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Image Courtesy: Mountain RaftNH

Image Courtesy: Cranmore Mountain

Image Courtesy: Valley Snow Dogz

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FOOTPRINTS FROM THE PAST TOUR

Northern New Hampshire

Best Time to Visit: Spring through Fall

New Hampshire was the first vacation destination in the United States that flourished with the dawn of train travel. Stately resorts and lakeside and mountain towns dotted the entire northern half of the state. Famous stories such as Pollyanna and Curious George were written in New Hampshire while their creators lived and vacationed here. While these authors enjoyed the natural assets in New Hampshire for peace and inspiration, there was a whole other group who were turning this gorgeous state into an adrenaline playground by chiseling the first hiking and ski trails in the country. This tour will take you through the first "footprints" of its kind in our country as you follow the path of those who traveled here centuries before.

Day 1

- Enter New Hampshire through Littleton, a mountain town that epitomizes the New England setting. This is also the hometown of Eleanor Porter, the creator of Pollyanna and visitors can see the famous statue in front of the town Library on Main Street. B.W. Kilburn began in Littleton in the 1800's, famous for stereoscopic view photography, considered to be the original comic strip. This library (1906) contains the second largest collection of Kilburn's work and is open for the public to explore.
- Deeper into New Hampshire, you will find *The Rocks Estate (1)* in Bethlehem. This beautiful property is managed by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests. Enjoy a maple experience tour through their sugar shack and see how it was done back in the day. End the tour with a horse drawn ride through their tree farm with the White Mountains laid out before you.
- Turn up the tempo a bit on this next adventure with an afternoon or sunset ride on the Androscoggin River with *RaftNH (2)* . This is the same river where loggers had completely depleted the entire forest by logging the Great North Woods and sending the logs down this river to be retrieved. The *Northern Forest Heritage Park (3)* in Berlin is a historic logging camp dedicated to preserving the working forest and the multicultural heritage of the region. It hosts exciting events including ATV competitions and a Riverfire Festival.
- Overnight in North Conway or Jackson.

Day 2

- Wake up with the help of gravity at *Cranmore Mountain Adventure Park (4)* where you will dive into ziplines, canopy tours, mountain coasters, and more! Cranmore was one of the very first ski areas in the United States, the site of the first skimobile lift and trestle, and the playground for the famous Hannes Schneider in the 1940's. Hop over to Jefferson for a sled dog adventure (any time of the year!) with *Muddy Paw (5)*.

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Day 2 Continued

- You'll never have another lunch experience like the one at the *Omni Mount Washington Resort* (6). Their BLT program is available for groups only (Breakfast or Lunch and Tour and a gift). You can enjoy lunch at this Spanish Renaissance grand resort and the largest wooden structure in New England.
- After lunch, head 10 minutes up the Base Road to the *Mount Washington Cog Railway* (7) the first ever mountain climbing train in the world to the summit of New England's highest peak of 6,288'. There used to be a resort at this summit that has a reputation of having the "worst weather in the world." Now, visitors can enjoy this dramatic peak within the comforts of a summit observatory with a café and gift shop and the amazing new weather museum with interactive exhibits.

Day 3

- Complete your mountain loop by circling back to Franconia Notch State Park, which is the site of the Old Man of the Mountain memorial, *Cannon Mountain Tramway* (8), and the impressive *Flume Gorge* (9). The Appalachian Trail crosses directly over Cannon's summit and meets up with the Crawford Path, the oldest hiking trail in North America.
- Work your way to the Lakes Region of New Hampshire for lunch aboard the *Winnipesaukee Railroad* (10) which brought tourists to the lake in the 1800's.
- Head back to Laconia for dinner and overnight either at the beachfront NASWA Resort or Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant.

Day 4

- Actually touch and sit on the motorcycle that led Elvis Presley's funeral procession at the *American Police Motorcycle Museum* (11) and touch some of the rarest, antique bikes in the world. Visitors here will explore this impressive collection and learn how police motorcycles played a pivotal role in United States' history.
- Time to cross the lake aboard the M/S *Mount Washington Cruises* (12) on their one-way lunch option to Wolfeboro. Your coach can drive around to meet you on the other side. This cruise originally toured the lake in 1872.

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Image Courtesy: Castle Preservation Society

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Day 4 Continued

- ***The Wright Museum* (13)** in Wolfeboro is a time travel experience with its exhibits that take guests back to how everyday life was during the World Wars in the United States. Headline articles, pop culture, and everyday household items create the scene. This museum has an amazing collection of war vehicles and a captivating propaganda art poster gallery as well.
- In late afternoon, scoot up the road to ***Castle in the Clouds* (14)** a massive estate set high in the Ossipee Mountain Range overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee. This was the home of Thomas Plant who made a fortune in the shoe manufacturing industry but lost it all.
- Continue North of the lake to load up on barrel pickles and penny candy at the ***Moultonborough Country Store*** (a.k.a. that Old Store) **(15)** that is the oldest, continually operating country store in the United States that opened for trade in 1781 and hasn't closed since.

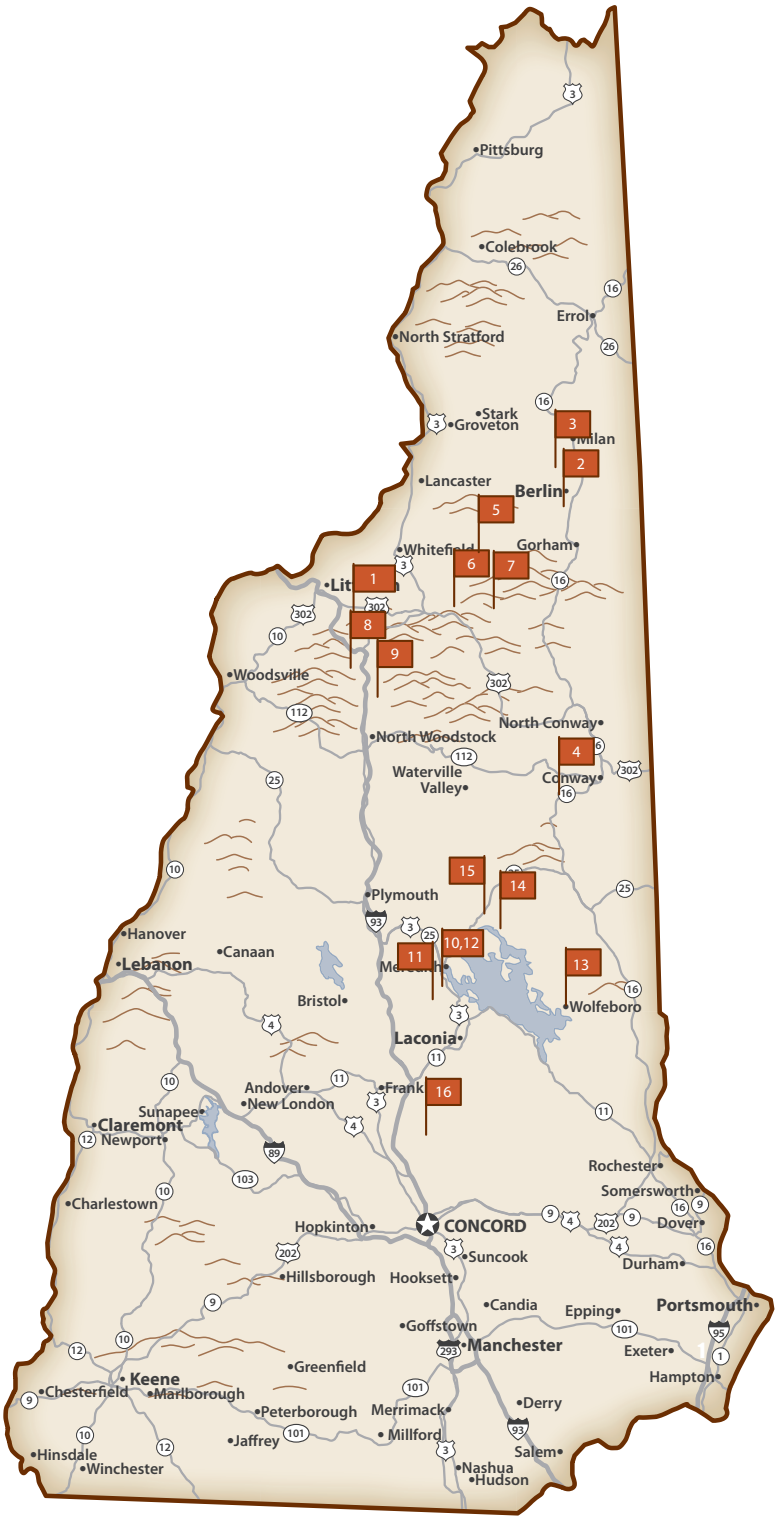
Day 5

- On your way out of New Hampshire, take a detour to ***Canterbury Shaker Village* (16)** to see how the Shakers lived.

LIVE FREE and *experience*

FOOTPRINTS FROM THE PAST TOUR

Itinerary Map



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