



Area Swimming Hole Guide

- Directions begin from the Visitor Information Center (51 Main Street, Stowe, Vermont 05677).
- Carry in and carry out trash and waste. Be respectful of others, the land and all private property.
- Park in designated parking areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings and wildlife. Bring a cell phone.
- Dogs must be leashed or under voice control of the owner.
- Mountain streams are much colder than valley streams. Be cautious of leaving small children in the water for long periods due to increased risk of hypothermia. Watch your footing on rocks that are wet or covered by algae or moss.
- Stowe Area Association assumes no liability for any injury sustained at these swimming holes.

1. BOOTLEGGER'S BASIN

- Location: Jeffersonville, Vermont
- Type: Reservoir
- Hours: Open access after 4 p.m.
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, turn right to approach the 3-way intersection. Turn right onto Rte. 108 (Mountain Road), and proceed 13.1 miles through Smuggler's Notch and down the other side of the mountain. Turn right onto Edwards Road (at the sign for ArborTrek Canopy Adventures) and continue about 0.4 miles past the ArborTrek entrance. The basin will be on your left in a wide field. These basins act as Smugglers' Notch Resort's snowmaking ponds during the winter but are used for summer camp swimming during the day and public use in the evening.

2. BREWSTER RIVER GORGE

- Location: Jeffersonville, Vermont
- Type: Waterfall (75 feet, including upper and lower falls, and 1 main pool with shallow pools, scattered)
- Walking distance: 1.5 miles
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, turn right to approach the 3-way intersection. Turn right onto Rte. 108 (Mountain Road), and continue 16.8 miles through Smuggler's Notch and down the other side of the mountain into Jeffersonville. Before entering downtown, make a very sharp right on to Canyon Road. Continue straight, past the covered bridge, to the parking lot at the end of the road. At the far end of the parking lot, follow the trail until you come to a fork in the woods. Take the left-hand path to the river's edge. Cross the streambed and continue following the trail a short distance to the falls. Upon reaching the gorge, the pool is hidden by the large boulders wedged together in the river. Other pools are hidden in the rocks among the falls.

3. JEFF FALLS

- Location: Jeffersonville, Vermont
- Type: Waterfall (7 feet, and 2 pools)
- Walking distance: 0.1 miles
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, turn right to approach the 3-way intersection. Turn right onto Rte. 108 (Mountain Road), and proceed 17 miles through Smuggler's Notch and down the other side of the mountain into Jeffersonville. Park at the small dirt pull-off on the right just before entering downtown (if you pass Green Mountain Outfitters, you've gone too far). There is room for about four cars. Follow the short trail from the parking lot into the woods and headed upstream. There is a smaller pool above the falls. The main swimming hole lies at the bottom of the chute. *Please note, this waterfall is on private property. Public access is allowed on the condition people clean up after themselves.*



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4. LAKE ELMORE

- Location: 1856 VT Rte. 12, Lake Elmore, Vermont 05657
- Type: Lake
- Hours: 10 a.m. to official sunset
- Day use fee: \$3 per person
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, drive 8.8 miles north on Rte. 100 into Morrisville. At the 4-way stop, continue straight onto Upper Main Street. At the fork, veer right onto Rte. 12 and proceed 3.6 miles. Turn right into Elmore State Park at the large sign next to the road. The rangers at the booth will direct you to parking. This State Park offers a 219-acre lake with a swimming beach, beach house containing a concession area and restrooms, a picnic pavilion and boat rentals. There is also a campground and hiking within the park.

5. RANCH BROOK

- Location: Stowe, Vermont
- Type: River
- Walking distance: Many options available from 100 ft. to a mile walk along the brook.
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, turn right to approach the 3-way intersection. Turn right onto Rte. 108 (Mountain Road), and continue 5.1 miles before turning left onto Ranch Brook Road. Park before the Adams Camp Bridge at the end of the road. Walk in as little or as far as you'd like to cool off in Ranch Brook situated on the Adams Camp property with 513-acres of mixed northern hardwood forest interlaced with a variety of recreation trails. The land is conserved by Stowe Land Trust and open to the public for a number of non-motorized recreational activities including swimming, fishing, mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife observation and nature study.

6. WATERBURY RESERVOIR

- Location: 177 Reservoir Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677
- Type: Reservoir
- Hours: 10 a.m. to official sunset
- Day use fee: \$3 per person
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, drive 6.8 miles south on Rte. 100 into Waterbury Center. Turn right onto Reservoir Road (at the bottom of the first hill after the Cold Hollow Cider Mill). Proceed 0.2 miles into Waterbury Center State Park. This State Park offers an 850 acre, man-made body of water with a swimming beach, 22 picnic sites, tables, concession area and restrooms, as well as canoe, kayak and standup paddleboard rentals from Umiak Outdoor Outfitters.

7. WEST BRANCH RIVER AT CHASE PARK

- Location: Stowe, Vermont
- Type: River
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, turn right to approach the 3-way intersection. Turn right onto Rte. 108 (Mountain Road), and continue 2.0 miles before turning left onto Luce Hill Road. After 0.3 miles, turn right into the Chase Park parking lot. Walk or bike about a quarter of a mile north on the Stowe Recreation Path to access the swimming hole on the right.



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8. WEST BRANCH RIVER AT STOWE LAND TRUST MILL TRAIL PROPERTY

- Location: Stowe, Vermont
- Type: Waterfall (7 feet, and 2 pools)
- Walking distance: 0.1 miles
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, turn right to approach the 3-way intersection. Turn right onto Rte. 108 (Mountain Road), and continue 5.1 miles before turning right onto Notchbrook Road. Drive 0.6 miles to a small pull-off on the left where there is limited parking available. The Mill Trail property is conserved to protect historical features and is used for a variety of pedestrian recreational activities including hiking, hunting, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and wildlife observation

9. WEST BRANCH RIVER AT THOMPSON PARK

- Location: Stowe, Vermont
- Type: River
- Directions: From the Visitor Information Center, turn right to approach the 3-way intersection. Turn right onto Rte. 108 (Mountain Road) for 2.7 miles. Just after the first sight of Mt. Mansfield, turn left into the Thompson Park parking lot. Cross the Stowe Recreation Path to access the West Branch River.



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