



How-to Series

Plan your Grand Isle State Park Weekend

Saturday

Make breakfast in camp; pack bagged lunches

Explore the park, walk down to beach, check out the playground, nature walk and nature center. Pack up bikes and a picnic lunch (1.5 hours)

Go for a bike ride (1 - 2 hours)

The Champlain Islands offer fantastic road biking on quiet lanes with views of farms and the lake. Here are a couple of suggested warm up rides:

Quick Loop (0.5 miles/20 - 30 min.)

From campground entrance road, turn right on East Shore Rd. Turn right on Lake Rd., then a quick left onto Coopers Bay View Rd. At the next T-intersection, turn left onto Cooper Bay Rd. South, then quick left onto East Shore Rd., then back to State Park road and the campground.

Longer Loop (3.16 miles/1 - 1.5 hours)

From campground entrance road, turn right on East Shore Rd. Turn right onto Old Marsh Rd., Turn left on East Shore Rd., Turn left onto State Park Rd. and return to campground.

There are many other options for biking in the Champlain Islands.

Leave the bikes at camp, grab lunch and beach gear and travel to Sand Bar State Park (1/2 hour)

Spend the afternoon at Sand Bar State Park (3 hours)

Sand Bar State Park, with its long, sandy beach and shallow water make it a favorite of families with young children. There are also plenty of shade trees and grassy lawns. Concession stand and boat rentals available. Park entry is free to all registered campers from another state park.

Back to camp, showers, relax, games. Dinner, campfire, s'mores

Sunday

Breakfast in camp

Kayak and Fish (1.5 hour)

You can rent single and double kayaks in the park, or bring your own if you'd like. Fishing from shore is also fun and kids under 15 can fish for free without a license. For adults, short term 1, 3 or 7-day fishing licenses are available. Fishing licenses can be purchased online or be purchased at the park.

Break camp and check out (1 hour)

Visit the Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center. (2 hours)

Kids love seeing the huge aquariums and watching the live feeding demonstrations. They also enjoy playing with the many changing hands-on activities that teaches about Lake Champlain and fresh water lake ecology in a fun way.

Grab an easy lunch at Sugarsnap Cafe located outside of the Echo Center or one of the other spots nearby

Time permitting, visit the Burlington Waterfront

Enjoy lakeside walking and biking path, bike rentals, ferry cruises on the lake and special events.

Church Street Marketplace

A pedestrian mall in downtown Burlington that offers great shopping and dining options. You may also see a variety of street performers and vendors.

Other Options

Alburt Dunes State Park

151 Coon Point Road, Alburgh 05440

(802) 796-4170

This hidden gem has one of the longest sandy beaches on Lake Champlain. It is less crowded than Sand Bar State Park and has great swimming, boat rentals, picnic tables and grills and an easy nature trail.

Ed Weed Fish Culture Station

VT Route 314, Grand Isle 05458

(802) 372-3171

This fish hatchery is Vermont's largest and newest, raising the majority of Vermont's stocked brook, rainbow and brown trout populations. Tour the hatchery and visitor center.

Allenholm Farm

50 South Street, South Hero 05486

(802-372-5566)

Orchard, farm animals, petting farm, farm store, bike rentals, apples.

Rainy Day Options

Hyde Log Cabin

228 US Route 2, Grand Isle 05458

(802) 828-3051

Hyde Log Cabin is a Vermont State Historic site and is one of the oldest cabins in the US and Vermont's oldest. Take a tour and learn about the cabin and area history.

McKee's Island Pub & Pizza

513 Route 2, South Hero 05486

(802) 372-5454

Have a nice meal inside this family-friendly restaurant that serves pizza, subs, salads and other pub fare.

Lake Champlain Byway

Take a road trip and let adventure be your guide. Explore without a destination in mind, stop whenever something piques your interest. See towns, farms, orchards, covered bridges.