

Free

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS

2024

Adventure  
Guide

Free

# Welcome to the Lake Champlain Islands and the northern Champlain Valley!

Lake Champlain and its islands are a land of idyllic views and outdoor adventures, a home to rich histories and inspired artists, and a paradise for lovers of local foods and delicious brews. We mean it when we say there's something for everyone.

Get lost on one of our many nature trails or along our scenic roadways, take a dip in Lake Champlain or head out for an afternoon of boating or fishing.

Stick around for a concert or browse a local gallery showcasing the talents of the artists and artisans who call Northwest Vermont home.

Browse local farmstands and farmers' markets, harvest your own berries and apples, and pick up some locally raised meat from one of the working farms whose products fill tables at our top-notch restaurants and glasses at our celebrated vineyards and breweries.

Explore one of our local museums or take a tour of our unique historical sites, following our Islands' story from a former quarry on Isle La Motte to a centuries-old cabin in Grand Isle and the historic villages dotting each of our towns.

While this guide will lead you to some of the region's highlights, we encourage you to go on your own Islands' adventure, and to share that adventure with us using #TheIslander.

Don't forget to tell a friend about your adventures and return next year for more.



# Stay Up-To-Date During Your Visit



The *Islander* is the local, weekly newspaper for the Champlain Islands, as well as neighboring communities in Vermont and New York.

Published every Thursday, *The Islander* is your guide to local news, events and activities. Be sure to pick up a copy for the latest announcements.

Visit [www.theislandernewspaper.com](http://www.theislandernewspaper.com) for a full guide to events on the Islands and surrounding communities.

Isle La Motte  
**VINEYARD** LLC  
[ilmvineyard.com](http://ilmvineyard.com)

*Our Tasting Room is Open!*  
Hours of Operation: 1:00 - 6:00  
Fri. - Sun. - Open on Monday Holidays

See website for Artisan Markets and Summer Concerts!

85 Shrine Road, Isle La Motte, VT 05463 • 802-928-3737

Check our weekly menu of locally sourced charcuterie and tapas items listed on our Facebook page and website. Reservations suggested for large parties.

## Meet the islands' unofficial mascot



Dinosaur-like in appearance with its crooked neck and long legs, the great blue heron is the Champlain Islands' unofficial mascot, often stealing the show as it gracefully roams the skies over the Champlain Islands and neatly prowls through their lakeside swamps.

Hérons are seasonal visitors to Lake Champlain, where they nest among one of the communal lakeside rookeries located in and around Grand Isle County. While those rookeries are typically hidden from the public, herons frequently venture out into the islands proper to scour for food, making them one of the more visible – and recognizable – members of the islands' wild landscape.

Increasingly common, too, are the great egrets. Like their relatives the great blue heron, egrets are slender, elegant birds often seen stalking the Champlain Islands' lakeshores and swamps. Wildlife watchers have observed egrets' bleach-colored presence on Lake Champlain gradually grow over the last two decades, with the bird now becoming a summertime regular on Lake Champlain.

# Local Libraries

Get lost in a good book!  
Visit a local library!

Alburgh Public Library- 16 South Main Street, 802-796-6077  
[www.alburghpl.org](http://www.alburghpl.org)

Grand Isle Free Library- 10 Hyde Road, 802-372-4797  
[www.grandislefreelibraryvt.wordpress.com](http://www.grandislefreelibraryvt.wordpress.com)

Isle La Motte Library- 2238 Main Street, 802-370-2148

North Hero Library- 3195 Route 2, 802-372-5458  
[www.northherolibrary.org](http://www.northherolibrary.org)

Worthen Library- 28 Community Lane, South Hero 802-372-6209  
[southherolibrary.org](http://southherolibrary.org)

## Share Your Photos with us..

Photo by John LaBerge

Photo by Connie Boutin

Photo by Christine Williams

Photo by Dan Mathison

[islander@theislandernewspaper.com](mailto:islander@theislandernewspaper.com)  
Please include your name and town of residence

# 2024 Adventure Guide

ARTICLES BY **MICHAEL FRETT**

PUBLISHER/DESIGNER **TONYA POUTRY**

PHOTOGRAPHY: **MICHAEL FRETT & ROB SWANSON**  
DISTRIBUTION: **JIM DUBOINE**

This guide is a product of The Islander.  
Advertising and editorial material is the property of the publisher.  
All Rights Reserved

# Explore the Natural World

The Lake Champlain Islands and neighboring communities offer almost endless opportunities to explore the world around us or simply get outside. Multiple types of habitat can be found on the Islands, from forests to marshes to Lake Champlain itself. Each is home to a wide variety of plants and animals.

Many of the nature preserves have walking trails, so pull on your sneakers or lace up your boots, and take a walk on the wild side.

## Nature preserves and walking trails

### ALBURGH

#### Alburgh Recreational Rail Trail and Mud Creek Pond<sup>8</sup>

Built atop a railroad bed once tying Alburgh to the wider world, the Alburgh Recreational Rail Trail leads from the town's village center toward the town's eastern shore with Lake Champlain. Along the way, you'll find cattail-filled views of the Mud Creek's neighboring wetlands and centerpiece pond, as well as sights of this community's working landscapes and farm fields.



A trailhead for the Alburgh Recreational Rail Trail can be found on Industrial Park Drive at the far end of the paved circle where a roundhouse once serving the railroad used to stand. The trail can also be accessed from the public access point for the Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area on Route 78 between Alburgh and Swanton.

### ISLE LA MOTTE

#### The Fossil Preserves of Isle La Motte<sup>7</sup>

Formed hundreds of millions of years ago when plate tectonics pushed the landmass that is now North America into a more tropical climate, the fossilized remains of the world's oldest complex reef pockmark a pair of celebrated nature preserves in this quiet island town.



Found at 239 Quarry Road in the southeastern corner of town, the 83-acre Goodsell Ridge Preserve features several of the island's most striking fossil sites between the

historic pastures and woodlands composing today's preserve. An interpretive trail guides walkers through the preserve, highlighting the ancient snails and squids whose fossilized remains now populate the park.

On the island's opposite shore along West Shore Road is the Fisk Quarry Preserve, a former quarry famed for its "Isle La Motte marble" preserved today as a small hiking area. Short trails lead through stands of trees and around the preserve's namesake quarry, filled today with a small, teeming wetland and marked with the fossilized remains of the prehistoric sponges once building this ancient reef.

For more information or directions to the preserves, visit [www.ilmpt.org](http://www.ilmpt.org).

### NORTH HERO

#### Pelots Point Nature Area<sup>5</sup>

Found along a northwestern strut of North Hero's southern island, the Pelots Point Nature Area is a bustling stretch of meadow and forest reaching from its western bluffs looming over Lake Champlain through its humble grasslands and beautiful woods toward a lively Lake



Champlain inlet. Local volunteers help maintain this park's winding trails.

The nature area is located at 1244 Pelots Point Road. Look for a gravel parking lot.

#### Camp Ingalls and Butternut Hill Trails<sup>4</sup>

Take a hike through a beautiful woodland as you pass beneath an umbrella of hardwoods and cedars toward a rocky Lake Champlain shoreline with Adirondack views. Hikes here can sometimes lean toward the swampier side, but there's plenty at Camp Ingalls for wildlife enthusiasts and adventurers alike.



The Ingalls and Butternut Trails can be accessed at Camp Ingalls at 1769 South End Road in North Hero. Follow the signs from the park's parking lot past its long house and, at the fork in the trail, take the north trail and follow it for around 200 yards.

For more information, visit [www.lclt.org/butternut-hill/](http://www.lclt.org/butternut-hill/).

#### "The Footpath on the Island Line"<sup>6</sup>

North Hero's newest public trail will take you through the woods along the remains of the Rutland Railroad's storied Island Line toward a stoney shoreline with sweeping views of Lake Champlain and the Isle La Motte and New York coasts.



The Footpath on the Island Line can be found at 1857 Pelots Point Road. Follow signs toward the North Hero Marina until you come across a bend in the road with a small parking area labeled with a "Footpath on the Island Line" welcome sign.

## SOUTH HERO

### Landon Community Trail<sup>2</sup>

Looking for a view of those rolling fields and working landscapes coloring life in South Hero? Swing by the Landon Community Trail, a short hike through a recently conserved forest with overlooks promising views of active farms and looming mountains.



The Landon Community Trail can be found along Landon Road. Look for a small parking lot just northeast of Landon Road's intersection with East Shore Road.

For more information, visit [www.shlt.org/landon-community-trail](http://www.shlt.org/landon-community-trail).

### Tracy Woods<sup>3</sup>

Flanked by farm fields and a sliver of Lake Champlain shoreline, the Tracy Woods are a beloved and historic part of South Hero's landscape. Family-friendly trails run along a nearby field and wrap around a segment of the forest, offering views of a diverse landscape colored by bustling forest communities and lakeside swamps.



The entrance to Tracy Woods can be found at 36 Tracy Road, a short ways from where the road intersects with Route 2.

For more information, visit [www.shlt.org/tracy-woods](http://www.shlt.org/tracy-woods).

### Round Pond Natural Area<sup>1</sup>

An unassuming state park located along South Hero's eastern coast, the Round Pond Natural Area is a rolling landscape of pleasant meadows and stic woods with kid-friendly trails leading toward Lake Champlain's shores and sweeping views of Mount Mansfield, the Green Mountain State's tallest peak.



The entrance to the Round Pond Natural Area can be found at a gravel pull-off with an orange gate along East Shore Road shortly past the road's intersection with Landon Road.

For more information, visit [www.shlt.org/round-pond-state-park](http://www.shlt.org/round-pond-state-park).

## SWANTON

### Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge<sup>9</sup>

Although it's not quite in the Champlain Islands, it would be hard not to recommend that visitors head just over the bridge from Alburgh to the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Swanton. A sweeping 6,700-acre property spread over the Missisquoi River's delta, the Missisquoi refuge boasts seasonal and year-round habitats for more than 200 species of birds, as well as homes for charismatic critters like beavers and river otters, and rarer locals like the spiny softshell turtle.

The refuge is publicly accessible at several points between Swanton's downtown and the bridge to Alburgh, with trail options ranging from journeys through floodplain forests and wetland views, to walks along the Missisquoi River and through several meadows preserved for rare grassland birds.

The refuge is open for kayaking, fishing, and hiking from dawn to dusk. Newcomers are advised to swing by the refuge's headquarters at 29 Tabor Road in Swanton before heading out onto the trails.

For more information, visit <https://friendsofmissisquoi.org/>.



**SUMMER EVENTS**

**C.I.D.E.R.**

**July 12&13** 61st Annual Islands Antique Show and Sale  
Folsom School, South Hero  
+\$3 admission+  
**Joe's Big Band**

**July 20th** 6:30 to 8:30; Grounds open at 5:30  
Ferry Watch Inn, Grand Isle  
\$25 per person  
**cidervt.org 802.372.6425**

## On the Water

### The Islands' Scenic Bays and Coasts



Natural sights and sounds aren't limited to just the land. For those more inclined to kayak, canoe and boat, a journey around the islands' scenic bays and marshes can provide a firsthand look at many of the rich environments coloring life in the Champlain Islands. Dip a kayak into Keeler Bay and creep up the 'Crick' in South Hero or set out for Knight Island, an undeveloped island and state park just across City Bay from North Hero. Sneak between North Hero and Alburgh for some fishing in the Alburgh Passage and get up close with the wild wetlands coloring inlets like North Hero's Pelots Bay and Carry Bay.

While you're at it, keep an eye out for a few of the islands' most charismatic critters – its river otters and beavers, the state-endangered common terns who nest nearby, the egrets and herons creeping among the swamps, and the occasional bald eagle soaring overhead. Do be mindful that a few of Lake Champlain's smaller islands are privately owned, either as residences or as protected natural areas.

### Traveling the Northern Forest Canoe Trail

Visitors to North Hero may notice the small kiosk advertising the Northern Forest Canoe Trail in North Hero's village. This small marker helps tie North Hero into a celebrated canoeing trail connecting the Champlain Islands to watersheds as far away as New Hampshire and Maine, all while recalling a millennia of history spanning the region's original Native American residents to the historic mill towns now lining most of New England's largest rivers. The trail's rich heritage is widely accessible and offers environmentally friendly fun and education.

From North Hero, paddlers can travel south, passing between North Hero and Grand Isle toward Plattsburgh and the Saranac River, or north toward the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Swanton.

For more information about the Northern Forest Canoe Trail visit [www.northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org) or call 802-496-2285.

## Sandbar Wildlife

### Management Area

While it's the beaches at the Sand Bar State Park that – understandably – draw much of the attention near the causeway connecting South Hero to Vermont, the park is a part of a larger collection of shorelines and wetlands composing one of the state's richest wildlife sanctuaries.

The Sandbar Wildlife Management Area sprawls out over the mouth of the Lamoille River, where one can find everything from lush wetlands to shallow forests and homes for beloved animals like ospreys and herons. Much of the refuge is closed to the public, but a handful of Route 2 pull-offs and boat accesses near the refuge give visitors a chance to explore parts of this vibrant environment.

# Cycling the Champlain Islands

With gorgeous views of looming mountains, rolling hills and crystalline water in almost every direction, the Islands are a great place to get out a bike and go for a ride. Get lost as you trace the Lake Champlain shoreline, hunt for stone castles in South Hero and follow the remnants of a historic railroad from Colchester to Alburgh.

It's always a good idea for motorists and bicyclists to use some courtesy and common sense when traveling through Grand Isle County and Vermont in the summer months. Drivers should be patient and bikers should stay single file at the side of the road, except in places like the drawbridge where bicycles and motorists can merge.

Be mindful that the islands are also a working landscape. Not only will you share the road with cars and other bicyclists, you'll find tractors and working equipment, as well. Please be patient as our farmers work hard to tend to their fields, care for their animals and put food on their tables and yours.

If you're looking for inspiration, Vermont State Parks and Lake Champlain Bikeways have several suggested routes for newcomers in the islands:

[www.vtstateparks.com/assets/pdf/bike\\_champlain\\_islands\\_map.pdf](http://www.vtstateparks.com/assets/pdf/bike_champlain_islands_map.pdf).

As you slow down, think about taking a deep breath and looking around, and remember that you're very lucky to be on the road in paradise.

## A Legacy of Ancient Stone: Isle La Motte 10.1 miles

Following the perimeter of the Island, terrain is flat along a combination of paved and unpaved roads, all in good condition and all quiet. Following this loop, riders will be brought to many of the sites making Isle La Motte, the site of the first European settlement in Vermont and home to the fossilized remains of the world's earliest known complex reef, so special.

The recommended starting point for this loop is Saint Anne's Shrine on Shrine Road.

## Island Life: Grand Isle 11.6 miles

Highlighting both the area's history and its natural resources, the Island Life loop is a 12-mile tour through the heart of the Champlain Islands. As you journey around the Town of Grand Isle, you'll catch glimpses of both the island's history as a rural community and steamship hub, and life as it is today, all while taking in sweeping views of the Green Mountains to the east and Adirondacks in the west.

The recommended starting point for this loop is the Grand Isle Ferry Dock at Gordon's Landing.

## Stone Castles: Grand Isle and South Hero 15 miles

The Stone Castles tour begins at the Grand Isle Ferry dock and brings riders through South Hero's scenic countryside. The highlights of the tour are the intricately detailed miniature castles and homes created by the late Harry Barber, a Swiss immigrant and gardener who built the castles as an ode to his native country and new home in the United States. While these wonderful works by Barber are on privately owned land, most can be viewed from the road. Bring your binoculars to admire the details.

The recommended starting point for this loop is the Grand Isle Ferry Dock at Gordon's Landing.

## Liquid Elixir - Alburgh 11.7 miles

Wrapping around the northern half of the Alburgh peninsula is

the "Liquid Elixir," a biking trail set for "hearty cyclists" willing to brave muddy trails and rocky roads for a glimpse of the peninsula's vibrant wildlife and the ways water has historically shaped the county's northernmost town. The centerpiece here is, undoubtedly, the Mud Creek Pond, a sweeping wetland teeming with wildlife visible from the recreational rail trail leading away from Alburgh's village.

The recommended starting point for this loop is the Alburgh Recreational Rail Trail's trailhead, found on Industrial Park Road in Alburgh's historic village center.

## A Trail to Two Beaches: Alburgh and North Hero 17.5 miles

This relatively flat figure-8 ties together two of the islands' state parks, promising sweeping views of Lake Champlain and some glimpses of the working landscape and wilderness making the islands so colorful. At one end are the Alburgh dunes and their pristine beaches. On the other is the North Hero State Park, one of the oldest camp sites in Vermont and a vital habitat for much of our local wildlife.

The recommended start/end point is at either the Alburgh Dunes State Park in South Alburgh or the North Hero State Park at the northern tip of the park's namesake island. Feel free to thin the figure-8 into a single loop tailored to either island. Prospective bikers should be prepared for some unpaved roads.

These trails are far from an exhaustive list. There are endless ways to take in the islands atop a bicycle, whether you're coming across the causeway from Colchester's Airport Park or cutting across the islands' quiet interiors. Just remember to mind the traffic and be respectful of the folks who work and live here in the Champlain Islands.

## All aboard for the Champlain Islands



The Rutland Railroad, once one of Vermont's storied railroads, tied the Champlain Islands to Vermont and New York as it brought milk trains and tourists through Vermont's northwesternmost county. While the railroad closed in the 1960s, evidence of the Rutland's run through the islands can be seen all over.

When you come across the causeway from Colchester or bike along the marsh in South Hero, you're following the Rutland. A pumphouse stands along Alburgh's shore, recalling the community's history as a rail hub. Look closely enough and you might find Grand Isle's train station tucked into a residential street.

See what other signs of this historic railroad you could turn up as you bike across the islands!

# Andrea M. Champagne, Real Estate Broker

## Champagne Real Estate 802-372-4500



**Alburgh**  
Offered at \$695,000.00



**Colchester**  
Offered at \$850,000.00



**Grand Isle**  
Offered at \$3,250,000.00



**Stowe**  
Offered at \$1,100,000.00



**South Hero**  
Offered at \$2,950,000.00



**Burlington**  
Offered at \$975,000.00

“Our experience with the Champagne Team was highly professional and very delightful. All members of the team we worked with were helpful and give the best of advice leading to the sale. A team of winning smiles, wonderful humor and unbeatable effort we could not be more pleased.”

“Champagne Real Estate’s ability to attract worldwide clientele is so necessary. Ethics, professionalism and energy are what makes her team stand out. Her accessibility and humor make our experience one we’ll always treasure.”

“You and your team are the absolute Best! Why would anyone link up with the Rest?”



# Champagne

Real Estate

Andrea@AndreaChampagne.com

Phone Andrea today!  
802-372-4500  
508 Route 2, South Hero, VT.

## Hyde Log Cabin, 1814 Schoolhouse and Worthen Barn

228-230 Route 2, Grand Isle



The Hyde Log Cabin is one of the oldest in New England. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, it was built circa 1783 by Captain Jedediah Hyde, Jr., an early surveyor and settler in the Islands. The cabin was constructed with hand-hewn cedar logs and is attractively furnished with period furnishings maintained by the Grand Isle Historical Society.

The Corners Schoolhouse #4, or “Block Schoolhouse”, built in 1814 of squared-off logs or “blocks”, is also on the property. The school was used continuously from 1814-1954 as one of five one-room school buildings in Grand Isle.

The post and beam Worthen Barn was erected in 2019 to display implements related to the agricultural history of the Champlain Islands.

The cabin, schoolhouse and barn are open to the public this summer. Donations in lieu of admission would be appreciated. The buildings are handicapped accessible.

## Saint Anne’s Shrine

92 St. Anne’s Road, Isle La Motte

Saint Anne’s Shrine in Isle La Motte is open for the 2023 Pilgrimage and Tourist Season. Thousands of pilgrims visit the Shrine each season to participate in the Eucharist which is celebrated in the outdoor Chapel and pavilion which creates a closeness to nature.

A statue of Saint Anne from 1893, offers a peaceful place for reflection.

Call 802-928-3362 for current hours of the Visitors Center.

## Samuel de Champlain Statue

St. Anne’s Road, Isle La Motte

Located near Saint Anne’s Shrine is the statute of Samuel de Champlain, marking where he first made land in Vermont. Made by sculptor Ferdinand L. Webar, the statue is made of solid granite, weighing 35 tons.



## South Hero Bicentennial Museum

372 Route 2, South Hero

The South Hero Bicentennial Museum displays historical exhibits, documents and memorabilia from the town of South Hero. The museum is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through June and Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 9.

For more information, call 802-355-7811.

Vermont State Parks are a fun and inexpensive way to experience one of Vermont’s most alluring qualities: unspoiled nature. Grand Isle County has multiple parks totaling more than 1,300 acres, each offering a range of activities from camping to fishing to just relaxing on the beach and enjoying the sun.

On Vermont Days, June 8 and 9, Vermont residents will be able to enjoy the parks free of charge.

The Agency of Natural Resources maintains an online guide to all state parks at vtstateparks.com.

## Alburgh Dunes State Park

151 Coon Point Road

Canoeing, Fishing, Swimming



The Alburgh Dunes State Park sprawls over the southern end of Alburgh, encompassing several hundred acres of wetland walks, lakeside bluffs and a sandy beach with the park’s namesake dunes. The park was recently expanded, adding a sweeping meadow and bluffs to this popular state park.

The centerpiece of the Alburgh Dunes State Park is its popular beach – one of the longest on Lake Champlain. Here visitors can enjoy a swim and stretch out among the park’s dunes, where patches of protected seaside plants point to a time thousands of years ago when retreating glaciers once made Lake Champlain into a Champlain Sea.

The park is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend, though only for day use: 10 am to sunset. Fires are only allowed within the provided grills in the picnicking area at the west end of the beach.

## Grand Isle State Park

36 East Shore Road South

Spread out over 226 acres and bordered by more than 4,000 feet of Lake Champlain shoreline, the Grand Isle State Park is a perfect place for swimming and shore fishing. A boat launch and kayak and rowboat rentals mean visitors to this popular overnight campground can easily extend their visit onto Lake Champlain proper.

The park also offers a volleyball court, an area for horseshoes, a children’s play area and nature trails. “Many visitors find they don’t even need to leave the park to enjoy their vacation,” Vermont State Parks boasts about the park online.

The park has 117 tent/trailer sites, 36 lean-to sites and four cabin sites. Fifty percent of the sites are large enough for self-contained RVs. The facilities are equipped with running water and hot showers.



## Knight Point State Park

44 Knight Point Road, North Hero

A day-use park dating back to 1978, Knight Point State Park offers expansive lawns for picnicking and games, as well as a sand beach that’s perfect for swimming and facilities for volleyball. A playground, an open air shelter for picnics and available boat rentals add to this state park’s host of recreation opportunities for some summertime fun.

This park is named for Knight Point’s first resident, John Knight, whose



ferry service between North Hero and Grand Isle, opened in 1785, connected the two islands until a bridge finally took its place in 1892.

### Knights Island State Park

North Hero

One of the few undeveloped islands left on Lake Champlain, Knight Island State Park is preserved as a primitive state park with protected bays for swimming, a trail system for hikers wanting to experience the island's largely unspoiled nature and remote camping sites for prospective campers.

For information on rates, times and reservations, contact Burton Island State Park at 802-524-6353.

### North Hero State Park

3803 Lakeview Drive, North Hero

North Hero State Park, a modest, unstaffed day park with options for swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking, is one of the islands' richest wild-life sites, with its low-lying forest offering a refuge for many of the lake's wilder inhabitants. Keep an eye out for everything from ducks and deer to the turtles who nest along this park's stony beach every summer.

The park is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day from 10 a.m. to sunset.


### Sand Bar State Park

1215 U.S. Route 2, Milton

A small, 15-acre park tucked along Route 2, the Sand Bar State Park offers 2,000 feet of sandy beach and stunning lakeside views, as well as canoe and kayak rentals, a play area and spaces for cooking and grilling. From the park's centerpiece beach, Lake Champlain remains considerably shallow far out from shore, making it an ideal spot for families with children.

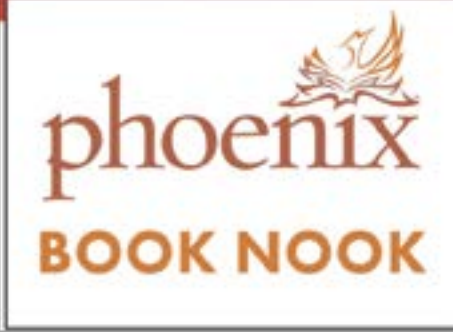

The Sand Bar State Park is open for day-use from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Keep in mind that, as of recent construction, the Sand Bar State Park's entrance has moved further west along Route 2.

The Sand Bar State Park is open for day-use from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.



**VIVA**  
**MARKETPLACE**

**EAT · SHOP · PLAY**


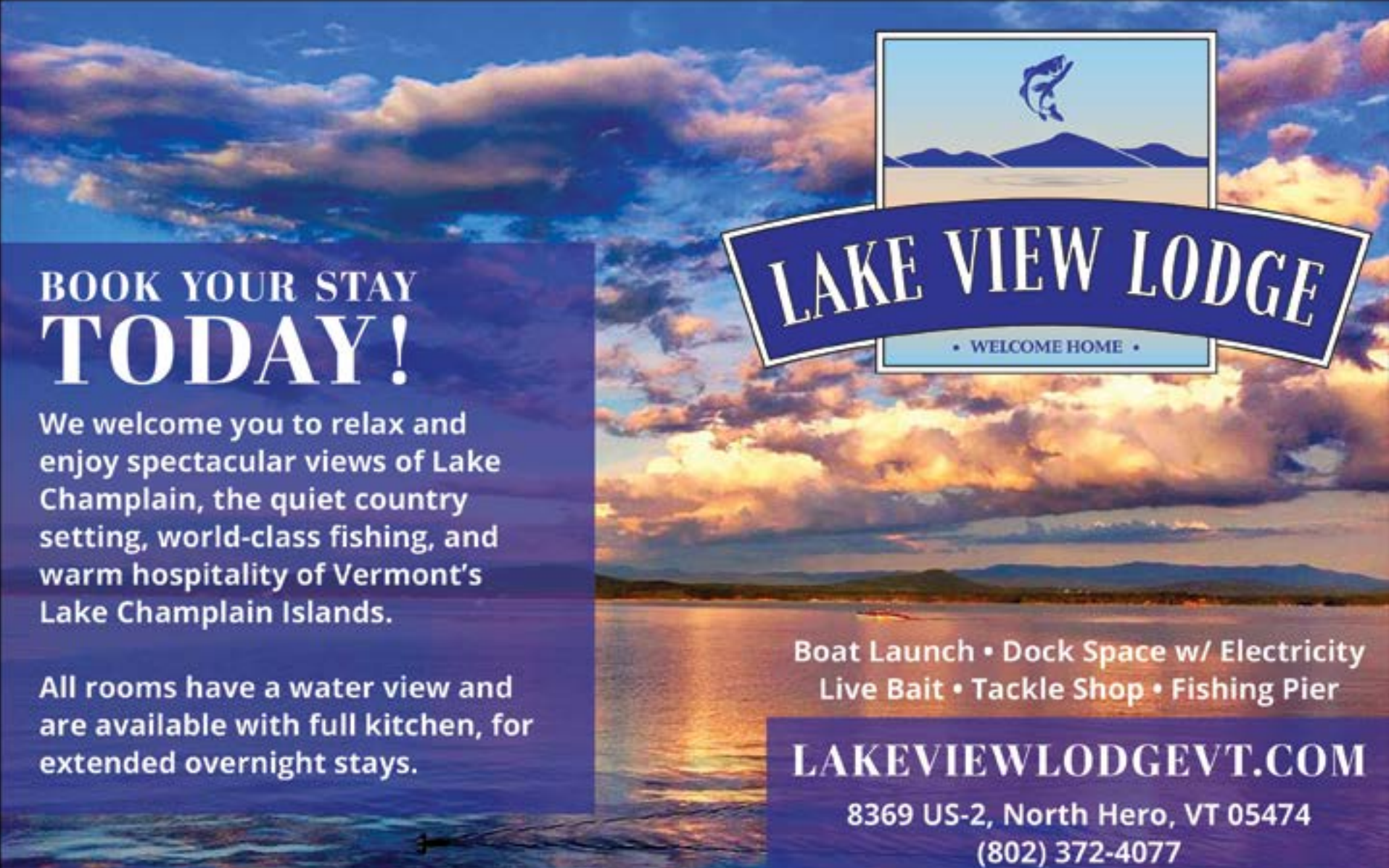


**Seb's**

phoenix  
**BOOK NOOK**

**ISLAND ESCAPE ROOM**

@sebssnackbar  
@viva.marketplace  
[www.vivamarketplacevt.com](http://www.vivamarketplacevt.com)



**LAKE VIEW LODGE**

• WELCOME HOME •

**BOOK YOUR STAY TODAY!**

We welcome you to relax and enjoy spectacular views of Lake Champlain, the quiet country setting, world-class fishing, and warm hospitality of Vermont's Lake Champlain Islands.

All rooms have a water view and are available with full kitchen, for extended overnight stays.

Boat Launch • Dock Space w/ Electricity  
Live Bait • Tackle Shop • Fishing Pier

**LAKEVIEWLODGEVT.COM**  
8369 US-2, North Hero, VT 05474  
(802) 372-4077



# Island Arts

1127 US Route 2, North Hero, VT 05474

## Summer Season 2024 at the Island Arts Center

- \* 6/22-23 Book Sale by Donation
- \* 10/5 Weekend in the Islands Book Sale by Donation
- \* 10/6 Weekend in the Islands Book Sale & Silent Auction!

**CLASSICAL**

- \* 7/26 Eclectica String Quartet
- 8/23 Sohyun Ahn, Eun Hee Park, Piano solo and 4-hands
- TBD Jorge Garcia Herranz, Piano solo

**JAZZ, BLUEGRASS, BAND, AND WIND**

- \* 6/29 Mango Jam, 6-piece band
- \* 7/14 Bella Voca Band and Dance Party
- 8/4 Green Mountain Brass Band
- 8/11 The Dixie Six
- 8/17 Haiduck & Heckendorn Jazz Quartet Cabaret
- 8/18 Vermont Jazz Ensemble
- \* 8/25 Marsh Lights Bluegrass Concert

**VOCALS, DANCE, AND THEATER**

- \* 7/25 Project Serenade Youth Opera Performance + Q&A
- \* 7/28 Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater
- 8/3 A Cappella Lollapalooza, vocal groups
- August Spontaneous Evening under the Stars

*Tai Chi, Yoga, Craft, Singing, Jazz Combo,  
Film Camp, Birding, Communication,  
and other classes may be found on the Island Arts website!*

[www.islandarts.org](http://www.islandarts.org) • [tickets@islandarts.org](mailto:tickets@islandarts.org) • 802-372-8889



22 & under FREE      \* FREE for all

*Fostering the arts in Grand Isle County*



## “Fort Blunder” and Fort Montgomery

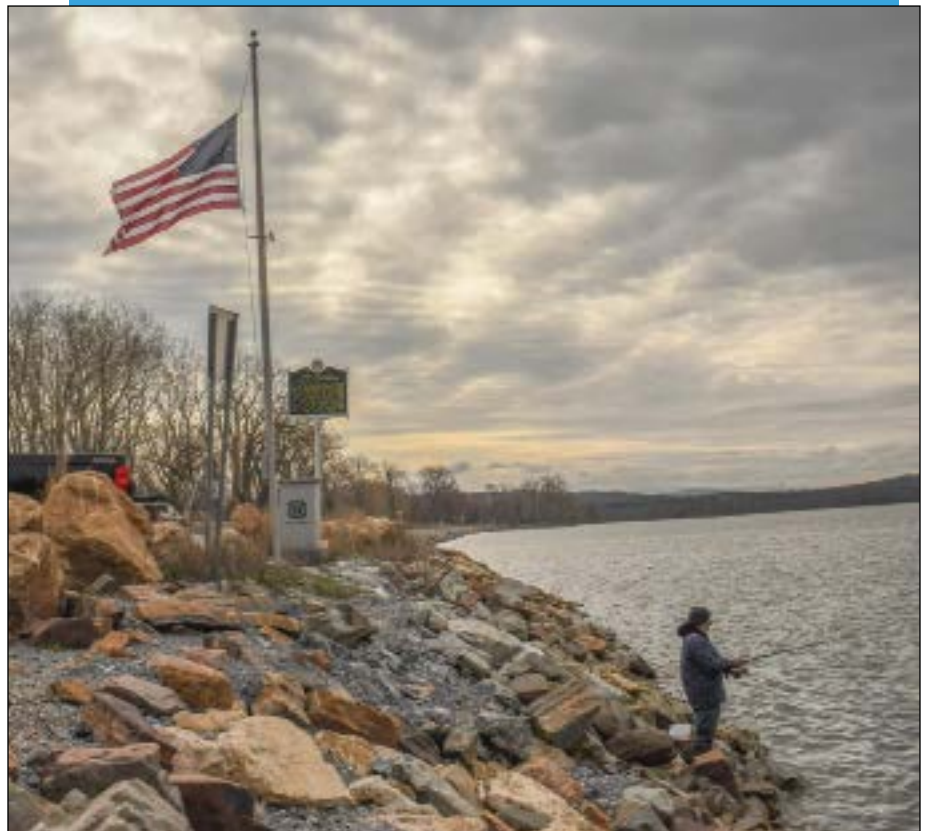


Sitting silently across Lake Champlain from Alburgh in New York is Fort Montgomery, a stone fortress built to fortify Lake Champlain against British incursions from Canada. Once celebrated as strategically important by Civil War commanders, Fort Montgomery sits in disrepair today.

The fort is only the second to straddle the Canadian border on Lake Champlain, however. Notoriously, the surveyors mapping out this first fort made a mistake, leading Americans to inadvertently build their first Rouses Point battery on what was then Canadian soil.

The mistake earned this first fort, and Fort Montgomery after it, a nickname: “Fort Blunder.”

## 9/11 Memorial on the Causeway



In the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks in 2001, a group of residents from Grand Isle County raised an American flag on a birch pole in a Lake Champlain sandbar, creating a memorial virtually overnight to honor those who were killed in the attacks.

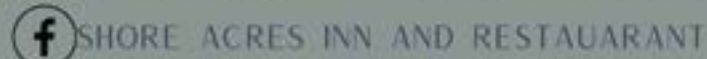
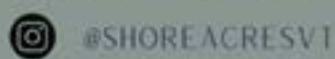
Nearly a decade later, the flag was moved to its current place on the Sandbar Causeway with an inscription recalling those islanders’ gesture and reminding us to “never forget.” The memorial is cared for by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and a local group of military veterans.

# YOU DESERVE THIS!

With our restaurant, 1800 feet of lakefront, and 23 rooms nestled in between some of the most glorious lake, mountain, and sunrise views you've ever seen- you will never be bored, just the most relaxed you've ever been



Have dinner, come to an event, plan your wedding- no matter what it'll be the best night of your life



802-372-8722 237 SHORE ACRES DRIVE NORTH HERO VT

## Join us for drinks and dinner at the lakeside.

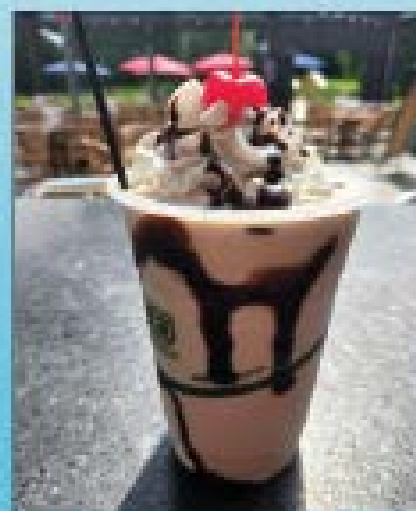


*bravozulu\_vt*



*Bravo Zulu Lakeside Bar*

Come to Bravo Zulu Lakeside Bar to enjoy our retractable awning while enjoying great food, drinks, and service along the shore of beautiful Lake Champlain this summer. Trivia Tuesdays and Sunday Fundays with live music are sure to add to your pleasure. Boaters welcome!



**802-378-5578 89 SHORE ACRES DRIVE, NORTH HERO, VERMONT**

# HISTORIC SITES SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Located between two states and two countries, Lake Champlain has played a key role in our nation's history. That includes the Islands. Many of the communities here now were founded in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War. Learn about the events and people that have shaped the Islands by stopping by some of the places where the history took place.

## SOUTH HERO

Start in South Hero's historic village<sup>1</sup>, this community's vibrant village center built around today's Route 2. Stop and learn a little about this town from its Bicentennial Museum, grab a creemee across the street from the historic South Hero Inn or browse the thrift shop tucked into this community's historic meeting house.

If you're thinking about a few detours, consider running along



Ferry Road toward Gordon's Landing<sup>2</sup>, where a modern ferry dock is overlooked by the preserved home of former ferry operators and the state's largest fish hatchery, or trace West Shore Road and see the rustic farmlands that helped build this quiet islands community.

See if you can't spy Carleton's Prize<sup>3</sup> as you round West Shore Road toward White's Beach, named for locals Harlow and Mary White. Carleton's Prize, a small, rocky island visible from South Hero, earned its name from a Revolutionary War bombardment ordered by a British general named Carleton who, on a foggy morning, mistook the jagged rock for an American gunboat.

## GRAND ISLE

From South Hero, head north along Route 2 toward Grand Isle, and you'll eventually find the Hyde Log Cabin<sup>4</sup>. Built by a Revolutionary War veteran, the Hyde cabin is one of the oldest surviving log cabins in the country and today's home for the Grand Isle Historical Society.



While in Grand Isle, also consider a detour onto East Shore Road toward the Grand Isle Lake House<sup>5</sup>, one of the few surviving turn-of-the-century lakeside hotels in Vermont. Preserved by the Preservation Trust of Vermont, there are plans to reopen the historic Grand Isle Lake House as an events space.

## NORTH HERO

Heading north through North Hero will bring you past the Homer Knight Barn, a 19<sup>th</sup> century barn restored as an arts center today, and into North Hero's historic village center<sup>6</sup>. Here, you can browse the local general store, stop at the Hookenspoon museum and take in the views of City Bay.



The village's courthouse dates back to 1824 and is among the oldest in Vermont. A former Catholic church and general store at the village's south now houses an arts center. An inn nearby dates back to the late 1800s and has welcomed Hollywood royalty like Paul Newman and Robert Redford to the Champlain Islands.

## ISLE LA MOTTE

Before following Route 2 further north into Alburgh, make sure to swing through Isle La Motte, the islands' smallest community and among its most storied.



Stop along Shrine Road at today's Saint Anne's Shrine, where the first European settlement in Vermont – Fort Saint Anne – once stood<sup>7</sup>. From there, head south along West Shore Road, where you'll pass the historic Fisk Farm<sup>8</sup> where then-Vice President Theodore Roosevelt learned the president he would soon replace, William McKinley, had been shot in an ultimately successful assassination attempt. The farm, today, hosts a gallery in its restored carriage barn and rental cottages.

Following West Shore Road, you'll eventually arrive at the Fisk Quarry<sup>9</sup>. Today a nature preserve, the quarry once supplied a celebrated "black marble" to places as far away as New York City, where Isle La Motte stone can be found in the Radio City Music Hall.

Finally, before leaving Isle La Motte, stop by the Isle La Motte Historical Society's campus<sup>10</sup> located just south of the town's village center. The museum complex offers a look at both a stone schoolhouse, a historic blacksmith shop and unique cabin maintained by the historical society to share this small town's story.

### ALBURGH

Finally, after leaving Isle La Motte, return to Route 2 and swing north through the islands' northernmost town. Along the way, note the beautiful, historic stone houses found across the peninsula, as well as the rolling agricultural landscapes that have long defined Alburgh.



Eventually, you'll come across Alburgh's village<sup>11</sup>, the historic home to a bustling railroad hub developed when the Rutland Railroad extended its Island Line north. While the railroad's since left, some artifacts remain, including the rail trail leading away from Alburgh's village and a nearby pumphouse.



Swing by the local museum, housed in a former fire station, where you can learn about the different forces shaping this small Vermont town between its agricultural heritage and the arrival of the railroad, as well as the frogging trade that brought the town a post office and the mineral waters that drew people from as far away as Boston.

Head south and then east from the village toward Swanton. You'll find a historic marker noting the Bohannon Site<sup>12</sup>, where archaeologists unearthed evidence of a centuries-old Native American village. Nearby you'll find the road to Alburgh Springs<sup>13</sup>, a quiet hamlet that was once a vibrant tourist destination celebrated for its mineral water.

\*\*\*\*\* **NEW ENGLAND VIA VERMONT** \*\*\*\*\*

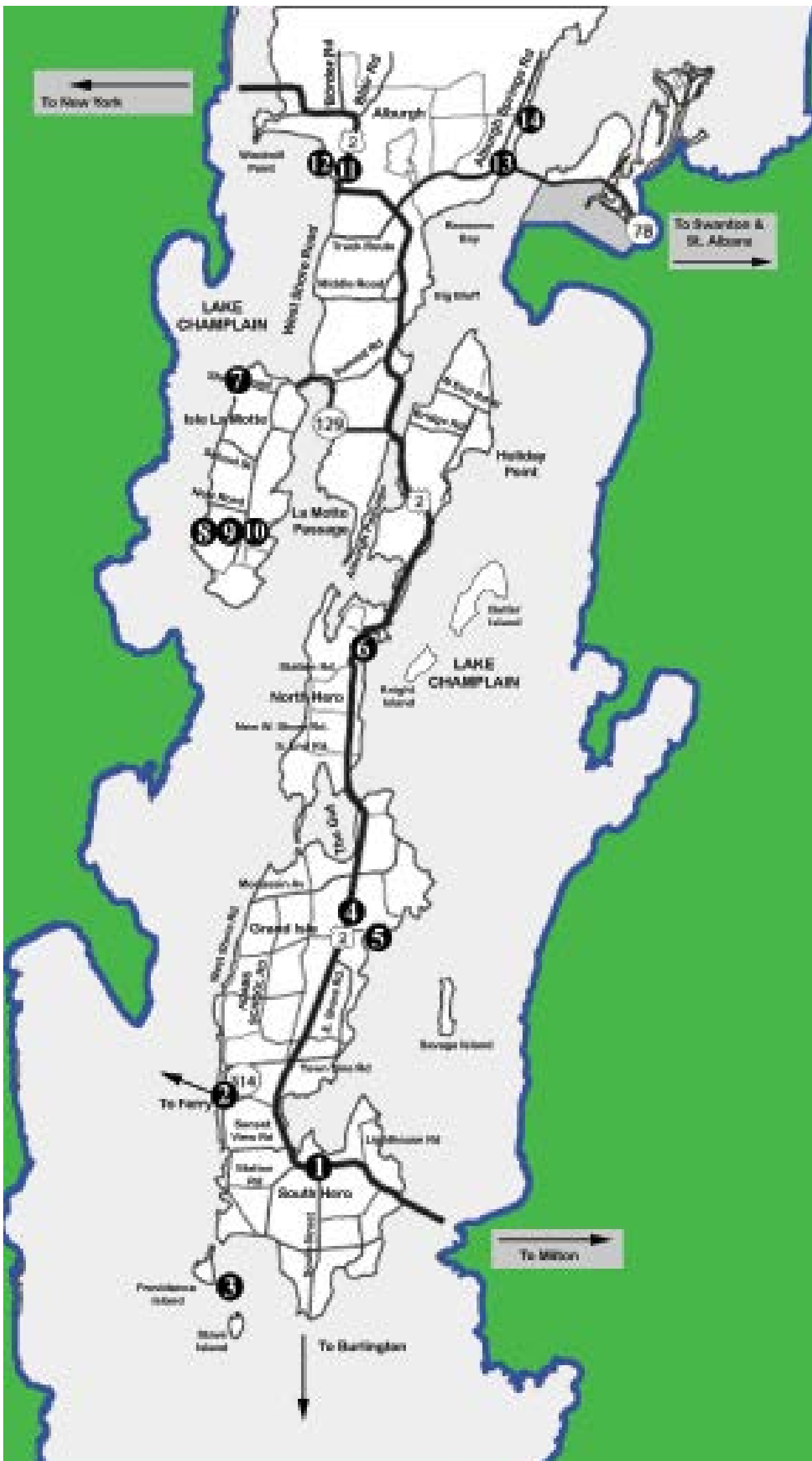
28 Milk Street, Alburgh Village, VT 05440

EXPLORE our FREE Civil War Museum and Geology & History Room Curious Objects

Open daily!

SHOP for VT Souvenirs  
Rocks & Fossils  
Books & Puzzles  
Maple & Cheddar

www.newenglandviavermont.com 802-796-3665



# Fishing the Lake Champlain Islands

The Lake Champlain Islands offer outstanding fishing for anglers of all types from serious sport fishermen and women to the child casting their first line and everything in between.

## FISHING LICENSES

Licenses are required for adult anglers. Children 14 and under may fish for free, while youth 15-17 qualify for a special license. Licenses are available through a link at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish)

A license for one, three or seven days, a year, or five years.

## FREE FISHING DAYS

No license is needed for Vermont's free fishing days on the second Saturdays in January and June.

## WHAT WILL YOU REEL IN?

From its shallow shorelines to the deep waters and everything in between, Lake Champlain is a bustling fishery with some of the best fishing in the country. While it's no means an exhaustive list, here's a few of the fish you might reel in when you cast out onto America's "Sixth Great Lake."

Be mindful that not every fish is always in season, and many of our local fish species, like walleye, need to be allowed to grow to a certain size before they can reproduce. Help protect our fisheries and mind Vermont and New York's fishing laws.

### Lake Trout

One of Lake Champlain's returning predators after their reintroduction through fish stocking programs and some apparent ingenuity on the part of the fish in finding new spawning grounds, lake trout can be identified by their forked tails and the light splotches tracing the fish's length. During the summer months, these fish migrate from their shallow spawning grounds into Lake Champlain's deeper waters.

### Landlocked Atlantic Salmon

Resembling their sea-faring siblings, the landlocked Atlantic salmon can be best identified by their silvery flanks speckled with black. Famed fighters, Lake Champlain's salmon typically spend the summer months in deeper water.

### Smallmouth Bass

Fans of Lake Champlain's shallower inlets, smallmouth bass can be identified by their green and bronze hue, elongated body and a shorter upper jaw than their largemouth counterparts.

Adult smallmouth bass are notorious gluttons and will eat anything that can fit in their mouth, including frogs, newts, dragonflies and smaller fish.

Anglers regularly cite the Lake Champlain watershed as being home to some of the best bass fishing in the country.

### Black and White Crappie

*Best Fishing in America* calls Lake Champlain an "underrated crappie lake," celebrating these panfishes' reach across the lake. Look for these delicious table-fare fish in clearer water with rich vegetation.



### Walleye

The largest member of the perch family, walleyes are prized predators in Lake Champlain. Look for walleye prowling among the weeds and sunken logs, preferred ambush sites for this stealthy hunter. Because their eyes are sensitive to light, walleyes are more common in more turbid waters and at night.

### Yellow Perch

Yellow perch are a local favorite for evening fish fries and can be found across the Green Mountain State. Yellow perch, named



for their golden-yellow hue, are often found congregating in schools along the shoreline, though fish can also sneak into more moderately deep water. Look

for these aggressive eaters in covered environments like weeds and docks, particularly near where water depth suddenly drops.

### Northern Pike

Spawning grounds for the northern pike, a long-bodied predator with a toothed snout, can be found across the Champlain Islands, from the "crick" in South Hero to the seasonally flooded forests of the North Hero State Park. The northern pike is among the region's best known gamefish and are known to prowl Lake Champlain's weedier bays, sometimes drifting into more open water during the summer.

## VERMONT'S LARGEST FISH HATCHERY

The largest and most modern fish hatchery in Vermont can be found a short distance from the ferry dock in Grand Isle. Built in 1991, the Ed Weed Fish Culture Station is the newest of the state's hatcheries and a flagship for fisheries management in Lake Champlain, helping raise many of the salmon, trout and walleye now calling Lake Champlain and its tributaries home.



The hatchery is open to the public for self-guided tours, welcoming visitors to tour the massive tanks where young trout and salmon are raised before their eventual release into Lake Champlain. During the fall, visitors might even spy some of Lake Champlain's Atlantic salmon as they leap upstream from a nearby inlet back toward the hatchery they once called home.

# I CAUGHT A FISH. NOW WHAT?

It is considered safe to eat fish from Lake Champlain, according to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

However, if you would rather release your fish, use hooks without barbs and remove it as gently as possible, while keeping the fish in water. If the hook is in the gills, stomach, or throat leave the hook in the fish, as it will rust and drop off in a few months.

For more on fishing in Vermont, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish).

## Clean, drain, dry: Prevent invasive species from infecting our waters

Lake Champlain, like many lakes around the country, is struggling with a number of invasive species threatening to upend the delicate ecosystems we love. Boaters, anglers and everyone in between can help protect these waters with a few simple steps:

**CLEAN:** Remove any aquatic plants, mud and zebra mussels from your boats, trailers and other water equipment, and discard removed materials where it won't wash back into the lake;

**DRAIN:** Drain your bilges, live wells wet wells, bait containers and boat motors to prevent any stowaways that might sneak into another body of water; and

**DRY:** Dry your boat and gear when you're done, as many aquatic invasive species need moisture to survive.

We love our lakes and rivers here in Vermont. Please help protect them by keeping your boats clean and your lines dry.

## Fishing and Boating Access Areas

There are many designated Fish and Wildlife Accesses available to launch a boat, kayak or canoe or just cast a line.

These accesses make it easy for everyone to enjoy the lake, but only when used appropriately. Please follow the posted rules for use and be sure to clean your boat before and after launching to prevent spreading invasive species!

For more information, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

This handy guide to fishing and boating access areas includes location and which activities are allowed.

### Alburgh

Dillenbeck Bay Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
Route 2

Horicans Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
West Shore Road

Kelly Bay Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
Route 2

Korean War Veteran's  
Access Area  
Fishing  
Route 2 at the bridge to New York

Mud Creek Pond Access Area  
Fishing  
Route 78

### Grand Isle

Ed Weed Access Area  
Fishing  
West Shore Road

Vantines Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
West Shore Road

### Isle la Motte

Holcomb Bay Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
Access Road

Stoney Point  
Boating, Fishing  
West Shore Road

### North Hero

Kings Bay Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
Lakeview Drive

North Hero Causeway  
Access Area  
Fishing  
Bridge Road

Stephenson Point Access  
Area

Boating, Fishing  
North End Road East

### South Hero

Allen Point Access Area  
Fishing  
Allen Point Road

John Guilmette Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
Featherbed Lane

Keeler Bay Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
Route 2

### Swanton

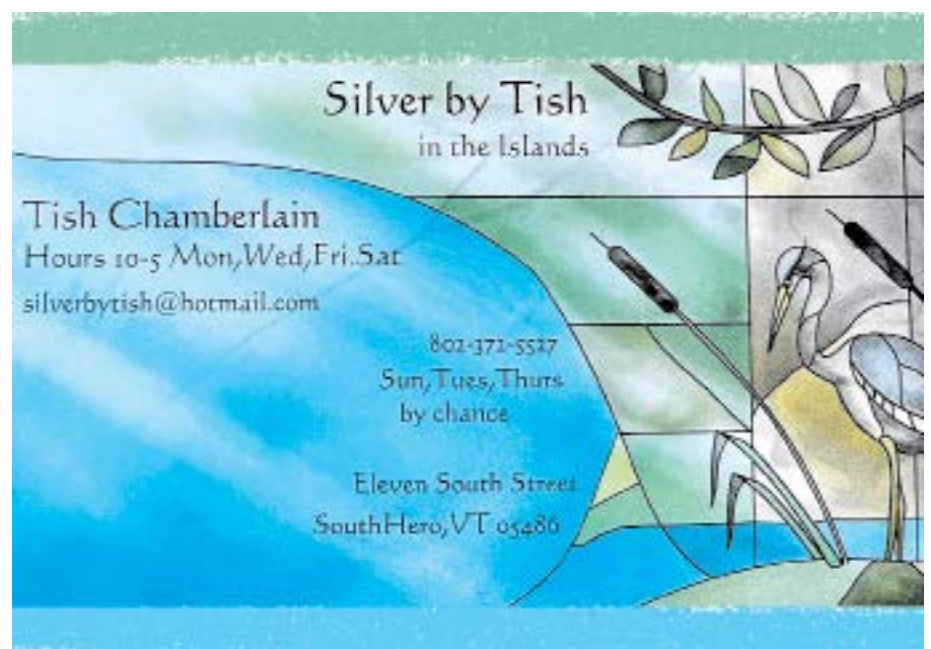
Babbie Access Area  
Fishing

Route 7  
Entry to the Missisquoi River for  
Kayak, Canoe

Charcoal Creek Access Area  
Fishing  
Route 78

Larry Greene Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
Route 78

Tabor Point Access Area  
Boating, Fishing  
Hog Island Road



# Look to the Skies:

## Birding in the Champlain Islands

With plenty of marshes and bays for shelter and a pronounced place on the Atlantic Flyway, the Champlain Islands are an incredible space for spotting some of our feathered friends passing through the Champlain Valley and summering among the islands.

In a given year, millions of birds pass through the valley as they travel between their breeding grounds in Canada and their wintering homes in the tropics. Everything from osprey and eagles to great blue herons (the islands' unofficial mascot) and a whole mess of ducks visit the Champlain Islands throughout the year.

Great Blue Heron



Volunteer counts conducted by Audubon Vermont have clocked somewhere around 150 or so different species in a single day. The Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in the nearby town of Swanton has reported around 200 different species visiting its stretch of federally protected lakeshore and protected riverscape.

For the amateur birder, the islands can be a paradise. Just remember to be respectful of other people living here in the Champlain Islands and to always keep an eye on the sky – you never know what might fly into view!

Here are a few things to keep in mind as you begin your birding journey through the islands.

### Seabirds on the Sandbar

This is cheating somewhat, but one of the first places to stop and spy birds in the Champlain Islands is the causeway connecting South Hero and Milton. Nearby, the Lamoille River drains into Lake Champlain and feeds one of the state's most vibrant wetland complexes, an area sheltering dozens of different bird species throughout the year.

One of the most special features about this area, however, requires you to leave those wetland areas behind and, instead, stop at the causeway's memorial pullover. Not only can you spy a number of the Champlain Valley's more colorful ducks from this overlook, depending on the time of year, you might spy our local common terns as they dip



Caspian Tern

in and out of the water for fish.

An endangered species in Vermont, the common tern is a native of large bodies of water like Lake Champlain, where they'll nest among beaches and marshes. On Lake Champlain, they call a collection of small, protected islands home, claiming nesting sites that, according to Audubon Vermont, they'll likely return to every year.

As the summer winds on, terns become more common further north near Alburgh and the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Swanton. Just be careful not to mistake common terns for their counterparts, the Caspian tern, a larger bird whose tail isn't quite as deeply forked as the common tern's. Caspian terns have become increasingly common in the Champlain Valley in recent years.

### Hunting the 'Birder's Dozen' among the woods

Between each of the Champlain Islands are tracks of preserved woods, like the Tracy Woods in South Hero and the Butternut Hill Natural Area in North Hero. While the environments in these preserves vary widely, they all have at least one thing in common: They're wonderful birding sites.



Osprey

As you wander the woods, keep an eye on the forest edges, where wild turkeys might prowl and where you might spy a few warblers taking advantage of a forest's vibrant borders. Deeper in the forest, listen for woodpeckers, a number of which call the islands' forests home, and chase the squeaks of nuthatches as they hop between branches.

Audubon Vermont has a short list of woodland birds to keep an eye out for – the "Birder's Dozen" – to use as you prowl our woods for



birds. Many, like the white-throated sparrow and yellow-bellied sapsucker, can be spied among the Champlain Islands' forests.

Find a guide to the "Birder's Dozen" online at <https://vt.audubon.org/sites/default/files/bird-guide.pdf>.

### Eagles and osprey

As you prowl the Champlain Islands, you might notice a few larger birds lurking over our bays and marshes from above. Among these apex predators are two of Vermont's most successful conservation stories – the bald eagle and the osprey.

The osprey or "fish hawk" can often be seen prowling for its next meal over Lake Champlain's shores. A series of nesting poles raised among the region's swamps alongside other management efforts have allowed this bird, identified by its brown and white feathers and piercing yellow eye, to come back after nearly being wiped from the state decades ago.

While ospreys tend to be more common in the summer months, keep an eye out for our local eagles. After habitat loss, trophy hunting and the use of certain pesticides saw Vermont's eagles disappear, a concerted reintroduction and conservation effort brought the bald eagle back from the brink, culminating in the eagle's removal from Vermont's endangered species list several years ago.

Both of these charismatic birds call the Champlain Islands home.

### Hearing the call of the common loon

While more commonly spotted among their nesting sites along Vermont's inland lakes and ponds, the iconic common loon is no stranger to Lake Champlain. Especially during their seasonal fall migration, loons have been known to drift into Lake Champlain, using the lake's northern waters as a staging area before beginning their journey south.

A charming diving bird whose haunting call echoes over New En-

gland's lakes, the common loon is another of Vermont's conservation successes, having rebounded from a threatened extinction in Vermont after a blend of conservation, monitoring and even rescue efforts guaranteed the loon a continued place on Vermont's landscape.

The common loon is readily recognizable by its charismatic checkered plumage and its sharp red eyes. During the winter, when common loons can sometimes be spied among pockets of open water in Lake Champlain's south, loons will sport a more modest, brown-and-white plumage with speckles plotted along their back and wings.



Juvenile Bald Eagle

 <p><b>Emmons</b> <b>SUPERMARKET</b> Grand Isle, Vermont</p> <p><b>Largest Grocery Store in the Islands</b></p>  <p>Full Deli • Meat • Produce &amp; Bakery Dept. Fresh Baked Pizza Homemade Deli Sandwiches and much, much more</p> <p><b>(802) 372-4531</b></p>	 <p><b>Emmons</b> <b>Bait &amp; Tackle</b></p> <p><b>Only Sports Shop in the Islands</b></p> <p>Live Bait Fishing Tackle Fishing &amp; Hunting Licenses and much, much more!</p> <p><b>193 US -2 Grand Isle, VT 05458</b></p>
--	--

# Milton and Colchester

The Chittenden County towns of Milton and Colchester border the islands to the south. Both offer outstanding places to enjoy the outdoors.

## Milton

The town of Milton has a number of outstanding recreational areas, as well as The Milton Artists Guild Art Center and Gallery (199 Route 7, Milton), which displays works from artists and artisans around the region.

### Getting outdoors in Milton

Milton offers a wide range of chances to get outdoors, from taking in the sights of the Lake Champlain shoreline to teeing off at one of Vermont's newest disc golf courses and kayaking the manmade lake in the town's core. Here's a few places to get outdoors in this Chittenden County town.

#### **Bombardier Park East and West**

1 Tennis Court & 20 Park Place



Milton boasts an outstanding recreation area in Bombardier Park, which has two sections, east and west. Both have facilities for activities like tennis, pickleball, horseshoe, volleyball, and basketball courts, a GaGa ball pit, picnic areas and public restrooms.

Those looking for a walk in the woods will find a gentle hike through Bombardier Park West's woods. A nearby dog park is a popular place to let your furry friends off leash, and the town recently added mountain biking trails and a new disc golf course maintained by volunteers, creating even more chances to spend time outdoors.

#### **Eagle Mountain Natural Area**

Henry Road

Tucked into rural West Milton is Eagle Mountain, a 226-acre parcel overlooking Lake Champlain with breathtaking views of the Champlain Islands and Adirondacks. On your way up Eagle Mountain, you'll find rolling fields, sugar maple forests and maybe even a few rare plants and animals calling this stretch of rocky shoreline home.

Despite being one of the Lake Champlain shoreline's highest peaks, Eagle Mountain is an easy 2.5 mile hike advertised as "family friendly" by the Lake Champlain Land Trust.

Parking for the Eagle Mountain Natural Area is located at the end of Henry Road, which branches off Beebe Hill Road in West Milton. Look for the small kiosk to know you've arrived.

#### **Lamoille River Walk**

Ritchie Avenue behind the GMP gate, Checkerberry Square



The Lamoille River Walk, maintained by the Milton Conservation Commission, traces the Lamoille River as it passes through Milton's core. The 1.5 mile trail will take you through upland forests and low-lying wetlands as you follow a stretch of one of Vermont's great rivers.

You'll also learn a little history, too, as the Lamoille River Walk's Ritchie Avenue trailhead can be found at the base of the hydroelectric dams spanning Milton Falls, among the foundations of a historic paper mill that once took advantage of the great river running nearby.

The Lamoille River Walk can be accessed from a trailhead at the bottom of the winding road found at the end of Ritchie Avenue and at the very end of Checkerberry Square.

#### **Milton Town Forest**

Westford Road



Located along Westford Road is the Milton Town Forest, a 492-acre parcel and biological hotspot rung with six miles of trails surrounding its centerpiece Milton Pond. Hiking trails will bring visitors along through rich woodlands and ridgeline overlooks, while potentially introducing them to a host of wildlife ranging from blue jays to beavers and maybe even moose.

Try to arrive early, if you can. The Milton Town Forest has only grown in popularity in recent years, and parking at its Westford Road trailhead is often tight.

For each of the trails, visit [www.miltonvt.gov](http://www.miltonvt.gov) for a downloadable brochure and trail map.

### Arrowhead Mountain Lake

Route 104A in Georgia, Rugg Avenue in Milton

While Lake Champlain is the obvious jewel of this region, Milton boasts another spectacular waterbody for those looking to take to the water this summer. A reservoir formed by the dams at Milton Falls, Arrowhead Mountain Lake stretches between Milton and the Town of Georgia.

Boaters looking to set out on this lake will need to put-in further north in Georgia, where a public fishing and boat access can be found on Route 104A between Georgia and Fairfax. Kayakers, meanwhile, can find a quiet launch on Rugg Avenue in Milton.

While on the water, keep an eye on the sky – eagles and osprey are both well known residents of this inland lake.

### For the amateur historian

With a history dating back to the American Revolution, Milton is a storied community. Take some time to learn about this growing town's centuries-old roots, from its founding to the vibrant community built around Milton Falls, the racing legacies helping put this town on the map and the Civil War hero who called Milton home for a time.

### Visit the Museum and Explore Milton Falls

More than a century ago, a rich community grew around Milton Falls, taking advantage of the power provided by the rushing waters. While much of this community was wiped away in the Great Flood in 1927, a historic character still permeates throughout these neighborhoods, where you'll find historic homes, brick buildings and the former church housing today's Milton Historical Society.

In the museum, you'll find a number of stories about this community's history, from the geology and hydrology creating this

region's mountains and lakes, to the dairy farms helping build Milton, the legendary family of race car drivers calling this town home and the story of a woman who helped return once endangered ospreys to Milton's skies.

Learn more at <https://www.miltonvthistory.org/>.

### Find the home of a Civil War general

At the height of the American Civil War, as Southern Confederate forces drove into Pennsylvania and met the Northern Union Army at Gettysburg, it was a future Milton resident who gave the command that decided the battle – and possibly the war. After crumbling Pickett's Charge, Gen. George Stannard returned home to Vermont and settled into Milton, moving into a farmhouse in the town's south.



Today, much of the farmhouse sits in storage, awaiting a possible reconstruction someplace near Milton's core. However, you can find the foundation of Stannard's Milton home at a small park located near Chimney Corners, where the town's historical society has set up a series of placards describing Stannard's life both on the battlefield and at home in Milton.

The General Stannard Memorial Park can be found on Route 7 near Garden Supply.



- Rare opportunity to own a landmark Lake Champlain waterfront property.
- 610 feet of direct waterfront including deep water access.
- Stunning panoramic views of the Green Mountains, North Hero Island and Mt. Mansfield.

Rare opportunity to own this landmark Lake Champlain waterfront property that includes a 4 bedroom lodge and 6 motel style units situated on nearly 3 acres. This magnificent property has many outdoor gathering areas, gardens, a 100' dock to accommodate most boats, a floating dock for swimming, 4 boat moorings and a beautiful awning deck overlooking the lake that can easily seat 30-40 people. You can continue to operate this successful resort property with a loyal customer base or use it as a great summertime family compound, corporate company retreat, short term rental property, wedding venue and so much more!

**Dan Titus**  
Broker / Co-Owner  
FLEX REALTY  
802-578-8885  
[Dan@FlexRealtyVT.com](mailto:Dan@FlexRealtyVT.com)  
[www.FlexRealty.com](http://www.FlexRealty.com)

# Colchester

Colchester is Vermont's largest town by land mass. Places to visit include Malletts Bay and Fort Ethan Allen.

## Bike the Island Line

From Airport Park, bikers can pick up the Island Line Trail Bike Path, bringing them out onto the scenic causeway spanning Lake Champlain between Colchester and South Hero. A ferry run by Local Motion allows bikers to finish the trip over the lake, connecting them to Allen Point in South Hero.



Heading south from here, bikers will also find a route leading them directly to Burlington, Vermont's largest city. The Island Line Trail's journey south traces Lake Champlain and spans the Winooski River, running along several beautiful lakeside vistas before finally depositing riders in the Queen City's downtown and beyond.

Those looking for an easier-going time can just stay in Airport Park, home to a number of athletic fields, a playground, a 1.3 mile walking path and a historic schoolhouse.

## Go for a swim in Malletts Bay

One of Lake Champlain's best known inlets, Malletts Bay is a perfect place to take a swim. Colchester offers two public beaches for those wanting to take advantage of this community's place on the water – the Rossetti Beach Natural Area, and Bayside Park.

Formerly known as Thayers Beach, the Rossetti Beach Natural Area is also a vibrant, state-significant natural area home to several rare species of plants. The beach can be accessed from a gravel trail leading from a parking lot on Holy Cross Road.

The Bayside Park, meanwhile, is a smaller park looking over Malletts Bay with additional recreation facilities, including a playground and a bayside pavilion. Hop in the water or take some time instead to play a few rounds of tennis or pickleball.

## Wander Colchester Pond

As vibrant an environment as any in this ecologically rich part of the state, Colchester Pond is a conserved former pastureland with trails leading around its namesake pond. From the shores, amateur birders can look to the skies for one of the many feathered friends calling this designated Important Bird Area home or browse the wealth of wildflowers tracing the trails every spring.



Those looking for some time on the water can take to their canoes and kayaks. Colchester Pond is a popular place to fish, as well.

A parking area for the Colchester Pond can be found on Colchester Pond Road.

## Get outdoors in a former fort and explore the Winooski River Valley

Junction of Vermont Route 15 and Barnes Avenue, Essex

Straddling the line between Essex and Colchester is Fort Ethan Allen, a former fort and locale with a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic fort includes a park and a museum. Just be respectful, as Fort Ethan Allen is also residential neighborhood people call home.

For those looking to spend time outdoors, Fort Ethan Allen's park hosts tennis and pickleball courts, athletic fields and a walking trail. Across the College Parkway from the former fort are even more trails, these ones maintained by St. Michael's College and the Winooski Valley Parks District and wound through an ecologically rich forest environment looming over the Winooski River.

The Fort Ethan Allen Museum covers the history of the fort, a former cavalry post and, for a short time, U.S. Air Force base dating back to 1896. The museum is located in the fort's former pump house, one of the fort's earliest buildings.



**COMPLETE EXCAVATION & SEPTIC SERVICES**  
Serving Vermont & New York

*No job too big or too small, one call does it all!*

**CSS**

*Locally owned & operated with over 30 years experience*

- Complete site-work packages
- Septic systems installation & repair
- Driveways & utility installation
- Delivery of topsoil, sand & stone
- Slabs & foundations
- Retaining walls
- Trucking
- Septic tank pumping & grease traps
- Sewer & water jetting & thawing
- Portable toilet rentals - VIP flush units with Sinks & Standard, Handicap & Construction units
- Video camera inspection - Sewer & Drain Lines, Real Estate Inspections

**802-928-3572**  
[www.completesepticvt.com](http://www.completesepticvt.com)  
complete\_excavation\_septic



## Spiny softshell turtle



As you travel along the lake's shores and journey into a few of its local wetlands, look for this alien-like resident sunning on a stray log. Recognizable by its leathery back and pointed snout, the Eastern spiny softshell turtle is one of the islands' more unique critters, often found hiding among the region's marshes and rivers where they forage for foods like crayfish and frogs.

Today, the spiny softshell turtle is considered threatened in Vermont due to challenges with lakeshore development replacing their habitat. Officials closely manage several of their remaining nesting sites, including a beach in North Hero, and work with the ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain to rescue hatchling turtles for some wintertime TLC ahead of a summer release.

## ISLANDS AMISH CREATIONS

All Amish made furniture



Chairs



Chainsaw animal carvings



Sheds



Play houses



Bird houses



Baskets, quilts, aprons and more!

### COME VISIT US IN THE CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS

Island Craft Shop, 329 US Rte 2, So Hero, VT 802.372.3945

OLDEST ARTISAN COOPERATIVE IN GRAND ISLE COUNTY

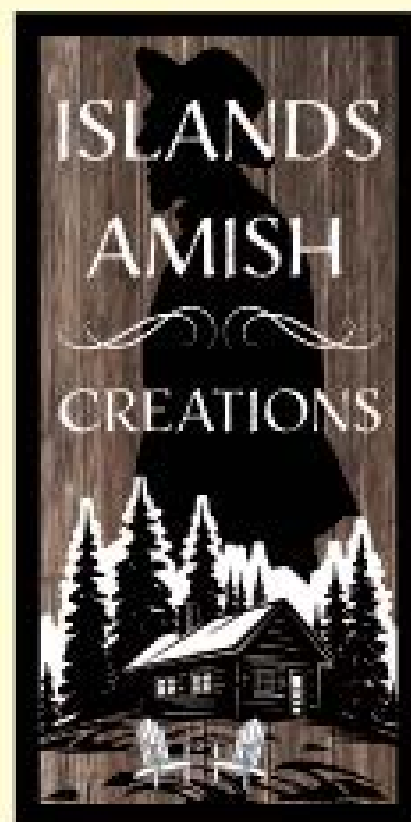


ANNUAL  
Birthday Bash. 8/3 11-3p

FREE EVENT

ART, MUSIC, FOOD, SILENT AUCTION & FUN

Open for the Season Memorial Day weekend-December



**Chainsaw animal carvings.**

**Canned & pickled vegetables.**

**Baskets, quilts and more.**

**Custom made Amish sheds, cabins, play houses, gazebos, saunas and more.**

**You think it up and we can have it built!**

Islandsamishcreations.com

Hours: Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8 to 4.

193 US 2, Grand Isle, VT, Located behind Emmons Supermarket

# Sunrises and sunsets

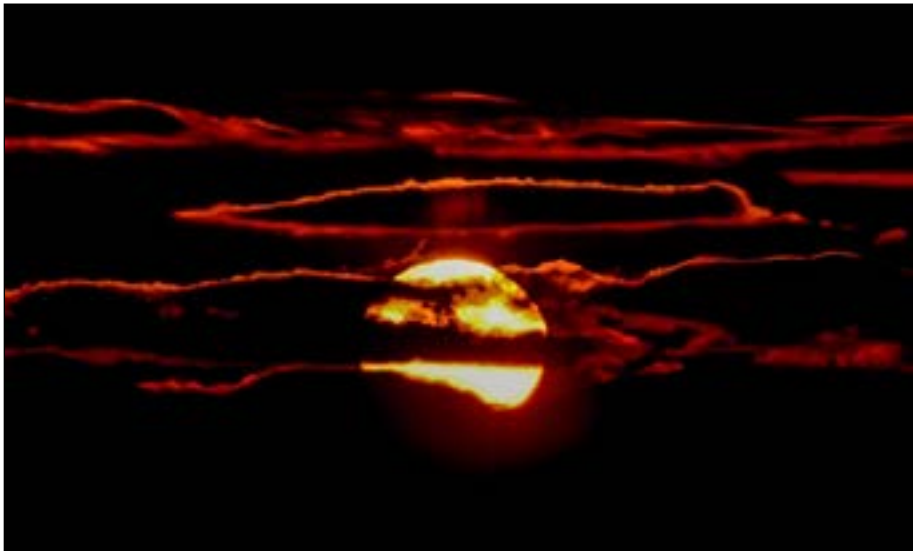
With the Green Mountains to the east and the Adirondacks to the west, the Lake Champlain Islands offer some simply spectacular views of the sun both rising and setting.



Here are some of the best places for a view.

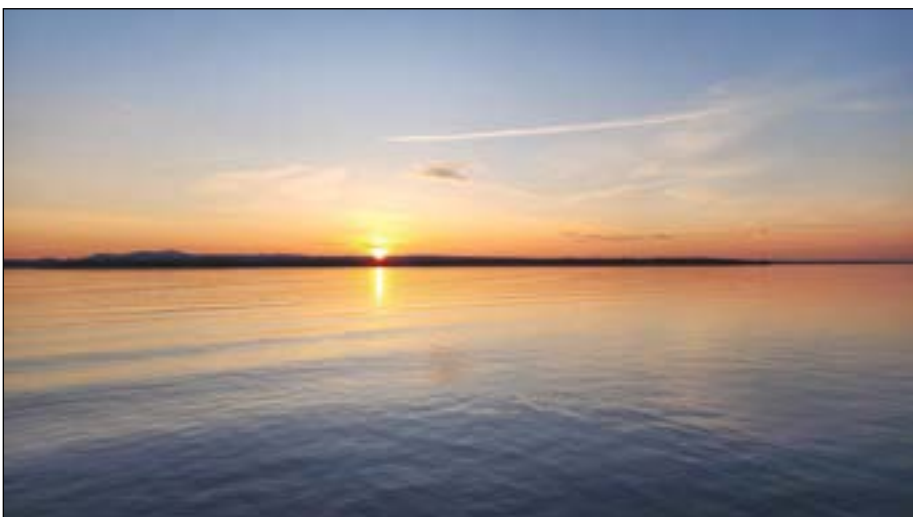
## Sandbar Wildlife Management Area and Sandbar State Park

Located on Route 2 at the southern end of the Islands, the sandbar is one of the few places to offer a gorgeous view of both the sunrise and the sunset. The nearby pull-off is an ideal spot to park your car and simply watch the sun set behind the Champlain Islands and the distant Adirondacks.



## Hero's Welcome

This North Hero General Store has a picnic area that faces the eastern side of Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains, making it an ideal location from which to watch the sun rise.



## Dillenbeck Bay Access Area

From this small, bayside boat launch in Alburgh, you can look over Lake Champlain and watch the morning sunrise climb over the Green Mountains.

## Korean War Veterans Access Area

This Alburgh spot is another of those rare locations that offer both sunrise and sunset views.

## Stoney Point Access Area

Located on West Shore Road in Isle la Motte, this state fishing access offers a clear view of the sun sinking over Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains.

## Sunset View Road, South Hero

One of the highest points on the Islands, a drive along Sunset View (going west, of course) is a perfect way to watch the sun sink over the horizon.

## Pelot's Point Nature Area

A lovely sunset view is one of the many charms this nature area in North Hero has to offer.

## Keeler Bay Access Area

Many of the best spots for looking out over the water are access points for fishing and boating. The Keeler Bay Access Area in South Hero is no exception, with terrific views of the rising sun each morning.

**HOP, STOP & SHOP**

The Green FROG  
South Hero, VT

802.372.5031  
7 Ferry Rd. South Hero, VT

## STARGAZING in the ISLANDS

While its lakeshore and mountain views understandably draw more attention, the islands also boast unvarnished views of the night sky. Miles from the closest cities and surrounded by water, would be stargazers will find open skies and little in the way of light pollution when visiting the Champlain Islands.



Major roadways like Route 2 offer a few pull-offs to safely set up a telescope or simply take in the night sky with your naked eyes. A handful of local parks also offer safe places to take in the stars. Just be sure to check the weather, be mindful of locals and stay safe.

# Advertising Directory

## Culture

Island Arts.....10

## Food

Bravo Zulu .....11  
 Shore Acres Inn & Restaurant.....11  
 Seb's SnackBar.....9

## Groceries

Emmons Supermarket.....17  
 Dreamwalker Farm & Country Store.....10

## Lodging

Lake View Lodge.....9  
 Shore Acres Inn & Restaurant.....11

## Real Estate

Andrea Champagne Real Estate.....7  
 Flex Realty.....19

## Services

C.I.D.E.R.....5  
 Complete Excavation & Septic Service.....20  
 The Islander.....24

## Shopping

Green Frog Gift Shop.....22  
 Island Craft Shop.....21  
 Silver by Tish.....15  
 Viva Marketplace.....9  
 Islands Amish Creations.....21

## Vineyards

Ellison Estate Vineyard .....15  
 Isle La Motte Vineyard.....3  
 Snow Farm Vineyard.....23

**Snow Farm Vineyard and Distillery**

Wine tasting experiences, spotlighting the unique varieties of grapes that are grown on the farm.

Music in the Vineyard on Thursday nights. Sign up for more information on our website [www.snowfarm.com](http://www.snowfarm.com)

Have your wedding at the Vineyard!  
 \*Rehearsal Dinners  
 \*Bridal Showers  
 \*Birthdays  
 \*Anniversaries  
 \*Special Events

Enjoy VT cheese, crackers and meats with your wine flight.

Featured Artists in Residence with monthly exhibits in event space.

Take a hike up Fox Hill for a breathtaking view of Lake Champlain.

**OPEN DAILY 11-5**  
**190 West Shore Rd., South Hero, VT 05486**  
**[www.snowfarm.com](http://www.snowfarm.com) 802-372-WINE**

1820s farmhouse is surrounded by restored gardens with vintage plants, a miniature stone garden castle built by the late Harry Barber, a stone mason who worked on our farm in the 1930's.

**Come Stay with Us!**  
**153 West Shore Rd., South Hero, VT 05486**  
**802-324-5563 for reservations.**

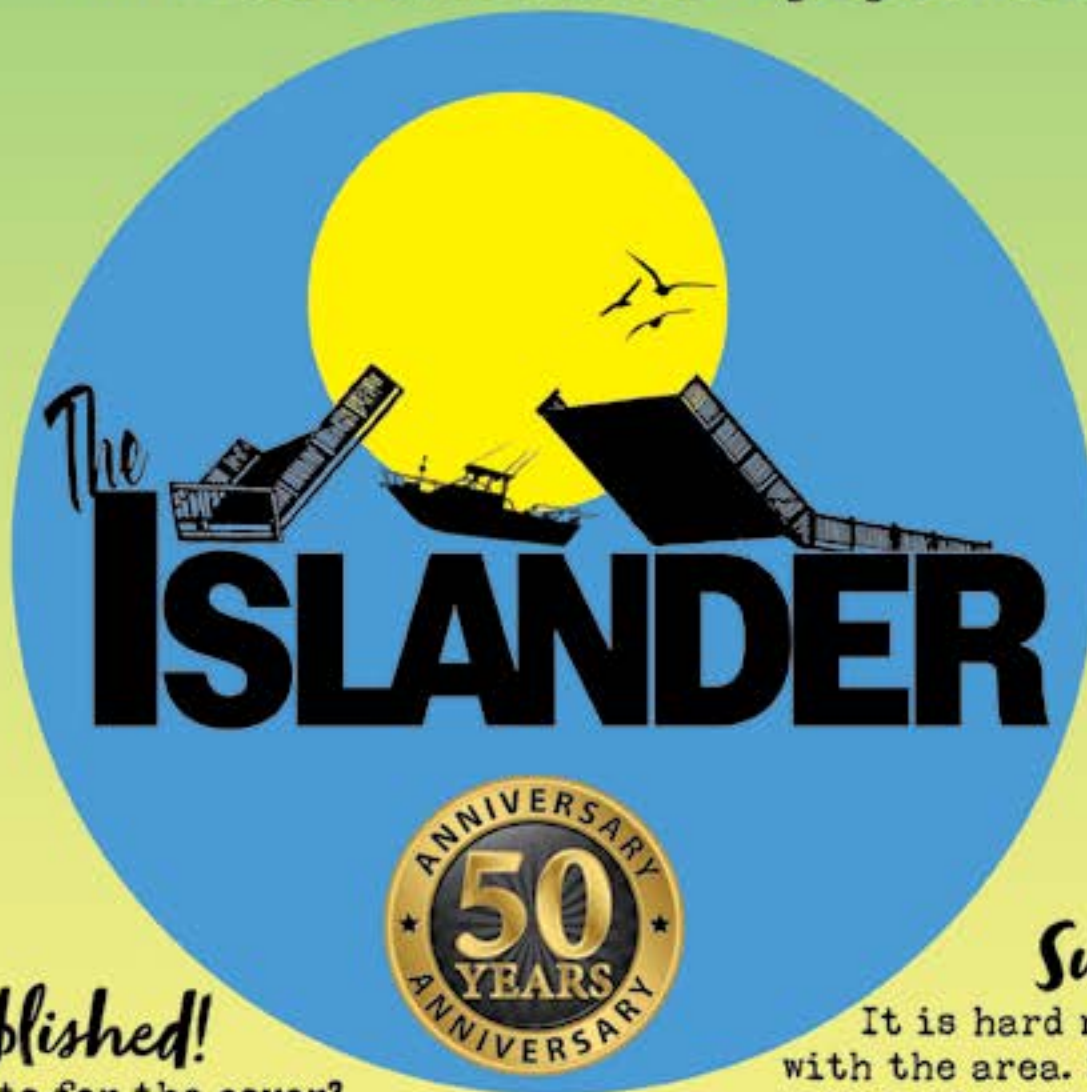
**SNOW FARM INN AT CRESCENT BAY**

To be added to the contact list for 2025 Adventure Guide advertising, call 802-372-5600 or email [islander@vermontislander.com](mailto:islander@vermontislander.com)

# Be sure to grab a copy of The Islander!

The Islands is the place to be!

Stay up to date with The Islander  
available every Thursday and online at  
[www.TheIslanderNewspaper.com](http://www.TheIslanderNewspaper.com)



## Get Published!

Got a great photo for the cover?  
Email it to  
[islander@vermontislander.com](mailto:islander@vermontislander.com)

## Subscribe

It is hard not to fall in love  
with the area. Stay connected with a  
mailed or emailed subscription!  
Follow us on Facebook or  
[www.TheIslanderNewspaper.com](http://www.TheIslanderNewspaper.com)

## Events & News

Be sure to pick up The Islander and  
make your plans for fun & memories  
throughout the season!

## Support

Financial contributions to  
The Islander are welcome and  
greatly appreciated.