

FALL FOLIAGE IN THE GREEN MOUNTAINS



photo: Bob Krist, www.bobkrist.com

THIS NEW TPL JOURNEY explores a pastoral early-American landscape beneath a canopy of fall colors. Our group will gather in Burlington and shuttle to Shelburne Farms, a National Historic Landmark homestead that was once the country estate of William Seward and Lila Vanderbilt Webb. We will enjoy an outdoor reception on the lawn overlooking Lake Champlain, where we'll learn about this remarkable property from Shelburne Farms president Alec Webb.

After a leisurely morning spent exploring the rolling hills, pastures,

and gardens of Shelburne, we will follow a quiet color-lined country road to Bissonette Farm, located at the headwaters of the LaPlatte River, where we'll learn how TPL is working with Vermont communities to permanently protect complex landscapes such as this vital watershed valley. Following a gourmet picnic lunch, we will head to Knoll Farm—listed on the National Register of Historic Places—where we'll stop for an afternoon hike with former TPL staffer Peter Forbes, founder of the Center for Whole Communities. Leaving this landmark property, we will be just minutes from the village of

Warren and the Pitcher Inn, our lodging for the next two nights. A Relais & Chateaux Property, this inn was highlighted on “The World’s Best Places to Stay” 2008 Conde Nast Traveler’s Gold List.

From our base in Warren, we will spend the next day exploring the picturesque town of Stowe. The morning will present the opportunity for a guided hike at Weissner Woods, a Stowe Land Trust property, or to explore town on Stowe’s own recreation trail. In the afternoon, we will paddle canoes on Green River Reservoir, its waters crimson and gold with reflected fall color. Our evening presenter will be Jerry Monkman, a nationally recognized photographer whose images of the New England landscape appear frequently in national publications.

In the morning, we will head south through the Mad River Valley to Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, in Woodstock. We will lunch with park superintendent Rolf Diamant. Following lunch, you can join a guided hike of the park’s woodlands, view the art collection in the mansion with the park curator, or join Billings Farm & Museum

president David Donath for a tour of the farm. In the afternoon we’ll settle in for two nights at the beautiful Woodstock Inn, a world-class hotel and resort located in the “prettiest small town in America.”

Our final day will feature a morning hike to Bald Top, in the heart of a traditional New England community forest. Following lunch at a local farmhouse, we will hop aboard a small boat for a cruise on the Connecticut River, one of only 14 American Heritage Rivers and the focal point of TPL’s goal to help protect New England’s great river, the landscapes that support it, and the character of the region and its diverse communities. Closing dinner will be at the legendary Simon Pearce Studio in Quechee.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES: September 28–
October 3, 2010
DAYS/NIGHTS: 6/5
MAX. GROUP SIZE: 18
PRICE (PER PERSON):
Double \$3,267 Single \$3,867
HOSTS: Clem Shute, TPL Cali-
fornia Advisory Board member,
and Sharie Shute