

Driving Tour Information

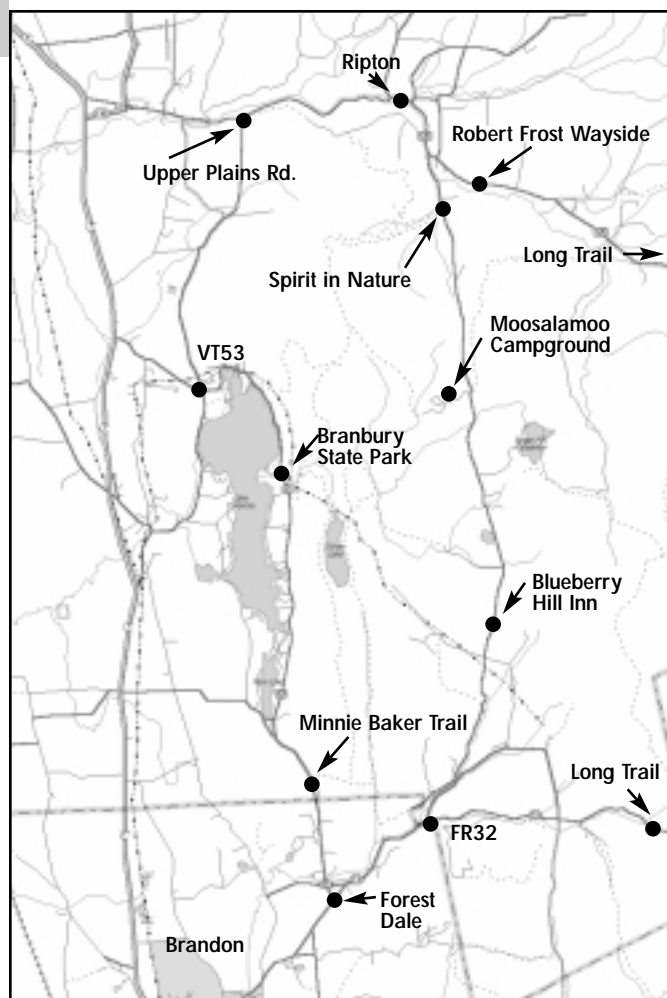
The Moosalamoo Region is delineated by three main roads and the Long Trail; the south by VT 73 (from US7, Brandon or from VT100, Rochester), the north by VT125 (from US7, south of Middlebury, or from VT100, Hancock), the west by VT53 (from VT73, Forest Dale or US7, Salisbury) and the east by the Long Trail. Part of this driving loop is Forest Road (FR) 32 (north from VT73, Goshen to VT125, Ripton), a dirt road that bisects the region. Trail maps are available at most area sites. This loop road can be accessed from any of the above points, or anywhere along the loop. Adjust the mileage accordingly. The entire loop is 25.3 miles, not including any suggested side trips that are shown in (()).

From **Brandon**, a gateway town to the region offering lodging, meals, and shopping opportunities, travel 2.8 miles east on VT73 (Park Street). Take note of the elegant homes, most dating back to the 1800s, and the Warren Kimble Folk Art Gallery. The loop tour begins in the Village of Forest Dale, at the junction of VT53 & 73 **(0.0 miles)**. Continue east on VT73 past the historic 1880's Iron Works site **(.4)**, past **Churchill House Inn (0.8)**, and at **(1.6)** turn left on FR32. (See Long Trail spur in sidebar.)

Travel north on FR32 bear left at **(2.2)** the junction, remaining on FR32. At the four corners **(4.0)**, ((a left turn takes you to the eastern trailhead for Silver Lake; a relatively easy hike to a pristine lake with primitive camping, picnicking, and fishing. A right at the intersection takes you to the blueberry management area that offers great summertime berry picking opportunities)) continue straight through the intersection, past **Judith's Garden Bed and Breakfast (4.4)**, a friendly inn with outstanding perennial gardens (listed in the *Perennial Display Gardens of Vermont*). Next is **Blueberry Hill Inn (5.3)** providing year round lodging and dining, wintertime cross-country skiing, and a popular site for summer-

time weddings. Some Blueberry Hill Inn trails are open to mountain bikes in the summer. Travel north **(6.4)** from the Inn, ((a side road to the right (FR103) leads to Goshen Dam/Sugar Hill Reservoir and great fishing opportunities)).

Continue north on FR32 **(7.4)**, ((Moosalamoo Campground is located on a side road (FR24). This Forest Service area offers rustic deep woods camping opportunities and a trailhead to Mt. Moosalamoo and the North Branch. A side road off the camp access road leads to Voter Brook Overlook that offers great bird watching, berry picking, and scenic views)) and pass Wilkinson Trailhead and Widows Clearing Trail parking lot **(8.8)** and **Spirit In Nature** trail-



head **(10.1)**. Spirit In Nature offers ten different trails radiating from a sacred circle, each less than one mile in length, and includes sayings posted along the way to remind visitors of the connection of faith with nature. Continue north to the junction with VT125 **(10.7)**.

The loop continues left (west) on VT125. ((Or turn right (east) and go about 1 mile to the Robert Frost Wayside Interpretive Trail. This area offers an easy access trail with excerpts of Frost's poems along the trail. Further east on VT 125, past Middlebury College's Breadloaf Campus, is FR67, and access to the Widow's Clearing trailhead, a great stop to potentially see moose and other wildlife. Continuing on VT125 past Middlebury College Snowbowl Ski Area to the top of Middlebury Gap, is the northern access of the Moosalamoo section of the Long Trail.))

West at the junction of VT125 and FR32, the loop drive continues through Ripton **(11.4)** along the Middlebury River, a designated scenic highway. At **(13.7)** turn left (south) on Upper Plains Road. Continue south on Upper Plains to

Long Trail Spur

Leave the loop drive and continue east on VT73 to the top of the ridge in Brandon Gap. Here visitors will find a parking area access to the Long Trail, Vermont's "foot path in the wilderness". The Long Trail is a 270-mile trail stretching from Massachusetts to the Canadian border. This ten-mile section of the trail, between VT73 and VT125, heads north, ascending steeply 0.1 miles to a spur trail to Mt. Horrid Cliffs. This large rock outcrop offers great views of the Gap and the Green Mountains and the Adirondaks beyond. This area may be closed at times to protect nesting Peregrine Falcons. Continue north on the Long Trail to the summits of Mt. Horrid and Romance Mountain, pass Sucker Brook Trail, the Middlebury College Snowbowl chairlift station, the Lake Pleiad spur trail, and eventually arrive at VT125 where there is a parking area.



Branbury State Park

Branbury State Park offers visitors great camping, picnicking, beautiful natural sandy beach, swimming, boat rentals, concession, nature programs, boating, fishing and hiking opportunities. "Lake Dunmore is a maker of memories. Over the years, it has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors, whose combined recollections of clean water and pure air and gentle sunshine and outstanding scenery would fill volumes."

—Lord Dunmore's Lake, by J. Petersen

the four corners intersection **(17.5)**. The loop route continues left (south) on VT53. ((Or turn right and go 0.7 miles to the Salisbury State Fish Hatchery, which is open to the public daily)). Traveling South on VT53, pass **Kampersville (16.8)** offering RV camping, store, fuel, deli, and laundry facilities.

Further south on VT53 is your first view of the three-mile long Lake Dunmore **(18.3)**. Keewaydin Camp **(18.4)** is one of the oldest continually operating summer camps for children in the United States. Continue along Lake Dunmore to **Branbury State Park (19.6)**. The Moosalamoo Cottage at the Park is available for family weekly rental. Trails from the park include a self-guided nature trail, trails to Ethan Allen's Cave, the Falls of Llana, the western trailhead to Silver Lake, and Mt. Moosalamoo/Rattlesnake Point which offers outstanding views of the valley and lakes.

South of the park is the Silver Lake hydro-power plant **(19.8)**, roadside parking **(19.9)**, and the trailhead to Silver Lake, Falls of Llana, and other trails that lead into the heart of the Moosalamoo Region of the **Green Mountain National Forest**. Further south on the left is trailhead parking **(23.7)** for the Minnie Baker Trail that accesses the Chandler Ridge and Leicester Hollow trails. Continue south to VT73, and complete the loop drive in Forest Dale **(25.3)**.

Plants and Animals in Moosalamoo

Trees

Apple / aspen / basswood / beech / birch elm / butternut / black cherry / hemlock hickory / red maple / red & white oak / red & white pine / white & red spruce / tamarack balsam fir / sugar maple (Vermont state tree)

Shrubs

Blackberry / blueberry currant / dogwood / shad raspberry / sumac / willow alder / witch-hazel / stripped maple / viburnum / choke cherry / winterberry

Ferns

Bracken / bulblet / Christmas / cinnamon fragile / grape / hayscented / lady interrupted / long beech / maidenhair New York / oak / ostrich / polypody / rattlesnake / sensitive / spleenwort / marginal & spinulose wood fern

Wildflowers

Arbutus / aster / baneberry / bellwort / bluet blackeye susan / bloodroot / chicory / clintonia columbine / wild ginger / hepatica / lady's slipper orchid / leeks / Queen Anne's lace woodlily / violets / trillium / violets / wintergreen / yarrow / Red Clover (Vermont state flower)

Mammals

Beaver / brown bat / black bear / chipmunk coyote / fox / moose / opossum / red & grey squirrel / porcupine / skunk / raccoon / snowshoe hare / cottontail rabbit / white tail deer / woodchuck

Birds

Peregrine Falcon / Osprey / Northern Goshawk Raven / Loon / Warblers: Canadian, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green & Blue, Mourning, Blackpoll / Yellow-throated & Philadelphia Vireo / Flycatchers: Least, Yellow-bellied, Olive-sided & Alder / Golden- & Ruby-crowned Kinglet / Evening Grosbeak / Wild Turkey / Ruby-throated Hummingbird / Swainson's, Bicknell's & Hermit Thrush



Experience Moosalamoo

Moosalamoo is a place to relax and experience nature within its 22,000 acres nestled in the Green Mountain National Forest. Explore its rugged cliffs and mountains; and its quiet lakes and streams. Discover the diversity of plants and animals that make up the rich Moosalamoo ecosystem. Retrace the footsteps of its first inhabitants and early settlers. Moosalamoo offers something for everyone—with lodging, camping and dining, bird and wildlife viewing, biking, berry picking, hiking, skiing, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling.

The mission of the Moosalamoo Association is to:

Collaborate with public entities to plan, manage, and provide stewardship for wildlife habitat conservation and quality public recreational opportunities and facilities.

Promote responsible recreation participation and environmental awareness through interpretation, education, and resource monitoring.

Demonstrate the unique capabilities of public and private partners working together.

Strengthen partnerships at the local level in cooperative projects such as trail construction and maintenance, wildlife habitat improvement, and visual enhancement of roadsides.

Moosalamoo is an Abenaki Indian word for "he trails the moose" or "the moose departs."

For information on highlighted locations and activities, check these web pages:

Addison County Chamber of Commerce—www.midvermont.com

Bird watching—www.ottercreekaudubon.org

Blueberry Hill Inn—www.blueberryhillinn.com

Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce—www.brandon.org

Churchill House Inn—www.churchillhouseinn.com

Cross country skiing—www.catamounttrail.org

Judith's Garden Bed and Breakfast—www.judithsgarden.com

Kampersville—www.kampersville.com

Long Trail—www.greenmountainclub.org

Snowmobiling—www.vtvast.org

Spirit In Nature—www.spiritinnature.com

USDA Forest Service Green Mountain National Forest—www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl

Vermont State Parks—www.vtstateparks.com



Membership Information Moosalamoo Association

P.O. Box 108, Forest Dale, VT 05745-0108
1-800-448-0707 info@moosalamoo.org
www.moosalamoo.org

Photo Credits: Hikers—Dennis Curran; Road, Flower—Bruce Brown; Wildlife Viewers—Ted Lee Eubanks Jr.; Moose Painting—Warren Kimble; Moose Swimming—Joel Flewelling



Driving Tour and Guide

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference"—Robert Frost