

New England Fall Foliage Hiking Tour

An Inn-to-Inn Hiking, Canoeing/Kayaking and Horseback Riding Adventure in the Green and White Mountains

Experience this unique New England adventure—combining the verdant Green Mountains and little known Northeast Kingdom of Vermont with the towering White Mountains of New Hampshire. Weather permitting, climb the highest peaks in both states and paddle the quiet waters of the beautiful Lamollee River. Sample the local products—cheddar cheese, maple syrup, apple cider...and Ben and Jerry's ice cream. Revel in the color of the fall foliage season and relax in the tranquility of charming country inns.

Day 1. Hike Mount Pisgah, The Wildflower Inn (800-627-8310 (Oct. 2nd) 802-626-8310/private baths) <http://www.wildflowerinn.com/>, or **WilloughVale Inn**, (Oct. 9th), 800-594-9102/private baths) <http://www.willoughvale.com/>

Our group assembles at the Doubletree Burlington Hotel at 9:00 a.m. in Burlington, Vermont. We shuttle from Burlington to Lake Willoughby with a midway stop at the Cabot Creamery. Owned by an association of Vermont dairy farmers since 1919, Cabot Creamery invites you to nibble their many varieties of cheeses, including the "World's Best Cheddar and Best Flavored Cheese."

Following lunch at the trailhead we hike up Mount Pisgah. The twin mounds of Mts. Pisgah and Hor form beacons in the Northeast Kingdom, looming above the upper end of glacier-gouged Lake Willoughby. This stirring hike through maple, birch, spruce and pine forest leads to rocky aeries high above precipitous cliffs with distant views of Jay Peak, Mount Mansfield and Burke Mountain and of the deep blue lake below.

We settle tonight into the cozy confines of The Wildflower Inn, situated on Darling Hill on 570 acres. Experience unforgettable charm, relax in sumptuous gardens and rejuvenate in the stunning beauty of the Northeast Kingdom.

- Shuttle from Burlington to Lake Willoughby [2-1/2 hours plus a visit to the Cabot Creamery]
- Hike Mt. Pisgah via the South Trail [4 miles round trip; 1600 feet of elevation gain, then loss]

Day 2. Hike Mount Lafayette, Sunset Hill House (800-786-4455 or 603-823-5522)/private baths) <http://www.sunsethillhouse.com/>

We shuttle this morning to Franconia Notch in New Hampshire's White Mountains. Our destination is 5,260-foot Mount Lafayette, named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette in gratitude for his assistance in the War of Independence.

Following a former bridal path, the trail crosses Walker Brook and soon ascends to Agony Ridge and on to the Greenleaf Hut, with views of Mt. Lincoln and distant Mt. Moosilauke along the way. The trail then passes

Eagle Lakes, two picturesque shallow tarns, en route to the summit of Mount Lafayette and 360 degree views.

We lodge for the next two nights at Sunset Hill House, a large Victorian inn which first welcomed guests in 1880. The location high atop Sunset Hill Ridge offers unparalleled views of the Presidential, Kinsman and Franconia Ranges of the White Mountains as well as long-range views over the Green Mountains of Vermont.

- Shuttle from Lake Willoughby to Mount Lafayette Trailhead [1-1/2 hours]
- Hike Mount Lafayette via the Old Bridal Path [up to 8 miles round trip; up to 3480 feet of elevation gain, then loss]
- Inclement weather alternative: Hike the Zealand Trail to Zealand Pond and Zealand Falls [5.4 miles round trip; 650 feet of elevation gain, then loss]

Day 3. Hike Mount Jefferson and Mount Washington, Ride Cog Railway Down, Sunset Hill House

From a high trailhead in Jefferson Notch we ascend steadily through a thick maple and birch forest to a ridge where several rock scrambles are required. Obtaining the shoulder of Mount Jefferson, we proceed through the tundra along the top of the Presidential Range. We cross Mt. Clay with exquisite views of Mt. Adams and Mt. Madison and down into the Great Gulf as we make our way to the summit of Mt. Washington, the highest peak in New England at 6,288 feet.

On our approach to Mt. Washington we first spot plumes of black smoke, then cross the railroad tracks of the Mount Washington Cog Railway, our transportation down the mountain. Built in 1869 as the world's first mountain climbing cog railway, the coal-burning, steam-powered engines and colorful passenger cars are a photographer's delight.

- Hike the Caps Ridge Trail from Jefferson Notch to Mount Jefferson; then The Cornice, Gulfside Trail and Clay Loop to Mount Washington [5.2 miles one way; 3280 feet of elevation gain]
- Ride the Mount Washington Cog Railway down from the summit [approximately one hour]
- Inclement weather alternative: Hike Webster Cliff Trail to Webster Branch Trail to Webster-Jackson Trail in Crawford

For Reservations and Information call 800-488-8483 or Reserve 24 hours a day at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com

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Address: 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite D, Boulder, CO 80301 Fax: 303-413-0926 Email: fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com

Notch [5.8 miles one way; 2635 feet of elevation gain, then loss]

Day 4. Hike to Flume Gorge, Edson Hill Manor (800-621-0284 or 802-253-7371/private baths)
<http://www.edsonhillmanor.com/>

One of Franconia Notch's geological wonders, the Flume Gorge offers a spectacular walk through a natural chasm, along boardwalks and over covered bridges. This loop walk visits the Flume, Liberty Gorge and Cascade and the Pool and provides views of Mt. Liberty and Mt. Flume.

Following lunch we shuttle to Stowe, Vermont, the "ski capital of the East". Stowe is a 200-year old village that looks like a classic Vermont village should look.

We stop just before arriving in Stowe at The Cold Hollow Cider Mill, one of the top producers of fresh apple cider in all of New England and one of the very few that press year-round. Here cider is still made the old fashioned way, with a rack and cloth press built in the 1920s.

Relax and recover from the past two days of climbing hikes at the Edson Hill Manor, a Vermont country estate that will be home for our final two nights. Situated on 225 acres a few minutes from the village of Stowe, the inn has riding stables, many rooms with canopy beds and most with fireplaces and top-rated dining.

- Hike to Flume Gorge [2.0 miles round trip; nominal elevation gain]
- Shuttle from Franconia Notch to Stowe, Vermont [2-1/2 hours plus a stop at the Cold Hollow Cider Mill]

Day 5. Hike the Mt. Mansfield Ridgeline to Lake of the Clouds, Canoe the Lamoille River, Edson Hill Manor

We shuttle up the toll road of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest point at 4,393 feet. All of today's hike will be at or above timberline with views on a clear day of Lake Champlain to the west, Canada to the north and the White Mountains of New Hampshire to the east.

The Green Mountains take their name from both the covering forest and the hue of the metamorphic schist that they are comprised of. We walk today along the

spine of Mt. Mansfield on the exposed schist and will see tundra plants here that typically only grow 1,000 miles to the north.

This afternoon we canoe or kayak (at your option) the gentle Lamoille River through rolling farmlands with plenty of fall color and distant views of Mt. Mansfield. Great blue herons, beaver, otter, kingfishers and hawks may be observed during our two hour paddle.

- Hike from "The Nose" to "The Chin" of Mount Mansfield and on to Lake of the Clouds via the "Adams Apple" [3.8 miles round trip; 330 feet of elevation gain, then 450 feet of elevation loss on the way out with the sequence reversed on the return trip]
- Canoe the Lamoille River [2 hours]
- Inclement weather alternative: Hike the Lake Mansfield and Clara Bow Trails in Nebraska Notch [4 miles round trip; 700 feet of elevation gain, then loss]

Day 6. Horseback ride (optional) and Hike Stowe Pinnacle

Feel free to sleep in or enjoy a leisurely horseback ride on the Edson Hill Manor trails. Late this morning we make one final ascent to Stowe Pinnacle. After passing through a field of apple trees, goldenrod and berry bushes, the path climbs steadily through a forest of maple and pine. Superb views of Stowe Village below and Mt. Mansfield high to the northwest are had from the barren boulders of this modest summit

Our reward for a fabulous six days of hiking is a stop in Waterbury at Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Vermont's leading tourist attraction. After a brief video and tour of the factory, we treat ourselves to a "Cherry Garcia" or a "Chunky Monkey".

Our tour ends at approximately 4:30 back at the Clarion Hotel in Burlington with fond farewells and hopes that we'll see you again soon on another The World Outdoors adventure.

- Ride horseback on the trails at Edson Hill Manor [optional]
- Hike Stowe Pinnacle [2.8 miles round trip; 1500 feet of elevation gain, then loss]
- Shuttle from Stowe to Burlington [one hour plus a visit to Ben and Jerry's Factory]

Tour Details

Trip Type: Country Inns

Trip Length: 6 days/5 nights

2012 Departure Dates: October 7-12

2013 Departure Dates: October 6-11

Price: \$2998 per person

Single Supplement: \$700

Trip Rating: Moderate to Challenging

Activities: hike (5 days), horseback ride (optional), canoe (1/2 day), cultural stops and tours

Gateway City: Burlington, Vermont

For Reservations and Information call 800-488-8483 or Reserve 24 hours a day at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com

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Gateway City Transfer: *From Burlington International Airport* – The airport is within a 10-minute taxi ride of all Burlington hotels with taxi service available outside the exit from the terminal building. Some hotels offer complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport.

Meeting Time & Place: 9:00 a.m., Doubletree Burlington Hotel, 1117 Williston Road, Burlington, Vermont, 802-658-0250. We recommend that you have breakfast before the start of the tour and wear comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots.

Trip Conclusion: 4:30 p.m., Doubletree Burlington Hotel, Burlington, Vermont. Airline departures should be scheduled no earlier than Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Trip Fees Include: All meals (Day 1 lunch-Day 6 lunch), accommodations (double occupancy), T-shirt, water bottle, state park fees, parking fees and tolls, cultural tours, canoes/kayaks and all necessary equipment, optional horseback ride, support vehicle, and professional guides.

Trip Fees Exclude: Airfare, pre-and post-trip accommodations, personal insurance, miscellaneous hotel expenses (phone, fax, laundry, etc.), alcoholic beverages, services not specified in the tour itinerary, and guide gratuities (An appropriate gratuity to *each* trip leader is \$75-\$100 per guest).

The Next Step...

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee: *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value.* If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com. Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Marriner, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com. Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call Frosch Travel, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at Georgia.Terry@frosch.com. Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

General Information, Questions & Answers

What weather conditions can I expect? The average daytime highs in Stowe, Vermont and Bretton Woods, New Hampshire in late September/early October are 60-65°F and the average nighttime lows are 35-45°F. The weather can be considerably colder, windier and cloudier on the surrounding mountain peaks, particularly on our hikes to Mt. Lafayette, Mt. Washington and Mt. Mansfield. Poor visibility, wet conditions or cold and wind may cause us to do alternative activities. Plan to dress appropriately in layers (with hat, gloves and raingear available) for all of the high elevation hikes.

How difficult is this trip? ... Really? This trip is rated as moderate. It is intended for the more active adult comfortable with 4-6 hours of activity per day. The distances are not particularly long but many of the hikes involve significant elevation gains, often at the rate of 1,000 feet per mile or more. Good aerobic conditioning will be necessary to enjoy these hikes to the fullest. Some hikes involve scrambling over boulders and hiking across bedrock. Extra caution should be exercised if conditions are wet.

Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Marriner at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

Pre- and Post-Trip Accommodations: The World Outdoors recommends the following hotels in Burlington if you arrive before or stay after your trip. These trips are during the high season and rates are higher as a result. Also, lodging books up fast in Burlington in the fall foliage season so we recommend you reserve your lodging early.

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- Doubletree 802-658-0250, 1117 Williston Road. Free airport shuttle. Indoor pool, spa and fitness center. This hotel is the departure and return location for the tour.
- Burlington Redstone 802-862-0508, 497 South Willard Street. B&B. 1906 redstone mansion. [range: \$145-\$185]
- Comfort Inn 802-865-3400, 1285 Williston Road. Includes continental breakfast. Fitness room. Outdoor heated pool. [range: \$130-\$150]
- Holiday Inn 800-315-2621 or 800-465-4329, 1068 Williston Road. Heated indoor and outdoor pools, sauna, exercise area. [range: \$140-\$199]
- Howard Street Guest House 802-864-4668, 153 Howard Street. B&B. Detached carriage barn. [range: \$160-\$170]
<http://www.howardstreetguesthouse.com/index.html>
- Lang House 802-652-2500 or 802-877-9799, 360 Main Street. B&B. 1881 Victorian. [\$195-\$215]
<http://www.langhouse.com/>
- Sheraton Hotel and Conference 802-865-6600, 870 Williston Road. Whirlpool/hot tub. [\$269-\$350]
http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=606&EM=SI_SHERATONBURLINGTON.COM_606
- Willard Street Inn 802-651-8710 or 800-577-8712, 349 South Willard Street. B&B. Brick mansion built in 1880s. Located near the University of Vermont. [range: \$145-\$230] <http://www.willardstreetinn.com/>

We're Always Improving! While the information presented here details this trip's planned activities, routes, accommodations, departure and conclusion times, we are consistently seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Our actual activities and sites may vary due to season, special events, or weather. As a result, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary since unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Naturally, we will keep you up-to-date on any changes that may affect your arrival or departure times.