



## ITINERARY

**Sunday, June 15:**

**Meet and drive to White Mountains National Forest**

We will pick you up at the Manchester Municipal Airport, Manchester, NH at 10:30 am where we'll meet you outside the baggage claim area. We will jump in our vans and head to The Basin in Crawford Notch State Park, WMNF - approximately a 1 hour and 45 minute drive. Here we'll enjoy a picnic lunch and (time dependent) a warm-up hike at a moderate pace before getting back in the vans and driving another 30 minutes to the Highland Center, a full-service lodge run by the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). Check in time is 2 pm. We will settle into our bunkrooms and get ready for dinner, which is served at **6 pm sharp**. Our orientation session will begin before or after dinner, depending on when we arrive at the lodge. We will go over your packing list, answer any questions and discuss a variety of topics related to our hut-to-hut adventure.

**Monday, June 16:**

**Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail, 3.1 mi, strenuous Elevation Gain 2500'**

Today will be our most challenging hike of the week as we ascend the Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail to Lakes of the Clouds Hut (5050'). This trail provides the shortest route to Mt. Washington (the highest peak in the Whites) and follows the headwaters of the Ammonoosuc River with many fine falls, cascades and pools as well as excellent views from its upper section. The last mile of this trail is the most strenuous section (due to its steep, rocky terrain), but we will have plenty of time to make our way up the flanks of Mt. Washington. Our hut is situated above treeline. We will stay for 2 nights.

We will leave our overnight gear at the hut and will have the option to proceed up Mt. Washington (6288') for a 1.5-mile hike with an elevation change of 1276' (3.0 mi Roundtrip), or to stay in the area around the hut. We will be back in time for dinner at 6 pm. After dinner and if conditions are right, you may want to hike to the top of Mt. Monroe to watch the sunset. Don't forget your headlamp. This will be a 0.6-mile (RT) hike with an elevation gain of about 322' – piece of cake!

Tuesday, June 17: Mt. Washington and Alpine Gardens, 4.5 – 6 mi (RT), easy to moderate

Today we will hike on the Tuckerman Crossover Trail over the Bigelow Lawn to the Alpine Garden. Our main highlights today are the alpine wildflowers and views from atop Mt. Washington. The wildflowers should be at their peak bloom time. If you wanted a second chance to summit Mt Washington (6288'), or if you did not summit yesterday, today you may have an opportunity to do so. Interest and energy level of the group, along with weather, will determine how much we extend our hiking adventure for the day. We spend our second night at Lakes of the Clouds Hut tonight. You will have another chance to watch sunset from Mt. Monroe.

Wednesday, June 20: Crawford Path and Appalachian Trail to Mizpah Spring Hut, 4.8 mi, moderate, 450' elev. gain

Today we hike along the Appalachian Trail (Crawford Path) and the Webster Cliff Trail. The Crawford Path is continuously exposed, providing incredible views along this route and making it one of the most spectacular trails in the Whites (in good weather). The main trail bypasses the summits of Monroe and Eisenhower. If the weather is good, we may want to add a few tenths of a mile to our hike to summit these peaks. No need to summit Monroe if you did so one of the previous evenings (for sunset). We will arrive at Mizpah Spring Hut (3800') after we summit Mt. Pierce (4312') along the Webster Cliff Trail. Our overall descent (elevation loss) today will be approximately 1250'.

Thursday, June 19: Mizpah Spring Hut to Zealand Falls Hut via the Mizpah Cut-off, Crawford Path, A-Z and Avalon trails, 8.1 mi total, moderate, 2200' elev. gain in 5.5 mi

This morning we'll leave the Mizpah Hut and hike 2.5 miles down to Crawford Notch where we parked our vehicle. We'll have a chance to grab a fresh t-shirt and/or drop off some items before heading up the Avalon Trail to begin our ascent to the Zealand Falls Hut. Some parts of the Avalon and A-Z trails are moderately steep and rough with other sections ascending and descending gradually. We'll hike through a beautiful birch forest and skirt along a beaver pond before arriving at our overnight destination. There will be an opportunity to summit Mt. Tom today (4051'). For those who wish to do so it is a 1.2-mile (RT) side trip (300' elevation gain). We'll not want to miss a short hike to Zealand Falls after dropping off our gear at the hut. Another hearty dinner is in store for us tonight.

Friday, June 20: Zeacliff Overlook, 2.4 mi (RT), easy to moderate, 1000' elev. gain  
Zealand Trail from Zealand Hut to trail's end, 2.7 mi, easy

After breakfast you'll have the option of hiking to Zeacliff. We'll ascend through a birch forest and across several branches of Whitewall Brook to reach this incredible panoramic view where you can see Mt. Washington and much of the area we have hiked in the past 4 days.

We'll then take our time to savor our last day on the trail as we leave Zealand Falls Hut and head down the Zealand Trail. Along the way we'll enjoy beaver ponds, meadows and swamps with views of the surrounding mountains. Depending on our shuttling arrangements, we'll hop in our vehicle and be on our way or we will take a shuttle back to our vehicle at Crawford Notch. Then we will head to the Joe Dodge Lodge in Pinkham Notch for our last night in WMNF. We'll enjoy dinner at the lodge and a relaxed evening catching up on the week's events.

### [Sunday, June 21: Departure Day](#)

Today we have about a 3-hour drive back to the Manchester Airport. To provide plenty of time, we'll eat an early breakfast and leave the lodge by 10:00 am. Breakfast at the lodge is served from 6:30 – 8:30 am. We will stop along the way for a bite to eat for lunch and arrive at the airport by 2:30 pm. You should have booked a flight leaving no earlier than 4 pm.

### [Itinerary Changes](#)

Please bear in mind that this is a typical itinerary, and the actual routes may vary due to unexpected events. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary since tour arrangements are made up to a year in advance, and unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Itinerary changes are made to improve the tour and your experience.