

FOLIAGE AND HISTORY TOUR: From Vermont to New Hampshire in an afternoon
75/85 MILES

This trip covers Pomfret, the Joseph Smith Memorial, the Justin Morrill Homestead, Dartmouth College at Hanover, New Hampshire and the Quechee Gorge where you can see glass blown at Simon Pearce and enjoy tastings of cheese at Cabot and the Taftsville General Store.

From the center of Woodstock, proceed north on route 12, crossing the Ottauquechee River on the Elm Street Bridge and passing the Billings Farm & Museum on the right and the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park on your left. A mile past the Museum leave route 12, bearing right at the fork. At the next fork, the Suicide Six Ski Area will be visible on the left in South Pomfret. At the Teago General Store, bear right. Continue past the farms and orchards of Pomfret and North Pomfret, crossing the White River at West

Hartford some 13 miles from Woodstock. You will cross a trestle bridge to Route 14 on the other side of the White River. at West Hartford, some 13 miles from Woodstock.

On the other side of the river turn left on route 14 and proceed to Sharon. About four miles past Sharon a steep uphill road on the right leads two miles to the Joseph Smith Memorial, and a library and museum of the Mormon Prophet's birthplace.

Returning to Sharon, turn left on route 132 to South Strafford. A left there takes you to Strafford, home of Olympic equestrian champions, the fine old Universalist Meeting House which is much photographed and the Justin Morrill Homestead, home of the Vermont Senator who in the 1860's authored the Land Grant College Act. The Homestead is a National Historic Landmark. Return to South Strafford and take route 132 to Union Village and to

Pompanoosuc, where you turn right on route 5. Proceed into Norwich, a spectacular example of a late 18th century Vermont community on the Connecticut River with its broad green, Congregational Church and famous general store called "Dan and Whits". On Route 5, travel under Interstate 91 to the bridge across the Connecticut River to Hanover, New Hampshire.

Dartmouth College in Hanover was founded in 1769 for the "education and religious training of "Indians, English youth, and other." Dartmouth Row, a group of stately white buildings, reflects the campus as it appeared prior to 1845. Baker Library houses the famous Orozco frescos in its basement, the artist's interpretation of the history of the Americas.

The Hopkins Center for the Performing and Creative Arts provides training in music, drama, art and cinema. In addition it provides the college and the region with a year-round program of outstanding cultural and entertainment events. The Hood Museum features changing exhibitions of art year-round. The Dartmouth Winter Carnival, held in February is well-known for its elaborate ice sculptures and winter sports events. Traveling south from Hanover on route 10 you will pass the Wilder dam, an important element on flood control on the Connecticut River. Crossing back into Vermont at West Lebanon, you pass White River Junction, once an important railroad hub in New England. Taking route 4 back towards Woodstock, you soon come to Quechee Gorge formed over thousands of years by the flow of the Ottauquechee River, now 165 feet down. Be sure to stop at the variety of shops at Timber Village and the Quechee Gorge Visitors Center. Cabot Cheese has one of their three tasting shops around the state here.

The present highway bridge is the site of a trestle constructed for the Woodstock Railway, which served Woodstock from White River Junction from 1875 to 1933.

A few hundred feet off route 4 is the village of Quechee, whose old mill has been restored by the Irish glassblower Simon Pearce. The mill's turbines have been rebuilt and now supply hydro-power to the building, which houses a restaurant, shop and glassblowing studio. Quechee boasts a large second-home community with golf courses, ski area, club, pool, tennis and riding stables. Other activities in Quechee include the annual balloon festival over Father's Day weekend and the annual Scottish Festival in August. Pass through the modern covered bridge next to the Mill to return to route 4 and go west into the charming hamlet of Taftsville, part of the town Woodstock. On your right you will see one of the area's oldest covered bridges and on your left, enjoy cheese from all over the state at the Taftsville General Store. From here it is only four miles to the center of Woodstock Village where you began.