

## **BARRE – MONTPELIER – GRANITE QUARRIES – MAPLE FARM**

Go to the bottom of our road, make a left and go 6.6 miles to Rt. 100 N. Make a left and then an immediate right onto I-89 S. Take I-89 to Exit 6, So. Barre. As you wind down this road, look up at the tops of the mountains. You will see the incredible cranes that are used to quarry granite. Follow this road 4 miles to the traffic light at the intersection with Rt. 14. Go directly across Rt. 14. This is Middle Road.

Rock of Ages plant is 2 miles up the hill on the left. Here you will see the employees processing slabs of granite into tombstones and other works of art. Walk out into the granite garden of stones. Plan on spending about a half an hour here. It's a self-guided tour.

The new Visitors Center is located adjacent to the Rock of Ages plant. Here you will see an interesting video about granite, enjoy the diorama of pictures showing the history of granite fabrication, and browse in the gift shop. A must is the tour of the working quarry. The tour is inexpensive. You will take a bus to the quarry and a guide will explain the process. Plan 2 hours for the tour and video.

When you leave the Visitor's Center after the tour, you will go back down the hill the way you came to the light at Rt. 14. Make a right onto Rt. 14 and proceed 1.1 miles to the traffic lights and the intersection with Rt. 302. This is the center of Barre. Immediately in front of you is the War Memorial. Just up the hill on Rt. 302, one tenth of a mile on the left is the famous statue of Robert Burns. Take the time to look closely at the intricate carving. Also downtown are many granite buildings. City Hall and the Barre Opera house are particularly beautiful.

Now orient yourself and follow Rt. 302 and Rt. 14N thru downtown Barre. Look for more uses of granite along the way. When you come to the intersection with Rt. 14N, make a right at Mr. Z's Pizza. At the intersection, look at the Italian American statue which shows a very different use of granite for sculpture.

Hope Cemetery, which you heard about on the video at the Quarry, is just up the hill on the left. Although the entire cemetery is interesting, some of the best examples of granite work are in the newer section. The streets are not marked, but go to the downhill side of the cemetery. Look for the racecar marked "61" (towards middle of the cemetery). Once you find it, park and walk thru this section. You'll see tombstones that are soccer balls, a cube, and many interesting drawings and inscriptions. A long distance trucker, a hunter/fisherman, a teenage boy who must have excelled in every sport are among these. You will know a lot about the lives of these people. The cemetery is interesting, not morbid.

Leaving the cemetery, go back down the hill to Rt. 302 and make a right. It's 7 miles to Montpelier. When you get to the light at Main St. in Montpelier, Rt. 12N, make a right. Montpelier is a very small city (especially for a state capital), with only two principal streets.

Plan on having lunch at one of Montpelier's good restaurants. Sarducci's, an Italian restaurant, is immediately on your right as you turn onto Main Street. Farther up Main Street are the three New England Culinary Institute's restaurants. Look on the left for the brick building with RESTAURANT on the roof. Here you'll find The Chef's Table and the Main Street Bar and Grille. Across the street in the City Center is a café, called La Brioche. If Mexican is what you crave, make a left onto State Street and find Julio's at the corner of Elm St.

Follow Main Street to the rotary and bear right. Continue up this hill for 3 miles to the Morse Farm and Sugar Shack. The road is well marked with signs. Here you can explore the shack, poke in the gift shop, and learn about the sugaring process. You must have a maple creemee while you are here—yummy!

Retrace your steps around the rotary to your first traffic light. Make a right onto State Street. The State Capitol building will be on your right. You can park and explore at your leisure. The state capitol of Vermont is the smallest in population, and has the smallest capitol building in the U.S. Adjacent to the capitol is the Vermont State Museum.

Continue along in the same direction and you will be on Rt. 2W heading for Waterbury. As you leave the capitol, notice the interesting buildings along State Street. Most of them are now government offices.

Camp Meade is located 6 miles from Montpelier. It's a museum of 1930's and 1940's military history. The grounds have old, but still working, tanks and other paraphernalia. Inside the museum you will get both a visual and audio sense of the times. Military buffs should not miss this museum.

Continue along Rt. 2 into Waterbury. At the second traffic light take a left. You will find an interesting store at the end of the block, called the Stowe Street Emporium. If you make a right at the end of this building you will find the Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Company Store. Here you'll find many bargains.

Go back to Stowe St. and make a left onto Rt. 2. At the next light make a left, where you'll come to the old Waterbury Railroad Station. This recently restored station is now home to a visitor's center and the Green Mountain Coffee Roaster's café. This is now the centerpiece of the town of Waterbury.

Return back to Rt. 2 and make a right onto it, to come back to the Black Bear Inn.

Total distance: 75 miles

Total time: 8 hours including tours and lunch