

A Map of the Hiking Trails and Some of the Interesting Natural and Historical Features of the Belknap Mountain Range



How to Read This Map

<i>Area</i>	<i>Trail Name</i>	<i>Difficulty</i>	<i>Views</i>	<i>Features</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Climb</i>	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Main Trail	Moderate	Good views on open ledges en route; excellent on peak	Well marked, much used; easy to follow; rough in spots	1.75 mi	1130'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Bypass Trail	Moderate	None – short trail thru woods which shortens Main Trail	Trail unmarked, but used enough to be fairly easy to follow	.45 mi	620'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Beeline Trail	Difficult	Few views – meets Main Trail at base of summit cone	Unmarked; rough; quite steep near top; trail head obscure	.75 mi	860'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Cross Trail	Moderate	Limited view from open area midway across; huge boulder with overhang beside trail	Unmarked; but fairly easy to follow; connects lower part of Beeline Trail to upper part of Express Route	.41 mi	440'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Express Route	Moderate	Occasional views near end of trail; obscure side trail offers scramble up big rock fall	Poorly marked, but well used & easy to follow; steep near the end; joins the Main Trail half way up the summit cone	.72 mi	970'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Bay View	Moderate	Good views of Alton Bay from open ledges near top; goes through mature pine and scrub oak forests	Poorly marked; not much used; requires short scramble over broken ledgy area ¼ of the way up	.7 mi	790'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Boulder Loop	Moderate	Occasional views thru trees; good views on open ledges near top; goes thru area of huge boulders on upper half	Well marked, much used & easy to follow; starts .4 mi up Beaver Pond Tr at road junction – go right (W) at junction	1.2 mi	1105'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Beaver Pond Trail	Moderate	Few views except at end; follows snowmobile trail thru deep woods most of the way; crosses Cascade Brook twice	Use snowmobile trail signs; passes beaver pond at 1.25 mi Follows series of wood roads to open ledges at end	3 mi	1070'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Brook Trail	Moderate	No views; follows wood roads; joins Major/Straitback Link near top & follows it east to Major's summit	Well marked & much used; follows Minge Brook much of the way & crosses it twice (could be a problem in high water)	1.2 mi	650'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Rock Cave Trail	Difficult	Good views near top; leaves Brook Trail about 1/3 mi up; goes to State Forest boundary & follows its blazes to open ledges near summit; goes thru fine hemlock grove	Rock cave near start; marked only when following Forest boundary; a bit obscure on open ledges; use care on steep ledgy area near top; footing poor in spots	.75 mi	845'	
Mt Major & Vicinity	Crosscut Saw Trail	Moderate	View from ledges near top; starts about ½ way up Rock Cave Tr; nice hemlock grove near start	Unmarked; can see a crosscut saw embedded in beech tree Saw was left leaning on a tree, which slowly grew around it	.5 mi	490'	
From Mt Major to Scout Reservation	Major/Straightback Link	Easy	In woods most of time; some views from open ledges ½ way across; good views at trail's end on Straightback Mtn	Fairly well marked & used often enough to make it fairly easy to follow; Quarry Trail spur leaves ½ way across	1.1 mi	300'	
From Mt Major to Scout Reservation	Straightback Mtn Trail	Moderate	1 st half in woods with few views; then goes thru an old blueberry lot with good views; grand views at top; follows snowmobile trail after leaving from Beaver Pond Trail	Unmarked; easy to follow while in woods, but a bit obscure while on open ledges; blueberries on upper half of trail	.9 mi	610'	
From Mt Major to Scout Reservation	Blueberry Pasture Trail	Moderate	Views good only near top, & great at top of Straightback Mtn; follows old road that went to a blueberry lot	Unmarked, but road is easy to follow; a bit obscure in open areas near top; blueberries in season near the top	1.95 mi	620'	
From Mt Major to Scout Reservation	Anna/Straightback Link	Easy	Views only at east end; enters Scout Res at west end	Well marked & easy to follow; Quarry Trail & Precipice Path leave this trail from open ledgy spot near east end	.9 mi	300'	
From Mt Major to Scout Reservation	Quarry Trail	Difficult	Several good view sites from E&W Quarry Mtns, Rand Mtn & Straightback Mtn; view from several cliffs	Well marked; gets moderate use & is fairly easy to follow; passes old quarry site, fine spruce forest & several cliffs	2.85 mi	400'	
From Mt Major to Scout Reservation	Precipice Path	Difficult	Nice views S&W from cliff top ½ way across; passes a 30' waterfall & cascading brook-impressive at high water	Well marked; steep in places; goes over top of range's biggest cliff face; several brook crossings during high water	2.1 mi	870'	
Scout Reservation	Red Trail – main trail Shown in next 5 sections		Crosses 4 mountain tops with some of best views in the range; circles the "perimeter" of the Scout Reservation	Most scout trails are fairly well marked & signed and get enough traffic to be fairly easy to follow	7.9 mi		
Scout Reservation	Scout camp to Round Pond	Easy	Some fine views W from open ledgy spots along the trail	Small gorge along Suncook Brook at N end of the trail	3 mi	930'	
Scout Reservation	Round Pd-Klem-Mack Loop	Moderate	Great views N & S from Mt Klem and S & W from Mt Mack	From the top of Mack, Red Tr goes E & Orange Tr goes W	2 mi	300'	
Scout Reservation	Mt Mack to Mt Anna	Moderate	No significant views; crosses a deep wooded valley	A number of small brooks flow thru this wooded valley	1.15 mi	545'	
Scout Reservation	Mt Anna to Red/Blue Trail	Moderate	Some views atop Anna, esp a few 100 yds W down Blue Tr	Passes S thru a nice woods heading for Red/Blue Tr junction	.95 mi	820'	
Scout Reservation	To Blue Tr via Goat Pasture Hill	Easy	Nice outlook N from high up on Goat Pasture Hill; huge oak (19' girth) several 100 yd W of trail ½ way up	At junction with Blue Trail, the Red Trail turns southerly and leads to main scout camp at Hidden Valley	.85 mi	280'	
Scout Reservation	Red/Blue Trail	Easy	Few views; bisects reservation E to W thru the woods	Passes an old farm site and an old logging camp site	2.2 mi	280'	
Scout Reservation	Blue Trail	Moderate	Views near top of Mt Anna; passes a beaver pond at S end	Passes a nice gorge before turning east to climb Mt Anna	1.1 mi	830'	
Scout Reservation	Yellow Trail	Moderate	Good views to S & W from the top of Shannon Mtn	Huge boulders at E end of tr; joins Blue/Yellow Tr at top	1.2 mi	300'	
Scout Reservation	Blue/Yellow Trail	Moderate	Good view N just west of summit of Mt Shannon	Crosses outlet of large beaver pond before joining Blue Tr	.5 mi	220'	
Scout Reservation	Orange Trail	Moderate	Good views S & W from ledgy sites along Mack Ridge	S end of trail requires a scramble over a large rock fall	2.25 mi	850'	
Scout Reservation	Round Pond Trail	The Round Pond Trail is no longer available for public use. Try trails from Bickford					460'
Gunstock Mtn	Ridge Trail	Moderate	Grand views of Winnepesaukee and White Mtns	Well marked; follows ridge line between Gunstock & Rowe	1.5 mi	1280'	
Gunstock Mtn	Brook Trail	Moderate	Mostly in woods; great views from Gunstock summit, tho	Well marked; start from parking lot at Gunstock Ski Area	1.25 mi	1270'	
Gunstock Mtn	Saddle Trail	Easy	No views – connects Brook Trail to Overlook Trail	Well marked; goes thru saddle joining Gunstock & Belknap	.1 mi	20'	
Gunstock Mtn	Gunstock Mtn Trail	Moderate	Views W from 2 ledgy areas just off the trail, high up	Marked; moderately used; trailhead a bit obscure	1.1 mi	1155'	
Gunstock Mtn	Overlook Trail	Moderate	Fine views from a high bluff about 1/3 of the way up mtn; starts from Gunstock's parking lot	Well marked; goes thru fine forest on SE slopes of Gunstock Connects the Belknap/Gunstock saddle to CC ski trail system	1.6 mi	960'	
Gunstock Mtn	CC Ski Trail to Round Pond	Easy	Negligible views along this thickly wooded path	Fairly well marked; crosses Poor Farm Brook twice	1.6 mi	810'	
Belknap Mtn	Red Trail	Moderate	Grand vista from fire tower on Belknap; few other views	Well marked; this trail & the Blue, White and Green Trails all start at the end of the Belknap Mtn Carriage Road.	.8 mi	710'	
Belknap Mtn	Green Trail	Moderate	Grand vista from fire tower on Belknap; few other views	Well marked; water (pump) a bit S of the fire tower	.75 mi	710'	
Belknap Mtn	Blue Trail	Moderate	Grand vista from fire tower; some views on ascent	Well marked; good view half way up ridge to summit	.95 mi	710'	
Belknap Mtn	White Trail	Moderate	Grand vista from fire tower; some nice views on ascent	Well marked; starts 200 yds below the parking area	.9 mi	750'	
Belknap Mtn	Yellow (E Gilford) Trail	Moderate	Grand vista from fire tower; nice views S & E on ascent	Well marked; starts on E side of Mtn from Bickford Road	1.95 mi	1270'	
Belknap Mtn	Boulder Trail	Moderate	Nice views S & W from open ledges; joins Yellow Trail	Well marked; starts at junction of Round Pond & Piper Links	.4 mi	380'	
Belknap Mtn	Piper Link	Moderate	Some views from open ledges along W half of trail; joins Round Pond link & Old Piper Trail; avoids climbing Belknap	Well marked, but somewhat brushy; steep section with loose material underfoot at W end of trail requires care	.95 mi	170'	
Belknap Mtn	Round Pond Link	Easy	Views negligible on this woody walk; starts at Belknap's E base, from junction of Boulder Tr and Piper Link	Well marked & easy to follow; connects hikers from Belknap area to Round Pond, scout reservation and Mt Major area	1 mi	175'	
Piper Mtn	Old Piper Trail	Easy	Good views at end from Piper's N summit; an outlook 3/4 of way across offers good view E across Moulton Ravine	Well marked; easy way to Piper via White Tr from the Belknap Mtn Carriage Rd; connects Belknap & Piper Mtns	.45 mi	210'	
Piper Mtn	Piper Mountain Trail	Moderate	Good views at top; some views along the way; comes out by stone chairs made at summit by hikers	Well marked & often used; starts from Carriage Road near 1 st gate; early brook crossing can be a problem in high water	1.1 mi	980'	
Piper Mtn	Piper-Whiteface Link	Moderate	Good views from open ledges at top of Piper & in spots near the top along the way	Well marked with green blazes; rock cairns help along the ledgy areas at the top; connects Piper Mt & Whiteface Mt	.85 mi	520'	
Piper Mtn	Vista Trail	Easy	Panorama from open ledges at far S end of summit; more limited views from many open spots along the trail	Well marked in yellow; leaves Piper-Whiteface Link where the trail turns SW to descend; trails atop Piper have blueberries	.45 mi	170'	
Piper Mtn	Valley View Trail	Difficult	Several viewpoints S & E; limited views as you scramble up large rockfall on the way back up to the Vista Trail	Well marked; quite steep in a few spots and should be used with care; potentially dangerous if used in wet conditions	1.5 mi	300'	
Piper Mtn	Swett Mountain Trail	Moderate	Good views from several open spots on summit; starts at end of Vista Trail; must return via same trail	Poorly marked; grade mostly easy, with 2 short, steep parts	.85 mi	300'	
Whiteface Mtn	Whiteface Mtn Trail	Moderate	Good views in all directions from the Whiteface summit	Unmarked; leaves from the end of Belknap Mtn Rd	1.5 mi	620'	
Avery Hill	Avery Hill Trail	Steep	Good views-N to Belknap Range, W to Hills Pond & Sunset L	Poorly marked; but easy to follow; near end of Alton Mtn Rd	.4 mi	420'	

Trails: Most of the trails shown on the map are indicated by solid colored lines. All such trails are named on the map and short descriptions of them can be seen on the left half of this page. Line colors are chosen to match the blaze marks found on the trails they represent; however, quite a few trails in this range are not marked with blazes, and the colors for such trails are chosen at random.

About 50 named trails are shown. Unfortunately, in this range many of the trails have few, if any, blazes, and most are not provided with signs to indicate distances or destinations. The lack of signs also makes it hard to find the trailheads for quite a few trails - however, once a trailhead is found, most of the trails are used enough to be fairly easy to follow by anyone who has had a fair amount of hiking experience. The descriptions to the left will help you to determine how well particular trails are marked.

A few of the trails shown on the map are indicated by broken lines - these trails are usually quite primitive, little used, and very infrequently cleared or maintained. Therefore, they are hard to find and hard to follow, sometimes being overgrown in places to the point of being nearly invisible. Such trails are suitable only for the most experienced hikers, who are very adept at finding their way in the woods and skilled enough at bushwhacking to be able to easily find their way back to a good trail if they do lose their way on one of these more primitive ones. A broken-line trail in green is one of the less difficult of this type to follow, but locating its trailhead may be quite difficult. Broken-line trails in red are not only difficult to locate but can also be very difficult to follow in places. These trails are not named, or described on the left side of this page.

Black dashed lines represent old roads (logging roads, abandoned farm roads, etc.) that can serve as trails to access some of the more remote features shown on the map. The narrower the black line, the tougher the road is to follow (blow-down, growth, etc.).

Symbols: A number of letter symbols are shown on the map. They identify places in the range where interesting natural or historical features can be found. Going to see most of these features will require good bushwhacking skills, since only a few of them have trails leading directly to them. Below is a listing of the symbols and descriptions of their meaning. At the bottom of the page is a listing of coordinates (using the red letters and numbers at the top and left side of the map) which indicate where examples of each item identified by a symbol can be found in the range. The map has 11 hiker icons (?), which identify parking areas.

Plant Features (green)

- BP** - wild blueberry pasture
- CF** – colt’s foot – uncommon wildflower
- CS** - tree grown around a crosscut saw
- left leaning on it decades ago
- HA** - huge ash tree - 13.5’ in girth
- HB** - huge birch tree - 11.2’ girth
- HL** - hepatica - uncommon wildflower
- HM** - huge maple - 14.2’ girth
- HO** - huge oak - 19.7’ girth
- HP** - huge pine - 16’ girth
- ML** - mountain laurel patch
- PP** - pipsissewa - uncommon wildflower
- SB** - spring beauty - uncommon flower
- TF** - twinflower – uncommon wildflower

Geologic Features (brown/blue)

- BF** - boulder field - glacier-made
- C** - rock cave made from huge boulders
- OL** - outlook - view from mountainside
- RF** – huge blocks of rock fallen from cliffs
- RF/C** - rock fall with caves formed
- RF/B** - rock fall/hidden brook below it
- SC** - sheer cliffs of 25’ or more
- WF** - waterfall – most brooks in this range are seasonal & don’t flow year round

Man-made Features (black)

- CH** – cellar hole from 1800’s or earlier
- CK** - stone charcoal kiln from 1800’s
- DS** - deer hunter’s tree stand
- GC** - stone easy chair made by hikers
- HC** – remains of old hunter/hermit cabin sites
- HR** – roof blown off Mt Major hut in 1928
- IM** - site of 1827 iron mine (43-31-38 N, 71-23-1 W)
- LT** - lean-to camping shelter built in woods
- MM** - memorial marker for deceased hikers
- MS** - old portable sawmill site/ gear left behind
- PW** - plane wreck – 3 died in 1973
- QS** - quarry site from 1800’s
- SL** - remains of old logging sledge
- TP** – utility poles – 1st power line to Gilford
- ? ?- parking areas (some quite small)

Map coordinates of above features: underlined items are the best examples

- BP – C3,C9,D2,D9,E6,E8,F1
- CF – F5
- CS - C9
- HA – B9
- HB – D9
- HL – D3
- HM – B9
- HO – F8
- HP - F8
- ML – E11
- PP – D1,F5,G6
- SB – E2
- TF – D5

- BF – B10,C10,E7,E8,E9,G6
- C - B10,B11,C10,D6,D10,E7,F3
- OL – B2,B3,C3,C5,C6,C7,C8,C9,D2,D3,D6,
D7,D8,D9,E3,E5,E8,F1,F4,F5,F8
- RF - C3,C7,D4,D10,E2,E3,E7,E8,D9
- RF/C – C8,C10
- RF/B – C3
- SC – D3,D4,E3,E8,F1
- WF – D1,D3,D4,B4,E5,E8

- CH – B7,B9,B10,D1,E8,E10,F7,F9
- CK – F5
- DS – C5,C8,D2,D6,E2,F3
- GC – D2,E3
- HC – B2,D1,D3,C7,D7,F5
- HR – C10
- IM – B2
- LT – D3,D5,E2,E10
- MM – B2,C3
- MS – C4,E5
- PW – C3
- QS – C7
- SL – E5
- TP – C8,D8

This map calls long runs of inclined, smooth ledge which brooks rapidly glide over flumes (the best ones are at E4 and E6). True flumes, brooks which cut deeply through solid rock, forming high walls on each side, can be found at D1 or E5.

The monument at D7 is a 3-sided fieldstone with the initials A (Alton), G (Gilford) and G (Gilmanton) and dates going back to the mid-1800’s chiseled into it to show when the 3 town lines that meet there were checked (theoretically every 10 years or so, as called for by an old state law).

The most impressive sheer cliff face is found on the southern slope of Whiteface Mt. – a vertical rockface 60⁺ ft. high, used by rock climbers.

Much of the mapped land is in private ownership and hikers should use it with great care and respect.