

6 Easy to Moderate Hikes Around Franconia

Bald Mountain - *Easiest "Summit"* Less than a half - mile to a mini summit! Park on route 18 across from the Peabody Base Lodge at Cannon Mt. Walk across parking lot to well-marked trailhead. Ascend trail to fork, bear left and climb through spruce woods to a rocky cone. Great views of Echo Lake and the Notch. Right fork goes ¼ mi., to Artist Bluff, a small cliff popular with rock climbers and also overlooking Echo Lake.

Bridal Veil Falls - *Bette Davis' Favorite!* A 2.5 mile hike up the Coppermine Brook Trail. From Franconia Village, go 3.5 miles towards Easton on Route 116. Turn left onto Coppermine Village Road and park where signs indicate. Walk up road and trail start on left after log cabins. The Coppermine Trail is a moderate ascent along a splashy brook terminating at 80-foot Bridal Veil Falls. Wade or picnic along the stream, especially about .75 miles up the trail where a piney grove slopes sharply down to the brook - *Bette* found romance here in 1938. (Round trip 5 mi. / 4 hours)

Bald Peak - *Hardy climb for Dreamy Views* A prominence (elev. 2400') on the shoulder of Mount Kinsman. From Franconia Village, go 4.5 miles toward Easton on Route 116. At the Franconia / Easton town line there is barred road on the left, just before the Tamarack Tennis Camp. Park on Route 116 and follow the old road (there are no signs). This is the Mount Kinsman Trail. Climb steeply past the sugar house and begin a moderate climb for about 2 miles. You cross two brooks near the 2 mile mark and soon reach a junction. Take the well-marked path to the right .01 miles to Bald Peak and view of the Easton Valley. (Round trip 4 mi. / 4 hours)

Basin Cascade Trail - *Splashy Mile* Cool off the kids! Park at the Basin in Franconia Notch State Park, and after exploring the Basin complex, find the well marked trailhead. The path climbs gently amid pools and cascades which invite wading. There are many unmarked side paths, some of which reward explorers. At .5 miles the trail crosses Cascade Brook on a narrow wooden bridge, then continues to pretty rocky Glen Falls. It terminates in a small canyon at a junction with the Cascade Brook Trail. (Round trip 2 mi. / 2 hours)

Falling Waters Trail - *Water Wonderland!* Three waterfalls grace this steep climb. Park at Lafayette Campground in Franconia Notch State Park. The trail begins across the parkway from the campground and shares a path with the Old Bridle Path for .2 miles before branching sharply right and crossing a footbridge. Falling Waters Trail then climbs .5 miles to so-called Dry Brook which is always pretty but never dry. Cross Dry Brook and climb a short way to tiny Stairs Falls. Scramble along a rock wall to reach 60 foot Swift Water Falls. The next leg is steep but rewards you with Cloudland Falls, and 80 foot cascade. Another steep climb culminates with a view across the notch. (Round trip 3 mi. / 3 hours)

Lonesome Lake Trail - *Jewel in the Sky!* A pristine lake (elev. 2,743) cupped by mountains with a visit to an Appalachian Mountain Club Hut are the rewards of this 1.6 mile hike. Park at Lafayette Campground in Franconia Notch State Park. The trail begins in the picnic area and ascends at a moderate grade. The Hi-Cannon Trail forks to the right. Stay left and climb more steeply over several switch backs. Near the lake the trail levels off and you bear left at 1.2 miles circling the lake to the AMC hut which offers candy bars, lemonade and a Spartan bathing area. (round trip 3.2 mi. / 3 hours)

For your enjoyment and safety

Wear appropriate footwear for rocky trails
Always tell somebody where you are going

Bring extra water, snacks and clothing
Stay on the trails