

# **SCENIC DRIVES NEAR NORTH CONWAY**

There are several excellent scenic drives in the North Conway area. This includes the following:

- **NH 112 / KANCAMAGUS HIGHWAY**
  - Drive this paved road from just south of downtown Conway to the town of Lincoln.
  - There are many scenic outlooks along this scenic byway.
  - There are several excellent waterfalls to be found along this road, including Sabbaday Falls (short hike), Lower Falls (roadside), Rocky Gorge (short walk), Champney Falls (moderate hike), and Franconia Falls (moderate hike).
  - There are many hiking trailheads along this road. Hikes range in difficulty from easy to very difficult.
  - This road can also be driven in the reverse direction (it really doesn't make a difference which direction you go).
  - Open in winter, but potentially dangerous during storms.
- **US 302 / CRAWFORD NOTCH**
  - Drive this paved road from the town of Bartlett to the town of Twin Mountain.
  - Boasts stunning views of the Presidential Range mountains, including Mt. Washington.
  - Passes through scenic Crawford Notch.
  - Great views of the famous OMNI Mount Washington Hotel.
  - There are several excellent waterfalls to be found along this road, including Silver Cascade (roadside), Flume Cascade (roadside), Nancy Cascades (moderate hike), Arethusa Falls (moderate hike), Ripley Falls (moderate hike).
  - There are many hiking trailheads along this road. Hikes range in difficulty from easy to very difficult.
  - This road can also be driven in the reverse direction (it really doesn't make a difference which direction you go).
  - Open in winter, but potentially dangerous during storms.
- **MOUNT WASHINGTON AUTO ROAD**
  - Drive the partially-paved, partially-unpaved 7.6 mile private auto road from NH 16 to the summit of Mt. Washington, which at 6,288ft is the highpoint of New England.
  - At the summit, you'll find gorgous views, a museum, a gift shop, restrooms, and a cafe.
  - Fee (\$\$) required. Do not bother paying or visiting if the weather is not favorable or if Mt. Washington is in the clouds.
  - Dress warm in all months of the year since the summit rarely hits 70 degrees.
  - Closed in winter.
- **CATHEDRAL LEDGE MOUNTAIN ROAD**
  - Drive a paved, steep and wooded road to within 0.1 mile of the views from Cathedral Ledge.
  - Short walk to wonderful views of the North Conway area.

- Closed in winter.
- **NH 16 / PINKHAM NOTCH**
  - Drive a paved road from the town of Bartlett to the town of Gorham
  - Boasts stunning views of the Presidential Range mountains, including Mt. Washington
  - There are many excellent waterfalls to be found along this road, including Glen Ellis Falls (short hike), Winneweta Falls (moderate hike), Thompson Falls (moderate hike), and Crystal Cascade (moderate hike).
  - There are many hiking trailheads along this road. Hikes range in difficulty from easy to very difficult.
  - This road can also be driven in the reverse direction (it really doesn't make a difference which direction you go).
  - Open in winter, but potentially dangerous during storms.

The *ultimate one-day driving loop* in the White Mountains region of NH is as follows:

- **PART 1:** From North Conway, take NH 16 south to a right turn onto NH 112 / The Kancamagus Highway.
- **PART 2:** Take NH 112 / The Kancamagus Highway west to I-93 in Lincoln.
- **PART 3:** Take I-93 north to US 3 north.
- **PART 4:** Take US 3 north to the town of Twin Mountain.
- **PART 5:** Turn right onto US 302 and head east until it brings you back to North Conway.
- This entire loop will take you *at least* four hours, and many more hours if you stop at the dozens of attractions, scenic outlooks, waterfalls, stores and restaurants along the way. I have probably driven this route 100 times over the last 20 years and it never gets old. Moose viewing is also good along this route, especially at sunrise or sunset. Black bears are also occasionally seen.