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THE BEST OF VERMONT featuring the VON TRAPP LODGE

OCTOBER 18-23, 2020

“The hills are alive” with natural beauty and autumn colors in the beautiful picture book setting at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe. Enjoy the “Best of Vermont” on this exciting fall excursion featuring fine Vermont products such as maple syrup, apple cider and Ben & Jerry’s ice cream, take a train ride through the Green Mountains, cruise on Lake Champlain, & much more!

Departure/return times and pickup location are as follows:

	<u>DEPART</u>	<u>RETURN</u>
Kohl's, Westminster Rt. 140 & Market St. (Rear of parking lot)	6:30 A.M.	6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18: We will travel north today making a breakfast/comfort stop en route. A buffet lunch is scheduled at the **West Point Club** before embarking on a guided tour of the **United States Military Academy, West Point** located along the western bank of the Hudson River. A combined bus and walking tour will tell the story of West Point, its role in the Revolution, its famous history, along with stories about graduates who shaped our nation. The tour will bring the Long Gray Line to the present as you learn of the cadet experience and West Point’s continuing role in training the leaders of tomorrow. Along the tour, stops will be made at the Cadet Chapel, the Plain which is the Cadet academic area, and Trophy Point with the million dollar view overlooking the Hudson River. We will check into our overnight accommodations at:

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES ALBANY (518)482-8800
168 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12205

Dinner will be at your leisure this evening.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19: Following breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for a visit to the spectacular 306-foot **Bennington Battle Monument** which marks a pivotal event in the American Revolution, the “Battle of Bennington,” which left British forces woefully unprepared for the later Battle of Saratoga in August of 1777. Take an elevator to the observation floor to view vistas of rolling hills and valleys in three states and explore the beautifully landscaped grounds. Then, it’s off to Weston for shopping time and lunch on own at **The Vermont Country Store**, an authentic country store founded in 1946, filled with practical and hard-to-find goods and wares, real Vermont maple syrup, locally crafted meats and cheeses, and homemade fudge. From the cheery ring of the storekeeper’s bell to the friendly creak of the well-worn hardwood floors, this unique stop will take you a step back to a



simpler time and place. Later this afternoon, we will check into our accommodations for the next three evenings:

TRAPP FAMILY LODGE (802)253-8511
700 Trapp Hill Road
Stowe, Vermont 05672

Situated on 2,500 acres in beautiful Stowe, **Trapp Family Lodge** is a unique mountain resort in the European tradition run by the von Trapp family that inspired “The Sound of Music.” The Lodge features Austrian-inspired architecture and European-style accommodations, offering superb mountain views, old world comforts and impeccable service, activities for every season, and an abundance of tours to learn about the property, family history, Vermont traditions, and their onsite brewery. Dinner will be served in the dining room at the Lodge this evening.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20: After a buffet breakfast at the lodge, we will depart for Burlington for a scenic narrated boat cruise onboard the *Spirit of Ethan Allen* on **Lake Champlain**. The cruise will fascinate travelers with the Captain’s tales of history, geology and wildlife, while enjoying panoramic views of Lake Champlain and the Vermont Mountains onboard the triple-deck luxury cruise ship. We will then stop at **Cold Hollow Cider Mill**, a Vermont legend since 1974 and New England’s largest cider mill, for shopping time and lunch on your own. Watch as fresh apple cider is made on an old-fashioned rack-and-cloth press, enjoy samples, see a live observation beehive, shop for maple products and fresh baked goods such as fresh cider donuts made daily. Next, we will visit the **Cabot Cheese Farmer’s Store/Vermont Annex**, home of the “World’s Best Cheddar,” where you can browse the large selection of Cabot products and sample their award-winning cheeses. Then, visit their neighbors to pick up some delicious gourmet **Lake Champlain Chocolates**, browse the beautiful **Danforth Pewter** store, and experience the new **Smugglers' Notch Distillery** tasting room! Afterwards, we will take a sweet guided tour at **Ben & Jerry’s Factory** to learn about their company history and how they put their progressive values into action at every step of the ice cream making process. Of course, there will be a sweet finish at the end! We will return to the lodge for a buffet dinner on the **Bierhall Observation Deck** overseeing the von Trapp® Brewing production floor which has become the “Best Trailhead in Vermont.”



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21: This will be the perfect day to enjoy the **Trapp Family Lodge at your leisure**. Start the day with a delicious buffet breakfast in the dining room, participate in scheduled activities that are offered on property, enjoy **afternoon tea & cookies**, watch “**The Real Maria**” documentary film shown twice daily, take a scenic walk enjoying the lovely grounds, or relax by one of the cozy fireplaces. This afternoon, a **Trapp History tour** will be offered for our group to learn the history of the von Trapp family’s journey from Austria to Stowe; how Maria’s autobiography inspired the play and movie, “The Sound of Music” and her story became an American Legend; and learn how what was once a modest farm grew into a world-renowned resort, now overseen by Johannes, the youngest of the singing von Trapp children, and his family. Dinner this evening will be served in the dining room. After dinner, enjoy musical entertainment or the nightly feature film to complete the day.





THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22: After breakfast, we will depart the lodge & travel to Chester to board the **Green Mountain Railroad** which will transport you on a nostalgic journey through Vermont's scenic countryside. Enjoy the majesty of the Green Mountains, rivers, and wildlife from the windows of the historic rail cars on a two-hour round trip scenic excursion from Chester to Ludlow. Lunch is included for you to enjoy during the ride. Later this afternoon, we will visit **Yankee Candle Village** in South Deerfield, Massachusetts, to find not only 200+ new, classic, and limited-edition candle fragrances and candle accessories, but you can also catch snowflakes indoors at the Bavarian Village, satisfy your sweet tooth, shop for toys, gifts, home décor, and kitchen and garden items, and celebrate Christmas every day. Our lodging for tonight will be at: **HAMPTON INN CHICOPEE** (413) 593-1500

600 Memorial Drive
Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020

Dinner will be at your leisure this evening.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23: After breakfast, we will depart our hotel making lunch & rest stops en route as we travel home with fond memories of our scenic autumn Vermont tour!

PRICE PER PERSON:

SINGLE	\$1,890.00	(PRICE INCLUDES: motorcoach transportation,
DOUBLE	\$1,490.00	lodging, luggage handling, 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches,
TRIPLE	\$1,390.00	3 dinners. tax & gratuities on meals included,
QUAD	\$1,340.00	admissions, boat cruise, train ride & history tour)

A DEPOSIT OF \$400 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BOOKING. ALL RESERVATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2020. Luggage tags and itineraries are mailed about 10 days prior to the trip. Bills are not mailed for balances due.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Due to West Point Military Security Requirements, ALL passengers are required to present a valid government-issued photo ID (driver's license and/or permit, passport, DMV ID) upon entry to West Point. Additionally, ALL passengers MUST submit first & last names with middle initials, dates of birth, sex, type of ID which will be presented, state of issue, & identification number to Rill's office prior to trip.

Our motorcoach is equipped with restroom, reclining seats, air conditioning/heating as needed, luggage compartments, and electrical outlets. For the comfort of all passengers, we must maintain a no smoking policy onboard our motorcoach. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by any tour member while onboard our coach is strictly prohibited.

Rill's Bus Service reserves the right to change itineraries and reservations at their discretion, for reasons that may be out of their control, if in the best interest of the customer, and/or benefit the quality of the tour.

In the event of a cancellation, any non-refundable expenses for reserved seat tickets, admissions, meals, lodging, and/or other package inclusions may be forfeited. Rills will guarantee full refund only if the cancelled reservations can be resold to another customer.

We highly recommend purchasing trip cancellation insurance which is available through Travel Guard Insurance. For specific questions regarding trip cancellation insurance, please call Travel Guard at (800)826-1300. You will need to refer to Agency #50810 (Rill's Bus Service as agent). All policies will need to be quoted and/or purchased electronically, or by calling the 24-hour service center (paper applications are no longer accepted). Insurance coverage information will be mailed to you upon request to Rill's Bus Service.



*Photos courtesy of Vermont Tourism Network