



From Homespun to Grand Opera in the Franklin Foothills

Though early settlers came to the Franklin Foothills to farm, they quickly established a vibrant community culture, placing a premium on creativity and style.

This three day itinerary hits cultural and a few natural highlights, requires limited automobile travel, and is best undertaken in summer or fall. Check map (reverse side) for locations.

Day One

Activities

- ❖ Begin your exploration at the Maine Mountain Heritage Center in Farmington – information about the region’s history and natural history and all the great things you can see and do while you are here.
- ❖ Stop by Java Joe’s for locally roasted coffee and a treat or visit The Homestead Kitchen, Bar and Bakery for creatively prepared local foods.
- ❖ Call ahead to arrange a tour of the Washburn–Norlands Living History Center (Livermore) for an educational, hands–on experience in 18th and 19th century rural farm life. Learn how to spin yarn from wool grown right on the farm.

Overnight in Wilton

- ❖ Enjoy dinner at the Boiler Room Restaurant in the historic G.H. Bass factory building.
- ❖ Lodging at either the Wilson Lake Inn or the Victorian Rose Bed and Breakfast.

Day Two

Activities

- ❖ After a morning stroll around historic downtown Wilton or a quick dip in Wilson Lake, return to Farmington to visit the Nordica Homestead – costumes and memorabilia of Lillian Nordica, the first American woman to appear on the grand opera stages in Europe.
- ❖ Explore downtown Farmington (historic district listed on National Register of Historic Places) and shop for savory treats at Up Front and Pleasant Gourmet, custom and traditional jewelry made with Maine gemstones at Mainestone Jewelry, and other artisan products.
- ❖ In the afternoon, head to Mt. Blue State Park (Weld) to enjoy hiking trails, swimming, a nature center, and other outdoor activities.

Overnight in Kingfield

- ❖ Longfellow’s Restaurant overlooks the Carrabassett River and serves produce raised by local farmers.
- ❖ Lodging at either the restored Herbert Grand Hotel or The Inn on Winter’s Hill.

Day Three

Activities

- ❖ Stop in at the Stanley Museum to learn about this talented Kingfield family. Brothers F.O. and F.E. developed the “Stanley Steamer” automobile (one on display here, among many other inventions); sister Chansonetta was well known nationally as a fine art photographer.
- ❖ Plug in and recharge at Orange Cat Café – Carrabassett coffees, sandwiches, soups, and delicious desserts.
- ❖ Call ahead to arrange a visit to the Good Karma Alpaca Farm – Alpaca yarns and handmade Carrabassett Soap at the farm store.
- ❖ On your way home, stop at Nowetah’s American Indian Museum to admire an outstanding collection of American Indian artifacts and to purchase authentic art and gifts.

Shopping

- ❖ Grand Central Station (Kingfield) products and gifts from local artists.
- ❖ SugarWood Gallery (Farmington) 50 local woodworkers and artisans.

Local Food

- ❖ The Better Living Center (Farmington) natural food products, local produce.
- ❖ Morning Glory Bake Shop (Weld) made from scratch goodies.

Local Products

- ❖ W.A. Mitchell Fine Furniture at Heirlooms of Tomorrow (Farmington).
- ❖ Carrabassett Coffee (Kingfield) locally roasted beans – you can tour the facility.

Get Outdoors

- ❖ Kineowatha Park (Wilton) swimming, tennis and basketball courts, walking trails.
- ❖ Aardvark Outfitters (Farmington) equipment and guides for outdoor adventure.

For the Kids

- ❖ Locally made Maine Wild Blueberry ice cream at Gifford’s Ice Cream Stand (Farmington).
- ❖ Carrabassett Antigravity Complex (Carrabassett Valley) indoor climbing wall, skatepark, and other kid friendly activities.

Photo Opportunities

- ❖ Wilson Lake (Wilton)
- ❖ Poplar Stream Falls (Kingfield)
- ❖ Traditional farms on the Sandy River (along Route 2)

Mileage

- ❖ Farmington to Wilton 9 miles (16 minutes)
- ❖ Farmington to Livermore 25 miles (39 minutes)
- ❖ Farmington to Kingfield 22 miles (31 minutes)
- ❖ Farmington to Weld 22 miles (40 minutes)

- ❖ For more specific itinerary information, please call (207) 778-3885.
- ❖ For a local events calendar, complete listings of lodging and food options, and other activities in the region, visit www.franklincountychamberofcommerce.org or call the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at (207) 778-4215.