

Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

**DAY 1**

Welcome to Vermont!

Meet at 4 p.m. at the Rutland, VT airport (RUT). From the airport we'll shuttle approximately 30 minutes to our lodging for the week. After settling in a bit and exploring the lodging, we'll gather for introductions and go over the information you need for a week of happy and healthy hiking! After introductions we'll enjoy the first of many home-cooked meals by your fabulous guides! (D)

**DAY 2**

Clarendon Gorge, Minerva Hinchey Shelter and Bear Mountain

Our first day on the trail and what a day it's going to be! After breakfast, we'll shuttle to our put in point at Cold River Road. One of the nice aspects of the AT is that it crisscrosses several country roads providing easy access to the trail. Hiking south we'll first summit the modest peak of Beacon Hill and continue to the Clarendon Gorge. Clarendon Gorge is a lovely, rock-strewn gorge along with a suspension bridge over the Mill River, one of those AT surprises in the middle of nowhere! We continue past Minerva Hinchey Shelter (named for the Green Mountain Club's long-time secretary) and on to Patch Hollow (at the base of Bear Mountain). After summiting Bear Mountain we'll have a bit of downhill to VT 140 where our van will be a welcome sight! Now - on to a warm shower and great dinner! A wonderful first day! Mileage: 10.2. Biggest overall elevation gain: 1368 feet (B, L, D)

**DAY 3**

White Rocks cairns, Little Rock Pond Shelter and beach

Here we go - off for another day. We'll start where we left off yesterday - VT 140 and continue our journey south. True to AT lore, all days begin with an 'up' and our day holds true to that saying. We begin hiking up to the junction of the AT and the White Rocks Cliff trail. At this point you enter a cairn field with dozens of cairns randomly placed, making this spot an interesting place for a break and contemplation. Do save some energy for the next beautiful spot on the trail - Little Rock Pond Shelter and Campsites, complete with a sandy beach and gorgeous pristine high mountain pond - swim anyone? Our takeout point today is the Danby-Landgrove Rd where once again our lovely van will be patiently waiting for us to bear us back to those nice showers and great dinner! Mileage: 8.5 Biggest overall elevation gain: 1054 feet (B, L, D)

**DAY 4**

Peru Peak, Styles Peak and Mad Tom Notch!

Wonder what today will bring? More picturesque high mountain ponds, streams and summiting more peaks, what else! Today we'll have some excellent opportunities for picture taking of beautiful forest streams and ponds as well as views from the top of both Peru Peak and Styles Peak. We end our day at the interestingly named Mad Tom Notch - an excellent beginning for an AT story! Mileage: 12.1. Biggest overall elevation gain: 1,877 feet (B, L, D)

**DAY 5**

Bromley Peak, Spruce Peak and Prospect Rock.

Today we head back to Mad Tom Notch and turn south! Our first peak will be Bromley Peak - part of the Bromley Ski Resort and gives us a beautiful 360-degree

Today we head back to Mad Tom Notch and turn south! Our first peak will be Bromley Peak - part of the Bromley Ski Resort and gives us a beautiful 360-degree view of the surrounding area. After enjoying this perfect vista, we'll head to Spruce Peak and then onto Prospect Rock - each offering their own beauty and vista. Compared to our previous days with some steep ups and downs, today is a welcome respite with comfortable hiking and great picture opportunities. Enjoy! Mileage: 10.4. Biggest overall elevation gain: 600 feet (B, L, D)

## **DAY 6**

### **Killington Peak, Shrewsbury Peak**

Our last day on trail and what a good day this will be. Today will be just a bit of a later start - we'll be taking the Killington gondola to the top of the mountain. Once there, we'll take the short hike up to the summit where we'll be able to look over the trail to the south that we have traveled all week. Killington offers a beautiful 360 degree view into Vermont and New Hampshire! Returning to the gondola, we'll test those downhill muscles we've been work on as we hike down to join the AT and, once again, hike south. Summiting Shrewsbury Peak we'll continue to our very first put in spot, Cold River Road, completing our week on the AT. And what a week it has been! Tonight, we'll celebrate our accomplishment and most likely, start making plans to come back! Mileage: 7.5. Biggest overall elevation loss: 1523 feet (B, L, D)

## **DAY 7**

### **Departure Day: Farewell Vermont!**

After sharing one final breakfast together, we'll have to leave our vacation home and head back to the airport for those flying out. But we'll leave with wonderful memories and plans to continue our quest to hike the Appalachian Trail. (B)