

New England

NEW HAMPSHIRE



PHOTOS: HERB SWANSON/AMC (LEFT); FRANK CURTIS

A hiker scrambles up the Ramparts, a jumble of rocks in the Carter Notch area (left). Near Bartlett, Diana's Baths are a wonderland of cascading pools and falls along Lucy Brook.

BEAUTY SPOTS

THOSE IN THE KNOW REVEAL THE IR FAVORITE SCENIC SITES

BY DIANE BAIR & PAMELA WRIGHT | GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

New Hampshire's hidden beauty spots are known to but a few, those lucky enough to spend their days amidst her glorious landscape. We asked several Granite State outdoorspeople — including fishing guides, trail developers, and folks at the Appalachian Mountain Club and The Nature Conservancy — to share theirs. Here are 10 of their top recommendations, places sure to renew the spirit and remind you why it's so great to live in New England.

PONDICHERRY WILDLIFE REFUGE, JEFFERSON AND WHITEFIELD

Phil Brown, director of land management, New Hampshire Audubon

"Pondicherry is the wetland counterpart to the [adjacent] White Mountain National Forest in terms of beauty, wildness, and accessibility," Brown says. "It is relatively pristine, offers bountiful recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities, and it is picturesque beyond the imagination." The refuge offers trails that are suitable for adventurous types and the weekend walker as well, encompassing about 6,000 acres of protected land between the White Mountains and the Upper Connecticut River Valley of New Hampshire's North Country.

"From my first visit, I was captivated by the diversity of wildlife and the natural communities, especially the boreal forests, and the northern feel of the place. I'll never forget how an aggressive

pair of Northern goshawks dive-bombed me — the unsuspecting hiker — because I unknowingly ventured too close to their nest location," Brown recalls. This is a place where nature rules. www.nh.audubon.org

KING RAVINE

Nate Shedd, visitor services supervisor, AMC Pinkham Notch visitors center

"More popular ravines like Tuckerman and Huntington get all the attention and visitation, but King Ravine rivals its southerly sisters in both beauty and majesty," Shedd says. "With its massive boulder field and the soaring ramparts of Mount Adams and the Durand Ridge, King Ravine immediately asserts its sense of scale and size.

"I was first attracted to King Ravine by its reputation for steep and challenging trails," Shedd recalls, but he has come to appreciate its subtle

OUTDOORS, Page M9

New museum opens door to White Mountains

By Christopher Klein

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

PLYMOUTH — As travelers started to discover the White Mountains nearly two centuries ago, the Willey family smelled a business opportunity. Indeed, the region's tourism did soar after the Willeys opened an inn near Crawford Notch in 1825. Unfortunately, the travel boom came completely at their ex-

pense. After a massive landslide in 1826 buried the entire family and their hired hands as they fled the inn, which ironically was left untouched, morbid curiosity lured thousands to witness the aftermath of the Willey Slide.

Those who came to northern New Hampshire to gawk at nature's savage power were instead seduced by what the

painter Thomas Cole described as "an ocean of beauty and magnificence." Ever since, vacationers have come to the White Mountains, and now the region has one more attraction to draw travelers.

The Museum of the White Mountains, which opened in February, is an intellectual and cultural base camp for exploring the Granite State peaks. The

museum is housed inside a renovated 1946 brick Methodist church on the campus of Plymouth State University, less than a five-minute drive off exit 25 on

MUSEUM, Page M8

Samuel L. Gerry's "Franconia Notch" is one of the paintings on exhibit at the museum.



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Bretton Woods

Compromise and cognac keep couple climbing peaks

By Marty Basch
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT
On the glorious Bondcliff summit with nary a blip of civilization in sight, a teary-eyed Jan Duprey held a brown paper bag in one hand and pumped her fist in the air with the other.



MARTY BASCH FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

The author and Jan Duprey learned it takes compromise and other diplomacy skills to tackle the tall peaks.

patience, facing each other's fears together, and simple understanding are empowering and sustaining for couples.

Helping us was our simple tenet I call the "three C's" — communication, compromise, and chocolate, the latter the great equalizer when I messed up the talking, listening, and

with the quest, so I plodded on alone.

Eventually, I tackled more than 30 and told Jan I might finish in the summer of 2011. That's when she said she wanted in. That meant I would re-climb some peaks with her.

Along the way we supported and encouraged each other in the face of obstacles. We employ the "Uncle Rule," which basically means say uncle and we turn around. No questions asked. Jan dislikes brook and river crossings, particularly in high water. She called uncle at one during the hike to North Twin. Eventually a fellow hiker advised her to unclasp the chest strap on her backpack, use poles, and always carry water shoes. That's standard for her now and she hasn't stopped at water since, not even on a subsequent North Twin climb.

Five-foot-tall Jan always argued she worked harder than I did at six feet. So we counted steps on a measured stretch of

the flat Wilderness Trail. I took 79, she 97. She concluded she works 20 percent harder. I bought her a bottle of cognac and took her out to dinner that night.

I learned I hate fixed ladders on the sides of mountains. I simply don't trust them. Jan scampers up and down. Not me. I'm wary. Jan delights in cajoling me.

As time marched on, we both realized the joys of hiking poles, particularly when descending the steep pitches. It's easier on the knees.

Over the years we marveled at the joy of hiking across four southern Presidential peaks in one long, joyous day above barren treeline. We cursed ourselves for doing a slippery Carter-Moriah traverse in a deluge with thunder and lightning raging around us.

We anticipated changing moods and comforted one another on days when the mountains manhandled us as they did on the arduous Flume Slide

Trail or the tortuous 18-mile round-trip slog up Owl's Head.

When the weather turned wintry on a fall day at the foggy Zealand summit, we "uncled" together instead of pressing on for a planned 20-plus mile odyssey over the cloaked Bonds.

We also surprised each other. On the 28th peak, East Osceola, Jan took out a brown paper bag with the number 28 etched on it, blew it up and held it in the air, to symbolize peak bagging. On one hike, she had, unknown to me, gin and tonics — complete with ice — waiting in my truck.

Then on the final day, standing atop Bondcliff, Jan unveiled a pair of paper bags with the number 48 on them. We clutched the bags and celebrated together.

And when we reached my truck, we both enjoyed the chocolate and cognac waiting for her there.

Marty Basch can be reached through onetankaway.com.

New museum provides gateway to the White Mountains

MUSEUM
Continued from Page M7



PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY

Catherine Amidon, director of the Museum of the White Mountains, stands in the large exhibition gallery.

Interstate 93. "We're right at the gateway to the White Mountains," says museum director Catherine Amidon, "so we want to educate and prepare visitors for what they might see and experience."

The museum's inaugural yearlong exhibition, "Passing Through: The Allure of the White Mountains," takes visitors on a virtual tour of five regions: Crawford Notch, Mount Washington Valley, the summit of Mount Washington, the Northern Presidentials, and Franconia Notch. Colorful paintings of pastoral mountainscapes and natural wonders brighten the museum's large exhibition gallery. Artists such as Cole and Benjamin Champney captured the majesty of the peaks, and their 19th-century brushstrokes were as effective as any modern-day advertising campaign in promoting the White Mountains as a vacation destination.

Once the railroad arrived in Gorham in 1851, it became affordable and easy for the middle class to visit the mountains. Grand hotels sprung up across northern New Hampshire. Even the range's tallest peak, Mount Washington, was tamed with the construction of a carriage road and cog railway. By 1870, tourists could leave New York City in the morning and

watch the sunset that evening from atop the tallest spot in the Northeast. "We think of computers collapsing time exponentially now," Amidon says, "but back then the pace of technological change was just as phenomenal."

In addition to paintings, the exhibition features lithographs, illustrated guidebooks, maps, stereoscopes, broadsides, and

artifacts such as a model of the famous Concord Coach that once rattled over the mountain roads. Scan the 1859 Profile House menu, and you'll find 19th-century dining options both foreign — cold tongue, wine jelly — and familiar — mac and cheese. There's a first edition of "Burt's Among the Clouds," a daily newspaper published atop Mount Washington beginning in 1877. Back then, before the advent of the now-ubiquitous "This car climbed Mt. Washington" bumper stickers, tourists boasted of their summit ascents with mentions in the newspaper.

Particularly amusing are the "cartographically ludicrous" souvenir maps created by Franklin Leavitt in the late 1800s. They were precursors to the cartoon maps that present-day tourists find in hotel lobbies throughout the White Mountains, although the content certainly has changed. It's doubtful you'll find a map today like Leavitt's 1882 version

that depicted "Old Gib killing a bear" and "Tom Miller killing a bear" with a drawing of "Harry Crawford killing a lynx" thrown in for good measure.

What makes the museum unique is how its mission extends beyond the four walls of its physical structure. The White Mountains themselves are the true museum. When visitors leave, they can pick up a map with GPS coordinates and reproductions of the exhibition paintings so that they can stand in the very footsteps of the 19th-century artists and see how much — or how little — some of these landscapes have changed. This summer, the museum will also launch a geo-caching program along with a series of guided hikes following trails that were popular in the 19th century.

The museum's robust website is also a virtual extension of the museum. The exhibition catalog and a short documentary on view inside the museum can be found online, and the

website includes a social media component called "The Cairn" where anyone can upload their photographs and write up their experiences in the region. "We want people to share their special sections of the White Mountains," Amidon says.

The museum boasts an impressive collection of 6,000 rare books on the White Mountains along with maps, postcards, photographs, and hotel ledgers. The website features hundreds of digitally scanned vintage images, including several of the Willeys' inn, where a family tragedy put the White Mountains on the travel map.

MUSEUM OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wed. 10-7, Sat.-Sun. noon-5. Closed Mon. as well as Tues. in summer. Free. 34 Highland St., 603-535-3210, www.plymouth.edu/museum-of-the-white-mountains

Christopher Klein can be reached at www.christopherklein.com.

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