

White Mountain Trail

The White Mountain Trail offers New England's most rugged mountain scenery as it travels easily through three historic "notches" or mountain passes. Views abound of villages and unspoiled National Forest. Stops include views of Mount Washington and the grand Mount Washington Hotel, mountain cascades, wildlife, and the Appalachian Trail.



Length: 100 miles / 160.0 km
 Time to Allow: 2.5 hours to drive this byway.

Local Information

White Mountains Visitor Center
 1-800-346-3687 or 603-745-8720

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees for driving the byway; however, unattended cars in the National Forest need a recreation pass.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Most of the byway is great only for advanced bicyclists because of the tight shoulder widths and very steep segments. There are a few places the family can bike, though, like Franconia Notch State Parkway, which has a beautiful nine-mile off-highway bike route. Good family-type biking can also be had on Bartlett's off-road trail. Recreational cyclists also like to head to the North Country for its great biking.

Camping



Camping is available in the White Mountain National Forest.

Links to reserveUSA.com to make reservations at nearby campgrounds:

- Barnes Field Campground
- Basin Campground
- Cold River
- Covered Bridge
- Dolly Copp
- Sugarloaf Campground

The six campgrounds along the byway are rustic and don't have hookups.



Food

There are places to buy food along this byway.



Gasoline

Gasoline is available.



Information

There is an authoritative information center along this byway.



Lodging

There is overnight lodging along this byway.



Retail

There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

The White Mountain Trail can safely and conveniently accommodate two-wheel drive vehicles with standard clearance. It is also safe for tour bus travel. Except for Bear Notch Road, the highway is maintained year-round, including snow plowing during the winter months. There are several safety hazards relating to winter driving conditions due to winter storms, collision of vehicles with moose, and improper parking along the highways. Although moose present one of the most exciting viewing opportunities along the highway, they can cause traffic control and safety problems as people stop to view and take pictures. At some locations along the highway, informal parking can cause hazards.

Cars left unattended in the White Mountains National Forest require a "recreation pass," which is available on site for \$3/day, or at visitor centers and outfitters for \$5/week or \$20/year (in Jan. 2006.)

Restrictions

Bear Notch Road is closed to automobiles during the winter months. The road is not winter maintained from approximately November to March. It is utilized during the winter months as a snowmobile corridor and for cross-country skiing.

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Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The roads on the major portion of the loop (Routes 302, 16, 3, I-93 and 112) are open year round.

High Season

Summer and winter are the busiest seasons on the byway.

Map and Directions



Legend:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Point of Interest | ▲ Campground | ▬ Featured Byway | 🌊 Water | ▬ State Border |
| 🌲 Park | ⛺ Picnic/Rest Area | ▬ America's Byways | 🌿 Wildlife Refuge | 🏘 Urban Area |
| ⓧ Mountain | 🛣️ Interstate | ▬ Other Byway | 🌿 Wilderness Area | 🏘 Tribal Nation |
| 📍 City | 🛣️ U.S. Highway | ▬ Other Road | 🌿 Other Federal Lands | 🏘 Military Base |
| ★ Capital | 🛣️ State Highway | ⋯ Trail | 🌿 Other State Lands | |

Driving Directions

- The White Mountain Trail starts at the intersection of NH 16 and E. Main St. in Conway, NH.
- From here, drive north to US 302/White Mountain Hwy.
- Continue north to Crawford Notch Rd. then head west to Albany Rd in Bartlett, NH.
- Here, take a side trip by driving south to Kancamagus Hwy.
- Return to the intersection of US 302 and Albany Rd.
- Continue west to Daniel Webster Dr. then drive southwest to I-93.
- Head south on I-93 to Styles Bridges Hwy and continue south to Kancamagus Hwy in North Woodstock, NH.

Getting to the Byway

From Manchester, NH

- Take I-93 North to Exit 32 in North Woodstock.
- Get on NH-112 East or West to enter the byway.

From Portland, ME

- Take US-302 West to Center Conway, NH.
- Take NH-113 towards Conway Village and go north or south on NH-16 in Conway where the byway begins.

Road Trip: White Mountains Trail Tour

Departure: North Woodstock

Destination: Conway, New Hampshire

Time to allow: 4 days

The White Mountains Trail begins at North Woodstock, New Hampshire. The following tour lists points of interest that will provide hours and hours of excitement and exploration. If you are feeling extra adventurous, complete the loop by taking the Kancamagus Highway, also a National Scenic Byway.

Day 1

- **Start: North Woodstock**

Your journey along the White Mountains Trail begins at here, in North Woodstock.

- **Stop 1: Clark's Trading Post**



From previous stop: 2 minutes / 1.1 mi (1.8 km)

Directions: Leaving North Woodstock, take SR-112 (Lost River Road) east for 0.1 mile. Turn left onto US-3 (Daniel Webster Hwy) and drive for 1.0 mile until you arrive at the post.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

One of the White Mountains' most outstanding attractions: the Clark family has personally entertained their summer visitors for over 70 years. Features include a fire station, steam locomotive, trained North American black bears, and a museum.

- **Stop 2: Whale's Tale Water Park**

From previous stop: 8 minutes / 4 mi (6.4 km)

Directions: Take US-3 north for about 4 miles until you come to the water park.

Suggested time at this stop: 5 hours

Spend an entire afternoon enjoying the sight and sounds of the ocean in the heart of the beautiful White Mountains.

- **End: North Woodstock**

From previous stop: same location

Lodging is available in North Woodstock.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 5.1 miles / 8.2 km

Total Travel Time: 10 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 8 hours

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Franconia Notch State Park**



From previous stop: 8 minutes / 5 mi (8.0 km)

Directions: Take US-3 north for about 5 miles until you come to the Park.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

Franconia Notch State Park, one of only 6 such features in the US, sits high in the White Mountain National Forest. This park provides hours of fun things to see and do. This is the former location of the Old Man of the Mountain, a natural rock formation which once resembled a man's face.

- **Stop 2: Cannon Mountain Tramway**



From previous stop: 10 minutes / 3.8 mi (6.1 km)

Directions: Drive east for 0.5 miles from the park, then turn left onto US-3. Drive north for 3 miles, then turn left and drive for 0.3 miles until you come to the Tramway.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Cannon Mountain Tramway, located in a winter ski resort, offers summer tram rides to the top of Cannon Mountain for gorgeous views.

- **Stop 3: Mt. Washington Cog Railway**

From previous stop: 18 minutes / 14 mi (22.4 km)

Directions: Leaving the tramway, turn right and drive for 0.2 miles. Take the left ramp onto I-93 (US-3) and drive for 2.0 miles. At Exit 35, turn right onto the ramp to US-3. Drive for 0.5 miles, and bear right onto US-3. Drive for 9.9 miles, turn left onto US-302 (SR-10). Drive for 1.3 miles until you arrive at the railway.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Mt. Washington Cog Railway, a historic area railroad, provides a great educational stop.

- **Stop 4: Mt. Washington Auto Road**



From previous stop: 42 minutes / 29.1 mi (46.6 km)

Directions: Leaving the railway, take US-302 east for 1.3 miles. Turn left onto US-3 and drive for 2.0 miles. Turn right onto SR-115 and drive for 6.6 miles. Keep straight onto SR-115 (Owl's Head Hwy) for 1.8 miles. Keep straight onto SR-115 (Hollow Road) for 1.3 miles. Bear right for 0.1 mile, then bear right onto US-2. Drive for 8.2 miles, then turn right onto Pinkham Road. Drive for 4.3 miles, then turn right onto SR-16. Drive for 3.5 miles, then turn right onto Mt. Washington Auto Road.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

This eight-mile road takes you to the Northeast's highest peak, Mt. Washington, "the top of New England." This road is especially enjoyable because of its (literally) mile-high views of the Presidential Range and the White Mountain National Forest.

- **End: Bretton Woods**

From previous stop: same location

Lodging is available in Bretton Woods.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 51.9 miles / 83.0 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 18 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 7 hours

Day 3

- **Stop 1: Crawford Notch State Park**

From previous stop: 40 minutes / 32.4 mi (51.8 km)

Directions: Leaving the Auto Road, turn right onto SR-16 and drive for 14.5 miles. Turn right onto US-302 and drive for 17.4 miles. Turn right and drive for 0.3 miles till you arrive at the park.

Suggested time at this stop: 4 hours

A plethora of outdoor opportunities await you here at Crawford Notch State Park.

- **End: Glen**

From previous stop: 21 minutes / 17.5 mi (28.0 km)

Directions: Leaving the park, drive along US-302 for 17.5 miles until you reach the city of Glen.

Lodging is available in Glen.

Totals for Day 3

Total Distance Traveled: 49.9 miles / 79.8 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 1 minute

Total Stopping Time: 4 hours

Day 4

- **Stop 1: Story Land**



From previous stop: 1 minute / 0.1 mi (0.2 km)

Directions: From the museum, drive south 0.1 mile to Story Land.

Suggested time at this stop: 4 hours

Story Land is a children's theme park geared for young families.

- **Stop 2: Conway Scenic Railroad**



From previous stop: 8 minutes / 6.3 mi (10.1 km)

Directions: Leaving Story Land, take SR-16 south for 0.7 miles. Turn left onto US-302 and drive for 5.5 miles. Turn right onto Norcross Circle, and drive for 0.1 mile till you reach the railroad.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Discover bygone days in these powerful locomotives and their open (or enclosed) vintage coaches. Train rides vary in duration.

- **End: Conway**

From previous stop: 7 minutes / 5.5 mi (8.8 km)

Directions: Take Norcross Circle south for 0.1 mile. Turn right onto US-302 and drive for 2.4 miles. Keep straight onto SR-16 for 2.8 miles, then turn left onto SR-113 into Conway.

This exciting journey along the Byway ends in Conway, New Hampshire.

Totals for Day 4

Total Distance Traveled: 11.9 miles / 19.0 km

Total Travel Time: 16 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 5 hours