



Scenic Drives of Stowe, Vermont

Fall in Vermont offers many opportunities to explore the nearby landscape and discover hidden scenic gems. With fresh mountain air, picturesque scenes and colorful leaves all around, you'll forget your worries and relax on a scenic drive in the Vermont countryside. Below are a few of our favorite scenic drives for leaf peeping in the Stowe area.

Using this self-guided driving guide

- Each self-guided trip starts and ends at the Stowe Area Association. While enjoying Stowe's scenic back roads, please be aware of bicyclists and runners.
- A Google Maps link with direction is available for each drive.
 - **Trip 1:** Moscow & Little River – 7.7 miles
 - **Trip 2:** Edson Hill & West Hill – 10.9 miles
 - **Trip 3:** Brush Hill – 8.4 miles
 - **Trip 4:** Elmore Mountain & Randolph Road – 19.6 miles
 - **Trip 5:** Stowe Hollow, Little River Dam, Ben & Jerry's and Cold Hollow Cider Mill – 30.9 miles
 - **Trip 6:** Sterling Valley & Mud City – 23.9 miles
 - **Trip 7:** Montpelier, Worcester & Lake Elmore – 57.5 miles
 - **Trip 8:** Jeffersonville, Johnson & Hyde Park – 41.3 miles
 - **Trip 9:** Craftsbury Common, Hazen's Notch & Covered Bridges – 107 miles
 - **Trip 10:** Stagecoach Road, Johnson & Back – 30.2 miles
 - **Trip 11:** Gregg Hill, Winooski Rive, & West Approach to Nebraska Range – 64.3 miles

Short-Distance Drives

1. Moscow & Little River

Distance: 7.7 miles

Time: 17 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

This is a short trip along the Little River as it flows from the Lower Village to Adam's Mill in Moscow, a small hamlet named after Moscow, Russia. The Little River is good for Rainbow Trout fishing, although the bigger fish usually leave the river during July and August.



2. Edson Hill and West Hill

Distance: 10.9 miles

Time: 24 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

This short drive of a little over 10 miles takes you on a circuit of the upland farms to the northwest of Stowe. Fifty years ago, most of this land was used for dairy farming. Now much of it is going back to woodland. The old hard maples arching over the road as you start up Edson Hill and down West Hill are a splendid sight, especially when they take on their autumn coloring. If this vista has a familiar look, you saw it in Hitchcock's "Trouble With Harry" and the "Four Seasons" starring Alan Alda and Carol Burnett. Where the maples end, the view down into the valley, at the village of Stowe and across the Worcester Mountains is magnificent. The Percy Farm on West Hill welcomes visitors to their Sugar House in the spring to watch them boil sap into maple syrup.

3. Brush Hill

Distance: 8.4 Miles

Time: 24 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

This is a beautiful back road trip. We recommend this for the height of summer or during fall foliage. Lots of wildlife activity and the views are spectacular.

Medium-Distance Drives

4. Elmore Mountain and Randolph Road

Distance: 19.6 miles

Time: 36 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

On this drive we send you out the Elmore Mountain Road by the Old Elmore Cemetery. Here you get a magnificent view west, across to Mt. Mansfield and the Sterling Range. As you drive back on the Randolph Road, you pass a series of dairy farms and pasture land. These two roads provide excellent examples of old abandoned farmland and the contrasting active acreage.

5. Sterling Valley and Mud City

Distance: 21.8 miles

Time: 50 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)



These are two valleys running south from the crescent of the Sterling Range. Both were once busy farm areas; now only a few active farms remain. How "Mud City" acquired its name, we don't know. Today, it is just a stretch of dirt road with a few houses. Sterling Brook is an entrancing stream. Its covered bridge appears to have been rebuilt and strengthened with iron, but its location high above the water is perfect.

6. Stowe Hollow, Little River Dam, Ben & Jerry's and Cold Hollow Cider

Distance: 30.9 miles

Time: 65 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

Stowe Hollow nestles at the foot of the Worcester Mountains and is drained by the Gold Brook. There are rainbow trout to the covered bridge and natives above and the stream really is gold bearing, although in small quantities. The covered bridge in Stowe Hollow is known as "Emily's Bridge". There are several stories, none authenticated, about how Emily died at this spot, but her spirit is said to haunt the bridge. The Little River Dam was constructed in the 1930's after the 1927 flood. This is an ideal spot for pictures and picnicking. On the way back, the trip takes you by two of Vermont's most popular attractions; Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory and Cold Hollow Cider Mill.

7. Stagecoach Road to Johnson

Distance: 30.2 miles

Time: 52 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

This route provides a series of superb views as it runs over the high land between Stowe and Johnson. For this reason, it is an "out and back" tour except for the loop at the end since there is much to see both going and coming. It starts on the same road as the one to Sterling Valley and Mud City. This is the Old Stage Coach Road between Stowe and Morristown Corners. If you take a picnic, you will enjoy eating it on the rocks by the rapids of the Lamoille River, but there is poison ivy, which you should watch out for.

8. Jeffersonville, Johnson and Hyde Park

Distance: 41.3 miles

Time: 67 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

This is a trip through Smugglers' Notch from the south to north, which is probably the most scenic approach. Just under a mile out of Jeffersonville, there is a side road to the left with a covered bridge over the river and another to the right carrying the railroad



across. At Johnson there is Johnson Woolen Mills to visit. As you leave Hyde Park, watch for the one way wooden "Dry Bridge."

Long-Distance Drives

9. Montpelier, Worcester and Lake Elmore

Distance: 57.5 miles

Time: 1 hour, 24 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

The Capitol at Montpelier is certainly one of the finest buildings of the Classic Federalist Period. It houses two of the best-preserved and outstanding legislative chambers in the country. As you drive north, you have the Worcester Mountains on your left, which you can see from Stowe to the southeast. At Lake Elmore there is a State Park with picnic grounds and sandy beach for swimming.

10. Craftsbury Common, Hazen's Notch and Covered Bridge

Distance: 107 miles

Time: 2 hours, 45 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

This is a drive of a little over 100 miles, which gives you plenty of great views, a number of covered bridges, the village of Craftsbury Common, a piece of the old Hazen Military Highway built during the Revolutionary War, and an introduction to one of several surveyor's mistakes that are called "Gores" in Vermont.

11. Gregg Hill, Winooski River and West Approach to Nebraska Range

Distance: 64.3 miles

Time: 1 hour, 48 minutes

[View on Google Maps](#)

This is a long trip of many variations and many scenic beauties. Little River Dam Reservoir at the west foot of Gregg Hill is almost entirely hidden from road and farm. That portion which can be seen both from Gregg Hill and from Route 100. You will see the Winooski stomping grounds of Ethan Allen and his brothers. The Allen's made a fortune floating timber down this river to Burlington. As you drive north on the west slope of Nebraska Range, you will catch a glimpse of Lake Champlain to the West and a most intriguing view of Mt. Mansfield and nearer to Stowe, Smugglers' Notch.

Visit GoStowe.com for lodging and other area information.