

ValleyMeister \$1000 Challenge !

A Scavenger Hunt based on Adventures in Paradise

Exploring the Upper Connecticut Valley of Vermont & NH

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ValleyMeister Tour 1 Quinnitukut, The Long River

Hanover - East Thetford – Norwich

Notes: Easy to follow, this twenty mile loop should take two hours or less. River Road was first an Indian trail, then a main stagecoach route. To find answers to the starred questions, read both Chapter 1, Quinnitukut, and Spanning the Ages on Page 17 in Adventures in Paradise.

Begin on the Dartmouth Green.

1. For seventy-five years two men have been overlooking the Green from under a tall pine tree. Name one of them.
2. What implement did the other leave at the nearby White Church?

Go north to NH 10/Lyme Road

3. The Hanover firehouse provides news of Elmer T. Ford. Who was he?
4. What mountain can be seen from the top of the hill just north of Kendall at Hanover?
5. Name three activities prohibited at the Lions Club Boat launch.

Go left on River Road

6. What “couple” has been taking in the view from in front of #3 River Rd. for over twenty years?
7. Where can you always find blustery conditions along River Road?
8. What common 18th century survivor marks the corner of Wilmott Lane?
9. What “article” of footwear can you find near the Hewes Brook boat launch?
10. What type of bridge crosses to Vermont?*

Cross to E. Thetford. Go south to Pavillion Rd., follow it back to US 5.

11. How far is it to Springfield, Mass. from the railroad crossing?
12. Until the 1970s the Connecticut River was often described as “the best _____ in the world.” *
13. South on US 5, stop and record how many of Quail John Chamberlain’s sons fought in the Revolution.

Go to Pompanoosuc. If noticed, take interesting dirt side road off US5 north of Pompy at #212-214 mailboxes.

14. What color is Kendall Station depot?
15. Find an orange witness post across the tracks from the depot set out by NOAA. How far will the river fall before it reaches Long Island Sound?

Cross US 5 to Old Bridge Road

16. The boat launch on the Ompompanoosuc is a stop on what trail?
17. Look behind you. What shape are the two gray buildings?

Return to US 5 South, go 3.5m.

18. Just north of Butternut Rd. a path from a turn-out leads across the rr tracks to a pine grove. According to the sign, where are you?

Further south on US 5, bear left on River Rd. to Ledyard Bridge

19. At Crossing Lane, how far have you come from East Thetford?
20. The offices of what railroad company were once located at the Norwich Depot?
21. How many cement balls are there between Norwich and the Ledyard Canoe Club?

ValleyMeister Tour 2 Taverns & Tack

Lyme – Orford – Fairlee – East Thetford

Notes: River Road, the old stagecoach route, continues its glorious progress north, little changed in two hundred and fifty years. Round trip distance for this hunt is about 17 miles. Use caution when stopping at the covered bridge over Clay Brook, the approach is blind from both approaches. If you can't figure out Question #19, ask the Postmaster.

Begin at Lyme-Thetford Bridge, then go north on River Road

1. What's growing by the ton in the greenhouses on the Vermont side?
2. Count the Federal fan decorations at the Green Tavern.*
3. What was River Bend Farm named when Indians stayed there in the 18th century? *

At hamlet, go right on North Thetford Rd.

4. See anything familiar just ahead? *

Return to River Rd. and old North Thetford bridge site

5. What's growing in the middle of the river?

Continue on River Rd. At .6m. look for a cemetery on left at road dip

6. What can you learn from John Bell's headstone?
7. Ruhanna Porter died in 1849. What event began when she was twenty?
8. Further along River Road, what meal can be found at any time of the day or night?
9. At the bridge over Clay Brook, find out where you can get a free booklet about covered bridges.

Continue to NH10, then stop in Orford at The Ridge marker

10. How far is it from Orford to the Bay State?
11. Directions are given to an attraction that no longer exists. What is it?
12. Complete: "It must be a bridge... of _____ and _____, fitting accurately into its scenic environment." *

Cross the bridge to Fairlee

13. The optical illusion of the plaques on the west side of the bridge proves that the NH side is _____ than the Vermont side.
14. When was the great Connecticut River flood?
15. Who sold equine preparations endorsed by "Famous Trainers" near the Town Offices?

Follow Route 5 south to Ely and North Thetford

16. Find a "Bessemer" in Ely. What is it?
17. Find a nautical reference at the Federated Church in North Thetford.
18. What does the carved spire cap represent?

Leave North Thetford on Route 5

19. What water body formed the great flatlands between North and East Thetford? *
20. What group was memorialized in the 1950s at the cemetery on US 5 above North Thetford?

ValleyMeister Tour 6 Quechee Falls

Woodstock – Quechee Gorge

Notes: A popular bike ride, the round trip distance is only eleven miles and mostly flat. Question #3 is found near the town line, look for white diamond on a tree. For the answer to #5 see Tour 32, “Kings Highway,” in Adventures in Paradise.

Begin at Billings Farm in Woodstock, follow River Road east.

1. What breed of cow does Billings Farm specialize in?
2. Ebenezer Winslow, Esq. was buried in the Cushing Cemetery in 1805. What is the woman buried to the right of him identified as?
3. Count the knots on the Ottauquechee rope swing.
4. Steps lead down to the river at the Taftsville Covered Bridge. What shape are its supporting beams?

Follow Quechee Main St.

5. Hillside Road ahead was built in 1770 by the Proprietors of what new town to-be?*
6. Count the cow weathervanes between Taftsville and the Quechee Club.
7. What London landmark can be seen along Quechee Main St?
8. How many spires are there at the Community Church?
9. A map at the gazebo near the Post Office is a guide to the village’s “_____ architecture.”
10. A display inside the Simon Pearce mill advises that it originally produced woolens primarily used to make what type of garment?
11. Where did the 1912 turbine that powers today’s glass-blowing operation come from?
12. Rocks tilting upwards below the bridge suggest that the river follows a geological weakness called a _____. *
13. Canoeists paddle day and night year-round at Wilderness Trails, a half-mile east on Quechee Main St. How many of them?
14. Record the year that J. Strong built a house in the Federal style at the corner of Quechee Main St. and Dewey’s Mills Rd.

Go right on Dewey’s Mills Rd.

15. What shouldn’t you do at the Dewey’s Mills power station?
16. A benchmark can be found in the grass near the corner of Dewey’s Mills Rd. and US 4 What is its number?
17. In what direction does the river run through Quechee Gorge?
18. The bridge over the gorge and US 4 once served another purpose. What was it?
19. What year was the bridge built?
20. True or False: the Gorge was formed about a million years ago.*

ValleyMeister Tour 7 Northern Railtrail

Lebanon – Enfield

Notes: This hunt is a flat bike ride of about six miles one-way. Any bike will do. White diamonds will guide you to some of the answers. See the Upper Valley geology section on page 16 of Adventures in Paradise for help with Question #13.

Begin at the center of Colburn Park in Lebanon. Then go northeast to Parkhurst St. and trailhead opposite Witherell Recreation Center.

1. Lebanon is known as “The City of _____.”
2. The cinders that surface the trail in Lebanon are the waste product of what type of locomotive? *
3. The distance to Boston is marked on every bridge. How far is it from the Bank Street Extension bridge to Boston?
4. What type of structure is upstream from bridge #136.34?
5. In what year was bridge #134.40 built?
6. What antique overlooks the trail from near the I-89 underpass?

Stop at the bridge below the Mascoma Lake Dam

7. What was this neighborhood known as until recently? *
8. Note the historical display. Approximately how far does the Mascoma River drop between the dam and the Connecticut River?
9. What year was a brass benchmark installed on the southeast bridge abutment?
10. What are the overhead structures on either side of the Payne Rd. underpass called? *

After 1.6m along Mascoma Lake, the trail enters a rock cutting called Ledges Pass.

11. Find a carving in the rock that tells what year was the cut widened.
12. Look west down the lake to a large pink building. What is it?
13. What process formed the polished rock surface above the cutting? *
14. According to the historical display, what caused the 1960 train wreck?

Continue into Enfield Village

15. Who installed a brass benchmark on the eastern abutment of the bridge opposite the church in Enfield village?
16. What time is the “last wash” in Enfield?
17. What organization occupies the Enfield Depot today?

Continue on the trail to the Baltic Mill bridge

18. What company built all the bridges along the Northern Line?

Reverse direction. Leave the trail at the Enfield Depot and go to Main St.

19. Where did the Odd Fellows meet in Enfield?
20. What three commodities did H.L. Webster trade in?

Rejoin railtrail

ValleyMeister Tour 13 Cornish Colony

Plainfield – Cornish

Notes: A twenty-mile loop, this hunt passes the entrance to the St. Gaudens National Historic Site, an Upper Valley attraction of exceptional artistic interest.

Begin in Plainfield on NH 12-A

1. Find a twin to the Blow-Me-Down Grange building. What letter is hidden in the stained glass?
2. Between 1860 and 1920 Plainfield lost ____% of its population.*
3. What business was founded exactly 200 years after the town was chartered?

Go .8m north, then right on Stage Road 1.5m to Mill Village

4. An old barn has a sign on it. What does the sign say?

Return to Stage Rd. heading east

5. Where are “bad” people in Plainfield sent to live?

Go right on Penniman Rd. at Town Garage, then first left on dirt up hill to Penniman Cemetery

6. What’s missing from the Underhill family plot?
7. What war did Capt. John Stevens fight in, and what organization memorialized his service?
8. How many granite fence posts are there in the cemetery?

Continue on Penniman Rd. to Cornish Flat

9. Coming downhill into Cornish Flat, what recycled materials did a homeowner use to make a clothesline?
10. Where do you find the name St. Gaudens in Cornish Flat?
11. Let’s face it, time is of the essence, but apparently there was quite a bit more of it in Cornish Flat years ago. How so?
12. What bird has lived in the village for over a century?

Go right on NH120 to Center Rd.

13. What is memorialized at the United Church in Cornish Center?

At Town House Rd. bear right

14. How many covered bridges are there between the Center/Town House intersection and NH12-A?

At NH12-A bear right to the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge

15. What did Ithiel Town’s patent cover?
16. About how high would the Connecticut River have to rise before touching the bottom of the bridge?
17. What mountain do you see across the river?
18. Why is the center support of the bridge irregularly shaped?
19. Name the type of carving that Augustus St. Gaudens was so skilled at that he became the first sculptor to design American coinage. *

Go right on Platt Rd. 1.3m. to Squag City Rd.

20. The Squag City covered bridge was built in 1877 for \$529. How much did it cost to repair it in 1980 and 2002?
21. Who is Plainfield’s most famous resident today?*

Return to Platt Rd. Go left to NH12-A and Plainfield

ValleyMeister Tour 14 Dam Village of Union

Thetford

Notes: This Hunt is an easy to follow one-way outing that ends in Thetford Center. By car, a suggested return to Union Village is via VT113 to Thetford Hill and scenic Academy Road. See Tour 40 in Adventures in Paradise for the unusual history of churches like the Thetford Hill Congregational.

Begin at VT132/Academy Hill Rd. at the entrance to Union Village

1. A dove watches over Sgt. Burns Senter of the Vermont Volunteers in the Union Village cemetery. Where was he killed?
2. 1836 was a good year for building _____.
3. Is the Union Village School in Norwich or Thetford?
4. Yao Ming is 7'6." He could be only _____ feet taller if he wanted to walk through the covered bridge.
5. What is probably inside the box at the south end of the bridge?

Bear left to the Union Village Dam.

6. What is the current Force Protection Condition at the dam?
7. In what year did the Vermont Geodetic Survey place a bench mark on the dam's lip?
8. In what year was the National Flood Control Act passed?
9. The Union Village Dam was one of a number designed to prevent flood damage in what states? *

Follow the sign to Thetford Center

8. How many height gauges are there in and around the dam?
9. In what winter did record snow fall in the Ompompanoosuc drainage?
10. About how high was the water that spring?

Stop at the Mystery Trail 2m. ahead. Then follow it bearing right 150 yds. to a meadow along the river

11. Where would the snowmobile trail take you?
12. What is coincidental about an earlier high water year?
13. What was the standing piece of stone used for?
14. Who has a summer house in the river?

Return to the main road

15. Find a misspelling at the Sandy Beach.
16. What was the original name of the road you are on?

Continue on into Thetford Center

17. Find and identify an unusual front door lock.
18. How many gothic arches are there at the Methodist Church?
19. What faith did Lt. Alexander Goode follow?
20. Route 113 is part of a cross-country bicycle route maintained by _____.*

ValleyMeister #17 Norwich – West Norwich

Notes: This is a two-part scavenger hunt. By bicycle the two sections can become one loop, see map and notes for Tour 17 in Adventures in Paradise. However, note that returning from West Norwich the hunt follows Bragg Hill Rd., rather than Beaver Meadow Rd. as shown in the book. Adventures in Paradise is available at the Norwich Bookstore and Dan & Whit's.

Part 1

Begin in the town center

1. Surprisingly for such a small town, Norwich hosts the “ _____ Headquarters.”
2. Notice of a famous local “bird” appears at the bandstand. Where did he fly to?
3. Estimate the number of fence pickets at the Historical Association.

Head up Elm Street

4. What is common to the numerous Greek Revival-style houses along Elm St?
5. What tells you that you are on the Appalachian Trail?

At Hopson Rd., go right to Hillside Cemetery

6. What’s missing from the log cabin at the cemetery?

Continue on Hopson to the old town cemetery on Beaver Meadow Rd.

7. What name is boldly carved in a tree trunk there?
8. Cast iron grape vines, swags and fencing embrace an old friend. Who?

Follow Beaver Meadow Rd. .7m. Go right on Moore Lane to Turnpike Rd.

9. How far is it from Moore Lane to Happy Hill Tavern?
10. A number of animals are either named or depicted along the next three miles of Turnpike Rd. as it leads to Gile Mt. Identify at least four.
11. Jones Tavern* shows a window treatment typical of high-style early dwellings called “ _____ over _____.”
12. As the notice says, if you wish to visit the Holsteins at Norwich Farms, you should not have been “ _____ for a week or two.”

Stop at the Gile Mountain access. Walk up to the tower.

13. Record the letter and number code stamped on the bases of the tower’s steel uprights.
14. Today the town is heavily wooded, but ninety years ago the Dartmouth Outing Club built Happy Hill Cabin in rural Norwich because of its suitability for “ _____ skiing.”*

Part 2

Go to West Norwich, either by using the map and notes in *Adventures in Paradise* to follow Class 4 Chapel Hill Rd. (bike or foot only), or by returning to the town and taking Beaver Meadow Road.

15. By looking in the back window of the Beaver Meadow School House in West Norwich the “Smith System” can be seen. What is it?

Go to the cemetery.

16. The Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 first struck at American military camps. What West Norwich resident was an apparent victim of it?

17. Where were the Vermont Volunteers serving in 1862?

Go toward Norwich 1.5m., then right on Tucker Hill Rd. to Bragg Hill Rd.

18. An eyebrow window is soon seen on Bragg Hill Rd. On what kind of structure?

19. A Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie School-style house is seen at what number Bragg Hill Rd.?

20. What’s cookin’ at the bottom of Bragg Hill?

21. Who sold Monarch, Templar and Atalanta bicycles in Norwich in the 1890s?*

ValleyMeister Tour 35

Target of Opportunity

South Royalton - Sharon – Tunbridge

Notes: Country roads, old farms and covered bridges over the winding First Branch of the White River make this tour one of the most scenic of all the hunts. Coming from the south you could also begin in Sharon. Pick up Fay Brook Rd. off VT14 a half mile north of I-89, Exit 2.

Begin as you enter South Royalton from VT14

1. What fort was once here, but not when it counted?*
2. What Vermonter's experience gives rise to the expression "bar none?"
3. What's left of the old Cowdery Place at the end of New St.?
4. When do "odd" people get together in SoRo?
5. What's missing from the Civil War cannon on the Green?
6. Where can you get ample advice in the town?

From the Green, follow River Rd. south 5 miles to Sharon. Cross the iron bridge to Fay Brook Rd.

7. Who escaped on horseback near Cue D on Oct. 4, 1780? *
8. Find a sign that confirms that the Sharon Depot was on opposite side of the river from the town.

Climb dirt Fay Brook Rd. 4.5 miles to the Robinson Neighborhood

9. Which are you closer to now, Sharon or Strafford?
10. Count the lightning rods at Round Robin Farm.

Take Robinson Rd. north into Tunbridge, where it becomes Potash Rd. At 2.6m stop at the Ordway Cemetery on the right.

11. Complete: *Go home my friends, Dry up your tears. I must lye here*

12. What did Aspinwall make?

Continue on Potash Rd. 3.4m to Tunbridge village. Go north on VT110 through historic district, loop back on Mill Rd. to the covered bridge, then stop at the Soldiers and Sailors monument.

13. What the earliest year of construction noted on plaques?
14. What year was the house with the gingerbread vergeboards built?
15. How many wars did Durkees and Rowells serve in?

Continue south on VT110 a half-mile to Howe Lane, then follow it one mile back to VT110, continuing to SoRo

16. What's funny about the covered bridge on Howe Lane?
17. How many fewer windows does it have than the Mill Bridge back in the village?
18. What did Mr. Howe build thirty-five years after a bridge?
19. How many silos are there at the Howe Farm complex?
20. What event began in the meadow below the pull-off near the town line? *
21. Back in SoRo, what family name from Tunbridge do you find on the Handy Memorial?

ValleyMeister Hanover – Dartmouth Campus

Note: You should be able to follow this hunt without a map. If not, they are available at the information booth on the Green. Adventures in Paradise is available at the Dartmouth Bookstore.

Begin at the Town Office, then head toward the Inn Corner on the east side of Main Street

1. What happened fifteen years to the day after Hanover was chartered?
2. At least ___ Hanover families sent three or more men to the “World War.”
3. Where does Rockwood make its fire bells?
4. An occupant of 26 Main is “_____” in New Hampshire.”
5. How long is the Appalachian Trail?
6. What group objected to the Senior Fence, at least for a time?

Go to Robinson Hall

7. What sports equipment is permanently kept outside ?
8. Go to the middle of the Green. Estimate within fifty the number of windows facing you from all directions.
9. The Dartmouth Green is the old bottom of Lake _____. *
10. About how old is Dartmouth Hall?
11. Go to the Observatory and look to see what seem to be missing but are not.
12. What kind of writing implement can be found in the woods near there?
13. What Dartmouth class topped off Bartlett Tower?

Go toward Baker-Berry Library

14. A Foucaultian pendulum seen from the west entry of Fairchild Hall proves once again that “The Earth _____.”
15. Are those lions or foo dogs in front of the SAE house?
16. Rollins Chapel is a superb example of Richardson Romanesque architecture. When was the style popular?

Go to the lawn in front of Baker Library

17. What regional group did Eleazar Wheelock say he preferred above all others as Hanover settlers?*
18. From the lawn in front of Baker you can see both wrought iron and masonry representations of a tree also seen earlier on this walk, the first one in bronze. What is the tree known as in Dartmouth lore?

Go to the south section of the Old Hanover Cemetery behind Massachusetts Hall

19. It is self-evident that one late professor taught geology. Who was he?
20. What indicates that Adrian Beck’s family was ambivalent about his death in WWII?

Go to Hopkins Center

21. Compared to yours, is Warner Bentley’s nose larger, smaller, or about the same size?

ValleyMeister Woodstock Village

Notes: This hunt is a walk or bike ride of about a mile and half. Maps are available at the Information Booth on the Green. See Tour 28 in Adventures in Paradise for help with #11.

Begin on the Green, then go to Town Hall

1. What structure near the Green has no essential metal parts?
2. How many Woodstock men were killed in WWI?
3. Find a fish out of water.
4. Where did the gazebo behind the North Universalist Chapel Society come from?
5. Complete: "Chez _____."

Cross bridge to River Street, go three blocks. Take first left into River St. Cemetery, to 1st plot on left

6. When would Henry Mower have been twenty-one?
7. Further along, find the Darling family plot near a monument topped by a large urn. Who is Huddah Darling identified as?

Go to National Park Visitors Center

8. Where do you find the initials FB?
9. A Norway spruce outside is the _____ in Vermont.

Go to the Iron Bridge

10. What's inside the birdhouse?
11. What American hero crossed a covered toll bridge at this site in June 1824? *
12. At the Congregational Church, who gets short shrift for making the bell?
13. Why was it taken down?

On Pleasant St. go left into Parking Free

14. What natural features meet at the far end of the lot?
15. At the triangle park further ahead on Pleasant St., follow the path of a cannon ball to a brass marker. Who placed it there?
16. Specifically, what war does the granite memorial remember?

Go the brick Masonic Temple ahead

17. Complete: *In Memory of Hosea & Mary* _____

Go toward Green, then left on High St. to Golf Ave.

18. En route, the Justin Morgan historical marker on Central St. displays the Vermont motto. What is it?
19. The lyre-shaped weathervane at #29 High St. suggests that the house was once owned by a _____.
20. In what year did the State of Vermont memorialized its public work near here with a brass plaque?