

SECTION 19: ROUTE 17 TO CAMEL'S HUMP ROAD

SNAPSHOT:

This is a challenging, remote, back-country section through Phen Basin, over Huntington Gap, and then through the wilds of Camel's Hump State Park to Camel's Hump Rd. in Huntington. Approximately two miles of trail are co-located on a snowmobile corridor.

LENGTH: 10.3 miles

DIFFICULTY:

This section is very remote and requires advanced skiing abilities. It includes many steep climbs and descents. The snowmobile portion is groomed, but steep and remote. The descent to Camel's Hump Rd. is very steep. We recommend you ski with three or more skiers and bring climbing skins.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Rte. 17 - Fayston

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 17 in Waitsfield, take Rte. 17 west approximately three miles to a driveway on the right (north) side of the road for Battleground Condominiums. As you enter the Battleground complex, turn right BEFORE crossing a covered bridge, and park on the right hand side of the road by the "visitor parking" sign. Do not block access to the dumpster. This is the ONLY designated parking for CT users. Please do not park near the entrance to Battleground nor on any other road in the complex. To ski north, walk back to the Battleground entrance and look for CT blazes heading west along the brook (parallel to and north of Rte. 17).

2. Carse Rd. (Beane Trail) - Huntington

From the village of Huntington (Beaudry's General Store) follow Main Rd. south approximately six miles. Turn left (east) on Carse Rd. Stay straight through the intersection of Moody Rd. Look for Beane Trail parking on the left near the top of the hill. To reach the CT, ascend the Beane Trail (stay straight on logging road when Beane turns right). Turn right at the next intersection onto VAST Corridor #17 and climb to the intersection with the CT.

3. Trapp Rd. - Huntington

From the village of Huntington (Beaudry's General Store) follow Main Rd. south for three miles. Turn left (east) on Trapp Rd. Drive 1.1 miles to the end of plowing in front of a yellow house. Park along the shoulder of the road without blocking the driveway or the snowplow turn-around. To reach the CT, ski south on the unplowed portion of Trapp Rd. 0.7 miles. This is also a snowmobile trail. At a metal gate, turn left and ski up hill on a logging road about half a mile to a log landing, where you will find CT blazes.

4. Camel's Hump Rd. - Huntington

From Beaudry's General Store in the village of Huntington go 2.5 miles south on Main Rd. to Huntington Center. Turn left on Camel's Hump Rd. and go 1.9 miles east. Bear right at the fork, crossing a bridge. The southbound trailhead is 100 yards up the road on the right.

Note: There is very limited parking available at the CT trailheads on Camel's Hump Rd. The nearest parking lot is located at the Brewster Pierce Elementary School located on Camel's Hump Rd., 1/4 mile from the intersection of Camel's Hump Rd. and Main Rd. in Huntington. A two-mile road walk up Camel's Hump Rd. is required to reach the trailhead from this lot.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From the Battleground Condominium parking area (0.0), ski west past the Battleground entrance sign and through the clearing between Rte. 17 and the tree line. Ski along the back of the tennis courts, along the side of the condo woodshed, and then turn right (east) over a bridge on a logging road. Follow the logging road past a yellow "State Lands" boundary marker to a junction in a clearing. You have just entered the Phen Basin portion of the Camel's Hump State Park. The CT turns right following a logging road to another junction and bears left. The Trail then climbs steadily, heading north. It is joined by a snowmobile trail and then reaches a beaver pond (1.1) on the right.

From the beaver pond, continue north and gradually uphill on the logging road, which is sometimes groomed for snowmobiles. Higher up, at an elevation of 2100 feet, the CT joins VAST snowmobile Corridor #17 (2.2). Head left (northwest) and follow the VAST trail as it ascends the ridge of Hemlock Hill. Northbound, this is a steep, unrelenting climb (climbing skins are helpful). Southbound it is a steep, difficult descent with little space to turn, sometimes made more difficult by snowmobile traffic. Climbing skins are also helpful to control steep descents.

The ridge affords great views of the Mad River Valley. (Be wary of snowmobile traffic in this area, particularly on weekends.) The Trail continues north following the ridgeline and then descends sharply down the west side of the ridge. There are more great views to the northwest. Leveling out, the CT meets the Long Trail (white paint blazes) at Huntington Gap (4.0). At this intersection, the VAST trail continues to descend to the west and provides a possible access/exit point at the Beane Trail and Carse Rd. (Follow the VAST trail one mile west to an intersection with a logging road on the left (west) which leads to the Beane Trail and Carse Rd. in 0.75 miles.)

To continue north on the CT from Huntington Gap, leave the VAST trail, turning right onto the Long Trail and head north for approximately 200 feet before veering off the Long Trail to the left (west). The Trail offers a series of dips and climbs for 1.5 miles, then follows an old logging road for a fun, long, winding, northwesterly descent.

After a steep descent, cross a bridge over Cobb Brook. An Eagle Scout and VT FP&R personnel constructed this bridge in 2002. The Trail continues to descend more moderately to a second Cobb Brook bridge (7.3). The Trail now enters a log landing (clearing) at the end of a logging road that leads west and downhill to Trapp Road. You can exit the CT by skiing down the logging road and through another clearing to a metal gate. Ski around the gate and turn right (north) onto the unplowed portion of Trapp Rd. This is also a snowmobile trail. Ski north for 0.7 miles to reach the plowed portion of Trapp Rd.

To ski northbound on the CT from the Cobb Brook log landing, turn right (east) and climb a logging road. In approximately 325 yards, the Trail veers left (north) off the logging road onto an auxiliary logging road and begins to ascend into a western facing bowl. This is a steady climb with a few very steep stretches. Climbing skins are recommended. Eventually, the Trail flattens out and exits the woods onto a logging road (8.7). The Trail turns left (west) and descends very steeply down this winding road for approximately one mile. Use extreme caution, as varying snow conditions can make this a very challenging descent. Keep an eye out for trail blazes on your right where the CT takes a sharp right turn while another logging road goes straight ahead. Eventually, the Trail passes through a metal gate and descends to meet Camel's Hump Rd. (10.3).

To continue northward on the next section of the CT, walk a hundred yards downhill (west) and cross a brook on the town road bridge. At the road intersection, turn right and walk up Fielder Rd. a short distance. Look for the CT blazes on the right heading into the woods.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Battleground Condos parking	10.3
1.1	Beaver pond	9.2
2.2	VAST Corridor #17	8.1
4.0	Huntington Gap	6.3
7.3	Second Cobb Brook Bridge	3.0
8.7	Logging road	1.6
10.3	Camel's Hump Rd.	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

No loops have been identified for this section, but there is a scenic and varied seven-mile tour between Trapp Rd. and Camel's Hump Skiers Association (CHSA) trail network (Section 20) on the CT. Due to limited parking on Camel's Hump Rd., starting or ending a tour at this point can be challenging. A popular tour of this area begins at the end of plowing on Trapp Rd. and ends at the CHSA parking area. This tour offers a combination of the steep climbs and challenging descents between Trapp Rd. and Camel's Hump Rd. with the more moderate ups and downs between Camel's Hump Rd. and the groomed CHSA trail network. See Section 20 for a route description between Camel's Hump Rd. and the CHSA trails.