

Lake Winnepesaukee Drive

Distance: 97 miles

Highlights: views of lakes, mountains and villages; Castle of the Clouds, Wolfeboro, Weirs Beach and the Winnepesaukee Railroad; Year-around recreation and shopping options;

You've had a delicious Glynn House breakfast. It's time to hit the road and explore New Hampshire's largest lake. Leave the Glynn House and take US Route 3 south toward Meredith. Turn left on Route 25B and continue until reaching the intersection of Route 25. Turn left driving through Moultonborough and continue on to the eastern side of the lake. Once you reach Tuftonboro, the landscape becomes more rural.

At Route 171, follow the signs for Castle of the Clouds. Visitors can hike on 45 miles of trails, enjoying spectacular views of Lake Winnepesaukee and Squam Lake. The house itself is beautifully designed and features a number of technical innovations of the early 20th century.

Return to the intersection with Route 109 and drive south toward Wolfeboro. A visit to the Wright Museum includes restored WWII military equipment and dioramas illustrating American homes during the same period. The Hampshire Pewter Company does factory tours and has wonderful gifts and collectables.

After leaving Wolfeboro, continue south until reaching Alton. At Alton, the route follows Route 11 north through scenic Alton Bay up to Gilford. The Alton area became one of the earliest tourist destinations around the lake with the arrival of the railroad in the latter half of the 19th century.

The western side of the lake provides terrific views of Lake Winnepesaukee and the Ossipee Range. The west side of the lake also offers many different recreation opportunities. You can stop at Ellacoya State Park for a picnic or a swim or hike up Mt. Major and enjoy terrific views.

The next stop along the western edge of Lake Winnepesaukee is Weirs Beach. Weirs offers visitors amusement parks, arcades, shopping and beautiful Victorian homes. It is one of the most popular family resorts in the state and is always a hive of activity.

After leaving Weirs, continue driving along Route 3 north until reaching Meredith and the Winnepesaukee Railroad, which provides nostalgic rail excursions along the shores of the lake. From Meredith, continue driving north on Route 3 until reaching Ashland and The Glynn House Inn. Coffee, tea and delicious freshly baked cookies will be waiting. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served before its time to head out for dinner.