

# Ride from Nashua to Canada History Meets Nature up North

A winding, scenic route will take you all the way from Nashua to the Canadian border — Route 3, known for some of its stretch as Daniel Webster Highway.

In order to reach the wilder parts of Route 3 (and skip some of the city traffic), take Interstate 93 to Exit 20 for Tilton. From there, U.S. 3 follows I-93 through the Lakes Region and north into the White Mountains.

Just off northern Route 3, on to Route 110, in Stark, is the sight of a WWII prisoner of war camp often referred to as “Stark Decency,” which is also the name of the novel written about the site. The Stark Camp was noted for its good treatment of German soldiers captured in North Africa and Normandy and its practices as a U.S. POW camp. Many prisoners were so taken by the area and the friendships they made during their stay that they decided to settle in the Stark area after their release at the end of the war.



Just before entering the downtown area of Lancaster you'll reach the location of the John Wingate Weeks Historic Site. Set at the top of Mt. Prospect, the estate-turned-museum was built to the specifications of its namesake, who was a leading conservationist, U.S. senator and Secretary of War under presidents Harding and

Coolidge. The 420-acre state park was given to the state by the Weeks children in 1941. It is the stop of choice for a 360-degree view of New Hampshire and Vermont mountain ranges.

If you're planning your trip for the first week of September, you can stop by the Lancaster Fair, directly on Route 3, from Sept. 3 to Sept. 7, 2009, at Fred C. Lee Memorial Field. The fair covers 65 acres and offers everything a country fair should have. To learn more about this year's event, visit [www.lancasterfair.com](http://www.lancasterfair.com). Lancaster offers several dining options, including the eclectic Common Ground Café, attached to Simon The Tanner. The location in downtown Lancaster is home of the religious community known as the 12 Tribes, which operates the organic-food-focused café.

## Where to Eat

### ABOVE THE NOTCH RESTAURANT

729 Main St., Franconia  
823-8077

### BACK LAKE TAVERN RESTAURANT

145 Beach Road, Pittsburg  
538-6521

### BLACK BEAR BISTRO

38 King Sq., Whitefield  
837-3873

### BUCK RUB PIZZA PUB

U.S. 3, Pittsburg  
538-6935

### CAMP

298 DW Highway, Meredith  
279-3003

### GRANDMA'S KITCHEN

Lancaster Road, Whitefield  
837-2525

### HAPPY CORNER CAFÉ

U.S. 3, Pittsburg  
538-1144

### HOWARD'S RESTAURANT

143 Main St., Colebrook  
237-5081

### ITALIAN FARMHOUSE

337 DW Highway, Plymouth  
536-4536

### LONGHORN PALACE INC

408 U.S. 3, Lincoln  
745-2403

### SCORPIO'S PIZZERIA

180 Main St., Lancaster  
788-3660

### STONE'S PIZZA

19 State St., Groveton  
636-2205

### TRAILSTOP CAFÉ

1858 U.S. 3, North Stratford  
922-3435

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The Connecticut River has served as a lifeline for the remote communities that dot Route 3 north of Lancaster. In the past, every spring would be marked by “log-runs” when logging companies would float timber down the river to mills in southern towns. Along your trip you’ll encounter the site of the Groveton Paper Mill, not far from the location of the Stark Camp.



The views along this trip are breathtaking. Be alert for long stretches of highway that are well known as wildlife crossings. Route 3 from Pittsburg to the Canadian border is commonly known as “Moose Alley,” since the area’s moose population is more than 10,000 strong. You’ll notice the large yellow highway signs that warn “Brake for moose. It could save your life.”



Moose and deer love to hang out along the edges of highways adjacent to watering holes and feeding grounds. Pittsburg is New Hampshire’s northernmost town and a final outpost before the Canadian border. If you’re interested in camping in Pittsburg, check out Deer Mountain Campground, part of the New Hampshire Parks System. This location is recommended for tenting only, with limited amenities, and requires reservations. Since the campground is located in

## OxxCycle Trip Tips: Route 3

**Route 3 starts** at the Massachusetts border as a highway and becomes Everett Turnpike, with tolls. Old Route 3 — DW Highway — is Nashua’s commercial strip. As the road winds through Merrimack, get off the turnpike and onto Route 3 for a more scenic experience.

**In Manchester**, DW Highway winds through the city and toward Hooksett through the North End. (Getting hot? Stop at the Puritan Backroom for homemade ice cream.)

**North of the Queen City**, Route 3 winds through Hooksett, Suncook and Pembroke, heading to Concord east of I-93.

**After passing through Concord**, Route 3 swings west of I-93 through Franklin, where the road turns east and crosses I-93 as it runs toward Laconia and the southern side of the Lakes Region.

**After Holderness**, the road swings south, crosses I-93 again and then snakes around it as both roads head north into the White Mountain National Forest.

**Southeast of Franconia**, I-93 and Route 3 split and Route 3 heads northeast to Twin Mountain.

**From Twin Mountain to the border with Quebec**, the road travels almost straight north through Bloomfield, Colebrook, Stewartstown and Pittsburg and into the Connecticut Lakes region.

the Connecticut Lakes State Forest and has a 22- tent-site limit, this location is pristine and quiet. All you’ll need to strap to your bike is a tent and a sleeping bag. For more information on the state parks, visit

[www.nhstateparks.org](http://www.nhstateparks.org).

For information on the Great North Woods, visit [www.greatnorthwoods.org](http://www.greatnorthwoods.org). Happy riding!



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**CYCLE** MAGAZINE

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