



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Events Not to Miss This Winter in New Hampshire

International Skiing Competition at Waterville Valley Launches NH's Winter Event Season

Concord, N.H. – (Jan. 7, 2026) – Winter in New Hampshire delivers world-class competition, iconic traditions, and community celebrations, offering visitors an abundance of ways to embrace the season. From international freestyle skiing to historic winter carnivals and seasonal festivals, this sampling of events showcases some of the best of winter across the Granite State.

2026 Intermountain Health Freestyle Cup – Waterville Valley

January 15–16

Waterville Valley Resort welcomes elite freestyle skiers from around the world for the 2026 Intermountain Health Freestyle Cup, marking the third consecutive year the resort has hosted this international freestyle competition. This event carries added significance as the final qualifying stop for athletes aiming to compete in the 2026 Winter Games. Spectators are invited to enjoy discounted lift tickets of \$26 for full mountain access, while watching top athletes compete, making it easy to pair world-class sport with a winter getaway in the White Mountains.

Concord Winter Festival – Concord

January 24

Concord embraces winter with a celebration featuring outdoor activities, local food and drink, and family-friendly events that highlight the capital city's vibrant downtown and community spirit. The event attracts some of the region's most talented ice carvers for demonstrations and an ice carving competition in front of the Statehouse.

Jackson Snow Sculpting Competition – Jackson

January 30

This beloved White Mountains tradition brings expert carvers from all over the Northeast to the Mt Washington Valley to transform massive cylinders of snow into detailed works of art. Plan a weekend getaway to watch the event unfold in an idyllic New Hampshire winter setting.

Keene Ice & Snow Festival – Keene

February 7

The Monadnock Region plays host to this annual winter tradition: the Keene Ice & Snow Festival. Downtown Keene comes alive with ice sculptures, winter activities, and community events that showcase the city's arts culture and walkable downtown during the heart of winter.

Newport Winter Carnival – Newport

Celebrating its 110th year, Newport's Winter Carnival returns with the patriotic theme "Red, White, & BRRR," aligning with America's 250th anniversary. One of the oldest winter carnivals in the country, this multi-day event blends time-honored traditions, outdoor fun, and community pride in a festive nod to both local and national history.

Squam Lakes Winter Fest – Holderness

February 14

Set in the scenic Lakes Region, this winter festival offers guided hikes, nature programs, and seasonal activities that invite visitors to experience New Hampshire's outdoors in a quieter, more serene season.

Alton Bay Winter Carnival – Alton

February 15

Held on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee, this classic winter carnival features family-friendly activities, games, and community traditions set amid the backdrop of one of the Lakes Region's most iconic winter landscapes. Weather permitting, visitors may even catch a rare sight as small planes land on Alton Bay's ice runway—the only ice runway in the lower 48 states.

Mt. Washington Valley Chocolate Festival – Mount Washington Valley

February 22

Closing out February on a sweet note: the Mt. Washington Valley Chocolate Festival celebrates all things chocolate. Known by many as the 'Sweetest Day on the Trails,' this is the perfect day to indulge in chocolates and creative confections, guilt free as participants cross-country ski, snowshoe or drive the network of trails to local businesses throughout the region.

Parade of Lights – Pittsburg

March 7

Rounding out the winter season in the Great North Woods is Pittsburg's Parade of Lights. The annual event features illuminated vehicles and creative displays that light up the winter night on Back Lake. This unique community tradition offers a memorable way to experience the season's final stretch in one of the state's most scenic and remote regions.

For more information on winter events, travel inspiration, and trip planning ideas, visit VisitNH.gov.

ABOUT THE NH DIVISION OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Travel and Tourism Development, as part of the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs, works with the state's seven travel regions to increase visitation, travel and visitor expenditures in order to expand business activity and employment throughout the state. The division is responsible for domestic and international advertising and public relations, literature publication and distribution, www.visitnh.gov administration, grant administration and research to monitor and measure the impact of travel and tourism to the state. Stay connected with New Hampshire tourism on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#), and be sure to follow the #LiveFreeNH tag to see what other people are saying about New Hampshire.

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