

wicked waystation

2024 SUMMER LOGISTICS, RATE SCHEDULE & HIKER INFO

Hostel-style farmhouse lodge with shared room accommodations and private & family rooms available as well (no private bathrooms.)

Not a party hostel - calm demeanor expected at all times, quiet hours strictly enforced. No smoking/vaping/substance use.

All-inclusive individual nightly fee (bunk room): \$50+10% VT Local & Room Tax (\$55 total.) Call for private room options and rates (ranging from \$120-150+Tax.) Credit Cards, Venmo, or Cash accepted at check in.

Included in fee: shower & soap, bed linen & towel, laundry, loaner clothes, full use of kitchen & lounge area, game room, wi-fi, shuttle to/from trailhead [only.] Breakfast not provided, but full kitchen and basic ingredients available for hikers to make their own: milk, cereals & oats, coffee & teas provided. Fresh eggs for sale directly from the farmstead/neighbor. Local frozen meals (burritos, loaded mac & cheese, pizzas and breakfast sandwiches) and fresh pastries also for sale on site.

Walking distance to local Country Store (0.3mi, open 7am-8pm) and Post Office (0.8mi, limited hours.) No other businesses in the area. No ATM at store, but they take credit cards.

Mail/Packages accepted (must address directly to the hostel [see below] as "Wicked Waystation", with "Attn: 'hiker name'" identified on second line - please account for possible/common shipping delays due to remote location!!) Flat-fee USPS packages will be mailed out without added handling charge. (A \$5 handling surcharge fee will apply to postal rates when forwarding or returning stranded/unclaimed packages.)

No work-for-stay, tenting or pets at this time due to limited capacity, zoning and insurance restrictions. (For those with pets: if you book with the Grey Ghost Inn, a pet-friendly lodge just 10min from us, we will shuttle you there and back to trail as a courtesy!)

Upon reservation, shuttle will be available every day from Kelley Stand Trailhead/Parking Area. Pick ups at nearby USFS 71 or Stratton Mountain Resort may also be arranged. Typical pick up times are from 4-6:30pm and drop offs from 7am-9am (other times may be possible, but are not guaranteed - we are a small family business and our schedule is often dependent on the kids/school commitments, especially when school is in session - **please, no late pick ups or check ins.**) You can take a NERO or resupply stop by planning to meet us early in the morning, at hiker-drop off time, and getting a ride down to the hostel then. Make sure to TEXT us at/just after Story Spring Shelter (NOBO) or Stratton Summit (SOBO) to give an estimated arrival time - no connection at Kelley Stand!!

Advanced reservations are highly encouraged - we may not have room or shuttle available otherwise! Additional services/shuttle routes may be possible through independent local drivers. (We do not offer "shuttle services" as a business, but maintain a list of shuttle drivers for the area.)

Slack-packing opportunities available to/from Bennington and Manchester areas (~40miles that can be broken into 2 or 3 sections.) We collaborate with other lodges and drivers for this service - we will provide detailed guidance on distances, options and contacts, plus loaner day-packs to borrow. (See details & options below.)

Our Summer/hiker season is usually from June 1st to mid-October - we then close for annual maintenance, so make sure to plan accordingly. (We open for Winter sports on Dec 1st. We close again early April for our annual family vacation/mud season.)

Web: <http://www.wickedwaystation.com>

Address: 356 Stratton-Arlington Rd, West Wardsboro, VT 05360

Tel: 917-999-6793 (primary) and 917-214-8562 (back up/emergency)

Hosts: Thais Gherardi (& Thomas Almeida)

REALLY AWESOME SLACK-PACKING OPTIONS & DETAILS

Shuttle drivers will take **YOUR PACK OVER** to your next lodging!!!

No driving around, then next morning again... ugh!! JUST WAKE UP & GO!

Our slack-packing opportunities are offered in collaboration with independent shuttle drivers and other lodging options in the area: **YOU** are responsible for contacting each service provider and making transport/lodging reservations to take advantage of this convenience.

Shuttles (av. cost of \$60-80 per transport to/from us, either direction):

- Green Mountain Hostel (Jeff/Duffy), Manchester: #330-388-6478
- Steve Labombard, Bennington: #802-379-2896

(Other options available, but those are whom we recommend first.)

Lodging:

- The Catamount Motel (hiker rates), Bennington #802-442-5977
- Greenwood Campsites (tenting only), Woodford #802-442-2547
- Green Mountain Hostel (Jeff/Duffy), Manchester #330-388-6478
- Pinnacle Lodge (private rooms only), Winhall #802-558-5370
- Obviously, you'll need to reserve your stay with us! #917-999-6793

Shuttle drivers will **NEED A SAFE LOCATION** to drop off your pack, which they will transport over while you hike and **deliver to the lodging of your choice** (they will NOT wait for you at the trailhead as it is too convoluted!) Therefore, **YOU MUST BOOK your lodging AHEAD OF TIME**, for the night of arrival at your destination!! Secure your space: some lodging choices sell out VERY FAST!! (You should then get picked up at the end of the day by the shuttle service provided by your chosen lodging – ask them when making your reservation/follow each lodging's instructions!!)

Drivers may be willing to meet you in the **MORNING** at the trailhead to **PICK UP** your pack; this option will save you one night's lodging while still allowing you to treat yourself to a slack!!

(All guidance written from NOBO's perspective, SOBO's please reverse...)

Most usual deal: two sections (Bennington-> our hostel-> Manchester):

- From **Route 9 Trailhead** (Bennington/Woodford) to USFS 71 or Kelley Stand Trailhead: 20.6 or 22.6 miles respectively;
- From **USFS 71 or Kelley Stand Trailhead** to Route 11/30 Trailhead (Winhall/Manchester): 19.5 or 17.5 miles respectively.

Or... take it easier on yourself and break up the second section in two (Bennington-> hostel-> Stratton Summit-> hostel-> Manchester):

This option is **DEPENDENT ON** the operation of the resort's gondola ride. The resort will publish seasonal operating days & hours, most commonly **Thu-Sun+holidays**. Guests who have chosen this option last year usually treated themselves to a hearty breakfast at @benedicts_at_stratton (highly recommend!), before heading over to the gondola (which only opens at 10am.)

- From **USFS 71 or Kelley Stand Trailhead** to Stratton Summit/Fire Tower (then take easy 1mi connecting trail to gondola and get a free ride down the mountain!): only about 6 or 4 miles (+1mi connecting trail), depending on your starting point, but it covers all of the steep terrain on your way to Manchester!!!
- From **Stratton Summit/Fire Tower (must take gondola up)** to Route 11/30 Trailhead (Winhall/Manchester): 13.5 miles (+1mi connector)

NEW, ULTIMATE SLACKING DEAL: SEND YOUR PACK DIRECTLY FROM BENNINGTON TO MANCHESTER and **SAVE \$** on shuttle costs!! We will take good care of you during your interim night at our hostel (we have loaner clothes, laundry, linen, toiletries and more – take the challenge!!!)

PRO TIP: Are you slacking from Bennington!? Your shuttle driver may happily agree to **pick up a hot breakfast for you** for a small extra fee!! Check with your driver first (of course!) and then **order a yummy, calorie-loaded breakfast from the local awesomeness "The Angry Egg 2"!!** Your meal should be ready for pick up + paid online/in advance, please order at (click): <https://www.angryeggcafe.com/-vt> (closed Wed!!)

LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MEALS

It's our turnip

Our Farmers & Makers Market is held at our farmstead @wundorwoven (1/4 mile from the hostel!) and it happens every Saturday 10am-2pm!!

Active from June 22nd to Labor Day, it features local food, artisans, live music, and opportunities to pet the farm animals. (Rain date Sundays.)

Special shuttle may be available for NERO's (fee applies.)

Community Meals at the Local Historical Parish Building

We are working with the patrons of the town's parish to offer volunteered hearty meals to hikers once a month. Details are still being put together, but the idea is to assist the church's fundraising efforts towards historical building renovations/maintenance while also fostering community connection between local residents and thru-hikers.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for hikers to get good calorie intake while helping a small Vermont town keep its history & character alive.

Community Dinner Mingle with Local Food Vendors

We are organizing special appearances of local food vendors at the hostel! They will setup their food stand for special evening meals!

We invite you to meet & mingle with our town residents and vacationers while supporting these small business entrepreneurs! Yummy!!

Take a zero with us and join our 4th of July parade!!!

See below!

LOCAL ANNUAL FESTIVALS, LIVE MUSIC & EVENTS

The Town of Wardsboro 4th of July Parade and Fair

We would like to not only take our hikers to see this very traditional VT country town event, but actually BE A "FLOAT" in the parade!!!

Would you like to be in our "A.T. Bubble Float!!"??

We will wear patriotic costumes/clothes, hats, wigs, tutus, or whatever!!
We will be blowing [soap] bubbles into the crowd and handing out fun!!

The fair happens on July 4th, so please plan accordingly: to participate, you must join us on July 3rd and take a Zero on the 4th with us!!

Stratton Mountain Outdoor Summer Concerts (must purchase tickets!)

MOUNTAIN FRIENDS AND FREEDOM - JULY 6:

Stratton Mountain's annual celebration for the Fourth of July Weekend happening Saturday. There is fun for the whole family with live music, BBQ dinner and fun family activities. Live music by [The Dave Matthews Tribute Band](#) at 5:30pm.

GAVIN DEGRAW - JULY 27

THE BEACH BOYS - AUGUST 3

The Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival

July 26th - August 4th, 2024

www.vermontblueberryfestival.com

The Bondville Country Fair

August 23rd - 25th, 2024

The Bondville Fair is the oldest town fair in Vermont, operating continually since 1797. Music, rides, crafts and food!