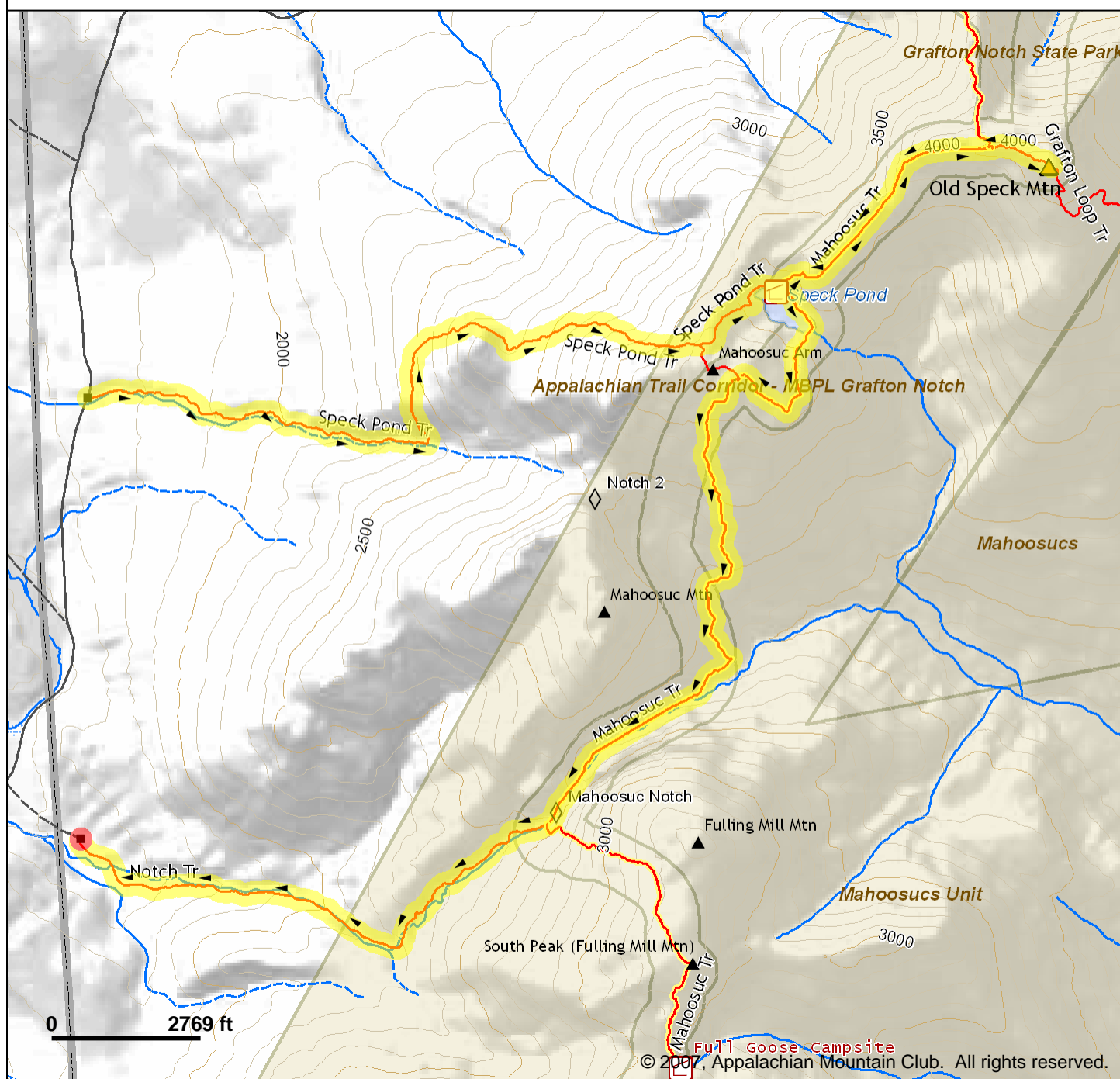


# Mahoosuc1-12mi



## Notes

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Distance	Time	Elev Change	Trail / Waypoint	Latitude	Longitude
Near its northern end, Success Pond Road forks. The easterly fork, which skirts below York Pond, is washed out and not accessible. The northerly fork is open and should be used.					
			starting at Speck Pond Trailhead	44° 33' 34"	71° 01' 22"
			This trail ascends to Speck Pond from Success Pond Rd.; take the right fork of the road 11.4 mi. from Hutchins St. (marked by "SPECK MT. TRAIL, RT. 26" painted on a boulder) and continue 0.8 mi. to the trailhead (sign). There is parking on the left just beyond the trailhead, opposite the entrance to Speck Pond Rd.		
1.40 mi	1 hr 0 min	+576 ft	on Speck Pond Trail		
1.40 mi	1 hr 0 min	+576 ft	This trail ascends to Speck Pond from Success Pond Rd.		
			The trail leaves Success Pond Rd., enters the woods, and in 100 yd. makes a crossing of Sucker Brook that may be difficult; in another 75 yd., the trail recrosses the brook. (In high water conditions, it may be best to walk 100 yd. up Speck Pond Rd. and then bushwhack south to the trail, which runs a short distance away on the near side of the brook, parallel to the road and the brook.) The trail follows the north side of the brook at easy, then moderate grades.		
1.70 mi	1 hr 34 min	+1404 ft	on Speck Pond Trail		
3.10 mi	2 hr 34 min	+1980 ft	The trail then turns left away from the brook and traverses northward across an area of recent logging, crossing several skid roads and the top of an open brushy area. Follow markings carefully here, especially where the trail bears right at a cairn as it leaves the open area. The trail then swings right (east) and climbs moderately, crosses a relatively level section, then bears left and climbs rather steeply and roughly, with one wooden ladder up a wet ledge, to the jct. with May Cutoff, which diverges right.		
			to the junction of May Cutoff	44° 33' 43"	70° 58' 45"
0.50 mi	16 min	-294 ft	on Speck Pond Trail		
3.60 mi	2 hr 50 min	+1686 ft	Speck Pond Trail continues over a height-of-land, passes an outlook over the pond and up to Old Speck, then descends steeply to the pond and reaches the campsite and Mahoosuc Trail.		
			to Speck Pond Campsite	44° 33' 53"	70° 58' 25"
1.10 mi	57 min	+613 ft	on Mahoosuc Trail		

Distance	Time	Elev Change	Trail / Waypoint	Latitude	Longitude
4.70 mi	3 hr 47 min	+2298 ft	<p>This trail extends along the entire length of the Mahoosuc Range from Gorham NH to the summit of Old Speck. Beyond its junction with the Centennial Trail, the Mahoosuc Trail is a link in the AT. Camping is available at the Trident Col tentsite and four shelters: Gentian Pond, Carlo Col, Full Goose, and Speck Pond (all of which also have tentsites). These sites may have a caretaker, in which case a fee is charged. See earlier for trailside camping regulations. Water is scarce, particularly in dry weather, and its purity is always in question. Do not be deceived by the relatively low elevations; this trail is among the most rugged of its kind in the White Mountains, a very strenuous trail—particularly for those with heavy packs—with numerous minor humps and cols, and many ledges, some of them quite steep, that are likely to be slippery when wet. Many parts of the trail may require significantly more time than that provided by the formula, particularly for backpackers, and Mahoosuc Notch may require several extra hours, depending in part on how much time one spends enjoying the spectacular scenery. Mahoosuc Notch is regarded by many who have hiked the entire length of the AT as its most difficult mile. Caution: Mahoosuc Notch can be hazardous in wet or icy conditions and can remain impassable because of unmelted snowdrifts through the end of May and perhaps even longer. Some sections of the ridge, especially the one traversing Goose Eye Mountain, have significant weather exposure.</p> <p>The trail crosses the outlet brook and continues around the east side of the pond to Speck Pond Campsite (in summer, there is a caretaker and a fee for overnight camping). Here the Speck Pond Trail to Success Pond Rd. leaves on the left.</p> <p>The trail then climbs to the southeast end of the next hump on the ridge, passes over it, and runs across the east face of a second small hump. In the gully beyond, a few yards east of the trail, there is an unreliable spring. The trail climbs on the west shoulder of Old Speck, reaching an open area where the footway is well defined on the crest.</p> <p>to the junction of Old Speck Trail</p>	44° 34' 19"	70° 57' 29"
0.30 mi	13 min	+127 ft	on Mahoosuc Trail		
5.00 mi	4 hr 0 min	+2426 ft	<p>Near the top of the shoulder, the trail bears right, reenters the woods, and follows the wooded crest with blue blazes that mark the boundary of Grafton Notch State Park. The Old Speck Trail, which continues the AT north, diverges left to Grafton Notch, and the Mahoosuc Trail runs straight ahead to the summit of Old Speck and its observation tower, where the recently cleared summit offers fine views in many directions. Here the new Grafton Loop Trail (not yet open in the fall 2006) will lead south.</p> <p>to Old Speck Mtn</p>	44° 34' 15"	70° 57' 14"
0.30 mi	9 min	-127 ft	on Mahoosuc Trail		
5.30 mi	4 hr 9 min	+2298 ft	<p>From the summit of Old Speck and its observation tower, where the recently cleared summit offers fine views in many directions the AT continues north and the Mahoosuc Trail runs west, coinciding with the Old Speck Trail. In the future, the new Grafton Loop Trail (not yet open in the fall 2006) will lead south. The trails follow the wooded crest with blue blazes that mark the boundary of Grafton Notch State Park out of the woods near the top of the shoulder.</p> <p>to the junction of Old Speck Trail</p>	44° 34' 19"	70° 57' 29"
1.10 mi	39 min	-613 ft	on Mahoosuc Trail		
6.40 mi	4 hr 48 min	+1686 ft	<p>The Mahoosuc Trail descends the west shoulder of Old Speck. In the gully beyond, a few yards east of the trail, there is an unreliable spring. The trail runs across the east face of a small hump then passes over the next hump on the ridge. It descends down the hump and the Speck Pond Trail to Success Pond Rd. leaves on the right. The main trail continues to Speck Pond Campsite (in summer, there is a caretaker and a fee for overnight camping). It passes around the east side of the pond and crosses the outlet brook.</p> <p>to Speck Pond Campsite</p>	44° 33' 53"	70° 58' 25"
0.90 mi	39 min	+339 ft	on Mahoosuc Trail		
7.30 mi	5 hr 27 min	+2025 ft	<p>From Speck Pond (3,430 ft.), one of the highest ponds in Maine, bordered with thick woods, the Mahoosuc Trail climbs slightly and wanders across the semi-open summit plateau.</p> <p>to the junction of May Cutoff</p>	44° 33' 37"	70° 58' 35"

Distance	Time	Elev Change	Trail / Waypoint	Latitude	Longitude
2.70 mi	1 hr 35 min	-1282 ft	on Mahoosuc Trail		
10.00 mi	7 hr 2 min	+743 ft	The trail passes the May Cutoff which diverges right and leads over the true summit to the Speck Pond Trail. The Mahoosuc Trail passes over the flat ledges near the summit of Mahoosuc Arm then descends the southern ridge. A little more than halfway down, it passes the head of a little flume, in which there is sometimes water. The trail then winds downward among rocks and ledges on the very steep wooded slope of Mahoosuc Arm with a steep, rough footway and many wet, slippery slabs. The trail crosses to the south side of a brook then descends moderately but roughly under the east end of Mahoosuc Mountain along the valley that leads to Notch 2. At the lower end of the notch, the trail bears right, entering Mahoosuc Notch. The trail ascends the length of the narrow notch along a rough footway, passing through a number of boulder caverns, some with narrow openings where progress will be slow and where ice remains into summer. The trail is blazed on the rocks with white paint. Caution: Great care should be exercised in the notch because of the numerous slippery rocks and dangerous holes. The notch may be impassable through early June because of snow, even with snowshoes. Heavy backpacks will impede progress considerably.		
			to Mahoosuc Notch	44° 32' 16"	70° 59' 25"
2.20 mi	1 hr 7 min	-858 ft	on Notch Trail		
12.20 mi	8 hr 9 min	-115 ft	<a href="#">This trail ascends at easy grades to the southwest end of Mahoosuc Notch, providing the easiest access to that wild and beautiful place.</a>  The Notch Trail leaves the Mahoosuc Trail at the height of land. The trail descends easily along a slow-running brook, crossing it three times, following logging roads much of the way with bypasses at some of the wetter spots. The trail ends at Shelter Brook Rd., where there is a small parking area.		
			to Notch Trailhead	44° 32' 14"	71° 01' 25"
			The Notch Trail begins on Shelter Brook Rd. (sign), a spur road that leaves Success Pond Rd. 10.9 mi. from Hutchins St. and runs 0.3 mi. to a junction, where there is limited parking on the left. Shelter Brook Rd. turns right here (avoid Alder Brook Rd., which continues ahead) and crosses two bridges (the second of which has been deteriorating and should be checked before one drives across). At 0.5 mi. from Success Pond Rd. there is a parking area on the right, and 50 yd. further, the trail leaves the road on the left (sign).  To find Success Pond Rd., leave NH 16 just south of the city of Berlin, 4.5 mi. north of its eastern junction with US 2 in Gorham, and follow Unity St. across the Androscoggin on the Cleveland Bridge. At the east end of the bridge, Unity St. swings left and passes through a set of traffic lights in 0.7 mi. from NH 16. At 0.8 mi., the road bears right across railroad tracks, and at 0.9 mi., it bears left and becomes Hutchins St. It bears left at 1.6 mi. and at 1.9 mi., where there is usually a sign on the left reading "OHRV PARKING 1 MILE," the Success Pond Rd. begins on the right (east).		
12.20 mi	8 hr 9 min	-115 ft	<b>Totals</b>		

## Disclaimer

The use of this content is at your own risk. You acknowledge that (i) hiking, climbing and camping and related outdoor activities entail inherent risks and hazards, (ii) that conditions are variable and the content does not purport to be error-free or up to date, (iii) the presence of some warnings does not mean that all dangerous situations or changes in conditions will result in warnings on the AMC Site (and, thus, in this report), and (iv) ratings are very general, assume good weather and trail conditions and good physical fitness and constitute only one factor of many in a decision to hike a trail.

## Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Appalachian Mountain Club Pinkham Notch Visitor Center	603-466-2721
U.S. Forest Service	603-528-8721
National Weather Service	603-225-5191

## Additional WMNF Information

Camping is allowed anywhere in the WMNF, but is prohibited or restricted in Forest Protection Areas (FPAs). Generally, in Forest Protection Areas no camping is permitted above treeline (where trees are less than 8 feet tall), within ¼ mile of a trailhead or road, within 200 feet of a trail.

## Wilderness Areas

In accordance with USFS Wilderness policy, trails in designated Wilderness areas are generally maintained to a lower standard than trails outside Wilderness. They may be rough, overgrown or essentially unmarked with minimal signage, and considerable care may be required to follow them. Hiking and camping group size must be no larger than 10 people. Camping and fires are also prohibited above treeline (where trees are less than 8 feet tall) except in winter, when camping is permitted above treeline in places where snow cover is at least 2 feet, but not on any frozen body of water.

## Alpine Zone

Hikers are encouraged to be particularly careful in their activities above treeline because the plants that grow there already have to cope with the severity of the environment. No plants should ever be picked or otherwise damaged. Hikers are urged to stay on trails or walk very carefully on rocks so as not to kill fragile alpine vegetation. AMC urges hikers to become citizen-scientists and help AMC in alpine plant monitoring – see [www.outdoors.org/mountainwatch](http://www.outdoors.org/mountainwatch) for details.



### Safety Tips from the Appalachian Mountain Club

Here's the essential clothing and gear you need — even for a day hike — in the Northeast's mountains in the spring, summer, or fall. **Always check the weather and prepare for the worst conditions; make plans with your group's abilities in mind; and plan an alternate route in case of bad weather, injury, illness, or slower than expected travel time.**

**Avoiding Hypothermia:** Hypothermia can occur when your core body temperature falls below normal. This can easily happen when you are exposed to cold winds or wetness.

You can avoid hypothermia if you guard against dehydration, fatigue, cold winds, and wet clothes. Be sure to:

- Dress warmly, in layers.
- Stay dry.
- Protect yourself from wind, rain, and snow. (This can be done most effectively by wearing clothes that block wind and moisture.)
- Eat high-energy snacks and drink plenty of water.
- Do not over-exert.
- Pack essential gear, even on day hikes.

**Essential Gear:** Be sure to wear or bring the following:

Wool sweater or synthetic pile jacket \* Hat \* Gloves or mittens  
Bandanna or handkerchief \* Long pants (avoid cotton)  
Wind and rain gear (jacket and pants)

Extra socks \* Sturdy boots \* Polypropylene or wool underwear

First-aid kit \* Waterproof matches. \* Whistle \* Knife.

Guidebook, trail map, and compass. \* High-energy snacks.

Two to four quarts of water, per person. \* Flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries.

Sunscreen. \* Insect repellent. \* Plastic trash bags

Consider carrying a sleeping bag in case you are forced to sleep out overnight. If you're traveling in a group, carry at least one sleeping bag. It is an emergency tool that can keep an injured hiker warm until help arrives.

For more advice of preparing for your next hike, see: [www.outdoors.org/tripplanner](http://www.outdoors.org/tripplanner)

AMC offers over 8,000 outdoor programs each year, offers a wide range of educational programs, and maintains over 1,700 miles of trails in the Northeast. Most of all, we rely on the support of hikers like you. To join, visit [www.outdoors.org/membership](http://www.outdoors.org/membership).

AMC recommends hikers follow the hikeSafe Hiker Responsibility Code, and minimize their impact on the backcountry by following Leave No Trace principles.

### hikeSafe Hiker Responsibility Code



You are responsible for yourself, so be prepared:

**With knowledge and gear.** Become self reliant by learning about the terrain, conditions, local weather and your equipment before you start.

**To leave your plans.** Tell someone where you are going, the trails you are hiking, when you will return and your emergency plans.

**To stay together.** When you start as a group, hike as a group, end as a group. Pace your hike to the slowest person.

**To turn back.** Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Fatigue and unexpected conditions can also affect your hike. Know your limitations and when to postpone your hike. The mountains will be there another day.

**For emergencies.** Even if you are headed out for just an hour, an injury, severe weather or a wrong turn could become life threatening. Don't assume you will be rescued; know how to rescue yourself.

**To share the hiker code with others.**

hikeSafe: It's Your Responsibility. To learn more, see: [www.hikesafe.com](http://www.hikesafe.com)

The Hiker Responsibility Code was developed and is endorsed by the White Mountain National Forest and New Hampshire Fish and Game.

### Leave No Trace principles to minimize backcountry impact



**Plan ahead and prepare.** Know the terrain and any regulations applicable to the area you're planning to visit, and be prepared for extreme weather or other emergencies. Small groups have less impact on resources than large ones.

**Travel and camp on durable surfaces, which include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.** Camp at least 200 feet from lakes and streams, and focus activities on areas where vegetation is absent.

**Dispose of waste properly.** Pack it in, pack it out. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

**Leave what you find.** Cultural or historic artifacts, as well as natural objects such as plants or rocks, should be left as found.

**Minimize campfire impacts.** Cook on a stove. If a campfire is built, keep it small and use dead sticks found on the ground. Use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.

**Respect wildlife.** View critters from a distance. Feeding wildlife alters their natural behavior.

**Be considerate of other visitors.** Be courteous, respect the quality of other visitors' backcountry experience, and let the natural sounds of the forest prevail.

The AMC partners with Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, to provide Leave No Trace training in the East. For more on our LNT Master Educator training, see [www.outdoors.org/education](http://www.outdoors.org/education).