

Hikes with views in the Upper Valley



Introduction—All the suggested venues have the capacity to support a group of 15 people (including trip leaders) and four vehicles, *maximum*. All are dog friendly. Permission for group use comes from the contact entities listed for each hike.

The hikes described are (with drive time from Hanover):

1. **Enfield:** Collette & Bicknell Trails (30 min)
2. **Fairlee:** Echo Mountain Trail (20 min)
3. **Hanover:** Moose Mountain South Peak (15 min)
4. **Hanover:** Moose Mountain South Ridge (20 min)
5. **Lyme:** Holts Ledge (25 min)
6. **Lyme:** Lambert Ridge Trail (30 min)
7. **Norwich:** Gile Mountain Tower (20 min)
8. **Orford:** Quinttown Road (35 min)
9. **Orford:** Eastman Ledges (35 min)
10. **Plainfield:** French's Ledges (30 min)
11. **Windsor:** Brownsville Trail (30 min)
12. **Windsor:** Ascutney summit Loop (30 min to mountain toll road)

Each is described, as follows:

- Name of hike
- Drive time from Hanover, NH
- Reward (with picture)
- Length (round-trip miles and elevation gained)
- Ease of use (clarity of markings, quality of footing)
- Website (*unofficial*; providing the best available information)
- Directions to trailhead (with Google maps link to *approximate location*)
- Suggested carpool meeting point (to minimize congestion at trailheads)
- Contact for venue

Contacts

Upper Valley Trails Alliance
PO Box 1215
Norwich, VT 05055
(802) 649-9075
info@uvtrails.org

Compiler of suggested hikes:
Stephen Flanders, member
Norwich Trails Committee
Norwich, Vermont
stephen.flanders@icloud.com

1. Enfield, NH

Collette & Bicknell Trails



Photos by Stephen Flanders, except where noted.

Drive time from Hanover, NH: 30 minutes

Reward: A shore-side view of Crystal Lake and an opportunity for swimming.

Length of hike: 4.1 miles (2-mile option available), 298 ft elevation. (The trail descends to the lake from the parking.)

Ease of use: Easy trail, clear markings, good footing, and beautiful waterfalls along Bicknell Brook.

Website:

<https://uvlt.org/docs/traildescriptions/Bicknell%20Brook%20Loop%20Trail.pdf>

Directions to trailhead:

I-89 S, Enfield Exit (17), Rte 4 to Rte 4A to:

1. Either Boys Camp Rd, Enfield, NH 03748
(<https://goo.gl/maps/4AcArahtMznLA5Y98>: 2-mile hike)
2. Or 150 Grafton Pond Rd, Enfield, NH 03748
(<https://goo.gl/maps/U6k3AUt8nR7UWKLh8>: 4.1-mile hike)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Shaker Recreation Park, 491 NH-4A, Enfield, NH 03748

Contact: Jason Berard, Upper Valley Land Trust, jason.berard@uvlt.org

2. Fairlee, VT

Echo Mountain Trail



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 20 minutes

Reward: View of Lake Morey at Eagle Cliffs

Length of hike: 1.4 miles, 440 feet

Ease of use: Good, follow blue blazes 0.5 miles with reference to the map to the junction with sign for “Echo Mountain Trail” (on right) and then yellow blazes to the Eagle Cliffs overlook after 0.2 miles.

Website: http://www.fairleeforest.org/maps/FairleeForest_trailmap.pdf

Directions to trailhead:

I-91 North to Fairlee Exit (15), turn left on Lake Morey Road West to parking opposite boat launch (<https://goo.gl/maps/FMUH2h8Q15wKD9sf6>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Ample parking at trailhead

Contact: Friends of the Fairlee Forest, info@fairleeforest.org

3. Hanover, NH

Moose Mountain South Peak



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 15 minutes

Reward: Great views to the east toward Cardigan and Goose Pond.

Length of hike: 4 miles, 1050 feet

Ease of use: Excellent—follows the Appalachian Trail from parking on Three-Mile Road; a loop down to a nearby overflow parking lot, via the Harris Trail, is optional.

Website:

<https://outdoors.dartmouth.edu/activities/hiking/hikes/moosemountain.html>

Directions to trailhead:

East Wheelock to Etna Road, left then right on Rudsboro Road to turn left
Three-Mile Road to 87 Three-Mile Rd, Etna, NH 03750
(<https://goo.gl/maps/7YKS6YahRe3ZQRar7>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Trumbull Hall, 195 Etna Rd, Etna, NH 03750

Note: Overflow parking should be out of the traveled way.

Contact: Dartmouth Outing Club, dartmouth.outing.club@dartmouth.edu

4. Hanover, NH

Moose Mountain South Ridge



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 20 minutes

Reward: Follow the Ridge Trail south for great views to the east and Mt. Cardigan at some ledges. On the return there are great views to the west and Killington Peak.

Length of hike: 1.8 miles, 225 feet

Ease of use: Markings and trail maintenance are only fair. Be sure to use map (link provided). Leaders should scout this hike, before bringing a group.

Website: <https://www.hanoverconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MillPondForest-trail-conservation-map.pdf>

Directions to trailhead:

East Wheelock to Etna Road, left then right on Ruddsboro Road to turn left on Dana Road, then right on Moose Mountain Lodge Rd to parking lot at 33 Moose Mountain Lodge Rd, Etna, NH 03750
(<https://goo.gl/maps/5hh5bErWEzGNczTa9>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Trumbull Hall, 195 Etna Rd, Etna, NH 03750

Note: Overflow parking should be out of the traveled way.

Contact: Adair Mulligan, Hanover Conservancy,
amulligan@hanoverconservancy.org

5. Lyme, NH

Holts Ledge



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 25 minutes

Reward: Great views to the east towards Mt. Cardigan

Length of hike: 3.4 miles, 1070 feet

Ease of use: Excellent; follows the Appalachian Trail from parking below the Dartmouth Skiway.

Trail Finder: <https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/holt-s-ledge>

Website: <https://outdoors.dartmouth.edu/activities/hiking/hikes/holtsledge.html>

Directions to trailhead:

North on Rte 10 to Lyme, right on Dorchester Road towards Dartmouth Skiway, right to 16 Grafton Turnpike Rd, Lyme, NH 03768
(<https://goo.gl/maps/EyKmMeUkbJ2ekjoR6>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Dartmouth Skiway parking lot

Contact: Dartmouth Outing Club, dartmouth.outing.club@dartmouth.edu

6. Lyme, NH

Lambert Ridge Trail



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 30 minutes

Reward: Views of Smarts Mountain

Length of hike: 3.5 miles, 1200 feet

Ease of use: Excellent, follows Appalachian Trail from parking lot on Dorchester Road along a series of ledges with views. (Trail continues up Smarts Mountain.)

Website: <https://outdoors.dartmouth.edu/activities/hiking/hikes/smarts.html>

Directions to trailhead:

North on Rte 10 to Lyme, right on Dorchester Road towards Dartmouth Skiway, bearing left to Appalachian Trail trailhead on left at Dorchester Rd, Lyme, NH 03768 (<https://goo.gl/maps/E4LJ1PgfFQ6hEuez5>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Dartmouth Skiway parking lot

Contact: Dartmouth Outing Club, dartmouth.outing.club@dartmouth.edu

7. Norwich, VT

Gile Mountain Trail



Photo: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:View_from_Gile_Mountain_fire_tower_in_autumn.jpg

Drive time from Hanover, NH: 30 minutes

Reward: From the top of a 67-foot fire tower—a 360-degree panorama.

Length of hike: 1.4 miles, 390 feet

Ease of use: Excellent; leads from kiosk at parking lot.

Note: Due to limited parking, please consider *carpooling*. Vehicles parked in the road will be ticketed.

Trail Finder: <https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/gile-mountain-trail>

Website: <https://outdoors.dartmouth.edu/activities/hiking/hikes/gile.html>

Directions to trailhead:

Norwich Main Street to left on Turnpike Road to Gile Mountain Trailhead
(<https://goo.gl/maps/2vUgPAyENBRGzp7W8>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Huntley Meadow parking lot, 114 Turnpike Rd, Norwich, VT 05055

Contact: Herbert A. Durfee III, Norwich town manager, hdurfee@norwich.vt.us

8. Orford, NH

Quinttown Road



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 35 minutes

Reward: Wild, secluded ponds with wildlife; beautiful view of Mt. Moosilauke; wildflowers in May, lupines in the third week of June; Jacobs Brook waterfalls along the way. Picnic tables.

Length of hike: 4.4 miles, 780 feet

Ease of use: A maintained gravel woods road (continuation of Quinttown Road) after the gate with the parking area.

Website: <https://www.vnews.com/Seeing-the-Forest-for-the-Lupines-2958766>

Directions to trailhead:

North on Route 10 to turn right on Rte 25A in Orford, past Orford Center, to turn right on Quinttown Road to 487 Quinttown Rd Orford, NH 03777
(<https://goo.gl/maps/STjU3Gb3Xq22jpQm8>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Rivendell Academy athletic field parking lot, opposite School Drive, Orford, NH 03777

Contact: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Administrative Assistant, Town of Orford
orfordselectmen@orfordnh.us

9. Orford, NH

Eastman Ledges



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 30 minutes

Reward: Beautiful views of Smarts Mountain; Jacobs Brook waterfalls along the way.

Length of hike: 2.5 miles, 710 feet

Ease of use: Excellent, follows gravel Quinttown Road after gate, then left on the Appalachian Trail. (Continues to Mt. Cube via Hexacube Shelter.)

Website: <http://mountainwandering.blogspot.com/2010/04/kodak-trailmt.html>

Directions to trailhead:

North on Route 10 to turn right on Rte 25A in Orford, past Orford Center, to turn right on Quinttown Road to 487 Quinttown Rd Orford, NH 03777
(<https://goo.gl/maps/STjU3Gb3Xq22jpQm8>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Rivendell Academy athletic field parking lot, opposite School Drive, Orford, NH 03777

Contact: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Administrative Assistant, Town of Orford
orfordselectmen@orfordnh.us

10. Plainfield, NH

French's Ledges



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 30 minutes

Reward: Beautiful views of Ascutney and Green Mountains to the west and Croydon Peak to the east

Length of hike: 4.1 miles, 620 feet (much shorter options are available—see website)

Ease of use: Good; wet in the spring.

Trail Finder: <https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/french-s-ledges-trails>

Website: <https://uvlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017-Frenchs-Ledges-and-Farnum-Trails-1.pdf>

Directions to trailhead:

South past W. Lebanon Plazas on Rte 12A; turn left on Trues Brook Road, which becomes Willow Brook Road, right on Colby Hill Road to parking for:

1. Longer hike at 145 Colby Hill Rd, Plainfield, NH 03781 (<https://goo.gl/maps/vaUfwQwdEqGGEWof8>), or continue to turn left on Columbus Jordan Rd to the trailhead for the
2. Shorter hike at 92 Columbus Jordan Rd, Plainfield, NH 03781 (<https://goo.gl/maps/rqWSNFtaycqBeXmr7>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

The Home Depot parking lot, 296 N Plainfield Rd, Lebanon, NH 03784

Contact: Jason Berard, Upper Valley Land Trust, jason.berard@uvlt.org

11. Windsor, VT

Brownsville Trail



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 30 minutes

Reward: Beautiful views to the north across the hills of Brownsville, Vermont.

Length of hike: 2.3 miles, 700 feet to lookout above Norcross Quarry

Ease of use: Excellent, follows well marked trail to quarry site; more views are available, continuing above quarry. An option is to continue to Brownsville Rock near the summit and then continue to the summit.

Trailfinder: <https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/mt-ascutney-state-park>

Website: https://vtstateparks.com/assets/pdf/ascutney_rec_guide.pdf

Directions to trailhead:

I-91 S to Windsor Exit 9; US Route 5 S to Windsor; VT Route 44 West to Brownsville Trail Parking, VT-44, Windsor, VT 05089 on left.
(<https://goo.gl/maps/ijy253XSpjWzGb98>)

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Windsor park and ride at Exit 9

Contact: Mt Ascutney State Park, 1826 Back Mountain Rd, Windsor, VT 05089,
802-674-2060

12. Windsor, VT

Ascutney Summit Loop



Drive time from Hanover, NH: 30 minutes

Reward: Views north from hang-glider platform; possible hang glider activity; 360-panorama from summit viewing platform.

Length of hike: 1 mile, 300 feet

Ease of use: Excellent, follows well-marked trails. Please refer to map (link below).

Trailfinder: <https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/mt-ascutney-state-park>

Website: https://vtstateparks.com/assets/pdf/ascutney_rec_guide.pdf

Directions to trailhead:

I-91 S to Ascutney/Weathersfield Exit 8; left to US 5; left to VT 44A enter and pay toll and entrance fees at Mt Ascutney State Park, 1826 Back Mountain Rd, Windsor, VT 05089. (<https://goo.gl/maps/vagqC5qaZ63jtPLS6>)

Note: Be prepared to pay entry fee per participant and toll for each vehicle.

Suggested carpool meeting point:

Weathersfield park and ride at Exit 8 or roadside on parking area opposite park entrance

Contact: Mt Ascutney State Park, 1826 Back Mountain Rd, Windsor, VT 05089, 802-674-2060