

GO STOWE



Stowe
VERMONT

HIKING GUIDE

About the GoStowe Hiking Guide

- In this guide you'll find information about hiking trails in the greater Stowe, Waterbury and Mad River Valley region.
- Hiking distances and times are round-trip estimates.
- Directions begin from the Stowe Visitor Information Center located at [51 Main Street, Stowe, VT 05672](#).
- Hike within your ability level. These are suggested hikes and conditions change daily. Stowe Area Association assumes no liability for any injury sustained on these hikes.
- Trail conditions will vary according to location and weather.
- Please plan accordingly. Be aware of your surroundings, pack layers, bring extra food and water as well as a cell phone, and be aware of wildlife.
- No hiking on state-owned land above 2,500 feet prior to May 30 during "mud season."
- Stay on the trail to minimize damage to fragile trails and surrounding vegetation.
- Leave no trace: carry-in/carry-out carry any and all trash that you create, including food scraps, and help keep our trails beautiful and wildlife safe.
- The Green Mountain Club offers these hiking [trip planning resources](#) and [COVID-19 trail etiquette guidelines](#).
- The [Stowe-Waterbury Recreation Guide](#) is a convenient local map of most of the trails in this guide.

Images courtesy of: Grant Wieler & Mark Vandenberg

EASY HIKES

Cady Hill Forest

Type: Woods walk

Distance: 258 acres; 11.0 miles

Time: 1 – 5 hours, depending on trails taken

Climb: 300' - 1,500'

Trailhead Location: [Mountain Road, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

There are two parking areas used to access the Cady Hill Forest. For access from Mountain Road (Vermont Route 108), turn onto route 108 North from the historic village and continue about a mile to a parking lot on the left, across from the Springer-Miller office. For access from Waterbury-Stowe Road (Vermont Route 100), take route 100 South out of the historic village for about a half-mile. Turn right onto River Road and bear left after the bridge. Continue about a half-mile and turn right onto Cady Hill Road. There is a parking area about a half-mile up on the right. Access the trails at the end of Cady Hill Road.

About the Hike: The Cady Hill Forest is one of Stowe's most popular multi-use trail networks for mountain biking, trail running and hiking. This luscious trail system, conserved by the Stowe Land Trust and maintained by Stowe Trails Partnership, is well-known for its machine-built flowy trails and vibrant green growth, which many locals refer to as the "maple jungle." While the Cady Hill trail network is highly pursued by mountain bikers all over the northeast, it is also used by many hikers and trail runners looking to enjoy peaceful trails surrounded by beautiful trees.

Although this trail system does not offer as many viewpoints as some of Stowe's other more mountainous hikes, it has a popular vista viewpoint at the Green Chair overlooking Mount Mansfield. This view can be accessed from the Mountain Road parking lot via the Cady Hill Climb (one-way uphill). For a longer hike, take Sap Bucket to the Zog's intersection and choose either a loop left along the Cady Hill Connector or a loop right out along the Eagle Ridge Loop. Both options eventually get you back to Bear's. While trail maps are posted throughout the network, it's also a good idea to [download trail maps](#) onto your phone. After exploring, take Bear's (one-way downhill) to return to the Mountain Road parking lot.

Be aware, the Cady Hill trail network is frequented by mountain bikers, and certain trails like Florence, or "Flo," are exclusively reserved for mountain biking due to its high-speed nature. Please follow directional signage for trails, some of which are one-way only, and adhere to all posted trail closures. If you see or hear a mountain biker approaching, proper trail etiquette is to move to the side of the trail and wait for them to pass. Mountain bikers will often indicate if more members of their party are following.

The Cady Hill Forest trail network is maintained by Stowe Trails Partnership, a local non-profit organization that builds, maintains and expands more than 35 miles of trails all over Stowe. Much of the work is done by local volunteers. If you enjoy the trail system, consider a Stowe Trails Partnership/Vermont Mountain Bike Association membership, which costs \$49/year for an individual and \$98/year for a family, or make a one-time donation at any denomination you wish.

[View Trail Map](#)

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EASY HIKES

Kirchner Woods

Type: Woods walk

Distance: 75 acres; 0.6 – 2.5 miles

Time: < 1 hour

Climb: Mostly flat, 380' to the top of Summit Loop

Trailhead Location: [1491-1311, Taber Hill Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take School Street for about a half-mile. Bear left onto Taber Hill Road and continue for about 1.5 miles to the Kirchner Woods parking lot on the left.

About the Hike: The Kirchner Woods is a casual multi-use trail system under the cover of magnificent Sugar Maple trees, making it the perfect destination for leaf-peeping during the fall. This trail system is used primarily by hikers and trail runners, but is open to mountain biking (lower section only) and cross-country skiers and snowshoers (on designated trails) as well.

From the parking area, hikers will start out on Jerry's trail, a wide path of crushed rock which extends a quarter-mile, ending at an old Sugar House which was in active production until the early 1990's. Remnants of steel, pipeline and dumping stations used for collecting maple sap, in addition to neatly stacked galvanized buckets, can be found in many locations on the lower elevations of the property near the sugar house.

From the Sugar House, the hikers can choose to take the Sugar House Loop (0.3-mile loop) for a shorter hike with minimal incline, or head to the summit via the Lower Bucket Trail (0.3-mile trail) leading uphill. To reach the Summit Loop trail, hike to the end of Lower Bucket and take a right onto Maple Rise (0.2 miles). As the elevation increases, you will find more young red spruce trees among the sugar maple and hemlocks. The summit sits at 1580', which makes the total climb about 380' from the base, and features distant views through trees to the northwest of the Green Mountains.

[View Trail Map](#)

EASY HIKES

Sterling Falls Gorge (currently closed)

Type: Waterfall hike

Distance: 0.5 miles

Time: 40 minutes

Climb: 150'

Trailhead Location: [The end of Sterling Gorge Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take route 100 North 1.7 miles and turn left on Stagecoach Road. After driving about 1.6 miles, turn left and continue onto Sterling Valley Road for about 1.7 miles to a red covered bridge on your right. Take the slight right at this intersection, not crossing the bridge, to stay on Sterling Valley Road. Continue another 2.8 miles, then turn left at the small sign for Sterling Gorge Parking. This will lead to a small parking lot less than a half-mile in. The trail starts across the pedestrian bridge from the parking lot.

About the Hike: Sterling Falls Gorge is a short but informative, scenic hike around the outer limits of a beautiful gorge in Stowe's Sterling Valley. The trail consists of small, cascading falls, and has many signs describing the history, geology and lore about the gorge.

Although the falls are no greater than a few yards tall, the area tends to be significantly less crowded than other waterfalls in Stowe. As you walk the interpretive trail loop, be mindful of areas roped off for your safety. The gorge consists of three falls, six cascade sets and eight pools; however, not all are visible from the trail in the summer months with leaves on the trees obstructing the view. To swim in the natural pool, pick up the trail across the bridge from the parking lot and follow it down to the middle set of falls where there is a large, clear pool that is perfect for swimming.

Extensive [hiking trails branch off nearby](#) Sterling Falls Gorge, winding all throughout the Sterling Forest. Explore with care, and [download a copy of the trail map](#) as cell phone reception can be limited in this area of town.

[View Trail Map](#)

EASY HIKES

Sunset Rock

Type: Short hike

Distance: 1.0 miles

Time: < 1 hour

Climb: 200'

Trailhead Location: [The end of Sunset Ave, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take Sunset Street to the end. The trail starts to the left of the road. Alternate directions, shorter climb: from the historic village, take School Street for about 0.4 miles. Bear left onto Taber Hill Road and continue for about 800' to the parking lot on the left.

About the Hike: Sunset Rock is a short hike that starts in the heart of Stowe's historic Village, providing a forested backdrop, recreational opportunities and scenic vistas. It's the perfect place for a picnic with a view.

The best way to visit Sunset Rock is to walk from the Historic Village via the Sunset Rock Trail located at the end of Sunset Street. Visitor parking is prohibited at the end of Sunset Street, but ample parking is available behind the Stowe Community Church at the beginning of the Stowe Recreation Path and along Main Street.

The Sunset Rock Trail ascends steeply for about 200 yards with an elevation gain of 100 feet to the actual Sunset Rock and its birds eye view of Main Street.

Just past Sunset Rock is the Glacial Kettle Hole, formed 10,000 years ago as the glaciers receded and the raging melt-waters filled the valley below. The kettle hole was created by small pebbles swirling in the whirlpool that eroded the rock, forming the circular hole.

The trail continues to climb for another quarter-mile to the Upper Overlook with a spectacular view of Mount Mansfield to the west. Just before arriving at the Upper Overlook, the trail passes the intersection with the Taber Path.

For a shorter hike with less elevation gain, park at the Sunset Rock parking area on Taber Hill Road. From this parking lot, it is an easy quarter-mile walk along the Access Road to the Upper Overlook. The walk can be done as a loop, returning via the Sunset Rock Trail to the Taber Path and back to the parking lot.

[View Trail Map](#)

EASY HIKES

Wiessner Woods

Type: Half-day hike

Distance: 2.8 miles

Time: 2 hours

Climb: 900'

Trailhead Location: [Edson Hill Road, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take route 108 North 3.5 miles. Turn right on Edson Hill Road, taking the right directly after Stowehof Inn and park on the left.

About the Hike: The Wiessner Woods is a forested trail complex which features casual, relatively-flat trails for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. As the name suggests, the Wiessner Woods is almost entirely forested with a mix of Spruce, Pine, Hardwood and Hemlock trees. Some of these pines are almost 100 years old!

The trail system can be hiked as a loop in either direction, but is most commonly hiked clockwise. From the trailhead, you will start out by hiking along a section of the Catamount Trail until you reach a trail divide with three trails branching out to the left, straight, and right. To make the clockwise loop, take a left onto Meadow Trail which will lead to the Meadow Overlook, featuring views towards Mount Mansfield that are framed by old stonewalls dating back to the 1800s when the Weissner Woods was a farm. Keep a lookout for signs of fox, coyote, and other wildlife traveling along the edge of the meadow where there is good cover and food.

As you make your way around the Meadow, you will pass a Vernal Pool on your left where Woodland salamanders and frogs lay their eggs in the spring. These pools dry up in the summer. This area also often contains an interesting flower called Pink Lady's Slipper growing nearby.

Continue on and you will see a few more trail intersections on your right which lead you back to the parking area. You can take either of these for a shorter hike, or continue straight on Sugarshack Lane to do the full Sugarhouse Loop. As you would expect with a name like that, you will pass right by an old sugarhouse on your left.

Once around Sugarhouse Loop, you will come to an intersection with the Catamount Trail where you will take a left, leading you back to the parking area. At some point along the way, you will pass a cute Gnome Home and, if you are lucky, you may even find the Gnome of Wiessner Woods!

[View Trail Map](#)

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MODERATE HIKES

Bingham Falls from Route 108

Type: Waterfall hike

Distance: 0.5 miles

Time: 30 - 60 minutes

Climb: 200'

Trailhead Location: [6524-6892, Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take route 108 North 6.4 miles. About a half-mile after Stowe Vacation Rentals and the base of the Auto Toll Road, park in one of the dirt pull-offs located on both sides of the road. The trailhead is on the east side (on the right as you are driving up). Be mindful of all posted parking signs and only park in areas designated for parking. Be careful crossing the street and getting ready for your hike in these parking areas, as this section of Route 108 is a 50 MPH road.

About the Hike: Bingham Falls has quickly become one of the most popular waterfall hikes in Vermont due to its easy access, impressive geology, and photographic nature. The hike itself is only about a quarter-mile down to the falls, but it is steeper at the bottom and often can be wet and slippery, so proper hiking shoes with good tread are highly recommended. Certain sections of trail traverse close to the edge of the gorge. Although many of these sections are roped off, please make sure all members of your party, especially children, stay far away from these edges. A fall into the gorge can be fatal.

The trail starts off as an easy descent along a wide path which brings you to the top of the gorge. The trail comes to a fork where hikers can go left along the upper gorge or right to proceed down to the falls.

The upper gorge offers incredible views of the winding river which has cut snake-like curves into the giant rockface. There are less fences and rope railings in this section, so be careful as you traverse upriver. As you continue, you will find a small pool of water which looks deceptively calm. This pool funnels into high speed water vortexes which can be deadly, so hikers should not swim in this area, or any area above the falls.

To reach the falls, head right at the initial trail fork which leads down a skinny stone path, utilizing the stones as steps. These stones are almost always wet and slippery, so take your time and ensure each step you make is secure. Passing other hikers can be difficult in this section, so it is best to allow hikers coming uphill to make it to the top before you begin your descent.

You will soon reach the base of Bingham Falls which offers spectacular views of the 40-foot waterfall and a cool, refreshing mist. Take as many photos as you wish, and when you are ready, begin your ascent back up to the parking area.

Looking for a very different view of Bingham Falls? Check out the Bingham Falls via Mill Trail hike, which traverses the opposite side of the river, providing a spectacular birds-eye view of the falls and upper gorge.

[View Trail Map](#)

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MODERATE HIKES

Nebraska Notch/Lake Mansfield Trail

Type: Half-day hike

Distance: 3.2 miles

Time: 2.5 hours

Climb: 650'

Trailhead Location: [4400 Nebraska Valley Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take route 100 South about 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Moscow Road, continuing for 2.0 miles bearing right onto Nebraska Valley Road to the Lake Mansfield Trout Club. As you drive in, you will see signs indicating this is a private road for Lake Mansfield Trout Club Members. Proceed further and enter the Lake Mansfield Trout Club and park in the public hiking section of the parking lot on the right-hand side. At the trailhead there is a great view of a large glacial cirque (a rounded, scooped-out valley).

About the Hike: The Lake Mansfield Trail, also known as the Nebraska Notch Trail, is a great family hike that has something for everyone—sweeping valley views, a crystal-clear glacial pond, vibrant tree-covered hills, and even a small waterfall.

While less well-known than some of Stowe's more-popular intermediate trails, the Lake Mansfield Trail offers exceptional beauty in a secluded, serene setting. Cell service will be limited even before you arrive at the trailhead, so be sure to bring or [download a trail map](#) to your phone beforehand.

As you head out from the Lake Mansfield Trout Club trailhead, you will first hike along a sloped wooded area next to Lake Mansfield, offering beautiful views into its crystal clear waters as you weave between large boulders on the hillside. Please be courteous and observe all posted signs indicating which trails are open to the public and stay off private trails.

As you continue along, the trail will gradually increase in elevation and you will soon pass by a small waterfall. Continue further and you will arrive at an open valley featuring breathtaking views of a forested hillside, and large sections of exposed rock face. Although this area is beautiful year-round, it is especially magnificent in the fall as the hillside ignites with red, orange and yellow hues.

Soon after this, make your way along a ridge to arrive at the Taylor Lodge and a scenic vista looking out onto the rolling hillside. The Taylor Lodge is an overnight lodge used by many backpackers hiking for extended periods of time on the Long Trail.

[View Trail Map](#)

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MODERATE HIKES

Sterling Pond via Long Trail

Type: Half-day hike

Distance: 2.0 - 3.0 miles

Time: 2 - 3 hours

Climb: 880'

Trailhead Location: [6443 Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take Route 108 north about 9.7 miles to the top of Smugglers' Notch and park on the left in the scenic parking area. The trail starts across the road, and is a great hike on a well-maintained trail.

About the Hike: The Sterling Pond Trail is one of the most popular hikes in Smugglers' Notch, providing access to a unique mountain-top pond that is perfect for swimming, fishing (permit required), and observing wildlife. The hike to Sterling Pond is only about one mile each way, and connects to a variety of additional trails to rewarding vistas looking out over the mountains.

The hike itself starts out as a relatively steep climb up well-positioned rock steps and, though there are some flat parts, is sure to give your legs work-out. The majority of the hike is under the cover of trees, but as you make it further up the trail, you will start to see views in the distance through the thick tree cover. After about a mile, you will reach the intersection of the Long Trail and a sign directly in front of you will direct you to beautiful Sterling Pond, 0.1 miles to the left.. Volunteers from the Green Mountain Club may be on-site and can inform you about the area, wildlife, and native plant-life. Stay on designated trails and not wander off-trail, as much of the high-elevation vegetation is very fragile.

The vast majority of hikers that reach the Sterling Pond simply turn back and begin their descent. There are however many incredible view-points that are just a short-hike from the pond, most of which have very little elevation gain. Continue along the Long Trail North, which will take you to the top of the Madonna Chairlift at Smugglers' Notch Resort with spectacular mountain views looking north towards Canada. Alternatively, reverse course and take the Long Trail South (past the Sterling Pond Trail intersection) to reach the top of the Sensation Chairlift on Spruce Peak, a unique view of the taller Mount Mansfield to the right and the Worcester mountain range in the distance.

For those looking for more tranquility or a peaceful fishing spot, follow the loop around the Sterling Pond (1.4 miles). This is a narrow wooded trail that offers a variety of picturesque pond views and a better chance at seeing wildlife. While the walk is relatively easy with some hills mixed with flats, the rooty trail is often wet and can be slippery. After looping the pond, make your way back to the intersection of the Long Trail and Sterling Pond Trail and begin your descent down to the parking area.

[View Trail Map](#)

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MODERATE HIKES

Stowe Pinnacle

Type: Half-day hike

Distance: 3.6 miles

Time: 2.5 hours

Climb: 1,520'

Trailhead Location: [Upper Hollow Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take School Street for 0.3 miles. Bear right at the fork onto Stowe Hollow Road, continuing straight onto Upper Hollow Road about 2.0 miles from the historic village. Parking for the Stowe Pinnacle Trail is about 0.6 miles from the beginning of Upper Hollow Road. There is a secondary parking area at Stowe Meadows, which is off of Pinnacle Road (turn left just before the Stowe Pinnacle parking lot).

About the Hike: Stowe Pinnacle is a moderately difficult hike in Stowe Hollow which leads to one of the most photographed viewpoints in Vermont, and is a great day hike that will leave you feeling accomplished and in awe of the Green Mountains' incredible beauty.

Stowe Pinnacle can be hiked one of two ways: either from the trailhead on Upper Hollow Road (3.6 miles round-trip) or from the Pinnacle Meadows lot, which shortens the full hike by about a mile (2.6 miles round-trip).

The Stowe Pinnacle Trail from Upper Hollow Road starts off at a comfortable incline as it weaves through thick Vermont forest. The trail becomes steep in parts with a few rocky sections where some scrambling is required. Follow the blue blazes for a mile until the trail forks, then follow the signs for Stowe Pinnacle. Make note of which trail you came up to ensure you head back down the same way. Eventually, you will reach a steep set of stairs to the Pinnacle view-point. Climb the rocks and make your way around to the top of the rockface to find a nice spot to relax as you admire the breathtaking views of Camel's Hump, Mount Mansfield, the Worcester Range and the Sterling Range.

Hiking from the Pinnacle Meadows lot is a bit easier than the full Stowe Pinnacle Trail as it is a bit shorter. The first portion of the hike follows an old fire road that takes you to the Pinnacle Meadow, an open clearing with great views looking back at the valley behind you, including Mt. Mansfield. Proceed further, and the trail changes over to the more classic-style of Vermont hiking trail, with rocky inclines, thick forest, and rooty steps, as it winds and eventually intersects the Stowe Pinnacle Trail. Follow the same steps, above, to reach the Stowe's famous rocky viewpoint and snap all the pictures your camera can hold.

[View Trail Map](#)

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ADVANCED HIKES

Mt. Mansfield Chin via the Long Trail (South)

Type: Full-day hike

Distance: 3.4 miles (Taft Lodge); 4.7 miles (Summit of Mt. Mansfield)

Time: 4.0 hours (Taft Lodge); 5.0 hours (Summit of Mt. Mansfield)

Climb: 2,790' to the Chin

Parking for Trailhead: [7416 Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take Route 108 north for approximately 7 miles to Stowe Mountain Resort.

The trailhead is about a half-mile north of the parking area on VT Route 108. This can be accessed either by walking north on Route 108, or by taking a scenic bypass on the Barnes Camp Loop, just past the historic visitor center maintained by the Green Mountain Club, for a beautiful close-up view of Smugglers' Notch.

About the Hike: Mount Mansfield is Vermont's tallest peak, and from a distance, its ridgeline resembles an elongated head from the east side with various facial features starting south to north, including: the Forehead, Nose, Chin and Adam's Apple. Many of these features are referred to by hikers as they are higher-elevation peaks, with the Chin being the summit.

The Long Trail South from Route 108 is the easiest way to summit Mount Mansfield from the Smugglers' Notch side; however, it is a long and challenging hike. Having lots of water, snacks, a trail map, a first-aid kit and proper footwear is highly recommended.

From the trailhead on Route 108, begin your hike through serene Vermont hardwood forest climbing up sets of stepping stones and roots. Although the trail starts with a casual incline, it climbs nearly 2,800 feet of elevation in a little over two miles. There are many steep and rocky sections where scrambling is required, especially near the summit.

After 1.7 miles and just under 2,000 feet of climbing, you will reach the Taft Lodge, the oldest and largest shelter along the Long Trail, originally built in 1920. The trail continues and becomes rockier with many sections of rock slabs that can be slippery when wet. Further along, the Long Trail meets up with the Hell Brook Trail and the Adam's Apple Trail, in a section which is moderately sheltered before proceeding above treeline.

The ridgeline climb along the Long Trail is the most difficult section of this hike. Make an abrupt left turn and ascend a few steep rock faces in exposed areas. Take your time on this section of difficult climbs as you make your way up the last short section of the trail to the Chin. Spend as much time at the summit as you like—enjoy a picnic with endless views—but keep a close eye on the weather and time. Weather patterns change quickly in Vermont, and it can be dangerous to be stuck at the top of the mountain in a storm or after dark. Seek storm shelters along the trail. Signs posted along the Long Trail provide guidance.

If you are looking for an easier way to the top, drive up the Auto Toll Road at Stowe Mountain Resort and hike the ridgeline from the parking area on the Nose to the Chin.

[View Trail Map](#)

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ADVANCED HIKES

Mt. Mansfield Chin via the Gondola & Cliff Trail

Type: Half-day hike

Distance: 1.6 miles

Time: 2.0 hours

Climb: 750'

Trailhead Location: [7416 Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From the historic village, take Route 108 north for approximately 7 miles to Stowe Mountain Resort. Purchase a Gondola Skyride ticket at the base of the iconic red Gondola, and enjoy the scenic ride to the top. The Cliff Trail can be accessed behind the Cliff House Restaurant at the top of the Gondola.

About the Hike: For those who wish to summit Mount Mansfield without hiking 2,800 feet of elevation from the mountain's base, a ride up the Gondola combined with a Cliff Trail hike is a popular alternative. Riding Stowe Mountain Resort's Gondola Skyride is a great way to get to the top of the ski resort to enjoy 180-degree views of Spruce Peak and the Worcester Mountain Range. From this point you are only about 750' of elevation to the tallest point in Vermont, the "Chin" or summit of Mount Mansfield. Stowe Mountain Resort's Gondola Skyride costs \$30/adult plus tax.

Although the trail itself is only 0.8 miles each way, it is an extremely challenging and technical climb and is one of the most difficult and potentially dangerous hikes on Mount Mansfield. This trail is recommended for expert hikers as there are slick, exposed rock faces, crossing deep rock crevices, and scrambling required. This trail is not recommended for families with young children.

The hike starts out and continues at a rather steep incline. Most of the hike is exposed and can be windy. The Cliff Trail runs all along the ridgeline from Amherst Trail (near the Nose) to its intersection with the Long Trail (close to the Chin). To access the summit, take a right and head north. More challenging rock features include a steep climb requiring you to hoist your body up a tall rock slab. This area of the trail can bottleneck. Take your time and give others space to go up or down the face, and proceed when the climb is open. As you continue, wind up rocky sections, traverse rock faces over deep crevices, and pass through the Cave of the Winds. Note where you are once you reach the intersection of the Long Trail to make sure you return down the same trail. From here, continue a half-mile on the last rocky climb up the Long Trail to the Chin, the tallest point on Mount Mansfield and all of Vermont. Take photos, hang out, and enjoy the sweeping 360-degree views of Vermont's famous Green Mountains all around you. As you make your way back down, be sure not to miss the left turn back onto Cliff Trail.

An alternative fast-track route to the Chin is driving up Stowe Mountain Resort's Auto Toll Road to the parking lot on Mount Mansfield's Nose, and traversing the ridgeline to the Chin. This hike is moderate difficulty with 360-degree views most of the way.

[View Trail Map](#)

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ADVANCED HIKES

Mt. Mansfield Chin via the Hell Brook Trail

Type: Full-day hike

Distance: 5.1 miles (includes walk back to car)

Time: 4 - 5 hours

Climb: 2,800'

Trailhead Location: [6443 VT-108, Jeffersonville, VT 05464](#)

From the historic village, take Route 108 north approximately 9 miles. Look for the Hell Brook Trail signs on the left side of the road marking this trail. There are a few small parking areas along the road. If this parking area is full, drive about 0.2 miles north on Route 108 to the top of Smugglers' Notch, or south about a half-mile and park at Stowe Mountain Resort.

About the Hike: Appropriately named, the Hell Brook Trail is one of Stowe's most challenging hikes on Vermont's tallest peak, and is recommended only for expert hikers who are comfortable climbing steep, wet, rock faces with high consequences. This trail ascends up a brook, and thus is almost always extremely wet and slick. Due to the steep grade, the Hell Brook Trail should only be used for ascent, not descent. Hikers are encouraged to descend the Long Trail to route 108 and walk north back to the Hell Brooke parking area.

Expert hikers looking for an adrenaline rush, spectacular views, and a thoroughly exhausting route will be in for a treat on this full-day adventure.

The trailhead for this hike has a large sign and is clearly visible on route 108. The hike starts out with a 0.9-mile climb up a very steep river bed with occasional views of Smugglers' Notch through the trees along the way. After this challenging ascent, you will arrive at a trail intersection for the Hell Brook cutoff. This traverse can be taken for an easier route and leads to the Taft Lodge, the oldest and largest shelter along the Long Trail, originally built in 1920. View our guide for the The Long Trail (South) to Taft Lodge and Mansfield Chin for more information on this route.

Alternatively, hikers looking for even more of a challenge and better views can proceed straight ahead another 0.4 miles up towards the Adams Apple. This section of trail overlooks the Lake of the Clouds to the right, one of the highest-elevation bodies of water in Vermont, and soon reaches an intersection with the Adam's Apple Trail. Both the Hell Brook Trail and Adams Apple Trail continue on for 0.2 miles in the same direction. While the Adam's Apple Trail offers better views, it is more exposed to the wind. Soon, both trails reconvene and connect to the Long Trail for the last 0.3 mile rocky climb up to the summit.

After celebrations, photos, and relaxation at the highest peak in Vermont, hikers can either reverse course and proceed down the Long Trail North—the direction you hiked up—or continue along the Long Trail South 0.2 miles to the next trail intersection to take the Profanity Trail, a 0.5-mile trail that is slightly easier to descend. Both trails lead to the Taft Lodge. Continue down the Long Trail North to Route 108. Upon reaching the road, walk north up Route 108 about a mile to the Hell Brook parking area.

[View Trail Map](#)

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ADVANCED HIKES

Mt. Mansfield Traverse via Haselton Trail & The Long Trail

Type: Full-day hike

Distance: 5.8 miles

Time: 6.0 hours

Climb: 2,700'

Trailhead Location: [5781 Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT 05672](#)

From Stowe's Historic Village, take Route 108 north 7 miles to the Stowe Mountain Resort. As you enter, take the second right and head to the upper Gondola parking lot near the Midway Base Lodge. If you walk along the right side of the Midway base lodge, a rough footpath can be seen heading up the ski hill towards a wooded area with a trail sign for the Haselton Trail.

About the Hike: The Mt. Mansfield Traverse an incredibly scenic, full-day adventure leading hikers up Stowe Mountain Resort's Haselton Trail (moderate difficulty) to the top of the Mansfield Nose, across the Mansfield Ridgeline to Mansfield's Chin which the highest point in Vermont, and down the Long Trail into Smugglers' Notch. This long and challenging hike offers endless 360-degree views of the majestic Green Mountains, and even offers challenging detours for adrenaline seekers.

The hike up Haselton Trail is a moderate climb that leads hikers along a stream as it ascends through thick forest and open ski trails with fantastic. The trail has a few steep sections and rocky areas which can be slippery when wet, and requires rock scrambling near the top. For this reason the trail is not recommended for descent.

The 1.6 mile-long Haselton Trail is well marked, and ends along the resort's Auto Toll Road uphill a half-mile to the first intersection in the road. This is the turn-off point to access the Cliff Trail, one of the most difficult hikes on Mount Mansfield, which requires traversing steep rock faces, climbing ladders, squeezing through a tight rock cave, and crossing deep crevices by utilizing metal grips, all the while exposed to the elements on the edge of a cliff. This trail should only be attempted by expert hikers with advanced climbing experience. **Slips and falls in on this trail can be fatal or cause serious injury.** To access this trail, take a right onto the WCAX-TV road, an immediate right onto the Amherst Trail, and another right soon after onto Cliff Trail.

Trail Alternatives: For a slightly easier alternative route to the Chin, continue up the Auto Toll Road to the top parking area to find trail access for the Long Trail, and begin heading North towards the Chin. This section of the trail features full 360-degree views of the mountains as it crosses the Upper Lip and Lower Lip to the Chin. other challenging trail option that runs parallel to the Long Trail ridgeline traverse, accessed via a left-hand turn off the Long Trail. While similar in difficulty to Cliff Trail (experts only), this trail is not on as steep of a cliff edge as Cliff Trail, with views of Lake Champlain and New York.

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