

TASTER'S TOUR OF NORTHERN VERMONT

This day trip is filled with spectacular scenery and several places to tour, shop, and enjoy the flavors for which Vermont is famous. Cabot Cheese, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, and a few maple syrup producers are just some of the places you'll experience.

The trip's first stop is St. Johnsbury. Turn left onto Route 18 North and travel 7 miles to the intersection of Route 2. Turn left onto Route 2 West and look for **Maple Grove Farms** on the left side of the road. It's the oldest and largest maple syrup and candy producer in the USA, established in 1915. Tours are available. Keep in mind, this is a factory. True maple farms are coming up. Continue on Route 2 West over the bridge to the 3-way stop. Turn left onto Railroad Street and then right onto Eastern Ave; turn left at the top of Eastern Ave and follow the signs for Route 2 West, which winds its way out of St. Jay.

Route 2 west continues to Danville. Along the way, visit *The Diamond Hill Store*, a local shop of antiques and fine gifts.

Just past West Danville on Route 2 West, look to the left to find **Goodrich's Maple Farm**. This is the real deal. Sap boiled right here to make some great syrup. Tours are available.

Now it's off to Cabot and East Calais (pronounced Calis). From Goodrich's Farm, turn right onto Route 2 East for just a short distance and look for a small sign that says CABOT.

Turn left onto this road (North Danville Road) and have faith. Just a short way up, on the right, is the home of **The Birdman**, Edmond Menard. Stop in and watch Edmond cut birds out of wood to make most interesting pieces of art.

Continue up North Danville Road and enjoy some spectacular scenery as you make your way to Cabot Center. Once in Cabot Center, bear left onto Route 215 and find **Cabot Creamery** on the left. Stop in for the factory tour and enjoy the samples. Now turn left out of the Cabot Creamery parking lot to continue on Route 215 South for about 2 miles. Turn right onto Ducharme Rd. and continue for about 1 mile when it becomes East Hill Rd. Continue for 3.5 miles where East Hill becomes Max Gray Road. Find **Grand View Winery** on the right, makers of traditional fruit wines offering tastings and tours from 11-5:00, late May through October. (closed Tuesdays)

Now it's off to Montpelier. Turn right onto Max Gray Road and continue to Route 14 South to Route 2 West and follow the signs to Montpelier, the smallest capital city in the USA.

On the way to Montpelier on Route 14, find **Bragg Farm Sugarhouse and Gift Shop**. They offer friendly farm animals and a Maple Ice Cream Parlor! Now continue to downtown Montpelier -- home to New England Culinary Institute. Enjoy the talents of the culinary students at the **Main Street Bar & Grille** in the center of town. **Sarducci's** is a great place for Italian fare. Downtown Montpelier has some neat little shops. You may also want to tour our gold-domed state house. After departing downtown Montpelier, get back onto Route 2 West to highway I-89 North. Follow to Exit 10 and head north on Route 100. Along this route you'll find the following:

- ✚ **Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory** ~ take a tour and visit the sampling room;
- ✚ **Early Vermont Antiques** ~ a neat store tightly packed with some interesting collectibles;
- ✚ **Ziemke Glass Blowing Studio** ~ blowing glass daily except for Wednesdays. Watch beautiful items be created before your eyes.
- ✚ **Green Mountain Chocolates & Coffee Roasters** ~ for those who enjoy these luring aromas;
- ✚ **Cold Hollow Cider Mill** ~ the best apple cider, apple butter, and other fine Vermont foods too good to miss.

As you travel along Route 100, look northwest for a view of Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak at 4393 feet.

Route 100 leads to the village of Stowe, once referred to as the "Aspen of the East" and Stowe Mountain. For fans of "The Sound of Music", you'll find **Trapp Family Lodge**. Then, there's the village of Stowe itself. Too many shops to list here so we recommend your first stop to be the Visitors' Center and you can get a village map. There are gift and craft stores, art galleries, quilt and antique shops, and restaurants galore. Explore the top of Stowe Mountain in the *Gondola* or take a drive up the *Toll Road*. When it's time to stretch your legs before you head back home, follow signs to the *Recreation Path* that wind along the river below Mount Mansfield.

It is now time to head back home to Rabbit Hill Inn. Follow Route 100 North through Morrisville. Take Route 15 East through Hardwick to Danville. Turn left onto Route 2 East and follow through St. Johnsbury. At the junction of Routes 2 & 18, turn right to head south on Route 18 for 7 miles back to the inn.