

## Winter Camping on the Catamount Trail

Hello campers! If you've found this, you're interested in some cold-weather camping while skiing the trail. Spending the night outside on the trail is a challenging but amazing experience. Please do not start *any* overnight ski/snowshoe trips without planning accordingly, whether inn-to-inn or primitive camping. It is best if you have winter backcountry camping experience or are travelling with someone who does. You can refer to our general safety tips for backcountry skiing at [www.catamounttrail.org/trail/planning/safety](http://www.catamounttrail.org/trail/planning/safety) but please remember that spending the night adds several levels of complexity to staying safe on the trail.

This document is intended as a rough guide to possible camping options along the trail, not your only resource for your trip. Bring relevant maps with you. If you find a great spot to stay or learn that the information isn't accurate, let us know! And when you get back to the warmth of your own home, we'd love to hear about your trip.

### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

#### Green Mountain National Forest

Much of the CT winds its way through the Green Mountain National Forest. Consult your guidebook and watch for changes in signage. You may camp on National Forest land following the [Leave No Trace Principles](#) and camping under 2,500 feet and at least 200 feet from roads, trails, and bodies of water. Most of the trail lies below 2,500 feet, but please refer to the guidebook for elevation maps. Rangers can be reached at 802-747-6700. The GMNF's backcountry camping guidelines can be found [here](#). Several established campgrounds lie near the CT; however, most of these are closed for the season. Contact the rangers for information on specific sites.

#### State Parks and Forests

Groups or individuals planning trips on state land must apply for off-season use through their district ranger. Online applications are preferred, and the earlier the better! However, if you're planning a trip last-minute, don't hesitate to apply – rangers need to know if someone will be camping, and chances are they won't turn you down. Similar backcountry rules apply here as in the GMNF. Download the application [here](#) or call their office at 802-241- 3655.

#### Long Trail Shelters

The Long Trail is maintained by the Green Mountain Club, which cares for shelters and cabins the length of the LT. The Catamount Trail frequently intersects or runs nearby the Long Trail, and camping is permitted in their shelters. If you are planning a trip utilizing Long Trail shelters, we recommend that you contact the [Green Mountain Club](#) at 802-244-7037.

#### Private Land

Prior consent is needed to camp on private land. If you camp without obtaining consent or do not follow the landowner's instructions, you may jeopardize the status of the Catamount Trail on their property.

## **SECTION BY SECTION CAMPING:**

**Sections 1-2:** no known camping options

### **Section 3: Route 9 to Somerset Reservoir**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping for approximately one mile from around mile 5 to mile 6

### **Section 4: Somerset Reservoir to Kelley Stand Road**

- GMNF Shelters: Grout Pond
  - o Green Mountain National Forest maintains two 3-sided shelters at Grout Pond picnic area available first-come first-serve (mile 6.8). The shelters are on the opposite side of Grout Pond from the Trail, so after you've passed Grout Pond you will intersect the Pond Loop. Take a right on the Pond Loop, which will take you to the Camp Loop, where there are two shelters.
- GMNF Cabin: Grout Pond
  - o Grout Pond picnic area cabin is located on the CT where it intersects with Pond Loop. It is "a very nice cabin about a mile from the parking lot on Kelley Stand road. It is right on the Trail route just north of Grout Pond. It has a fire place and it is open to anyone first come. It has bunks for 8 to 10 in a separate room with no heat. Last month there were a pile of fire logs cut outside the cabin. The cabin is never locked."
- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

### **Section 5: Kelley Stand Road to Kendall Farm Road**

- Long Trail Shelter: Stratton Pond
  - o At the intersection of the Long Trail, Lye Brook Trail, and Stratton Pond Trail, go right/east for .1 mi on the Long Trail. The shelter is about 300 ft. east of the CT/Stratton Pond Trail (450 ft. east of the pond itself), uphill on a spur.
  - o This shelter is a popular winter overnight camping spot. There are no reservations, so camping is on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is a large three-sided shelter, big enough for twelve. Bring water and your own stove as wood fires are prohibited. Be prepared to share the shelter with other visitors.
  - o See GMC Long Trail Guide--p. 73 in the 25th edition.
- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

### **Section 6: Kendall Farm Road to South Road**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

### **Section 7: South Road to Danby-Mt. Tabor Road**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

### **Section 8: Danby- Mt. Tabor to Greendale Road**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

### **Section 9: Greendale Road to Healdville**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping miles 0 to 6
- Okemo State Forest miles 6 to 12.5

**Section 10: Healdville to Ninevah Four Corners (VAST trail)**

- Coolidge State Forest after mile 7.5

**Section 11: Ninevah Four Corners to Tin Shanty**

- Long Trail Shelter: Clement
  - o Clement Shelter is 2 miles in to Section 12
- Coolidge State Forest – all under 2500 ft except for Burnt Mountain around mile 6.5

**Section 12: Tin Shanty to Route 4**

- Long Trail Shelter: Clement
  - o Clement Shelter is a stone cabin 2 miles in - see access point 2 on page 78 of the CT guide. There is room for 10 to sleep but be aware there are problems with partying here and the shelter tends to be dirty.
- Coolidge State Forest/ Long Trail corridor miles 0 to 8

**Section 13: Route 4 to Mountain Top**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

**Section 14: Mountain Top to Route 73**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

**Section 15: Route 73 to Widow's Clearing Road**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

**Section 16: Widow's Clearing Trail to the Bridges Trail**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

**Section 17: Bridges Trail to Lincoln Gap**

- Green Mountain National Forest backcountry camping

**Section 18: Lincoln Gap to Route 17**

- [Camel's Hump State Park](#)
  - o primitive camping up to mile 2 of Section 19 – no camping above 2500 feet of elevation

**Section 19: Route 17 to Camel's Hump Road**

- [Camel's Hump State Park](#)
  - o primitive camping mile 0 to 1.5 or mile 4 to 8 – be aware that most of miles 4 to 8 lie just under 2500 ft
- On the Loose Adventures Yurt
  - o near Huntington Gap, connected to CT by On The Loose trail
  - o <http://maplewindfarm.com/yurts>
- Long Trail Cabin: Birch Glen
  - o 1.5 miles southwest from the Long Trail intersection/snowmobile trail at mile 4 – go left and continue on LT, keeping in mind that snow may make it difficult to see LT blazes, or bury them entirely. The semi-enclosed sleeping quarters sleep twelve.

**Section 20: Camel's Hump Road to Duxbury Road**

- [Camel's Hump State Park](#)
  - o primitive camping miles approx ¾ to 1 ¼ (when trail passes through State Park) or after mile 4

**Section 21: Route 2 to Bolton Valley Nordic Center**

- All private land

**Section 22: Bolton Valley Nordic Center to Trapp Family Lodge**

- Bryant Camp at Bolton Valley Resort (mile 1.5) call Bolton for information and reservations. There is a fee.
- Long Trail Shelter: Buchanan
  - o Buchanan is directly west of the Bolton Nordic Center. You can get there from near the old Bolton Lodge, a cabin that is no longer open. Contact the Green Mountain Club for directions.

**Section 23: Trapp Family Lodge to Elson Hill Manor**

- all on ski center/private land

**Section 24: Edson Hill to Farm Resort**

- Long Trail Shelter: Beaver Meadow Lodge
  - o The CT crosses paths with snowmobile trails several times during section 24. Around mile 4.5 you will cross into Mount Mansfield State Forest land and intersect a snowmobile trail. The next intersection will be with a snowmobile trail that turns into the Burling Trail. Take a left (west) here to follow Burling Trail-Beaver Meadow Trail Loop. After 2 to 3 miles you will come to Beaver Meadow Lodge, an LT cabin with a wood stove that sleeps 15: [www.gmcsterling.org/htm/ot\\_camp.htm](http://www.gmcsterling.org/htm/ot_camp.htm).
  - o The Burling Trail loop is generally well-maintained by locals and makes a very skiable, though long, loop off of the CT.

**Section 25: Farm Resort to Route 15**

- Elmore State Park backcountry camping miles 7 to 9 (be aware of the small cut-through across private land during this stretch)

**Section 26: Route 15 to Wiley Brook**

- Green River Reservoir State Park
  - o campsites along eastern side of the reservoir where the trail runs close to the water, apply for off-season camping

**Section 27: Wiley Brook to Craftsbury Outdoor Center**

- all private land

**Section 28: Craftsbury Outdoor Center to Lowell Village**

- all private land

**Section 29: Lowell Village to Route 58 (Montgomery)/ Hazen's Notch (West Side)**

- Long Trail Shelter: Hazen's Notch
  - o At approximately mile 7, the Long Trail intersects the CT – Hazen's Notch shelter immediately north on Long Trail but not necessarily accessible because the steepness of the trail makes it unskiable.
- Long Trail corridor backcountry camping miles 6 to 7.5

**Section 30: Hazen's Notch (West Side) to Jay Pass**

- Long Trail Shelters: Atlas Valley and Jay Camp
  - o The CT crosses the Long Trail at mile 6.5/access point 2 on Route 242. Two shelters are immediately north on Long Trail after walking across 242 and following the LT

for .2 miles. Atlas Valley is directly on the LT. Jay Camp, a cabin that sleeps ten, is a short flat ski just south on Jay Loop and has recently been renovated.

- Jay State Forest after approximately mile 6

**Section 31: Jay Peak to Canadian border**

- Jay State Forest backcountry camping miles 0 to 1.5