

## Day 5: 11<sup>th</sup> October, Sunday ~ White Mountains.

The staff of the Haraseeket is out front to wave goodbye, a nice touch. We cross into New Hampshire and drive west out of Portland towards the White Mountains. The colors are at their peak.



A lesson on leaf color. As the bright green chlorophyll fades away, we begin to see yellow and orange colors. Small amounts of these colors have been in the leaves all along. In some trees, like maples, glucose is trapped in the leaves after photosynthesis stops. Sunlight and the cool nights of autumn cause the leaves to turn this glucose into a red color. The brown color of trees like oaks is made from wastes left in the leaves. The red maple is red, sugar maple orange, & birch yellow. The Larchmont Tamarac, an evergreen, is confused, it turns yellow. The roads are narrow as we drive through tunnels of color.

The colors are spectacular at Long Lake where we photograph the Songo River Queen, an authentic Mississippi River Stern Paddle Wheeler.

The Longfellow mountains in Maine, the White Mountains in New Hampshire, the Green Mountains in Vermont and the Berkshires in Massachusetts are all part of the Appalachians.



Songo River  
Queen.

The Appalachian (walking) trail extends 2,200 mi from Georgia to Maine.

The face of the sky is grumbly gray with blue cheeks.



At the White Mountain Hotel, North Conway, we enjoy a Raven interpretive program by Chris Lloyd, describing the geology, geography and history of this area. “There are two seasons, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and winter.” Behind the hotel, rock climbers scale Cathedral Ledge.

Now lunch.

The Albany Covered Bridge, constructed in 1858, is located just off the Kancamagus Highway near Conway, spanning the Swift River.



White Mountain Hotel.



Here, crossing between mountains is not a pass but a *notch*. We climb to 2,200 ft. through Franconia Notch. Descending, there are lots of dead trees from an ice storm.

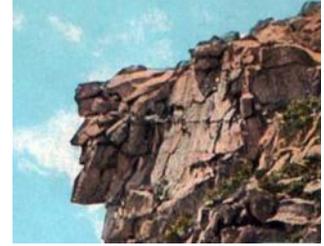
The Mountain Ash have lost their leaves, but retain clusters of red berries.



Albany Covered Bridge.

Profile Lake is the headwater of the Pemigewasset River. Directly below where the Old Man of the Mountain once stood, it was often called the Old Man's Washbowl. The Old Man of the Mountain was a rocky outcrop, resembling a human face, which collapsed in 2003.

Old Man of the Mountain.



Our first glimpse of the Bretton Woods, Mount Washington resort with the mountain behind, is striking. Built in 1902, it reminds us of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.



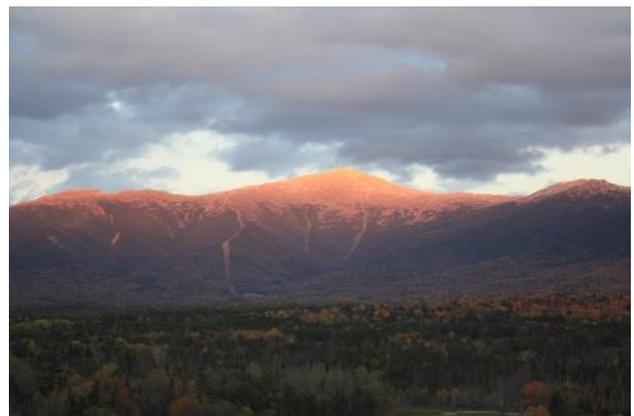
Bretton Woods, Mount Washington resort.

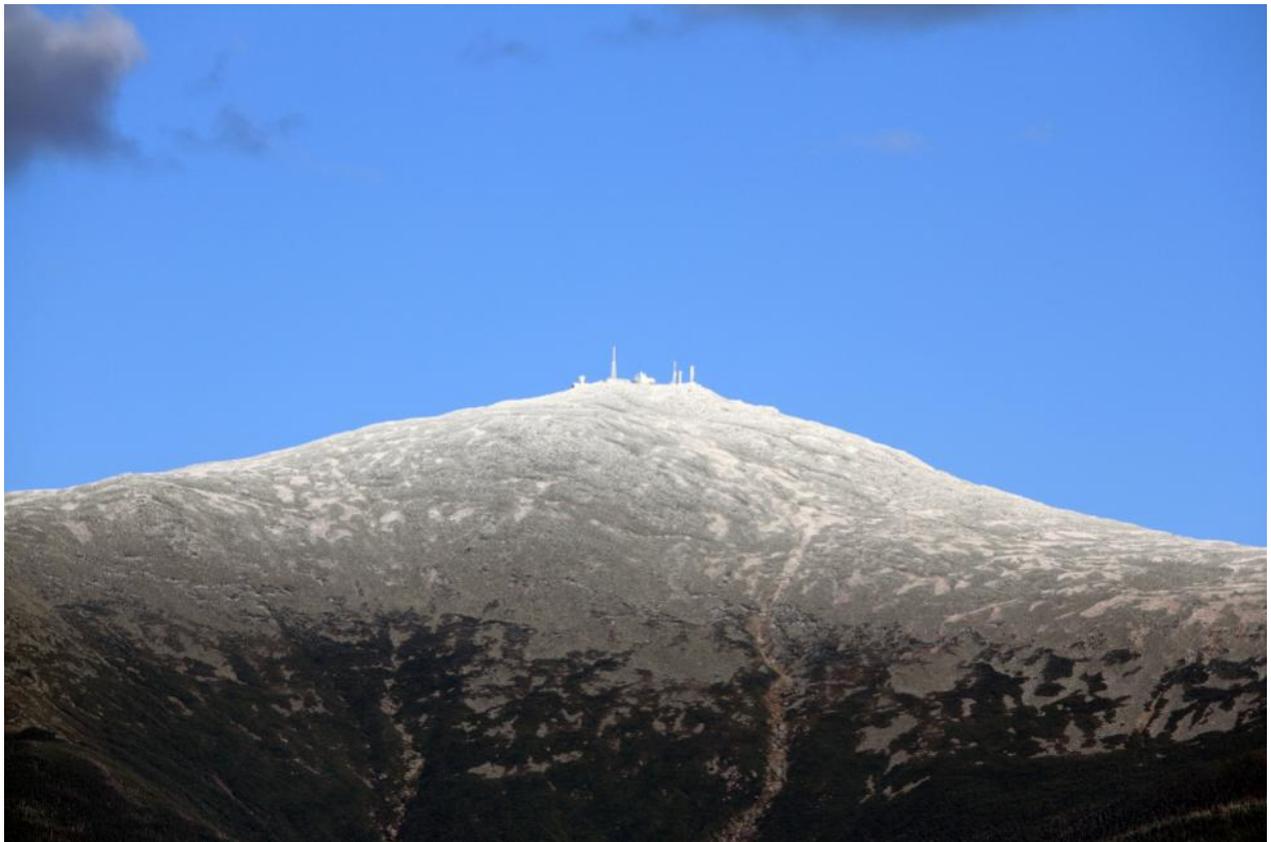


At sunset, Mount Washington glows red. The weather observatory in silhouette against the sky.

Dinner is formal. I have not brought a jacket, so borrow one from the maitre de.

Winni had warned us that some rooms or bathroom might be small. Ours is spacious with a settee for additional seating. From our window we have an incredible view of Mt. Washington. A book is provided for a self guided tour. The elevator requires an operator. "Now that's a throw back to the past." The hotel even has its own Post Office.





The Weather Observatory on Mt. Washington with transmitting radio towers.



A tour of Bretton Woods, Mount Washington Resort.