

## **CABOT CHEESE – FAIRBANKS MUSEUM – COVERED BRIDGES THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM**

Go to the bottom of the hill and make a left. At 6.6 miles make a left onto Rt. 100N. Make a right onto I-89S and get off at Exit 8, Montpelier. Rt. 2 will take you along the river to East Montpelier.

Bragg Sugar House is 1 mile on Rt. 14 after the intersection where Rts. 2 and 14 split. The shop offers a wide range of Vermont sugar and craft products. Return to the intersection and make a hard left onto Rt. 2.

A Covered Bridge is located just beyond the Leguere's Farm Stand. You will come around a corner; notice a sign for Tofanis Used Furniture. Make a left onto Coburn Rd. The bridge is down this dirt road a few hundred yards. Turn around and go back to Rt. 2 and make a left.

The next town is Plainfield. There you will find a very interesting bookstore with many rooms of rare and used books, as well as other print items such as maps and postcards. Make a right at the blinking light down to the next street. You will see a sign Bookshop on an old house. Park across the street and you will find some real bargains.

Go back up the hill to Rt. 2. You will see Maple Valley Country Store and Restaurant on the right. It is a good place to stop for a cup of coffee and a snack or lunch. They have a fairly extensive selection of Vermont goods.

One mile from the blinker watch to your right for the Martin Covered Bridge. This is not a working bridge. It is right behind a low barn.

Continue on to Marshfield about 8 miles. Pick up Rt. 15 on your left. This will take you to Cabot Creamery. It takes about 1 hour to take the tour, view the video and sample the cheeses including "The World's Best Cheddar". To return to Rt. 2, you can either retrace your path on Rt. 15 or head into Cabot village and make a right onto Danville Hill Rd. This is a dirt road. It will take you to Rt. 2. If you make a right and go back 1.5 miles, the Goodrich Maple Sugar House is a good place to see how Maple Syrup is made. If you turn left you are now headed to St. Johnsbury.

In St. Johnsbury there are two major attractions, the Fairbanks Museum and Maple Grove Farms. The tour of the candy factory at Maple Grove takes place until noon. So you may want to go there first.

The Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium is located on Main St. (Alt. Rt. 5). Watch on the right for the turret and the lions guarding the entrance. To get there just bear left as you come into St. Johnsbury and go thru the main intersection. This is a very interesting museum with unusual collections and exhibits including a large collection of hummingbirds, and a giant polar bear. The primitive planetarium is only open on weekends. Plan to spend 2 hours here.

To get to Maple Grove Farms, go back to the intersection and pick up Rt. 2 once again. The factory and museum are located on the right about 1 mile from the intersection with Rt. 5. The farm produces syrup, candies, and specialty dressings. There is an extensive gift shop with lots of Vermont products.

***If it's getting late in the day you may want to retrace your way back to the inn, rather than continuing the tour.***

Leaving the maple factory, retrace your route back to Rt. 5. Make a right and head north once again.

*We will now look for 5 Covered Bridges. Note that 4 of these are painted.*

At about 8 miles north on Rt. 5, look for signs that indicate you are entering Lyndon. Watch for York St. on your left. Make a left on York and about 3 blocks in it will take you over the Chamberlain Bridge. Make a right onto Wheelock St. and you will see the Yellow Schoolhouse Bridge on your right. This is not a working bridge, but you can sit at the picnic table on the bridge and enjoy some lunch or a snack. (If you happen to miss York St. then look for Wheelock St. across from the Lyndon Motor Lodge. Just do the bridges in reverse).

Next, Rt. 5 will wind you through the streets of Lyndonville. Note the little park with the gaslights and the bandstand. Just after the park you will see a Gas n Go on the right. Look to the left in a park-like area and you can see the Sanborn Bridge. You can drive into the area and walk across the bridge.

Go back to Rt. 5N. You will come to the intersection of Rt. 114. Take Rt. 114 for 1.5 miles. Look for the Randall Bridge on the right. This is not a working bridge.

Retrace your route to the intersection. Go straight across Rt. 5. You are now on Rt. 122. Watch for a white covered bridge on your left. This is a working bridge and goes into Lyndon Center.

Continue along Rt. 122. You will go under interstate 91, and if it is late you can take this south to St. Johnsbury and back to Rt. 2E to return to the Black Bear Inn.

Continue on Rt. 122N & 16N to Barton. In Barton, pick up Rt. 5N to Orleans. Orleans is home to Ethan Allen Furniture. It is the large plant that you see when you get into Orleans. Continue to intersection of Rt. 58 to Irasville.

There is a Covered Bridge at about 3.5 miles. As you come down the hill, look for the river on the right and an unmarked dirt road. Make a right onto the dirt road and go .8 miles. This non-working bridge will be on the left. If you miss this road you will be going uphill and see a sign that says "Bridge Closed". Go back and make your first left.

Continue along Rt. 58 until you pick up Rt. 100 S in Lowell. This will bring you back through Morrisville and Stowe into Waterbury. Make the right onto Rt. 2 and head back to the Inn.

Total length: 185 miles  
Full day trip: 9-15 hrs.