New Hampshire Granite State Ambassadors
www.NHGraniteStateAmbassadors.org

Regional Resource & Referral Guide:
Monadnock Region

Use this document filled with local referrals from Granite State Ambassadors & State Welcome Center attendants as an informational starting point for guest referrals. For business referrals, please reference your local brochures & guides.

Hidden Gems:

● Chesterfield Gorge Natural Area, 1823 Route 9, Chesterfield – This natural area of 13 acres is maintained by the State of NH. It includes hiking trails through a spectacular gorge. (https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/chesterfield-gorge-natural-area.aspx)

Curiosity:

● Madame Sherri’s Forest and Castle, Gulf Road, Chesterfield - 500+ acre forest with “castle” ruins, hiking trails. Madame Sherri, a Parisian-born costume designer built a replica of a French chateau in Chesterfield. Property is now owned by Society for the Protection of NH Forests. (https://forestsociety.org/property/madame-sherri-forest)

● Old Burying Ground, just north of NH 124, Jaffrey Center – Oldest cemetery in Jaffrey, located behind the meetinghouse. Author Willa Cather is buried here, as well as former slave Amos Fortune who purchased his freedom and became a successful local businessman. He later bequeathed money to the community. (http://www.jaffreyhistory.org/02places_built/05cemeteries/oldburying.php)

Covered Bridges: For complete descriptions, visit http://www.southwestnh.com/outdoors/bridges.html

● Ashuelot Bridge, NH Route 119, Winchester – upper Village of Ashuelot.
● Carlton Covered Bridge, East of NH 32 on Carlton Road, Swanzey
● Coombs Covered Bridge, West of NH 10, Winchester – Southwest of Westport Village.
● Cresson Covered Bridge, Sawyer’s Crossing Road, Swanzey – One mile north of NH 32.
● County Covered Bridge, Hancock-Greenfield Forest Road, Hancock and Greenfield – One mile east of US 202.
● Slate Covered Bridge, Westport Village Road, Swanzey – East of NH 10.
● Thompson Covered Bridge, Main Street, West Swanzey – East of NH 10.
Swimming Holes:
- Edward MacDowell Lake, Wilder Road, West Peterborough - recreational facility with swimming and boating.  (https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234176)
- Otter Brook Lake Beach, Off Route 9 East, Keene/Roxbury - recreational facility with swimming, picnicking, canoeing.  (https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/249980)
- Jaffrey Town Beach, 196 Squantum Rd, Jaffrey – public beach.
- Beard Brook, NH 149, Hillsborough – small swimming area, west of town.

Places to Paddle:
- Corps of Engineers Lakes:  https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/visitors/states-activity.cfm?state=NH
  - McDowell Lake, 75 Wilder St., Peterborough – Follow signs to dam, 4 miles west.
  - Otter Brook Lake, 480 Branch Road, Keene – East 2 miles on NH 9 to recreation area.
  - Surry Mountain Lake, 480 Branch Road, Keene – 6 miles north on NH 12A.
- Willard Pond, Willard Pond Road, Antrim - Off NH 123, access from Hancock.  (https://wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/bathymetry/willard_antrim.pdf)
- Hubbard Pond, Annett State Forest, Rindge - Off Cathedral Road.
- Nubanusit Lake and Spoonwood Pond, King’s Highway, Hancock – Off NH 123.
- Dublin Lake, West Lake Road, Dublin - public boat launch is located on lake Road, just off NH 101.
- Otter Lake, Forest Road, Greenfield – Near Greenfield State Park.  (https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/greenfield-state-park)
- Spofford Lake, NH 9A, Spofford
- Thorndike Pond, Upper Dublin/Jaffrey Road, Jaffrey/Dublin border
- Highland Lake, Route 123, Stoddard – Access on Route 123 or Shedd Hill Road.  (https://wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/bathymetry/highland_stoddard.pdf)

Hike or Nature Walk:
- Pack Monadnock in Peterborough/Temple is a great hike, with a few trails to choose from, leashed dogs OK.  (https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/miller-state-park)
- Harris Center for Conservation Education, 83 King’s Highway, Hancock – Miles of trails to explore.  (https://harriscenter.org/trails-grounds-facilities/trails)
- Chesterfield Gorge Natural Area, NH 9, Chesterfield NH - Great walk of about 1/2 mile, beautiful in the fall. (See Hidden Gems above.)
- Madame Sherri’s Forest and Castle, Gulf Road, Chesterfield – Society for the Protection of NH Forests.  (See Curiosity above.)
- Gap Mountain Reservation, Gap Mountain Road, Troy/Jaffrey – north trailhead and a south trailhead, which can be strenuous, leashed dogs OK. Wild blueberries grow at the top.  Some views of Mt. Monadnock.  (https://forestsofnewhampshire.org/property/gap-mountain-reservation)
Mt. Monadnock, 116 Poole Rd, Jaffrey, but access also from Dublin and Marlborough – 3,165 feet; has over 30 miles of main and connecting trails for hiking. Day use fees apply. Gilson Pond Campground is open early May to mid-October. No dogs. (https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/monadnock-state-park)

Little Monadnock Mountain in Rhododendron State Park, 424 Rockwood Pond Rd., Fitzwilliam - The total hike is about 1.2 miles with an elevation gain of about 700 ft. When the rhododendrons are in full bloom it is a beautiful sight. (https://www.nhstateparks.org/getmedia/908a66a4-1c77-44ab-9d27-b8b8023a79c9/Trail-Information.pdf)

Fox State Forest Hills, 309 Center Rd, Hillsboro - Well-developed trail system of about 22 miles that receive year-round use by hikers, cross-country skiers, snow-shoers, hunters and mountain bikers. (https://www.nhdfl.org/Natural-Heritage/State-Owned-Reservations/Fox-Forest)

Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Road, Rindge – Trails through woods, by the lakes, see birds and animals. Dogs welcomed. (https://www.cathedralofthepines.org/trail-photographs/)

dePierrefeu-Willard Pond Sanctuary, Willard Pond Road, Antrim – Multiple hiking trails, part of the NH Audubon Society. (http://www.nhaudubon.org/depierrefeu-willard-pond-sanctuary/)

Cranberry Meadow Pond Trail, East Mountain Road, Peterborough – Trail was made possible through the generosity of many private landowners along the corridor and the help of local foresters, the Peterborough Recreation Department and the Peterborough Conservation Commission. (https://www.monadnockconservancy.org/pdf/CMPT-trail-guide-and-map_FINAL.pdf)

Shieling Forest, Old Street Rd, Peterborough – Operated by NH Division of Forests and Lands; Forestry Learning Center, educational programs, trails. (https://www.nhdfl.org/Natural-Heritage/State-Owned-Reservations/Shieling-Forest)


Distant Hills Gardens and Nature Trail, 66 March Hill Road, Alstead – Parking is available at the trail-head just off the paved road. (https://www.distanthillgardens.org/distant-hill-nature-trail/)

Horatio Colony Nature Preserve, Daniels Hill Rd., Keene

Pitcher Mountain, NH 123, Stoddard – Parking lot is on NH 123. Hike is easy to moderate. There is a fire tower and lots of blueberries in season

Bike Trails:
- Ashuelot Rail Trail, Keene to Winchester – 22 miles one way. (https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/recreational-rail-trails/ashuelot-recreational-rail-trail)

Picnic Area Favorites:
- Edward MacDowell Lake, Wilder Road, West Peterborough - recreational facility with swimming and boating. (See Swimming Holes above.)
- Miller State Park, 13 Miller Park Rd, Peterborough - oldest state park in New Hampshire. A winding 1.3-mile paved road leading to the scenic summit is open for visitors to drive in
summer and on spring and fall weekends. ([https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/miller-state-park](https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/miller-state-park))

- Norway Pond, from Depot Road, Hancock – ¾ mile Depot Trail to great picnic spot.
- NH State Parks – 7 in the Monadnock Region. ([https://www.nhstateparks.org/](https://www.nhstateparks.org/))
- Annett State Forest, Wayside Park, 538 Cathedral Road, Rindge – Offers picnic facilities and ¼ mile hike to Black Reservoir. Hubbard Pond has canoe access.

**Historical Sites or Notations:**

- Chesterfield Gorge Natural Area Rt. 9, Chesterfield NH - Great walk of about 1/2 mile, beautiful in the fall. (See Hidden Gems above.)
- Madame Sherri’s Forest and Castle, Gulf Road, Chesterfield – Society for the Protection of NH Forests. (See Curiosity above.)
- Franklin Pierce Homestead, NH Route 31, Hillsborough - Home of Franklin Pierce, 14th president of the United States, from his infancy until his marriage in 1834. ([https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/presidents/franklin_pierce_homestead.html](https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/presidents/franklin_pierce_homestead.html))
- Old Street Cemetery, Peterborough – Burial place of William S. Diamond, noted Revolutionary War Drummer.
- The Fort at No. 4, 267 Springfield Rd., Charlestown – Travel back in time to open air museum of Plantation No. 4 which was once the most northwestern village within the British colonies. ([http://www.fortat4.org/](http://www.fortat4.org/))
- Historical Society of Cheshire County at Bruder House, 246 Main Street, Keene
  - Wyman Tavern House Museum – Public house for 40 years. One of the most historic buildings in Cheshire County; open in the summer months for tours and events. Some important New Hampshire events took place at the Wyman House during its operation as a tavern. ([https://hsccnh.org/plan-a-visit/historical-society-of-cheshire-county-group-visits/our-buildings/wyman-tavern/](https://hsccnh.org/plan-a-visit/historical-society-of-cheshire-county-group-visits/our-buildings/wyman-tavern/))
  - Horatio Colony House Museum, 199 Main Street, Keene – open seasonally.

**Other Favorites or ‘Must visit’ Places:**

- Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory, Miller State Park located at 13 Miller Park Road, Peterborough – Experience the thrill of seeing the raptor migration in the fall. Be prepared for crowds on weekends and peak flyover times. ([http://www.nhaudubon.org/get-outside/raptor-observatories/](http://www.nhaudubon.org/get-outside/raptor-observatories/))
- Stonewall Farm, 242 Chesterfield Rd., Keene – 123 acres of pastures, gardens, wetlands and forest available for exploration. There is no entry fee to the farm, and visitors are welcomed to tour Stonewall Farm’s barns, fields and forests. ([https://stonewallfarm.org/](https://stonewallfarm.org/))
- Toadstool Bookshop, Peterborough and Keene in downtown areas – Independent bookstores with a variety of events. ([https://www.toadbooks.com/welcome](https://www.toadbooks.com/welcome))
- Sharon Arts Center Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough - This arts center consists of two parts: a fine-art exhibition space with a rotating array of paintings and crafts by some of the region's many artists, and a fine craft store selling art, jewelry and pottery made by local artisans. The store entrance is at 20 Depot Street. ([http://www.nhia.edu/campus-life/sharon-arts-center](http://www.nhia.edu/campus-life/sharon-arts-center))
• L. A. Burdick Chocolates, 47 Main St., Walpole – Home of Burdick’s chocolate and pastry production facility providing chocolates to shops in Boston, Cambridge, Chicago, NYC. Café. ([https://www.burdickchocolate.com/](https://www.burdickchocolate.com/))
• Hannah Grimes Marketplace, 42 Main St., Keene – For local crafts, foodstuffs and gifts, this shop showcases many local products. ([https://hannahgrimesmarketplace.com/](https://hannahgrimesmarketplace.com/))

LOCAL INFORMATION RESOURCES AND WELCOME CENTERS TO SEND GUESTS TO WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN THAT AREA:

• Monadnock Travel Council  www.monadnocktravel.com

• Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce, 48 Central Square, Keene  
  (603) 352-1303

• Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, 10 Wilton Road, Peterborough  
  (603) 924-7234

• Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce, 7 Main Street, Jaffrey  
  (603) 532-4549

• Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce, 3 School St., Hillsborough  
  (603) 464-5858

• Rindge Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 911, 1032 NH-119, Rindge  
  (603) 899-5051

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