MT. WASHINGTON FACTS

- The Mount Washington Cog Railway—the 1st mountain-climbing cog railway in the world—is a National Historic Engineering Landmark.
- Mt. Washington, in the heart of the White Mountain National Forest, is the highest summit in the northeastern US.
- Darby Field of Exeter NH, is the first white man known to reach the summit in 1642.
- The biodiesel trains burn only 16–18 gallons of fuel per round trip.
- Coal-fired steam locomotives use one ton of coal plus 1,000 gallons of water on this ascent.
- You gain 20 minutes of daylight on the summit.
- The oldest building on the summit is the Tip Top House, built in 1853.
- The temperature falls below zero on over 65 days every year.
- The lowest recorded temperature at the summit was 49°F below zero; the highest, 74°F.
- A continental ice sheet once covered Mount Washington. It left behind unique alpine plants found only here and in the near-arctic regions of Labrador.
- The dwarf cinquefoil is a flower found only on Mt. Washington and Mt. Lafayette.
- There is permanently frozen ground just beneath the summit, 6288’ above sea level.
- The average annual snowfall is 177 inches and average wind velocity is 37 mph.
- Hurricane wind velocity of 75 mph is attained on over half of the days during the winter months.
- The highest wind velocity ever observed by man was on Mt. Washington—231 mph in April, 1934.
- The summit climate is similar to that of 50,000 to 100,000 years ago and is the same as Labrador.
- There have been four summit houses, the last and current being the Sherman Adams Summit House, which opened in 1980.
- Mt. Washington is a 59-acre NH state park.
- The Omni Mount Washington Resort in the valley, built in 1902, was the site of the Bretton Woods International Monetary Conference, held in 1944.

TRIP COMPANION
GUIDE & MAP

THE MOUNT WASHINGTON
COG RAILWAY
SINCE 1869

A HERITAGE OF INGENUITY
19th Century meets 21st Century

ON SEPT. 6, 2008, the Mount Washington Cog Railway’s first biodiesel-powered Cog locomotive was dedicated by Governor John Lynch in a ceremony at Marshfield Base Station. Named Wajo Nanatasis (pronounced “Wadzo Nanna-tassis”), Native American Abenaki for “Mountain Hummingbird”, it marked a new era for this enduring National Engineering Landmark. The advent of biodiesel continues the tradition of innovation and improvement that has characterized the Cog Railway since its first trip in 1869.

FOR THE FIRST FORTY YEARS of the Cog’s operation, wood-fired boilers powered the train to the 6,288’ summit of New England’s highest peak, Mount Washington. Around 1910, coal was introduced. The inauguration of Wajo Nanatasis signaled the intention to supplement the coal-fueled locomotives with biodiesel engines, which will diminish emissions and conserve fossil fuels. Since that date in September 2008, three more biodiesel locomotives have been added to the growing fleet.

A SOURCE OF PRIDE TO THE COG RAILWAY is that the new locomotives were designed and constructed on-site, in workshops near Marshfield Station. This accomplishment is a culmination of over 30 years of experimentation with diesel locomotives and would not have been possible without 21st century technology. For example, the new locomotives have a computer package on board that serves both to govern the engine and to monitor the engine’s exact position on the track. The development of biodiesel surged world-wide since 2000, making it feasible as a major source of energy. The arrival of mechanical engineer Al LaPrade, a recent retiree of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, brought up-to-date expertise to the project. Al worked with John Deere and several New Hampshire-based manufacturers in designing the drive train and Charles Kenison, GM, designed the state-of-the-art electronics.

WITH BIODIESEL-POWERED TRAINS, you enjoy the same experience that has thrilled passengers for over 140 years. The trains run on the same tracks and use the unique cog technology. Abiding still, are the splendors of New England’s highest peak and the breathtaking straddle of Jacob’s Ladder. Now, passengers may also marvel at how the Mount Washington Cog Railway has combined 19th century and 21st century technologies to carry on a heritage of ingenuity.

MOUNTAIN ELEVATIONS
In order of position from north to south:

- Madison. . . . . . . . . . . 5,380 ft. Eisenhower . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4,775 ft.
- Washington . . . . . . . 6,288 ft. Jefferson . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5,725 ft.
- Adams . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5,805 ft. Clinton . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4,275 ft.
- Monroe . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5,390 ft. Clay . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5,553 ft.
- Quincy Adams . . . . . . . 5,470 ft. Jackson . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4,012 ft.
- Franklin . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5,028 ft. Webster . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3,875 ft.
- Sam Adams . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5,585 ft.

Don’t forget to visit The Cog Museum at the Base Station. You’ll learn more about The Cog and view the historic video.

Base Station Rd, Marshfield Station, NH (6 miles from Rt. 302 and Bretton Woods)
603-278-5404 • thecog.com • Mailing address: Mt. Washington, NH 03589
Enjoy your trip!