

VERMONT HOTELS OFFER LOONIE-FRIENDLY VACATIONS



ROCHELLE LASH
Checking In

I am feeling the love from Vermont.

As the ski lifts close and hikers, cyclists and shoppers head to the Green Mountain State, many hotels and country inns are offering Canadians loonie-friendly deals, at all prices ranges.

Here are some of the best: **Burlington bargains:** Green Mountain Suites, near downtown Burlington, is a handsome boutique hotel that also happens to be a best buy.

It's offering Canadians its one-bedroom suites with full kitchens at \$109 US, Mondays through Thursdays, until April 30, which includes a full breakfast and a generous reception with craft beer and wine, plus a Vermont-inspired supper buffet supper.

Guests have an indoor pool, fitness room and hot tub, a fire pit and barbecue courtyard, plus several HBO TV channels. Word has got around about this attractive getaway in the cool town of Burlington. Green Mountain Suites has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor.

And nearby: The charming Governor's House in the village of Hyde Park is filled with antiques and historic charm.

Opening for summer on June 1, Governor's accepts Canadian at par for stays of at least two nights. Until Sept. 22, (some dates excluded) it's \$95-\$135 US on Sun.-Thurs., or \$95-\$235 US on Fri.-Sat., including breakfast and snacks.

The inn's delightful Jane Austen literary retreats feature afternoon tea, some meals and costumes circa 1800 (Aug. 5-7, Aug. 12-14, Sept. 9-11, Jan. 6-8, 2017; from \$365 US, for singles, or \$335 US, p.p., double occupancy, but no Canadian discount).

Essex Resort and Spa: Known for its spa, culinary workshops and pet-friendliness, Essex is a comfortable getaway outside of Burlington, across the street from the Essex Outlets and Cinema, so your visit is not weather-dependent.



The Green Mountain Suites, near downtown Burlington, Vt., is an attractive all-suite boutique hotel with generous Canadian deals. **GREEN MOUNTAIN SUITES**



There is a strong summer side to the Green Mountain Inn, a landmark of Stowe, Vt., which is offering 30-per-cent discounts to Canadians. **JIM WESTPHALEN/GREEN MOUNTAIN INN**

Ask about the new Bed & Brew tour and the beer-themed culinary workshops.

Canadians get 33-per-cent off on most Sundays through Thursdays until June 30, bringing rate to \$79 US per night and including a \$25 credit for a spa treatment and two-for-one cooking classes.

The homespun Holiday Harbor Lodge in the Lake Champlain Islands is heaven for fishermen and boaters. It has a boat launch and rentals, a bait and tackle shop, a fishing pier, kayaks and swimming docks. With Canadian at par until June 30, motel units start at \$115 US per night, and

lakeside efficiencies start at \$165 US. Children under 12 stay for free and weekly rates are available.

In Stowe: The swish Topnotch Resort, a favourite of Montrealers, has an exceptional offer. With a hilltop location and views of Mt. Mansfield, Topnotch is prized for its outstanding indoor-outdoor pools, the Topnotch Spa and the cool beer-and-burger scene at The Roost. Canadians have a 33-per-cent discount, bringing the starting rate to \$120 US on Sundays through Thursdays until June 30, using the code CA (with some blackout dates). The special feature is another 20 per cent off on

dining at Flannel and treatment at the spa, one of the finest in the northeast.

The landmark Green Mountain Inn, at the heart of Stowe village, is a stylish-but-classic hotel with a range of cosy rooms, deluxe suites, lavish apartments and townhouses, all done in fine New England decor with Vermont craft furnishings, Egyptian cotton bedding and pod coffee machines. A beacon of quality, this historic Federal-style beauty encompasses a year-round outdoor heated pool, a health club, excellent breakfasts, complimentary afternoon tea and upscale country dining at The Whip Bar & Grill.

Owned by brothers Simon and David Gameraoff of Montreal, Green Mountain Inn is offering Canadian guests a 30-per-cent discount, which brings the starting rate to \$98 US, until June 16 (except May 27-29).

The Stowe Motel & Snowdrift (now one entity) has grown into a mini-empire of budget-friendly motel rooms and apartments, most of them offered at 15-per-cent off for Canadians. Value season, May 1- June 23, costs \$99-\$159 US for two in rooms and efficiencies, and more for larger units.

IF YOU GO

Vermont info at Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce: 877-686-5253, vermont.org.
Essex Resort and Spa: 866-800-5525, essexresortspa.com; Governor's House: 866-800-6888, onehundredmain.com; Green Mountain Inn (Stowe): 800-253-7302, greenmountaininn.com; Green Mountain Suites (Burlington): 866-337-1616, greenmountainsuites.com; Holiday Harbor Lodge: 802-372-4077, holidayharborlodge.com; Jay Peak Resort: 800-451-4449, jaypeakresort.com; Smugglers' Notch Resort: 877-264-9744, smuggs.com; Stowe Motel & Snowdrift: 800-829-7629, stowemotel.com; Stowe Mountain Lodge: 888-478-6938, stowemountainlodge.com; Topnotch Resort: 877-593-7779, topnotchresort.com

Slope-side in summer: The luxurious Stowe Mountain Lodge will extend a 30-per-cent discount to Canadians on top-drawer condo accommodations that start at \$172 US, Sunday-Thursday until Aug. 31.

At the heart of Stowe Mountain Resort, the Lodge is home to gourmet cuisine, superior spa life for both kids and adults and a year-round outdoor heated pool.

The largest resort in the northeast encompasses tennis courts, two 18-hole golf courses and the new Zip Tour and Aerial Tree Adventure. Lift-serviced mountain biking is coming soon.

Jay Peak Resort, a longtime loyal friend of Canadians, is continuing its attractive loonie-at-par deal on lodging as well as the dazzling indoor Pump House water park and summer attractions, including golf. Ask about payment options (credit card, cash or other) to get the at-par offer.

Smugglers' Notch is offering a 30-per-cent discount for Canadians until June 16 on rates that start at \$250 US for a two-night stay (\$125 a night) in a studio for two or three people. Smuggs has a heated pool, hot tubs, hiking trails, family entertainment and an exciting zip-line, Arbortrek. Rochelle@rochellelash.com twitter.com/RochelleLash