

White Mountains Tour The Notches and North

*Kancamagus National Scenic Byway (eastbound)
Bear Notch – Crawford Notch
Bethlehem - Littleton- Sugar Hill-Franconia Notch*



- 8:30 Meet your step-on-guide at the Visitor Center on Route 112 in North Woodstock (I-93 Exit 32). At the center, new displays take the visitor from the wild logging days of the White Mountain National Forest through the “gilded era” of Grand Hotels to the multi-uses of the forest today.
- 9:00 Drive east on NH Route 112 through the on the Kancamagus National Scenic Byway, the first such designated byway in the east. At the historic Russell Colbath House learn the history of the Russell family and the intense patience of one of its members, which brings to mind the phrase “we’ll keep the light on for you.” (a stop to visit the house adds ½ hour to the tour)
- 9:30 Travel the Bear Notch Road, a scenic 9 mile “shortcut” with three overlooks, two of which give breathtaking views of Mt. Washington: at 6,288’ the highest peak in the northeast. At the end of the Bear Notch Road, turn left (west) onto NH Route 302.
- 10:00 Tour Crawford Notch State Park, with photo stops on Rt. 302 west at Silver Cascade, and above the notch at the Elephant Head natural rock formation. You will travel past the Willey House Slide historic site, often said to be the origin of the phrase “getting the Willies.”
- 10:30 Photo stop to view the Mt. Washington Hotel site of the World Monetary Conference held in 1944.
- 11:00 Continue on NH Route 302 through the scenic village of Bethlehem, with its eclectic mix of summer cottage architecture, including the Main Street summer cottage of Barbara Hutten and Cary Grant.
- 11:30 – 1:00 Lunch and /or shopping in the town of Littleton, which has a bit of “modern history” with its recently built covered bridge across the Ammonoosuc River. Littleton is consistently in the top ten list of Best Small Towns in America.

- 1:00 Continue on NH Route 302 for a drive along the Ammonoosuc River, turning left onto NH Route 117 over Sugar Hill, a town known for its “million dollar views,” and former home of Bette Davis and her husband Arthur Farnsworth. (who was a maintenance man at a local hotel).
- 2:00 – 3:00 Ride the Aerial Tramway to the top of Cannon Mountain. The Tramway is handicapped accessible. Spectacular rugged mountain scenery with a short loop trail around the summit showing off the towering peaks of the Franconia and Kinsman mountain ranges, with views of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Canada.
- 3:00 – 3:15 Stop at the Old Man of the Mountain Historic Site in Franconia Notch. Discovered in 1805 and destroyed in 2003, the Old Man remains the symbol of New Hampshire. Special interpretive displays and viewers are at the site. The Old Man was featured on the recently released New Hampshire quarters.
- 3:30-4:15 Arrive at the Franconia Notch Visitor Center for quick break and coffee stop. There are historical displays, a 20-minute interpretive DVD, a coffee shop, gift shop and rest rooms.
- 4:15 – 4:30 Stop at the Indian Head Resort for photos of the Indian Head Profile a natural rock formation also known as Mt. Pemigewasset.
- 4:30 Return to the White Mountains Visitor Center.

For more information on this itinerary and the White Mountains area contact:

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