

AUTUMN TRAILS OF NEW ENGLAND

Classic Flex Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 1

Boston 2N – Portsmouth 1N – North Conway 2N – Stowe 2N – Lenox 2N – Newport 2N

Discover a region well-known for its fall foliage on an adventure that encompasses spectacular landscapes, historic towns and cities, magnificent mansions and the fascinating history of the American Revolution, all dressed up in the vibrant colours of autumn.

- Walk Boston's Freedom Trail
- Ride the Mount Washington Cog Railway
- Journey along the iconic Kancamagus Highway
- Explore the Norman Rockwell Museum
- Admire the spectacular autumn colours
- Discover the coastal charms of Newport

TOUR MAP



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Most meals
- Most sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

The only extras to plan for are meals not included in your itinerary, personal spending (such as drinks and souvenirs), the customary tipping kitty, optional excursions and shows, travel insurance, early check-in or late check-out, and anything not specified on your itinerary.

CLASSIC FLEX TOURS:

Classic Flex tours let you see the iconic sites and signature experiences of each destination on an excellent-value, fully escorted group tour, with a little more freedom to do things your own way. Your international flights, accommodation, transportation, touring and most meals are all arranged, so you can travel with complete peace of mind. Where it works best for the destination, personal time is woven into the itinerary, giving you the chance to explore independently, seek out a local restaurant, or simply relax at your own pace. Throughout, your

National Escort's unparalleled knowledge will bring each destination to life and turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique landscapes and attractions of Canada.

'Autumn Trails of New England' is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, with regular sightseeing on foot and some longer days exploring historic towns, coastal areas and mountain landscapes. You will be getting on and off coaches, walking on a variety of surfaces, climbing steps and occasionally spending several hours on your feet. Some sightseeing may involve gentle inclines, steps or uneven ground.

Please consider:

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods, including in Salem, Portsmouth, Stowe, Newport and other historic towns, particularly when visiting downtown areas, museums and historic districts.
- Some excursions involve walking on uneven or unpaved surfaces, particularly at Flume Gorge in Franconia Notch State Park and when exploring outdoor attractions and natural areas.
- You will need to get on and off coaches independently, sometimes using steps.
- Visits to historic sites and museums, including Strawbery Banke Museum, the Norman Rockwell Museum and Newport's Gilded Age mansions, may involve walking between buildings, along historic streets or across uneven ground.
- Some days involve longer coach journeys between destinations, with stops along the way to visit towns, scenic viewpoints and other attractions.

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour and they are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 14 days in duration including international flights or 12 days in duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 1 in Boston and end the tour on Day 12 in Boston.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly New Zealand to Boston Meals: D



Your tour begins in Boston, the capital of the state of Massachusetts. Guests arriving today will be met in the arrivals hall by your National Escort, or a Wendy Wu Tours representative for a group transfer to the hotel. Check in to your room, or store luggage if arriving ahead of check-in time.

This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner and meet the rest of your group.

Additional nights before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

Destination Information

Boston – Founded in 1630, Boston played a central role in the American Revolution, with events such as the Boston Tea Party helping spark the fight for independence. Today, the city's historic streets sit alongside modern skyscrapers, waterfront developments and lively neighbourhoods, while the 4-kilometre Freedom Trail links landmarks including Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere's House and the Old North Church. Boston is also a major centre for education, medicine and culture, with Harvard and MIT located across the Charles River in Cambridge.

Day 2: Boston Freedom Trail Meals: B, L



Walk the Freedom Trail, a 2.5-mile route through the city that connects historic sites that tell the story of the American Revolution, starting at Boston Common and ending in Charlestown at the Bunker Hill Monument. Then, visit two of Boston's best-known historic landmarks, Faneuil Hall, with its revolutionary connections, and Quincy Market, still an indoor marketplace today. This afternoon and evening are Flex time for independent exploration.

Destination Information

Freedom Trail – This 4-kilometre walking route links 16 historic sites associated with Boston's role in the American Revolution, marked by a red line through the city streets. Stops include the Old State House, Paul Revere's House and the Old North Church, bringing the events that led to American independence into the modern city.

Faneuil Hall – Built in 1742 as a marketplace and meeting hall, Faneuil Hall became an important gathering place for colonial protestors opposing British rule. Today, the historic building remains part of Boston's central market district, surrounded by shops, street performers and restaurants, and is often referred to as the "Cradle of Liberty".

Quincy Market – Opened in 1826 and named after Boston mayor Josiah Quincy, this granite market hall expanded the city's historic Faneuil Hall marketplace. Today, its long interior hall is lined with food stalls and places to eat, offering everything from New England clam chowder and lobster rolls to international dishes, while the surrounding plaza remains a popular meeting place.

Day 3: Salem & the Coast

Meals: B, D



Travel north from Boston to discover the infamous city of Salem, a journey of approximately 40 minutes. Learn about Salem's association with the 1692 witch trials before continuing along the coast towards Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a journey of around 1 hour 30 minutes. Pass historic villages, sandy beaches and rocky shores along the way. On arrival, take an orientation tour of Portsmouth's characterful downtown, admiring its 18th-century architecture and waterfront setting. This evening, sit down to a 'Coastal Dinner' celebrating the flavours and maritime traditions of New England.

Destination Information

Salem – A coastal city north of Boston, Salem is best known for the witch trials of 1692, when 20 people were executed following accusations of witchcraft. Today, museums and historic sites explore this troubled period alongside the city's maritime past, when Salem was a prosperous trading port with links to Asia and Africa. Its historic streets combine colonial-era houses with independent shops, cafés and a strong focus on the city's history and folklore.

Portsmouth – Founded in 1623, Portsmouth is one of New Hampshire's oldest settlements and developed as a shipbuilding and trading port on the Piscataqua River. Its compact historic centre retains colonial buildings, brick warehouses and Federal-style houses, while Market Square is now a lively area of independent shops, restaurants and cafés.

Day 4: Coastal New Hampshire

Meals: B, L



Wander through the Strawbery Banke Museum, an outdoor living history museum in Portsmouth's Puddle Dock neighbourhood, where restored historic buildings tell the story of life in the area across several centuries. Follow the scenic coastline from New Hampshire into Maine, a journey of approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, passing lighthouses, sweeping ocean views and traditional coastal towns. Then turn inland and travel for around 2 hours to North Conway, a mountain village in New Hampshire's White Mountains.

Destination Information

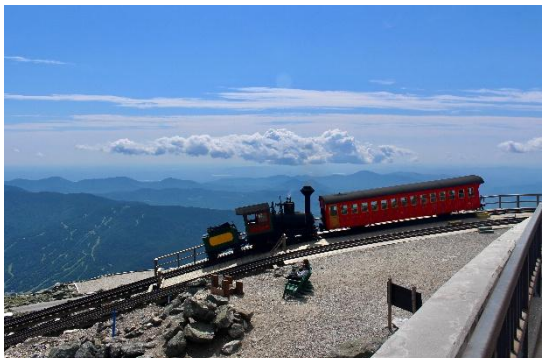
Strawbery Banke Museum – The nearby Strawbery Banke Museum preserves historic buildings and tells the story of the people who lived in the waterfront neighbourhood over several centuries.

North Conway – Set in New Hampshire's White Mountains, North Conway developed as a resort destination in the 19th century, when artists and visitors arrived to experience the mountain scenery and cooler summer climate.

Day 5: Mount Washington Cog Railway

Meals: B

Delve into the autumn colours of the White Mountains, marvelling at views of trees dressed in brilliant reds, bright yellows and burnt oranges. Ride the Mount Washington Cog Railway, a remarkable feat of engineering completed in 1869, to the summit of Mount Washington; here, you'll have time to admire the surrounding landscape before making the return journey.



Destination Information

White Mountains – Located in northern New Hampshire, the White Mountains form part of the Appalachian range and include Mount Washington, the highest peak in the northeastern United States at 1,917 metres. The region became a popular destination for artists and travellers during the 19th century, and today its forests, mountain passes and small towns attract visitors throughout the year, with scenic drives including the Kancamagus Highway.

Mount Washington Cog Railway – Opened in 1869, this historic railway was the world's first mountain-climbing cog railway and carries passengers up the steep slopes of Mount Washington. The train climbs to the 1,917-metre summit, where a visitor centre and observatory explain the mountain's extreme weather; its summit has recorded some of the strongest wind gusts ever measured on Earth, including 231 mph in 1934.

Day 6: Kancamagus Highway

Meals: B, L, D

Drive the Kancamagus Highway through the White Mountain National Forest, a journey of approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, along a mountain road renowned for its autumn foliage. In Franconia Notch State Park, visit Flume Gorge, a natural ravine with towering granite walls, wooden walkways and waterfalls, before seeing the historic red covered bridge across the Pemigewasset River. Cross into Vermont and continue for around 1 hour 30 minutes to visit a local cheese farm, before travelling approximately 1 hour to the charming town of Stowe, nestled in the Green Mountains.



Destination Information

Kancamagus Highway – This 56-kilometre mountain road crosses New Hampshire's White Mountains between Lincoln and Conway, following the Swift River through forested valleys and mountain passes. Named after a 17th-century Pennacook leader, the highway is particularly popular in autumn, when the region's hardwood forests turn vivid shades of red, orange and gold.

Franconia Notch State Park – Set in a mountain pass in New Hampshire's White Mountains, this state park is known for its steep granite cliffs, forested slopes and lakes. It was once home to the Old Man of the Mountain, a natural rock formation that became a symbol of New Hampshire before collapsing in 2003.

Stowe – A small Vermont town at the foot of Mount Mansfield, the state's highest peak at 1,339 metres, Stowe developed from an agricultural community into a popular mountain resort.

Day 7: Stowe

Meals: B, D

Explore Stowe's surroundings; nestled amid the Green Mountains, the town is known as the 'Color Capital of Fall'. Board the Stowe Gondola Skyride to soar towards the top of Mount Mansfield, the highest peak in Vermont, for panoramic vistas of the fall colours. Later, visit von Trapp Brewing, owned by the family who inspired The Sound of Music, for a tour, tasting and dinner in the Bierhall.



Destination Information

Stowe Gondola Skyride – The Stowe Mountain Resort gondola carries visitors up the slopes of Mount Mansfield to the Cliff House area, offering views across Vermont's Green Mountains along the way.

Von Trapp Brewing – Located at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, this brewery was established by the von Trapp family, whose story inspired The Sound of Music. The family settled in Vermont after fleeing Austria in 1938, and their mountain lodge reflects the alpine traditions of their homeland. Visitors can sample Austrian-inspired lagers and other beers while learning about the family's history and their life in Vermont.

Day 8: Manchester & Lenox Meals: B, D



Leave the Green Mountains behind and travel south through Vermont, stopping in the picturesque towns of Woodstock and Manchester. Continue for approximately 1 hour to Manchester, where you'll visit the Southern Vermont Arts Center, showcasing local, national and international artists, before taking in the town's historic main street. Cross into Massachusetts and travel for around 1 hour 15 minutes to Lenox in the Berkshires, a region known for its wooded hills, outdoor attractions and cultural heritage.

Destination Information

Manchester – Manchester developed as a rural settlement in the 18th century and later became a destination for visitors drawn to its mountain setting. Today, the town combines historic New England architecture with independent shops, galleries and cafés.

Lenox – Set in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts, Lenox became a fashionable summer retreat for wealthy families and artists during the 19th century. Many of its grand historic houses remain, while the town is now best known for Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which attracts performers and audiences from around the world.

Day 9: The Berkshires Meals: B, D



Take a scenic drive through the heart of the Berkshires, where rolling hills, forests and river valleys are even more striking in their autumn hues. Visit the Norman Rockwell Museum for a guided tour of the world's largest collection of original Rockwell art.

Destination Information

Norman Rockwell Museum – Located in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, this museum houses the world's largest collection of original works by Norman Rockwell, the American illustrator known for his depictions of everyday life. Rockwell lived in the Berkshires for the final 25 years of his life, and the collection includes paintings and illustrations created for The Saturday Evening Post and other publications.

Day 10: Explore Newport Meals: B



Depart the bucolic landscapes of the Berkshires and travel to Newport, Rhode Island, a journey of approximately 2 hours 30 minutes. Take a walking tour along Bellevue Avenue, admiring the Gilded Age mansions built as summer homes for wealthy families including the Vanderbilts and Astors. Continue into the Historic District to see its well-preserved colonial buildings and learn about Newport's maritime past. This afternoon is Flex time to enjoy this coastal town at your own pace.

Destination Information

Newport – Located on Rhode Island's Atlantic coast, Newport grew wealthy through maritime trade in the 18th century before becoming a summer retreat for some of America's richest families during the Gilded Age. The city's historic waterfront and colonial-era streets sit alongside grand mansions built by industrialists such as the Vanderbilts, many of which are now open to visitors.

Day 11: Newport Mansions Meals: B, D



Start the day with an invigorating walk along Newport's serene Cliff Walk. On one side, take in panoramic views of the ocean, with waves crashing against the rocky shore, while on the other, admire magnificent Gilded Age mansions. Then, see more of Newport's impressive architecture on a scenic coastal drive past dramatic cliffs and beautiful stretches of coastline. This evening, share your memories with your fellow travellers at a farewell dinner.

Destination Information

Newport's Gilded Age Mansions – Built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Newport's mansions served as summer residences for some of America's wealthiest industrialists and financiers. Estates such as The Breakers, built for the Vanderbilt family in 1895, and Marble House illustrate the scale of their wealth, with grand staircases, ornate interiors and elaborate gardens inspired by European palaces. Several are now preserved as museums, offering an insight into the extravagant social world of the Gilded Age.

Day 12-14: Fly Boston to New Zealand Meals: B



Return to Boston and visit the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, dedicated to the life and legacy of the 35th President of the United States. Afterwards, enjoy some time to relax or shop in the Boston Seaport District before transferring to the airport for your flight home.

Arrive back in New Zealand 2 days later due to crossing the International Date Line.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

NORTH AMERICA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to the United States without a visa for stays of up to 90 days, but must obtain an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) online before departure. The ESTA must be completed by each traveller and is not included in the cost of your tour. Wendy Wu Tours can offer general guidance on the application.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 16 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. On Classic Flex Tours, will be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu our groups while you are travelling.

EATING IN THE UNITED STATES:

On our Classic Flex tours, most meals are provided from your arrival until the day of departure, giving you the opportunity to experience the wide range of regional flavours and specialities found across the United States. American cuisine varies considerably between regions, from fresh seafood and clam chowder in New England to barbecue in the Deep South, Cajun and Creole dishes in Louisiana, Tex-Mex in the Southwest and fresh produce and seafood on the West Coast. You may also encounter classic American dishes such as burgers, steaks, fried chicken, apple pie and regional specialities along the way.

Breakfasts are generally served buffet-style at hotels, with a choice of cooked and continental options. Lunches may be served at restaurants, cafés or as packed lunches on longer touring days. Evening meals are typically served in local restaurants or hotels, with menus offering a mixture of regional American and international dishes.

The United States is well equipped for a wide range of dietary requirements, although choices can become more limited when travelling through rural areas or smaller towns. If you have specific dietary needs, please let us know when booking so these can be communicated to our local partners in advance.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation in the United States is carefully selected for its location, comfort and character, with a mixture of well-established hotels, locally owned properties and larger city hotels possibly used throughout your journey. Accommodation will generally be of a good three- to four-star standard, comparable with what you would expect in New Zealand, although individual hotels may vary in style, facilities and size.

All group tour hotels have private Western-style bathroom facilities, air conditioning or heating, a TV and Wi-Fi. In some smaller towns or more remote areas, hotel facilities may be simpler than those found in the major cities, but all properties are selected to provide a comfortable base from which to explore the destination.

If you experience any difficulty during your stay, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide. All hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly reviewed by our staff and local partners to ensure they meet our standards.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Air-conditioned coaches are used for sightseeing, excursions and longer journeys throughout this tour. Coaches generally have comfortable reclining seats and an onboard toilet, although facilities vary between vehicles. The US is a vast country and some journeys involve several hours of driving, particularly when travelling between national parks and smaller towns. Journey times are approximate and may be affected by traffic, road conditions, weather and scheduled stops.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and the United States is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time.

In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your National Escort should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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