

HIKING & WALKING THE OKEMO VALLEY



Remember: Please carry out all trash. Leave nothing but your footprints. Take nothing but memories.

There are many day hikes around the Okemo Valley. For more details and trail conditions purchase a copy of "50 Hikes in Vermont" which is available in local bookstores.

Okemo Mtn Rd (Drive & Walk to Fire Tower)

Turn left out of Marketplace parking lot. Make an immediate right onto Okemo Mtn Rd. Drive up to the Okemo Lodge, continuing up the private drive (OPEN from late spring to late fall). This road will switchback straight up the mountain for about 4-5 miles until you reach the top. You'll be able to park at a lot and walk the additional 20 min to the Old Fire Tower for some magnificent views and photo ops.

Buttermilk Falls (Drive, Walk & Swim)

Turn right out of the Marketplace parking lot and continue on Route 103 for 2 miles. Make a right turn onto Buttermilk Falls Rd. Drive just about 2 miles until you get to the end of the road, park and walk into the woods (to the right) about 200 yards from the road.

EASY HIKES

Lowell Lake Trail: (3.5 miles R/T)

Lowell Lake is located off Route 11 in Londonderry, VT on Lowell Lake Road, which is on the left ~1/2 mile past the Magic Mountain access road. Proceed on Lowell Lake Rd until you reach a House on the left and a Barn directly across on the right. Turn right and follow to the parking lot. The 3.5-mile trail begins on the Dam and circumnavigates this small lake with its large selection of wildlife and great views across the water. Time: Two and a half hour's Spring & Summer. Add one hour for winter. Good snowshoe and cross country ski terrain.

Vista Trail: (1.5 miles R/T)

Located at Camp Plymouth State Park Distance .75 miles, Elevation Change 200 feet. Trailhead is located at the State Park and leads to an overlook of the lakes area. Located off Route 100 North, turn right onto Kingdom Road at the Echo Lake Inn, follow 1 mile to Boy Scout Camp Road turn left to Camp Plymouth State Park. Time one hour Spring & Summer. Add 1/2 hour for winter. An unmarked old logging road provides access to the Buffalo Brook basin for a distance of more than 5 miles. Good Snowshoe terrain. Upper portion is used by Snowmobiles. Entry Fee charged Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Slack Hill Trail: (2.5 miles) Blue blazes. Coolidge State Park.

The Slack Hill Trail begins at the park office, climbing moderately for the first 1/2 mile through hardwoods; then a short steep section continues to a trail intersection. The trail on the right descends back to the park road just above the office. The main trail continues left climbing moderately for one mile before descending a short distance to a vista located near the 2,174 ft summit of Slack Hill. On clear days Mount Ascutney can be seen in the distance. The trail continues alternately climbing and descending for another mile to the day use area parking lot. Day fee charged during operating season. Finding the Trailhead: Head north on VT-103 and turn right onto VT-100N in 1.5 miles. Continue on VT-100N 8.7 miles. Turn right onto VT-100A and drive 2.7 miles. Turn right onto Coolidge State Park Rd. The trailhead is on the left (behind the Ranger station.)

MODERATE HIKES

White Rocks (3.4 miles R/T)

Hiking Time: 2.5 hours Vertical Rise: 1450 feet

This unique geological feature is on the Long Trail. The trailhead is located on Route 140 of Route 7 of 103. The Keewaydin Trail (Blue blaze) begins in the far end of the parking area. At the fork go right. At the Junction of the Long Trail, turn right and follow the white blazes to 3 rock cairns in a small clearing with a sign for the White Rock Cliff Trail (Blue blazes). The trail descends .2 miles to a view from the top of White Rocks Cliff. The blue blazes are marked on rocks at your feet and are difficult to see. Retrace your steps back to the parking area.

Finding the trailhead: From visitor information parking lot: Take a right onto Route 103 towards Rutland, go ~10.7 miles. Take a left onto Route 140 (East Wallingford) and follow Route 140 for 4.4 miles (watch for sign "narrow bridge"). Take a sharp left before the bridge (onto Sugar Hill Rd./Russell Rd.). Go .05 miles and take a right into White Rocks parking area.

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ADVANCED HIKES

Weathersfield Trail - Mt. Ascutney (5.8 miles R/T)

Hiking Time: 4.5 hour

From the information board, take the blue-blazed Weathersfield Trail, which ascends log stairs as it enters the woods. The trail winds, rises, and falls over varied terrain to the 1.3-mile mark where it levels slightly to cross the valley and meets an old roadway. This is the white-blazed Old Weathersfield Trail, which you follow past Gus's Lookout and a trail to the left that leads to the West Peak. Continue straight from this junction to the antennae-covered summit at 2.9 miles. Return to the junction and follow the same trail back to the parking area.

Finding the trailhead: From the west (Ludlow): Take Route 131. Two miles east of the intersection of RT 106 you will climb a steep hill. As soon as the road begins to descend, watch for the black "Weathersfield Trail" sign. Turn left onto Cascade Falls Road. Once on Cascade Falls Road, Bear left at the fork to a right turn at 3.6 miles. Follow up a short steep hill to the Ascutney State Park parking area.

Healdville Trail (5.8 miles R/T)

The blue-blazed Healdville Trail climbs from the Parking area to Okemo Mountain's 3,340-foot summit. The trail is 5.9 miles round trip offering a hefty half-day hike. Features along the trail include a fire tower and several lookouts, which offer sweeping views of the local ski area. Crews from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps constructed the Healdville Trail during the summers of 1991-1993. The trail runs gradually uphill and passes a vista point at 2.5 miles where a fine view of Mt Holly and the main Green Mountain chain can be seen on good viewing days. At 2.8 miles, the trail ascends steeply to a small clearing that was the site of the fire tower watchman's cabin. The only remaining structure on the site is the chimney. Just after the cabin site the trail merges with a work road, which runs from the end of the Okemo Mountain Road to the fire tower. The fire tower has been reconditioned by the State of Vermont and is open to hikers. The tower affords excellent views of the White Mountains to the northeast including Mt Washington, the Green Mountains North and South. To the east is Ascutney, and to the southeast is Monadnock in New Hampshire.

Finding the trailhead: From Ludlow Vermont, take VT Route #103 west towards Rutland. Approximately five miles from Ludlow on Route #103 turn left on Station Road (this turn is beside the Wright Construction Co. building). Follow Station Road until you cross the railroad tracks. Turn left and there is a large parking area immediately at the end of a short drive.

The trail, blazed with blue paint, leaves the parking area and crosses two small brooks before ascending gradually along the second brook through a scenic hardwood forest.

Long Trail / Appalachian Trail The trail crosses through our region with access points located off Routes 11, 140, and 103. Hikers can enjoy day trips or overnights at the many shelters along the way. A copy of the appropriate guidebook can be obtained at area bookstores and country stores near the trails