

# *Best of the White Mountains (6 - 8 hours)*



This full-day tour is good for any season and takes you up as far north as Jefferson and west to Franconia. Don't forget to pack a box lunch (available from us with advanced notice) and your camera!

With an earlyish breakfast behind you, head west towards Conway on Route 302. At the junction with Route 16 go straight then take an immediate right at the next lights onto Washington Street. This leads to the West Side Road which avoids the congestion caused by the popular outlet stores on Route 16 and runs parallel to the more frenetic route through town.

About 4 miles north, turn left for the 1-mile drive up to **Cathedral Ledge** and a rewarding view of the valley below. Then head east to Route 16 and make a left, heading north. Short side trips to the towns of **Intervale**, **Bartlett**, and **Jackson** will provide a more endearing version of small-town New Hampshire than does North Conway.

Continue north on Route 16 into **Pinkham Notch** and the heart of the White Mountains' Presidential Range. The **Appalachian Mountain Club** headquarters and visitor center here will help get you oriented. If you are interested in a hike, this is the place to ask for suggestions.

After spending some time in Pinkham Notch, head north to Gorham and turn left on Route 2. Fourteen miles to the west in Jefferson, turn left on Route 115 for a cut-through to Route 302 in Twin Mountain and an easterly turn to **Bretton Woods** and **Crawford Notch State Park**. Or better yet, in Jefferson, take the more adventurous **Jefferson Notch Road** south between Mt. Dartmouth and Mt. Adams and Mt. Jefferson into Bretton Woods and then Route 302 into Crawford Notch. This serene valley is a good place to break out the picnic lunch and to enjoy a short hike afterward.

Backtrack northwest on Route 302, bearing left onto Route 3 south in Twin Mountain for the 10-mile drive into **Franconia Notch State Park**, where you might take a dip in Echo Lake. Or consider making a detour via Route 18 to the village of Franconia, renting a bicycle, and spending the afternoon riding the 9-mile bike path that slices through the notch.

Heading home now, take rural freeway, I-93 south to Woodstock/Lincoln and stop for an early dinner at the excellent Woodstock Inn. After, join Route 112 east, the famous Kancamagus Highway for a scenic 30 mile sunset drive over the mountains back to Conway and Route 302 east back to Fryeburg.