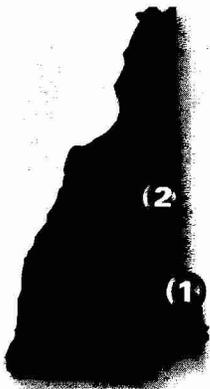




Travel RESOURCE

BY COLLEEN SNYDER

New Hampshire



1 Seaworthy City

Situated on the banks of the Piscataqua River, Portsmouth shows off its maritime and Revolutionary War history on a tour that explores the vital working port and its rich cultural offerings.

DAY ONE

Maritime Heritage

The maritime history and culture of Portsmouth comes into focus at the **Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum** (603-436-3680) where groups learn about the city's role as an active seaport and tour the museum's feature exhibit the USS Albacore, a diesel-electric submarine. Next, board the **Isles of Shoals Steamship Company's** (603-431-5300) Victorian-style M/V Thomas Lighton for a sightseeing cruise through the

Portsmouth Harbor to see the tugboats, tankers, lighthouses and historic forts found at the working port. Spend the afternoon exploring **Strawberry Banke** (603-433-1100), the recreated Puddle Dock neighborhood. Each of nine furnished houses and period gardens on the 10-acre site introduces a different era in American history from the late 1600s to the 1950s with six exhibit houses showing tools, building methods and archeology related to the site.

DAY TWO

Revolutionary Ways

The region's importance in Revolutionary War history takes center stage during a visit to the 1758 **John Paul Jones House** (603-436-8420) in Portsmouth where the Revolutionary War naval hero lived while overseeing the preparation of the ship *Ranger* in 1777. While in the city, take a tour of the **Governor John Langdon House** (603-436-3205), an imposing home built by the Revolutionary War hero in 1784 before heading to nearby Exeter for a stop at the **American Independence Museum** (603-772-2622).

Through the architecture and history of the museum's Folsom Tavern, Ladd-Gilman House and extensive colonial era exhibits, the site documents how Exeter once stood as a vital, industrious 18th century seaport and played a significant role in the formation of the United States.

TRIP EXTENDER

Regarded as the turn-of-the-20th century ale-making capital of the country, Portsmouth carries on its fine tradition of master brewing through its popular brewpubs and breweries. Located near the city's center, the **Portsmouth Brewery** (603-431-1115) stands out for its lively atmosphere and gift shop filled with namesake clothing and brewing memorabilia while **Smuttynose Brewing Company** (603-436-4026) makes its mark with its award winning Shoals Pale Ale and Smuttynose Robust Porter. **The Redhook Brewery** (603-430-8600) produces more than 50,000 barrels of craft brew a year and welcomes groups to sample its notable Redhook Ale.

For more information, contact the **New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism** at (603) 271-2665; www.visitnh.gov or the **Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce** (603) 610-5510;



www.portsmouthchamber.org

2 Nature's Ways

The White Mountain National Forest offers a fitting backdrop for an itinerary rich in science and nature attractions that focus on the wonders of the natural world in the Granite State.

DAY ONE

White Mountain Magic

Hop aboard the **Conway Scenic Railroad** (800-232-5251) in North Conway for a nostalgic train ride through spectacular Crawford Notch in the heart of the White Mountains. Chug past sheer bluffs, steep ravines and cascading brooks and streams on a narrated journey complete with tales of railroad history and local folklore. Next, the ever-changing world of weather takes the spotlight at the **Weather Discovery Center** (603-356-2137). Through hands-on, interactive exhibits and presentations, visitors learn more about the Earth and its atmosphere from its Mount Washington Observatory mountaintop location. Best known for its outstanding snow skiing, **Franconia Notch State Park** (603-823-8800) also delights year round with a variety of recreational options. For example, in the summer, the Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway takes groups sky high for unparalleled views of the White Mountains.

DAY TWO

Lakeside Treasures

Spectacular views of Lake Winnepesaukee and the Ossipee Mountain Range greet visitors on a journey to the **Castle in the Clouds** (603-476-5900) in Moultonborough. An outstanding example of arts and crafts archi-

ecture, the 1913 mansion stands majestically on the mountainside and welcomes visitors to walk along its nature trails, and learn about millionaire Thomas Gustave Plant and the creation of his country estate. Continue enjoying native New Hampshire wildlife at the **Squam Lakes Natural Science Center** (603-968-7194) in Holderness, a center known for its live animal programs about the state's native bears, otters and bald eagles.

TRIP EXTENDER

The Appalachian Mountain Club's newest four-season lodge and outdoor education center, **Highland Center** (603-278-4453) in Crawford Notch beckons groups to linger another day in the White Mountains. Offering world-class views, all-inclusive outdoor adventures and excellent educational opportunities, the center provides both overnight and day options to combine fun and adventure with outdoor discovery on guided snowshoe, hiking and cross-country skiing trips designed to get groups up close and personal with local flora and fauna while enjoying the rustic beauty of its award-winning lodge.

For more information, contact the **New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism** at (603) 271-2665; www.visitnh.gov

New Hampshire

Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce

Portsmouth, 1-603-610-5517
www.portsmouthchamber.org

New Hampshire Division of Travel & Tourism

Concord, 1-603-271-2665
www.visitnh.gov

White Mountain Visitors Bureau

North Woodstock, 1-603-745-8720
www.visitwhitemountains.com

Grand Resort Upgrade

Founded in 1876, the famed **Mount Washington Resort** (877-873-0626) marks a new chapter in its history as it unveils a plan to invest \$50 million in renovations and expansion at the historic property. Set at the base of the impressive 6,288-foot Mount Washington and surrounded by nearly 800,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest, the Mount Washington Resort has long stood as a favorite four-season destination with seasonal activities that include golf and fly fishing in the summer and skiing, sleigh rides and winter hiking in the winter.

The extensive renovation project includes an array of additions and enhancements such as the new 25,000-square-foot spa /salon and 30,000 square feet of additional meeting space opening in the fall of 2008. Changes at the resort include a multi-million dollar restoration of the hotel's 900-foot wrap-around Veranda, Great Hall and Dining Room. In addition to the historic photos, artifacts and memorabilia pertaining to Mount Washington Resort that have graced the Great Hall walls for many years, the resort has added a newly designed area which features a collection of Audubon "Wildlife of North America" prints. Moreover, at the new Adventure Desk in the refurbished Great Hall experienced Adventure Guides provide advice on the many activities offered at the resort such as mountain biking, tubing, ice-skating and tennis.

SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS IN WEST NEW HAMPSHIRE

75th Annual League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's Fair

Aug. 2-10: (603-224-3375) More than 300 state-juried members of the League of NH Craftsmen demonstrate, exhibit and sell their handcrafted work at the Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury during one of the oldest craft fairs in the country. The fair features more than 200 individual craft booths, daily demonstrations, musical performances and craft workshops.

Hampton Beach Seafood Festival

(A 2008 Top 100 Event)

Sept. 5-7: (603-926-8718) Sample the area's world famous seafood served by more than 50 of the Seacoast's top restaurants, browse 80 arts and crafts booths, watch culinary chef demonstrations and enjoy two entertainment stages at the largest event held in New Hampshire.

Keene Pumpkin Festival

Oct. 25: (603-358-5344) Each fall, the city of Keene comes alive with the sights and sounds of this annual community celebration. Thousands contribute to the spectacle by bringing their own hand-carved pumpkins. The sight of more than 25,000 brightly lit jack-o-lanterns lining Keene's Main Street and towering over the square makes for an unforgettable experience.

Strawbery Banke Museum Candlelight Stroll

(A 2008 Top 100 Event)

Dec. 6-21: (603-433-1100) Experience holiday traditions spanning three centuries at this festival in Portsmouth. On weekend evenings, the museum grounds glow with hundreds of luminaria, its houses are adorned in period-appropriate holiday finery, and the scents and sounds of the season abound while costumed role-players demonstrate the traditions of times past.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Destinations: Have you developed any new itineraries?

Mikey Duprey, group coordinator for the **White Mountain Visitors Bureau** (603-745-8720) in North Woodstock: We have a new two-day rail tour in the White Mountains that is perfect for any railroad buff. It starts with the world famous Mount Washington Cog Railway. The railroad has been in existence for well over a century but it is still as exciting and unforgettable as ever. From there, we head over to the Conway Scenic Railroad's Crawford Notch Line for some of the finest natural scenery in the East. On day two, we travel along the Kancamagus National Scenic Byway and stop at the Franconia Notch Visitor Center at the Flume Gorge and the Old Man of the Mountain Historic Site before taking a steam-powered ride on the White Mountain Central Railroad across the scenic Pemigewasset River.

Any other tour ideas?

North Country Center for the Arts' Papermill Theatre in Lincoln has a number of interesting tour options at a top quality summer theater. For

example, after seeing a professional Broadway musical, groups can stay and meet the performers at a wine reception following the performance. For a more extensive tour, they can arrange an Arts & New Hampshire Culture Tour, which includes a two-hour tour of Flume Gorge, a box luncheon, a visit to Clark's Trading Post and stops at local art studios and a microbrewery.



Tools and building methods are showcased at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth.

The Conway Scenic Railroad takes visitors through Crawford Notch in the White Mountains.

