



Section 23: Trapp Family Lodge to Edson Hill Manor

SNAPSHOT

This section of the CT runs mostly, but not entirely, on groomed trails of Stowe's three ski touring centers: Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe Mountain Resort (also known as Mt. Mansfield Touring Center), and Edson Hill Manor. Topnotch Resort no longer offers grooming but is still a worthwhile stop. Many shorter tour options are available allowing skiers to explore one or two segments of the route. Any required car shuttles are quite short – 5 miles at most. Parts of the last three miles of this section - between Topnotch and Edson Hill Manor – are groomed only occasionally, if at all. This stretch is generally well traveled, however, and includes the popular Wiessner Woods.

LENGTH

12.7 mi (20.44 km)

DIFFICULTY

While this section includes some long, steep climbs and fast descents, the groomed trails make it easier for skiers to snowplow for better control on steep descents. Skiers new to cross-country skiing can enjoy short ski tours within the three Nordic centers along this section. Those looking for a more challenging day can choose to ski through some or all of the Nordic centers in this section. Good endurance is needed as many hilly climbs, and possibly some trail breaking are required.

Parts of this section are, at times, sporadically groomed, especially so early in the season or soon after winter storms. Metal-edged skis would be a safe choice for these sections if snow is crusted or heavy. Otherwise, sturdy touring skis should suffice.

Keep in mind that snow cover can vary considerably with elevation. The lower segments of this section (especially through the Topnotch Resort) may have significantly less snow cover than Trapp's, Mansfield, or Edson Hill Touring Centers, which are at a higher elevation. If you are planning to ski through, check out or inquire about snow depth on the valley floor.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Trapp Family Lodge Touring Center - Stowe

From I-89 exit 10 in Waterbury go north on Route 100 for 7.5 miles. Turn left (west) onto Moscow Road. Go 1.4 miles and turn right (north) onto Barrows Rd. At a stop sign, turn left onto Luce Hill Road. Follow this steep, winding road, bearing left onto Trapp Hill Road. The ski center is on the right, just past the main lodge.

Alternatively, from the intersection of Route 108 (Mountain Road) and 100 in Stowe village, head north on Route 108 for about 2.75 miles. Turn left on Luce Hill Road. Continue past Barrows Road (on left) and then follow the directions above.

2. Stowe Mountain Resort Touring Center - Stowe

From the junction of Route 100 and 108 in Stowe, go north on Route 108 for about 5.4 miles. The entrance to the touring center is on the left. To join the CT, take either Ranch Valley Cruise Trail (which starts with a plunge down to Ranch Brook and then climbs up join the Derby Trail) or the Burt Trail.

3. Topnotch Touring Center - Stowe

From the junction of Route 100 and 108 in Stowe, go north on Route 108 for about 3.8 miles. The Topnotch Nordic Barn (a very large red barn) is located on the left opposite the entrance to Topnotch Spa & Resort on the right.

4. Wiessner Woods - Stowe

From the junction of Route 100 and 108 in Stowe village, take Route 108 north for about 3.2 miles. Turn right onto Edson Hill Road. Look for a small sign on the right, about 0.5 miles uphill, for Wiessner Woods. (If you reach the top of Edson Hill Road, you have gone too far.) About 100 yards up this drive, take your first left into a parking area where you will find a CTA trail register box. To go northbound on the CT, ski across an open field to an entrance to the Wiessner Woods/CT trail system on the far side of the field. Southbound, the CT leaves the parking area heading toward Edson Hill Road, then turns right (uphill) along the road for several hundred yards. Cross to the south side of Edson Hill Road, climb over a wooden fence and ski through the pastures on the northwest (right) side of a wooden fence.

5. Edson Hill Touring Center - Stowe

From the junction of Routes 100 and 108 in Stowe village, take Route 108 north for about 3.2 miles. Turn right onto Edson Hill Road. Go about 1.3 miles and look for a sign for Edson Hill Manor on the left. The Ski Touring Center is about 200 yards up the Manor access road on the right.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

NOTE: On this tour you will ski through the trail systems of three Stowe ski centers and therefore, you will need a trail pass. Purchase a pass wherever you park to start your ski and it will be honored at all three centers. CTA members receive a coupon for discounted passes in their Membership Rewards Book.

In comparison to other sections of the CT, this section crosses or follows many established and marked Nordic trails. Keep an eye out for blue CT trail markers at all intersections.

From the **Trapp Family Lodge Nordic Center (0.0)**, take Sugar Road on a short, gentle, uphill to Picnic Knoll. From this clearing take Yerricks Yodel and then Cabin Trail, climbing much more steeply to reach Trapp's **Slayton Pasture Cabin (2.1)**. The cabin (open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.), at the height of land, is a great place to buy snacks or lunch, dry out by the fireplace, and bundle-up for the breezy descent. From the cabin, continue north on the Haul Road, offering spectacular views of Mt. Mansfield and Smuggler's Notch.

You will pass Slayton Pasture Trail on your left, and Hareline Trail on your right. After about 0.6 miles of steady descent from the cabin, take the first groomed trail on your left, called **Ranch Camp Trail (3.0)**. This trail connects the Trapp and Stowe Mountain Resort trail networks. Ranch Camp Trail traverses for half a mile, then descends for another mile to end at a 4-way junction at the bottom of the hill. At the 4-way junction, turn right (downhill) onto the **Burt Trail (4.4)**.

BAIL OUT POINT: *If you plan to finish your ski or make a pit stop at the Stowe Mountain Resort Touring Center, the most direct route is to turn left on Crosscut 1 or 2, then right on Timberlane - about 2 miles total, mostly downhill.*

To bypass the Stowe Mountain Resort Touring Center and continue on the CT, continue down the Burt Trail and then turn right on the **Stowe Derby Trail (5.3)**. You will cross the Ranch Brook and climb a steep hill. Continue on the Stowe Derby Trail, which may not be groomed.

The CT follows the Stowe Derby Trail southeast toward Topnotch Nordic Center. After a traverse and climb, the CT intersects and crosses **Adams Camp Trail (6.5)**, continuing a side hill descent on Lower Valley View. Approaching the Covered Bridge condominiums, the CT (Derby Trail/Lower Valley View) turns right and climbs for about 200 yards. Instead of continuing uphill on "Triple Bypass" to Trapp's Haul Road, turn left to follow the CT blazes.

The CT/Derby Trail descends through the condominium complex and plunges for half a mile down the "Pipeline" to a farm meadow on the valley floor. Bear left on **Meadow Trail (8.3)**, under a power line. After about 500 yards, join the Stowe Recreation Path at a metal pedestrian bridge. Continue upstream (left) for about a mile along the West Branch of the Little River. The **Topnotch Nordic Barn (9.1)**, a large red barn, will be on your right, next to Route 108.

The next mile of the CT is uphill, less traveled and not groomed. From the Topnotch Nordic Barn cross to the north side of Route 108 and take a right a few feet up the driveway. Follow the trail along a contour, cross an unplowed driveway, then ski around a large parking lot where you then enter back into the woods. The CT immediately ascends through a stand of large hemlock and white pine (near a condominium complex on your left). The climb levels off where the woods abut large pastures.

Instead of entering the pastures, veer left into the woods again to bypass a small barn. Come out of the woods on the north side of the barn and ski about 200 yards along the left (northwest) side of a wooden fence to reach **Edson Hill Road (10.1)**. Cross Edson Hill Road, turn right (southeast), follow the utility right-of-way for several hundred yards, then turn left (northeast) and proceed 100 yards to the Wiessner Woods parking lot.

BAIL OUT POINT: *Weissner Woods is a convenient intermediate starting and finishing point for a shorter tour.*

Wiessner Woods is a natural area protected by the Stowe Land Trust. Its trails are not groomed, but are well used by snowshoers, walkers, and skiers. From the parking area, ski northeast across an open field to the trail entrance for Wiessner Woods. Follow the CT blazes through the Wiessner Woods trail network to the **Sugarhouse (10.9)**. You are now entering a privately owned trail network. Please be sure to stay on the marked trails and do not ski in the open fields. At the sugarhouse, turn left, following “Headin’ Home”, then “Founders’ Trail”, “Back Track” and “Maple Run”. Turn sharply left (west) on Maple Run and follow it through a residential neighborhood.

The CT crosses Edson Woods Road and then follows the Peterson Brook valley. Cross Peterson Brook on two bridges, where you may have to take off your skis to climb on and off the bridge. A little farther along, cross another bridge and climb a short steep hill to Weeks Hill Road. Cross the road, go left, then right, staying underneath the power lines paralleling Edson Hill Road to reach **Edson Hill Ski Touring Center (12.7)**.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Trapp Family Nordic Center	12.7
2.1	Slayton Pasture Cabin	10.6
3.0	Ranch Camp Trail	9.7
4.4	Burt Trail	8.3
5.3	Stowe Derby Trail	7.4
6.5	Adams Camp Trail	6.2
8.3	Meadow Trail	2.4
9.1	Topnotch Nordic Barn	2.3
10.1	Edson Hill Road	2.4
10.9	Sugarhouse	2.3
12.7	Edson Hill Nordic Center	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

Stowe's three ski touring centers: Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe Mountain Resort Touring Center, and Edson Hill Manor maintain many miles of groomed and ungroomed ski trails offering almost limitless opportunities for loops and side trail exploration at all levels of difficulty. Each center charges a fee and provides a detailed trail map. However, if you plan to ski on the trails of more than one of Stowe's ski touring centers in a given day, paying the fee wherever you park will cover you at all three centers. A couple suggestions for loop tours using sections of the CT:

Beginning at the Trapp Family Lodge touring center, follow the CT route until the intersection with "Triple Bypass" (see description above), then return to TFL on the Haul Road trail.

Start at the Stowe Mountain Resort (Mt. Mansfield) touring center, climb to Trapp's Slaton Pasture Cabin for lunch via Timberlane, Cross Cut 2, Burt, Ranch Camp, and Old Camp trails. Return by the same route, or loop around on the Cabin Trail, Bobcat or Hareline trails to the Haul Road, then back down to Mt. Mansfield Touring Center via Ranch Camp or Old Camp.

Several options for shorter point-to-point trips on the CT include: Trapp's to Mansfield TC (about 6 miles trail and 5 mile shuttle), Mansfield to Topnotch TC (4 to 5 miles trail, 1.5 mile shuttle), Topnotch to Edson Hill TC (4 miles trail, 3 mile shuttle), or Wiessner Woods to Edson Hill TC (2.5 miles trail, 0.5 mile shuttle).

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 Trapp Family Lodge (north to south)

1. From Edson Hill Nordic Center (S23 access <5>), drive south on Edson Hill Rd for 1.5 miles.
2. Turn left on Rte. 108 and drive 1.3 miles.
3. Turn right on Luce Hill Rd. and drive 1.4 miles.
4. Bear left on Trapp Hill Rd. and drive 0.8 miles to Trapp Nordic Center (S23 access <1>).

Drive to Edson Hill Manor (south to north)

1. From Trapp Lodge (S23 access <1>), drive north on Trapp Hill Rd. for 0.8 miles.
2. Bear right on Luce Hill Rd. and drive 1.4 miles.
3. Turn left on Rte. 100 and drive 1.3 miles.
4. Turn right on Edson Hill Rd. and drive 1.5 miles to Edson Hill Nordic Center (S23 access <5>).