

Donna and Michael's Lake Champlain Biking Trip

Vermont, New York, Quebec

September 19 to September 25, 2010

Trip Summary

We biked for 4 days around Lake Champlain, in Vermont, New York, and Quebec. The scenery was fabulous. We highly recommend biking in the Lake Champlain area. The biking routes we did were based on routes that appear in the book "25 Bicycle Tours in the Lake Champlain Region", by Charles Hansen. We also hiked one day in Brandon, VT and hiked and rock climbed one day near Killington, VT.

GPS Track Data

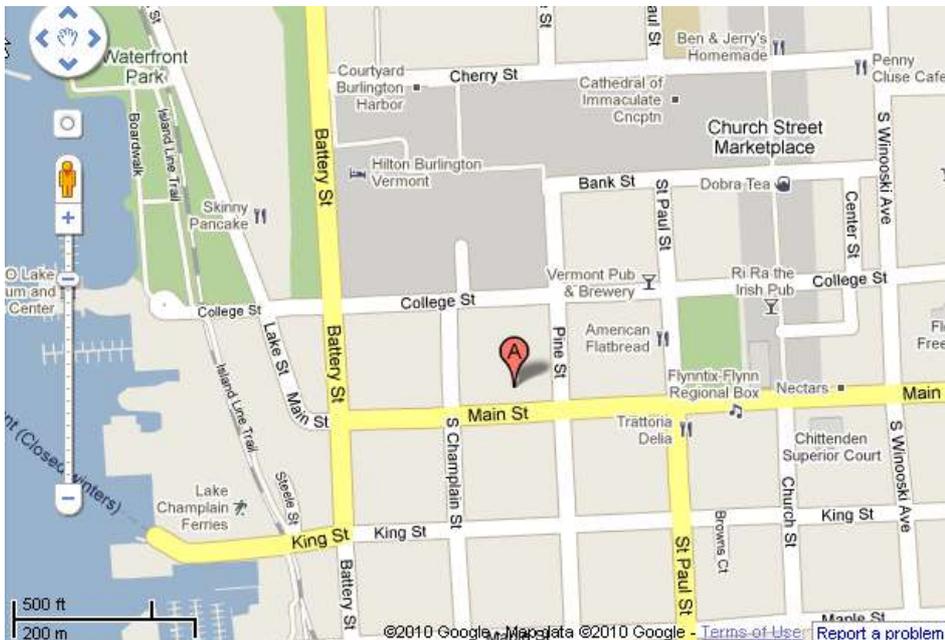
GPS track data files (in GPX format) for the 4 biking days are available at: [lake_champlain_biking_tracks.zip](http://www.sunsethousebb.com/lake_champlain_biking_tracks.zip)

Sunday, September 19, 2010

- Drove to Burlington, VT.
- Checked-in at the Sunset House Bed and Breakfast (<http://www.sunsethousebb.com>). We stayed in the Blue room. The room was a bit small, but comfortable. It was a shared bath arrangement. The Sunset House is in a great location. It is walking distance to the Burlington waterfront and to the businesses at the Church Street Marketplace.
- Had dinner at the Shanty restaurant on the waterfront. The food was ok. We saw a beautiful sunset over the lake.
- We walked to the Church Street Marketplace area and watched some Sunday night football at a pub.



Sunset House B&B



Location of Sunset House B&B



Sunset view near the Shanty restaurant and ferry

Monday, September 20, 2010

- We had breakfast at the Sunset House B&B and then we drove a few blocks to the Burlington – Port Kent ferry landing at King St. We verified with the ticket booth attendant that we could leave our vehicle in the ferry parking lot overnight.
- We took the 8:50 am ferry with our bikes to Port Kent, NY. Ferry schedule: ferries.com/central_schedule.asp.
- We broke up the Burlington – Essex tour #8 from the "25 Bicycle Tours in the Lake Champlain Region" book into two days. We ended the first day in Essex, NY. On the advice of a ferry worker, who is an avid cyclist, we modified the route to Essex by taking Highlands Road, instead of the book's route of Mace Chasm Road and Route 22. We were told we would see some lake views by taking our alternate route. Highlands Road did have some steep hill climbs, but we had some good views. We were glad we did the hill climbs on our first day of biking, versus having them later in the trip.



View from Highlands Rd

- Looking for a place to have lunch, we were finding that all the restaurants we passed were closed, since it was after Labor Day and it was a Monday. We were becoming concerned we might not find any place for lunch when we encountered a local. He indicated there was a restaurant just ahead that was a good place if you wanted to throw your money away. That sounded like just our type of place! So we had lunch in Willsboro at the Turtle Island Cafe. The food was fabulous. After lunch, we discussed with each other that it would be great to eat here again, but we knew we'd be in Essex with just our bikes for transportation and we did not want to ride at night.
- Our biking tour this day was approximately 33 miles.
- We arrived at the Cupola House in Essex in the afternoon. <http://www.thecupolahouse.com/> 2278 Main Street, Essex, NY
- The owner, Donna Lou Sonnet, showed us our room. We had booked the north apartment and it was wonderful. Two bedrooms and then the kitchen, eating area, and family room were one contiguous space. Very well decorated and clean. The room shared a very large 2nd floor porch with the other apartment in the structure. The lake views were beautiful.
- Donna informed us that given the time of year, everything in Essex was closed on Mondays. She offered us her car to

drive to a restaurant or to a market. We took her up on her offer and opted to go back to the Turtle Island Cafe again for dinner. The food was fabulous once again.



Sunset view from the porch at The Cupola House



Location of The Cupola House

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

- We ate the breakfast food that had been left in our room by Donna.
- We rode a couple of blocks to the Essex ferry and took the 8:30 am ferry to Charlotte, VT. (ferries.com/south_schedule.asp)
- We followed the bike route back to Burlington, to the King St ferry lot.
- We had lunch in Burlington at a Mexican restaurant, which is next to the old train station on the waterfront.
- After lunch, we took the Burlington Bikeway north to the Colchester Causeway. The Causeway goes out in to the lake, but does not quite connect up to the South Hero island. We reversed our path back to the ferry parking lot and then drove up to Grand Isle.
- Our biking tour this day was approximately 38 miles.



Colchester Causeway as it extends into the Lake

- We stayed in the Valcour room at the Ferry Watch Inn on Grand Isle (ferrywatchinn.com 802-372-3935).
- We had dinner at the Blue Paddle Inn on Grand Isle, a short drive from the Inn. The food was very good.



Location of Ferry Watch Inn

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

- We ate breakfast at the Ferry Watch Inn. We had fabulous quiche, fruit, and sausage.
- We left our vehicle at the Inn and started biking north. (Prior to booking, I had confirmed we could leave our vehicle at the Inn while we biked.)
- We biked through North Hero island and then did a loop on the Isle La Motte. No food places were open on the island, so we backtracked a bit on route 129 and had lunch at the restaurant at the Alburg Golf Links. Good food and good beer!
- We continued biking north and went through Canadian customs on our bikes.
- We stayed at the Auberge Relais 4 Saisons Inn in Noyan, Quebec. The Inn has 31 rooms, a restaurant, bar, pool, and hot tub. au4saisons.com 579, Bord de l'eau Sud, Noyan, Québec, Canada (450) 294-2677 or 877-294-2677
- We had dinner at the Auberge Relais 4 Saisons Inn. The inn keeper had triple duty, also serving as chef and bar tender.
- Our biking tour this day was approximately 48.1 miles.



Location of Auberge Relais 4 Saisons Inn

Thursday, September 23, 2010

- We ate breakfast at the Auberge Relais 4 Saisons Inn.
- We biked north and then west, crossing over Lake Champlain.
- We found a nice café, the Choco Choc Cafe, in Lacolle, Quebec, and had our best coffee in many days.
- We biked south and re-entered the United States.
- We had lunch at Gus' Red Hots in Plattsburgh, NY.
- We took the Plattsburgh ferry back to Grand Isle (ferries.com/north_schedule.asp) and then rode back to our vehicle at the Ferry Watch Inn.
- Our biking tour this day was approximately 41.9 miles.
- Then we were off to Winooski, VT, desiring to eat at the Tiny Thai restaurant.