

New Hampshire's Monadnock Visual Arts Tour

Trip Length: 2 Days

Enjoy a weekend of New Hampshire's visual arts on this tour across the Monadnock Region.



Image Courtesy: Sharon Arts Fine Craft Gallery



Image Courtesy: Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery



Image Courtesy: Monadnock Fine Art Gallery

The Monadnock region is home to a plethora of artists who find inspiration in the natural beauty of the southwestern corner of the state. There are great finds waiting to be discovered in the heart of the larger towns and off the beaten trails of this region – all waiting for you to see up close and personal. So get ready to unearth some high-quality treasures, without big city price tags, on your Monadnock Visual Arts Tour!

Start your trip at the [Sharon Arts Exhibition](#) and [Fine Craft Galleries](#) in Peterborough and plan extra time for all there is to see here. The Galleries are free and open to the public and donations are gratefully accepted. The Exhibition Gallery features the work of regional and nationally acclaimed artists in an invitational format, rotating every seven to eight weeks. The Sharon Arts Fine Craft Gallery features the work of over 100 local juried craftspeople in a variety of mediums, including prints, brush-paintings, candles, greeting cards, fiber crafts, wooden crafts, ceramics and pottery, and fine jewelry.

Next, head south a few miles on Route 202S to get to the picturesque [Jaffrey Civic Center](#), where you'll find two galleries of ongoing and changing exhibits, plus display cases with even more unusual finds.

Continue on to the [Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery](#) on the Keene State College campus in Keene – and don't forget to enjoy the beautiful countryside as you wind your way there via Route 101. The Thorne showcases art and ideas from around the world as well as traditional New England art. The heart of the Thorne's collection is artwork by prominent 19th-century artists who took their inspiration from Mount Monadnock and formed the Dublin Art Colony. Free and open to the public.

Afterwards, pop into a brand new [Carroll House Gallery](#) at Keene State to see the latest in contemporary art! The Gallery exhibits the work of KSC students and invited artists, functioning as a teaching gallery where the Keene community can view contemporary art. The Gallery is open when the college is in session. While here check out the ever-changing exhibits of local artists at the nearby [Monadnock Fine Art Gallery!](#)

Now it's time to head north to Walpole to [The Walpole Artisans Cooperative](#), a warm and welcoming shop founded by local artists, who view art as a joy to make and a gift to be shared. Tour the light-filled studios of painters and potters, and peruse the vintage treasures of found object and fiber artists. Walpole is a popular destination where natural beauty, fine dining, shopping, and creativity abound.



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Image Courtesy: Dahlgren Fine Art Studio/Gallery

OFF THE BEATEN TRAIL

If you'd like to explore a hidden gem in the woods, visit [Dahlgren Fine Art Studio/Gallery](#), in Temple, featuring Leah Kristin Dahlgren's still-life oil paintings. By appointment only at 603-878-0755. [Jeanne Thieme](#) of Pipe Dream Studio paints in both oil and watercolor, and is well known for her oil paintings of horses. 30 Hale Hill Road in Swanzey, 603-357-4356. In Stoddard, Richard Whitney and Sandy Sherman paint in oils at the [Studios at Crescent Pond](#). By appointment at 603-446-7476. Richard is widely regarded as one of America's best portrait and landscape painters, and Sherman is an award-winning artist who is known for her landscape and still-life paintings and imaginative Grotoons™. [Linda Dessaint](#) resides in Antrim and has studio hours by appointment or chance at 603-801-5249. Her medium is pastels, "capturing emotion through light and shadows."

HUNGRY AND LOOKING TO ENJOY ART?

Numerous restaurants and cafes around the region feature the works of local artists. Aesop's Table (located at Toadstool Books) and the Bagel Mill in Peterborough have new exhibits monthly. [Sunflowers Café](#) in Jaffrey, a cozy bistro with a gourmet twist, features a new exhibit every six weeks. If you are in Keene, stop in at the [Works Café](#) for

There's always more to see and discover in this intimate corner of the state, where you're likely to meet artists face to face and see artwork that you won't find anywhere else.

a delicious bagel or sandwich. Sample [Kristin's](#) homemade soups, sandwiches, and pastries. Both exhibit paintings and photography that change monthly.

YEAR-ROUND EVENTS

Special Arts Events will entice you to the Monadnock region throughout the year! May brings the [Children and the Arts Festival](#) to Peterborough. This annual festival celebrates art for, by and about the children of the community. Stroll through downtown Keene during the first week of June for [Art Walk](#), a juried show with over 70 artists displaying their work in the downtown store fronts. In August, the weeklong ["Paintout"](#) event is presented by Sharon Arts Center. Local artists create art en plein air at many locations in Peterborough, concluding with a reception and sale of their work. Art and foliage lovers will want to take advantage of open studio tours throughout the region. [Friends of the Dublin Art Colony's Annual Open Studio Tour](#) and the [Fall Foliage Art Studio Tour](#) both happen on Columbus Day weekend. Just in time for Christmas shopping, the [Walpole Artisan Tour](#) takes place on the Friday through Sunday after Thanksgiving.

