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GUIDE to SUMMER 2026



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Neeley Luna, a singer for the rock band The Far, performs a song at the Summer Stroll in Nashua in 2025 as the crowd watching her is reflected in her sunglasses. This year's event is scheduled for July 25. *Jodie Andruskevich/Union Leader file*

All eyes are on summer 2026

Having spent most of my life in New Hampshire, I can say without hesitation that summers here are something special. After patiently enduring the long winter and a muddy spring, warm weather and long days finally arrive – and we make every moment count in a season that always feels too short.

We've put together a guide to some of the best places and events the Granite State has to offer, so you can make the most of this time with the people you love. And with July 4th marking America's 250th birthday – a once-in-a-lifetime semiquincentennial celebration – there's even more reason to get out and explore. For information on special commemorative events, visit unionleader.com.

Melanie Hitchcock

Editor in Chief
New Hampshire Union Leader

ON THE COVER: Young surfers have fun at Sawyers Beach in Rye in July 2025. *Mark Bolton/Union Leader file*

SUMMER MODE: ON

Walk the Flume Gorge boardwalks, bike the Rec Path and paddle Echo Lake. Franconia Notch is where summer adventure starts.



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BRETTONWOODS.COM

1. Contoocook River Canoe Co.

On a hot summer day, there's nothing more relaxing than canoeing on one of New Hampshire's many rivers. If you are new to the pastime, you might be wondering where to start. That's where Contoocook River Canoe Co. comes in. Whether you want to rent a kayak, canoe or paddleboard, take lessons or just get some advice, it's a great place to check out. Bonus: You can sign up for a 9-mile shuttle trip that starts right from its location.

CONCORD
contoocookcanoe.com



Mason Hoover of Arnie's Place in Concord serves up an ice cream cone to a customer during last year's festival. *Mark Bolton/Union Leader file*

2. Market Days Festival

It's the 50th anniversary of the three-day street festival, which is put together by Intown Concord. North Main Street is closed to traffic to make room for vendors, food and entertainment. One of the highlights of this year's festival is an appearance by the Freese Brothers Big Band on Thursday night. The festival runs June 25-27. Admission is free.

CONCORD | marketdaysfestival.com

3. North Country Moose Festival

A festival so epic it's held in two states, the North Country Moose Festival features a moose-calling contest, dog show, Classic Car Cruise Parade, food, music and vendors. Activities take place on Main Street in Colebrook on Friday, Aug. 29, and continue on Saturday at the Canaan Rec Park in Canaan, Vermont.

COLEBROOK
mygonorth.com/moose-festival



Facebook

4. Jericho ATV Weekend

The North Country's premier ATV weekend returns July 31 and Aug. 1. The event features a downtown block party, torchlit parade, poker run, chicken wing cook-off competition and concerts in the park. No ATV? No problem. Show up for the fun and food.

BERLIN | androscogginvalleychamber.com



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5. Taco Tour

Every year, thousands of taco lovers flock to downtown Manchester to eat as many tacos as they can from dozens of restaurants in four hours. Take the challenge May 28 and be sure to visit the two stages, the band stage at Elm Street and the artist stage at Hanover Street, to check out local talent.

MANCHESTER
tacotourmanchester.com



Hungry diners dig in at Taco Tour Manchester in 2024.
David Lane/Union Leader file

6. Mount Washington cruises

No summer is complete without taking a cruise on the historic M/S Mount Washington, which has been sailing Lake Winnepesaukee since 1872. The company connects the ports of Weirs Beach, Wolfeboro, Meredith, Alton Bay and Center Harbor. This summer the refurbished Winnepesaukee Belle will relaunch from its Meredith port. Sunset, brunch, cocktail and special event cruises will be available.

MEREDITH | cruisenh.com

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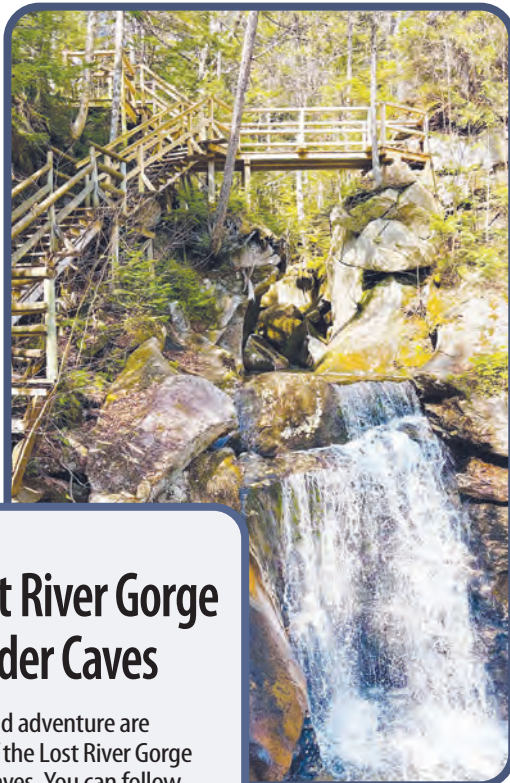
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7. Hillsboro Summer Festival

If you've never seen a women's skillet toss, this is your chance. It's one of the many activities being held as part of the Hillsboro Summer Festival on July 9-12. Carnival rides, food trucks, beer tent, live music, K-9 Unit show and fireworks are some of the highlights. This has been a family favorite for more than 35 years.

HILLSBOROUGH | hillsborosummerfest.com



Lost River Gorge pictured here on opening day in early May. *Facebook*

9. Lost River Gorge & Boulder Caves

Beauty and adventure are hallmarks of the Lost River Gorge & Boulder Caves. You can follow a 1-mile wooden boardwalk trail through the gorge along the lost river. Experience the 11 boulder caves and admire the waterfalls. You can even pan for gemstones and fossils.

NORTH WOODSTOCK
lostrivergorge.com



JJ Sodaitis waves an American flag as he interacts with Eli Huebner, a member of the 4th (King's Own) Regiment during the festivities in 2025. *Union Leader file*

8. American Independence Festival

This is the perfect year to take part in this annual festival, as the United States celebrates the 250th year of its founding. On July 11, you'll witness the arrival of the Declaration and hear a live reading, and you can explore historic trades from artisans practicing traditional skills and crafts. Join the colonial games, dance, listen to music and have a brew in the beer garden.

EXETER
aicnh.org/american-independence-festival

10. The Palace Theatre

The historic theater located in downtown Manchester is a nonprofit venue that presents acts but also hosts its own professional company, youth and teen programs. Shows from the Palace Youth Theatre and Palace Teen Company are on the calendar, along with tribute shows and an annual presentation of films from the previous NH Film Festival. Don't miss the Red White & Bloom Garden Tour on June 20.

MANCHESTER
palacetheatre.org



Eric Esposito and Heather Robins in their backyard garden during the 2024 Palace Theatre Garden Tour in Manchester. *Union Leader file*

11. Get away: NH resorts

Some of the best places to vacation in the world are located right here in New Hampshire. Escape from reality and head to Steele Hill Resorts in the Lakes Region, which boasts two indoor and two outdoor pools, 9-hole golf course and spectacular views. The Omni Mount Washington in the North Country features a luxury spa, outdoor heated pool complex and resort stables.

omnihotels.com
steelehillresorts.com

12. Pemi Valley Moose Tours

Your chances of seeing a moose in New Hampshire go up when you take a tour with a guide. Pemi Valley Moose Tours take you on a three-hour trip through the White Mountains in air-conditioned comfort while you search out the mighty moose.

LINCOLN | moosetoursh.com



A motorcyclist cruises down Lakeside Avenue in Laconia during Bike Week in 2018. *Union Leader* file

13. Bike Week

A staple of summer fun in New Hampshire, Laconia Motorcycle Week is celebrating 103 years in 2026. From June 13 to 21, enjoy live music and events at what is often called the oldest motorcycle rally in the United States. Events include the 20th annual Peter Makris Memorial Ride on June 13 and the City of Laconia Bike Show on June 19. Check out the event's website for an up-to-date list of activities.

LACONIA | laconiamcweek.com



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14. Blackbeard's Cove Adventure Golf

Whether you are playing on an indoor, outdoor or themed mini-golf course, there is a lot of fun to be had on a summer afternoon. But have you ever played 18 holes of mini golf under blacklight? Blackbeard's Cove Adventure Golf is upping the game with its 3D adventure course. If you prefer to play mini golf outdoors, Blackbeard's is working on an outdoor project.

CLAREMONT | pirateminigolfnh.com

15. The Fort at No. 4

Visit this open-air living history museum and experience life as it was during colonial times from 1735-1770. The grounds recreate the details of the original structures that existed in 1746. On the last Saturday of each month in 2026, the museum will host a special event centered on Revolutionary War.

CHARLESTOWN | fortat4.org



A permanent historical marker was placed at the Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown. A ceremony was held in August 2025. *Provided by the Fort at No. 4*

16. NH State Parks

If you are looking to get outdoors, head to a NH State Park. NH State Parks manages 94 properties, which include parks, campgrounds, beaches, historic sites and trails. Hike at Monadnock State Park in Jaffrey. Take a bike ride at Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown. Grab your tent or RV and choose from 23 campgrounds.

nhstateparks.org

A young boy in colorful swim trunks is running through a water park. In the foreground, a large, vibrant rainbow arches over a water feature. The background shows other water slides and structures. A yellow box on the right contains promotional text for Story Land.

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17. America's Stonehenge

This historic site preserves more than 4,000 years of human history. Explore the rock formations, landscapes and active archeological sites. Check out the Oracle Chamber, The Grooved Table, the Watch House Chamber and many more structures. Kids can even use real tools to dig out gemstones at the Kids' Gemstone Dig.

SALEM | stonehengeusa.com

18. Clark's Trading Post

The Bear Show, Segway Park, Tuttle's Shootin' Gallery, the Wolfman, Merlin's Mansion ... these are just a few of the reasons you should head to Lincoln where you will have an unforgettable experience.

LINCOLN | clarksbears.com



clarksbears.com

19. Drive-in movies

There's something magical about watching a movie on a summer night under the stars. New Hampshire is home to three drive-ins where you can curl up in the comfort of your car and take in a double feature.

WEIRS BEACH: weirsdrivein.com (movies return in July)

NORTHFIELD | northfielddrivein.com

MILFORD | milforddrivein.com

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20. Scenic RailRiders

Since 2019, this family-owned company has been providing rail-bike tours on abandoned railroad tracks, allowing folks to pedal along and enjoy the scenery. Unfortunately, this is likely to be the RailRiders' last year due to the expansion of the Greenway rail trail. Don't miss your last chance to experience the fun.

CONCORD | scenicrailriders.com

Rebecca and Chris Smith of Wells, Maine, pedal a rail bike over a railroad bridge on a tour with Scenic RailRiders in Concord in 2021. *David Lane/Union Leader file*

21. Bank of NH Pavilion

You'll find the hottest singing acts at this Lakes Region venue all summer long. Just a few of the artists stopping by in 2026 are Bob Dylan, Luke Bryan, Sarah McLachlan, Dave Matthews Band, Hayley Williams, Jason Aldean and Dierks Bentley. Start your day tailgating, and if you don't feel like driving home after a show, consider spending the night at the venue's campground.

GILFORD | banknhpavilion.com



A labyrinth at Petals in the Pines in Canterbury. *Provided by Petals in the Pines*

23. Petals in the Pines

It's the last year for Petals in the Pines, which will close after its 17th season. Don't miss your chance to take a break (and a deep breath) to walk the trails or the labyrinths. Stop at the farm stand porch for a bucket and scissors and pick your own flowers. Programs offered for kids include Tale Trails and Spread Your Wings days.

CANTERBURY | petalsinthepines.com

22. Lickee's & Chewy's

If you are yearning for something sweet, this medieval-themed destination is the place to stop. In addition to candy, including homemade confections, there is a chocolate factory and ice cream and dessert restaurant.

DOVER | lickeesnchewys.com



One of the many confections you'll find at Lickee's and Chewy's — a king shake. *Facebook*

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Artist: Saad Hindal



24. Hampton Beach

Hampton Beach is the place to be all summer for food, fireworks and fun — and there is a full slate of events planned.

- Hampton Beach Sand Sculpting Classic: June 18-20
 - Country Music Fest: July 7-8
 - Hampton Beach Children's Festival: Aug. 17-21
 - Hampton Beach Talent Show: Aug. 22-23
 - Hampton Beach Seafood Festival: Sept. 11-13
 - Monday night movies on the beach, fireworks and the summer concert series
- hamptonbeach.org

Hampton Beach attracts big crowds on hot summer days. *Union Leader file*

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25. Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom

Changes will be coming in the next few years as the Hampton Beach casino project, which includes a new ballroom, hotel and gaming, takes shape. But in the meantime, the good times continue to roll for the almost 100-year-old venue. Artists appearing this summer include David Lee Roth, The Beach Boys, Jo Dee Messina, String Cheese Incident, Air Supply, Yacht Rock Revue-Primetime, W.A.S.P and Sevendust, and many more.

HAMPTON BEACH
casinoballroom.com

The Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom has been a staple in the state for almost 100 years. *Getty*



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26. Gunstock's Adventure Resort

Winter is for skiing, but summer is for outdoor adventure at Gunstock. You'll get your adrenaline pumping on the mountain coaster, zipline, scenic lift ride or try out the Aerial Treetop Adventure course — it's one of New England's largest.

GILFORD | gunstock.com



27. Conway Scenic Railroad

Get a different perspective by viewing the state from a different mode of transportation. You can have an old-fashioned railroading experience. Grab a seat on the Mountaineer, which travels across Crawford Notch, ride in a vintage rail car on the Valley Train Excursion, or for something completely different, hop aboard a murder mystery rail trip.

NORTH CONWAY | conwayscenic.com

The Mountaineer offers the most scenic excursion as it travels across Crawford Notch. *Keith Murray, WMWV Radio/Facebook*



Rental roller skates are ready to roll at Remix Skate & Event Center in Manchester. *Dave Lane/Union Leader file*

28. Remix Skate & Event Center

If you are feeling nostalgic for 1980s fun, Remix has you covered. Walking into the brightly colored Remix is like rolling back in time. Remix offers all-skate sessions, or if you are an adult who wants to take a retro deep dive, they also have adult-only skate nights where you can shoot the duck while listening to tunes that evoke memories of legwarmers and neon.

MANCHESTER | skateremix.com

29. League of NH Craftsmen Fair

The fair, which was created in partnership with the Governor's Office in the wake of the Great Depression, began in 1933. It runs nine days and features the work of hundreds of member artisans specializing in handmade crafts including woodworking, pottery, textiles, jewelry and more. This year's fair is Aug. 1-9.

NEWBURY | nhcrafts.org

Blacksmith Gary Kalajian of Ararat Forge in Bradford demonstrates his skills at last year's fair. *David Lane/Union Leader file*



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- ★ September - Circus
- ★ September - Hampton Beach Seafood Festival
- ★ September - Fire Show on the Beach



View our Beach Cam and Events Calendar
at www.hamptonbeach.org

SEACOAST NEW HAMPSHIRE

30. Bedrock Gardens

Jill Nooney and her husband, Bob Munger, spent 40 years designing and building the 30-acre garden that the public can enjoy. You'll need a map to make sure you see as many of the gardens as possible, including The Nexus, Wildlife Pond and the Spiral Garden. Don't be surprised to see many butterflies on your visit. Don't miss the 10th annual Fairy and Hobbit Festival taking place July 17-19. It's a three-day celebration of creativity, nature play and imagination.

LEE | bedrockgardens.org



Dover High School students make flower bracelets at the Fairy and Hobbit Festival in 2024, an annual event at Bedrock Gardens. *Union Leader file*



31. Keene Swamp Bats

June 4 is opening night for the Keene Swamp Bats, which is a baseball team affiliated with the New England Collegiate Baseball League. Among the team's many promotional nights, the biggest one may be Independence Eve. On July 3, the City of Keene's fireworks spectacular will start immediately following the game. Of course, you don't want to miss the mascot, Ribby, who likes to hang out at the games.

KEENE | swampbats.com



The staircase at Madame Sherri Forest is a popular destination around Halloween and was the inspiration for a recent horror novel by Chuck Wendig called "The Staircase in the Woods." If you visit, do not climb on the staircase as it is increasingly unstable. *Provided by Carrie Deegan of the Forest Society*

32. Madame Sherri Forest

Antoinette De Lilas (later changed to "Sherri") was an actress and socialite who amassed a fortune in New York City in the 1920s and '30s. After spending summers with friends in New Hampshire, she purchased farmland in 1930 and built a 15-room estate. Long abandoned and lost to fire, what remains is the stonework from the original structure. It's one of the most interesting spots to visit in the state.

CHESTERFIELD | forestsociety.org

33. Granite State Whale Watch

Learn about the ocean and coastal environment as you keep an eye out for whales while boating off New Hampshire's coastline. The narrated, naturalist-led whale watches last four to five hours and depart once or twice daily.

RYE HARBOR
granitestatewhalewatch.com



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34. Flume Gorge

View breathtaking sights when you walk The Flume Trail, a 2-mile loop around a natural gorge, where the walls of granite can be as high as 90 feet. From the top of the gorge, you get a close view of Avalanche Falls. On a hot day, the cool mist is a welcome relief.

LINCOLN | nhstateparks.org

Visitors hike through the Flume Gorge in August 2025. *Roberta Baker/Union Leader file*



35. Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

There's so much to do on the 10,000-plus acres protected by the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, including fishing, boating, hiking and birding. The lands and trails are free and open to the public every day from dawn to dusk. Check out the Discovery Center Exhibit Room from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

GREENLAND | greatbay.org

The Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve also has an osprey cam. You can view it on YouTube. *Facebook*

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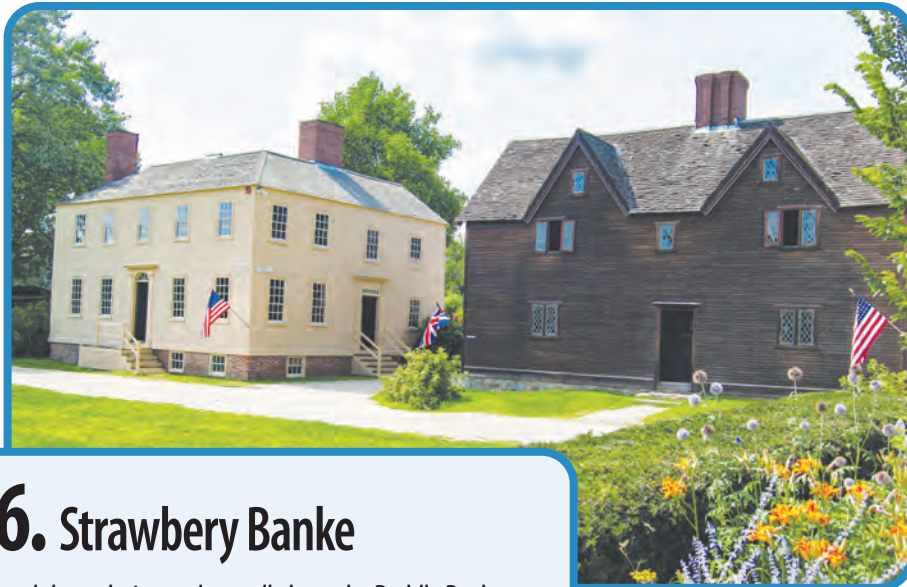
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36. Strawbery Banke

Travel through time to learn all about the Puddle Dock neighborhood in Portsmouth. After you tour the historic homes, don't miss the landscape, which features more than 10 gardens from the Victorian-era, colonial period and more. On Tuesday nights during the summer, Strawbery Banke hosts an outdoor concert series — a great way to end the day.

PORTSMOUTH | strawberyanke.org

You can tour the historic homes of the Puddle Dock neighborhood in Portsmouth at Strawbery Banke. *Getty*



Campers from a Hudson Recreation Department program cheer for the stadium camera during a New Hampshire Fisher Cats' game in July 2025. It was "Camp Day" at the ballpark. *Mark Bolton/Union Leader file*

37. NH Fisher Cats

In the heart of the Queen City, you'll find the Double A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. Delta Dental Stadium is a great place to watch the Fisher Cats, with promotions nearly every game including Tender Tuesdays, Waggin Wednesdays, Greek Heritage Night, Princesses at the Park and WWE Night.

MANCHESTER | nhfishercats.com

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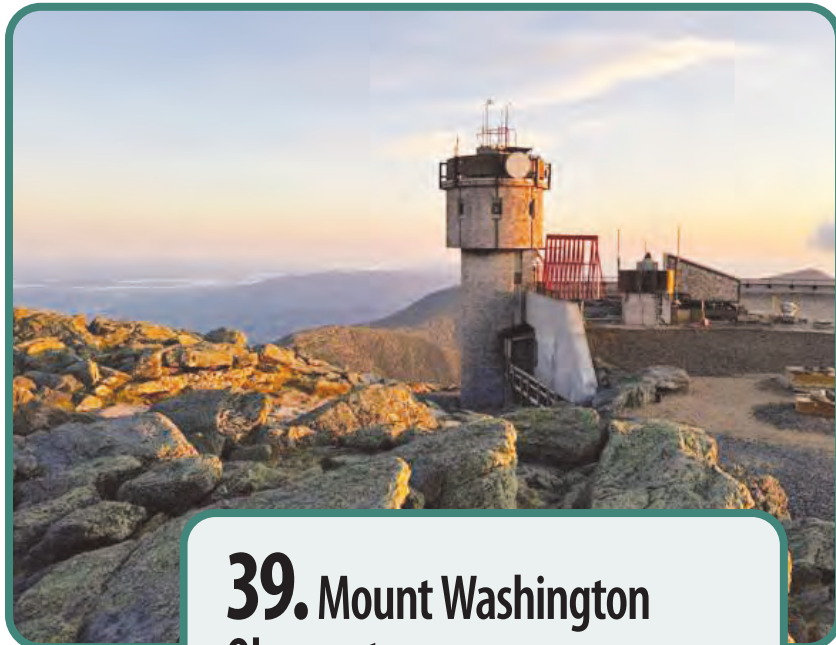
38. Mount Washington Cog Railway

Take a train ride up to the top of New England this summer on The Cog. The engineering marvel takes you to the 6,288-foot summit, as you travel through three climate zones. During the three-hour round trip (including one hour to spend at the top) you have the chance to see the Tip Top House Museum built in 1853. On a clear day at the summit, you can see five states and the Atlantic Ocean.

thecog.com



The Number 6 steam engine puffs its way up and over Jacob's Ladder trestle with a passenger car on the historic Mount Washington Cog Railway. *Getty*



A view of the observatory in July 2024. *Union Leader file*

39. Mount Washington Observatory

Take the opportunity to tour the weather observatory on Mount Washington, aka the "Home of the World's Worst Weather," which is open through mid-October. The weather station, and the Extreme Mount Washington Museum, are in Mount Washington State Park in the Sherman Adams Visitor Center.

mountwashington.org

**THIS CAR CLIMBED
MT. WASHINGTON**



40. Mount Washington Auto Road

The Auto Road first opened in 1861 and is America's oldest manmade tourist attraction. Book a guided tour of the 7.6-mile road that gains more than 4,000 feet in elevation. Or drive it yourself. You know you want that "This Car Climbed Mt. Washington" bumper sticker. The Auto Road is a scenic way to get to Mt. Washington Observatory.

mt-washington.com

The Mount Washington Auto Road has been family-owned and operated since 1906. *Getty*

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41. Star Island

Since 1916, the nonprofit Star Island Corp. has owned and operated the island.

Union Leader file

You are only 7 miles off the New Hampshire coast, but when you are on Star Island, you feel like you are a world away. For a taste of island living, stay for the day, or spend the night by signing up for one of Star Island's programs or a one-night personal retreat. Ferry services are located in Portsmouth and Rye.

ISLES OF SHOALS | starisland.org



42. Santa's Village

Celebrate Christmas while wearing shorts and eating ice cream from Frosty's Freezer. If you are a kid or a kid at heart, you'll feel joy visiting Santa, riding the Skyway Sleigh, feeding the reindeer or taking in a showing of A Tinkerdoodle Christmas. Don't miss the Jolly June FEASTival when the park marks the halfway point to Christmas.

JEFFERSON | santasvillage.com

Luke and Lilly Connor enjoy themselves at Santa's Village in 2024.
Provided by Morgen Connor



43. Castle in the Clouds

Surrounded by trees, Castle in the Clouds is impressive.
Provided by Lakes Region Seaplane Service

Castle in the Clouds in the Lakes Region — originally called Lucknow — is a 6,300-acre property that was developed in 1913 by Tomas G. Plant, a wealthy shoe manufacturer. Tour the expansive estate including the mansion and gardens, hit the walking trails or feed the ducks at Shannon Pond. The Lucknow Estate was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2024.

MOULTONBOROUGH | castleinthecLOUDS.org

44. Chocolate Festival

Enjoy an indulgent night in Town Square on July 26. Every type of chocolate dessert will be available at this annual event, as you take in the free outdoor concert and sunset over Corcoran Pond.

WATERVILLE VALLEY | waterville.com

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45. Polar Caves

The last Ice Age played a big part in forming an attraction that visitors have been flocking to since 1922. Polar Caves is home to nine granite caves that were formed by boulders deposited by a glacier. After a day of exploring, you can spend time at the animal exhibit.

RUMNEY | polarcaves.com

Passages are tight but manageable for most visitors at Polar Caves.
Facebook



46. Water Country

Cool down and find adventure at Water Country, New England's largest water park. Enjoy 18 water attractions, including the Giant Wave Pool and Happy Harbor. Special events include the Father's Day Flop (June 21), Celebrate America Week (June 21-July 5) and Kids Fest (Aug. 10-16). Water Country opens June 6.

PORTSMOUTH | watercountry.com

Park fans named Water Country's mascot Spruce the Moose in 2024. *Provided by Water Country*

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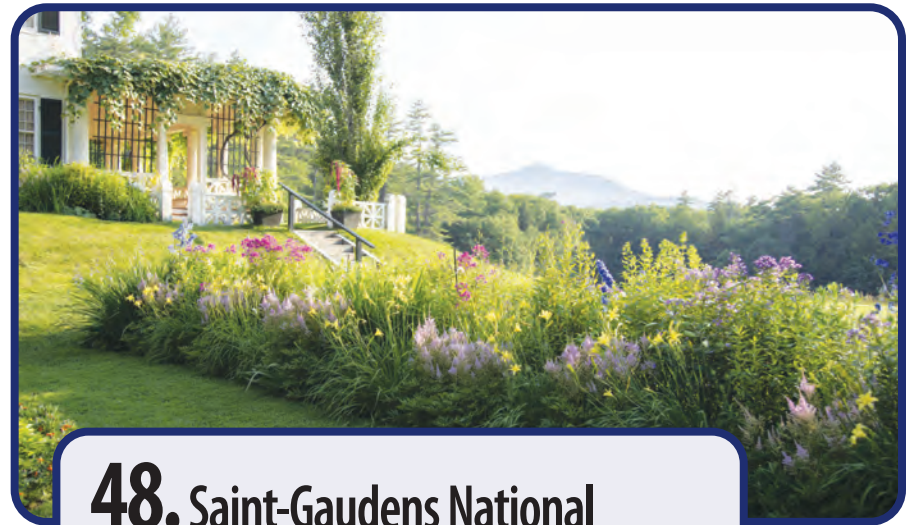
47. Seacoast Science Center

Hands-on activities that kids can engage in and learn from is what the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne Point State Park is all about. From wildlife kayak tours to nature programs, there's something for everyone. Be sure to check out the tide pools and mark your calendars for a special day of activities on World Ocean Day June 20.

RYE | seacoastsciencecenter.org



William Johnson searches for crabs in a tidal pool at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye on World Ocean Day in 2023. *Union Leader file*



48. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Park

The park is dedicated to preserving the legacy of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. More than 100 of his works are on display at the park that includes his home, studios and grounds. The park hosts a summer concert series, talks and tours. You can also walk several nature trails in more than 100 acres of forest.

CORNISH | nps.gov

Formal gardens in summer bloom at Saint-Gaudens. *Provided by the National Park Service*

Joy

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2026 SPECIAL EVENTS

- Member Solstice 6/24
- Movie Night 7/22
- Nature for Everyone Barn Bash 7/16
- Animal Birthday Bash 8/12
- Annual Meeting & Summer Social 8/6
- Raptor Migration Celebration 9/19
- Grandparents Day 10/3
- Howl O Ween 10/24
- Fall New Hampshire Day 11/1
- New August BioBlitz events weekly!
- Science Lecture Series

Guided Squam Lake Cruises
Mid-May - Mid-October

Live Animal Trail open daily
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49. Canobie Lake Park

Canobie Lake Park opened in 1902 and has been a source of family entertainment ever since. Initially opened by a trolley line as a resort to increase business, it's now home to more than 85 rides, games and attractions, including the famous wooden Yankee Cannonball coaster. Take a wild ride on Canobie's Untamed, complete with a 97-degree drop.

SALEM | canobie.com

50. Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

Walk among where New Hampshire's wildlife resides. The live animal exhibit trail, where you can get close to black bears, bobcats, foxes and deer, is waiting for you to explore. Walking around Kirkwood Gardens and hiking the trails complete the day. The science center is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

HOLDERNESS | nhnature.org



Bear 2022 in his enclosure at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in 2023. *Union Leader file*



51. Funspot

New Hampshire is home to the largest arcade in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, boasting more than 600 games and 70,000-square feet of entertainment space. After you hit the arcade, go bowling or head to the 18-hole indoor golf course. Don't miss the American Classic Arcade Museum located on the top floor, which is dedicated to the preservation of classic arcade games.

LACONIA | funspotnh.com

Play more than 600 games at Funspot in Laconia. *Provided by Funspot*

52. Albacore Park

The USS Albacore was built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and launched in 1953 by the U.S. Navy as a research submarine. Now it's a National Historic Landmark site that features a maritime museum and memorial garden. Take a tour of the submarine to see where sailors slept and ate. You can even look through the periscope.

PORTSMOUTH | ussalbacore.org



The USS Albacore sits in a dry basin, which offers a full view of the entire submarine at Albacore Park in Portsmouth. *Jason Schreiber/Union Leader Correspondent*



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- Montreal Gardens of Light ~ Oct 1-3
- Autumn in the Poconos ~ Oct 5-8
- WICKED The Musical in Boston ~ Oct 28
- A Williamsburg Christmas ~ Dec 3-8
- A CHRISTMAS CAROL ~ Dec 9

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The Turtle Twirl, originally introduced in 1996, is returning this season. *Provided by Story Land*

53. Story Land

Take a ride to the White Mountains and become enchanted with the fairy-tale feeling of Story Land. The park features more than 50 attractions, including the Turtle Twirl and Crazy Barn, both of which are making a comeback this year. You can splash around in the all-new farm-themed Moo Lagoon or head next door to NH's only aquarium, Living Shores. Story Land is again hosting nostalgia nights starting in July where you can relive the memories of your childhood.

GLEN | storylandnh.com

55. Wright Museum of WWII

For more than 30 years, the educational museum's mission has been to create an appreciation for contributions on the homefront and on the battlefields. The museum has two temporary exhibits this summer including "From Sails to Atoms: The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard" and "Always Vigilant: Civil Air Patrol from WWII through today" in addition to permanent installations like the military gallery. The Wright Museum is well-known for its collection of authentic objects originating from the WWII era (1939-45).

WOLFEBORO | wrightmuseum.org

54. NH Farm Museum

The NH Farm Museum not only features two farmsteads that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but it is also a working farm. The museum has a collection of historical buildings including a blacksmith shop, cobbler shop, chicken coop and cider mill. You can take a guided tour, explore on your own and take a tractor ride. Don't miss Children's Day on June 20, the Fourth on the Farm on July 4 and the 18th annual Great NH Pie Festival on Sept. 19.

MILTON | nhfarmmuseum.org

Learn more about the sheep and the other animals living at the museum. *Facebook*



Greg Scholand of Ossipee shows his grandson Perry an exhibit that uses Lego bricks to re-create the Millyard at the SEE Science Center in Manchester earlier this spring. *Dave Lane/Union Leader file*

56. SEE Science Center

For 40 years, the SEE Science Center has welcomed children and adults through its doors to explore the world of science, hands-on. The Lego Millyard, completed in 2006, is a must-see attraction.

MANCHESTER
see-sciencecenter.org

Looking for staycation destinations this summer?

STAY & PLAY

Coming Saturday, June 13, 2026

New Hampshire's water and amusement parks, beaches, mountain park attractions, golf courses, lakes and marinas, museums and historical sites will provide the family fun. Whether you're looking for day trip ideas or a full week's vacation, New Hampshire has the resorts, restaurants and attractions to create a fun and memorable vacation.



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57. Robert Frost Farm

*Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.*

It's quite possible that Robert Frost wrote those words when he was living in his Derry farmhouse from 1900-1911. Learn more about the nation's Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner. Tours, displays, a nature/poetry trail, programs and poetry readings are all available at the park.

DERRY | robertfrostfarm.org

The grounds and trails around the house and barn are open from dusk to dawn all year. *Provided by NH State Parks*



58. Children's Museum of NH

The mission of the Children's Museum is to inspire all to become the next generation for innovators and thinkers. It's a great place for kids ages 0-12 to engage in learning by doing. Exhibits include Dino Detective, Music Matrix, STEAM Learning Lab and Build It, Fly It. Don't miss the 14th annual NH Maker Fest on June 6, an all-ages celebration of creativity and innovation taking place in and around the museum.

DOVER | childrens-museum.org

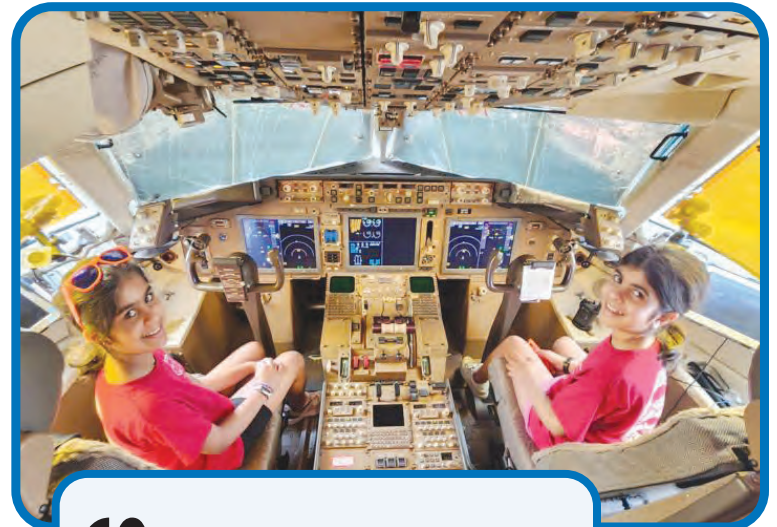
Kids dress up and try out the musical instruments, part of the One World exhibit at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire. *Union Leader file*



59. Millyard Museum

Learn about the City of Manchester from its beginnings at the Millyard Museum, operated by the Manchester Historic Association. Located in the historic Amoskeag Millyard, where Amoskeag Manufacturing Company became of the largest textile manufacturers in the world. Reflections of the Revolution: The Derryfield Perspective is on exhibit this summer. The exhibit features Manchester residents involved in America's fight for independence.

MANCHESTER | manchesterhistoric.org



60. Aviation Museum of NH

The Aviation Museum of N.H., which is located adjacent to Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, is where imagination takes flight. Step into the world of aviation with the museum's exhibits. And on Saturdays starting at 1 p.m., visitors 13 years and older can try the professional Elite Flight Simulator. If you are interested in other modes of transportation, don't miss its annual car show on July 18.

LONDONDERRY | aviationmuseumofnh.org

Students check out the cockpit of a FedEx 767-300 cargo jet at a recent Aviation Museum of N.H.'s "Flights of Discovery" summer camp. *Provided by the Aviation Museum of NH*

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