

# SIX ICONIC HIKES AROUND SPRUCE PEAK

Whether you're looking for a challenging trek or a casual afternoon observing nature, these six hikes offer the quintessential Green Mountain experience.

For more information or assistance in curating your ideal hike, contact Spruce Peak Outfitters at 802-760-4061.

---

## Smuggler's Notch Boardwalk to Long Trail Picnic Area

This is a gorgeous and easy stroll that is perfect for families and is also accessible for guests with mobility issues. This handicap accessible boardwalk gives hikers a spectacular view into Smuggler's Notch and has interpretive signs to educate on the unique flora and fauna of the area. The boardwalk is short and there is the option to turn back once the trail changes to a more traditional hiking trail or continue to the Smuggler's Notch picnic area and beyond.

Rated Easy - 1.8 miles round trip to/from picnic area

Duration - 1 hour round trip

Trailhead - Barnes Camp

## Long Trail & Smuggler's Notch Boardwalk Loop

Accessed directly from the Spruce Peak Campus, this loop is a great option for a quick and challenging hike. Starting from Liftline drive behind Spruce Camp, this trail climbs gradually on the Long Trail for about ¼ mile before descending steeply towards the Smuggler's Notch picnic area along Route 108. From the picnic area, it is a leisurely stroll along Long Trail South and the beautiful Smuggler's Notch Boardwalk and Barnes Camp. Be aware that there are two small stream crossings that can be tricky after a heavy rain or in the early Summer but with some gentle exploring can usually be crossed upstream without too much trouble and typically a little fun.

Rated Moderate - 1.5 miles

Duration - 1.5 hours

Trailhead - Lifeline Drive

## Hazelton Trail

Named after Judge Seneca Hazelton of Burlington, the first vice president of the Green Mountain Club, Hazelton Trail is a steady, uphill hike amongst tangled roots and mountain rocks. Skiers familiar with Stowe skiing will recognize passing through the Nosedive Glades and Cliff Trail prior to emerging from the woods on the Nosedive trail before connecting to the Toll Road. From the Toll Road, you can continue to the Mt. Mansfield ridgeline, which connects to many other alpine trails, or turn back and head down.

Rated Difficult - 1.6 miles to Toll Road with elevation change of 1,600ft

Duration - 2.5 hours round trip

Trailhead - Base of National Ski Trail near Midway Base Lodge

---

---

## Sterling Pond Trail

Sterling Pond Trail is a popular trail to Vermont's highest-elevation Trout Pond. This trail starts with steep rocky steps for about the first ¼ mile. After the rock steps have been scaled, the trail levels out significantly as it traverses up Spruce Peak. Sterling Pond is a spectacular sight and there are many options for exploring around the area once you reach the top.

Rated Moderate - 2.6 miles round trip with elevation gain of 900ft

Duration - 3 hours round trip

Trailhead - Smuggler's Notch

## Long Trail South to Taft Lodge

Originally built in 1922 and rebuilt in 1996, the Taft Lodge sits at 3,650 ft, and is less than 750 feet from the Summit of Mt. Mansfield. Long Trail South to the Taft Lodge is one of Vermont's classic hikes. A difficult, and at times steep journey, this is a great option for a true Vermont hiking experience in an amazing and historical setting.

Rated Difficult - 1.7 miles to Taft Lodge with elevation gain of 1,970ft

Duration - 3-4 hours round trip

Trailhead - Smuggler's Notch

## Hellbrook Trail

The most direct, steepest and difficult trail to the summit of Mt. Mansfield, Hellbrook is often thought of as the most challenging hiking trail in the state of Vermont. Some of the trail could be considered a rock scramble so make sure to be prepared for this ascent with proper gear and plenty of water. While extremely difficult, if you are prepared for the challenge, it is a beautiful trail with waterfalls and plenty of views. It is recommended that hikers only traverse this trail going up and descend down the Long Trail or another trail that comes back down the Eastern side of Mt. Mansfield. Be sure to carry a quality trail map for this outing.

Rated Extremely Difficult - 2 miles straight to summit with elevation gain of 2,600ft

Duration - 4-5 hours round trip

Trailhead - Smuggler's Notch

---

Leave only footprints. Take only photographs.



@SprucePeak

#OurSprucePeak



Spruce Life

Share Your Spruce Peak Adventure with Us on Social Media!