Vermont

With a population of 625 thousand, Vermont is the sixth smallest state in the US. Its nickname is the ‘Green Mountain State,” from the French ‘les monts verts.” The state is deeply forested and offers thousands of mountainous hiking trails and ski slopes. Perfect for adventurous people like me! Every area of Vermont has extreme fall vibes, so Halloween is probably awesome there. The small towns are cozy and quaint, often having only around two thousand inhabitants on average. They would be perfect to film a new *vampire* *diaries* series in, because of their mystique and allure. The streets are small and there are no highways for miles around. If you want to visit another town, there is often only one road connecting the different towns, so when you drive you can feel like the main character in a movie.

The towns in Vermont aren’t places where you will find a Walmart because it proudly holds the distinction of being the only state without them. Montpelier, the smallest state capital in the U.S., is also the only capital without a McDonald’s restaurant. Vermont has mostly family-owned businesses, like The Country Store on Main or Shaw’s General Store. If you don’t care about that and are wondering if the state has good public schools, the answer is yes. In 2021, Vermont was rated among the top 10 states with the best public school systems. Because of this, a significant proportion of residents hold college degrees. Economically, Vermont has a diverse mix of industries, including agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and technology. The state is often associated with a strong sense of community and commitment to environmental sustainability, so the breeze you will feel in your hair will indeed be fresh.

 Vermont is undoubtedly a haven for those seeking refuge from the smelly air in New York or urban life in general. However, if you want to visit the more populated towns, you can go to Burlington or the state capital, Montpelier. Despite their tranquillity and lack of beaches, these towns are lively and offer a unique blend of activity and serenity. Fun fact: since 2015, Burlington has been the first city in the U.S. to run entirely on renewable energy. And I thought this small state couldn’t get any better.

 If you like cheese, you’re in luck. Vermont is nothing short of a utopia. Quite renowned for its cheese-making prowess, the state won the World Cheese Awards as well as The World Championship Cheese Contest. Vermont is home to more than 45(!) cheesemakers. Vermont’s dairy farms yield a plethora of cheeses crafted from the milk of sheep, goats and various cow breeds, showcasing the state’s dedication to culinary excellence and agricultural heritage. Vermont is also the lead producer of maple syrup, producing 1.3 million gallons which is more than a third of the nation’s total maple syrup in 2013, but to be honest, I find the cheese to be more impressive.

Vermont’s architecture is a reflection of its rich history and natural surroundings. The state has a mix of traditional New England Colonial homes, those iconic red barns you immediately recognize, and Victorian-era buildings. The picturesque landscape blends extremely well with these structures. Today, Vermont continues to value its architectural heritage while also embracing modern design elements in towns like Burlington, Montpelier, and Woodstock. You’ll find a blend of historic buildings and contemporary structures. There are ongoing efforts to preserve and restore historic buildings to ensure that Vermont’s architectural legacy remains.

Initially inhabited by indigenous peoples, European settlers arrived in the 18th century, leading to conflicts over land and territorial claims. Vermont declared independence in 1777, becoming the Vermont Republic, and later joined the United States in 1791 as the 14th state after a brief period of sovereignty following the American Revolutionary War. Vermont is recognized as a progressive state, as it was the first state to abolish slavery in its constitution and the first state to pass marriage equality through the legislature. There’s so much I love about Vermont, and I know you would too.