



Northern Forest Canoe Trail

Montgomery Marvels

Two Day Visitor Itinerary

Trip Summary

Maps and Guidebooks

- [NFCT Map](#) (Section 5)
- [NFCT Guidebook](#)
- [Google Map and Directions](#)

Activities

- Paddle the Missisquoi River
- Hike [Hazen's Notch](#) trails
- Aerial tram ride up [Jay Peak](#)
- [Covered Bridges](#) Driving Tour
- Berry picking at [Blueberry Ridge](#)
- Cycling [Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail](#)

Places to Stay

- [Phineas Swann Bed & Breakfast Inn](#)
- The [Coach House](#)
- [Jay Peak Holiday Rentals](#)

Where to Eat

- [The Belfry](#)
- [Bernie's](#)
- [Snowshoe Lodge and Pub](#)
- [Trout River Traders](#)

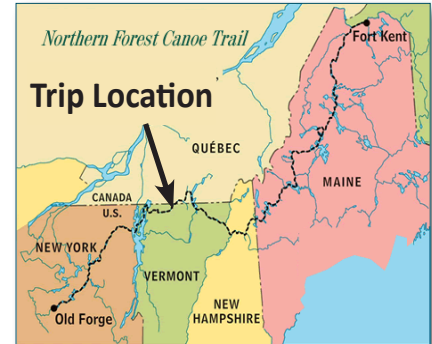
Outfitters and Guides

- [Montgomery Adventures](#)
- [Brooks to Bays Nature Tours](#)
- [First Traks](#)

NFCT Package Specials

- [Montgomery Marvels](#)

Authors Christina Tree and Diane Foulds describe the area around Montgomery Center as “**big sky farm and logging country with isolated mountains and unexpectedly high passes. It has a haunting quality.**” For river enthusiasts, the Missisquoi River offers a peaceful paddle as it threads through rolling hills and pastoral farmland northwest of Montgomery Center. Off the river, the Hazen’s Notch Association network of hiking trails traverses area woods and meadows, rewarding hikers with stunning views of Jay Peak. Montgomery Center, with its great dining and lodging options and friendly outfitters and guides, serves as a great base camp. Enjoy your trip!



Evening Arrival



Stretch your legs by strolling by the classic, Victorian homes on Main Street. For a small town, dining options are plentiful. Consider eating at [The Belfry](#), a classic New England dining establishment with a lodge-like atmosphere, or the chef-owned [Bernie's](#), with its mix of Italian and Mexican homemade specialties. If you prefer a pub experience, stop in at the [Snowshoe Lodge and Pub](#) on Main Street. As a final option, at [Trout River Traders](#) you'll enjoy hearty entres and homemade soups in a historic building with a fascinating history – ask your server for details!

If luxurious accommodations are your preference, consider spending the night at the [Phineas Swann Bed and Breakfast Inn](#). You'll be awed by an extensive collection of antique canine memorabilia and then be delighted by a scrumptious homemade breakfast featuring specialties such as banana walnut pancakes and raspberry stuffed French toast. As an alternative, consider the spacious vacation rental apartments in [The Coach House](#), where you'll have the opportunity to prepare your own meals and settle

into a real “home away from home.” Lastly, for those preferring a woodsy retreat, [Jay Peak Holiday Rentals](#) has a wide range of cabins nestled in the surrounding hillsides available for rent.

Day 1: Missisquoi River Paddling



Before heading out on the river, fuel up with a classic hot breakfast and homemade baked goods at either [Bernie’s](#) or [Trout River Traders](#). If you need to pick up a river lunch, stop in [Montgomery Pizza and Subs](#), which features great sandwiches, wraps, and baked goods made with local and organic ingredients. To arrange for shuttling services or boat rentals, turn to [Montgomery Adventures](#). Owner’s Keith and Lori, who spend the winter season providing guided sled dogs tours, not only will help arrange for any river adventure you seek, but can set up with a suite of convenient vacation packages. Both [Brooks to Bays Nature Tours](#) and Montgomery Adventures also provide guided river trips – be sure to book ahead.

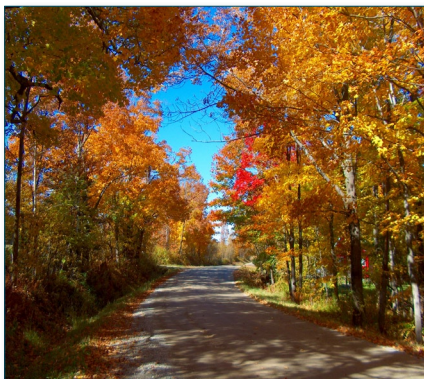
For a long day on the river (16 miles; approximately 6-7 hours), consider putting in at Richford’s Davis Park and paddle to Enosburg Falls, a scenic journey through fertile farmlands marked by silver maple forests and high clay bluffs. For a half day, split the journey by going from Richford to East Berkshire (6.5 miles of calm water); or East Berkshire to Enosburg Falls (a longer option - 9.5 miles of calm water with one portage). On your trip, keep your eye out for weasels skirting the river’s banks and common mergansers. Consult the [NFCT’s Map](#) (Section 5) or the [NFCT guidebook](#) for more information.

Day 2: Hazen Notch Trails and Jay Peak Summit

The non-profit [Hazen’s Notch Association](#) maintains a network of 15 miles of trails and woods roads for hiking in summer and fall. The trails pass through a variety of interesting habitats that include meadows, forests, orchards, and beaver ponds. Trails range from restored woods roads that have gentle to moderate grades to narrow footpaths with steep climbs. There are numerous views of the Jay Mountains in addition to wildflowers, ample wildlife, and quiet wooded glens.



After lunch, consider taking a ride on Vermont’s only aerial tram at [Jay Peak Resort](#). The tram runs daily through the summer and fall, but call ahead to confirm operations. Your ride will reward you with breathtaking views of the unique landscape through which you’ve just paddled and hiked! Alternatively, take a driving tour of the area’s six covered bridges, which provide a fascinating glimpse of the area’s past.



Those seeking to extend their trip have several options to choose from, including berry picking at [Blueberry Ridge](#) and cycling along the [Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail](#). (If you need bikes, you can rent them from [First Trax](#) in Montgomery Center). Alternatively, consider exploring the Missisquoi Delta region to the west or Lake Memphramagog and the Clyde River to the east - trips to these regions are highlighted in other NFCT Itineraries.