

# COLONIAL TOUR

Best Time to Visit: Year-round!

## Day 1

Start your tour in the Seacoast, where some of New Hampshire's oldest history can be traced back to. New Hampshire's Seacoast is a popular area to visit year round and never lacks in things to do including: shopping, dining, exploring the Atlantic coast line, and there are an abundance of historical sights to visit. The Seacoast is known for a rich history dating back to 1623, when the first permanent settlements in New Hampshire were established. Begin your trip in the town of Exeter where you will witness one of The United States' most talked about historical documents, explore four centuries in one afternoon in Portsmouth, and wind down the evening with dinner and a show in the hub of the Seacoast.



Image Courtesy: The Music Hall

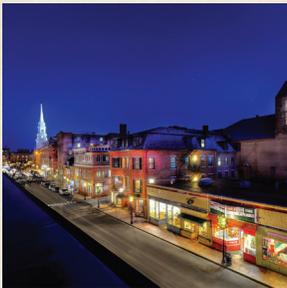


Image Courtesy: The Music Hall

- Start at the [American Independence Museum \(1\)](#) in Exeter to learn how New Hampshire played a part in the American Revolution. Discover interesting facts about the founding of our country and see an original draft of the Declaration of Independence.
- Head to Portsmouth for a guided tour through four centuries at [Strawbery Banke Living Museum \(2\)](#). Strawbery Banke is an interactive museum nestled on 10 acres of land. Explore beautifully preserved buildings and learn about the history of Portsmouth from the welcoming staff at the Museum.
- Enjoy dinner on your own in this popular culinary destination. There are over 80 restaurants within walking distance in downtown Portsmouth!
- Meet up after dinner for a behind the scenes tour followed by a live performance at the [Music Hall Historic Theatre \(3\)](#). The Music Hall Historic Theater features entertainment from around the world. It is made of two beautiful theaters including an 1878 Victorian theater, and an intimate music hall across the road.

## Day 2

- Wake up to a guided walking tour with the [Portsmouth Visitor Center \(4\)](#) in downtown Portsmouth to learn about its maritime history. Be sure to wear comfortable sneakers as you explore the twists and turns of this historic downtown. See the parks, buildings, shops and restaurants that make up what is often referred to as "One of the best places to live in America."
- End the tour at the [Discover Portsmouth Center \(5\)](#). This former library is now converted into a beautiful exhibit that hosts information, art, and displays of the area.
- Take a short drive to [Fort Constitution \(6\)](#) in New Castle, the subject of Paul Revere's first ride, and site of the first aggressive act of the Revolutionary War.
- Drive through Dover, the location of a violent Native American attack in the late 1600's. Stop at the [Woodman's Museum \(7\)](#) to learn more about the history behind it. The museum opened in 1916 as an effort to promote the study of local arts & history. Today, the museum hosts a fine art gallery, and many exhibits that include a War Memorial Museum, Native American artifacts, and more!

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## Day 3

Wake up and take Route 4 to Concord, NH to spend the day in our state's capital. Concord has a history dating back to the early 1700s. The city's Main Street was constructed in 1726 and paved the way for economic development of the city. Industries such as printing, granite quarrying and coach making were common ways for early settlers to make a living. Learn about the world famous 'Concord Coach', a stagecoach considered to be the finest passenger vehicle of its time while visiting The Museum of New Hampshire History. Take a tour of the New Hampshire State House, the only United States State House that still uses its original chambers. End the day at a 19th century living museum to learn about lifestyle of the Shakers during the colonial era at Canterbury Shaker Village.



Image Courtesy: Canterbury Shaker Village



Image Courtesy: Peter Mills

- Tour the [State House \(8\)](#), which is the only United States' State House still using its original chambers. Upon entering, the front doors you will be welcomed into the historic Hall of Flags. This room serves as a memorial hall and displays flags from various historic events. There is also a gift shop where you can pick up a souvenir from your visit.
- Visit the [Museum of New Hampshire History \(9\)](#). This museum offers an array of exhibits and is a great hands on history stop for people of all ages. Before your leave, visit the museum observatory for a beautiful view of the city of Concord.
- Head to [Canterbury Shaker Village \(10\)](#) and arrange to have a guest instructor join the group for a workshop or demonstration. This historic destination started as a Shaker Village in the 19th century, and now serves as a museum dedicated to preserving the history of our nation's Shakers.

## Day 4

Before departing New Hampshire, take the group to the scenic Monadnock Region. This area is known for having breathtaking views of Mount Monadnock (one of the world's most frequently hiked mountains), agricultural history, beautiful covered bridges dating back hundreds of years, local artisans, and farm to table dining. If here in late August, be sure to schedule in time for a stop at the [Living History Event in Hillsborough \(11\)](#).

- Make a stop in the town of [Peterborough, New Hampshire \(12\)](#), a town whose history dates back to the 1700's where it was a prosperous mill town. Today, it is home to a quaint Main Street with cafes and shops, cozy inns, theaters, and a beautiful museum. Peterborough is a perfect location to allow the group downtime to explore on their own.
- End the tour at [Stonewall Farm, Keene \(13\)](#), a farm that has been in agricultural use for over 250 years. While here hike, bike or walk their trails, visit the farm animals, watch a cow being milked, or check out one of their greenhouses. If visiting in the spring, take a tour of their maple sugarhouse and try a sample of their maple products.

Please contact the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development for assistance finding group-friendly overnight and meal options.



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## Itinerary Map

