



TRIP IDEA: MAGNIFICENT MOUNTAINS

A New England Drive Through the Mountains: Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont

This New England drive starts at the Atlantic coast, then continues through Maine's rugged interior and New Hampshire's White Mountains, before heading into Vermont. The scenery is stunning – there are big views of mountains and white pine forests, and rushing rivers and old mill towns, plus the glory of Mount Washington, the highest peak in the Northeast.

Trip ideas and itineraries are meant as suggestions only. They are intended as ideas and to highlight all there is to see and do in New England.

MAINE

1. **[Portland, Maine](#): Lively coastal city**
With glorious views over Casco Bay and its islands, the largest city in Maine is a popular destination, thanks to its small shops, galleries, restaurants and museums. As well as the lively Old Port, visit the boyhood home of the 19th-century poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and the art and children's museums.
2. **[Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village](#), Maine: Shaker community**
This is the last remaining Shaker community, dating back over two centuries. The small museum houses reminders of the sect's elegant carpentry and building skills.
3. **South Paris, Maine: [McLaughlin Garden](#)**
Perhaps the finest public garden in Maine, this was a 60-year labor of love for self-taught horticulturist Bernard McLaughlin. Known for its lilacs, iris, day lilies and wildflowers, it's on the Maine Garden and Landscape Trail.
4. **Paris Hill, Maine: Elegant homes**
Off the main road, high on Paris Hill, with wonderful views of the distant White Mountains. Among the elegant homes is [Hannibal Hamlin's](#), President Lincoln's vice president. Insider tip: While in this area, visit neighboring Norway. The quaint downtown is lined with shops, galleries, restaurants and even a brewery.
5. **Bethel, Maine: [Sunday River Resort](#)**
High in the hills, Bethel was a retreat from the summer heat in the 19th century. Today, visitors come year-round to play golf and to ski at Sunday River. To the north is Grafton Notch, where moose are frequently seen; to the southwest lies the spectacular Evans Notch in the White Mountains.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

6. **[Shelburne](#) and [Gorham](#), New Hampshire: I spy moose**

Route 2, paralleling the Androscoggin River, leads through the mountains into New Hampshire. Between Shelburne and Gorham, impressive white birches line the road. Both towns are good bases for exploring the unspoiled forest to the north, as well as nearby Mount Washington. This is another region where you may spot moose.

7. **[Mount Washington, New Hampshire: Highest peak in the Northeast](#)**

Although you can drive up the 6,288-ft Mount Washington, the highest peak in the Northeast, it's easier to take the guided tour. The top, with its observation area and museum, is usually windy; even in high summer it can be cold.

8. **[Jackson](#), New Hampshire: Picture perfect**

Pinkham Notch brings more vistas of the Presidential range; then it's on to Jackson. Residents have worked hard to preserve this attractive village, known for its bed and breakfast inns and network of cross-country ski trails.

9. **[North Conway](#), New Hampshire: Designer outlets**

Outlet shopping is just one reason to visit this small town that is within easy reach of several ski resorts. The station (1874) and steam engines have been restored for the deservedly popular Conway Scenic Railroad, with excursions to Conway, Bartlett and the most panoramic of all, Crawford Notch.

10. **Conway, New Hampshire: Saco River covered bridge**

New Hampshire has more than 50 covered bridges, but one of the finest is the [Saco River Bridge](#). Built back in 1890, it stretches for 225 ft.; find it in Conway village.

11. **The [Kancamagus Highway](#), New Hampshire: National Scenic Byway**

One of the most beautiful highways in the USA, 'the Kanc' is a National Scenic Byway, named for a legendary Indian chief. No private homes or service stations spoil the 35-mile run that climbs 3,000 ft. between Conway and Lincoln. Stop at scenic areas, such as Sabbaday Falls.

12. **[Franconia Notch](#) and [Bretton Woods](#), New Hampshire**

North of Lincoln, in the best-known high pass in New England, are some of New Hampshire's most recognizable icons. The rock profile that was the Old Man of the Mountain crumbled in 2002, but you can see what it looked like through special telescopes by the roadside. Walk up to the Flume (waterfall in a gorge) and visit [Robert Frost Place](#) (former home of America's favorite poet). Further on are Bretton Woods and the historic [Omni Mount Washington Resort](#). Nearby is the [Mount Washington Cog Railway](#), the world's first mountain-climbing cog railway, more than 130 years old.

13. **[Hanover](#), New Hampshire: Hills and valley**

The Connecticut River serves as the border between Vermont and New Hampshire. Here, in the lovely Upper Valley, Hanover is home to Dartmouth College. Founded back in 1769, it is one of many excellent independent colleges and universities in New England.

VERMONT

14. [Smugglers Notch Scenic Highway](#), **Vermont**: Open spring, summer, and fall, the highway curves up and over the mountain pass connecting Stowe and Cambridge and wraps around Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak.
15. [Appalachian Gap](#), **Vermont**: Breathtaking, connects the historic village of Bristol with the Mad River Valley.
16. [Mount Mansfield Auto Toll Road](#), **Charlotte's Mount Philo**, or the [Equinox Skyline Drive](#), **Vermont**: Drive to what feels like the top of the state.
17. [Long Trail at Barnes Camp](#), **Vermont**: Accessible hikes, including those with boardwalks, bring mountain views to everyone.
18. [Stowe Mountain Resort](#), [Stratton Mountain Resort](#), and [Killington Resort](#), **Vermont**: Take in the view from a gondola at a Vermont ski resort. All offer immersive mountain views from a chair lift in the spring, summer, and fall.
19. [Taconic Ramble State Park](#), **Vermont**: Nestled in Hubbardton, it offers a vast dog-friendly trail network and a Japanese garden.