

TRANS ADIRONDACK ROUTE UPDATES

"A fool is one who has never hiked the Trans Adirondack Route. A bigger fool is one who has hiked it twice." – Erik Schlimmer, route founder and first person to hike it twice

Updates current as of December 2024. Got a correction? Send it to erikschlimmer@gmail.com.

The route now totals 239.8 miles and consists of 190.0 miles (79 percent) of trails, 39.8 miles (17 percent) of roads, and 10.0 miles (4 percent) of cross-country travel.

For those attempting a fastest known time, Friends of the Trans Adirondack Route, the managing body of the route, recognizes records that adhere to four rules.

- 1) Follow the entire route and carry your own gear.
- 2) Resupply yourself or be resupplied up to two times.
- 3) Stay in accommodations (motels, hostels, camper vans, etc.) up to two nights.
- 4) Navigate with map and compass only (no use of GPS, phone, satellite devices, etc.).

Fastest known time is 10 days, 3 hours, 0 minutes.

Far North section – northern terminus area – guidebook pgs. 89 and 241 – map 1

There is public transportation from Plattsburgh to within 3.8 miles of the northern terminus on weekdays. From the Government Center at the intersection of Cornelia and Margaret streets in Plattsburgh, use Clinton County Public Transit – 518.561.1452 clintoncountypublictransit.com – to reach Ellenburg at Northern Adirondack Central School, 5572 Route 11. From the school hike south to the nearby three-way intersection of Route 11 and Military Turnpike (Route 190). Turn southwest onto Star Road (Route 190) and follow for 0.4 miles. Bear south onto Ellenburg Center Road (Route 5), and follow southwest for 2.9 miles to the hamlet of Ellenburg Center. Turn north on Brandy Brook Road (County Route 2) and hike 0.2 miles to the Ellenburg Center sign.

Clinton County Public Transportation also offers its Rural Zone Service. Within this program thru-hikers can use the Dial-a-Ride service by calling 518.561.1452 Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Call the business day prior to your travel day and up to two weeks in advance. You can get a ride from various locations in Plattsburgh to the northern terminus for \$5. This service is offered Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Far North section – Steam Mill Road area – guidebook p. 2 – map 1

The Department of Environmental Conservation has marked the boundary of 49-acre Steam Mill Tract. Their work shows that this state land is portrayed inaccurately on United States Geological Survey maps and thus the Trans Adirondack Route Maps. To get to this land from the intersection of Bradley Pond Road and Steam Mill Road 2.8 miles south of the northern terminus, leave the route and hike 0.4 miles west on Steam Mill Road. At that point you'll see a sign on the north – right – side of this road that identifies Steam Mill Tract.

Far North section – Lyon Mountain area – guidebook pgs. 96-99 – maps 2, 3

Thru-hikers were once obligated to be members of Outback ATV Riders Club to legally walk a ten-mile segment of the Delaware and Hudson rail trail from downtown Lyon Mountain to Number 37 Road. This is no longer required. Thru-hikers can now get on the rail trail sooner, too. As you hike into downtown Lyon Mountain, bear right off Route 374 and onto Belmont Avenue at the gas station. Belmont Avenue turns into First Street where School Hill Road comes in from the left. Bear left onto School Hill Road. You'll see the rail trail on your left.

Northern Mountains section – Saranac River area – guidebook pgs. 102-103 – maps 5, 6

Known as the Molson Relocation, this segment eliminates a 9.7-mile-long road walk. Directions below cover 7.3 miles from the south end of Cold Brook Road to Casey Road – 3.2 miles of trail hiking, 3.2 miles of off-trail hiking, and 0.9 miles of road walking with 1,100 vertical feet of climbing overall.

Reach the south end of Cold Brook Road and T-bone Route 3. Turn west – right – on Route 3 and hike 0.9 miles to Mud Pond Trail on the south – left – side of Route 3 at an elevation of 1,170 feet. Hike Mud Pond Trail marked with red disks 1.4 miles to Mud Pond. At the pond turn east – left – and continue on Mud Pond Trail for 0.2 miles along the north shore of the pond until it T-bones an ATV trail. To the west – your right – is Mud Pond 100 feet away. This is the end of Mud Pond Trail.

Turn east – left – on the ATV trail. Hike 200 feet to a split. Keep right. Hike 0.2 miles and encounter a small stream running south – right – across the trail. To the north – your left – you can see a small beaver pond. To the south – your right – you can see Mud Pond Brook. Hike down to the brook and cross it on a beaver dam at an elevation of 1,350 feet.

From Mud Pond Brook, follow a bearing of 115 degrees (adjusted for declination) for 0.5 miles to reach your next checkpoint, "Maple Marker." This is the crux of the Molson Relocation. At the end of this 0.5-mile segment on the west side of an unnamed 1,510-foot peak, you encounter an ATV trail that runs on state land at an elevation of 1,460 feet (this 2.5-mile-long illegal trail begins at the end of Cass Road and dead-ends on the northern slopes of the Alder Brook Mountains). Near where you meet this ATV trail it makes two quick and sharp turns and then runs due south, straight as an arrow, for more than 1,000 feet. Where this trail transitions from the two quick and sharp turns to a straight run, look in the woods on the east – uphill – side of the ATV trail. A faint path leads fifty feet to an enormous red maple that has four yellow paint blazes on it. Hike to this tree. You are now on a faintly-marked state land boundary.

From Maple Marker follow a bearing of 175 degrees for 0.2 miles along the faintly-marked boundary to reach your next checkpoint, "Five Gallon Corner." About halfway to Five Gallon Corner, cross the unnamed outlet of "Alder Meadow" and then encounter a metal pipe and cairn, both painted yellow and on the boundary. To the east – your left – you can see an outbuilding in a clearing a few hundred feet away on private property. Continue on your bearing for 0.1 miles to Five Gallon Corner. The final stretch is on an old logging road that ends at the corner. Five Gallon Corner is named so because it was originally marked with a five-gallon bucket.

From Five Gallon Corner, follow a bearing of 84 degrees for 0.4 miles along another faintly-marked boundary toward your next checkpoint, snowmobile trail C8D. Descend slightly, at times following another old logging road. Stay on your bearing, which will veer right off this

old logging road and descend into a wet area. Cross the unnamed outlet of Alder Meadow again, this time on a beaver dam or a metal ATV bridge just upstream of the beaver dam. On the far side of this stream you T-bone another ATV trail. Cross it. Fifty feet later you encounter a murky quarter-acre mud hole in a pine forest. Navigate around it and T-bone an ATV trail (it's the same one you met two minutes ago). Cross it. Cross the northern reaches of Alder Meadow, a wetland sprinkled with alders. Enter the evergreen woods on the east – far – side of Alder Meadow. Stay on your bearing another 200 feet to T-bone snowmobile trail C8D, also known as Casey Connector Snowmobile Trail.

Turn south – right – on C8D and follow it for 1.4 miles. At the 1.4-mile point, C8D turns hard to the south – left – where a small drainage pours in from the north. Elevation is 1,470 feet. Your time on C8D ends here. (If you turn south – left – and stay on C8D, in 800 feet you encounter private property punctuated by a field where there is a stone wall and a junk refrigerator). From your end point on C8D, follow a bearing of 261 degrees for 0.8 miles along another faintly-marked boundary toward your next checkpoint, "Striped Stick Corner."

Traverse the southern slopes of an unnamed 1,630-foot hill to the north – your right. Descend into a shallow gap. Keep on your bearing and the faint boundary, traversing the southern slopes of the Alder Brook Mountains. Along this boundary there are at least ten yellow posted signs that show land to the south – downhill and to your left – belongs to the Doncoes. Follow your bearing to reach Striped Stick Corner, named so because it was originally marked with a cairn and a stick with strands of surveyors tape on it.

From Striped Stick Corner, follow a bearing of 175 degrees for 0.7 miles along another faintly-marked boundary toward your next checkpoint, "X Peak." Descend and cross a small brook, then Casey Brook, then another small brook. Casey Brook marks the low point of this descent at an elevation of 1,590 feet. Ascend and top out at an elevation of 1,960 feet on X Peak. If you look closely, you may see why it is called X Peak.

Stay on your bearing of 175 degrees. Descend toward your next checkpoint, Casey Road, 560 vertical feet below and 0.6 miles away. Finish the Molson Relocation by T-boning dirt Casey Road at a cairn and state land sign near an enormous culvert. To stay on the Trans Adirondack Route, turn south – right – on Casey Road toward Union Falls Pond 1.2 miles away.

Northern Mountains section – Silver Lake area – guidebook pgs. 108-110 – map 6

Known as the Geese Relocation, this segment trades in 3.5 miles of road walking for 6.2 miles of woods hiking. These directions cover 8.4 miles from Union Falls Pond dam to Taylor Pond Outlet.

A grassy viewpoint at the Union Falls Pond dam marks the end of Section One, Far North, and the beginning of Section Two, Northern Mountains. Leave this viewpoint and hike east on Alder Brook Road. Once you're on the other side of the Saranac River, Alder Brook Road becomes Union Falls Road. Hike 0.4 miles east on Union Falls Road and turn onto a dirt road, which leads south – right – off the pavement. This road descends, turns a right, and then climbs to a pass at an elevation of 1,530 feet to meet a red gate 0.6 miles from Union Falls Road. Behind this gate is land belonging to L. Douglas. Begin a 0.7-mile off-trail segment to box around this property.

From the gate follow a bearing of 176 degrees for 0.5 miles. Descend, cross a small wet area, and climb to "Gilpin Prow," a ridge that spills off Gilpin Hill to the east – your left. Descend

the prow, enter a flat area, and continue for 200 feet until you're near a spruce swamp. A property corner here is marked with a cairn.

From this corner follow a bearing of 86 degrees for 0.2 miles, along the way crossing a wet area choked with spruce. Pop out on an old road, which is a snowmobile trail, near another red gate. You have boxed around Douglas's property. Turn south – right – on this snowmobile trail. Hike 0.5 miles to snowmobile trail junction CL6C. Turn southeast – left – to stay on the Trans Adirondack Route. A sign points you to Taylor Pond and Fern Lake. You're now on snowmobile trail C8.

Follow C8 for 1.2 miles to where you meet "Rookery Pond" to the north – your left. C8 wraps around Rookery Pond and continues to an unsigned intersection. Here a trail leads north – left – down to Silver Lake. Stay northeast – straight – on the Trans Adirondack Route and C8. Immediately after this intersection, which is one mile from Rookery Pond, you cross a bridge.

Less than a half-mile of hiking leads you to an unsigned intersection. Here a trail leads north – left – down to Silver Lake. Stay east – straight – on the route and C8. Immediately after this intersection, C8 takes a hard right. Encounter another intersection. Here S81A leads southwest – right – to Taylor Pond. Stay on the route and C8 by continuing east – straight.

A five-minute walk leads you to snowmobile trail junction CL39C. If you head north – straight – you will stay on C8 and reach Richards Road and Union Falls Road. Turn east – right – to get on snowmobile trail S81. A sign here points toward Taylor Pond Campground, your next checkpoint that's 2.8 miles away.

S81 twists and turns to Bear Brook, which it crosses on a bridge. Two minutes beyond the brook is a T intersection. If you turn southwest – right – you hit Taylor Pond in 1,000 feet. Turn northeast – left – to stay on the route.

A three-minute walk leads you to another T intersection. If you turn north – left – you head to the north side of Carmel Mountain. Turn south – right – to stay on the route. A five-minute walk leads to you a split. If you turn southwest – right – you hit Taylor Pond in 1,000 feet. Stay south – straight – on the route.

The last intersection of the Geese Relocation is met. It's another split. If you turn south-southwest – right – you reach a camping area on Taylor Pond 1,000 feet away (marked "Campground" on maps). Stay south-southeast – straight – on the route. Hike 0.9 miles to reach the west end of Taylor Pond Campground at campsite No. 8. Hike east through the campground, pass the caretaker's cabin, and cross Taylor Pond Outlet to finish the Geese Relocation.

Northern Mountains section – Forestdale Road area – guidebook pgs. 114-115 – map 7

Once you descend Catamount Mountain and T-bone Forestdale Road, turn east – left. Hike 0.2 miles to a yellow gate on the south – right – side of the road. Hike up this snowmobile trail to Cooper Kiln Pond Trail. This snowmobile trail replaces a 2.1-mile off-trail segment.

Northern Mountains section – Connery Pond area – guidebook pgs. 122-123 – map 8

A 0.3-mile-long public trail now doglegs around private land next to Connery Pond.

High Peaks section – South Notch area – guidebook pgs. 130-134 – map 9

The abandoned 1932 Olympic cross-country ski trail has become a tale of two trails. The first 1.3 miles are easy to follow. After that, this trail is not worth searching for. At this point 1.3 miles from River Road, hike across a beaver meadow and wrap around the east – top – side of the large boulder, as described in the *Blue Line to Blue Line*.

Once around the boulder, hike southeast for 200 feet and cross a small stream. Follow this waterway upstream for one minute to encounter a smaller stream coming in from the southeast. Cross this smaller stream and hike southeast up its left side for 100 feet. Encounter scrap metal from old-time logging operations. Hike southeast – straight uphill – for 50 feet. Encounter an old stove: "Jewett's Fancy Boy." Continue climbing southeast for less than a quarter mile to your next checkpoint, "Split House Rock," an enormous boulder split in half. Elevation is 2,190 feet. From Split House Rock follow a bearing of 148 degrees for one mile. This will take you to the unnamed outlet of "South Notch Pond." Follow this unnamed waterway South Notch Pond at an elevation of 2,600 feet. From the pond continue to South Notch.

High Peaks section – Bobsled Run Lane area – guidebook pgs. 135-137 – map 10

Known as the Rainy Day Relocation, this segment replaced 2.3 miles of road walking and 0.4 miles of trail hiking with 3.4 miles of trail hiking.

As you near the end of Mountain Lane, turn south – left – off this road and onto a wide ski trail marked with yellow Department of Environmental Conservation ski trail disks. This trail is a continuation of Jackrabbit Ski Trail. Follow this trail for 300 feet until it T-bones paved Route 73. Cross Route 73 and descend off the far shoulder to stay on Jackrabbit Ski Trail.

Hike southwest for a quarter-mile to an intersection at 2,000 feet elevation. Avoid a trail that breaks northwest – right – and descends to a footbridge. That's the continuation of Jackrabbit Ski Trail. Stay left on the Trans Adirondack Route. Hike less than a quarter mile to a five-way intersection. Turn a hard left along a wooden fence to avoid other trails. Now you meet intersection No. 8 at 1,990 feet elevation. Stay far left to continue on Purple Perimeter Loop.

Continue to a four-way unnumbered intersection near Grouse Gully Trail and Lower Gully Trail. Bear south – left – to stay on Purple Perimeter Loop. In less than 100 feet a minor trail breaks southeast – left. Stay on Purple Perimeter Trail, which heads south. Beech Hill Trail comes in from the northwest – right – at intersection No. 12. Stay south – straight – on Purple Perimeter Trail and the Trans Adirondack Route.

Encounter three-way intersection No. 11 and avoid a trail that breaks southwest – right. Stay south – straight and to the left – to remain on Purple Perimeter Trail and Deer Run Trail. Fifty feet later encounter four-way intersection No. 13. Stay east – left – to stay on Purple Perimeter Trail and Deer Run Trail. Fifty feet later a trail comes in from the east at intersection No. 15. Stay east – left – on Purple Perimeter Trail, Deer Run Trail, and the Trans Adirondack Route. After crossing North Meadow Brook on a bridge, three-way intersection No. 16 is met. Leave Purple Perimeter Trail and Deer Run Trail by turning southwest – right – onto Wabbit Way Trail.

Fifty feet later a trail breaks left. Stay straight on Wabbit Way Trail. A split is encountered. Stay straight and to the left on Wabbit Way Trail. Fifty feet later an unnumbered four-way intersection is encountered. Turn south – left – and enter an enormous clearing. To the right is a building and shooting range. Straight ahead is the back of the mountain bike center, your next

checkpoint. At the back of this building is where the trail up Mount Van Hoevenberg begins. This 2.3-mile trail is marked with a combination of yellow Mount Van Hoevenberg Center and yellow Department of Environmental Conservation disks.

Hike around the back of the building, get on a ski trail, head uphill, hike straight through a four-way intersection, and cross a bridge over paved Bobsled Run Lane. Right after this bridge, encounter a four-way intersection. Stay straight on the Trans Adirondack Route. Pass Pony Express Trail on the right. Encounter a funky six-way intersection. Stay on the trail you're on, which loops to the right and crosses a wide ski trail. As you cross this wide ski trail, hop onto a singletrack trail that runs directly in front of Josie's Cabin, a warming hut. This cabin is closed to non-winter thru-hikers and is never open for overnight accommodations. This 300-foot singletrack trail pops out on a wide ski trail. Hike south – straight – across this ski trail and onto another wide ski trail. This crossing is within sight of intersection No. 18 to the right. Fifty feet later another intersection is encountered. Hike southwest – straight – across this one, too, which is within sight of intersection No. 22. Hike south – straight – through another four-way intersection, this one at 2,040 feet elevation. Intersection No. 22 is within sight.

A half-mile from the mountain bike center, bear southeast – straight and to the left – at an unnumbered split at 2,130 feet elevation. Begin climbing toward Mount Van Hoevenberg. Encounter an unnumbered three-way triangular intersection at 2,200 feet elevation. The main trail curves hard to the right, climbing gently. Within sight, to the left, is intersection No. 30. Stay on the main trail as it curves right. With 100 feet of hiking, encounter another unnumbered four-way intersection and continue south – straight. Fifty feet later, encounter another unnumbered intersection, a split. Bear south – left – and climb. If you mistakenly bear right, you'll approach intersection No. 24. Encounter intersection No. 29 at 2,250 feet elevation. Here a trail breaks east – left. Stay south – straight.

Encounter intersection No. 31. A trail breaks east – left. Stay south – straight – on the route. Encounter three-way intersection No. 28 at 2,300 feet elevation. Stay southwest – straight and to the right. Encounter three-way intersection No. 25. Stay straight and to the right – west – on the wide ski trail to stay on the Trans Adirondack Route.

Leave this wide ski trail where a hiking trail with yellow markers spills down a hill to your left at 2,290 feet elevation. Follow this trail for one mile to a point near the top of Mount Van Hoevenberg 2.3 miles from the mountain bike center. Finish the Rainy Day Relocation by strolling to the top of this 2,940-foot peak, the last one on the route.

High Peaks and Cold River Country sections – High Peaks Wilderness Area – guidebook pgs. 136-171 – maps 10-15

Ever since the route was established in 2013 thru-hikers have been obligated to use bear-resistant food canisters when camping in what was then known as the Eastern Zone of High Peaks Wilderness Area. This wilderness area has since become part of High Peaks Wilderness Complex. Canisters are required in the complex's Eastern Zone. This zone begins on the north side of 2,940-foot Mount Van Hoevenberg at an elevation of 2,800 feet and runs 20.8 miles to Indian Pass Brook. If you don't want to carry a canister, traverse this 20.8-mile segment in a day.

High Peaks section – Opalescent River area – guidebook pgs. 150-152 – map 12

The segment between the former site of Gorge lean-to and County Highway 25 is now part of High Peaks Wilderness Complex. You can now camp in this segment.

High Peaks section – Opalescent River area – guidebook pgs. 150-152 – map 12

A suspension bridge now spans the Opalescent River. There's no need to ford this waterway.

Cold River Country section – Upper Works area – guidebook pgs. 152-156 – map 12

Once you cross the Hudson River, instead of hiking toward County Route 25, follow an Open Space Institute trail to the Upper Works trailhead. This 0.8-mile-trail parallels the river.

Cold River Country section – Duck Hole area – guidebook pgs. 161-162 – map 13

The lean-to that stood at the outlet of Duck Hole has been removed. A replacement lean-to now stands next to Roaring Brook a half-mile north of Duck Hole.

Big Wilderness section – Piseco area – guidebook p. 207 – map 22

Casey's Corner at milepost 195 has closed. There is no resupply point between Long Lake (milepost 130) and the southern terminus (milepost 240).

Foothills section – Tomany Mountain area – guidebook p. 221 – map 24

As you descend toward Shanty Brook, cross two snowmobile trail bridges on C8, and then encounter a T intersection. Turn west – right. Within 50 feet, cross another bridge. Within another 50 feet, encounter a three-way intersection. Turn south – left – to stay on C8 and the route while avoiding a snowmobile trail that climbs east – straight.

Foothills section – State Brook area – guidebook p. 222 – map 24

A snowmobile bridge now spans State Brook, which eliminates a short bushwhack.

Foothills section – Stewart Landing area – guidebook p. 232-233 – map 25

You may pop out on Stewart Landing Road at a point west of Stewart Landing, depending on if you turned left or right at a curious split on C8. If you come out Stewart Landing Road west of the landing, simply turn left – east – and hike a half-mile to get back on the route.