



The Granite State Offers an Abundance of Holiday and Winter Activities this Season

New Hampshire, December 2020 - It's finally the holiday season and as always, New Hampshire has a little something for everyone this year. The Granite State is a winter wonderland of excitement waiting to be explored and enjoyed. As if [tax-free shopping](#) wasn't enough of a reason to love the state, this season visitors can expect dining specials, hotel packages, dog sledding, virtual events and much more.

[New Hampshire Ice Castles](#) (White Mountains)

Ice Castles, an award-winning frozen attraction located in the White Mountains Region's town of North Woodstock, is back for the 2021 season. The experience is built using hundreds of thousands of icicles hand-placed by professional ice artists. The castles include breathtaking LED-lit sculptures, frozen thrones, ice-carved tunnels, slides, fountains and much more. Tickets can be purchased in advanced online.

[30th Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Exhibition](#) (Seacoast)

Portsmouth Historical Society is celebrating the 30th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibition through December 23. Gingerbread creations will be on display at the Discover Portsmouth Welcome Center and throughout downtown in shop and restaurant windows.

[A Seacoast Holiday – Virtual Christmas Event](#) (Seacoast)

Guests can embark on a virtual tour of the seacoast including such towns as Portsmouth, New Castle and York on Monday, December 21, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Guests can listen to holiday history, traditions, folklore and recipes during this merry virtual session. Featured on the tour are holiday lights and gingerbread houses that were crafted to look like historic homes of the city, as well as Victorian Portsmouth neighborhoods, lighthouses and more.

[The Inn at East Hill's Christmas on the Farm](#) (Monadnock)

On December 19, guests can join the Inn at East Hill Farm for a festive farm day and enjoy such activities as socially distant cow and goat milking, farm animal visits, collecting chicken eggs, pony rides, socially distant Christmas crafts, s'mores at the campfire and much more. Tickets cost is \$35 per adult and \$25 for children. Reservations are required (call 1-800-242-6495) and space is limited.

[The Inn at East Hill's First Night at the Farm](#) (Monadnock)

Visitors can bid farewell to 2020 with The Inn at East Hill Farm during their outside family-friendly, socially distant celebration that includes crafts, dinner and hors d'oeuvres, NYE Glow Dance Party on the lawn around a campfire, and a toast to a new year with hot chocolate, warm apple cider and champagne. The First Night at the Farm package also includes lodging and breakfast and lunch on New Year's Day. Rates start at Adults \$150 for adults, \$95 for children ages 5-17, and \$47.50 children ages 2-4. Children under age 2 are free and there is a \$20 charge for dogs.

[Averill House Vineyard Igloos](#) (Merrimack Valley)

Averill House Vineyard in Brookline is launching a unique and delicious wine tasting experience this winter - igloos and gazebos. The igloos and gazebo offer a memorable experience in a safe and cozy

heated setting, allowing guests to dine outside in cool weather, socially distanced and in a private environment.

Thompson House Eatery NYE Dinner (White Mountains)

Diners can ring in the close of 2020 with Thompson House Eatery in Jackson on Thursday, Dec 31st with their six-course New Year's Even tasting menu. The exclusive night of dining will feature an epic tasting menu from renowned Chef Jeffery Fournier with optional beverage pairing. The cost is \$175 per person for the six-course tasting menu with an optional beverage pairing for \$75 per person.

Snowmobiling (Multiple Regions)

There are more than 7,000 miles of snowmobiling trails in New Hampshire and they link to a vast network of trails in neighboring states too. New Hampshire caters to snowmobiling enthusiasts with rental dealers, hotels, cabins, and casual restaurants situated right along major snowmobile routes.

Dog Sledding (White Mountains)

Guests can enjoy the ride of a lifetime from well-trained canines pulling their sled through pristine New Hampshire wilderness. Many New Hampshire dogsledding outfitters offer a variety of adventures, from introductory outings for adults and children as young as three to half-day clinics that include mushing instruction and the chance to take the reins and drive a team.

For more information, visit www.visitnh.gov

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ABOUT THE DIVISION OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Travel and Tourism Development, as part of the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, works with the state's seven travel regions to increase visitation, travel and visitor expenditures in order to expand business activity and employment throughout the state. The division is responsible for domestic and international advertising and public relations, literature publication and distribution, www.visitnh.gov administration, grant administration and research to monitor and measure the impact of travel and tourism to the state. For more information about New Hampshire tourism, call 603-271-2665 or visit www.visitnh.gov.

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