



White Mountain National Forest Hikes on the Kancamagus



The Kancamagus Highway stretches 34 miles from Conway to Lincoln, NH. Visitors enjoy scenic vistas and rushing waters of the Swift and Pemigewasset Rivers along the route. The highway climbs to nearly 3000 feet at Kancamagus Pass near Lincoln and is open year-round.

There are numerous hiking opportunities for all experience levels along the highway.

All trailheads on the Kancamagus Highway require a parking pass. Annual and weekly passes may be obtained at our offices or a local vendor. Daily passes are available at most trailheads.

Boulder Loop Trail

2.8 miles (Round trip)

Easy/moderate.

Average Time: 2-4 hours

Location: 6 miles west of the Saco Ranger Station. Turn right off the Kancamagus Highway through the Covered Bridge. The parking lot is on the right and the trailhead is opposite the parking lot. Gradual climb with some steep pitches. Excellent views! A trail guide is available at District offices. Views of Mt. Chocorua and Swift River Valley can be enjoyed from the ledges.

The Lovequist Loop Trail

0.7 miles (Round trip)

Easy

Average Time: 1 hour

Location: 9 miles west of the Saco Ranger Station at Rocky Gorge. A short walk around Falls Pond offers a sample of the internal beauty of the Forest. Bring along your fishing rod and camera. Tread softly and be careful of plants and vegetation.

Rail N' River Trail

0.5 miles (Round trip)

Easy

Average time: 10 minutes to 1 hour

Location: 12.3 miles west of the Saco Ranger Station on the Kancamagus Highway. Follow the trail from the parking lot at the Russell Colbath Historic House. This is a fairly flat trail, fully accessible trail.

Mt. Hedgehog via The UNH Trail

5 miles (Round trip)

Moderately difficult.

Average Time: 4-5 hours

Location: 13.5 miles west of the Saco Ranger Station. Start at the UNH Downes Brook Trailhead across from Passaconaway Campground. This is a loop hike via the UNH Trail to Mt. Hedgehog. This trail offers a moderate hike to the summit of a 2500' mountain with spectacular views of the Swift River Valley in many directions. Use extreme caution on open ledges.

Mt. Potash Hike

4 miles (Round trip)

Moderately difficult.

Average Time: 4 hours

Location: 13.5 miles west of the Saco Ranger Station. (Not a loop trail). Start on the Downes Brook Trail across from the Passaconaway Campground. The Mt. Potash Trail then leaves at a (sharp right) and soon crosses Downes Brook. The route over ledges is marked with yellow paint. The trail to the summit of Mt. Potash (2660') is open and ledgy and affords excellent views of the Swift River Valley and surrounding mountains in all directions. Use extreme caution on ledge areas.

Sabbaday Falls Hike

0.4 miles (Round trip)

Easy walk

Average Time: 20 minutes to 1 hour

Location: 15 miles west of the Saco Ranger Station. A picturesque series of cascades in a narrow flume. Interpretive signs point out

Recreation Parking Pass

The White Mountain National Forest is participating in the National Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. This program was created by Congress in 1996 (PL 104-134) to test ways for users to help finance the activities they enjoy.

The White Mountain National Forest designed a program that charges for parking in designated areas. Areas requiring a parking pass are signed as fee areas. Many of the locations requiring a pass have an on-site purchase option available. If you haven't purchased a pass ahead of time, check the bulletin board and follow the instructions on how to purchase and display a pass for that location.

Money raised by this parking pass is used to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities across the White Mountain National Forest.

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rock formations. There is a picnic area at the trailhead. Note: Swimming is not allowed at this location.

Greeley Ponds Trail

Approximately 5 miles (Round trip)

Moderately Easy

Average Time: 2.5- 3 hours

Location: The trailhead is 9 miles east of Exit 32, I-93 on the Kancamagus Highway. Greeley Ponds Scenic Area is about 1 mile from the highway, featuring two ponds. Upper Greeley Pond, with its dark aqua-green color, is a beautiful spot surrounded by old growth timber and towering cliffs. By contrast, Lower Greeley Pond is shallow and more typical of a beaver pond. Both ponds offer trout fishing and an enjoyable place to have a picnic lunch.

Visit our website at:

www.fs.fed.us/r9/white