

Please Note: There is a change in our lodging for the first 3 nights of this trip, as The Highland Lodge's owners have decided it is time to retire. We will now be staying at The WilloughVale Inn on the shores of Lake Willoughby and are sure you will be delighted!(see below)

Vermont's Northeast Kingdom

2012 Hiking Highlights:-

Our hikes showcase the deep forests, rolling hills, low mountains and the many lakes of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Our inns along the way are the comfortable and relaxed WilloughVale Inn on the shores of Lake Willoughby and The Stowehof Inn & Resort in Stowe. The Stowehof sits on 30 spectacular acres and boasts some of the finest views in the northeast while The WilloughVale Inn is nestled in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom and boasts glorious lake views from its rooms and the popular, Gil's Bar & Grill, a favorite of locals and visitors alike.

The Northeast Kingdom is home to some of the state's most spectacular trails as well as many miles of paths and back-roads that criss-cross the quiet woodland and farmland. One particularly scenic network of trails lead to the top of beautiful Barr Hill, passing through lush green forests with beautiful views of classic Vermont farmland. Another hike leads up to the impressive views from Nichols Ledge, overlooking Nichols Pond. This area is home to loons and peregrine falcons. Other walks lead along the pastoral country lanes to the village of Cabot and its famous creamery.

Another day takes us to Groton State Forest with its pristine lakes and mountain views of the Northeast Kingdom. Big Deer Mountain and Owl's Head offer great hikes to beautiful viewpoints, and lunch on the shores of Osmore Pond is simply magic!

The most popular area of the Kingdom is the beautiful Lake Willoughby region. There is no shortage of challenging trails or rambling walks in this region of extensive forests and crystal clear lakes. Trails lead to the summits of dramatic peaks like Mount Pisgah, Mount Hor, or the great scramble up Wheeler Mountain. The actual hikes we choose depend on the group needs and the weather.

As we head towards the town of Stowe for our last two nights, we pass by Mount Elmore and the lake of the same name. The 3 mile moderate hike to the summit offers some fine views of the north-country. In the afternoon, one can scramble to the top of Elmore to climb the restored fire tower, and hike along the ridge trail for more great views, or choose to visit the beautiful Moss Glen Falls.

On our final day, weather permitting, we hike along the ridge-top of Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. With nearly the entire trail above tree-line, the views from this exposed summit are breathtaking, offering glimpses of New York, New Hampshire and

Canada. Sometimes, however, the weather is inhospitable up there, so we may hike along the trails of nearby Nebraska Notch or the gentle footpaths that lead through Wiesner Woods right out of the front door of the inn!

Lunch is on the lawn at The Stowehof before our return to Burlington International Airport by 3:00 pm.

Note: This itinerary may change depending on weather, needs of the group, etc.

VERMONT/ NORTHEAST KINGDOM 5-DAY HIKE

THE INNS:-

SUNDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY

WilloughVale Inn
793 VT Rte. 5A S.
Westmore, VT 05860
Tel: (802) 525 4123
Fax: (802) 525 4514
www.willoughvale.com
(Roy Clark)

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Stowehof Inn & Resort
434 Edson Hill Road
Stowe, VT 05672
Tel: (800) 932 7136 reservations or (802) 253 9722 (guest)
Fax: (802) 253 7513
www.stowehofinn.com
(The Grimes Family)

If you are interested in additional information about the inns/hotels we will be staying with, we invite you to visit their web site, or call and request a brochure.

TRAVEL:-

If you are driving to the starting point, you will find the driving directions on the WilloughVale Inn web site at www.willoughvale.com

If you are arriving by public transportation we offer the following pick up schedule:-

FROM AIRPORTS:-

VERMONT

Burlington Airport - 4:30 p.m. @ the Delta ticket counter.

Should you need somewhere to stay in Burlington pre or post trip, we recommend the following hotels, downtown:

Radisson: (802) 658 6500

Holiday Inn (Williston Rd): (800) 465 4329 or (802) 863 6363

Comfort Inn (Williston Rd): (802) 865 3400

We can return hikers to the Burlington Airport by 3 pm, for flights from 4 p.m. on, on the last day of the trip (earlier times can sometimes be arranged).

FOR TRIPS THAT BEGIN SUNDAY YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT FLIGHTS ARE OFTEN CHEAPER IF YOU ARRIVE ON SATURDAY. YOU CAN THEN EITHER FIND YOUR OWN WAY TO THE STARTING INN OR STAY IN THE AIRPORT TOWN UNTIL OUR PICK UP ON SUNDAY.

FROM BUSES:-

VERMONT

Greyhound has a limited service from Springfield, MA & White River Junction, VT

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU LET US KNOW YOUR TRAVEL PLANS (EG. FLIGHT TIMES, NUMBERS AND CARRIER, OR BUS ARRIVAL TIME) IN ORDER FOR US TO MEET YOU. YOU SHOULD ARRANGE A FLIGHT TIME THAT ARRIVES BEFORE OUR PICK UP TIME. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE RECEIVED PICK UP CONFIRMATION BEFORE LEAVING ON YOUR TOUR!

OUR TRAVEL SERVICE BETTER TRAVEL @ (800) 331 6996 WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR TRAVEL PLANS.