

# Ragged Mountain Trails, Camden

*Ragged Mountain trails in blue and purple (Bald Mountain trails in orange, and Spruce/Mt. Pleasant mountain trails in green). Round the Mountain multi-use trail (bicycles, skiers, hikers) is in light blue.*

Ragged Mountain has many trails. The paths on the Camden Snow Bowl are popular with mountain bikers. A very nice loop from the Snow Bowl is to head up the Hosmer Brook Trail, which, after you get off the mountain, is a footpath for hikers and snowshoers. To find the Hosmer Brook Trail, which is blue blazed, you'll have to head to the far right of the mountain and start hiking up one of the downhill ski trails called Spinnaker. You'll see the brook trail headed into the woods, on your right, at about .25 miles. It climbs for 1.2 miles (although you could just do a little loop in the woods and return for a 1.6-mile hike), before reaching the long-distance Georges Highland Path. If you take a left at this point, you'll walk about .4 miles to the junction with the Snow Bowl's red trail. Take this down, past the tower (I saw another trail with cairns here, but didn't explore), and down the mountain. There are some lovely views along the way. It's about 1.7 miles.

To do this in reverse, the best way to catch the red trail is to either follow the double chairlift up to where it ends at a patch of woods. You'll see the blazed trail slightly to your right, if you're looking up the mountain. Or you can start by climbing up the road underneath the triple chair, and at .3 miles, turn left onto a track to cross the ski slope to the double chairlift. Continue walking up, and you'll see the well-blazed red trail just to the right at the end of the lift.

A 5.5-mile section of the Round the Mountain Trail, built in 2020/2021, takes you below the craggy ridge of Ragged Mountain and curves around the northeast side of Mirror Lake. While there are some ups and downs, you don't summit any mountains on this trail; it's fairly easy and has nice views (in the winter, through trees), despite not reaching higher elevations! It is also popular with fat bikers. I believe it is gravel-based, and there is a wheelchair accessible portion at the start, near the Thorndike Brook trailhead.

I have started exploring the eastern side of this trail system, gradually getting closer to NEMBA's Goose River trail network, which is a system designed for mountain bikers (these are not shown on my map). The Ragged Mountain side trails, as I'm calling them, start from the bunny slope on the Snow Bowl, branching off left about half-way up, and then criss-crossing uphill. You'll see a trail kiosk in front of and slightly to the left of the bunny slope where you can park. You can also park in front of the tennis courts nearby.

These particular side trails aren't blazed, as far as I could see, but they're wide and easy to follow. The main trail is called Kuller. It will take you to the Coastal Mountains Land Trust's blazed Ragged Mountain Trail loop (which is wide and easy) and blazed 5 Brooks Trail, which connects to the Goose River trail system. I've included some maps and links to help newcomers find their way around this sprawling system. These trails are not groomed for skiing.

**Directions:** You can plug in Camden Snow Bowl into your GPS – it'll get you there! The ski area is on your left if you are driving away from Camden on Hosmer Pond Road. You can also park at many other trail heads along Route 17, Hope Street, and other spots. Check out the maps I've added below, or click on the links above to get trail maps.

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