

Local Hiking Trails

Deer Leap Trail

The Deer Leap trail is an offshoot of the nearby Appalachian Trail that is a relatively short but rugged hike to the top of a rock outcrop with dramatic views of the Coolidge Range and Sherburne Pass.

The Hike: Follow the Sherburne Pass trail north to the junction with the Appalachian Trail at .5 miles (see map). The Appalachian Trail north continues to the right in an easterly direction to Gifford Woods State Park (1 mile), on its way to New Hampshire and Maine. To continue the Deer Leap loop, take the Appalachian Trail to the south and you will almost immediately reach the junction with the Deer Leap trail, with blue blazes. Take the Deer Leap trail as it climbs quickly to a small ridge and through open birch forest to another junction at .9 miles. The trail to the left is the .25 mile long Deer Leap overlook trail. From the overlook, return the way you came to the Deer Leap trail junction. Turn left at the junction and you will soon descend steeply to a small brook and then climb over Big Deer Mountain. The trail then descends gradually to a junction with the Appalachian Trail (1.8 miles). Turn right and follow the Appalachian Trail north back to its junction with the Sherburne Pass Trail (2.6 miles), and the parking lot on Route 4 (3.1 miles).

Getting There: The trail starts on the east side of the Inn at Long Trail on the north side of Route 4. There is limited parking on the north side but ample parking on the south side of Route 4, however be very careful crossing the highway at that point.

Blue Ridge Mountain

Blue Ridge Mountain starts out at a gradual incline, and then you start approaching the waterfall. At that point it turns fairly steep for about 1.5 Miles. It is a great challenge, and the trail is pretty well maintained. There are not a lot of side trails so it is easy to not get lost, and the views from both look outs are great. There is points where the trail gets rocky, but there are no vertical or open rockfaces. At one point I saw about 10 Asprey's flying around at the top and it was an amazing site to see. If you continue down the other side of the mountain it brings you out just forward of the Chittenden Dam. The hike to the summit and back is about 5.2 miles and is a good challenge for any skill level.

Directions:

Take Route 4 East into Mendon, until you come to the Killington Pico Motor Lodge, and there is a road directly across the street called Old Turnpike Road. Take that left and about .5 miles up on the left is the entrance to the trail.

Killington Peak via Bucklin Trail

This is a hike up to Killington Peak where there are far-reaching panoramic views to the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Adirondacks of New York, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

- Start on the blue-blazed Bucklin Trail and follow it for 3.3 miles all the way to the junction with the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail. You will cross Brewers Brook on bridges after 0.2 mile and again at 1.2 miles into the hike. Bucklin Trail closely parallels Brewers Brook for about the first 1.4 miles of the hike. The first two miles climb gently and then the ascent becomes quite steep.
- Upon reaching the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail (they run together at this point), turn right and follow the white-blazed LT/AT for just 0.1 mile.
- Next, turn left onto Killington Spur which will lead you to the summit after a 0.2-mile pitch straight to the top with some scrambling up large rocks to the open, rocky peak.
- Descend via the same route. This is a hike up to Killington Peak where there are far-reaching panoramic views to the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Adirondacks of New York, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire.