



Best Routes for High-pointing

A state-by-state guide, part II

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THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO OBSERVE the landscape than from the highest point around. As cool fall breezes blow in and leaves begin to change, consider following one of these routes to the tallest peak in your state. Whether you make the challenging trek up Mount Washington or a quick jaunt up Backbone Mountain, it will likely be a day well spent. Continued from our July/August issue, the following five summits cap off our two-part series on high-pointing in the Northeast.

MOUNT WASHINGTON

Pinkham Notch, N.H.



The sentinel of New England, Mount Washington (6,288 ft.) attracts 250,000 visitors each year. To avoid the crowds take the Boott Spur Trail from the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center. The trail winds steeply through conifers to Harvard Rock (2.1 miles), which provides an excellent vista down into Tuckerman Ravine. The trail soon climbs above treeline. Alpine flora and spectacular views abound. Take the Davis Path for 1.4 miles before turning right onto the Crawford Path. From there it's 0.6 mile to the summit. To return, double back on the same trails (or take the shorter Lion Head Trail to Tuckerman Ravine Trail route).

DISTANCE: 9.5 MILES ROUND-TRIP
INFO: DISCOVER THE WHITE MOUNTAINS, 2ND ED. (AMC BOOKS); WHITE MOUNTAIN GUIDE, 29TH ED. (AMC BOOKS); WMGONLINE.ORG

MOUNT MANSFIELD

Underhill, Vt.



This popular peak (4,393 ft.) in the northwest corner of Vermont rewards hikers with an alpine zone summit and plenty of stunning sights along the way. The Sunset Ridge Trail allows for a moderate ascent, but the 6.2-mile round trip will leave even the most active hiker satisfied. Start from the gate at the end of Mountain Road and follow the Eagle Cut Trail to the CCC Road before taking an eventual left onto Sunset Ridge Trail. Cantilever Rock Spur, a little over halfway up, is a short excursion through mossy conifers with views of nearby Camel's Hump, Vermont's third-highest peak.

DISTANCE: 6.2 MILES ROUND-TRIP
INFO: AMC'S BEST DAY HIKES IN VERMONT (AMC BOOKS)

MOUNT FRISSELL

Salisbury, Conn.



The hike to Mount Frissell (2,373 ft.) allows for the unique experience of passing through three states and over three mountains. The out-and-back hike provides views of the wild side of Connecticut while making forays into Massachusetts and New York. Start at the Brace Mountain trailhead, which is located off Mount Washington Road at the Connecticut-Massachusetts border. Follow the Brace Mountain Trail as it quickly rises over Round Mountain before taking the Mount Frissell Trail, which offers a short but steep ascent to the summit. Connecticut's highest point is actually located a few hundred feet from the summit (2,454 ft., in Massachusetts), on the south slope, but is marked with a cairn. Continue to follow the trail as it flirts with the Connecticut-Massachusetts border before turning onto South Taconic Trail, which leads to the summit of Brace Mountain in New York.

DISTANCE: 5.2 MILES ROUND-TRIP
INFO: AMC'S BEST DAY HIKES IN CONNECTICUT, 2ND ED. (AMC BOOKS)