Headline: New Hampshire village a skier’s utopia

Deckhead: Slopes, adventure and beauty describe North Conway

Skiing is synonymous with Colorado. The state boasts many of the finest slopes and resort towns in the U.S. Millions flock to the state annually for the opportunity to glide down its white-powered mountains.

It’s an experience that should be on any skier’s bucket list, but one doesn’t need to travel across the country to find premier slopes. New Hampshire is hiding a small town that is waiting to be uncovered.

North Conway is home to fewer than 2,500 people and sits in the Mount Washington Valley on the east-central side of the state. It’s more than a community. It’s a village; a natural wonder comprised of close-knit residents, aged architecture and a chain of mountains.

North Conway is considered to be of the best ski towns in the U.S. and one of the U.S. And who could question it?

There are 13 ski areas within a 30-minute drive of the village. Boasting the highest point in the Northeast – Mount Washington at 6,288 feet – North Conway serves as the backdrop to more than 700,000 acres of protected White Mountain Forest.

Norman Rockwell could not have painted a more fitting setting.

The town’s lights sparkle through light snowflakes during the winter, giving it a snow-globe persona while assuring guests they couldn’t have chosen a better place in the Northeast to fulfill their famished appetites for adventure.

Visitors can choose from a plethora of winter activities, including skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, skating and dog sledding, to name a few. Enjoy a traditional or romantic sleigh ride over the pristine snow. Witness panoramic mountain views as the sleigh is drawn through evergreen forests, snowfields and along the Saco River.

Lodging and dining match the outdoors attractions. Guests can choose from country inns, cottages, B&Bs and romantic getaways. Find a spot at a campground or RV resort or choose from a selection of resorts.

An abundance of restaurants and cuisine choices surround North Conway. Choose from casual to fine dining, from seafood to barbecue, as well as their farm-to-table menus. Visit a pub or tavern for a toddy and sandwich. Dine aboard a dinner train, ride a chairlift for lunch on the summit or enjoy a themed international meal along with a presentation of the featured region.

North Conway is a year-round destination. Scenic attractions include Diana’s Bath Waterfalls, Conway Scenic Railroad, Echo Lake State Park and the Kancamagus Scenic Highway. Alpine slides and ziplines are among the more popular activities in the warm months. The Nor’easter Mountain Coaster takes riders more than 1,400 feet high before dropping them nearly 3,000 feet down the hill.

Playhouses, art centers and museums offer prime entertainment, and a host of golf courses surround the community. Shops and boutiques add ambiance to the downtown district.

Sometimes, it takes a village to create the ideal destination. North Conway is that village.

Pull text

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Cutline: TAKE A PEAK – Mount Washington serves as the backdrop to the small town of North Conway, New Hampshire. Image: amzani81. Adobe Stock.