

Summer Activities

Whether you want to be in perpetual motion or just relax and get away from it all, you can do it in Vermont in summer. Hike up a waterfall, cycle along scenic Route 100, run around the lake, relax with a cold drink on the back deck, cuddle in the hammock, play a game of horseshoes, paddle around the lake or take a moonlit soak in the hot tub.

Here are some suggestions for enjoying a variety of activities in the Okemo Valley region. A great source is yourplaceinvermont.com.

Fishing. Fishing licenses and supplies can be purchased at the Tyson Village Store (see below). Our part of Lake Rescue, called Round Pond, has excellent fishing, including trout, perch and bass. Kids like to catch sunfish off the dock.

State Park – Camp Plymouth State Park, two miles away on Echo Lake (north on 100, right at Echo Lake Inn, left on Scout Camp Rd.), has lots of grass, a playground, picnic facilities, boats, a beach and a food vendor.

Playgrounds – There are three good playgrounds nearby – one at Camp Plymouth State Park; one six miles north on Route 100 on the left, next to the Plymouth School; and the other behind Black River High School, on your left on the far side of downtown on Rte. 103 East.

Okemo in Summer – Okemo has a swimming pool in its Spring House at the Jackson Gore Base Area that's open to the public. It has two kiddy slides, a shallow part for kids and a lap lane. The facility also includes a weight room, hot tub, yoga classes, a weight room, sauna and more. (Go south on 100, right on 103, immediate left, then right into Jackson Gore.)

Okemo also offers a the Adventure Zone at Jackson Gore (<http://www.okemo.com/activities/adventurezone.asp>), with a zip line, mini golf, disc golf, a bungee thing, an alpine slide and much more. It also has a free Summer Music Series (<http://www.okemo.com/events/jgms.asp>) Friday nights, with BBQ for sale.

BOATING

Of course the boats at the Lake Rescue Chalet dock are available for your use. But if you want to visit another lake in the region, you can rent kayaks, paddleboards and canoes at the Tyson Store (they will transport boats to the lake of your choice for a fee), and at Camp Plymouth State Park.

CYCLING

You can rent road or mountain bikes at Okemo's Jackson Gore base, and at Killington Resort.

Here are some road cycling routes from the house:

- Route 100 is one of the most scenic roads in New England for riding. You can head north to Route 4 and back; that's about 22 miles round trip.
- For a longer, hillier route (30 miles), take a right at the end (11 miles) onto Route 4, then another right onto 100A (about 4 miles) just after Long Trail Brewing. At the end, turn left onto Route 100 in Plymouth and head back. Or head south on 100, turn left on 103, ride through Ludlow and continue toward Chester (rolling).
- For a short (10-mile) ride that's not too hilly, head south on 100, right on 103, bear right at the fork 100 yards in onto Buttermilk Falls Road), and ride to the end, then come back. (At the halfway point, I suggest you park your bike and hike into the falls and take a dip).
- There's also a gorgeous 12-plus-mile route around the lakes, for hybrids or mountain bikes. Head south on Route 100. Turn left on East Lake Road, a mile past the Green Mountain Sugar House. Follow the dirt road to the end (you'll come out on 100 at Hawk Mountain Resort). Turn left and head home. There are some big hills.

RUNNING and WALKING

- Either direction on Route 100 is lovely as an out-and-back course, with breathtaking views of the lakes.
- Or, head north on Route 100, turn left at Echo Lake Inn, and go out as far as you want on the dirt road, then come back for a nice out and back course. (Warning – it's uphill out, downhill back.)
- For a hilly five-mile route around Lake Rescue, head south on route 100, turn left on Red Bridge Rd., turn left at the end onto East Lake Road, then left at the paved road back to 100, where you'll turn left and you're home!
- Another route (at least four miles): North on Route 100. Right at Echo Lake Inn. Left onto Scout Camp Road. Left onto the dirt road after Lake Amherst. Left onto Rte. 100 and home. Or, instead of taking the left after Lake Amherst, stay straight and follow it into Hawk Mountain Resort, then left onto Rte. 100 and home. This stretches it to more than 5, possibly even 6. All the lake routes are HILLY.

GOLF

- [Okemo Valley Resort and Golf Club](#)
89 Fox Ln., Ludlow, VT 05149-9693
(800) 228-1600
- [Crown Point Golf Course](#)
Weathersfield Center Rd., Springfield, VT 05156
(802) 885-1010

- [Tater Hill Golf Course](#)
6802 Popple Dungeon Rd., Chester, VT 05143-9825
(802) 875-2517
- [Stratton Mountain Country Club](#)
Stratton Mountain Road, Stratton Mountain, VT 05155
(800) 787-2886
- [Killington Golf Course](#)
4763 Killington Rd., Killington, VT 05751-9746
(802) 422-6700
- [Stonehedge Golf Course](#)
216 Squires Road, North Clarendon, VT 05759
(802) 773-2666
- [Woodstock Golf Course](#)
14 The Green, Woodstock, VT 05091-1283
(802) 457-6674

HIKING

Here's a list of some nice **Vermont State Park** hiking trails in the state of Vermont.

- The **Tiny Pond Wildlife Management Area** trailhead is less than half a mile north on Rt. 100 on your left.
- **Camp Plymouth State Park** at Echo Lake, two miles away, has beautiful hiking trails, including a short one to the hilltop with a breathtaking that kids can even do. (Trailhead is to the left of the cabins, across the street from the parking lot. Take the first left, cross the old cemetery, continue up.)
- **Hawk Mountain Resort** (north on 100 about three miles) has a variety of trails.
- **Buttermilk Falls** in Ludlow is a short hike with a waterfall. (South on 100, right on 103, then an immediate right at the American Legion. Go about a mile or a mile and a half. Park and hike in to the right; there are several spots.) You can hear the falls from the road; even small kids can do this hike. Early in the summer season the water is high; later it's low and swimmable.
- The **Healdville Trail to Okemo Mountain** will provide a long, challenging hike. Take Healdville Rd. to the top of Okemo, 2.9 miles and all day. South on 100, right on 103, left on Healdville Rd. and immediate left.
- You will find beautiful hiking trails at **Camp Plymouth State Park** (which has a Vista Trail up to the mountain top that even kids can do),
- **Okemo Mountain** has a fire tower at the top with 360-degree views
- Vermont's **Long Trail** and **Appalachian Trail** trailheads can be accessed by car in several locations. The Long/Appalachian Trail crosses Route 103 West on the way to Rutland at Clarendon Gorge. The trailhead is right after you cross the railroad tracks, and there is parking.

- The **Long Trail** also crosses Route 4 at the Long Trail Inn at Killington. There is a parking lot across the street from the inn, and you'll find hiking on both sides of the road, but the north side has the added feature of bouldering and an incredible vista.

ADVENTURE ZONES

- **Okemo Mountain Resort Adventure Zone** (www.okemo.com/activities/adventurezone.asp)
- **Killington-Pico Adventure Center** (<https://www.killington.com/plan-your-trip/summer-activities/adventure-center>)
- **Bromley Adventure Zone** (<https://www.bromley.com/the-mountain/attractions/mountain-adventure-park>)

DINING

Dine in the surprisingly fine restaurants of Ludlow, including Goodman's American Pie, D.W.'s, Outback Pizza (fun for groups with karaoke), the Ludlow Cooking Company (lobster rolls and Hershey's ice cream), the Downtown Grocery, Du Jour Vermont (live music), the Echo Lake Inn, Harry's Mount Holly Café, La Tavola, Mr. Darcy's and Sam's Steakhouse.

NEW ENGLAND VILLAGES

- **Downtown Ludlow**, of course! Our own village is a wonderful place to poke around in, with a number of charming shops and restaurants, as well as basic necessities such as food, gas and liquor. Here's **TripAdvisor's Top 10 things to do in Ludlow!**
- **Woodstock**, a quintessential New England Village.
- **Manchester**, one of Vermont's premier tourist and outlet shopping destinations.
- **Chester** is small but adorable.
- **Burlington**, the largest city in the state, is 2 hours away and worth the drive.
- **Brattleboro**, an artsy town
- **Rutland**, half an hour away, has stores, hospitals, a Saturday Farmers Market, outdoor concerts, festivals and a vibrant historic downtown

MUSIC & CULTURE

Here's a comprehensive list of [Events in Okemo Valley](#) this summer, provided by the Vermont Tourism Network. You can find a free outdoor concert every night of the week! A few local highlights follow.

- [Jackson Gore Summer Music Series](#) on Okemo Mountain
- [Killington's "Cooler in the Mountains" summer concert series](#)
- [Woodstock Brown Bag Concert Series](#)
- Enjoy a theatrical show at the [Weston Playhouse](#) or Pentangle Arts in [Woodstock](#).

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

There are a number of family-friendly day trips within a couple of hours of our house, including but not limited to:

- **Calvin Coolidge Historic Site**, Plymouth
- **Quechee Gorge**, Quechee (Vermont's Grand Canyon)
- **VINS (Vermont Institute of Nature and Science)**, Woodstock (raptors and nature)
- **Billings Farm and Museum**, Woodstock (dairy farm with cows and ice cream)
- **Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts**, Ludlow, VT (arts and crafts classes)
- **Montshire Museum of Science**, Hanover, NH
- **Ben & Jerry's Factory Tour**, Waterbury Village
- **Vermont Teddy Bear Factory**, Shelburne, VT (build your own bear)