

100 Things You Must See, Do or Experience in the Upper Valley

- 1)** Sample some fried dough while watching the ox pull at the Tunbridge World's Fair in September or enjoy some maple milk while watching the pig races.
- 2)** Visit the Fairlee Diner for an early morning breakfast.
- 3)** Hike to Holt's Ledge in Lyme for a spectacular view of undeveloped forestland.
- 4)** Attend a Sunday afternoon concert on the main house porch at Saint Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish.
- 5)** Go to Billings Farm in Woodstock for Harvest Weekend or any special event at this old-time working farm.
- 6)** Drive across the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge.
- 7)** Watch the chips fly at the lumberjack competition at the Cornish Fair in August.
- 8)** Frolic with the Christmas Revels at Spaulding Auditorium at the Hopkins Center in Hanover.
- 9)** Stroll through the Reserve Corridor of Baker Library at Dartmouth College to see the Orozco Murals.
- 10)** Walk to the top of Gile Mountain in Norwich to see the view of the valley from the refurbished fire tower.
- 11)** Take in a summer-rep performance at the New London Barn Playhouse or the Eclipse Grange in Thetford.
- 12)** Peek into Devil's Den on the Wright's Mountain conservation area in Bradford.
- 13)** Catch the demolition derby at the Canaan Speedway.
- 14)** Trek to the open summit of Mt. Cardigan in Orange and visit the ranger in the fire tower.
- 15)** Go hungry to the Sunday Brunch at the P&H Truck Stop in Wells River. And by the way...gotta have their toast...and a piece of pie (their maple cream pie is especially tasty!).
- 16)** Don snowshoes for the annual Snowshoe walk in Vershire in February.
- 17)** Participate in grassroots democracy at your local Town Meeting.
- 18)** Buy one of the "Valley Quest" books and use it to explore 150 interesting places in the Upper Valley.
- 19)** Take a swim at True's Ledges in West Lebanon.
- 20)** Walk up to the ledges between Boston Lot Lake and Wilder Dam.
- 21)** Take a dinner cruise around Lake Sunapee on the M.V. Mount Sunapee II.
- 22)** Check out the Concord Coach and other period displays at the New London Historical Society.
- 23)** Get some sponsors and participate in the Prouty Ride/Walk for cancer research.
- 24)** Bring a lawn chair for a "Concert on the Common" by the Lyme Town Band on a summer Tuesday evening. Return to town the following Wednesday night to attend a summer supper at the Lyme Congregational Church.
- 25)** Go to the Glory Days of Railroading in White River Junction in September.
- 26)** Get your hands dirty on Upper Valley Trails Day on the first Saturday in June.

- 27)** Stroll along the boardwalk in Hartland's Esqua Bog to see the pink ladyslippers bloom in early summer.
- 28)** Slide along the Skyline cross-country ski trail in Pomfret.
- 29)** Eat a baked-bean supper on a Saturday evening in July at the Grange Hall in Brownville.
- 30)** Shuss the slopes at Suicide Six, Dartmouth Skiway, Northeast Slopes, Sunapee, Ascutney, or Quechee Lakes.
- 31)** Ride the Ferris Wheel at the Norwich Fair.
- 32)** Walk the old Carriage Trails on Mt. Tom in Woodstock.
- 33)** Canoe the rapids on the White River from Bethel to Hartford.
- 34)** Watch milk being bottled at McNamara Dairy in Plainfield on Mondays and Thursdays. For a real treat, try a bottle of their chocolate milk.
- 35)** Pick-your-own berries at one of the many PYO farms in the valley.
- 36)** Savor a soft-serve ice cream at Dairy Twirl in Lebanon.
- 37)** Ride your bike around Lake Morey.
- 38)** Hike any part of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail between Bridgewater and Orford.
- 39)** See the Christmas light display at LaSalette Shrine in Enfield or the Joseph Smith Memorial in South Royalton.
- 40)** Play with water in the concrete stream at the Montshire Museum's Science Park in Norwich.
- 41)** Go see the Big Apple Circus in July at Fullington Farm in Hanover or enjoy local performers in Circus Smirkus.
- 42)** Take in the Summer Solstice Festival in Norwich.
- 43)** Go skating on Occum Pond in Hanover on a cold winter day.
- 44)** Attend an Old Home Day celebration in any Upper Valley town.
- 45)** Buy fresh local produce at Farmer's Markets in Norwich, Lebanon, Enfield and other towns.
- 46)** Watch the glassblowers ply their trade at Simon Pearce in Windsor and Quechee.
- 47)** Find a new treasure at the Flea Market on the last Saturday of the month on the Lyme Common.
- 48)** Rent a canoe at the Ledyard Canoe Club in Hanover and paddle the Connecticut River at sunset.
- 49)** Climb the narrow stairs to the top of Baker Tower to enjoy the fall foliage.
- 50)** Listen to music at the bandstand on the 4th of July at Colburn Park in Lebanon.
- 51)** Climb Mt. Ascutney.
- 52)** Get in line and enjoy the Hartland Roast Beef Supper. If you go home hungry, it's your fault.
- 53)** Take the kids to Townline Equipment in Plainfield anytime and let them climb up onto the tractors. Warning: You will have a hard time getting them off!
- 54)** Taste the Valley's best chocolate chip cookies at the Mascoma Village Store.
- 55)** Ride a toboggan or a snow tube down Freshman Hill at the Hanover Country Club.
- 56)** Check out the diverse talent at open mic night at Skunk Hollow Tavern in Hartland.

- 57) Enjoy bear balls and moose stir fry at the annual Meriden Volunteer Fire Department wild game supper.
- 58) Watch raptors fly at the VINS Nature Center in Quechee.
- 59) Launch a canoe before dusk and paddle out onto Grafton Pond as the loons begin to call.
- 60) Savor the prose and poetry of the region's best writers as they read at the Canaan Meeting House during the summer.
- 61) Take a snowmobile ride on the Mascoma Rail Trail in the winter or mountain bike it in summer.
- 62) Catch the spirit of the Dartmouth Big Green when they light the bonfire on Homecoming weekend.
- 63) Ride a snowmobile to the Dartmouth Skiway for the Lyme Pinnacle Snowmobile Club's mid-winter chicken BBQ.
- 64) Spread a blanket and watch the hot air balloons at the Quechee Balloon Festival in June.
- 65) Go to Barnes Park in Claremont for a night baseball or soccer game, preferably when Stevens High is playing Lebanon for a taste of old-time high school rivalry.
- 66) Sample a local brew from Seven Barrel Brewery in West Lebanon, Harpoon Brewery in Windsor, Long Trail Brewery in Bridgewater, or the Norwich Inn.
- 67) Take a tour of the White River National Fish Hatchery in Bethel to see young salmon.
- 68) Learn about the settlement history of the region at Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown.
- 69) See a performance at one of the historic opera houses in Claremont, Lebanon, Newport or Randolph.
- 70) Prospect for minerals at Ruggle's Mine in Grafton.
- 71) Look for salmon and shad migrating through the fish ladder at Wilder Dam.
- 72) Explore the region's industrial heritage at the American Precision Museum in Windsor.
- 73) Shop for *anything* you need at Dan & Whit's in Norwich. Don't miss the back rooms—get fitted for some boots upstairs in the old town meeting and dance hall.
- 74) Watch maple sap being boiled down in a sugarhouse and try a sample straight from the evaporator.
- 75) Bring a picnic and spread a blanket on the grass for a Vermont Symphony Orchestra concert at Ascutney Mountain Resort or Three Stallions Farm in Randolph during Fourth of July week.
- 76) Go back to the 1950's with a feature film at the Fairlee Drive-In Theatre.
- 77) Marvel at the Maxfield Parrish Stage set in the Plainfield Town Hall and watch as the lighting system takes the scene through the seasons.
- 78) Harvest some apples at a pick-your-own orchard and get some freshly pressed cider if there's a cider mill on the farm.
- 79) Drive Route 12A in West Lebanon at about 3:00 a.m. to see what the road was like circa 1960 when there was virtually no traffic there night or day or visit any Upper Valley historical society and see old photographs of how the Upper Valley once was.

- 80)** Along about April 25 grab a bucket and a sharp knife and go get some fiddleheads. Bring them home and fry them in butter for the first taste of the new growing season.
- 81)** Take a close look at 494, the sturdy old locomotive that is the symbol of White River Junction's great railroading tradition.
- 82)** Attend a farm auction where East Thetford's Herb Gray is calling for bids. Be it cows, tractors or buckets of rusty bolts, he'll make the sale with a line of patter for the ages.
- 83)** Hear the roar of Sumner's Falls between Plainfield and Hartland, the last free-flowing rapids on the main stem of the Connecticut River. Respect the place, too; it can be dangerous.
- 84)** Examine some of the Valley's architectural and engineering marvels. Claremont City Hall, Windsor's Old South Church and the stone rail underpass on Glen Road in West Lebanon come to mind—and there are many more.
- 85)** Breathe in the scent of pine logs being sawed into lumber at the Cote & Reney mill as you ride along Route I-89 in Grantham.
- 86)** Visit West Lebanon Supply the day the baby chicks and ducklings arrive.
- 87)** Watch the hang gliders and para-sails soar at Morningside Flight Park in North Charlestown.
- 88)** Enjoy the polished bluegrass arrangements of Cardigan Mountain Tradition anytime they're playing a community gig.
- 89)** Shop for fresh fruit and veggies at a Hanover Consumer Cooperative Society market--they stock more locally- raised produce than any other food retailer in Northern New England.
- 90)** Develop a keen eye for the wild critters in our midst—see if you can spot a bear, a moose, a bald eagle, or even a wild boar— they're out there.
- 91)** Bring the kids and a picnic up to the Lebanon Airport and watch the planes take off and land.
- 92)** Watch a great film you've never seen (and maybe never heard of) at the Dartmouth Film Series.
- 93)** Be sure to check out the colored ice show on I-89 around New London and the frozen waterfall in Bradford.
- 94)** Visit Quechee Gorge and then walk down it.
- 95)** Take in a production by Hartland Community Arts.
- 96)** Participate in or go watch the PaddlePower Suicide Prevention Fundraising Event, a 2-day canoe kayak trip down the Connecticut River (visit <http://www.paddlepower.org> for details)
- 97)** Visit the orchid collection in Dartmouth's Life Sciences Building.
- 98)** Take in one of the noontime concerts in the basement of the Hopkins Center.
- 99)** Take an ILEAD course.
- 100)** Learn where the term "Upper Valley" came from.