; you can call local town offices or chambers of commerce for recommendations. Pick up a simple plastic sled at most local pharmacies, grocery and hardware stores, and head to a hill for the afternoon.

Specialty Activities
The Byway’s towns host many winter events and activities including festivals, ice sculpturing, maple sugaring, and sleigh rides to celebrate the joys of winter in Vermont. Don’t miss “First Night” in Burlington, the “Great Ice!” event in North Hero in February, and the “Vermont Chili Festival” in Middlebury in March.

Recreational Services
To find winter recreation businesses or services or more information on the many places to enjoy winter along the Byway, please contact the Vermont Outdoor Guide Association or our regional chamber of commerce partners:

Vermont Outdoor Guide Association | www.voga.org or (800) 425-8747
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce | www.vermont.org or (877) 686-5253
Addison County Chamber of Commerce | www.addisoncounty.com or (802) 388-7951

Snowmobiling
A favorite activity for residents and visitors alike, snowmobiling offers a unique way to explore a wide span of Vermont’s snow-cloaked outdoors. The Vermont Association of Snowmobile Trails (VAST), the primary resource for snowmobiling in Vermont, maintains over 5,000 miles of trails statewide and offers a complete trail list and more at: www.vtvast.org.