



Section 31: Hazen's Notch (West Side) to Jay Pass

SNAPSHOT

The first half of this section is a 1000-foot descent through the woods between Jay Pass and Jay Village. It is north facing and generally accumulates snow, making it great for early/late season skiing. The second half is a mix of snowmobile and backcountry trails on flat, open terrain from Jay village to the Canadian border.

NOTE: There is logging actively taking place on Section 31 south of the Jay Country Store. If you encounter active logging please keep your distance and let the operators know of your presence. Do not interfere with their work, and move on as quickly as possible.

LENGTH

11.6 miles (18.67 km) to Canadian Border

DIFFICULTY

This first half of this section can be difficult and strenuous if you are breaking trail in the usually very deep snow. Midway between Jay Pass and Jay Village there is a series of gullies that are tricky to navigate. Farther along there are some steep pitches on a side slope. Use metal-edged skis and bring skins.

The CT between Jay Village and the Canadian border is easy to ski because of the nearly flat terrain and broad snowmobile trail. Snowmobile traffic can be heavy on weekends so be sure to be alert and ski single file on the side of the trail.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Jay Pass (Route 242) - Westfield

From the Village of Jay, go about 5.0 miles west and south on Route 242 to Jay Pass. From the village of Montgomery Center go about 6.5 miles east and north to Jay Pass. Trailhead parking for the CT and the Long Trail is on the east side of the road. To find the CT northbound, climb over the snow bank at the north end of the parking area and follow the CT blazes northeast into the woods.

2. Shallow Brook Road - Jay

From Jay Village, go about 2.3 miles west on Route 242 and turn left (south) on Shallow Brook Road. Follow Shallow Brook Road approximately 0.8 miles to the end of plowing and look for CT blazes.

3. Lucier Farm Road - Jay

From Jay Village, go about 1.3 miles west on Route 242 and turn left (south) on Lucier Road. Follow Lucier Road approximately 0.5 miles to the end of plowing. Ski uphill (south) past a camp on a log road, which is also a mountain bike trail, for about 1/4 mile to join the CT.

4. Jay Country Store - Jay

Park behind the Jay Country Store on Route 242 in the village of Jay. The CT crosses Route 242 and continues behind the Jay Village Inn. Cross to the east side of Cross Road and join the snowmobile trail by the Jay Village Elementary School.

5. North Jay Road - Jay

From Route 105 in the village of North Troy, take North Jay Road approximately 1.5 miles west and park on the shoulder of the road. From here the CT goes north and south. It is approximately 0.4 miles across open farm fields to the Canadian border.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

From the CT/LT trailhead parking area on Route 242 at **Jay Pass (0.0)**, the CT heads northeast on an old logging road. You may have to climb over the plowed snow banks to spot the CT blazes heading into the woods from the northeast corner of the parking area. Please sign in at the trail register box to help us gauge usage of this section of the CT.

The trail ascends gently before leveling off 200 feet higher than Route 242. After about a mile, the CT turns sharply left (north) and descends approximately 200 feet. It then turns back to the east and contours to an intersection with the **VAST snowmobile trail (2.0)**. Cross the VAST trail and begin a sustained descent to the north through deep snow and hardwoods before crossing a long **bridge (2.5)** over a deep gully.

BAIL OUT POINT: *Shortly after the bridge you can bail out to Lucier Farm Road by turning left (north) on a spur trail marked with plain blue diamond blazes.*

To continue northbound on the CT, continue straight (east) following the CT blazes for about another mile. The CT then begins to work its way downhill, heading generally north but with many twists and turns. Watch carefully for the blazes, as there are many old skid trails and logging roads in this area. The CT eventually joins an old logging road and passes a **campsite (4.0)** on the right with several tent platforms and blue tarps. Immediately below this campsite, the trail turns sharply right (east).

BAIL OUT POINT: For a second bail-out option to Lucier Farm Road, continue straight and downhill out into a clearing with a camp. Pass the camp and turn right to join Lucier Farm Road.

To continue on the CT northbound to Jay Village, ski through an old clear cut crossed by many skid trails. The CT leaves the clear cut and bends around to the south to intersect a major logging road. Turn left (east) and enjoy a long descent to a road in the Foothills development.

Cross the road heading east into a dense maple grove. Ski gradually downhill a short distance and then cross another logging road. Continue in the woods heading north to reach a large clearing. Ski north into the clearing but look for blazes on your left directing you to a road leaving the northwest corner of the clearing. Follow this road for about 50 yards but then turn right (north) into a dense grove of birch trees. Beyond the grove, veer left and descend into a big gully.

Cross the stream carefully and climb up the other side of the gully, continuing to head north-northeast. After a short distance, cross another stream and ski under mature evergreens, then turn left onto a **snowmobile trail (5.4)**. As the CT leaves the woods, turn right (east) to leave the snowmobile trail and ski along the top of a pond dam. Ski north across the lawn and parking area of “The Lodge,” and then descend the bank to the **Jay Country Store (5.9)**.

From the Jay Country Store, cross to the north side of Route 242 and ski behind a ski/bike rental shop at the Jay Village Inn to reach North Jay Road. Turn left and walk across the bridge over Jay Branch Brook. Join the snowmobile trail (VAST Corridor #101) and ski northeast and then north through open fields. At a fork in the snowmobile trail stay right and cross a snowmobile bridge to enter a cedar forest.

At the intersection of Cemetery Road and Route 105, cross **Route 105 (7.4)** and continue on the old snowmobile trail across a small brook to a powerline. A few feet up the powerline, turn left and emerge behind a house. Stay left along the edge of the open area below the house. Keep left (west) on the CT when the snowmobile trail crosses a large field.

Continue through the woods and abandoned fields to a large shallow pond. Skirt the edge of the pond to the west until you reach its north end. Continue through the woods to a pipeline right-of-way where you turn left. The CT follows this broad, cleared swathe to another crossing of **North Jay Road (10.8)**, which is the northernmost point along the CT to leave a car. Cross North Jay Road and ski along a right of way through a field to the **Canadian border (11.2)**. Turn around and ski back to **North Jay Road (11.6)**. DO NOT CROSS INTO CANADA.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Jay Pass (Route 242)	11.6
2.0	Snowmobile Trail	9.6
2.5	Bridge	9.1
4.0	Campsite	7.7
5.4	Snowmobile Trail	6.2
5.9	Jay Country Store	5.7
7.4	Route 105	4.2
10.8	North Jay Road	0.8
11.2	Canadian Border	0.4
11.6	North Jay Road	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

An alternative (and more challenging) descent from Jay Pass follows the old route of the CT. Access the CT from the parking area at Jay Pass, but ski in only about half a mile before turning sharply left (north) and downhill. This is a narrow, twisting descent that becomes steeper at the bottom and ends with a difficult stream crossing. Continue downhill, encountering a second crossing of the same stream. Bear right to an open meadow. Go left and cross the stream again to exit at the North American Hockey Academy on Route 242.

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 Jay Pass (north to south)

1. From the trailhead at North Jay Rd. (S31 access <5>), head west and follow North Jay Rd. for 2.7 miles.
2. At the junction with Rte. 105, North Jay Road turns to Cross Rd. Continue straight on Cross Rd. for 1.6 miles.
3. Turn right onto Rte. 242 and go 5.1 miles to Jay Pass (S31 access <1>). The parking area will be on your left.

Drive to North Jay Road (south to north)

1. From the parking area at Jay Pass (S31 access <1>) turn right to head northeast on Route 242 for 5.1 miles.
2. Turn left onto Cross Rd. and continue for 1.6 miles until reaching Rte. 105, where Cross Rd. turns into North Jay Rd.
3. Continue straight onto North Jay Rd. and go 2.7 miles to 2504, where parking is available on the shoulder of the road (S31 access <5>).