



Section 18: Lincoln Gap to Route 17

SNAPSHOT

This section includes a fun and challenging traverse and descent from Lincoln Gap, an open traverse of the rolling Sugarbush Golf Course with beautiful views, and a meander through the woods of the Mad River Valley.

LENGTH

11.3 miles (18.19km)

NOTE: Mileage does not include distance from the CT parking area at the end of plowing on Lincoln Gap Road to the trailhead. This will add 1.3 miles.

DIFFICULTY

If breaking trail, this section can take considerable time. Backcountry equipment with skins is highly recommended.

Reaching the beginning of this section at the top of Lincoln Gap requires a sustained climb on the Lincoln Gap Road from the end of plowing either in Lincoln or Warren. The initial descent on the CT from Lincoln Gap is very steep and can be challenging, even with deep snow. Between this initial descent and West Hill Road the route is rolling with many unbridged stream crossings, presenting intermediate difficulty.

Crossing the Sugarbush Golf Course is easy skiing unless a crust has developed or there is deep unbroken snow. The golf course can be windy. From the Golf Course to Route 17 is intermediate, involving some snowplowing and herringboning.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Lincoln Gap Road - Warren

The upper sections of Lincoln Gap Road are unplowed in winter. From either Lincoln or Warren, drive up as far as the road is plowed, park, and then ski up the unplowed road to the CT trailhead. Northbound the CT trailhead is just to the east of the northbound Long Trail trailhead.

2. West Hill Road - Warren

From Route 100 in Warren take West Hill Road approximately two miles west and uphill to West Hill House, a B&B. There are several parking slots available to skiers on the south side of the B&B. Please do not occupy the parking spots directly in front of the B&B without securing permission from the proprietors. To head south on the CT pick up the trail directly behind the B&B. To head north follow

West Hill Road 100 yards north and east past the intersection with Inferno Road. Cross to the north side of the road and follow the CT onto the Sugarbush Golf Course.

3. Sugarbush Access Road - Warren

From Route 100 in Warren take the Sugarbush Access Road west and uphill for approximately two miles. Just before the intersection with German Flats Road there is a parking area for skiers on the south side of Sugarbush Access Road across from the Sugarbush Inn. DO NOT park in the lot behind Sugarbush Inn. To find the CT northbound from the parking area, cross Sugarbush Access Road just east of the Inn into a large field and look for blazes heading north-northwest. To head south on the CT look for blazes along the east side of the parking area that will direct you past some townhouses and onto the golf course.

4. German Flats Road - Fayston

From the intersection of Routes 100 and 17 in Waitsfield take Route 17 west approximately two miles and turn left (south) on German Flats Road. Approximately 0.7 miles on the left is McCullough Barn and Chase Brook Town Forest, which has a large parking area. To access the CT northbound, turn right (east) on German Flats Road and look for blue blazes on the north side of the road. To go south, access the CT via the Sugar Run trail, which begins at the parking area and intersects with the CT after 0.2 miles.

5. Route 17 - Fayston

From the intersection of Route 100 and 17 in Waitsfield, take Route 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 south, walk back to the Battleground entrance, cross to the south side of Route 17 and look for CT blazes heading east along the field/forest edge.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

From the top of **Lincoln Gap (0.0)** the CT heads north a couple of hundred feet east of the Long Trail trailhead, and then north to Mount Abraham. The first section includes a few short, very steep descents past large boulders and through mixed hardwoods and conifers. After approximately 0.5 miles, the route levels out and heads north and then northeast generally following the contour along the flank of Mount Abraham, mostly within the Green Mountain National Forest.

The CT then rises slightly to go through a **small notch (2.5)**, and then turns east and runs downhill on an old logging road across private property. There is an unabridged crossing of Bradley Brook, which can be challenging if the brook is not frozen. Shortly after crossing the brook, you will reach **West Hill Road (3.7)**. At West Hill Road turn left (north) and walk a few hundred yards along the road. The CT cuts into the woods on the left and leads very shortly to the backyard of West Hill House Bed and

Breakfast. If the road shoulder is un-skiable, consider continuing the road walk to the Sugarbush Golf Course.

From West Hill House follow West Hill Road 100 yards north and east past the intersection with Inferno Road. Cross to the north side of the road and follow the CT onto the Sugarbush Golf Course.

Turn right (east), and follow the left (north) edge of the course. Generally follow the cart path and fairway to the next green and a clump of trees. On the other side of the trees, head downhill and cross **Golf Course Road (4.9)** to the left (north) of the clubhouse. Turn left (north) and stay on the eastern edge of the fairway.

At the next road (Norwegian Lane), turn left, and after about a hundred yards turn right (north) and re-enter the golf course. Bear right, past a granite marker for the 11th hole. Go down a steep hill, and cross a bridge.

Take a right and go uphill on a winding woods road. Stay left along the edge of the course, and then turn right on a road. From here the CT climbs gently along the left edge of the fairway, then crosses a small bridge, and continues climbing along the right edge of the fairway.

Turn right at the granite marker for the 14th hole, cross the fairway, and take a left up a small hill. The CT takes another left at the end of a line of evergreens, and then traverses the edge of the Sugarbush Pavilion. The **Sugarbush Access Road parking area (6.2)** is adjacent to the Pavilion.

Cross to the north side of the access road and follow the blue blazes to traverse through the Southface Condos. The CT then merges with the Swell Hill Trail that is part of the Mad River Riders Trail network. Follow this up to Eurich Pond, then to the first plateau. The CT drops left to the power line, and climbs gently to an opening. A new steeper cut was made to climb to where it again reconnects with Mad River River Trails – Technie and then descends steeply through technical terrain to top of Marble Hill and continues on Mad River Riders Trail – Catamount to German Flats.

Cross German Flats Road, turn right (east), and after a short walk pick up the CT, which follows the Mill Brook Trail to the Mad River Barn. The trail enters a mature evergreen woods and gently rolls along past a few houses. After a final stretch through some sharp dips, the CT enters a meadow below **Mad River Barn (10.5)**.

When you reach the Mad River Barn buildings, please walk across the parking lots and resume skiing where the CT enters the woods on the left (west) side of the brown "Annex" building. Do not ski behind (south of) the Mad River Barn.

The trail quickly makes a short steep climb and levels out, meandering through the woods and entering a field opposite the Battleground Condominiums. Follow the CT on the left (west) side of the field as it curves around to meet **Route 17 (11.3)**. The next section of CT heads north into the woods directly across Route 17 from this point.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Lincoln Gap	0.0
2.5	Small Notch	0.0
3.7	West Hill Road	0.0
4.9	Golf Course Road	0.0
6.2	Sugarbush Access Road Parking	0.0
0.0	X	0.0

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

Drive to Lincoln Gap (north to south)

1. From The Battleground (S18 access point <5>) on Mill Brook Rd./Rte. 17 in Fayston drive east for 1.7 miles.
2. Turn right on German Flats Rd. and drive 3.5 miles (keep left at Mt. Ellen Rd.).
3. Turn right on Sugarbush Access Rd. and drive 0.3 miles.
4. Turn left on Golf Course Rd. and drive 1.5 miles.
5. Turn right on West Hill Rd. and drive 0.4 miles.
6. Keep left on West Hill Rd. at Inferno Rd. for 1.8 miles.
7. Turn right on Lincoln Gap Rd. and drive 1.3 miles to the end of plowing (S18 access point <1>).

Drive to Battleground Condominiums (south to north)

1. From the end of plowing on Lincoln Gap Rd. on the east side of the gap (S18 access point <1>) drive east for 1.3 miles.
2. Turn left on West Hill Rd. and drive for 1.8 miles.
3. Keep right on West Hill Rd. at Inferno Rd. and drive 0.4 miles.
4. Turn left on Golf Course Rd. and drive 1.5 miles.
5. Turn right on Sugarbush Access Rd. and drive 0.3 miles.
6. Turn left on German Flats Rd. and drive 3.5 miles (keep right at Mt. Ellen Rd.).
7. Turn left on Mill Brook Rd./Rte. 17 and drive 1.7 miles. The Battleground is on your right. Park along the access road on the south side. Do not block the dumpsters.