



Vermont Inn to Inn Cycling 2027 - The Land of Milk & Honey 4-night Tour

26th December 2027 to 30th December 2027



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



Table of contents

Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont!	3
Day 2 - Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England	8
Day 3 - Limitless Possibilities	11
Day 4 - The Green Mountain National Forest	14
Day 5 - Three Covered Bridges of the Marble Valley	15
Map	17



Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont!

Sun, 26th December 2027

This is a preview for marketing the tour. The Vamoos you get from us ahead of your trip will have information specific to your tour, including PDF cue sheets and link to all the RideWithGPS routing for your door to door directions (these include distances, elevations, grade %, and so forth).

Welcome to Vermont!

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!" ;)

Your tour starts and ends at Lilac Inn, 53 Park Street, Brandon, Vermont.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

Sun, 26th December 2027

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.

Special note for 2027: 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.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

Sun, 26th December 2027

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.

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.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

Sun, 26th December 2027

Throughout your tour, refer to this Vamoos app for each day's at-a-glance biking cue sheets 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 2026 marks their 22nd year in Vermont tourism. If you are renting bikes, DooN from Green Mountain Bikes will deliver and fine-fit your bikes for you about the same time.

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.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

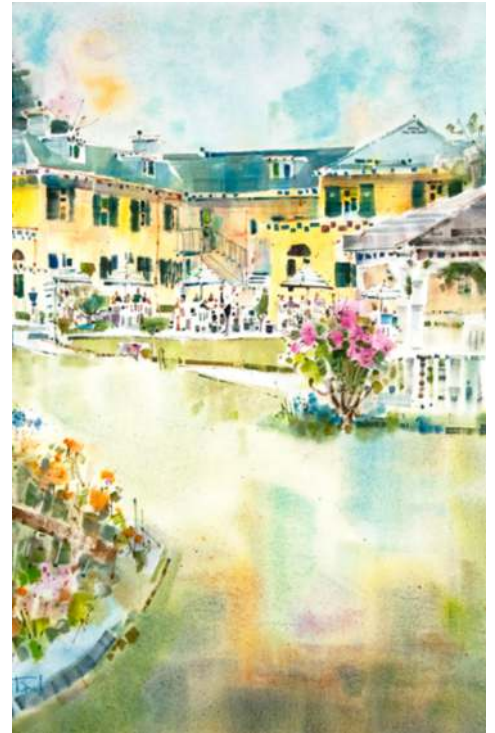
Sun, 26th December 2027

Click this link to access your personalized RideWithGPS functions.

PLEASE do this when at home and on good WiFi, downloading all routes for offline use. Getting this on your phone and working is not a good use of your "first morning at breakfast" vacation time.

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



Day 2 - Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England

Mon, 27th December 2027

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

 The Shoreham Inn and Pub





Day 2 - Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England (Continued)

Mon, 27th December 2027

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.

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. A newly relaunched old-time general store at the four corners at Whiting offers provisions for lunch. Options are a covered railroad bridge, a rare second chance 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.)

The ferry operation 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.

 The Shoreham Inn and Pub





Day 2 - Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England (Continued)

Mon, 27th December 2027

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





Day 3 - Limitless Possibilities

Tue, 28th December 2027

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





Day 3 - Limitless Possibilities (Continued)

Tue, 28th December 2027

****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





Day 3 - Limitless Possibilities (Continued)

Tue, 28th December 2027

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 Shoreham to Middlebury cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 Swift House Inn





Day 4 - The Green Mountain National Forest

Wed, 29th December 2027

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 04.

Door to door distance options:

*25 miles with 1282 feet gain (preferable to the 29 mile route for comparable distance)

*29 miles with 1397 feet gain

*39 miles with 1946 feet gain (recommended if you want longer distance today)

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.

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 top off your tour with dinner, overnight, and breakfast at your home base, Lilac Inn.

If you rented an electric-assist bike and are **not** cycling tomorrow, 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





Day 5 - Three Covered Bridges of the Marble Valley

Thu, 30th December 2027

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 05.

Cycling today is OPTIONAL.

*27 miles with 1622 feet gain (bikes through three covered bridges)

*37 miles with 2124 feet gain (bikes through the same three covered bridges)

If your departure day schedule allows: You'll visit Vermont's only company town, Proctor, home to Vermont Marble, today. Vermont Marble furnished the dimensional stone for the US Supreme Court, the UN Headquarters in New York City, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, among other high-profile buildings and monuments. Wend your way south on a lightly-traveled road that parallels US Route 7 (which carries all the car and truck traffic for you). Point of interest on the 37 mile loop include Wilson Castle House Museum. Kamuda's Store in Pittsford does sandwiches for lunch (picnic at the Village Farm across Elm St).

Both the 27 and 37 mile versions ride through (the same) three covered bridges.

On your way back to Brandon you will ride through the Gorham covered bridge (built 1841), then the Cooley (1849) and the Depot (1840 or 1853, sources differ). Following the covered bridges, ride back into Brandon either on pavement (Union Street, the way you came down from Brandon this morning) or dirt (Syndicate Road, but be aware the first mile is in much better shape than the following two miles after you cross the Otter Creek into Brandon again; that's really rough going).

 The Lilac Inn





Day 5 - Three Covered Bridges of the Marble Valley (Continued)

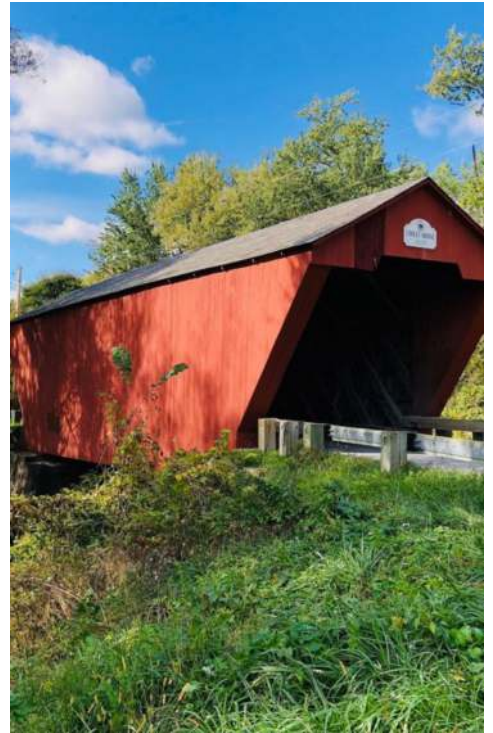
Thu, 30th December 2027

Return to Brandon. Today is departure day. As mentioned on the Wednesday notes, please leave rental bikes in the little shed out back of the parking lot, and be sure to leave the charges for the eBikes with the eBikes and don't take the charger home by mistake.

Thank you for choosing us. We hope you are taking home with you only the most pleasant memories of your inn to inn cycling tour of Vermont's Land of Milk and Honey. Safe travels onward.

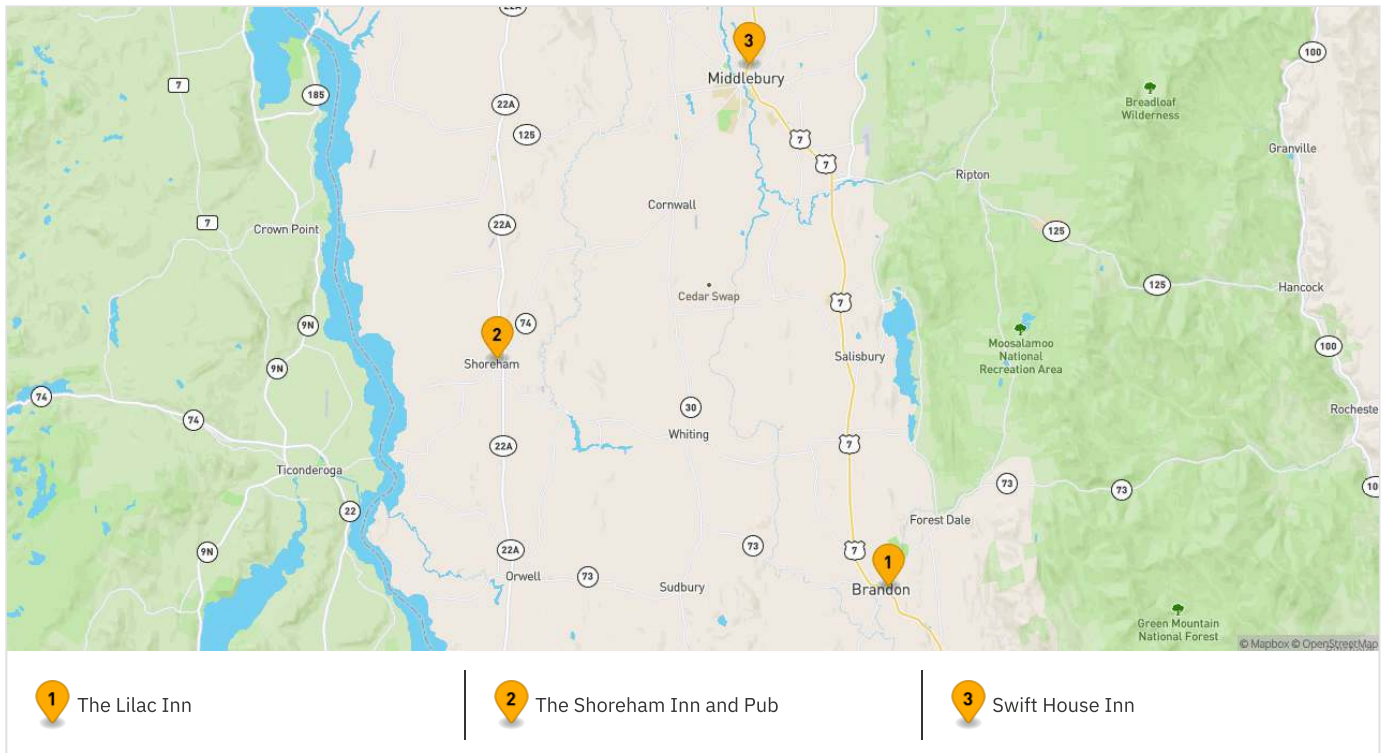
In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Covered Bridges Loop cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 The Lilac Inn





Map



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