

Rutland a small city



MUCH TO SAVOR: Rutland's farmers market is said to be the largest in Vermont. The area boasts eight covered bridges, including the Kingsley Bridge, right, and is nestled in the Green Mountains, far right.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUTLAND REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;
PHOTO, FAR RIGHT, COURTESY OF SCOTT HERDLING PHOTOGRAPHY

By MOIRA MCCARTHY

If you've headed north to Killington, you've passed it every time. Those in the know realize the smartest move is to veer slightly off the main road on your way up and spend some time — even overnight — in Rutland. Particularly during foliage season, this little city shines. Alive with an art scene, theater, foodie favorites and more, Rutland is a vibrant "small city" oasis surrounded by those fabled Green Mountains.

Rutland was — decades ago — a city in need of some TLC. It's gotten all that and more, and today, the city is alive and busy — there are virtually no vacancies in its walkable, fun downtown district.

Storefronts offer up everything from local craft shopping to art galleries to many excellent food choices.

The streets are alive, too. The farmers market that takes place every Saturday is said to be the largest in the state, selling locally farmed produce, cheeses, meats



and more from all over Vermont.

In the fall, it's all lined with beauty. While Rutland is a city (it's a cool feeling to find that vibe in the middle of the mountains), it is framed in foliage, giving it a delicious mix of urban and country.

The theater scene is booming, centered by the Paramount Theatre, where you can watch headline performers (like Robert Cray), enjoy comedy or dramatic theater ("Fame: The Musical"), hear amazing speakers or even get a taste of the local scene with "Dancing With the Rutland Stars." There are also many small regional theaters in the Rutland area.

You can get a full feel for it all Oct. 8-9, when the annual Art in the Park — named a best event in Vermont by arts and news

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publications — takes place in the middle of town. Crafts, food, artwork and more are celebrated all weekend long in the fall air.

Of course, dining is always a must when visiting a city, and during fall foliage, you'll find places dedicated to fresh, locally sourced Vermont meals. Roots and its sister spot, The Bakery, are excellent eateries. Roots' mission is to create delicious food from local ingredients, sourcing

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Vibrant Rutland

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produce, meat, dairy and more from Vermont pro-

ducers. The restaurant is also committed to providing — how refreshing is this? — affordable meals

from minimally processed locally grown foods, with top-notch service. It takes great pride in partnering



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUTLAND REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FALL FOR IT: Rutland's Halloween Parade has been a local tradition since 1960. The area boasts plenty of colorful seasonal scenery, right.

invites visitors on way to Killington

with local producers.

Roots will celebrate its sixth birthday in February. Food and beverage menus change twice a year to maximize seasonal availability of produce, meaning this fall, you'll be able to order something truly special.

The Bakery became a part of the company in November 2013 when Roots owner Donald Billings purchased the beloved Baba A Louis Bakery from Jerry Sojourner. The name was changed and The Bakery found its new home on West Street, where a cafe was added. The Bakery has continued to honor the Baba A Louis tradition by using the same recipes for many of the items offered in the cafe and through wholesale distribution. The Bakery is open for breakfast and lunch. Learn more at rootsrutland.com.

For a kicked-back food and fun experience while in the Rutland area, visit Otto's Cones Point General Store in neighboring Poultney. Chris and Rosie Beckmann bought the store last October and have made renovations. They feature restaurant-quality takeout fare with patio and porch seating



outside their store. You'll find fresh burger meat (never frozen), specialty sandwiches and salads, local Vermont ice cream (from Wilcox and Manchester) and a must-have fall delight: maple and vanilla creemees. Chef Brian Rodenbeck is ramping up the fall season with smoked fare, including his trademark smoked chicken wings and maple smoked brisket.

Otto's Cones Point General Store sells all the goods you'd find in any country store, featuring locally sourced maple, honey and other farm products. On weekends, you'll find Music@The Moose with tunes on the porch featuring country, classic rock and contemporary music. Go to ottosconespoint.com.

Where to stay? The Vermont Inn in the neigh-

boring town of Mendon is a great choice. This circa-1840 country inn on five acres offers the charm of a family-run inn with top quality service, and has consistently earned high ratings on TripAdvisor. This full-service bed-and-breakfast inn is 10 minutes from both Killington Mountain Resort and the city of Rutland. Mike and Emily Marrano live on-site and help guests with activity and dinner suggestions. Each day begins with a full country breakfast and ends with Mike's fabulous homemade cookies! Learn more at vermontinn.com

And then there is the biggest reason many head that way: Killington Mountain Resort itself. While many may know it for skiing, Killington is alive with many fun options during fall, and it's all in the beauty of the vibrant Vermont trees, stretched across seven majestic peaks.

Killington kicks it up a notch the weekend of Oct. 8-9 with Killington Witchcraft, a weekend of fun featuring craft beer and artisanal foods, hay rides, a fall maze, bounce house, haunted house, face painting, pumpkin launch

and pumpkin painting.

Those who like a serene visit to the top of Killington can take a lovely chairlift ride up. Those who like to see the trees with some more oomph can check out the amazing Skyride, which is 600 feet long, 100 feet high and glides at 30 mph down the mountain with side-by-side seating for two and unbeatable views.

You can also play disc golf on the mountain or take on the ropes course, a crazy "terra maze" and Skyjump, for those brave enough climb a 30-foot tower and step off the ledge for a bungee-assisted free fall back to the ground.

That's all part of Adventure Zone, open Saturdays, Sundays and Columbus Day, through Oct. 10, and also featuring the Beast Coaster, zip lining, a mining adventure, mountain biking and much more.

Of course, staying at Killington is a great option, too. Killington offers everything from condos to full-service-hotel stays at the Killington Grand Summit, where you are truly slopeside for much of that autumn fun, and only a quick coast down the road to Rutland. You can learn more at killington.com.

Back in Rutland, while the small-city vibe will keep you busy, you can find active choices, too. Rutland tucks up beside the Appalachian Trail for hiking and is a great spot for biking.

There's one more stop too — the town of Proctor, where marble is not just made but celebrated. The town's church, firehouse and even sidewalks are made of marble. It's a sight to see.

On your way to the thick colorful trees, a small-city stay in Rutland will make your visit even more exciting. Learn more at rutlandvermont.com.

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