Hikes in or near Jackson Village

The Mystery House Loop Trail  This trail begins just beside the Town Library on what was once the historical Gray's Inn property. The first trail sign is at the end of the long parking lot which was once the tennis courts for Gray's Inn. There are 2 loops, approximately 1.5 miles from beginning to end. This trail follows Ice Pond Brook and has along its way stops at the 1800's Ice Pond Dam and the old early 1900's cement dam. It crosses Ice Pond Brook uphill to the junction of the lower loop. Bearing right uphill again follow the signs to the Mystery House foundation and the upper loop. This upper loop affords 2 nice views, one towards majestic Mt. Washington, and the other towards Carter Notch. Coming down the mountain the lower loop takes you over to the historic Thorn Hill Inn, and back through the apple orchard, originally propagated by the Inn for guests, returning to Jackson village, and the parking lot where you first began.

North Doublehead

North Doublehead—3,053': From the Village, drive up Rt. 16B to Dundee Road and past Black Mountain Ski Area to parking at the sign for Doublehead, the trail winds through the woods and takes you to the saddle between North and South Doublehead. Good views once you get to the top. Return by the same route, or cross over to South Doublehead and continue down, coming out on Dundee Road 1/2 mile from where you entered. Walk back down to you car: 4 miles. 2-4 hours, 1800' climb.

Walking & Hiking Trails

Walks

Rt. 16A Loop in Jackson Village is the village stroll around Jackson. From the covered bridge, walk into the Village, past inns and shops. Staying left, cross the Wildcat River by the Community Church, and continue past the Wentworth Resort Golf Course before coming out on Route 16 proper. Head left along Route 16, returning to the covered bridge. A level 1 1/2 mile walk.

Jackson Falls  Wildcat Brook drops steeply into Jackson Village in a series of cascades and small waterfalls. It is a lovely place to picnic, sun oneself on beautiful rock slabs, or cool off in the many pools. The upper pools above the falls may be accessed from Carter Notch Rd. by the parking lot on the left side of the brook. Overflow parking is available 0.25 miles east on Valley Cross Rd. at the Jackson X-C ski lot. A path to the bottom of the falls, with good pools and views of the falls, leaves from the parking lot across from the Wentworth Hotel (follow the public access signs). A Sidewalk also runs up the road to the upper falls for pedestrian access. Plan your visit accordingly because Jackson Falls has a carry in/carry out policy.

Carter Notch Road & Route 16B  The complete loop is 5 1/2 miles offering a variety of terrain and views. If you start from above Jackson Falls, it's only 4 1/2 miles around and without the steep climb up past the Falls. Another alternative is to drive up Carter Notch Road, park by the Falls walk up to Valley Cross Road taking that right go to the end of the road taking a left onto 16 B walk approximately 1 mile taking a left onto Wilson Road at the end of the road take a left to the end of that road then take a left back onto 16A passing Eagle Mountain Resort back down to the Jackson Falls. This also makes for a good run if you prefer.
Hall's Ledge Trail (3.2 mi round trip; 2 hr. 25 min.)

Drive up Carter Notch Rd. 5.4 miles from Jackson Village to the hiking parking lot at the end of the road. The Hall's Ledge Trail primarily runs on logging roads which are also X-C ski trails.

From the town kiosk, the Hall's Ledge Trail begins climbing the logging road also labeled as the Wildcat Valley Trail (X-C ski trail). Continue following the gravel road past junctions with the Quail (X-C ski) and Dana Place (X-C ski) trails on your left. At 0.5 miles the Hall's Ledge Trail continues straight on a grassy logging road (still also the Wildcat Valley X-C Trail) while the gravel road turns right and the Orchard (X-C Ski) trail leaves on your left. At 0.6 miles, continue past the junctions with the Hub's Loop (X-C ski) and the Beth Hendrick (X-C ski) trails. At 1.3 miles the Wildcat Valley (X-C ski) trail veers off to the right and the Hall's Ledge Trail turns left. At 1.4 miles the trail opens to a large clearing with excellent southern views. Continuing 0.2 miles past the field, the trail descends slightly to a picnic table with a view towards Mt. Washington.

Short Hikes at Pinkham Notch

Crystal Cascade: A very popular short hike part way up the Tuckerman Ravine Trail to Mt. Washington. 3/8 of a mile; 15-20 minutes up. Nice waterfall in a woods setting. The trail is wide and easy.

Square Ledge and Lost Pond: Panoramic views of Mt. Washington from a rocky outcropping above Pinkham Notch. From the AMC parking area, cross Route 16, taking the Lost Pond Trail for 1/10 of a mile before branching left on the Square Ledge Trail. At the base of the rocks, climb up on the right side to reach the viewpoint. 1 mile and 30 minutes each way. The trail to Lost Pond is also about 1 mile and after paralleling the river a way, climbs up to the pond, offering views of the Gulf of Slides, and Huntington Ravine.

Lowe's Bald Spot: A longer hike, and with views from the slopes of Mt. Washington north into the Great Gulf Wilderness. From Pinkham Notch Camp. Follow the Old Jackson Road (the Appalachian Trail south) for 1.8 miles to the Auto Road, then continue on Madison path for 0.2 miles to the lookout spot. Allow 1.5 hours to cover the 2 miles up to Lowe’s Bald Spot.

More Challenging Hikes

Glen Boulder Trail on Mt. Washington: this is a steep hike part way up Mt. Washington which offers the hiker the shorter climb to get above timberline. Although the trail continues on up Mt. Washington, the goal of this hike is a huge boulder, precariously balanced on a ridge high above the Pinkham Notch highway, it is easily seen from the highway. Start from the Glen Ellis parking area, 8 miles north of Jackson and follow the well-marked trail noting the various trail intersections along the way. Although in places quite steep, the 1.6 mile trail up to the boulder doesn’t pose any particular obstacles. Hikers should allow about 3-4 hours for the roundtrip.

Climbing Mt. Washington 6.288’: From Pinkham Notch Camp, the 4.1 mile long Tuckerman Ravine Trail leads to the top. Because of the elevation gain (over 4,200’) those that are successful in making it to the top will use about 8 hours for the roundtrip. This is not a hike to be taken lightly; you will need to be self-sufficient, adequately equipped, in good physical condition and have favorable weather. Obtain the up-to-date local weather forecast from the AMC information desk before setting out. The Hermit Lakes Shelters are reached at 2.4 miles. Assuming a steady pace, this represents the halfway point in terms of time. Above hermit Lakes, the trail is steeper and more difficult.

After arriving in the Tuckerman Bowl (the Ravine proper) the trail ascends the Headwall, famous for its spring skiing, before slackening off somewhat for the final push past Tuckerman Junction and on to the summit. Descend by the same route.

Raymond Path Loop: A nice loop hike for a day. From the door at Pinkham Notch, follow the Old Jackson Road about 1.7 miles to its junction with the Raymond Path. This trail ascends through forests, crosses the Huntington Ravine Trail where you can turn left to return to the Tuckerman Trail, or you can continue until it finally ends at the Tuckerman Ravine Trail very close to the Hermit Lake Shelter Area. Follow the Tuckerman Ravine Trail down to Pinkham Notch Camp. Distance: 6 miles. Time: 4 hours, 20 minutes. Elevation Gain: 1,770 feet.

General Comments on Hiking

- Have a plan which allows you enough time.
- If running out of time turn back early.
- If you are new to hiking ask for advice and begin with shorter hikes and walks.
- Take adequate food, drink and extra clothing.
- The times given in this brochure are average times neither fast nor very slow.
- At higher elevations even in summer, weather conditions can deteriorate very rapidly! KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEATHER! PROPER FOOT GEAR IS IMPERATIVE!
- Please help us keep our hiking trails and walking ways clean... carry out any trash you carry in. Thank you.

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18 Main Street • Jackson, NH • 603-383-9356