

SECTION 31: JAY PASS TO CANADIAN BORDER

SNAPSHOT:

The first half of this section is a 1000-foot descent through the woods between Jay Pass and Jay Village. It is north facing and gets massive snow accumulation (great early/late snow). The second half mostly follows snowmobile trails on flat, open terrain from Jay village to the Canadian border. CTA is scouting alternatives to these snowmobile trails.

LENGTH: 11.2 miles

DIFFICULTY:

This first half of this section can be difficult and strenuous if you are breaking trail in the usually very deep snow. Midway between Jay Pass and Jay Village there is a series of gullies that are tricky to navigate. Farther along there are some steep pitches on a side slope. Use metal-edged skis and bring skins. The CT between Jay Village and the Canadian border is fairly easy to ski because of the nearly flat terrain and broad snowmobile trail. Snowmobile traffic can be heavy on weekends so be sure to be alert and ski single file on the side of the trail. Portions of the CT between Jay Village and the border have been moved off Snowmobile trail recently. Pay close attention to the blazing.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Jay Pass (Rte. 242) - Westfield

From the Village of Jay go about 5.0 miles west and south on Rte. 242 to Jay Pass. From the Village of Montgomery Center go about 6.5 miles east and north to Jay Pass. Trailhead parking for the CT and the Long Trail is on the east side of the road. To find the CT northbound, climb over the snow bank at the north end of the parking area and follow the CT blazes northeast into the woods.

2. Shallow Brook Rd. - Jay

From Jay Village go about 2.3 miles west on Rte. 242 and turn left (south) on Shallow Brook Rd. Follow Shallow Brook Rd. approximately 0.8 miles to the end of plowing and look for CT blazes.

3. Lucier Farm Rd. - Jay

From Jay Village go about 1.3 miles west on Rte. 242 and turn left (south) on Lucier Rd. Follow Lucier Rd. approximately 0.5 miles to the end of plowing. Ski uphill (south) past a camp on a log road, which is also a mountain bike trail, for about 1/4 mile to join the CT.

4. Jay Country Store (Rte. 242 & North Hill Rd.) - Jay

Park BEHIND the Jay Country Store on Rte, 242 in the village of Jay. The CT crosses Rte. 242 at the store.

5. North Jay Rd. - Jay

From Rte. 105 in the village of North Troy take North Jay Rd. approximately 1.5 miles west and park on the shoulder of the road. The CT follows a pipeline right-of-way north and south from this point. It is approximately 0.4 miles to a chain-link fence that marks the Canadian border.

NOTE: *Because of heightened concerns about border security, it is a good idea to call the U.S. Customs Service (802-988-2633) or stop in at the North Troy border crossing on Rte. 243 to let*

officials know your plans to park near the border and to ski up to it and back. DO NOT attempt to ski into Canada.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From the CT/LT trailhead parking area on Rte. 242 at **Jay Pass (0.0)**, the CT heads northeast on an old logging road. You may have to climb over the plowed snow banks to spot the CT blazes heading into the woods from the northeast corner of the parking area. Please sign in at the trail register box to help us gauge usage of this section of the Trail. The Trail ascends gently before leveling off 200 feet higher than Rte. 242. After about a mile the CT turns sharply left (north) and descends approximately 200 feet. It then turns back to the east and contours to an intersection with the VAST **snowmobile trail (2.0)**. Cross the VAST trail and begin a sustained descent to the north through deep snow and beautiful hardwoods before crossing a **long bridge (2.5)** over a deep gully.

Shortly after the bridge you can bail out to Lucier Farm Rd. by turning left (north) on a spur trail marked with plain blue diamond blazes. To continue northbound on the CT, continue straight (east) following the paw print blazes for about another mile. The CT then begins to work its way downhill, heading generally north but with many twists and turns. Watch carefully for CT blazes, as there are many old skid trails and logging roads in this area. The CT eventually joins a fairly major old logging road and passes a campsite (on the right) with several **tent platforms and blue tarps (4.0)**. Immediately below this campsite, the Trail turns sharply right (east). (Or to bail out to Lucier Farm Rd. continue straight and downhill out into a clearing with a camp. Pass the camp and turn right to join Lucier Farm Rd.) To continue on the CT northbound to Jay Village, ski through an old clear cut crossed by many skid trails. The Trail leaves the old clear cut and bends around to the south to intersect a major logging road. Turn left (east) and enjoy a long descent to a road in the Foothills development.

Cross the road heading east into a dense maple grove. Ski gradually downhill a short distance and then cross another logging road. Continue in the woods heading north to reach a large clearing. Ski north into the clearing but look for blazes on your left directing you to a road leaving the northwest corner of the clearing. Follow this road for about 50 yards but then turn right (north) into a dense grove of birch trees. Beyond this grove, veer left and descend into a big gully. Cross the stream carefully and climb up the other side of the gully, continuing to head north-northeast. After a short distance cross another stream and ski under mature evergreens to reach a **snowmobile trail (5.4)**. Turn left (north) on the snowmobile trail. As the Trail leaves the woods, turn right (east) leaving the snowmobile trail and ski along the top of a pond dam. Ski north across the lawn and parking area of "The Lodge," and then descend the bank to the **Jay Country Store (5.9)**.

From the Jay Country Store, cross to the north side of Rte. 242 and ski behind a ski/bike rental shop at the Jay Village Inn to reach North Jay Rd. Turn left and walk across the bridge over Jay Branch Brook. Join the snowmobile trail (VAST Corridor 101) and ski northeast and then north through open fields. At a fork in the snowmobile trail stay right and cross a snowmobile bridge to enter a cedar forest. Be careful on the curves because the snowmobilers cannot see you. At the intersection of Cemetery Rd. and Rte. 105, cross **Rte. 105 (7.4)** and continue on the old snowmobile trail across a small brook to a powerline. A few feet up the powerline, turn left across a small run, emerging behind a house. Stay left along the edge of the open area below the house. Continue through the woods and abandoned fields to a large shallow pond. Skirt the edge of the pond to the west until you reach its north end. Continue through the woods to a pipeline right of way where you turn left. The CT follows this broad cleared swathe to another crossing of **North Jay Rd. (10.8)**, which is the northernmost point along the Trail to leave a car. Cross North

Jay Rd., and ski along a right of way through a field to the Canadian border. Turn around and ski back to North Jay Rd. DO NOT CROSS INTO CANADA.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Jay Pass (Rte. 242)	11.2
2.0	Snowmobile Trail	9.2
2.5	Trail bridge	8.7
4.0	Campsite with tent platforms	7.2
5.4	Snowmobile trail	5.8
5.9	Jay Country Store	5.3
7.4	Rte. 105	3.8
10.8	North Jay Rd.	0.4
11.2	Canadian Border	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

An alternative (and more challenging) descent from Jay Pass follows the old route of the CT. Access the CT from the parking area at Jay Pass, but ski in only about half a mile before turning sharply left (north) and downhill. This is a narrow, twisting descent that becomes steeper at the bottom and ends with a difficult stream crossing. Continue downhill more gradually, encountering a second difficult crossing of the same stream. Bear right to an open meadow. Go left and across the stream again to exit at Inglenook Lodge on Rte. 242.