



## Vermont 2025 - Three-Night Inn to Inn Cycling Tour #B4



[View this itinerary online with interactive maps and weather](#)



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# Inn to Inn EST. 1975 VERMONT

## Welcome to Vermont!

\*\*\*Thank you for your interest! This is a MODEL of our classic three-night cycling tour #B4 (whether B4S for Summer or B4F for Fall). You will get a Vamoos tailored to your tour dates, inns, and any modifications that differ from this basic recipe. You'll also be provided with daily turn-by-turn cue sheets (PDFs in this app and printed copies at check-in) as well as a large overview map of the touring area. We will also send you a RideWithGPS app for your smart phone, with several door-to-door options for each day's ride. We do not include that content in this online preview.\*\*\*

First order of business: Let's get you adjusted to our version of GMT: "Green Mountain Time." Enjoy the relaxed pace of life here in Vermont. You have the luxury of time on this trip. Do try a maple "creemee" somewhere along the way this week, tasty no matter the weather.

We also have to relate to you an old Vermonter adage about our hilly topography: "if you ironed out Vermont, it'd be bigger than Texas!" ;)

On your Vermont tour, you will meet interesting -- quirky, even! -- Vermonters as well as travelers from all over the world who have come to enjoy this little corner of New England. Many, many of our guests have written us post-tour and talked about Vermont as "the Ireland of America" in terms of its forty shades of green, slow pace of life, very small scale (hamlets we call towns, hills we call mountains, ponds we call lakes), and authentic people who are delighted to welcome you to the place they live, and perhaps the place their family has lived for five or six or more generations. Others have caught the spirit of Vermont when they have remarked that it is not so much like going to a different place, it is like visiting a different time somehow exempt from the hustle of 21st-century America.

 The Lilac Inn





### Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

Special note for 2025: The post-pandemic tourism/hospitality economy has recovered in a different form from the tumult of the pandemic than it went into it. Inns, restaurants, historic sites, museums, the ferry to and from Fort Ticonderoga, small shops . . . all continue to experience extraordinary challenges in "staffing up". You can expect limited hours, limited days of the week, and some complete closures this season. We will all need to be flexible and understanding when these arise, sometimes with no notice, and gracious when dealing with the staff who are working extra hard to keep amenities and services on offer at all. When dinner is not included in the package at an inn, advance (day-of is fine) reservations are a must this season if you're looking for table service. Take-out may be a little more at whim. This is a unique moment in the economy, and being kind with one another will be helpful to all.

Brandon is the Art & Soul village of Vermont, with a number of artists' galleries and studios to visit -- the juried but eclectic Brandon Artists Guild around the corner on Center Street is a good starting point and can help you find more of the kind of art you like best. "Across the Street" is a fun shop of antiques and ephemera located ... across the street from the Artists Guild. There are also a handful of craft breweries and a distillery in and around the village. Award-winning Red Clover Ale and Foley Brothers Brewing are particularly at the top of their field. Immerse yourself in the architectural sampler presented by 250 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places in this village, and do check out the waterfall(s) in the center.

 The Lilac Inn



# Inn to Inn EST. 1975 VERMONT

## Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

Tonight's dinner and overnight are at the 1909 Newport-style Lilac Inn, the youngest house of the gracious homes that led the New York Times to refer to Park Street as "the prettiest street in Vermont". The Lilac Inn was built as "The Arches" by a Brandon-born boy who went West, made his fortune, and summered in Brandon as he grew older. The recent addition of rain gardens / bioswales on this broad street (believed to have been the site of militia drilling during the Civil War) is part of an effort to prevent stormwater runoff from heading directly to the Neshobe River, which is a tributary of Otter Creek then flowing northward to Lake Champlain. Lake Champlain water quality is something all Vermonters care about and are making strides to improve.

Throughout your tour, refer to this Vamoos app for each day's at-a-glance biking cue sheets (attached as PDFs within the full version of the app) and other information you won't find anywhere else. Today's PDF is the program overview. A printed copy of the daily turn-by-turn directions and a large map will be awaiting your arrival at the inn. Use the at-a-glance of the day's options to inform your choice of distance, and then head on over to the RideWithGPS app, where each distance is its own straightforward turn-by-turn, door-to-door route which you can view as a cue sheet, a map, or a list, and which will provide you spoken-aloud cues while you bike between your breakfast inn and your dinner inn each day.

Unless we've arranged otherwise, Olia will meet you on the front porch of the inn at 8:15AM tomorrow (Monday) to say hello and do a quick orientation (please bring your map packet to this) before breakfast. Husband-and-wife Seth and Olia have been associated with these tours since 2005, designing and operating them exclusively since 2007, and 2025 marks their 21st year in Vermont tourism. DooN from Green Mountain Bikes will deliver and fine-fit your bikes for you about the same time.

 The Lilac Inn



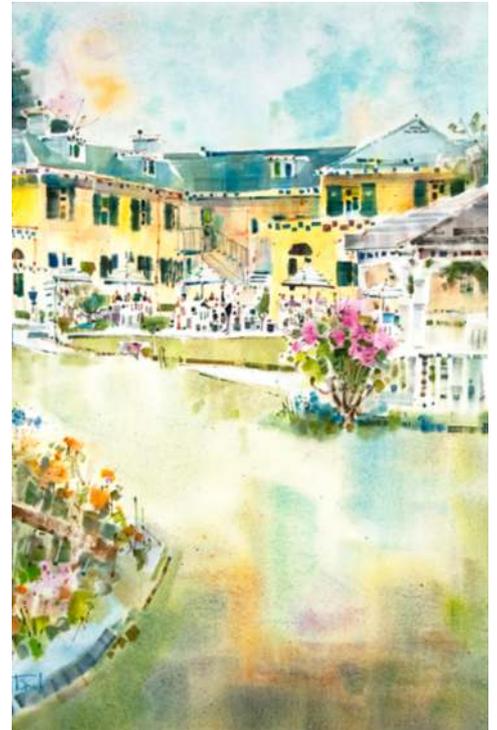
# Inn to Inn EST. 1975 VERMONT

## Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

You will be able to leave your car parked safely behind Lilac Inn. Please park along the trees facing west (town) and leave keys with the innkeepers at the front desk in case of emergency. If you brought your own bikes, you may tuck them in the little shed at the rear corner of the parking lot. Please do not bring bikes into any of the inns; they all have safe covered bike storage for overnights that has well-served hundreds of cyclists over dozens of years.

In the full version of this app, tailored to your tour, the RideWithGPS for your cycling tour this week is accessed from a link which will be provided to you here.

 The Lilac Inn





## Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 01.

Use your at-a-glance cue sheet at breakfast to select the distance you want to cycle, then go over to the RideWithGPS app and choose the straightforward turn-by-turn route you chose. Cyclists will sometimes ask "What am I missing if I bike the 29 instead of the 33?" (or similar questions on later days). The answer is always the same: it's not anything different, it's just more or it's just less time actually pedaling. Bucolic bocage farmland of hayfields, corn fields, apple orchards, and dairy farms is the scenery almost everywhere (except the return to Brandon through the National Forest at tour's end). Our "best choice" recommendation for most pleasure cyclists would be the 29 mile version today. It's about 4 hours of cycling at a leisurely 8MPH and includes a lunch stop so you don't have to gather a picnic and ride with that in your bike trunk as you would on the 16 or 20 mile routes.

Door to door route possibilities today:

- \*16 miles with 1016 feet gain
- \*20 miles with 1114 feet gain
- \*29 miles with 1561 feet gain
- \*33 miles with 1878 feet gain

Extensions (from 29 or 33 mile routes):

- \*3 miles around Fort Ticonderoga, 170 feet climb
- \*4 mile spur (2 out, 2 back) to visit Ticonderoga village, 335 feet climb
- \*10 mile spur (5 out, 5 back) to Mt Independence Historic Site, 534 feet climb

Luggage should be tagged as directed and left at the side porch, either inside or outside, for pickup (by one of us or staff who help us) by 10AM.

 The Shoreham Inn and Pub





### **Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England (Continued)**

A tasty breakfast in the inn's sunny glass-walled breakfast room to fortify you for your day. Lovely quiet riding west eases you into the Champlain Valley. Options are a covered railroad bridge, lunch from the deli at OGNG down the hill from Orwell village [return to Orwell common for picnic], maybe some carved art at Norton's Gallery or a \$5 ferry crossing of Lake Champlain to pedal around restored Fort Ticonderoga (was closed Mondays last year) and/or Ticonderoga village on the New York State side, before cycling up(hill) through the apple orchards and on to sleepy little Shoreham. (Do budget some stamina for that last five miles climbing up the terraces from the lakeshore.)

Note: during the pandemic, the ferry did not operate for the first time since 1759. The ferry resumed its seasonal operation, but we are told it may not be seven-days-a-week this season, depending upon staffing. The ferry operation also depends upon the water level in Lake Champlain; early season trips may find the ferry not running due to the Lake level being too high for the dock; late summer trips occasionally find interruptions in service if the water level drops too low.

Dinner, overnight, and breakfast at the inn, hosted by Kevin & Scott. While Brandon and Vergennes are mildly entertaining, and Wednesday in Middlebury promises relative excitement, Shoreham is at the other end of the spectrum, with "nothing whatever to do" as you enjoy a quiet respite from the 21st century. Bikes go in the shed at the rear of the inn -- use the driveway at the right side of the inn if looking at the inn with the street at your back.

In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Brandon to Shoreham cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 The Shoreham Inn and Pub



# Inn to Inn EST. 1975 VERMONT

## Limitless Possibilities

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 02A and 03.

Again, use the at-a-glance cue sheet at breakfast to choose your adventure, then the specific turn-by-turn route in RideWithGPS to actually guide you.

Door to door route possibilities today:

- \*18 miles with 1357 feet elevation gain
- \*27 miles with 1975 feet elevation gain
- \*34 miles with 1755 feet elevation gain
- \*37 miles with 2691 feet elevation gain
- \*41 miles with 1984 feet elevation gain
- \*46 miles with 2087 feet elevation gain

Extensions (from any route):

- \*13 mile loop, 598 feet climb
- \*14 mile loop, 561 feet climb

Luggage today should be left in the front lobby / main sitting room of the inn for pickup by 10AM.

Lots of options for distance today, as you start over some hills - an open-air sculpture park offers a respite partway up the biggest hill of the tour this morning. Visit the tiny boutique "city" of Vergennes and the UVM Morgan Horse Farm as you zigzag around prime agricultural land along the way. Arrive in Middlebury through the only two-lane covered bridge in Vermont.

There is world-class chocolate milk at Monument Farms Dairy (current hours are 1-5 weekdays) in "Weybridge Hill". Around the corner in the little greensward fronting the brick Congregational Church is an amazingly rare relic for your amusement -- a working outdoor pay phone! Call your friends! It's almost as convenient as having a phone in your pocket. :)

 Swift House Inn



## Limitless Possibilities (Continued)

\*\*Note: If you are here before Memorial Day in May or after Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day in October, you may well find that the state parks (etc) may be closed for the season; you can use them as Vermonters do year-round, which is simply to enjoy them without benefit of staff/lifeguards/interpreters/restrooms and without needing to buy admission tickets. (Swimming not recommended; enjoy parks for picnics, etc., at your own risk.)

Middlebury is a delightful town to wander around by foot or bike, with all the commerce and culture that a top-tier liberal arts college brings. Perhaps the Midd Tasting Trail (<https://www.middtastingtrail.com>) this afternoon or tomorrow? The town is eminently walkable -- ask the innkeeper for the "cartoon map" (resort map) of the downtown, and that will help guide you to interesting shops, museums, etc., as will the Points of Interest feature in this Vamoos app. The spectacular Middlebury College campus is within easy reach on foot. When Seth was a Midd student in the mid 1990s, a few afternoons a week he walked down to his work-study job at the public library in the village, and back up the hill in the evenings. At the time, the library had a clawfoot bathtub in the children's room -- local youngsters used to race to claim it as their special reading spot after school.

Bikes go in the bike barn at the gate house of the Swift House (down near the corner of Pleasant Street / US Route 7). Registration is also in that building. Most guestrooms and all dining are in the main house up the hill.

 Swift House Inn



### Limitless Possibilities (Continued)

Dinner tonight is on your own / off package / out of pocket. (The Swift House's in-house restaurant, Jessica's, is not open for dinner on Monday or Tuesday evenings). All the village eateries are within an easy sidewalk stroll of the inn. Innkeepers will assist with restaurant recommendations and reservations. Swift House is the namesake of Jessica Stewart Swift, who grew up in this house and attained the distinction of being the longest-lived person ever born in Vermont, 110 years of age when she was noted by Guinness --- for flying in a plane! She was present on the Middlebury Village Green at the Centennial celebration of the United States in 1876 as a toddler, and again at the Bicentennial celebration in 1976 as doyenne of the shire. Overnight accommodations and breakfast are at the Swift House, a former Vermont governor's restored family estate a couple blocks off the village green. Swift House is always a hit with our guests.

In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Vergennes to Middlebury cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 Swift House Inn



## The Green Mountain National Forest

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 04. Biking today is not optional, it is required to reconnect with your car.

Door to door distance options:

\*25 miles with 1282 feet gain

\*29 miles with 1397 feet gain

\*39 miles with 1946 feet gain

Luggage today generally is picked up from the bar at the main house since most of the guestrooms are in that building. Again, 10AM is your goal.

**\*Important\*** -- Today is departure day. The luggage starts moving at 10AM if every cyclist meets their goal, and is in Brandon by noon. If you have other needs (meaning an early departure), you must communicate your schedule to us in advance so we can make arrangements to make an earlier trip to get your luggage.

In that case, you may need to leave your luggage for pickup at breakfast time as we will go up, get your bags to Brandon, and then start the usual routine (there will be people who stayed at Strong House in Vergennes on Tuesday instead of Swift House, and Vergennes is at the furthest distance from Brandon).

Start off in working agricultural land similar to previous days, but then leave that behind for a very different experience as you circle thousand-acre Lake Dunmore in the National Forest this afternoon, an excellent spot for a swim at Branbury State Park, or short hike to the Falls of Lana waterfall in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area.

Complete your large circle and meet your car back at at your home base, Lilac Inn.

 The Lilac Inn



### **The Green Mountain National Forest (Continued)**

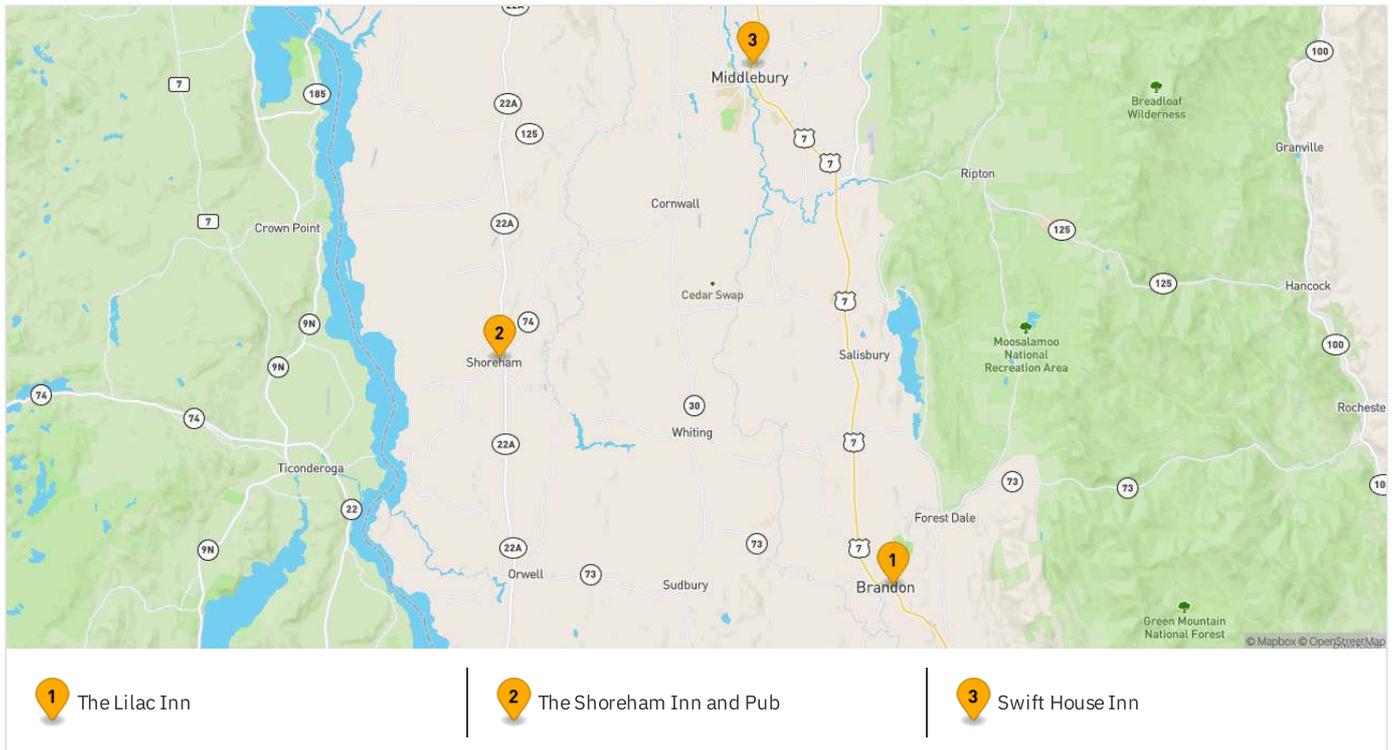
Rental bikes should be left in the shed at the back of the parking lot, not out in the open and unattended. If you rented an electric-assist bike, please be sure to put your bike charger back in the trunk on the rear of your eBike for retrieval by DooN at the bike shop. In other words, if you've kept the charger in your luggage to plug in each night, be sure not to take the charger home in your luggage with you tomorrow morning.

In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Middlebury to Brandon cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 The Lilac Inn



## Map



[View this itinerary online with interactive maps and weather](#)