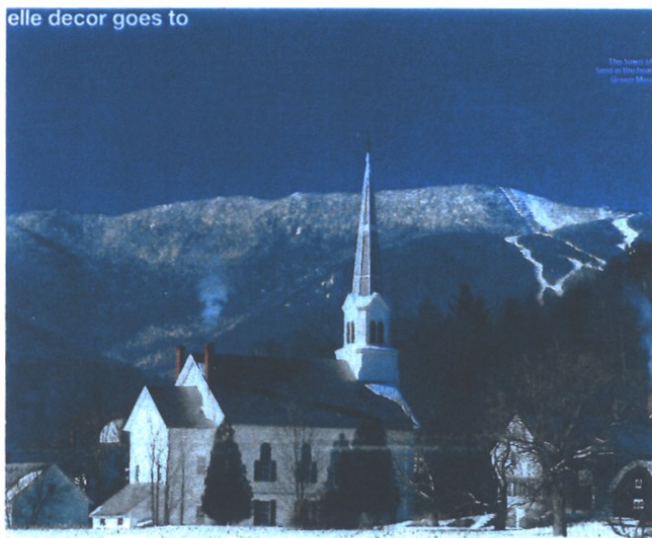


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Vermont

Deluxe ski resorts, historic architecture, and smart shops brimming with antiques make the Green Mountains a winter wonderland well worth a road trip. By Stephanie Breakstone

Fifty-five percent of Vermont's roads are unpaved. Billboards are verboten. The state flag depicts a cow standing under a pine tree. And War-Marts and Starbucks are in very short supply, which is exactly how everybody likes it. "Vermont is a place of pure air and pure water," says Ben Cohen, a founder of Ben & Jerry's ice cream and a long-time resident. "And it's sparsely populated, which is a huge part of what makes this place what it is."

So it stands to reason that if you're looking for an ideal winter excursion far from the madding crowd, few places equal Vermont, particularly the stretch from Bennington to Stowe, in the Green Mountains. Crisscrossing routes 4, 7A, and 100 will bring you face-to-face with some of the state's oldest covered bridges and postcard-worthy barns in the country, not to mention great skiing, terrific antique shops, and award-winning restaurants.

A great place to begin a winter trek (rent a four-wheel-drive, just to be on the safe side) is Bennington, a town nestled between the Taconic Mountains to the west and the Green Mountains to the east. While not a full-fledged tourist destination—Bennington is best D-

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known for the college that shares its name—it has a few notable gems. Bennington Museum has the largest public collection of paintings by Grandma Moses. Robert Frost is buried at the Old First Church, the state's oldest house of worship. And Bennington Pottery has been crafting its ceramics for more than half a century. "Johnny Carson bought our trigger mug in blue agate," boasts the director of product development, Joyce Hall.

En route downtown, swing by the Vermont Covered Bridge Museum for edification on the structures Vermonters hold so dear—only around 100 are left in the state—as well as the Shops at Carleton Village, a mecca for antiques aficionados, with more than 140 dealers spread through several converted 18th-century barns. If you are a vintage-car enthusiast, be sure to patronize the old-fashioned pumps at Hemmings filling station, which is the headquarters of Hemmings Motor News and has 25 automotive classics on envy-making display.

Pick historic Route 7A and venture north, stopping in South Shaftsbury at the Robert Frost Stone House Museum, where the writer composed many poems included in his 1923 Pulitzer prize-winning collection *New Hampshire*. (Frost moved to Vermont from New Hampshire in 1920 and spent the next 40 years farming here.) In nearby Arlington is the Norman Rockwell Exhibition, where some 500 of the artist's illustrations, prints, and covers for *Text* (continues on page 104) D-



Aviary, a cottage at Twin Farms resort



A bedroom at the Robert Frost Stone House Museum



Simon Pearce's shop and restaurant in Quechee

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Hidene 1005 Hidene Rd., Manchester, 362-1788, hidene.org. The summer home of the 16th president's son, Robert Todd Lincoln is now a house museum with more than 100 scenic cross-country trails on-site. **Shelburne Museum**, Rte. 7, Shelburne, 885-3346, shelburnemuseum.org. Impressionist paintings, folk art, and antique textiles in 39 buildings. **Stowe Vermont Arts Center**, West Rd., Manchester, 362-1405, stove.org. The permanent collection of 19th- and 20th-century works is housed in a stunning Hugh Newell Jacobson structure. **Vermont Ski Museum**, 1 S. Main St., Stowe, 253-8811, vermontskimuseum.org. This historic meetinghouse boasts a comprehensive collection of ski memorabilia, including period gear and an installation on the evolution of chairlifts.

Where to Stay

The Green Mountain Inn, 18 Main St., Stowe, 253-7301, greenthompson.com. The restored 104-room inn has been welcoming guests since 1833. **The Inn at the Round Barn Farm**, 1361 E. Warren Rd., Watford, 496-2275, roundbarn.com. Sleep among antiques in a 19th-century dairy farmhouse and converted horse barn. **The Lanier**, 2 Church St., Woodstock, 457-1925, thelanier.com. Originally an urban digs in a historic building with walking distance to town. **The Pitcher Inn**, 275 Main St., Warren, 496-6360, pitcherinn.com. Eleven rooms, each designed individually, conveniently located at the base of Sugarbush Resort. **Topnotch Resort and Spa**, 4000 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 253-8585, topnotchresort.com. A legendary Stowe haunt with a bustling après-ski scene. **Twin Farms**, Bernard, 234-9999, twinfarms.com. Vermont's most luxurious (and exclusive) inn, with museum-quality artwork by Hockney, Lichtenstein, and Avery.

Where to Eat

Bistro Henry, 1342 Rte. 11/100, Manchester, 362-4982, bistrohenry.com. Stellar seasonal game such as pheasant with venison tagalong. **Blue Moon Cafe**, 35 School St., Stowe, 253-7000, bluemooncafe.com. Stowe favorite featuring pairings like rabbit with chutney and lamb with fig. **Cherry Farm** in a charming former only-better-than-hotel, 92 Stowe St., Waterbury, 244-7300, cherryfarm.com. From the vegetables to the steak, almost everything is locally sourced at the two-room old eatery in a former grain mill. **Moulin à Vent Café**, 10 Toll Gate Rd., Manchester, 362-1779. Features a menu with a view of the brook and by chef-owner Dana Markey. **Rouppert** favors Oysters, Pines & Bacon, 61 Central St., Woodstock, 457-4882, ouppert.com. Flavor of day wine under chef Chad Barber's watchful eye. **The Prince & the Pauper**, 24 Elm St., Woodstock, 457-1818, princeandpauper.com. A mainstay for 25 years, the 140-room inn opens an hour earlier than the dining room for après-ski. **Robinson's Simon Pearce Restaurant**, 1760 Quechee Main St., Quechee, 295-1470, simonpearce.com. Dine in a glass-enclosed terrace overlooking the Ottauquechee River falls. Then check out the famed glassblower's water wheel. **Stowe Coffee House**, 518 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 253-8189. Eclectic, made-to-order pies and hot and cold pastries.

Where to Shop

Alpine Home, 618 S. Main St., Stowe, 825-2607. Country antiques from France, Sweden, Austria, and Denmark. **Antiques Collaborative**, Waterman Hill Rd., Quechee, 296-5838, antiquescollaborative.com. More than 100 dealers display their fine goods in a one-time farmhouse. **Bennington Pottery**, 324 County St., Bennington, 447-7531, benningtonpottery.com. Handmade pottery in two forms in a range of finishes. **Carleton**, 4896 Main St., Manchester Center, 262-3796, carleton.com. Modern furnishings, including Armani, Kartell, and Knoll, in an 1800s building with original out-of-tune floors and sloping brick walls. **Clara Galleries**, 61 S. Main St., Stowe, 253-6100, clara galleries.com. The owners have two venues for top-tier art—this one is certainly located in one small town. **Clara Miller Antiques**, 3600 Waterbury Street Rd., Waterbury Center, 244-8771, claramiller.com. Freshly pressed apricot, apricot, gumball, loquats, and famous doughnuts. **Combs Antiques**, 4686 Main St., Manchester Center, 262-7186, combs.com. Everything from a vintage Louis XV chair to a 19th-century Vermont map for \$10. **Clara Miller Antiques**, 3600 Waterbury Street Rd., Waterbury Center, 244-8771, claramiller.com. Freshly pressed apricot, apricot, gumball, loquats, and famous doughnuts. **Combs Antiques**, 4686 Main St., Manchester Center, 262-7186, combs.com. Everything from a vintage Louis XV chair to a 19th-century Vermont map for \$10. **Clara Miller Antiques**, 3600 Waterbury Street Rd., Waterbury Center, 244-8771, claramiller.com. Freshly pressed apricot, apricot, gumball, loquats, and famous doughnuts. **Kan Roney Fine Antiques & Jewelry**, 83 Central St., Woodstock, 457-2043. A treasure trove of better finds. **Dea Dea** (shea embossed) with 24K gold. **Clara Miller Antiques**, 3600 Waterbury Street Rd., Waterbury Center, 244-8771, claramiller.com. Freshly pressed apricot, apricot, gumball, loquats, and famous doughnuts. **The Red Horse Antiques**, Rte. 4, Bridgewater, 672-3220. Handmade antiques from two floors of meticulously edited European and American antiques in a former carriage house. **Susan Bergant Designs**, 3608 Main St., Manchester, 366-4955, susanbergant.com. The Simon design's vibrant furniture and home accessories retail store in a rehabbed barn building. **The Vermont County Store**, Rte. 100, Weston, 824-3184, vermontcountystore.com. Mail museum and gift super market; the ever-ready shop stocks everything from penny candy to carved wood toys to ferns. **Shirley** D-