

## WATERBURY – STOWE - SMUGGLERS NOTCH – JOHNSON

At the bottom of the Access Road make a left onto Rt. 2E. Go 6.5 miles to Rt. 100N. There are many attractions in the next 10 miles.

Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Factory is on the left 1 mile after you cross the Interstate. Stop in for a tour and tasting (note that production can be watched Mondays-Fridays only). Check out the flavor graveyard, and if you have small children there is a great playground. Plan to spend an hour here.

Cabot Cheese, Lake Champlain Chocolates, and Danforth Pewter, are a must stop. They are located on the left 2 miles north of Ben and Jerry's. Sample all of the Cabot cheese products and pick up some chocolate, shop for Vermont gifts, or sample local wines. Don't miss the "Rocking R" shop for a huge selection of Vermont souvenirs and toys.

Cold Hollow Cider Mill is located just 1 mile further north on Rt. 100. Watch cider being pressed, check out the many apple products, eat one of their famous cider doughnuts, sample some more wine, or pick up a souvenir or two.

### OPTION 1

Take a left on Moscow Road to visit the Trapp Family Lodge (of "The Sound of Music" fame), an Austrian-style resort. Sip some hot refreshment in the Tea Room.

Follow the signs to Rt. 108. This will take you to Stowe. Once you reach Rt. 108 make a right to enjoy the 2 miles of shops, restaurants, or go to the movies. Look for the Mini Putt Golf Course for the kids, in front of Sun & Ski Inn. It's on the right.

### OPTION 2

If you don't want to go to the Trapp Family Lodge you can continue up Rt. 100 from the Cold Hollow Cider Mill. You will come to the small scenic village of Stowe. Park and stroll the village, then get back into your car and make a turn at the 3-way stop onto Rt. 108.

Once you make the turn onto Rt. 108 you have joined up with Option 1.

As you wander up Rt. 108 you will find more shops, restaurants, and a spot for carriage rides. You are now heading for Mt. Mansfield, home to Stowe Mountain Resort. There are a number of things to do at Mt. Mansfield. As you head north look for the large red barn on the left (Top Notch Sports Center). There is a covered bridge immediately on the left after passing the barn.

Mt. Mansfield Toll Road is a scenic mountain road on the left as you approach Mt. Mansfield. If it is a clear day it is worth your time to make this trip.

Just up the road on your right you will see a sign for the Spruce Peak Area. A stop here is essential if you have teens who are into skate boarding. There is a complete Terrain park as well as an Alpine Mountain Slide (not a water slide).

Next stop on your left is the Stowe Gondola. If it is a clear day a trip up the mountain on the gondola will give you great views of the valley. There is a wonderful restaurant at the top (sit on the deck if it's warm enough). Take the gondola down, or hike down a moderately difficult trail.

**\*\*NOTE\*\* The remainder of this tour cannot be completed during the months of November thru April, due to Rt. 108 closure during winter months.**

Get back onto Rt. 108 going left. You are entering what the locals call "The Notch." This exciting road takes you through the Green Mountain National Forest with its many hiking trails. Although only a few miles long you will not forget the experience of driving along this winding road. **THIS DRIVE IS NOT FOR EXTRA- LARGE VEHICLES!** There are plenty of places to pull off for a picnic. Keep an eye out for Bald Eagles and Red Tip Falcons.

Smugglers Notch Resort Village is on your right as you exit the notch. There is a gift shop, restaurants, a water park and a skate park at the resort. About five miles past the Resort look sharply to your right to see a covered bridge.

Continue down Rt. 108 to the stop sign at the intersection of Rt. 15.

#### OPTION 1

Make a right. You will come into Jeffersonville, which is filled with art galleries and antique shops.

Continue on Rt. 15 for 9 miles into the town of Johnson. In the center of Johnson on your left will be the Johnson Woolen Mills Store. Here you will find a great variety of clothing and household goods made by the Johnson Mills including the red and green plaid jackets featured by LL Bean. Make time to stop at the Butternut Mountain Farm Store next door, for a great selection of Vermont foods and gifts.

Rt. 15 snakes along the Lamoille River which is known for its great fly fishing. You will also find many antique shops along the way. Make a right at the sign for the Hyde Park Opera House and take a peek at the quaint little village. Look in the window of the Opera House to see their newly renovated painted curtain.

Just beyond Hyde Park you will again come to a junction with Rt. 100 in Morrisville. Make a right onto Rt. 100 and proceed south to Stowe and Waterbury. Catch a few more shops along the way or stop at the airport just south of Morrisville and try soaring, a popular summer experience.

Take Rt. 100 to Waterbury. Cross over I-89 to the intersection of Rt. 2. Make a right onto Rt. 2 and go 6.5 miles to return to the Black Bear Inn.

#### OPTION 2

With this option, you will veer left at towards Rt. 15 (stop at Madonna's in the Mobil station for a crème if you have time!), then turn left at the intersection with Rt. 15. This will bring you into the quaint town of Cambridge, which is filled with covered bridges. The Vermont Maple Outlet will be on the right, where you can taste some award-winning syrup and taste Vermont cured meats and cheeses.

Continue on Rt. 15 another two miles to the intersection of Rt. 104 and stop at Boyden Valley Winery. Their tasting room is open 10-5 daily May through December.

Go back to Rt. 15 and continue south into Jericho (this begins the descent into Burlington).

The Snowflake Chocolate Store will be on the right in Jericho. Stop in for some samples, especially their crisp Almond Butter Crunch!

Shortly after Snowflake Chocolates, look to your right for the Old Red Mill Park and Craft Shop. This National Historic Site is now home to an art gallery, handcrafted gift shop, the Jericho Historical Society, and most importantly the Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley exhibit—see how this Vermonter proved that no two snowflakes are alike!

Turn right out of the Mill and continue 5 more miles into Essex. Look for signs for the Essex Outlets, featuring about 30 outlet shops including Ralph Lauren, BCBG, and Orvis. Or, to continue on into Burlington, stay on Rt. 15 to I-89S to exit 14W. Follow Main St. right into downtown Burlington.

To get back to the inn from the outlets: turn right out of the outlets and get onto Rt. 289E. Follow to the intersection with Rt. 117, and turn left. Follow Rt. 117 six miles to the intersection with Rt. 2; turn left and follow 8 miles to the Bolton Access Rd. to return to the Inn.

To get back to the inn from Burlington: take I-89S to exit 11 Richmond. Turn right at end of ramp and follow Rt. 2E 7 miles to the Bolton Access Rd. to return to the Inn.