



100 North Main Street Suite 100 Concord, NH 03301
Estlin McLellan, Trade & Industry Relations Manager
estlin.e.mclellan@livefree.nh.gov
P: 603-271-2665 VisitNH.gov

GREAT NORTH WOODS

- A century ago only 50% of New Hampshire was forested, today 84% of the state is. The Great North Woods, that figure rises to 97%.
- With the southern part of Quebec so close, a large percentage of the population is French speaking.
- White farther south, forest land is generally used primarily for recreation, in the Great North Woods there is a working forest that continually regenerates. It has been cut three or four times over and each time it has reseeded itself.
- Snowmobiling is the winter sport of choice in the Great North Woods. The trails, part of a 6,000-mile statewide network, extended into Maine, Vermont and Canada.
- Dixville Notch is traditionally the first town in the nation to report presidential election results.
- Outside of it's socio economic forest based heritage, the City of Berlin is probably best known for it's major contribution to the development of skiing in this country.
- The Nansen Ski Club, names in honor of artic explorer Fridtjof Nansen, was founded in Berlin in 1872. It remains the oldest continuously organized ski club in the United States.

WHITE MOUNTAINS

- The White Mountain National Forest is 780,000 acres.
- Franconia Notch State Park was formerly a 6,000 acre private preserve known as Green Leaf Park. It is now a recreational area with such attractions as the Flume, Old Man in the Mountain Memorial site, the Basin, and Cannon Mountain Ski Area. Hiking, camping, fishing, and biking are popular activities in the scenic notch.
- The Flume is a spectacular glacial gorge 800' long and 70' wide with boardwalks leading through the gorge to view rare flowers and mosses. An enormous boulder once hung suspended in mid are between the walls of the Flume Gorge. In June of 1883, a great storm cleared the boulder, washing it downstream.
- Franconia notch was the site of the first serial passenger tramway in North America. The Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway was built in 1938.
- A notch, also known as a gap in the southern and western states, is a narrow passage between mountain peaks. Before the Ice Age, the mountains were much higher and steeper. Ice covered the area for miles; when the ice moved it rounded the peaks. There are seven well known notches in the White Mountains: Kinsman, Franconia, Crawford, Bear, Pinkham, Dixville and Evans.
- The Old Man in the Mountain, also called 'the Great Stone Face' or 'the Profile,' was discovered in 1805 during the construction of the road through the notch. On May 3, 2003, the Old Man in the Mountain collapsed and now there is a Old Man of the Mountain Profile Plaza & Historic Site.
- The Indian Head, located across from the Indian Head Resort on Route 3, is said to have been used by Chief Pemigewasset as a look out. It was not a profile until a fire swept through one day, clearing away a growth of trees to uncover the profile. It appears the old Chief Pemmigewasset had come to life again.
- Cannon Mountain was the site of the first US World Cup downhill skiing championship in 1967.
- Mount Washington is 6,288' high above sea level. The top of Mount Washington is known to have the worst weather in the world. On April 12, 1934, the Mount Washington Observatory recorded the highest winds on earth at 231 mph. On a clear day you can see four states plus the province of Quebec from it's summit.
- The first ascent of Mount Washington by a white man took place in 1642 when Darby Field accomplished this feat from a southernly approach. He was partly guided by Indians, with only primitive equipment at his disposal.
- Train travel as always been important in the resort history of the White Mountains. In 1910, it was possible to go from Grand Central Station in New York to the Summit of Mount Washington, only making two stops, once at Fabyan Station in Bretton Woods for the six mile trip to the base station of the Cog Railway, and then at the base station for the ascent.
- The Mount Washington Cog Railway, built in 1869 is the world's first cog railway to the summit of a mountain.
- The Mt. Washington Auto Road was first opened in 1861 and is considered to be one of the nation's first man-made tourist attractions. Multiple races are held each year: the Mt. Washington Hill Climb (America's oldest motorsport event), Subaru Mt. Washington Hillclimb and the Mt. Washington foot race and bicycle race.
- The newspaper "Among the Clouds," once published from the top of Mt. Washington, recounted news from the summit, which at the time was Quite active with the Tip Top House and Summit House catering to overnight

Step on Guide Notes for New Hampshire

guests. Today there are no overnight accommodations on the summit, except for the Appalachian Mountain Club's Mountain huts, and sleeping Quarters for staff at the Mt. Washington Observatory and State Park.

- At 6,288'. Mt. Washington dominates the Presidential range. The other peaks in the Presidentials, from north to south are: Mt. Madison. Mt. Adams (the second highest), Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Clay. Mt. Washington, Mt. Monroe. Mt. Franklin. Mt. Eisenhower. Mt. Pierce. Mt. Jackson and Mt. Webster.
- Crawford Notch was discovered in 1771 by Timothy Nash, an early settler from Lancaster. While out hunting a moose, he climbed a tree on Cherry Mountain and saw a depression in the mountain to the south. After he related his discovery to Governor Wentworth. the Governor made him a proposition that if he could get a horse down the pass he would grant him a tract of land at the head of the Notch now known as Nash and Sawyers location. Nash, with the help of a friend Sawyer, managed to get the horse through, and was rewarded 2184 acres stretching from Crawford Notch to Fabyans Station. A road was built and, although it was a rough one, it opened the North Country for trade.
- Crawford Notch is named for the Crawford Family which included Abel and his sons Thomas I. and Ethan Allen. They established the first regional hotels and were in large part responsible for opening the White Mountains area to the public. In 1833 Ethan cleared a bridal path to the summit of Mt. Washington.
- The Willey House, in Crawford Notch, is the site of the tragic story of the Willey Family. Afraid their house would be buried by a landslide, the Willeys built a shelter a short way from the house. One summer night a violent storm shook the White Mountains, causing a major slide. The Willey family ran for the safety of the shelter. A ledge above the house split the slide, saving the house from any destruction. Two days after the storm anxious relatives and friends penetrated through the debris in search of the family. The bodies of Mr. & Mrs. Willey and two children were found nearby, but three children were never found. Only the family dog survived, having stayed in the house.
- The Kancamagus Highway was named for the grandson of Chief Passaconaway who tried to maintain peace between the Indians and the whites. Harassment from the English aggravated the hot tempered chieftain until he let loose the furies of war, causing much bloodshed.
- At Clarksville, in the northern tip of the state, you stand on the 45th parallel, halfway between the equator and the North Pole. Longitude is 71 degrees 24'.

LAKES REGION

- New Hampshire has over 1300 lakes and ponds, the largest of which is 72 square mile Lake Winnepesaukee.
- The Lakes Region was, and still is, a popular summer vacation spot. In the early days. people came by train to stay at the many hotels and summer collages.
- Lake Winnepesaukee is the 3rd largest lake in the country that is contained within the borders of a state. There are 365 islands on Lake Winnepesaukee, one for every day of the year. 274 of which are habitable.
- There are actually two translations of the Indian name Winnepesaukee. "The Smile of the Great Spirit, "and "Beautiful Place in High Waters."
- Originally called the "Chateaugay." the M/S Mount Washington was purchased in New York after the original ship burned in 1939. The ship was cut into 20 pieces and shipped to New Hampshire by flat cars. After it was put together, the ship was brought through the channel between Paugus Bay and Lake Winnepesaukee: however, it was too high to clear the bridge. Several school children standing on the bank watching the proceedings were asked aboard, which lowered the ship enough to clear the bridge. The M/S Mt.Washington celebrated its 150th anniversary on Lake Winnepesaukee in 2022.
- Lake Winnepesaukee is glacier fed.
- The first summer resort in America was in Wolfeboro.
- During the 1800s, boats were literally run by "horsepower."
- The horse walked on a wooden treadmill and horizontal cog wheel which moved the boats paddles.
- Alaska is not the only place with sled dog racing, and some of these dogs even come from New Hampshire. In 1930, and for the next 50 years the Chinook Kennels in the tiny town of Wonalancet produced sled dogs for exploration, racing and showing Chinook dog teams were sent to the Byrd Antarctic Explorations and to the army's search and rescue units. Each winter Winnepesaukee is the site of the annual World Championship Sled Dog Derby.

Step on Guide Notes for New Hampshire

- Weirs Beach was named for the fishing traps or "weirs," triangular shaped enclosures of rocks and logs used for trapping fish.
- The covered bridge in Ashland is one of New Hampshire's newest, built in 1990 by Milton Grayton, renowned builder and restorer of covered bridges.
- The oldest summer playhouse in New Hampshire. the Barnstormers in Tamworth, was also one of the first in the Nation. It was opened by Francis Grover Cleveland, son of the twenty-second President.
- Mt. Chocorua was named for the Indian who died on its summit. Before he died he issued "Chocorua's Curse." one which seemed to come true when the settlers crops failed and their cattle sickened.

MERRIMACK VALLEY

- The Amoskeag Mill in Manchester was once the largest textile mill in the world. Flourishing for over a century. Amoskeag Manufacturing at the height of its productivity operated 64 mills, covering a mile and a half of ground, housing 700,000 spindles and 23,000 looms which turned out 500,000 yards of cloth each week.
- The Currier Gallery of Art is among the finest small art museums in the country.
- The State House in Concord was built in 1816 from granite Quarried in Concord. Today it is the oldest legislative building in America, in which both Houses continue to sit in their original chambers.
- The Christa McAuliffe Planetarium is named for the Concord high school teacher who was the first private citizen passenger in the history of space travel.
- The Museum of New Hampshire History in Concord houses one of the original Concord Coaches. The Abbot-Downing Company built various styles of "stage" coaches, the most famous being the Concord Coach, which carried the name of Concord all over the United States.
- Many poets have been inspired by New Hampshire's beauty, including the century's most famous, Robert Frost. Frost lived in Derry for over a decade and lived in Plymouth while he taught at Plymouth State College from 1911-1913. Today his farm in Derry is a State Historic Site.
- Mystery Hill located in Salem, four miles east on Route III, is a privately owned complex of strange stone structures bearing similarities to early stone work found in Western Europe. They suggest that an ancient culture may have existed here more than 2,000 years ago.
- Rockingham Park, New Hampshire's premier thoroughbred racing track, was once the site of car racing in the early 1900s.
- In 1792 the Shakers organized a community at Canterbury, where they established high standards of agricultural efficiency. craftsmanship and domestic skill. Today the buildings and historic furnishings of Canterbury Shaker Village are a tangible reminder of the lives and remarkable achievements of the Shakers.
- The first permanent memorial honoring a woman in this country is the Hannah Duston Memorial in Boscawen. Commemorating Duston's capture and escape from Indians in 1697. The memorial is also a reminder of the courage of the pioneering women who helped to settle New England and of the hardships they endured.

MONADNOCK

- Mt. Monadnock in the Abenaki Indian language means "mountain that stands alone." Not part of any continuous mountain range. Mt. Monadnock was formed by the glaciers. and is the dominant figure of the region, standing 3165 feet above sea level. The summit, now bald, was once forested before early settlers burned the forest to drive out wolves.
- It was first scaled in 1725. and today is the most climbed mountain in North America. In 1988 it was declared a National Natural Landmark.
- One of the Monadnock Region's most scenic drives is to the summit of Pack Monadnock in Miller State Park, Peterborough.
- The town of Peterborough was the model of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." It also has a high tech publishing industry found among antique salt-box houses. Computer magazines such as P.C.. Bite, and Resource are published here, while Dublin is the home of the traditional New England publications. Yankee Magazine and The Farmers Almanac.
- Jaffrey is the home of D.D. Bean & Sons, one the largest manufacturers of paperbook matches in the world.
- Route 124 was the original turnpike between Boston and Brattleboro. Although Route 119 is the logical straight road, Revolutionary Benjamin Prescott helped lay out the road and bent the turnpike to pass by his Inn in

Jaffrey. Just east off Jaffrey, along Route 124 is the site of the Sawyers Farm. Its trees, the largest in the area, were claimed as Kings trees for the masts of ships.

- Uncle Sam's House in Mason is the boyhood home of Samuel Wilson who was generally known as "Uncle Sam." He supplied beef to the army in 1812. The brand on his barrel was U.S. The transition from U.S. to Uncle Sam followed and became the popular symbol for The United States.
- The town of Troy, located between Jaffrey and Swanzey, is the site of the Troy Mills, makers of Stadium Blankets.
- The city of Keene has the widest paved main street in the world. It is the home of Keene State College, the Sharon Arts Center, and the Colony Mill Marketplace a unique shopping center.
- Rhododendron State Park in Fitzwilliam includes 294 acres. On 15 acres is one of the largest groves of Rhododendron Maximum north of the Allegheny Mountains. The shrubs, which reach as high as 20 feet, burst into bloom around the middle of July.
- The Franklin Pierce Homestead, now an historic site, was the boyhood home of America's 14th President, Franklin Pierce.

SEACOAST

- New Hampshire has 18 miles of coastline. Route 1A along the coast used to be known as the Kings Highway. Once a rutted track, it was the only land linking the 13 coastal colonies and was a vital conduit for trade, communications and troops.
- Early settlers used the beaches and marshes along the coast for a different purpose than today: they gathered salt hay for their cattle.
- Hampton Beach is a popular summer vacation destination. On the southern end of its 2 1/2 mile sandy beach are sand dunes as high as 20 feet. There is an historic boardwalk with many unique shops and restaurants. The name Hampton Beach comes from the Indian name Winnacunnet, meaning the "the beautiful place of pines." The receiving station for the first Atlantic cable, laid in 1874, is located on Old Beach Road in Rye. The remains of the sunken forest (remnants of the Ice Age) may be seen at low tide. Intermingled with these gnarled stumps is the original Atlantic cable.
- Fort Constitution Historic Site on New Castle was first fortified in 1632 and has served as a military installation ever since.
- Portsmouth, or Strawberry Banke at the time, was the first colonial capital of New Hampshire. The name Strawberry Banke came from when early settlers climbed the banks of the Piscataqua River looking for fresh water and found their hands stained red from strawberries.
- There were three Colonial governors all by the name of Wentworth. The father, Lt. Governor John Wentworth, the son, Benning Wentworth, and nephew, Gentleman Johnny.
- The John Paul Jones House, one of several colonial homes open to the public, is used in Sears Weather-beater paint commercials. Every couple of years it is painted and a new commercial is shot.
- One of the first overt acts of the American Revolution was on December 13, 1774. Paul Revere rode to Portsmouth to warn the Sons of Liberty that the British were going to remove gunpowder from the British garrison at Castle William and Mary (now Fort Constitution). Several hundred men overpowered the fort and removed the supplies, which were later used by the New Hampshire Militia at the Battle of Bunker Hill.
- The Treaty of Portsmouth ended the Russo-Japanese War in 1905 and heralded Japan's entry into the international community. President Theodore Roosevelt invited the two countries to a peace negotiation in the United States. The city of Portsmouth was chosen because of the security of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the ability to house the foreign envoys in comfort at the Wentworth Hotel in New Castle.
- The Isles of Shoals is located 9 miles out from Portsmouth, were originally called Smith Isles after they were discovered by Captain John Smith.
- They were later named Isles of Shoals for the great shoals of fish. It was said the shoals of fish were so great you could walk from one shore to another on their backs.
- Poet Celia Thaxter had a special fondness for the Isles of Shoals. It was there that her father, Thomas B. Lighton, and his family opened the Appledore House and began the era of the grand summer resort.

Step on Guide Notes for New Hampshire

- Shipping and fishing were the main industries of the colonial era. All trees over 3 feet in diameter were made at the king's trees for use as masts. After cutting they were hauled to the coast, which is why every community around the seacoast has a Mast Road.
- The town of Exeter was the second colonial capital of New Hampshire. Here one of the original 16 copies of the Declaration of Independence can be seen at the American Independence Museum.

DARTMOUTH/LAKE SUNAPEE

- In 1744, the settlers at No. 4 in Charlestown built a great log fort enclosing many of the town dwellings. The fort, northernmost in the Connecticut Valley, was besieged in 1747 by a large force of French and Indians who were beaten off by the 31-man garrison in a three-day battle. The "Fort at No. 4" was never again attacked.
- Built in 1866 at a cost of \$9,000 the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge is the longest wooden bridge in the USA. It is the longest two span bridge in the world. The 449 ft. structure, which uses a lattice truss design, was built as a toll bridge by a private corporation. The state purchased the bridge in 1936 and made it toll free in 1943. After nearly 120 years of use, the bridge was closed for repairs. It opened again in 1989 at a cost of \$4.2 million.
- Dartmouth College was founded in 1769 by the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock for the education of "Youth of the Indian tribes, English youth and any others." It is the ninth oldest college in the country. Two extraordinary cultural aspects of Dartmouth College include the Hood Museum of Art, housing one of the finest college collections in the country and the Hopkins "HOP" Performing Arts Center.
- The La Salette Shrine located on the east side of Lake Mascoma, was built in the 1950s, a replica of Mary's apparition at La Salette in France. The area was a Shaker colony from 1700-1929. When the Shakers dwindled in numbers, they moved to Canterbury. In 1928 La Salette missionaries bought the Shaker property for use as a seminary which operated until 1974.
- In the mid to late 1800s, industry in the Sunapee area was booming. Grist and saw mills operated on most of the rivers and brooks. It is said that there were 125 water wheels on the Sugar River and its tributaries in the 25 miles it ran from Sunapee to the Connecticut River. Today the last working water wheel in Sunapee pumps water from the lake into the town water system.
- In 1875 the Woodsum boys from Maine built a 47 foot wooden steamboat, the "Lady Woodsum" carrying 50-75 passengers. As the steamboat business grew, hotels began to spring up around the lake, catering to the growing number of summer vacationers arriving by train.
- In 1905, you could buy a ticket at North Station for a train ride from Boston to Sunapee, take a steamboat ride on the lake with lunch, and return to Boston for just \$2!
- The oldest crafts fair in the United States is held each summer at Mt. Sunapee State Park in Sunapee.
- Sunapee comes from the Penacook Indian name meaning "the landing place of the wild goose waters."
- The Seacoast Region is not the only place with lighthouses. Lake Sunapee has three working lighthouses along its shore.