

## *Popular Hikes in Franconia Notch State Park*

Briefly described below are a few of the more popular family hikes in Franconia Notch State Park. It is important to wear sturdy walking shoes and to remember in the mountains, weather changes suddenly and darkness falls quickly. Keep close tabs on children as unforeseen hazards may exist or develop suddenly on mountain trails.

**Bald Mountain & Artists Bluff**, reached by a short hike, offer fine views of Cannon Mountain and Franconia Notch. The 1 ½ mile loop begins in the parking area across Route 18 from Peabody Base Lodge. After ¼ mile, a short, steep path diverges left for 1/10 mile to the open summit of Bald Mountain. The main trail continues and bears right, up and across the low ridge. A short, unmarked path diverges left to the open top of Artists Bluff. The main trail continues down to Route 18 near Echo Lake.

**Lonesome Lake**, nestled in the mountains 1,000 feet above the floor of the notch, is a popular hiking destination. It is reached by a 1 ½ mile (one way) trail that begins at Lafayette Campground. A lakeside trail leads to the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) hut at the far end of the lake and passes by an inactive beaver lodge.

**Kinsman Falls**, a beautiful, secluded and oft overlooked spot on Cascade Brook can be found by following the Basin-Cascades Trail for ½ mile from the Basin. Many potholes and ledges in the brook along the way make for an enjoyable twenty minute (one way) walk. A rough path diverges left off the trail to the cool base of the falls. Follow the main trail a short way to a brook crossing to the left that leads to Rocky Glenn Falls.

**Mt. Pemigewasset**, The open ledges at the 2,557 foot summit of (Indian Head) afford excellent views of Franconia Notch, the Franconia Range and the valley to the south. The ¼ mile (one way) trail climbs moderately to the summit from the Flume Visitor Center parking area. Return can be made by the same route or via the Indian Head Trail that diverges from the Mt. Pemigewasset Trail just below the summit, and leads one mile to Route 3, one mile south of the Flume Visitor Center.

We endeavor to provide a safe and attractive environment within the limits of our mission to preserve and protect park resources. The necessary knowledge, skill and equipment for a safe visit are primarily your responsibility. We hope you will enjoy your visit to New Hampshire's state parks and come back often.