



## 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 Road in Huntington. Approximately 0.3 miles of trail are co-located on a snowmobile corridor. Beautiful views highlight the climb and the descent. The bridge over Cobb Brook was constructed by Eagle Scout and VT FP&R personnel in 2002.

### LENGTH

9.1 miles (14.65 km)

### DIFFICULTY:

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

### TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north):

#### 1. Battleground Condominiums - Fayston

From the intersection of Routes 100 and 17 in Waitsfield, take Route 17 west approximately 3 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 "Catamount Trail 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 Route 17).

#### 2. Carse Road (Beane Trail) - Huntington

From the village of Huntington (Beaudry's General Store) follow Main Road south approximately 6 miles. Turn left (east) on Carse Road. Stay straight through the intersection of Moody Road. Look for Beane Trail parking on the left near the top of the hill. To reach the CT, ascend the Beane Trail and stay straight on the 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 Road - Huntington

From the village of Huntington (Beaudry's General Store) follow Main Road south for 3 miles. Turn left (east) on Trapp Road. 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 Road 0.7 miles. This is also a snowmobile trail. At a metal gate, turn left and ski uphill on a logging road about half a mile to a log landing, where you will find CT blazes.

### 4. Camels Hump Road - Huntington

From Beaudry's General Store in the village of Huntington, go 2.5 miles south on Main Road to Huntington Center. Turn left on Camel's Hump Road and go 3.4 miles to the Camel's Hump Road Parking Area. This is the parking lot for the popular Burrows Trail which ascends Camel's Hump from the west and is likely to be full by mid-morning. The CT may be accessed by hiking or skiing down steeply 0.2 miles from this parking lot across the main branch of Brush Brook to the Forest City Trail. From the Forest City Trail the CT heads southwest about 1 mile to the northern end of Section 19. To head south look for the start of the CT on the south side of the Forest City Trail just past a bridge across the southern branch of Brush Brook. The CT heads north from the northern side of the Forest City Trail a short distance east of that bridge.

### ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

From the **Battleground Condominium parking area (0.0)**, ski west past the Battleground entrance sign and through the clearing between Route 17 and the tree line toward the Mad River Valley Recreation Map. 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 Camel's Hump State Park. The CT turns right following a logging road. The trail then climbs steadily, crossing three bridges as it heads north into the heart of Phen Basin. As the CT levels off a bit, turn left (northwest) **off the logging road (1.0)**.

The CT turns southwest briefly to cross a small bridge and then turns north again, climbing gradually to return to the major logging road. Continue north and increasingly uphill taking special care to follow the CT blazes. There are a couple of old logging roads that are tempting to follow and can take you off trail. At an elevation of 2100 feet, join the **VAST snowmobile Corridor 17 (2.1)**.

Head left (northwest) and follow the VAST trail steeply uphill for 0.2 miles. Turn right (north) off the snowmobile trail and begin a 1.5-mile up and down traverse more or less on the contour to reach **Huntington Gap and the Long Trail (3.6)**.

**BAIL OUT POINT:** *From this intersection you can reach an alternative access/exit point on Carse Road in Huntington. Turn left (south) on the Long Trail and immediately go right (north) on the snowmobile trail. 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 Road in 0.75 miles.*

To continue northbound from Huntington Gap, cross the long trail and continue on the CT. 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. The CT continues to descend more moderately to a **second Cobb Brook bridge (6.9)**. The CT now enters a log landing (clearing) at the end of a logging road that leads west and downhill to Trapp Road.

**BAIL OUT POINT:** *Ski 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 Road. This is also a snowmobile trail. Ski north for 0.7 miles to reach the plowed portion of Trapp Road.*

To continue 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 CT flattens out and exits the woods onto a **logging road (8.3)**. 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 Road (9.9)**.

#### **DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Battleground Condos Parking	9.9
1.0	Turn off Logging Road	8.9
2.1	VAST Corridor 17	7.8
3.6	Long Trail at Huntington Gap	6.3
6.9	Second Cobb Brook Bridge	3.0
8.3	Logging Road	1.6
9.9	Camel's Hump Road	0.0

## **SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS**

There is a scenic and varied seven-mile tour between Trapp Road and Camel's Hump Skiers Association (CHSA) trail network (Section 20) on the CT. Due to limited parking on Camel's Hump Road, starting or ending a tour at this point can be challenging. Instead park at the end of plowing on Trapp Road and follow the directions for Access Point 3 (above) to find the CT. Ski north on the CT as described in the Route Descriptions for Sections 19 and 20, ending your tour at the CHSA parking area. This tour offers a combination of the steep climbs and challenging descents between Trapp Road and Camel's Hump Road and the more moderate ups and downs between Camel's Hump Road and the groomed CHSA trail network.

From the Battleground parking, follow the CT northbound to the intersection with the Long Trail at Huntington Gap. Take the LT southbound a short distance to a VAST snowmobile trail. Turn left onto the VAST trail. This trail quickly starts to climb about 400 vertical feet reaching a high point with views. Continue an up and down high traverse on VAST for about 1 mile. Stay on VAST as it curves left and begins a long, steep descent. Ski past the CT northbound on your left. Continue down and rejoin CT southbound on your right. Continue on CT southbound to Battleground parking.

## **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](http://www.catamounttrail.org)

### **Drive to Battleground Condominiums (north to south)**

1. From Camels Hump Rd. (S19 access point <4>), drive west for 3.4 miles (bear left at Salvias and at Taft Rds.).
2. Turn left on Main Rd. and drive for 6.2 miles.
3. Turn left on Rte. 17 and drive 5.5 miles over the Appalachian Gap to the Battleground Condominiums on your left (S19 access point <1>). Park along the south side of the access road. Do not block the dumpster.

### **Drive to Camels Hump Road (south to north)**

1. From the Battleground Condominiums (S19 access point <1>) drive west over the Appalachian Gap for 5.5 miles.
2. Turn right on Main Rd. toward Huntington and drive for 6.2 miles.
3. Turn right on Camels Hump Rd. (S19 access point <4>) and drive 3.4 miles, bearing right at Taft and at Salvias Rds. Park at the Burrows Trailhead.