

Fall Foliage  
Kancamagus Highway, New Hampshire  
By Tibor Vari

The weekend of October 10<sup>th</sup> – 12th, 2003 was near the peak of fall foliage up in New Hampshire along the Kancamagus Highway (Route 112 between Lincoln and Conway NH). It is about a 6 hour drive from Ramsey NJ to Lincoln NH (which is just off Interstate 93 Exit 12). Once there, you are virtually in the center of the White Mountains National Forest.

The first advice for fall foliage photography anywhere in New England is to get your hotel reservations at least 2-3 months in advance. I waited till the last week and could get no closer than 60 miles away in Concord NH (Comfort Inn, 603-226-4100). Of course, making reservations in advance can be problematic as the peak colors vary year by year. The following websites offer tremendous information to help you plot the peak colors.

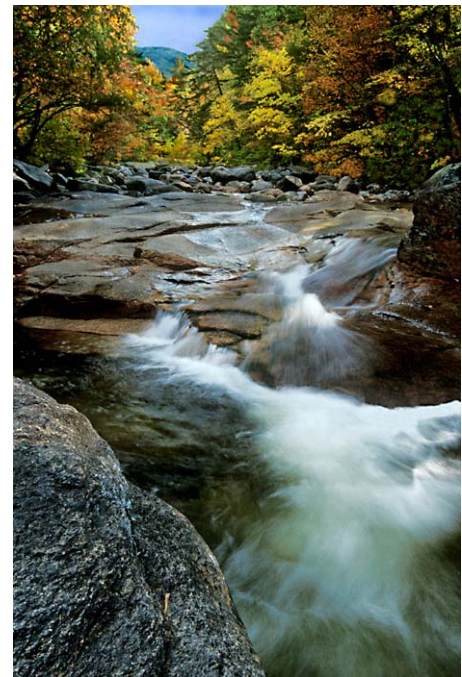
New Hampshire	<a href="http://www.newhampshire.com/pages/foilage-report.cfm">http://www.newhampshire.com/pages/foilage-report.cfm</a>
New York	<a href="http://www.empire.state.ny.us/tourism/foilage/">http://www.empire.state.ny.us/tourism/foilage/</a>
Maine	<a href="http://www.state.me.us/doc/foilage/">http://www.state.me.us/doc/foilage/</a>
Vermont	<a href="http://www.1-800-vermont.com/seasons/report.asp">http://www.1-800-vermont.com/seasons/report.asp</a>
Fall Foliage Network	<a href="http://foilage-network.com/">http://foilage-network.com/</a>
Kancamagus Scenic Byway	<a href="http://www.photo.net/us/ne/foilage-kancamagus">http://www.photo.net/us/ne/foilage-kancamagus</a>

Driving East from Lincoln towards Conway you have the East Branch of the Pentqewasset River running parallel to the road. You will want to stop at the various pullouts and walk the short distance to the river to photograph the fast moving river. Make sure you to stop at the Otter Rocks Rest Area and walk over to the river. The rocks here jut out into the river allowing you the use of a wide-angle lens for a sweeping view of the river coming right at you.

At the top of the mountain you get to the Kancamagus Pass pullout, which is a nice location for sunrise and sweeping mountain vistas. At this point the road heads downhill and a nice stop is Lily Pond on the left (about 2.5 miles). Though I have never been lucky enough to see any moose. I have been told by locals and other photographers that Lily Pond is frequented by moose in the early morning and early evening.

Continuing further downhill from Lily Pond, the Swift River now runs parallel to the road. Once again, there are frequent pullouts from which there are great scenes to shoot. Pay particular attention to bends in the road such that you can get nice S curves when taking pictures of the river.

The Lower Falls Picnic area is another good spot to stop and take pictures. Here the rocks form mini waterfalls that can be used as foreground material with the fall colors in the background. Another location worth stopping for is the Albany Bridge, which is a 120 foot long Paddleford truss bridge with added arches constructed in 1858. Best shooting location is to cross the bridge and bear right to the parking lot.





You may want to avoid going into Conway, as the traffic can be quite heavy during the fall. It would be worth turning around and go back on Route 112 W, as the perspective will be different.

On the way back to Lincoln, a nice side trip is to go North on the Bear Notch Road. There will be numerous pullouts with very nice sweeping views of the rolling mountains. Follow this route to Bartlett, which is an old railroad station town. The buildings are pretty old and

make for some interesting subjects coupled with the peeling paint. The deli just at the corner of Route 302 and Bear Notch Road is excellent if hunger has kicked in. From Bartlett head west along Route 302 and make sure to stop and photograph Flume Cascade. This is a very thin ribbon of a waterfall that has various levels. You can't miss this as there is a large well paved pullout. A little further is Crawford Notch and Saco Lake, which is a heavy tourist location and popular hiking trail location (Mt. Willard, Webster-Jackson, and Avalon trail heads).

Continue West to Twin Mountain and then head South West on Route 3. This route will ultimately complete the full circle and bring you back to Lincoln. Along this route are scenic locations such as the Old Man Of the Mountain (sadly it collapsed late 2003), Franconia Notch, Lonesome Lake Trail (a difficult 1000 foot vertical hike), The Basin, Sentinel Pine Bridge, and Flume Gorge (must pay to get in but worth the moderate hike). The amazing part of this portion of the trip is how much it reminds me of the soaring peaks of Glacier National Park.

Once in Lincoln, there are numerous dinner locations. Some recommendations are the Chowder House, Pancake House, and Tavern At The Mill.

An excellent source map to have is the Delorme New Hampshire Atlas. Along with all 50 states, these guides can be found at Campmor or Ramsey Outdoor. The maps have tremendous details such as waterfalls, covered bridges, topographic/GPS markings, and other landmarks.

So plan ahead and take the trip up to Lincoln NH and feast your eyes on some great fall photography.

