



Section 13: Route 4 to Mountain Top

SNAPSHOT

This section of the CT runs along ungroomed trails, groomed snowmobile trails, and the excellent groomed trails of Mountain Top Inn Ski Center. It features wonderful views of secluded Chittenden Reservoir.

NOTE: Please remember to check in at the Mountain Top Nordic Center and purchase a trail pass if you are utilizing the CT within their trail system. CTA members receive a coupon for a discounted pass in their Membership Rewards Book.

LENGTH

10.2 miles (16.42 km)

DIFFICULTY

This section is generally of intermediate difficulty. There are a few steep climbs and descents between Route 4 and Old Turnpike Rd. and between Lefferts Pond and the Chittenden Dam.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Route 4 Appalachian Trail/Long Trail Parking Area - Mendon

This ample parking area is located 2.5 miles west of the intersection of Routes 4 and 100 in Killington on the south side of Route 4. To ski north on the CT, cross Route 4 and enter the woods on the combined AT/LT/CT.

2. Wildcat Road - Chittenden

From the village of Chittenden, take Dam Road east approximately 1.5 miles to a fork in the road. Take the right fork, Wildcat Road, and go 1.5 miles, passing Leffert's Pond on the left, to the VAST/CT trail junction on the left (north) side of the road. (A VAST signboard will be on the south side.) The CT/VAST Trails follow the unplowed section of Wildcat Road southeast toward Route 4. Northbound the CT/VAST Trails leave Wildcat Road and skirt the east side of Leffert's Pond.

3. Mountain Top Touring Center - Chittenden

From Route 7, about 3 miles south of Pittsford, turn east onto Sangamon Road. Follow Sangamon Road all the way to the end and turn left onto Main Street. Follow Main Street until just past the fire station. Turn left and immediately bear to the right of the Civil War monument onto Mountain Top Road. Mountain Top Inn & Resort is 2 miles up this road on your right. If you plan to park overnight at the ski center, let the staff know so they won't launch a search at the end of the day.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

From the **Route 4 AT/LT Parking Area (0.0)**, cross to the opposite side of Route 4 and head north into the woods on the AT/LT/CT. At the **AT/LT junction with the CT, (0.2)** the Catamount Trail turns left (west), leaving the AT/LT.

The CT heads west through the woods, and after several steep ups and downs, joins a logging road. It follows the logging road west for a while and then slabs uphill to the right (northwest). The CT continues through the woods to another logging road, where it turns right (north) and heads steeply uphill. This is a challenging climb, and climbing skins are recommended here.

The CT reaches a height-of-land, descends sharply, then turns west and reaches a T-junction with unplowed **Old Turnpike Road (1.4)**, also VAST Corridor #7.

Turn right (north) on Old Turnpike Road and go to a **log landing (2.5)**. Turn left (west) onto Wildcat Road. Wildcat Road is usually unplowed for approximately 1.5 miles, and then plowed for about 1.0 mile. It is often possible to ski on the snow-covered road or beside the road on snowmobile tracks.

The CT and VAST Corridor #7 leave Wildcat Road and head north on a **logging road (4.9)**. Follow the logging road north to a junction with Mountain Top Inn's **Round Robin XC ski trail (6.0)**. Turn left (west) here, leaving the VAST Trail, and follow Round Robin (generally broken but ungroomed) between Leffert's Pond on your left (south) and Chittenden Reservoir on your right (north). A steep climb and descent before reaching the parking area at the east end of **Chittenden Dam (8.0)** may require herringboning or climbing skins. Remove your skis and walk across the dam.

Alternatively, from the east side of the dam, follow the road from the parking area south for several hundred yards to a T intersection with Dam Road. Turn right and head north to the west end of the dam.

From the west end of the dam, ski along the shore past several summer cottages and join Mountain Top's Reservoir Run X-C trail. At a major trail intersection at a gravel pit, turn right (north) on VAST Corridor 4.

After about 0.25 miles turn left off the snowmobile trail onto an ungroomed trail through an evergreen grove. Follow this trail uphill to join Mountain Top's Bouncer Trail at the edge of a large field just below Mountain Top Inn. Turn left (west) and ski uphill on Bouncer. Cross the **Mountain Top Inn road (9.7)** and ski north across a parking area and open fields to the ski **touring center (10.2)**.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Route 4 AT/LT Parking Area	10.2
0.2	AT/LT Junction with CT	10.0
1.4	Old Turnpike Road	8.8
2.5	Log Landing	7.7
4.9	Logging Road Junction	5.3
6.0	Round Robin Ski Trail	4.2
8.0	Chittenden Dam	2.2
9.7	Mountain Top Road	0.5
10.2	Mountain Top Touring Center	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

The extensive network of groomed trails at Mountain Top Inn Ski Touring Center provides many opportunities for loops and side excursions. Stop in at the Ski Touring Center for a map and to pay the appropriate fee. Visit <https://mountaintopinn.com/event/cross-country-skiing/> for more information.

SHUTTLE DIRECTIONS

Please use caution and common sense when using these directions. Some roads may not have signs. After a heavy snow it may be difficult to locate the trailhead or end-of-plowing. Your GPS will not replicate all of these routes and may direct you to a road that is not plowed, closed and impassable. When in doubt, follow someone familiar with the local area.

Look for blue blazes (Catamount Trail), yellow blazes (Catamount Trail Side Trail) or CT parking signs which may be present. If the road seems impassible, park and explore on foot. Always park clear of access roads and gates. Leave room for others to park including snowmobile trailers. Do not park in snowplow turnarounds.

The location of the Catamount Trail on these maps is approximate. Temporary reroutes are not displayed. Always visit the Catamount Trail Association website for the latest trail information and maps. www.catamounttrail.org

Driving to US 4 (north to south)

1. Go south from Mountain Top Inn (13 Mountain Spring Road) (S13 access <3>) on Mountain Spring Road for 0.1 miles.
2. Turn right on Mountain Top Road and go 1.8 miles.
3. Turn right at a “T” after crossing a small bridge.
4. Continue south on Chittenden Road for 2.7 miles.
5. Turn left on Meadow Lake Drive for 1.7 miles.
6. Turn left on US 4 for 4.6 miles. You will see the Long Trail parking lot on the right (S13 access <1>).

Driving to Mountain Top Touring Center (south to north)

1. From the LT/AT parking area (S13 access <1>), head northwest on US 4 for 4.5 miles.
2. Turn right onto Meadow Lake Drive, and continue for 1.7 miles.
3. At the “T” intersection, turn right onto Chittenden Road and drive for 2.7 miles.
4. Just after you pass the fire station, turn left onto Mount Top Road and continue for 1.8 miles.
5. Bear left onto Mountain Spring Road and the parking lot will be on your left after 0.1 miles (S13 access <3>).