



Section 25: Ryder Brook Golf Club to Route 15

SNAPSHOT

This primarily backcountry tour begins with a gentle ascent out of the Route 100 valley, followed by steeper climbs and descents over the shoulder of Elmore Mountain. It concludes with a downhill run on a snowmobile trail to reach the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and Route 15. There are great views of Mount Mansfield from the shoulder of Elmore Mountain.

LENGTH

14.1 miles (22.70 km)

DIFFICULTY

From Ryder Brook Golf Club to Elmore Mountain Road, the CT is rated easy to intermediate, featuring a gentle climb. From Elmore Mountain Road to Lake Elmore the trail becomes advanced with steep ascents and descents. In the final stretch from Lake Elmore to Route 15 the trail is again intermediate, due to the gentler terrain and wider trail that is shared with snowmobiles. Allow at least six hours for an experienced skier in good snow conditions to ski this entire section.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Ryder Brook Golf Course - Morristown

Ryder Brook Golf Course is located on the west side of Route 100 in Morristown, 5.7 miles north of the Route 100/Route 108 intersection in the village of Stowe, and 3.2 miles south of the traffic light in Morrisville. Call the Ryder Brook Golf Course at 866-888-3525 for permission to park. Use the north parking lot, which has space for 12 cars. To pick up the CT northbound, cross to the east side of Route 100 and ski left of the storage sheds. Continue northeast toward a bridge on Goeltz Road.

2. Elmore Mountain Road - Elmore

From Route 12 in Morristown go south on Elmore Mountain Road approximately 2.5 miles to the intersection with Bliss Hill Road. Or, from Route 100 in Morristown go east on Goeltz Road and then Bliss Hill Road approximately three miles. The CT crosses Elmore Mountain Road at an old gray barn 0.4 miles south of the Bliss Hill Road junction. The only parking is along the roadside. Southbound, ski west across a large field, following a faint unplowed farm road. Northbound, climb east through the woods just right of a small field.

3. Elmore Village and Store - Elmore

The CT crosses Route 12 at the store in the village of Elmore, located five miles east of Morrisville at the north end of Lake Elmore. The town hall next door has parking for six cars. Elmore State Park has ample, but sporadically plowed, parking off Beach Road. Southbound, walk 0.2 miles northwest along

Route 12 to the entrance to Elmore State Park. Northbound, cross Route 12 and ski gently uphill northeast across a field, following a VAST trail to a T junction with an unsigned plowed road.

4. Route 15 - Wolcott

From the junction of Rte. 15 and 15A in Morrisville, go east 3 miles on Rte. 15. Parking is available at 15 East Collective on the north side of Rte. 15, about 0.75 miles west of the Corley Road/North Wolcott Rd. Park at the west side of the parking lot, keeping your vehicle parallel to Rte. 15. This will keep the center of the lot clear for truck deliveries. The CT crosses Rte. 15 seventy-five yards east of this parking lot. To ski south cross Rte. 15 and follow the Trail down a small farm road to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT). Turn left (east) on the LVRT.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

NOTE: Be alert for other trail users in Elmore State Park. The park road is heavily used by skiers, snowshoers, hikers, and local mushers. Sled dogs are normally friendly but may be distracted by other dogs.

From the **Ryder Brook Golf Club (0.0)**, cross Route 100 and ski northeast to Goeltz Road, staying to the left of the storage sheds. Ski (or walk) east along Goeltz Road. Cross a bridge and in about 0.1 mile you'll see CT blazes on your right heading into a large field. Follow the blazes and blue flagging around the perimeter of the field, watching for a right turn into a wooded area. Ski about 0.5 miles through an area of recently logged softwoods to bring you again to **Goeltz Road (1.3)**.

Cross the road and continue northeast into a large field marked by CT blazes on stakes. Cross **Randolph Road (1.6)** where there's a blaze on a telephone pole, and head east up through a smaller field to a tree line. Here the CT enters the woods and for the next couple of miles winds through some lovely evergreens on wide trails, which are often groomed by the landowner.

Cross **Bliss Hill Road (3.1)**, and soon you'll ski through a large, flat field blazed along a fence line. Follow CT blazes to the right, staying close to the edge of the woods and away from the nearby house. Crossing a wire fence, make a right turn to enter the woods and in about 0.4 miles cross **Leahy Road (4.0)**. Follow a farm road as it winds through woods, a clearing, and some scattered trees before reaching another large, flat field. Head east toward the lone building, an old gray barn about 0.3 miles away on **Elmore Mountain Road (4.6)**.

Cross Elmore Mountain Road slightly and enter the woods just left of a driveway. For the next five miles, until you reach Lake Elmore, you will be in a remote and rugged area. The CT now climbs about 500 vertical feet through the woods to the **Elmore Mountain ridgeline (5.6)**. From the top of the ridge, ski downhill for about 0.2 miles on an old road, taking caution on the steep and narrow terrain. You are now on land conserved by the Vermont Land Trust. Watch carefully for a sharp left (north) turn off the road and into the woods.

The CT heads north through beautiful deciduous forest and into Elmore State Park. The trail undulates, steadily climbs another 400 feet, and then descends gently, until finally reaching the unplowed **Elmore Mountain park road (7.9)**.

Continue downhill to the Elmore State Park entrance, bearing slightly right near the entry booth and over a small berm. Continue straight, then bear right through a small field. Exit the bottom of the field on the left side into a short brushy area, then cross another small field to meet Route 12 at the Beach Road intersection. Turn right and proceed south along the side of Route 12 toward Lake Elmore Village. The **Elmore Village Store (9.5)** is about 100 yards ahead.

From the Elmore Store, cross Route 12 and ski about 0.1 mile northeast across a field on the VAST snowmobile trail to a T-junction with the plowed Hosking Farm Road. Turn right (with the VAST trail) and walk along the road shoulder for 0.1 miles to a T-junction with **Greaves Hill Road (9.8)**, where the VAST trail turns left. Leaving the snowmobile trail, cross to the south side of Greaves Hill Road and look for an opening in the hedgerow with a CT blaze set back from the road (to discourage snowmobile use).

The CT heads into a clearing and southeast toward a refurbished old barn. Turn left and ski uphill past the barn and through a meadow. At the top of the field enter the woods on the left and soon you'll be in a small sugarbush. Please be careful of the maple sap lines that cross the CT several times. Continue through an area of brushy growth. Cross a snowmobile trail, then go straight uphill into some softwoods. CT blazes continue for another half mile before the CT intersects **VAST Corridor #100A (10.9)** at a T-junction.

Turn left (north) on VAST #100A and continue to a T-intersection with Elmore Pond Road. Turn left and follow the CT (and VAST 100A) along the side of the road for about 100 yards. Cross Elmore Pond Road and proceed down a driveway, which turns right (east) and becomes an unplowed road.

Bear left at the intersection in a high open field, and then follow the CT north down a long unplowed road. As you reach the bottom junction the road becomes plowed again. Turn left (west) up a plowed driveway to leave VAST #100A. After a short climb, leave the driveway and follow the snowmobile trail to the right (north) for a downhill run to a farm and **Corley Road (12.9)**, which is plowed. Turn left and follow the road.

Cross the Lamoille River on a bridge and ski northwest across a farm field to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), which runs parallel to and a few yards south of Route 15. Turn left and ski west on the LVRT for 0.7 miles, then make a sharp right turn on a farm road, and ski about 30 yards uphill to **Route 15 (14.1)**.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Ryder Brook Golf Club	14.1
1.3	Goeltz Road	12.8
1.6	Randolph Road	12.5
3.1	Bliss Hill Road	11.0
4.0	Leahy Road	10.1
4.6	Elmore Mountain Road	9.5
5.6	Elmore Mountain Ridgeline	8.5
7.9	Elmore Mountain Park Road	6.2
9.5	Elmore Village Store	4.6
9.8	Greaves Hill Road	4.3
10.9	VAST Trail #100A	3.2
12.9	Corley Road	1.2
14.1	Route 15	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

To Ryder Brook Golf Club (north to south)

1. From 15 East Collective at 1225 Rte. 15 (S25 access <4>) turn right (west) on Rte. 15 and go 3.0 miles to Park St./Rte. 15A.
2. Turn left on Park St. and follow it 1.8 miles to where Park St. turns to Upper Main St., then Laporte Rd. Continue for another 0.7 miles to reach Rte. 100.
3. Turn left to go south on Rte. 100 for 2.5 miles until you reach Ryder Brook Golf Club (S25 access <1>) on the right side of the road.

To Route 15 (south to north)

1. From Ryder Brook Golf Club (S25 access <1>), turn left to head north on Rte. 100 for 2.5 miles.
2. Turn right onto Laporte Rd. and go 0.7 miles. Continue onto Upper Main St. for another 0.1 miles.
3. Bear left onto Park St./Rte. 15A and go 1.7 miles.
4. Turn right onto Rte. 15 and drive 3.0 miles to 15 East Collective at 1225 Rte. 15 (S25 access <4>).