



White Mountain National Forest Mount Chocorua



The following information is to give an idea of lengths and variety only. Please consult a good trail map before you hike Mt. Chocorua. This is a 7.6-mile hike and is recommended for strong hikers only. Please consult a trail map.

Champney Falls Trail

The trail begins at the Champney Falls Parking Lot. 10 miles west of Route 16 on the south side of the Kancamagus Highway.

3.8 miles to summit (one way)

Estimated time: 3 hours

Elevation Gain: 3,475 feet

Moderately difficult to Champney Falls

Difficult from the falls to the summit

The Champney Falls Trail begins by the information board in the parking area. After crossing the footbridge over Twin Brook, the trail will turn sharply to the right. Follow the easy grade of an old logging road to Champney Brook. At 1.4 miles, a loop trail will branch off on the left to scenic Champney and Pitcher Falls. In .3 mile the loop will reconnect with the Champney Falls Trail, which becomes steeper. You will reach the first set of switchbacks at 2.4 miles. At 3.0 miles the Middle Sister cutoff leads to Middle Sister Trail. The Chimney Falls Trail will reach a saddle and pass the Middle Sister Trail on the left. Soon the Champney Falls Trail ends at the junction of the Piper Trail, which will lead you to the summit in .06 mile.

Thinking of a Loop Hike?

From the summit, descend via the Beeline Trail to the Bolles Trail. Turn right onto the Bolles Trail and return to the parking area where you began.

Liberty Trail

The trail begins at the parking area just before the gate on Paugus Mill Road off Fowler's Mill Road, which leaves Rt. 16 between Big and Little Chocoura Lakes. Please respect private property on the way to the parking lot.

Loop Hike Options: The Liberty Trail and the Brook Trail can be combined for an excellent day hike loop.

Liberty Trail Distance and Estimated Times from the Paugus Mill Parking Area to the Hammond Trail: 2.7 miles, 2 hours and 10 minutes.

3.3 miles to Liberty Cabin

Estimated time: 3.2 hours and 40 minutes.

3.6 miles to the Brook Trail

Estimated time: 3 hours to the Brook Trail

3.9 miles To Mt. Chocoura Summit (via Brook Trail)

Estimated time: 3 hours and 20 minutes
Elevation Gain: 2,500 feet.

The Liberty Trail: Leaving the NE side of the parking lot, the trail ascends at a steady, moderate grade along an old bridle path. The Durrell Brook is crossed at 1.1 miles, one third on the way to Jim Liberty

Cabin. The Hammond Trail enters to the right 2.7 miles. The Liberty Trail continues to Jim Liberty Cabin at 3.3 miles. The Liberty Trail meets the Brook trail on a ledge at 3.6 miles. Continue on the Brook Trail another .2 miles to the summit of Mt. Chocoura. (The Beeline enters 10 yards from the Liberty and Brook Trail junction.) The summit of Mt. Chocoura is .2-mile farther via the Brook Trail

3.4 miles to Liberty Trail
Estimated time: 3 hours

3.6 miles to Mt. Chocoura Summit
Estimated time: 3 hours .
Elevation gain to the summit: 2,300 feet.

The Brook Trail with its steep ledges is more difficult than the Liberty Trail. It has excellent views on the rocky ledges near the summit of Mt. Chocoura. The trail can be hazardous in wet or icy conditions. The trail begins by following a gravel road beyond the parking lot gate. The trail leaves the gravel road on the right at .4-mile and follows south of Claybank Brook. The trail passes to the junction with the Bickford Path and continues to the first ledge at 3.0 miles near where the new Beeline relocation enters on the left. The trail climbs the steep, open ledges of the Farlow Ridge with Cairns and yellow blazes to mark the way. The Liberty Trail enters from the right at 3.4 miles with the summit of Mt. Chocoura another .2 miles via the Brook Trail.

Brook Trail: Distance from the Paugus Mill parking area to the Claybank Brook Crossing: 2.5 miles, 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Piper Trail: The Trail Head is on Route 16, 6 miles south of Conway behind Davies's General Store. **This is a fee area parking lot.** Distance and estimated times from Route 16
Nickerson Ledge Trail: 1.4 miles, 1 hour
Chocoura River Crossing: 2.0 miles, 1 hour and 25 minutes

3.1 miles Camp Penacook Spur Trail
Estimated time: 2.5 hours

4.5 miles to Mt. Chocorura Summit
Estimated time: 3 hours
Moderate to difficult
Elevation Gain to summit: 2,700

Trail Narrative: The trail starts at an easy grade following an old logging road. The Weetamoo Trail turns off to the left at .08 miles and the Nickerson Ledge Trail turns off to the right at 1.4 miles. The Piper Trail ascends moderately past a cleared outlook to Carter Ledge. It then becomes steeper and changes into a series of switch back, stone steps and paving. The Camp Penacook Spur Trail at 3.1 miles branches off to the left and ascends .02 miles to the shelter. Open ledges are soon discovered giving great views to the north, east and south. The Champney Brook Trail comes in on your right at 3.9 miles and .02 miles further, the West side Trail comes in on your right. The Piper Trail continues following yellow blazes over open ledges to the summit.

Note: Weather conditions change rapidly. Turn around in bad weather!

Camping: Both Camp Penacook and Jim Liberty Cabin are available on a first come, first serve, basis. No camping is allowed anywhere on the upper part of Mt. Chocoura except at these sites. No fires are allowed except at Camp Penacook.

Jim Liberty Cabin facilities include nine bunk beds, table, a bench and an outhouse. A drinking water source is located one tenth of a mile to the northeast of the cabin. It cannot be depended on during dry times of the year. There is no longer a wood stove due to the impacts on the cabin and on the scenic and fragile environment. The use of camp stoves is required as all fires are strictly prohibited.

Camp Penacook facilities include a three – sided shelter, tent platform, pit toilet and a nearby water source. A cooking grate and fire ring are provided for use. The shelter and the tent platform each have a capacity of six to eight people.

Safety: Remember to bring a map, water, food, warm clothes, headlamp, well soled walking shoes, and a compass! **Mountain winds, temperatures and conditions can change drastically in a short amount of time.**

All outdoor water should be filtered, chemically treated or vigorously boiled before consumption. It is a good idea to tell a close friend where you are going and when you expect to return.

Please be aware that theft occurs at trailheads. Leave nothing of value in your vehicle. Bring it with you or leave it home!

**Visit our webpage at:
www.fs.fed.us/r9/white**

RECREATION PARKING PASS

The White Mountain National Forest is participating in the national recreation fee demonstration program. This program was

created by Congress in 1996 (PL 104-134) to test ways for users to help finance the activities they enjoy.

The White Mountain National Forest designed a program that charges for parking in designated areas. Areas requiring a parking pass are signed as fee areas. Many of the locations requiring a pass have an on-site purchase option available. If you haven't purchased a pass ahead of time, check the bulletin board and follow the instructions on how to purchase and display a pass for that location.

Money raised by this parking pass is used to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities across the White Mountain National Forest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Saco Ranger District, 33 Kancamagus Highway
Conway, NH 03818
(603) 447-5448
(603) 447-1989 TTY**

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MOUNT CHOCORUA HISTORY

Mount Chocorua bears the name of Sokosis Chief Chocorua who lived in the early 1700's. While all of the stories agree that he met his tragic death on the mountain, they differ as to how. Some have him falling from a high rock, while others have him being shot by white men after he uttered a curse on the valley below him.

The Champney Falls Trail is named for Benjamin Champney, Pioneer White Mountain Artist (1817-1907). The Falls, though fantastic to view in the spring of the year, are meager in the latter part of the summer season and in the dry seasons.

The Bee Line Trail was an old logging road which the locals continued to use as a means to get from the Bolles Trail to the summit after the loggers left the area. The Bolles Trail was a road that ran between Tamworth and Albany Intervale, through the valleys between Chocorua and Paugus. Tradition says that the first white person who ever passed through these mountains was Mother Head, who upon learning of sickness and distress in the Intervale, put on her American Indian snow shoes and all alone made her way through the forest to offer her help. The road was destroyed by a hurricane and the reblazed as a trail by Frank Bolles. Since its destruction, the Bolles Trail is sometimes referred to as the Lost Trail.

The Chocorua Mountain Road (now the Liberty Trail) was constructed in 1897 and was the shortest and most popular road to the summit and Peak House. The views from this point explain why the Peak House was so popular and people were willing to pay \$13.00 per week lodging (\$1300 at today's dollar value). Here, pedestrians had to pay a toll of \$.25 each (about \$30 by today's standards) at the Halfway House. Some evidence of its previous existence may still be found. A second toll house located on the summit was known as the Peak House. Here, hikers using the Hammond Trail had to pay \$.05 for their brief use of the Liberty Trail to reach the summit. The Hammond Trail is perhaps the oldest trail on the mountains. It is said Indians used this trail prior to the coming of the white men. The trail takes its name from the Hammond Farm situated at the base of the trail.

In 1891, David Knowles bought the road from Liberty and replaced Liberty's Peak House—two tents surrounded by a stone wall—with a three story Peak House which served as a hotel. In 1915, the Peak House was blown off the mountain.

A cabin was constructed at the site in 1924 by the Chocorua Mountain Club and it lasted until 1932 when winds blew the roof off. The Forest Service replaced it in 1934 with an enclosed cabin with a stove and six bunks, and two very large chains to hold the roof on.

Mt. Chocorua has a vast history. There are many more tribal names legends and lore. Writings such as "Alban's Recollections" by A. Bernard Perry and "Passaconaway in the White Mountain" by Charles Edward Beals, Jr. will sweep you into the past mysteries.