

24. NY Route 23 to Greene County Route 10

Features: Ginseng Mountain, Mt. Hayden

Distance: 7.20 miles

USGS Map Quads: Hensonville

Trail Conference Maps: Map 41, Northeastern Catskill Trails

General Description

In this section, the Long Path leaves the Catskill Park after a journey of 94 miles and continues to the north. The terrain is similar to that found in the Catskills, but on a smaller scale. The primary ridge followed by the trail in this section is a continuation of the Catskill Escarpment. For much of the distance along the ridge, the trail follows logging roads. The area is still alive with logging activity, but forest recovers quickly, where there has not been any clear cutting. There are no great open views, but there are many good views along the way when the leaves are down. The trail crosses two notches, Jenne and Barlow, which are bisected by the remnants of old mountain turnpikes that connected the mountains to the valley to the east. The first 0.75 miles of the section goes through state land and is marked with blue DEC trail markers, while the rest of the section is on private land and is marked with aqua Long Path paint blazes. On these private lands, crossed with the permission of the owners, no camping and no fires of any kind are permitted. This section of the trail is closed during deer hunting season.

Access

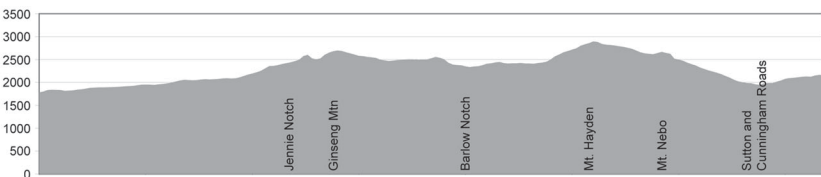
Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 21 (Catskill). Continue on NY Route 23 west approximately 20 miles to East Windham. About 0.5 miles past the “Entering Catskill Park” sign, turn right at Cross Road. There is a DEC parking area just south of the intersection of Route 23 and Cross Road.

Parking

0.00 Parking area on NY Route 23 in East Windham, at intersection with Cross Road. (18T 566761E 4684806N)

6.55 Intersection of Sutton Road and Cunningham Road. (18T 563930E 4691498N)

7.20 Greene County Route 10 about 100 feet south of the trail intersection. (18T 563182E 4691621N)



Trail Description

0.00 From the intersection of NY Route 23 and Cross Road proceed north on Cross Road for about 150 feet, just beyond the DEC parking area. The Long Path, blazed with blue DEC trail markers, then turns right, crosses a small field and enters the woods. The trail continues east, parallel to Route 23, crosses a stone wall, passes through a swampy area and then crosses another stone wall.

0.30 Here we leave the Catskill Park, which the Long Path has traversed for the last 94 miles. The trail turns left, away from Route 23, and ascends gradually to an old spruce and hemlock forest. From here, the trail descends gradually to the left.

0.75 Cross Old Road and continue north on paved Jenne Notch Road. The Long Path now leaves state land, and for the remainder of the section it is marked with aqua paint blazes. Jenne Notch Road becomes a gravel road.

1.30 After passing several houses, Jenne Notch Road officially ends at an old red brick house. The trail passes through an iron gate and continues along a newly constructed gravel road uphill to Jenne Notch. This road follows the route of an old 19th century mountain turnpike.

2.10 Reach another iron gate. Not long afterwards, the trail turns left off of the logging road onto a faint woods road.

2.35 At the height of land, the trail turns sharply to the left and begins a steep climb up Ginseng Mountain on an old logging road. Many logging roads cross the ridge in the next 4 miles and the hiker may encounter active logging areas. At the top of the steep rise, the trail turns right, leaving the logging road. The trail goes east of and below the summit of Ginseng Mountain, emerging on an old logging road just north of the summit.

2.85 The trail turns onto a newer logging road and descends to the north of Ginseng Mountain. Along this section, there are good views ahead to Mt. Hayden on the ridge and to Mt. Pisgah and Huntersfield Mountain in the distance. Huntersfield Mountain is the highest mountain in the Catskills north of Route 23.

3.20 The logging road that has been followed by the trail turns left and descends steeply to Lake Heloise (where there is a private campground) as the Long Path continues ahead along the western edge of the ridge, skirting a recently logged area. There are views back towards Ginseng Mountain to the south, and west through the trees to Lake Heloise and Cave Mountain, home of the Windham Ski Resort. The trail turns back toward the center of the ridge. It then turns very sharply left and climbs an unnamed knob.

3.70 Reach the top of the knob, which is grassy and logged. The trail now descends, first to the west and then to the north, towards Barlow Notch.

4.00 Reach Barlow Notch. Here the trail crosses another mountain turnpike then bears left to begin ascending Mt. Hayden. The trail ascends gradually, levels out, then climbs gradually again following the top of a small escarpment.

4.60 The trail crosses a faint woods road that descends to the left towards Lake Heloise then climbs steeply through a rock ledge and crosses another



Frozen mud on the trail

woods road. After crossing the second woods road, the trail ascends very steeply through a series of switchbacks.

4.85 The grade moderates as the trail bears to the left. It reaches an eroded logging road, turns right and follows it through the woods as it ascends Mt. Hayden along the southwestern ridge.

5.10 The trail reaches a private property boundary just below the summit of Mt. Hayden and bears left and stays just west and below the summit. The trail begins to descend towards Mt. Nebo, again on the west side of the ridge.

5.50 The Long Path bears left on a faint road, descending gradually to the col between Mt. Hayden and Mt. Nebo.

5.80 Reach the summit of Mt. Nebo, which is really a shoulder of Mt. Hayden. Here the trail turns right and descends to the east, gradually at first and then steeply via a series of switchbacks, with views through the trees to the farms and fields of the Hudson Valley below. At the bottom of the steep section, the trail joins an old road that parallels the ridge and descends, passing the ruins of an abandoned house just before Sutton Road.

6.55 Turn left onto dirt Sutton Road close to its fork with Cunningham Road (no sign). Cross both roads and re-enter the woods. The trail continues westward parallel to Cunningham Road, descending gradually.

7.20 After a brief climb, reach Greene County Route 10. The parking area is about 100 feet south on Route 10. To continue, cross Route 10 and proceed uphill on a quarry road.