

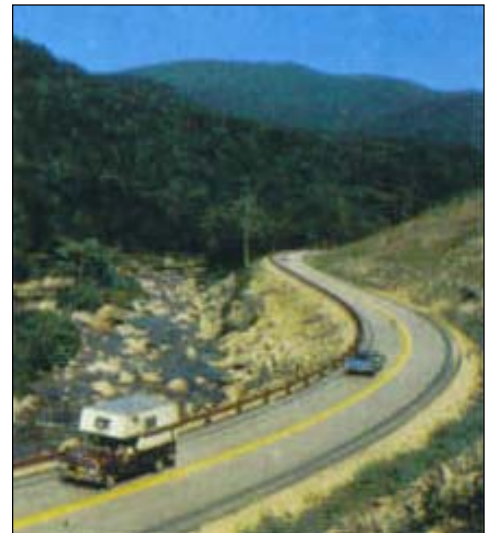
Kancamagus Highway Guide

The Kancamagus Highway. Undoubtedly the most scenic route in Mountain Country, the Kancamagus (k?an-c?a-mä-g?us) Highway (Rt. 112) stretches from the Pemigewasset River at Lincoln in the west 34 1/2 miles to Conway in the east. The views are dramatic:



Crossing the flank of Mt. Kancamagus, this National Scenic Byway climbs to nearly 3,000 feet. There are numerous scenic outlooks and scenic areas, so plan to stop along the way. The scenic areas, which have been designated by the Forest Service to preserve their outstanding or unique beauty, include the Rocky Gorge Scenic Area, right off the highway; Sawyer Pond and Greeley Ponds Scenic Areas, a half day's hike over Forest trails.

Please note there are no gas stations or other services along this route.



After Passing over Kancamagus Pass, which is the highest elevation of any paved road in the northeast, the Kancamagus highway follows the Swift River, pictured here, which has numerous recreation and natural swimming areas. Just look for cars parked on the side of the road, and you'll be sure to find people swimming in the river during summertime.



The Kancamagus Highway is considered one of the most scenic roads and a place of natural wonder. Here are some suggestions of what to see. Mileage is from the White Mountain visitor's center on Rt 112 in Lincoln, going east.

14. The White Mountain Visitor information center at 0 miles is also a great source of information on natural attractions and activities.

13. Lincoln Woods at 5.6 miles brings you to a long suspension footbridge. River swimming and restrooms can be found here. Lincoln-Woods Hiking Trail here.

12. Otter Rocks Rest Area at 8.7 miles leads to a small swimming hole. Restrooms available.

11. Scenic Overlook at 13.5 miles features a view of Mt. Osceola.

10. Kancamagus pass or height of land at 14.2 miles is the highest point on the highway. Picnic area and restrooms are available.

9. Lily Pond at 16.3 miles is a great place to spot a moose by the pond.

8. Scenic Overlook at 17.6 miles is a two-tiered stop featuring a striking view of Sugar Hill and other mountains to the east and south.

7. Sabbaday Falls at 19.5 miles leads you 4/10ths of a mile from the parking lot to a beautiful series of the falls explain the geology of this natural wonder. Picnic area and restrooms available.

6. Passaconaway Historic Site and visitor center (Russell Colbath House) - at 22.1 miles is a gray clapboard house built in the early 1800s by Austin George. The site offers brochures detailing the history of the place as well as staff dressed in period costumes.

5. Bear Notch Road at 22.6 miles is a 9-mile road to Bartlett winding through forests and scenic overlooks.

4. Rocky Gorge Scenic Area at 26 miles takes you through the path from the parking lot down to the Swift River. The path leads you through a wooden footbridge with scenic views.

3. Lower Falls at 27.7 miles is a spectacular fall and also a great place to swim in the Swift River. Sandy Beaches, Changing rooms, Picnic Area available.

2. Dugway Road at 28.3 miles leads back to Conway via the Albany Covered Bridge. Boulder Loop Trail is a 3-mile self-guided trail starting from the parking lot.

1. Saco ranger station at 34.3 miles is staffed by rangers and a great source of information. Restrooms and free brochures are available.

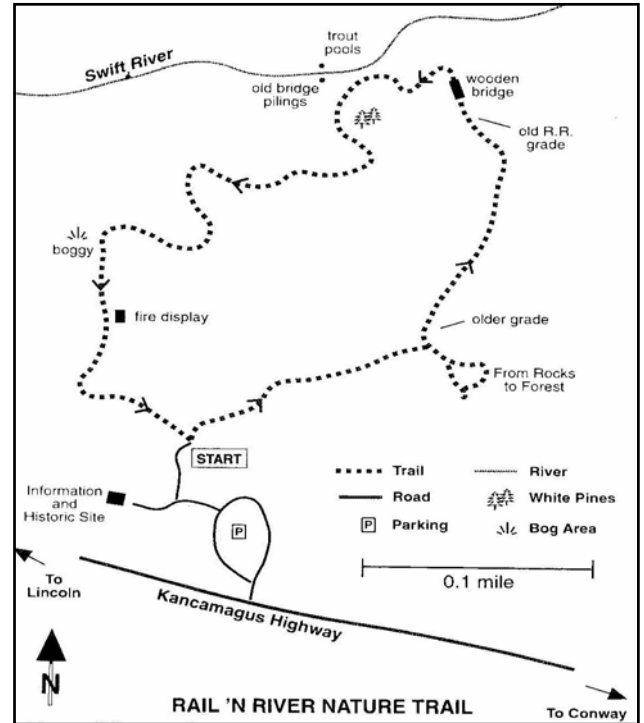
Note: Recreational passes are required at all trailheads. Exceptions are: parking 1/2 miles from the trailheads; and day use area along the Kancamagus Highway. Look for signs. If you forgot to get your pass, don't worry! You'll receive a salmon colored envelope on your windshield. Enjoy your trip and send it in later!

Hikes along the Kancamagus Highway

Rail N River Trail

Easy Walk. 0.5 miles (10 minutes to one hour round trip.)

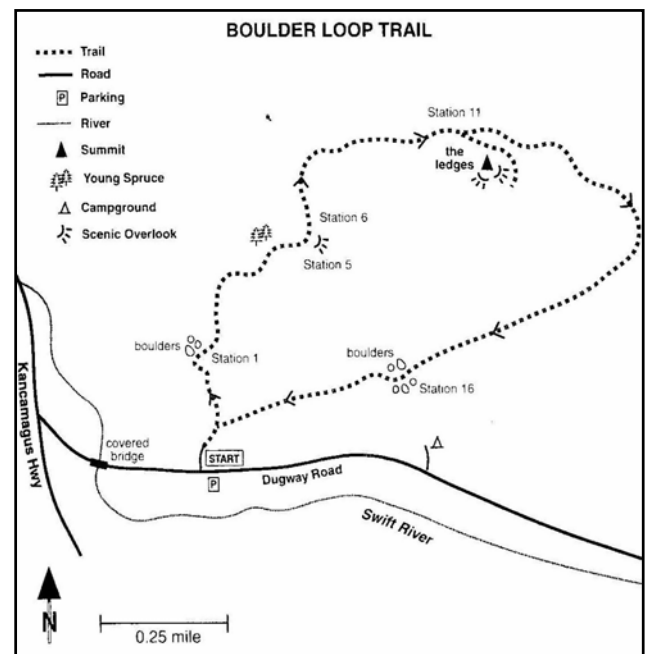
Location : The Trailhead is 21 miles east of Lincoln on the Kancamagus Highway. Follow the trail from the parking lot at the Russell Colbath Historic House. After walking a few minutes, partly over an old railroad grade, you reach a short side trail that leads to the “From Rocks to Forest” area. Here, are a number of interpretive signs. Back on the main trail you reach the Swift River after walking across a wooden board bridge. Old pilings poking up in the river are a remnant of an old railroad bridge. The trail turns away from the river and reaches a junction. Follow the main trail straight ahead past some very large white pines, an open boggy area and firefighting equipment. Soon you are back at the trail junction.



Boulder Loop Hike

Easy / Moderate. 2.8 miles (2-4 hours round trip)

Location : 27 miles east of Lincoln. Turn left off the Kancamagus Highway through the Covered Bridge. The trail is opposite the parking lot for the Albany Bridge. The Boulder Loop Trail is marked by yellow blazes. The loop begins 0.2 mile (5 minutes) from the parking area. Turn left to follow the sequence with the numbers of the nature trail. Right away you pass a huge boulder where the trail bends to the right and then a few more impressive boulders. The trail ascends and after about forty minutes enters a clearing (around station 5 of the nature trail) that provides the first vista out over the valley and across to the ledges. Soon you reach the sign saying "to the view, 0.2 mile" (station 11). Follow the short side trail up the stone steps that takes you to the ledges. The side trail extends onward in the open for another 0.3 mile beyond the first view. The views are all great, these ledges, at 1,965 feet, are the highest elevation on the trail. A large yellow X marks the spot where you turn around. When you return to the main trail, turn right for the descent. Just below the ledges, you pass a huge rock that is at least as large as ten blue whales. The trail continues downhill, crosses a stream (station 16), and enters another area of huge boulders strewn by a landslide 2.3 miles from the trailhead (station 17). Beyond this, the trail flattens out and traverses a few small streams. At the loop junction, go straight to return to the parking area.



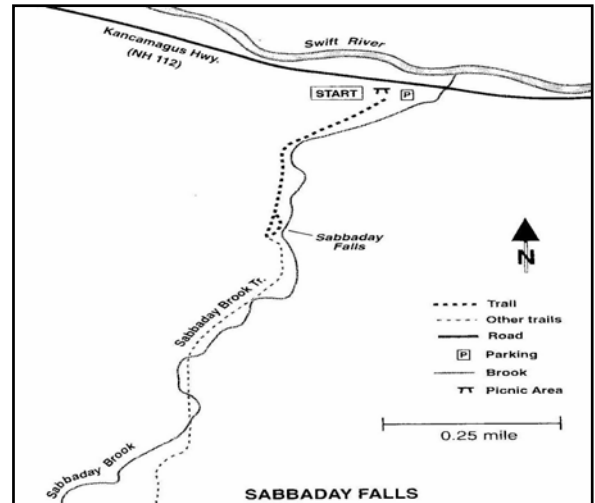
Sabbaday Falls Hike

Easy Walk. 0.4 mile (20 minutes to one hour trip)

Location : 19 miles east of Lincoln. A picturesque series of cascades in a narrow flume. Descriptive signs point out rock formations. There is a picnic area at the entrance of the trail. Reach the falls via a short, well marked loop off the Sabbaday brook trail. The .3 mile between the trailhead and



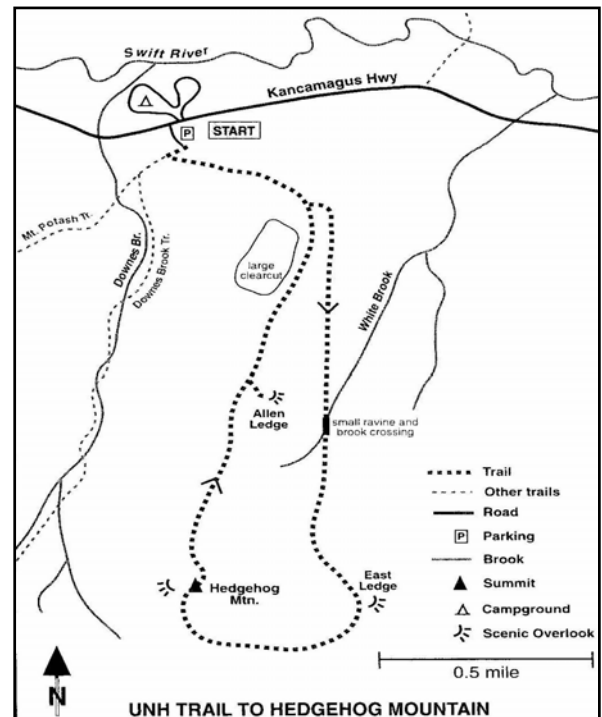
the loop is wide and fairly flat. The trail follows the Sabbaday brook on a slight ascent. The well-marked loop to the falls goes off to the left, passing the lower pool before ascending the stone stairs in the flume. The loop crosses over a bridge, goes past the upper pool, and then returns to the main trail. Turn right for the short walk back to the parking area.



Mt. Hedgehog via the UNH Trail

More difficult. 5 miles 4-5 hours round trip

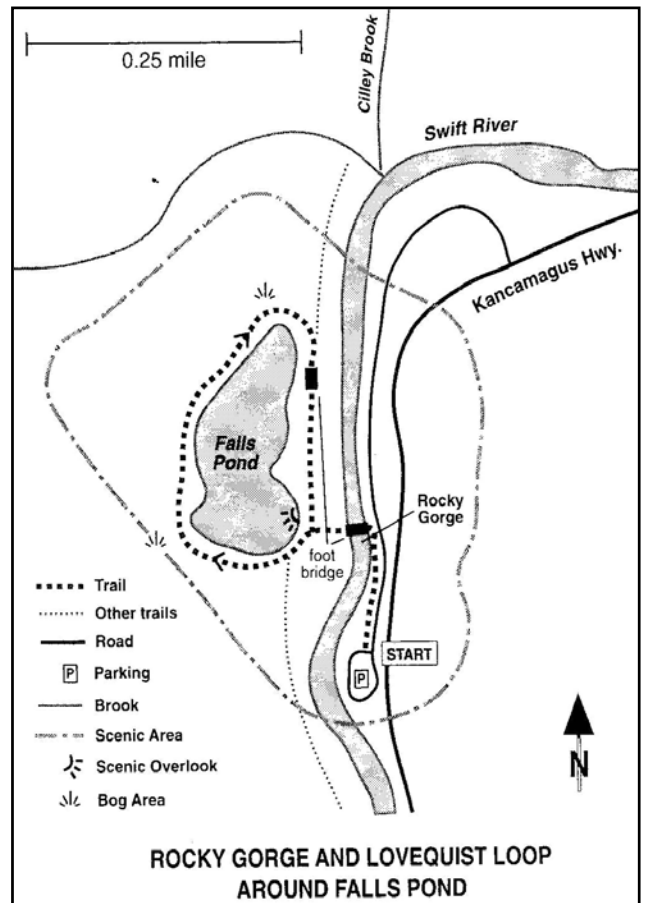
Location : 20.5 miles east of Lincoln. This is a loop hike via the UNH Loop Trail to Mt. Hedgehog. This trail offers a moderate hike to the summit of a 2500' mountain with spectacular views of the Swift River Valley in many directions. The Trail runs with the Downes Brook trail for about 60 yards in an open field, then turns and enters the forest. After .2 mile on an old railroad bed, you reach the junction of the loop Take the left fork, which continues straight ahead from the junction on the rail-road bed for another 0.2 mile, then turns right and ascends gradually up an old logging road for a while before continuing through a nice stand of hemlocks. At 1.6 miles, the trail descends into a small ravine and crosses a brook. It then ascends more steeply through a red spruce forest and comes out on the East Ledges (2.0 miles, about 1.5 hours). The trail levels, then climbs steeply to reach the summit itself, about 0.9 mile from the East Ledges and 2.9 miles from the trailhead. The best view is not at the summit itself but at ledges a little beyond. Turn left at the trail sign to reach that area. The UNH Trail descends from the summit of Hedgehog Mountain through open ledges with great views north. In about twenty minutes (0.8 mile from the summit) watch for the turnoff to Alien's Ledge, marked by a sign. Take the side trail back uphill and follow the base of a massive rock to the left. From Alien's Ledge it is 1.1 miles to the parking area. The trail descends steeply, passing a very large clear-cut. Turn left at the loop junction to get back to your car.



The Lovequist Loop Trail at Rocky Gorge

Easy 0.7 miles (1 hour round trip)

Location: 25 miles east of Lincoln at Rocky Gorge scenic area. From the parking area, walk northeast on the paved path along the river until you see the footbridge over Rocky Gorge. Cross the river, then stroll up wooden steps through hemlocks to get to the junction with the loop trail. Go up a small hill, then turn right at the next junction (sign saying “Around the pond”). You are high above the pond, but its visible through tall spruces with very little understudy. At another fork, veer slightly left and start heading downhill. Turn sharply right at a boggy area at the bottom of this hill. The trail the goes thru a small

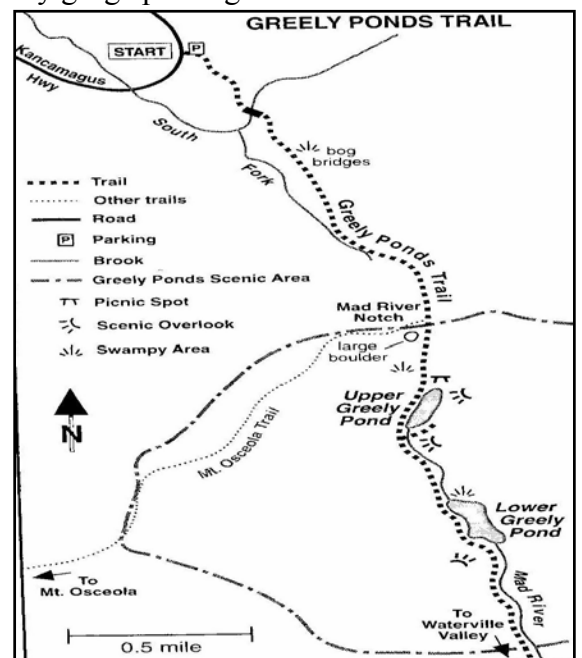


section of hardwoods roughly halfway around the loop, then the spruces return. The trail crosses over a stream surrounded by a wetland with lots of sphagnum. Soon after, follow an arrow directing you back to Rocky Gorge. The trail passes over a solid wooden bridge at a rushing stream. At the end of the loop, turn left to return to Rocky gorge parking area.

Greeley Ponds Trail

Moderately Easy. Approximately 5 miles

Location: The trailhead is 9 miles east of Exit 32, I-93 on the Kancamagus Highway. Greeley Pond 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 a enjoyable place to have a picnic lunch.



LINCOLN WOODS TRAIL

Trail beginning : 1157 ft. elev. at Lincoln Woods Trail Parking Lot on the Kancamagus Highway.

Trail Ending : 1450ft. elev. at Pemigewasset Wilderness Boundary.

Length : 2.9 miles.

Access : Lincoln Woods Trail Parking Lot is located on the Kancamagus Highway 5 miles east of I-93, Exit 28. Parking is available for 160 cars and snow plowing is provided in winter.

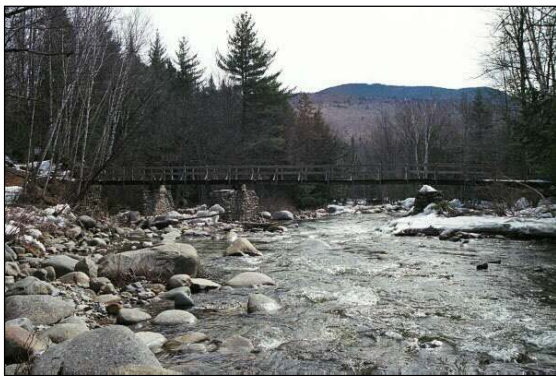
Wilderness Trail beginning : 1450ft. elev. at Pemigewasset Wilderness Boundary.

Trail ending : 2060 ft. elev. at Stillwater Junction.

Length : 6.0 miles.

Access : Same as Lincoln Woods Trail.

The Lincoln Woods Trail leaves the parking lot on the north side of the Kancamagus Highway and immediately crosses the East Branch of the Pemigewasset River via a 160 foot long suspension bridge. It



then makes a sharp turn to the right and follows the route of the old East Branch and Lincoln Railroad northerly to the boundary of the Pemigewasset Wilderness. At 1.4 miles the Osseo Trail branches to the left (west) and provides a moderately difficult 4-mile hike to Mt. Flume and Franconia Ridge. Just beyond the Osseo Trail junction there is a clearing to the left, which is the site of old, logging Camp 8. The trail comes quite close to the river at 1.7 miles where there is a nice view of Mt. Bond and then crosses Birch Island Brook on a foot bridge at 1.8 miles. Black Pond Trail diverges to the left at 2.6 miles, skirts around the Ice Pond, and provides an easy hike of 0.7 miles to picturesque Black Pond. There are panoramic views of the

surrounding mountains from various places around this pond. At 2.8 miles the Franconia Brook Campsite, with 16 tent platforms, is on the left just before a narrow 75-foot bridge crosses Franconia Brook. From here a path leaves the trail to the left and follows the brook upstream 0.3 miles to scenic Franconia Falls, a large rock outcrop about an acre in size with water cascading over it. It is one of the most unique and frequently visited backcountry falls in the mountains, being especially popular with day hikers. After crossing the footbridge Lincoln Woods Trail ends and becomes the Wilderness Trail as it enters the Pemigewasset Wilderness. After going about 50 yards, Franconia Brook Trail branches to the left and climbs a short embankment. This trail provides an easy 5-mile hike to picturesque 13 Falls. The Wilderness Trail continues to follow the railroad grade in an easterly direction. At Camp 16 the Bondcliff Trail diverges to the left (north) and provides a moderately difficult hike to the Bondcliffs. One of the most spectacular and panoramic views of the Pemigewasset Wilderness can be observed from the Bondcliffs. After passing Camp 16, the Wilderness Trail crosses Black Brook on a footbridge, which is adjacent to the last remaining old logging railroad trestle in the White Mountains.

