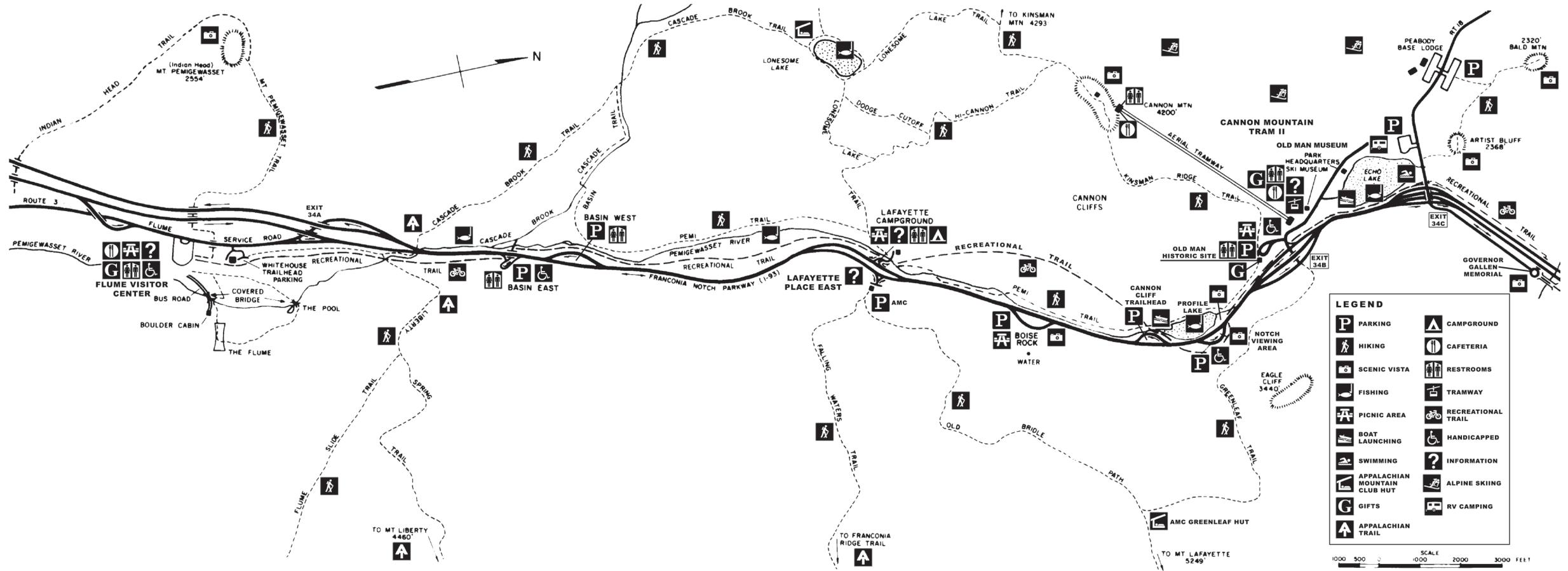


# Franconia Notch State Park



Welcome to Franconia Notch State Park, located in the heart of the popular White Mountain National Forest. Franconia Notch is a spectacular mountain pass traversed by a unique interstate parkway which extends from the Flume Gorge at the south end to Echo Lake Beach to the north. For eight miles, Interstate 93 is located between the high peaks of the Kinsman and Franconia mountain ranges. Traveling through the Notch, use

this handy map to find the many special features found along one of America's truly outstanding parkways. Franconia Notch was the home of the famous Old Man of the Mountain, known as the "Great Stone Face" immortalized by Nathaniel Hawthorne and Daniel Webster. While you are here, stop at the Flume Visitor Center and gift shop, walk through the renowned Flume, visit the Old Man of the Mountain Historic Site and Museum, ride the exciting aerial

tramway at Cannon Mountain, and visit the New England Ski Museum. Take your time... Stop for a swim at Echo Lake Beach or rent a canoe or kayak. Net a trout while fly-fishing at Profile Lake. Watch for rock climbers and peregrine falcons on Cannon Cliffs. Or hike on the Appalachian Trail. Bring the family, stay awhile, and enjoy Franconia Notch State Park.

Look on the back page for information about special points of interest in the park.

For further information, write or call Franconia Notch State Park  
Franconia, NH 03850;  
telephone: (603) 823-8800



## The Flume

Discovered in 1808, the Flume is a natural gorge extending 800 feet at the base of Mt. Liberty. The walls of Conway granite rise perpendicularly to a height of 70 to 90 feet and are from 12 to 20 feet apart. Bus service is provided to transport visitors to within 500 yards of the gorge entrance. Marked walking trails, with signs explaining natural features, lead to other points of interest, including the Pool and Sentinel Pine Bridge.



A trip into the Flume begins and ends at the Gilman Visitor Center. Framed by a spectacular vista of Mt. Liberty and Mt. Flume, the Visitor Center houses the Flume ticket office, information center, cafeteria, gift shop, the state park system's historic Concord Coach, and a small auditorium where Notch interpretive programs are held on a regular basis.

## The Basin

At the base of the beautiful waterfall at this site is a granite pothole 20 feet in diameter. It is believed to have been eroded 25,000 years ago while the North American ice sheet was melting. The Basin has been smoothed by



small stones and sand, whirled around by the Pemigewasset River. Below the Basin is a water-eroded rock formation called the Old Man's Foot.

## Lafayette Place

The camping and hiking hub of the Notch is centrally located in the park at Lafayette Place. Lafayette Campground provides 97 wooded tent sites. A lodge houses a registration desk and showers, and offers a small selection of camping supplies. Those interested in the natural or cultural history of Franconia Notch and hiking safety will want to stop at the Visitor Center at Lafayette Place. Regularly scheduled interpretive programs are held at the campground throughout the summer.



## Boise Rock

Thomas Boise, a teamster from Woodstock, New Hampshire, sought shelter under this large boulder when a blizzard in the early 1800's blocked passage for him and his horse on the Notch road. Killing his horse, Boise skinned it and wrapped himself in its hide. Searchers found him under the rock the next day and had to cut away the frozen hide which had saved his life. Near the boulder is a cool spring, picnic tables, and an exceptional view of Cannon Cliffs.

## Profile Lake

This small, clear body of water is the headwaters of the Pemigewasset River. Located directly below where the Old Man of the Mountain once sat, it is often called the "Old Man's Washbowl." The lake is well-known for its brook trout and is open to fly-fishing only.

## Old Man of the Mountain Historic Site (1805 - 2003)

The Profile was a natural rock formation that was formed by a series of geologic happenings that began an estimated 200 million years ago. It hovered majestically 1,200 feet above Profile Lake. The Old Man was made of five separate granite ledges arranged horizontally to form a man's profile. From chin to forehead, the Profile measured about 40 feet and was 25 feet wide.

On May 3, 2003, the Old Man of the Mountain collapsed during the night hours. The outpouring of public opinion was strong for not trying to rebuild the profile. The state geologist also determined that the mountainside was too unstable. A Governor-appointed Task Force decided that the Old Man would not be rebuilt. Hundreds of people have sent e-mails, pictures,



and letters detailing their sentiments and memories of the Old Man of the Mountain. An online Scrapbook was created at [www.nhstateparks.org](http://www.nhstateparks.org) to provide an outlet for the many condolences and remembrances.

Look north a short distance from where the Profile was to see a natural rock formation silhouetted against the skyline resembling the barrel of a cannon poking out from the parapet of a fortress. The shape of this rock formation gives Cannon Mountain its name.

## Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway & Ski Area

The first passenger aerial tramway in North America began operation on this site in 1938. Almost seven million passengers were carried to the top by the first tram. Take a scenic eight-minute ride in one of two enclosed cable cars to the 4,200 foot summit of Cannon Mountain and enjoy panoramic views of the distant valleys and mountains. Each tram car has a capacity of 80 persons and ascends 2,022 feet vertically. Walking trails to a summit observation tower leave from the tram station.



In the winter, Cannon Mountain is a favorite among skiers, with 55 trails and slopes for all abilities. Cannon is the home of the New England Ski Museum which is located near the base of the tramway. The museum is open daily from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., and is on the same seasonal schedule as the tramway.

## Echo Lake

Beautiful Echo Lake, at an elevation of 1,931 feet, offers views of Mt. Lafayette and Cannon Mountain. Visitors can also enjoy swimming, fishing, and boating. The waters of Echo Lake flow westerly toward the Connecticut River.

## Governor Gallen Memorial

This is an excellent location for scenic photo opportunities. Sunset Bridge is a short walk from the parking area. Visitors will be treated to spectacular views of Sugar Hill and Mt. Lafayette.