



## VERMONT ROUTE GUIDE



WASHINGTON, DC • NEW YORK • BRATTLEBORO  
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION • MONTPELIER • ST. ALBANS

## ETHAN ALLEN EXPRESS ROUTE GUIDE



NEW YORK • ALBANY • CASTLETON • RUTLAND

*We hope you enjoy reading this guide and learning about points of interest along our route. It is written starting from the routes' southern terminus in either Washington or New York and proceeds to points north, ending in either Rutland or St. Albans, VT. If you boarded in either of these two cities, just read the guide in reverse, remembering to look in the opposite direction if one is referenced.*

*AMTRAK STATIONS are shown in all capital letters, as opposed to upper and lower case for towns, sites and geographical areas through which the train travels but does not stop. The Amtrak System Timetable or the Vermonter/Ethan Allen panel card should be consulted for actual station times. While all service presented in this guide was accurate at the time of publication, routes and services are subject to change. Please contact Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL, visit [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com), or call your travel agent for the most current information.*

*The Vermonter has its origins in the original Montrealer service offered by the former Boston and Maine (B&M) Railroad, serving Washington, D.C. and Montreal, with intermediate stops. The B&M ceased passenger service in 1965, and Amtrak began to provide nationwide passenger service in 1971. Soon thereafter, Amtrak's version of the Montrealer began serving the route. Other than a single two-year suspension of service, it lasted until 1995, when it was replaced by the Vermonter.*

*The Ethan Allen Express was created to serve the 241-mile route between New York City and Rutland, VT in 1996 after the western portion of the State of Vermont pushed for Federal funds to rebuild the former Clarendon and Pittsford Railroad for higher speeds. The train is very popular with vacationers traveling to the ski resort area in Killington.*

*A special word about Vermont, which means "green mountains" in French: that description covers only part of the local color of this region that captures the spirit of America in its original glory. Its towns and cities exude the elegant charm and simplicity that define New England, with postcard-perfect church steeples, ancient trees and well-groomed homes. Farm and forest landscapes, classic barns, lush green hills, acres of maple trees, miles of curving riverways – the scenic vistas, snow-capped mountains and glistening valleys that greeted America's first settlers will appear right outside of your picture window. So relax and enjoy!*



# WELCOME ABOARD



Bannerman's Castle  
Hudson River, NY

Welcome aboard the *Vermont* or *Ethan Allen Express*. From the flash of Broadway, the monuments of the nation's capital to the scenic vistas, snow-capped mountains and glistening valleys of New England, the *Vermont* and the *Ethan Allen Express* take you through historic towns, stunning landscapes and gorgeous natural wonders on two fabulous journeys through America's mid-Atlantic and New England regions.

On board both trains, you will experience the comfort and relaxation of train travel while viewing spectacular scenery. We are happy to have you on board today and want to ensure your trip is everything you want it to be. If there is anything that can be done to make your trip more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to call upon any Amtrak employee.

## THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of the *Vermont*/*Ethan Allen Express* is here to make your trip a special and enjoyable experience.

**Conductor** is responsible for the On-Board Services Staff including ticket collection, passenger safety, and the safe operation of the train.

**Lounge Car Attendant** is responsible for the operation of the Café Car

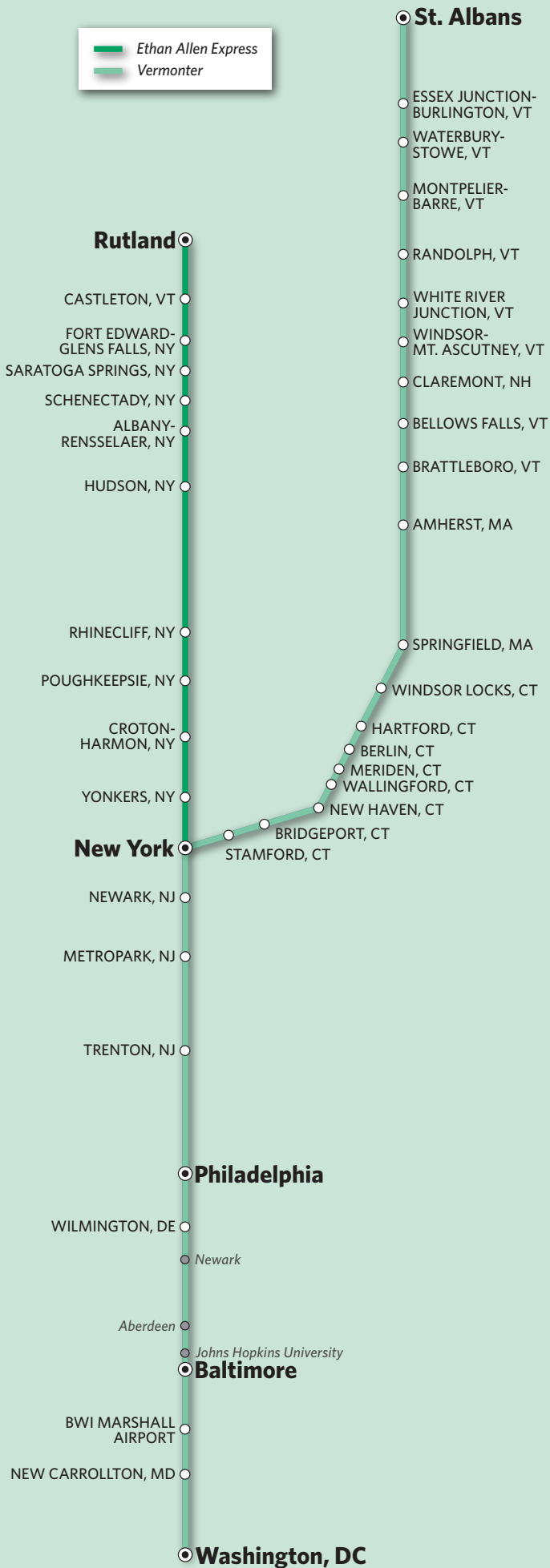
## ACCOMMODATIONS

**Coach** seating provides a wide, reclining seat with folding tray table and overhead lights.

**Business Class** seating provides a wide, reclining seat with leg rest, extra legroom, folding tray table and overhead lights. A newspaper and complimentary non-alcoholic beverage are provided as well.

**Club-Dinette** car offers sandwiches, snacks, beverages and sundries.

**HOST RAILROADS** are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak passenger trains. The *Vermont* operates between Washington and New Rochelle on Amtrak, between New Rochelle and New Haven on Metro-North Railroad, between New Haven and Springfield on Amtrak, between Springfield and Amherst on CSX, and between Amherst and St. Albans on New England Central Railroad. The *Ethan Allen Express* operates between New York and Yonkers on Amtrak, between Yonkers and Poughkeepsie on Metro-North Railroad, between Poughkeepsie and Schenectady on CSX, between Schenectady and Whitehall on Canadian Pacific, and between Whitehall and Rutland on Vermont Railway.



## VERMONT TO ST. ALBANS

**WASHINGTON, DC** is the nation's capital, founded in 1790. In addition to all three branches of the federal government, it houses 172 foreign embassies and the headquarters of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Organization of American States, Inter-American Development Bank, Pan American Health Organization, numerous trade unions, lobbying groups and professional associations. It is also home to a number of museums and monuments, and parks such as Rock Creek, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, National Mall, Theodore Roosevelt Island and Anacostia. Washington is one of only 13 cities in the U.S. with teams representing all four major sports; its Washington Redskins have won three professional league championships. Several notable universities, including Georgetown, American, George Washington and Catholic are in Washington. Washington Union Station, which celebrated its centennial in 2008, is a top tourist attraction with shops, restaurants, theaters and connections to local transit.

## DC/Maryland Border

**NEW CARROLLTON** is a suburban stop for Amtrak's Northeast Corridor service, situated alongside the eastern terminus of the Washington Metrorail's Orange Line. Lying just inside the famous Washington Capital Beltway, it is named for a delegate to the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll.

**BWI AIRPORT/Thurgood Marshall Rail Station** is on the airport complex and provides passenger connections via shuttle bus – the first intercity rail station in the U.S. built to serve an airport. It consists of a ticket office, waiting room, concessions area and parking garage.

**BALTIMORE** is a major seaport founded in 1706 and the largest city in Maryland. Its Inner Harbor is a successful example of the city's ambitious renewal effort. It is named after Lord Baltimore, founding proprietor of the Maryland Colony. Francis Scott Key, a Maryland lawyer, wrote the Star Spangled Banner here, a recounting of the British attack on the harbor during the War of 1812. Baltimore exhibits examples of architecture from periods ranging over two centuries. Oriole Park at Camden Yards is considered to be the most beautiful "retro" style baseball park in the major leagues. One of Amtrak's eight busiest stations, its namesake is home to author Tom Clancy and Olympian Michael Phelps.

**Aberdeen** is home to the U.S. Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground, established by Congress in 1918. Baltimore Orioles legend Cal Ripken, Jr. hails from Aberdeen.

**Susquehanna River** is the longest river on the east coast and provides half of the freshwater inflow for the Chesapeake. Geologically, it is regarded as extremely ancient. In 1979, it was the scene of the Three Mile Island nuclear power accident near Harrisburg.

**Elkton** marks the head of navigation on the Elk River, which flows into nearby Chesapeake Bay. The town was once famous as a place for eloping couples to marry.

## Maryland/Delaware State Line

**Newark** (pronounced NU-ARK) was founded in 1694. During the Revolutionary War, legend has it that the Stars and Stripes were first flown at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge outside of Newark. Today, it is home to the University of Delaware, with world class programs in business, chemical engineering, chemistry and biochemistry. Its central area is compact, walkable and lively, due in large part to university students. Edgar Allan Poe is said to have written parts of "The Raven" while staying at the inn on Main Street.



**WILMINGTON** experienced high growth in jobs and office construction in the 1980s after passage of laws liberalizing bank governance within the state. Many international banks have operations in the city, especially credit card operations. The historic train station was built in 1908 by the former Pennsylvania Railroad. Notables from Wilmington include actress Valerie Bertinelli, musician Cab Calloway and commentator Bill Press.

**Delaware Memorial Bridge** is visible downriver and connects Delaware with New Jersey. Its eight lanes span the world's longest twin suspension bridge.

**Marcus Hook** calls itself the "Cornerstone of Pennsylvania." Set alongside the Delaware River, it provided the setting for the 2005 film *One Last Thing* about a teen with a rare, terminal form of cancer who wished only for a date with a supermodel.

**Commodore Barry Bridge** spans the Delaware River between Bridgeport, N.J. and Chester, PA. At 1,644 ft., it is the fourth longest cantilever bridge in the world.

**University of Pennsylvania** is now visible behind the school stadium, Franklin Field. A member of the Ivy League, it serves 20,000 students with 4,500 professors and is one of the most selective universities in the U.S. Penn offered the nation's first modern liberal arts curriculum after a board of trustees was assembled by Benjamin Franklin in 1749.

**PHILADELPHIA** Before we enter 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station, watch for Center City. City Hall Tower holds a statue of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, planner and developer of Philadelphia – the "City of Brotherly Love" -- and a devout pacifist and Quaker. Home of the Liberty Bell, and site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, Philadelphia was the social and geographical center of the original 13 American colonies, giving birth to the American Revolution. It also served as the nation's second capital in 1774. Today, its metropolitan area is the fourth largest in the U.S.

**Schuylkill River** (pronounced SKOO-kull) is very popular with watersports enthusiasts and college rowing teams. Boat House Row is visible on the left after crossing the river, as is the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the steps of which were used by "Rocky" to train for his big fight in the film of the same name.

**North Philadelphia** is home to Temple University and birthplace of comedian Bill Cosby. Tastykake and Pep Boys are headquartered in its Allegheny West neighborhood.

### Pennsylvania/New Jersey State Line

**TRENTON** is the capital of New Jersey and was the site in 1776 of George Washington's first military victory after crossing the Delaware River. It was briefly capital of the United States in November and December of 1784. Watch for the bridge sign that reads "Trenton Makes, the World Takes" -- a relic of its era as a major manufacturing center from the late 1800s through the 1950s. It is home to New Jersey State Prison with two maximum security units. Innovative comedian Ernie Kovacs, influenced deeply by his Trenton Central High School drama teacher, in turn went on to influence American comedy for decades after his 1962 death in an automobile accident.

**New Brunswick** on the southern bank of the Raritan River is known as "Healthcare City," reflecting its concentration of medical facilities as well as the corporate offices and production facilities of several large pharmaceutical companies. Settled in 1681, it became an important hub for Colonial travelers and traders. Home of Rutgers University, its list of notable natives includes former Washington Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann and actor Michael Douglas.

**Elizabeth** is fourth largest city in the state. It was named one of "America's Greenest Cities" by *Popular Science* magazine in 2008. Its first major industry was the Singer Sewing Machine Company in 1872.

**METROPARK** is a suburban station in Woodbridge Township taking its name from an office park in nearby Iselin. The station was proposed in 1968 by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and dedicated in 1971 to serve the new suburban market as businesses and populations fled urban cores in the region. Its multi-story parking facility is open 24 hours.

**NEWARK** is the largest city in New Jersey and a major container shipping port. It is most recently known as "Renaissance City" for its efforts to revitalize its downtown. It is the third largest insurance center in the U.S. and home to Newark Museum with the best Tibetan arts collection in the world. Its New Jersey Devils hockey club relocated here in 2007.

**New Jersey Meadowlands** now visible is a large ecosystem of wetlands known for being the site of large landfills and decades of environmental abuse. The Meadowlands Sports Complex here was built in 1976. Even today, the area contains many species of fish, crustaceans and mollusks, and is considered an important bird habitat.

**Hudson River Tunnels** A 2.5 mile tunnel under the Hudson River connects Weehawken, N.J. with Pennsylvania Station. The tubes (one in each direction) were completed in 1910 by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

### New Jersey/New York State Line

**NEW YORK** is America's most populous city. So famous are its districts that Wall Street, Broadway and Madison Avenue are universally recognized shorthand for the industries located there. It is a global city, with worldwide influence over commerce, finance, culture and entertainment and the arts. It is also an important center for international affairs, hosting the United Nations headquarters. Unique among U.S. cities for its high use of mass transit, the density and diversity of its population, New York's reputation as a city that never sleeps is due to its 24-hour subways and the constant bustling of traffic and pedestrians. Birthplace of numerous cultural movements, its metropolitan population surpassed 10 million in the early 1930s, making it the first "megacity" in human history. Amtrak offers connections to its entire system through Chicago from New York.

### New York/Connecticut State Line

**STAMFORD** is considered part of the New York metropolitan area, being a commuter haven for Manhattan business workers. The deed to the city was signed in 1640 between the leader of the New Haven Colony and a Native American chief. Commuting into Manhattan began to take hold as early as the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as many New York City residents decided to build summer homes on the shoreline and later moved to the town permanently. A large urban redevelopment program has been underway since the 1960s, resulting in a number of downtown projects and tall office buildings. UBS, a financial services company, has the largest column-less trading floor in the world in Stamford. The Stamford Museum and Nature Center boasts a collection of the works of Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of Mount Rushmore and one-time Stamford denizen. Other notable residents have included band leader Benny Goodman, actor Christopher Lloyd, actor and comedian Gene Wilder and singer Cyndi Lauper.

**BRIDGEPORT** is well known as the winter layover site of P.T. Barnum's circus. Barnum was also briefly the mayor of the city. The Barnum Museum houses an extensive collection related to its namesake and the history of Bridgeport. The first Subway sandwich restaurant opened here in 1965, and the company remains headquartered in nearby Milford. One-time Bridgeporters who achieved fame far outside of the

city include actor Robert Mitchum and actor/comedians Kevin Nealon and Richard Belzer.

**NEW HAVEN** is the home of Yale University which, along with health care, professional services, financial services and retail trade form the base of the economy. New Haven became part of the Connecticut Colony in 1664. After 1793, when Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin here, the city struck fortune with industrial activity, becoming a powerful economic entity. In 1911, Alfred Carlton Gilbert invented the Erector Set in New Haven and marketed them two years later; his A.C. Gilbert Company later produced chemistry sets and the iconic American Flyer train sets, making it one of the largest toy companies in the world. New Haven instituted the first public tree planting program in the country Yale University, at the heart of downtown, is one of the city's best-known features and its largest employer. But the city has many other architectural landmarks dating from every important time period and architectural style in history. Its sweetest success might be the invention of the lollipop by local confectioner George C. Smith in 1892.

**WALLINGFORD** was established in 1667 by the Connecticut General Assembly. By the 1800s industry expanded with a considerable concentration of small pewter and "Britannia" ware manufacturers. The train station, completed in 1871, is among the few remaining of its kind built during the height of railroad expansion. The city gave birth to Moses Yale Beach who founded the Associated Press news service. Its Choate Rosemary Hall boarding school graduated such luminaries as former President John F. Kennedy, actors Glenn Close, Jamie Lee Curtis and Michael Douglas, and two-time Democratic Presidential candidate, governor of Illinois and Ambassador to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson.

**MERIDEN** Incorporated in 1867, Meriden earned the name "Silver City" because of the large number of cutlery and related products manufactured here by companies such as International Silver. Edwin Howard Armstrong, inventor of FM radio, used nearby West Peak for the site of one of the first such broadcasts in 1939. The town is also birthplace of the steamed cheeseburger, a local favorite at "World Famous" Ted's Restaurant.

**BERLIN** occupies the geographic center of Connecticut and was incorporated in 1785. William and Andrew Patterson emigrated from Ireland and set up a business here in 1740 making tin cups, pie pans, milk pails and various size pots. The town seal is the Yankee Peddler, adopted from the image of early peddlers engaged to travel throughout the Colonies selling these shiny and useful articles. Berlin native Simeon North invented the milling machine, which made interchangeable parts practical – and much prized by the military, which could cannibalize damaged weapons for their parts.

**HARTFORD** is the capital of Connecticut and the "Insurance Capital of the World," housing many of the world's insurance company headquarters. At almost 400 years, Hartford is among the oldest of U.S. cities. Pastor Thomas Hooker, leader of the trading post's original settlers, delivered a sermon that called for investing the people with authority to govern as opposed to ceding it to a higher power; it gave rise to the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut in 1639, which in turn inspired not only the state's constitution but ultimately the U.S. Constitution. (Connecticut is today nicknamed the "Constitution State".) Forty-eight years prior to the secession of the Southern states from the Union, delegations from throughout New England gathered in Hartford to consider secession from the U.S. based on opposition to the War of 1812. Albert Augustus Pope introduced the Columbia high wheeler bicycle in Hartford in 1878; Pope was the leading producer of bicycles in the U.S. until 1896, produced motorcycles until 1918, and two different lines of automobiles until 1915. The Mark Twain House and Museum was once the home of Samuel Clemens, a.k.a. Mark

Twain. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest art museum in the country, featuring a significant collection of Italian Baroque old masters and post-impressionist modern art. The *Hartford Courant* is the oldest continuously published paper in the U.S., founded in 1764. Native Noah Webster published his first dictionary in 1806; version two would take 27 years to complete, selling a mere 2,500 copies.

**WINDSOR LOCKS** takes its name from a set of canal locks opened in 1829 to form part of a canal circumventing nearby river shallows. Approximately one-third of the town's area is devoted to Bradley International Airport, which also houses the New England Air Museum. Until 2000, the city was home to the oldest corporation listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the Dexter Corporation, established in 1767. Faced with a hostile takeover after 233 years in business, it sold off three divisions separately.

### Connecticut/Massachusetts State Line

**SPRINGFIELD** sits on the bank of the Connecticut River several miles north of the border with Massachusetts. The city is notable as the birthplace of Theodor Seuss Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss. It is also where James Naismith invented the game of basketball in 1891. During the 1770s, George Washington selected Springfield as the site of the National Armory. The term Springfield Rifle came to refer to any of the many sorts of arms produced by the Springfield Armory. The Duryea brothers built and demonstrated the first gasoline powered automobile offered for sale in nearby Chicopee in 1893. Indian motorcycles were also manufactured here between 1901 and 1953. Notable companies founded here also include Breck Shampoo in 1936; Milton Bradley games in 1860; and Smith & Wesson handguns in 1852.

**AMHERST** is pronounced without the *h*. Taking its name from Jeffrey Amherst, a hero of the French and Indian War, it saw the first permanent English settlers in 1727, as part of nearby Hadley. It is home to Amherst College; some 42 percent of its residents hold a graduate or professional degree. Notable natives include poet Emily Dickinson. Poet Robert Frost taught English at Amherst. This forested area is a great place to observe nature in action. In spring, maple sugar season opens; in the fall, colorful foliage is in evidence; and in winter, ski resorts beckon.

### Massachusetts/Vermont State Line

**BRATTLEBORO**, situated along the state line along the Connecticut River and at the mouth of the West River in the Southeast corner of Vermont, is also the oldest town in the state. It is noted for its vibrant arts community and the renowned Brattleboro Retreat, a psychiatric hospital and convalescent center. The town began with a decision in 1723 to build a blockhouse and stockade on the site for the defense of Massachusetts used during the French and Indian Wars some 30 years later. Ida May Fuller, living with her niece in Brattleboro, collected the very first Social Security benefit on January 31, 1940 -- check #00-000-001.

**BELLOWS FALLS** is a tourist destination known for its Victorian architecture. Listed among its many sites on the National Register of Historic Places is the Miss Bellows Falls Diner and the Rockingham Meeting House, Vermont's oldest public building. A number of ski areas are also accessible nearby. The Connecticut River flows through town and divides Vermont from New Hampshire. Bellows Falls feels alive with history and culture, its commercial downtown district retaining the vintage feel of a time when the region's natural resources were first harnessed. On the Vermont side of the river, the village is set out on glacial terraces, and its shopping district, The Square, is reminiscent of Europe. The Waypoint Visitor Center, adjacent to the Bellows Falls Canal, is also near the train station. Perhaps the town's most notable native is Colleen Barrett, former President and Corporate Secretary of Southwest Airlines.

## Vermont/New Hampshire State Line

**CLAREMONT** is the train's only stop in New Hampshire and was settled in 1762. Water power derived from the Sugar River brought prosperity during the Industrial Revolution, evident in Claremont's fine Victorian architecture. Its commercial area, known as Washington Street, is anchored by an Italian Renaissance-styled city hall and a rotary-style town square. Its historic bandstand is the performance space for the Claremont American Band, which has its roots in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Nearby Moody Park once hosted a horse farm with several hundred imported horses on more than 500 acres. The movie *Live Free or Die* was filmed here in 2006.

## New Hampshire/Vermont State Line

**WINDSOR** was chartered in 1761 and by 1820 was Vermont's largest city with gun, machine, tinware, furniture and harness factories. It is originally known as the birthplace of Vermont, the place where the state constitution was signed and the first capital and meeting place of the Vermont General Assembly. (Montpelier became the capital in 1805.) Windsor was also the first town in the state to break ground for the railroad with the construction of a depot. The Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge is the second longest covered bridge in the U.S., built in 1866. Notable residents include the late actor and producer Bob Keeshan – better known to legions of baby boomers as *Captain Kangaroo*.

**Mount Ascutney** at an elevation of 3,143 ft. is now visible. Its steep trails traverse a Vermont state forest and its granite outcrops serve as a launching point for hang gliders. It is believed to have been formed from an upwelling of underground magma hundreds of millions of years ago. The late actor Charles Bronson owned a farm on 260 acres nearby and was buried at the foot of the mountain after his passing in 2003.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION** is an unincorporated village within which is contained an historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It reflects urban architecture between the late 1800s and early 1900s with examples of Greek Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, Italianate and Romanesque. By 1863, its eight-track crossing served 50 passenger trains daily. Known best for its quirky and artistic downtown area, it is also the childhood home of Weather Channel on-air personality and meteorologist Jim Cantore.

**RANDOLPH** is a town of 4,800 set in what can only be described as the essence of Vermont: verdant mountains, hillside pastures, winding dirt roads, rambling streams and covered bridges. Created by charter in 1781, the town was the setting for a 1921 silent movie, *The Offenders*.

**MONTPELIER** A population of only 8,000 makes it the smallest state capital in the U.S. The city was chartered in 1781 and named for the French city of Montpellier, there being a general enthusiasm at the time for all things French as a result of that country's aid during the Revolution. Among Montpelier's attractions are the Vermont History Museum and the Green Mountain Film Festival, the latter having been established in 1997. The last remaining clothespin manufacturer in the country closed its doors in Montpelier in 2006. Notable natives of Montpelier include Admiral George Dewey, best known for his victory at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War, as well as for being the only person ever to have attained his rank in the Navy.

**WATERBURY** dates to 1763 when a land charter was granted by King George III. The earliest settlers came from Waterbury, Ct., and named their new town accordingly. Today, the town houses several state government administrative offices, the Vermont State Hospital and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, whose factory tours are a popular attraction. Their initial parlor was opened in nearby Burlington in 1979 in a renovated gas station. Nearby Stowe offers major tourist draws, including the

Trapp Family Lodge as well as the Stowe Mountain Ski Resort. Hiking and cross-country skiing trails, dining and spa facilities are also popular.

**ESSEX JUNCTION** is a focal point in the **BURLINGTON** area, a town of 8,500 and home to the IBM Burlington Design Center, Vermont's largest private employer. Burlington itself is the smallest U.S. city to be also its state's largest, having a population of 39,000. Church Street Marketplace downtown is the site of festivals throughout the year. The city is also home to the University of Vermont, and served as filming location for *Me, Myself & Irene* and *What Lies Beneath*. Notable residents include Howard Dean, former six-term governor of the state and 2004 presidential candidate credited with innovative use of the internet.

**ST. ALBANS** is a border crossing with Canada and a research target for genealogists due to the large number of U.S.-bound European immigrants who crossed into the country by train between the late 1800s and the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Vermont Maple Festival each spring has drawn crowds for 40 years with its activities relating to the state's famous maple syrup. Anglers will enjoy fishing on Lake Champlain for Trout, Smelt, Perch, Walleye, Northern Pike and other species.

## ETHAN ALLEN EXPRESS NEW YORK TO RUTLAND

**NEW YORK** is America's most populous city. So famous are its districts that Wall Street, Broadway and Madison Avenue are universally recognized shorthand for the industries located there. It is a global city, with worldwide influence over commerce, finance, culture and entertainment and the arts. It is also an important center for international affairs, hosting the United Nations headquarters. Unique among U.S. cities for its high use of mass transit, the density and diversity of its population, its reputation as a city that never sleeps is due to its 24-hour subways and the constant bustling of traffic and pedestrians. Birthplace of numerous cultural movements, its metropolitan population surpassed 10 million in the early 1930s, making it the first "megacity" in human history. Amtrak offers connections to its entire system through Chicago from New York.

**Harlem River** The Harlem flows eight miles between the East and Hudson Rivers, separating the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx. The Harlem has served as a traditional rowing course for New York, used by university crews from Columbia, Fordham, New York and Manhattan College. Columbia's rowers have assisted New York Police Department investigations by sighting bodies in the water, as has been depicted in the TV series *Law & Order*. We cross the river at a point called Spuyten Duyvil -- Dutch for "spitting devil" -- a term that describes the tricky currents here where the Harlem River joins the Hudson River.

**YONKERS** is spread over hills rising from near sea level on the eastern bank of the Hudson River. Primarily a commuter city for workers into Manhattan, it possesses an excellent transportation infrastructure. Its attractions include Yonkers Raceway, the Philipse Manor Hall museum and archive, and many large shopping areas along Central Park Avenue. Its name derives from the Dutch word for "young gentleman," *Jonker*; this is how the recipient of the original land grant, Colen Donck, was known locally in 1645. In 1853, the Otis Elevator Company built the first such factory here. Today, a Kawasaki railcar assembly plant occupies its former facility, and supplies several U.S. state and municipal systems with transit vehicles, including New York City. The first U.S. golf course was founded here in 1888. Steven Tyler of the rock band *Aerosmith* is a notable resident.

**Hastings-on-Hudson** was once a center of stone quarrying. Huge quantities of dolomite marble were used to produce the paving blocks used extensively in New York City's Central Park and in other cities. The town is now an upscale community, the current and former home of numerous high achievers in diverse fields of endeavor.



**Irvington** takes its name from the author Washington Irving, creator of *Rip Van Winkle*, *Ichabod Crane* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Nearby "Sunnyside" was his home and can be seen from the train near the station. The town's cool summer breezes and attractive riverside setting have attracted wealthy residents of New York City since the 1850s. It is today a community of the well-heeled which includes *Today Show* co-host Meredith Vieira, actress Debra Winger, and Reverend Sun Myung Moon, head of the Unification Church. Its controversial mayoral election of 2005 resulted in the declaration of a winner by drawing lots after a tie vote could not be broken.

**CROTON-HARMON**, or Croton-on-Hudson, is the northern limit of the Hudson line railroad's electrification and a transfer point between local and express service. Historically, it thrived as a maintenance point for the former New York Central Railroad and its labor-intensive operations. Trains continuing north or west, including the flagship *20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited*, exchanged their electric locomotives here for steam or diesel locomotives to continue their journeys. Nearby is General Electric's John F. Welch Leadership Center, which trains GE executives. Today, there is an ongoing effort to develop the riverfront area for recreational use. Many Croton residents commute into New York City's Grand Central Terminal some 33 miles south via Metro-North Railroad.

**Peekskill** was an early American industrial center and the first headquarters of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1992, the town was the site of a meteorite landing, recorded on film by 16 witnesses, which punched through the trunk of a 1980 Chevrolet Malibu. That car was later displayed on a world tour. The 1980s fictional TV sitcom *The Facts of Life* was set in Peekskill.

**West Point Academy**, marked by stone battlements on the western (opposite) shore of the river, is a U.S. Army post and service academy. Its first commander, Benedict Arnold, famously committed treason when he attempted to sell the fort to the British. West Point trains more Army officers than any other single institution. Occupying over 16,000 acres, it is one of the largest school campuses in the world. In addition to the typical academic and sports buildings, it includes a ski slope and artillery range among its facilities. First occupied in 1778, it is the oldest continuously manned military post in the country. Bobby Knight, the winningest men's basketball coach in NCAA history, began his head coaching career at Army in the 1960s. Notable alumni include Presidents Grant and Eisenhower, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and Generals Robert E. Lee, John J. Pershing, Omar Bradley and Douglas MacArthur.

**Pollepel Island** is the site of Bannerman's Castle, an abandoned military supply warehouse. Francis Bannerman purchased the island in 1900 to use as a storage site for his growing business. Construction of the castle began in 1901, with most of the building devoted to stores of army surplus. Today, the castle is property of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The island itself, mostly rock, contains 6.5 acres; its name is derived from the Dutch word for "wooden spoon."

**Beacon** received its name from the signal fires that were set atop nearby Beacon Mountain to warn of approaching British troops during the Revolutionary War. During the 1800s, the town was known as the "Hat Making Capital of the U.S." with some 50 factories devoted to hat manufacture. Its artistic and commercial rebirth came with the opening of one of the world's largest contemporary art museums, a waterfront hotel and conference center. Across the river is its larger sister city, Newburgh.

**POUGHKEEPSIE** was home to the Smith Brothers' famous cough drops until 1972. The area's natural beauty and proximity to New York City prompted wealthy families like the Astors and Vanderbilts to build palatial weekend homes nearby. The city was an early center for whale

rendering, and industry flourished through shipping, hatteries and breweries – some owned by Matthew Vassar, founder of Vassar College here. Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph and Morse code, made this his home for 25 years.

**RHINECLIFF** The hamlet of Rhinecliff in the town of Rhinebeck encompasses the largest district of National Historic Landmark designation in the country. Kingston, across the Hudson River, contains a downtown area known as "the Rondout," considered one of the nation's best places for artists. It was also the first capital of New York between 1777 and 1797. Kingston once shaped and shipped most of the "bluestone" used to build the sidewalks of New York City. The Amtrak station here was built by the former New York Central Railroad in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and hosts several Amtrak trains serving nearby Poughkeepsie as well as Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls and New York City. Kingston may be accessed by taxicab from the station.

**Catskill** across the Hudson River was once a stopover for vacationers on their way to the Catskill Mountain resorts. The area was purchased from natives in 1678 and the town was established in 1788. The former undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion "Iron" Mike Tyson once trained at the Catskill gym owned by the legendary trainer Cus D'Amato, who took the young fighter out of reform school and welcomed him into his family. Across the river on the right is the Saugerties Lighthouse, decommissioned in 1954 when automation made light keepers obsolete. It is today a unique bed and breakfast.

**HUDSON** is named for the adjacent river and its discoverer and explorer, Henry Hudson. Its 7,000 residents include some 500 inmates at the Hudson Correctional Facility. Famous natives of Hudson include General William Jenkins Worth, whose leading role in the U.S. victory over Mexico in the Mexican-American War made permanent the liberation of Texas. The city of Ft. Worth is named for him. Today, Hudson's main thoroughfare, Warren Street, hosts a lively antiques market of almost seventy shops. Several television shows have been filmed here, including *The Wonder Years*.

**Castleton-on-Hudson** is a largely residential suburb of Hudson. Its name was derived from Henry Hudson's experience during exploration of his namesake river, whereupon he encountered a Native American food storehouse so large it was considered a castle.

**ALBANY-RENSELAER** Albany is the capital of the State of New York. Its capitol building is one of only ten state capitol buildings in the U.S. without a dome. The English acquired the original site from the Dutch in 1664 and named it in honor of James II, Duke of Albany. It is the fourth oldest city and the second oldest state capital in the U.S. In 1754, Benjamin Franklin presented his "Albany Plan of Union" to the Albany Congress, the first formal proposal to unite the colonies. Although never adopted, it proved to be an important precursor to the U.S. Constitution.

In the midtown section, the Empire State Plaza contains the tallest building in the state outside of New York City, the Erastus Corning Tower. The Plaza is based on the National Congress complex in Brazil's capital city, Brasilia. The local economy is based on state government and nanotechnology. Unlike most of the nation, Albany's "last call for alcohol" in the bars is 4:00 a.m. Albany public schools spend \$9,227 per student, well above the U.S. average of \$6,068. Famous natives of Albany include Andy Rooney, the humorist and commentator famous for his part on the CBS news program *60 Minutes*.

The Amtrak station is located in **Rensselaer**, 1.5 miles from Albany across the Hudson River. The structure dates from 2002, featuring a coffee shop, newsstand and post office. One of the busiest stations in the Amtrak system, it serves northeastern routes outside of the Northeast Corridor "spine." They include this train, the *Adirondack*, serving

Montreal and New York City; *Empire Service* between either Albany-Rensselaer or Buffalo and New York City; the *Ethan Allen Express* serving Rutland, VT and New York City; and the *Maple Leaf* serving Toronto and New York City. Here, also, the Boston and New York City branches of the *Lake Shore Limited* to and from Chicago meet.

**SCHENECTADY** is the ninth largest city in New York State. It became the headquarters of the General Electric Company in 1892 after Thomas Edison had moved his Edison Machine Works here. The company generated the first television broadcasts in the U.S. in Schenectady in 1928. Union College is the oldest planned campus in the country. Former President Jimmy Carter began graduate studies in nuclear physics at Union College in 1953. Schenectady is the former home of the American Locomotive Company, ALCO, which once supplied many major U.S. railroads with motive power.

**SARATOGA SPRINGS** was best known in history for the famous Battle of Saratoga, which took place in the town of Stillwater, some 24 miles to the southeast. The surrender of British General John Burgoyne to American General Horatio Gates in 1777 is cited as the turning point of the Revolutionary War. Saratoga Springs was once famous for Rock Spring, the mineral waters of which were thought to have medicinal value; the spa treatments continue at Roosevelt Baths. Since 1863, the town has played host to thoroughbred horse racing at Saratoga Race Course, the oldest continuously-operating track in the U.S. There are several museums and 20 golf courses in the area, along with vibrant night life. Singer Don McLean is said to have composed *American Pie* in a downtown bar. The Saratoga Performing Arts Center is a stop for touring national recording artists and the summer home of the Philadelphia Orchestra and New York City Ballet. Actor David Hyde Pierce and former NFL coach Bill Parcells are notable Saratogians.

**FORT EDWARD/GLENS FALLS** The Town of Fort Edward is part of the Glens Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area and was originally called Fort Lyman, constructed in 1755 during the French and Indian War. The name was changed the next year to honor King George II's grandson, Prince Edward. Glens Falls refers to a large waterfall in the Hudson River on the southern border of the city; the falls was the site

of several battles during the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. The region is a major producer of medical devices. The city also boasts the 300-seat Charles R. Wood Theater, home to the Adirondack Theater Festival; the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra; three museums; and an exclusive grilled delight dating to 1919 known as the "dirt dog" due to its proprietary meat sauce concoction. Annual festivals are held to celebrate ballooning, foods of the North Country, the arts and microbreweries, in addition to the professional rodeo known as the Adirondack Stampede. Television cooking personality and author Rachael Ray hails from Glens Falls, as does J. Allard, creator of Microsoft Xbox.

### New York/Vermont State Line

**CASTLETON** Vermont's oldest college, Castleton State, is here, as is a mile-long tree-shaded Main Street with an array of Federal and Greek Revival style buildings, and all its houses listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Chartered in 1761, Castleton was the meeting place between Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys and Benedict Arnold to plan their attack of Fort Ticonderoga in 1775. Their success was pivotal in holding the installation for two years until the battles at Bennington and Saratoga turned the tide in the Revolutionary War. Edwin Laurentine Drake grew up on a family farm here and went on to pioneer a new way to drill for oil in 1858, using piping to prevent borehole collapse and water seepage, methods still used today. Oil from his first strike in Titusville, Pennsylvania was collected in a bathtub.

**RUTLAND** is Vermont's second largest city. After large deposits of solid marble were discovered in the 1830s, the city became one of the leading producers by the 1850s. The town hosts Vermont's third largest shopping center, many summer events and festivals, the Rutland Halloween Parade and the Vermont State Fair. The downtown area is listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. Born in Rutland in 1804, John Deere would invent the first commercially successful steel plow and found the company bearing his name that became the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural equipment.



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