

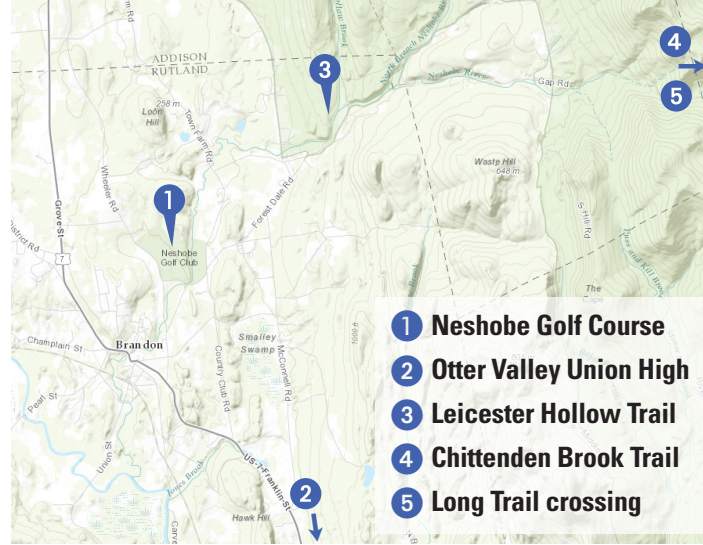
5 The Long Trail South from Brandon Gap: The Long Trail travels gradually uphill heading south from Brandon Gap. Depending on conditions, it can be a moderate or more-challenging ski with ordinary Nordic ski equipment. The descent, in particular, can be very difficult without backcountry equipment. However, it is a great place to snowshoe even for a beginner. Also, there tends to be more snow here than most anywhere else, with increasing amounts as you climb higher.

There is a parking lot just west of the Long Trail crossing on Rt. 73 about 7 miles east of Brandon. The short hill leaving the road headed south on the Long Trail is steeper than any other hill you will encounter. In about three quarters of a mile you reach Sunrise Shelter. This is a good place for a break if one is needed. The trail continues its gradual ascent to the junction with the Chittenden Brook Trail at 2.3 miles.

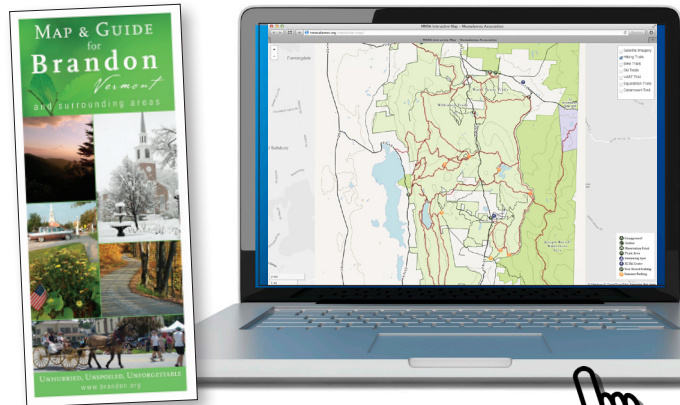


Safety Considerations

Any winter outing in Vermont should be undertaken with a strong dose of common sense. Be aware that cell service may not be available at many locations, especially those at higher elevations. A non-exhaustive list of suggestions and tips includes the following: don't go alone, check weather conditions in advance, let a responsible person know where you're going and when you expect to return, bring adequate clothing, food, water, and other supplies, and check all of your equipment in advance to confirm that it is working properly. Make your outing a memorable one, for all the right reasons.



The 'Map & Guide for Brandon Vermont' (available in the Brandon Visitor Center) has a detailed map which will help you get acquainted with the area.



Explore more trails online with the interactive trail maps at moosalamoo.org.

BRANDON'S
Gateways
to
ADVENTURE

is proudly
sponsored by



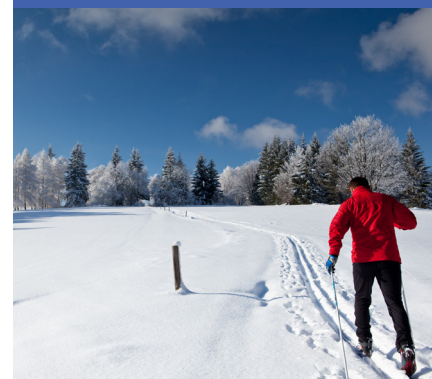
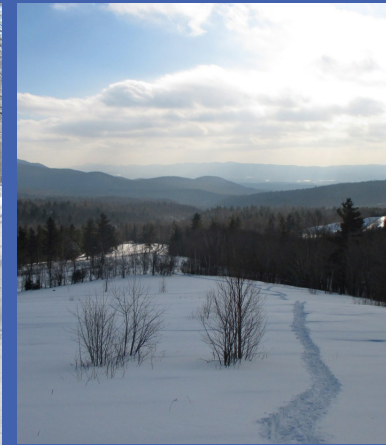
BRANDON AREA
CHAMBER
of Commerce

PO Box 267, Brandon, VT 05733
802-247-6401 www.brandon.org info@brandon.org
www.GatewaysToBrandon.com

BRANDON'S Gateways to ADVENTURE CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING



WINTER ADVENTURE IN AND AROUND BRANDON BRANDON, VERMONT



BRANDON'S Gateways to ADVENTURE

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING



There are many great places to cross-country ski and snowshoe within a short drive of Brandon. Blueberry Hill Inn in Goshen maintains a network of ski and snowshoe trails only 15 minutes from Brandon's downtown (www.blueberryhilltrails.com). Two commercial cross-country ski areas, Rikert Ski Touring Center in Ripton (www.rikertnordic.com) and Mountain Top Ski Touring Center in Chittenden (www.mountaintopinn.com/things-to-do/winter-spring-resort-activities/nordic-center) are each about a half hour's drive from Brandon and have groomed trails and snowmaking with trail fees. Visitors are directed to these resorts' respective websites for more information.

In addition to the nearby resorts, there are many other trails that are suitable for skiing and snowshoeing in the mountains surrounding Brandon. If there is snow in the valley there are places to ski or snowshoe without leaving Brandon.



Brian Jerome

SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING IN BRANDON

The amount of snow at low-elevation areas adjacent to Brandon varies in any given year. In general, it is easier to snowshoe with a lower snowpack than it is to ski. Nevertheless, when there is six inches of snow on the ground, there are places to ski and snowshoe within Brandon.

1 Neshobe Golf Course is just off of Rt. 73 about a mile and a half east of Brandon. Park by the clubhouse on Town Farm Rd. a quarter of a mile north of Rt. 73. It is possible to ski or snowshoe on these grassy areas with only a few inches of snow since you won't be skiing over rocks, branches, or other debris as you would on a trail in the woods. Just north of the clubhouse is a small sledding hill that has been used by school children for years.

2 Otter Valley Union High School is located about 4 miles south of Brandon on Rt. 7. Park in the parking lot just south of the school. Skiing around the edge of the playing fields south of the school is about a mile long with flat terrain. There are trails on Hawk Hill in back of the school that are suitable for snowshoeing. These trails can be accessed off the south end of the football field or by crossing a small field across a culvert to the west of the football field.

3 Leicester Hollow Trail: Travel east about 3.5 miles from downtown Brandon on Rt. 73 and park at the site of the former Churchill



Bob Clark

House Inn (large yellow house on the left with parking signs). Walk about 0.1 miles east on Rt. 73 and then bear left onto Churchill Rd., which crosses the Neshobe River and becomes the Leicester Hollow Trail (This is a public road that runs past a private residence; please be respectful of their privacy.). This trail continues along a stream and comfortably ascends to Silver Lake, a popular recreation area (4.6 miles).

Frequently Brandon and other locations in the valley have little or no snow for periods of time in the winter. However, going up a thousand feet or more in elevation can make a big difference in the snow pack. There are a number of excellent places to ski or snowshoe.

4 Chittenden Brook Trail: After Thanksgiving the U.S. Forest Service closes the access road to the Chittenden Brook Campground off Rt. 73 between Brandon and Rochester. This area tends to get early snow and retain it because it is deep in the woods on the snowy east side of the Green Mountains.

There is a parking area for a few cars where the access road meets Rt. 73 about 4 miles east of Brandon Gap. From the parking area the road rises mostly gradually about 2 miles to the Chittenden Brook Campground.

After about one mile, just before the road climbs a steep hill, a small sign on the right marks the trailhead for the Chittenden Brook Trail. The road up to this point rises gradually and is suitable for the beginning skier. At this point a more daring skier or snowshoer can continue on the road or turn onto the Chittenden Brook Trail. It is a beautiful trail that follows along the banks of Chittenden Brook. The trail narrows and divides as it rises; the Forest Service has put up signs at these junction points. Eventually the trail reaches the campground but portions of the upper trail may be challenging for a skier.



Brian Jerome



Brian Jerome