

Thoreau's Concord

A TRANSCENDENTALIST JOURNEY IN MASSACHUSETTS

Henry David Thoreau wrote *Walden* - his well-loved musings on nature, solitude, and mankind - during his time in a self-made shack at Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. Today, Concord still breathes with the spirit of Thoreau. Go beyond the pond to these sites touched by the life and works of the influential writer, transcendentalist, and nature-lover.



A summer afternoon at Walden Pond

REFLECTIONS ON WALDEN POND

Thoreau's most famous work, *Walden*, was created in the woods along the shoreline of **Walden Pond** in a small, one-room room home he built for himself in 1845.

Over the course of two years and two months at the pond, Thoreau lived simply and supported himself solely by his own hand. During this time, Thoreau kept journal records of his theories and observations of both nature and man. The resulting *Walden* is undoubtedly one of the most significant American literary works of the era.

Take a leisurely hike around Walden Pond and dedicate a few moments to quiet pondering at the **original site of Thoreau's cabin (1)**. A replica of the little house stands near the **Visitor Center (2)**.



Lush landscapes and inspiring spaces at The Old Manse



Dining at 80 Thoreau
photo credit: 80 Thoreau



Lounge at the Hawthorne Inn
photo credit: Hawthorne Inn

TRANSCENDENTALIST HOTSPOTS

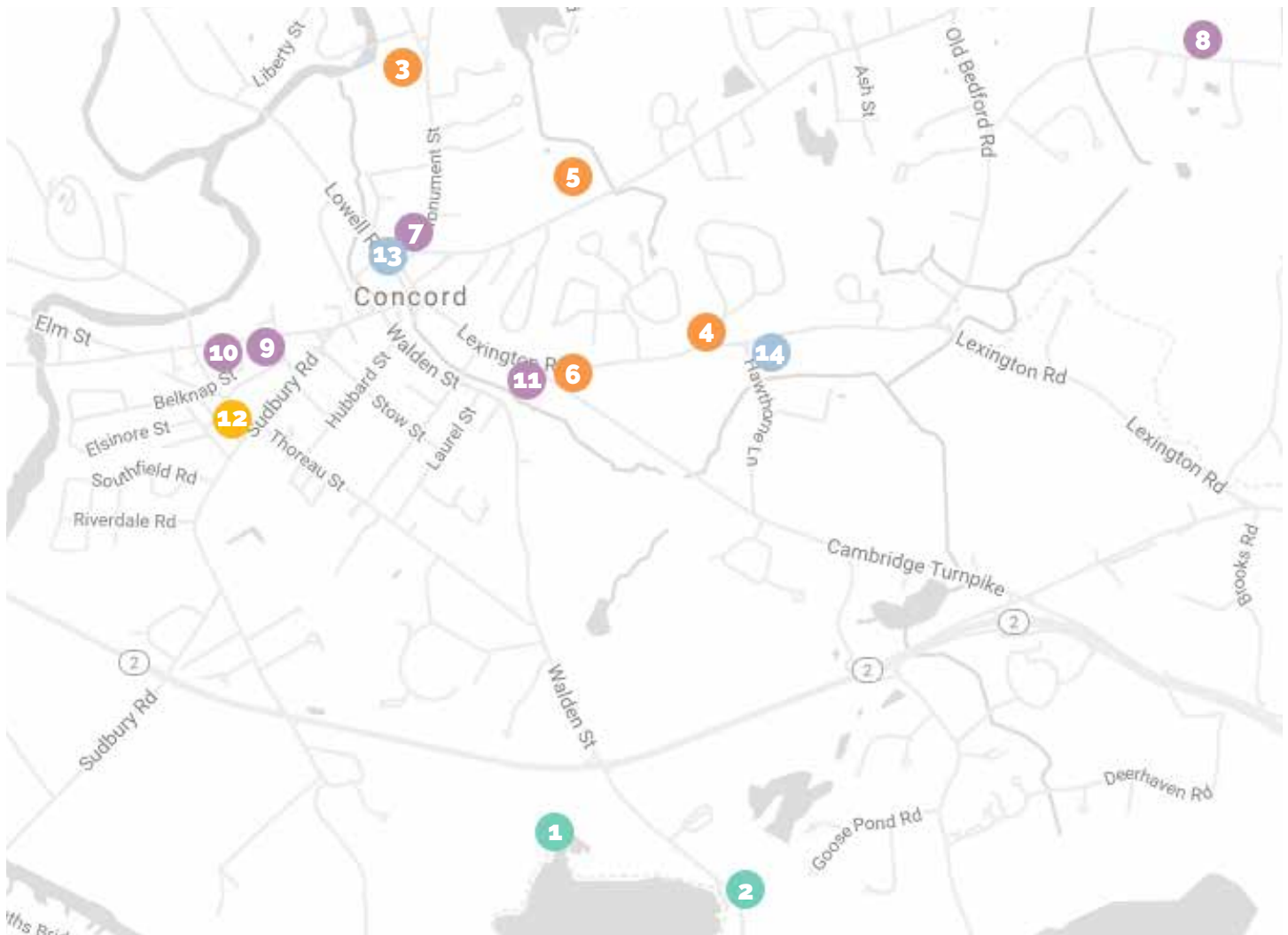
The Concord literary group, often referred to as the founding transcendentalist members, spent a great deal of time together. Explore the sites where the ideas of several American literary greats were exchanged and live on today.

The Old Manse (3) sits on the picturesque Concord River, where Hawthorne and Thoreau shared an affinity for the outdoors and found inspiration in the grounds' lush, scenic landscapes.

The Orchard House (4) is best known as the *Little Women* house, home to notables Louisa May Alcott (author of the beloved novel), and transcendentalist Bronson Alcott.

Author's Ridge at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (5) is the resting place for many notable writers, including Emerson, Alcott, and Hawthorne.

The Concord Museum (6) maintains a permanent exhibit of Thoreau (and other major Concord-based writers). A **special exhibit** is set to be on display at the Concord Museum from September 29, 2017 - January 21, 2018, and will feature the most comprehensive collection of Thoreau's journals, manuscripts, personal effects, and more.



NOTABLE RESIDENCES OF THOREAU

Make yourself at home in historic Concord with a walking tour of Henry David Thoreau's former homes. Add an extra layer to your stay by booking a room at the Concord Colonial Inn, a temporary home for Thoreau while he attended Harvard.

The **Cottage (7)** was the 1812 home and workplace for Thoreau's parents.

Thoreau Farm (8) is where Thoreau was born on July 12, 1817.

185 Main Street (9), now part of the **Concord Academy**, served as residence to the Thoreau family for eight years. Nearby is **255 Main Street (10)**, Thoreau's final home and where he passed away in 1862.

Emerson welcomed Thoreau to stay at **his house (11)** for two years, during which time they developed key transcendentalist philosophies.

BEYOND CONCORD

While Thoreau traveled throughout Massachusetts for much of the 19th century lecturing and recording his observations of nature, there were a few places that were especially influential on his works.

Thoreau graduated from **Harvard College** in Cambridge in 1837, and lived briefly at **4 Pinckney Street** in Boston's Beacon Hill neighborhood.

Thoreau walked the length of **Cape Cod** on four separate occasions between 1849 and 1857 for his travelogue *Cape Cod*, and found a particular interest in **Provincetown**, **Wellfleet**, and **Truro**.

TRANSCENDENTALIST EATS

Thoreau and his peers believed in living simply and moving closer to natural states of being, making them the ultimate locovores! Concord cuisine continues to embrace this locally-grown tradition through many of the area restaurants.

West Concord is home to some of the freshest food in New England with restaurants like **Woods Hill Table** and **Saltbox Kitchen**. While each has its own distinct menu and feel, both celebrate local, wholesome ingredients that come together for deliciously satisfying and memorable meals.

Thoreau-inspired dining would not be complete without farm-to-fork fare from **80 Thoreau (12)**. This highly rated restaurant combines rustic ambiance with classic New England flavors to create a definitive transcendentalist dining experience.

WRITERS' QUARTERS

Historic Concord housed some of the most influential American authors of the 1700s and 1800s. Today, visitors can find strong historic ties, and contrasting styles, at The Concord Colonial Inn and Hawthorne Inn.

Concord Colonial Inn (13), briefly resided by Thoreau, dates back to 1716 and epitomizes a historical New England hospitality experience.

Hawthorne Inn (14) is an exquisitely decorated, boutique b&b that resides on land once owned by Emerson, Alcott, and Hawthorne.