

Unusual & Quirky NH

While New Hampshire is well-known for offering a scenic, quintessential New England experience through an array of activities and adventures, ranging from skiing, to water sports, to maple syrup tapping, to leaf peeping, what many people don't know is that The Granite State also offers a collection of unusual and quirky activities that are exclusive to the state. Below please find a selection of museums and attractions throughout the state that showcase the state's distinctively offbeat offerings and history:

Museums

- [New Hampshire Telephone Museum](#) (Warner, NH) - Open since 2005, this museum features nearly 1,000 artifacts relating to the telephone dating back to 1946.
- [Extreme Mount Washington Museum](#) (North Conway, NH) - The Mount Washington Museum has been reborn as "Extreme Mount Washington", an interactive exhibit that portrays how winters at Mount Washington's summit are among the most brutal in the world.
- **Pauline E. Glidden Toy Museum** (Ashland, NH) - the collection ranges from 1850s nesting blocks and children's books to 1960s board games, dolls and beach pails.
- [American Police Motorcycle Museum](#) (Meredith, NH) - New exhibits planned for 2016 include a 1927 Indian 45 Shortframe Police Special, a 1928 Indian Four Cylinder motorcycle and a 1929 Indian 101 45.
- [America's Stonehenge](#) (Salem, NH) - Some 4,000 years old, America's Stonehenge was built by ancient people well versed in astronomy and stone construction. It has been determined that the site is an accurate astronomical calendar. It was, and still can be, used to determine specific solar and lunar events of the year.
- [Classic Arcade Museum](#) (Weirs Beach, NH) - Built to establish and promote the history of coin-operated games as the museum features nearly 60 years of arcade game history, dating back to early pinball machines.

Attractions

- [Clark's Trading Post](#) (Lincoln, NH) opened in 1928 by Florence and Ed Clark. By 1949, their sons were training bears for show work and this New Hampshire staple soon became popular for its bear shows and other quirky attractions, including performances by Circus Acts and Chinese Acrobats as well as their Americana Museum, 1884 Fire Station, Clark Family History Museum and Avery's Garage. They are currently in the fifth generation and have up to 20 family members still working at the business. More importantly, they treat the bears like family and as a result, the bears often live longer than if they were in the wild.
- The [USS Albacore](#) (Portsmouth, NH) is referred to by both visitors and locals as the "Submarine in a Ditch." The Albacore was an active submarine decommissioned in October 1972 and was shipped to Portsmouth in 1985. The move turned out to be a difficult one – they had to cut an active rail track and highway in half in order to get the Albacore to its unplanned final resting place, a concrete slab close to the New Hampshire/Maine border that would become known as Albacore Park. The Park's Visitor Center includes a museum which contains many photographs and historic artifacts from Albacore and other submarines. An audio tour of the visitor's center highlights many of Albacore's unique features, provides information about interior features and relates interesting happenings as told by some of her former crew members.

- The ominously-named [Purgatory Falls](#) (Lyndeborough, NH) may not be the biggest or most dangerous waterfall in the world, but if the legends are true, it is definitely the waterfall most used as a kitchen by Satan. Despite the lovely natural surroundings, legend has it that the Devil himself once invited a number of churchmen to a bean feast at the falls, and while cooking in a pot heated directly by the fires of Hell, Ol' Scratch drew too much heat and melted the rock around his foot which got him stuck. Evidence of this infernal meal still remains. Among the upper falls there is a large hole in the rock called "The Devil's Bean Pot" and nearby is another indent in the stone referred to as "The Devil's Footprint." Despite the possibility of evil dinner parties, the scenic area used to be a tourist spot from the 1890s until the Great Depression. Remains of the hotels and visiting areas can be seen around the upper falls.
- According to the experts at the Guinness World's Record office, [Chutters Candy Store](#) (Littleton, NH) is the longest candy counter in the world. The Main Street store – a Littleton presence for over a hundred years – goes back to a dry goods merchant who started out as a minister, one with maybe more "sweet tooth" than "fire & brimstone." Today Chutters has a 112-foot long candy counter and boasts a certificate from the folks at the Guinness Book of World Records.