

Mount Washington



Mount Washington, the highest peak in the northeastern U.S, attains an elevation of 6,288 feet above mean sea level, and is located at latitude 44° 16' N, longitude 71° 18' W. It's in Sargents Purchase in southern Coös County, New Hampshire, at the heart of the White Mountain National Forest. The 52-acre Mount Washington State Park surrounds the summit, where visitors will find a multitude of old and modern buildings, once known as the 'City Among the Clouds'.



Notorious for its frequent bad weather conditions, Mt. Washington's climate can rival that of Antarctica. The average annual temperature on the summit is only 26.5 °F, with the records being -47 °F and 72 °F. On average, 256 inches of snow falls each year, with the seasonal maximum being 566 inches. The annual mean wind speed is gale force at 35.3 MPH, and hurricane-force winds occur every third day (on average). And it was here, on the roof of what is now the Stage Office, where the world's highest wind speed was ever recorded: 231 MPH.

There are three ways to get to the Top of Mt. Washington.

Train. The original "little train that could", the Mount Washington Cog Railway has been climbing to the summit of Mt. Washington, New Hampshire since July 3, 1869. The track runs along a steep, 3.1 mile long trestle whose maximum gradient is over 37%, making it the second steepest mountain climbing train in the world. The Cog is the only railroad on Earth whose entire run is built on a trestle

Car. Deemed as the first man-made attraction in the U.S., the eight-mile Mt. Washington Auto Road winds its way up the northeast side of the mountain, offering visitors an exciting way to explore New England's highest peak. The route ascends almost a mile in elevation to the 6288' summit at an average gradient of 12% along the mostly-paved road.

Foot. The greatest way to experience the full beauty and magnificence of Mount Washington is to get out and hike the trails. No matter what time of year it is, Mother Nature abounds with a variety of foliage, wildflowers, waterfalls, and weather phenomena, all awaiting your exploration. Because of Weather concerns, proper precautions should be taken any time of the year.

Most Popular Mt. Washington Hiking Trails

Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail – Begins at The Cog Railway Base. Combined with the Crawford path to the summit of the mountain. About 7 miles / 10 hours Round Trip

Tuckerman Ravine Trail - Begins at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center along Route 16 on the east side of the mountain. About 8 miles / 10 hours Round Trip

Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail

Round Trip Distance : 6 1/4 miles to Lake of the Clouds Hut, 8 1/2 mile to summit Mt. Washington

This trail essentially connects the Cog Railway Base Station with Lakes of the Clouds hut atop the ridge between Mt. Washington and Mt. Monroe. The lower half is very easy, while the upper half (above Gem Pool) is rather steep. The path actually begins along Base Road about ½ mile below the parking lots. It heads east, more or less paralleling the road on its south side. A mile up the trail, a short spur diverges left and heads north a few hundred yards to Marshfield Base Station. The easy-to-follow path then heads east-southeast along the brook that drains Ammonoosuc Ravine until it meets Gem Pool just beyond the 2-mile point. Gem Pool is a small, picturesque lake formed at the bottom of a small waterfall. Just beyond the pond, the trail climbs steeply through the woods. Before long, the trees become shorter and several of the exposed rocks along the trail offer great views toward the west. Just below 5000 feet you will reach treeline, only a few hundred yards below AMC's Lakes of the Clouds hut. The trail ends at the building about 3.1 miles from its starting point. Open to visitors during the summer season, Lakes of the Clouds hut is a great place to take a break! From the Hut, The summit of Mt. Washington is 1 ¼ miles away.



Note : This Hike is a very demanding, long day hike that should only be attempted by persons who are in top physical shape. Warm clothing, rain gear, and plenty of food and water should be taken.