



MANY CONSIDER NEW HAMPSHIRE to be the contra dance capital of the world. For centuries, community members and visitors have gathered together to swing, stomp, and dance in town halls and community centers. Today, the modern popularity of contra dances across the United States trace their roots to the old town halls and dance floors of New Hampshire.

The 2016 Traditional Dance Trail features eighteen dances which take place every month in communities across the state. All dances have live music which is influenced by our state's French-Canadian, English, Irish, and Scottish heritage. You will often hear a fiddle, piano, and a variety of other instruments. A dance caller guides you through each dance by announcing a series of steps. Some dances have beginner workshops or lessons, and anyone can join in at anytime. No partner? No problem! At contra dances, you switch partners often throughout the night. Experienced dancers will be eager to help you with the figures. Grab some friends and head to a local dance!

The NH State Council on the Arts is funded through appropriations from the New Hampshire State Legislature and from a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

WHAT ARE TRADITIONAL DANCES? These dances are open to the public, have live music, and a dance caller. The steps and formations have been passed down and adapted since colonial times.

DANCES FEATURED:

Contra

Dance sequences that involve many couples forming a line down the dance floor. Each couple changes neighbors many times throughout the night. The popularity of contra dance across the United States can be traced to musicians, callers, and communities in New Hampshire.

English Country

These dances originated in 17th century English courts and were brought to New England by colonists. Today, many people are writing new dances in that style.

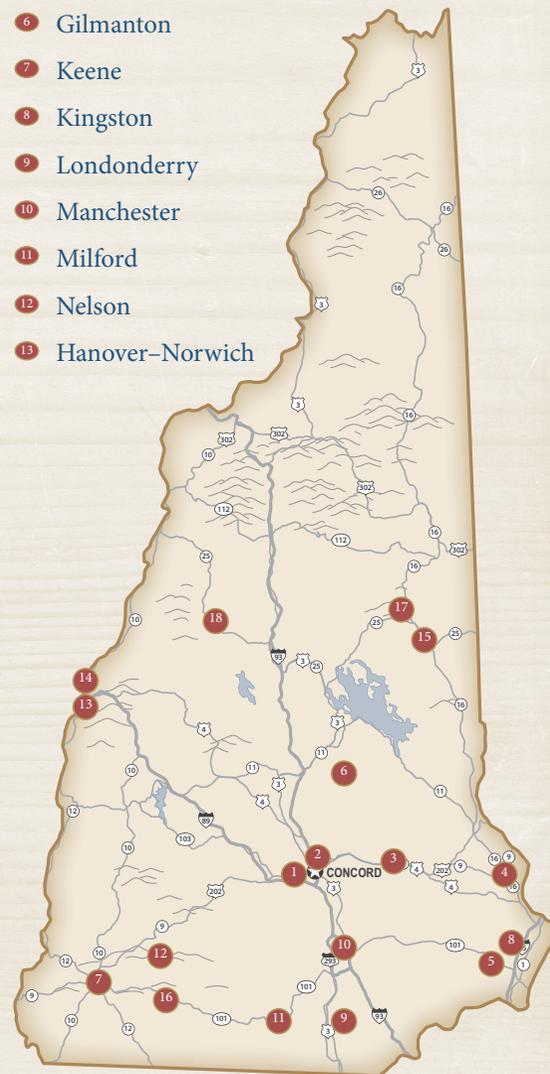
Square

Dance sequences that involve 4 couples, typically in a square formation.

Photos Courtesy
 Carol Ansel, Elizabeth Faiella, Doug Plummer (cover), Valerie VanMeier, and the NH State Council on the Arts

2016 TRADITIONAL DANCE TRAIL
 LIVE FREE and *dance*

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 East Concord | 14 Hanover-Norwich (English Country) |
| 2 Concord (English Country) | 15 Ossipee |
| 3 Deerfield | 16 Peterborough |
| 4 Dover | 17 Tamworth |
| 5 Exeter | 18 Wentworth |
| 6 Gilmanton | |
| 7 Keene | |
| 8 Kingston | |
| 9 Londonderry | |
| 10 Manchester | |
| 11 Milford | |
| 12 Nelson | |
| 13 Hanover-Norwich | |



NEW HAMPSHIRE'S TRADITIONAL DANCE TRAIL

CONTRA, SQUARE & ENGLISH COUNTRY

LIVE FREE and *dance*



2016 TRADITIONAL DANCE CALENDAR



1 EAST CONCORD

Location: East Concord Community Center, 18 Eastman St.
Dates: Third Saturday of every month except July & August
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra & barn dances with live music
Admission: \$7 | ages 15-25 \$5 | under age 15 free

2 CONCORD, ENGLISH COUNTRY

Location: West St. Ward House, 41 West St.
Dates: Second Sunday of every month except July & August
Time: 6pm
Featuring: English Country dances with live music
Admission: \$10 | NHECDS members \$9

3 DEERFIELD

Location: Town Hall, 6 Church St.
Dates: First Saturday of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | ages 8-12 \$3

4 DOVER

Location: Dover City Hall, 288 Central Ave.
Dates: First Thursday of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with the Lamprey River Band, guest musicians & callers
Admission: \$7 | students \$5

5 EXETER

Location: UU Church, 12 Elm St.
Dates: Second Saturday of every month
Time: 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$6 | students \$3 | under age 12 free

6 GILMANTON

Location: Old Town Hall, Rt 140
Dates: Second Saturday of every month
Time: 8pm, beginner lesson at 7:30pm
Featuring: contras & squares dances with live music
Admission: \$8

7 KEENE

Location: Heberton Hall, in the Keene Public Library Annex, 60 Winter St.
Dates: First Friday of every month, October through May
Time: 6:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: Free

8 KINGSTON

Location: Kingston Town Hall, 163 Main St.
Dates: Most fourth Saturdays of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | students \$5

9 LONDONDERRY

Location: Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Rd.
Dates: Second Friday of every month
Time: 8pm, beginner lesson at 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | under age 12 \$3

10 MANCHESTER

Location: Mill-Around-Dance Studio in the historic Waumbec Mill, 250 Commercial St.
Dates: Third Friday of every month
Time: 8pm, beginner lesson at 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | students \$5 | under age 12 free

11 MILFORD

Location: Milford Town Hall, 3rd floor Auditorium, 1 Union Sq.
Dates: Fourth Friday of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$7 | 1/2 price ages 6-12 with adult | under age 6 free

12 NELSON

Location: Nelson Town Hall, Nelson Common Rd.
Dates: Every Monday night
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$3

13 HANOVER-NORWICH

Location: Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Norwich
Dates: Second & Fourth Saturday of every month except July and August
Time: 8pm, with newcomers' workshop at 7:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | students \$4 | seniors by donation | under age 16 free

14 HANOVER-NORWICH, ENGLISH COUNTRY

Location: Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Norwich
Dates: Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 27 April 24, Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11
Time: Jan through April, dance starts at 3pm; Sept through Dec, dance starts at 1pm
Featuring: English country dances
Admission: \$8 | youth \$5 | \$1 discount for members of Muskeg Music or Country Dance and Song Society

15 OSS�PEE-WOLFEBORO

Location: Wolfeboro Town Hall, 84 S. Main St.
Dates: Fourth Saturday of every month
Time: 7pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$7 | students & seniors \$5 | under age 12 \$3

16 PETERBOROUGH

Location: Peterborough Town House, 1 Grove St.
Dates: First Saturday of every month
Time: 8pm, beginner walk through 7:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$10 | students & seniors \$7

17 TAMWORTH

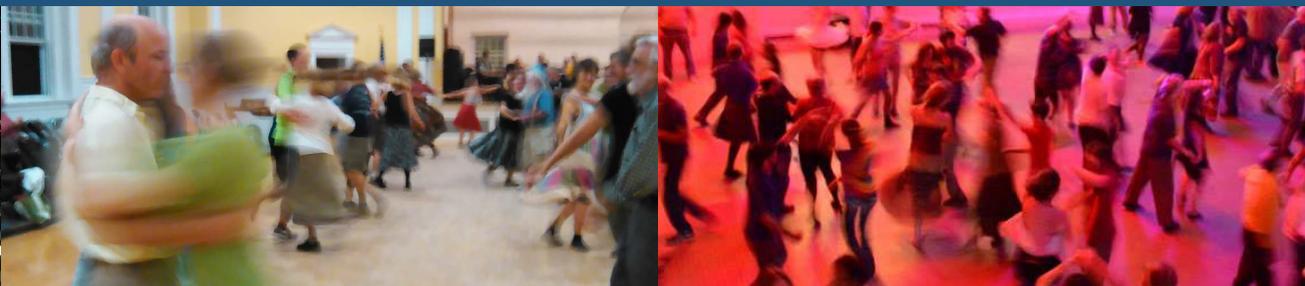
Location: Second floor of the Tamworth Town House, 27 Cleveland Hill Rd.
Dates: most Saturday evenings from Independence Day through Labor Day, New Year's Eve & other special dates
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$7 | under age 15 \$3

18 WENTWORTH

Location: Wentworth Town Hall, 10 Eastside Rd.
Dates: First Fridays of every month except July
Time: 8pm
Featuring: primarily singing-style eastern squares, with a few other formations and live music
Admission: \$7 | couples \$12 | children free

LIVE FREE and

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All dance schedules are subject to change.
For contact information and to learn more
about traditional dancing visit:

www.nh.gov/folklife