Explore the restaurant scene in Concord’s downtown. Whether you’re looking for casual dining or something a little more upscale, Concord is home to dozens of restaurants to please all palates. From burgers and beer at the Barley House to surf and turf at O Steak & Seafood, Concord offers a range of options. From pizza and burritos to Thai and Indian food to other simple takeout or sit-down meals. We have you covered.

Visit the New Hampshire State House for a guided tour. You can’t help but notice the golden dome atop the state capitol building. It is the place where presidential candidates come to register for N.H.’s first-in-the-nation primary. Wondering what goes on inside the state legislature, which boasts 400 Representatives and 24 Senators, making it the largest legislature in the United States? Come by and take a closer look.

Attend one of the many festivals held downtown throughout the year, including Halloween Howl, Midnight Merriment, Winter Festival, and Market Days. Concord locals and other area residents flock downtown for these annual traditions, which feature trick-or-treating at local businesses on Main Street, holiday shopping until midnight in the glow of the City’s 40-foot-tall Christmas tree, and shopping, food, and fun activities for families in the summer. You can visit Main Street’s boutique shops and cafes year-round, and in the warmer months head downtown for the weekly Farmer’s Market and pop-up Arts Market.

Visit Red River Theatres or one of Concord’s live performing arts venues. Red River is a true independent theater, featuring an intimate setting in the heart of Concord’s downtown. It offers an ideal night out for the serious movie lover. The Capitol Center for the Arts features a lineup of musicians, comedians, and theater performances in a variety of genres, and the recently renovated Bank of New Hampshire Stage is a 300-seat venue dedicated to niche, indie, and up-and-coming performing artists.

Take a jog around Concord’s many beautiful trails and neighborhoods including White Park, located across the street from UNH Franklin Pierce. Enjoy the colorful fall foliage of New England and the budding flowers of springtime while getting to know the streets and woods of Concord. On your route, you will see the friendly faces of residents and their dogs as you familiarize yourself with city life beyond the law school.
6 Enjoy the seasons by apple picking at one of Concord’s many orchards in the fall or visiting a local sugar shack in the spring. What better way to spend a beautiful autumn day in New Hampshire than by picking apples grown by local farmers at one of several nearby orchards? Oh, and don’t forget to try the warm apple cider doughnuts. Find out why real maple syrup tastes so much better by discovering how sap is collected from maple trees and boiled to make the sweet stuff.

7 Enjoy the outdoors in all seasons, including hiking in the White Mountains, swimming in fresh water in the Lakes Region, or skiing at Pats Peak and other local mountains. In Concord alone you can explore the expansive trail network, ice skate and sled at White Park, try Nordic skiing on the public trails at Beaver Meadow Golf Course, go kayaking or canoeing on the Contoocook River, or rent a rail-bike and pedal on the scenic rail trail.

8 Take a day trip to Boston, which is only an hour away by car. Just a quick ride down I-93 will bring you to the heart of Beantown, where history and culture collide. Boston is home to shopping, eateries (be sure to try Italian food in the North End after visiting Faneuil Hall) theater, music, and countless other events. You can also spend a day at the New England Aquarium, walk the Freedom Trail, or hang out in the Public Garden, where you can ride the famous swan boats. Before you leave, make sure to stop at historic Fenway Park to cheer on the Red Sox.

9 Visit New Hampshire’s Seacoast in neighboring cities such as Portsmouth, Hampton, or Rye. When the sea calls, Concord is only an hour away from the Atlantic Ocean. With 18 miles of coastline to explore, the nearest beach is just a quick drive away. Combine that with a day strolling along the cobblestoned streets of one of the quaint cities and towns on the Seacoast and you will feel like a true New Englander before you know it.

10 Shop at retail stores and outlets. If you travel 20 minutes north or south of Concord, you will find the Tanger Outlets in Tilton and the Merrimack Premium Outlets in Merrimack. These shopping centers offer great brands at significant discounts.