

# HFMH, Mt Washington 2024 Trail Guide

Trails	Map Markers	Trail Markers
Jewell Spur	<b>2 3 4</b>	Blue blazes <sup>i</sup>
Jewell Trail	<b>4 5</b>	Blue blazes
Gulfside Trail	<b>5 6 7 8</b>	White blazes Cairns <sup>ii</sup>
Trinity Heights Connector	<b>8 9</b>	White blazes Cairns

**@4**, look behind you and remember this turn to get back to the Cog Base Station.

**@6** you may see people crossing the tracks. Do not follow them – they are hiking the Westside trail. You will parallel the Cog rails for about 0.5 miles and cross after **@7**.

## Leave No Trace

Please pick up your wrappers and litter. Leave the trail nice for the hikers behind you.

## Stay On The Trail

This is easy below treeline, and important above treeline too. The lichen grows slowly and is damaged by your boots. Try to walk where the lichen has already been scuffed off.

As of 2024, the HFMH hike up Mt Washington will start on the **Jewell Spur** trail, connect to **Jewell Trail**, then the **Gulfside Trail** and finally the **Trinity Height Connector** to the summit.

Go behind the **Cog Base Station** building. Follow the path behind the station with the tracks on your left, crossing a bridge over the river, and up to the sign for **Jewell Spur**. Go under the tracks and follow the path away from the tracks. Ascend for 0.2 miles to the junction with the **Old Jewell Link**, and sign pointing back to the Cog. Ascend for another 0.2 miles. This trail ends at the junction with **Jewell Trail**. There is old sign here pointing to the trail to the base station that you just came up. Take a few steps, and then turn around and look at the sign and the trail so that you remember this turn on the way back. *(If you miss this turn and continue down the Jewell Trail, it will end on the Cog Road across from the **AMC Parking Area** and you will add almost 2 miles to your journey).*

**Jewell Trail** enters the woods directly across the road from the parking area, crosses the Ammonoosuc River at 0.1 mi., then swings northeast and ascends at an easy grade. At 0.4 mi., the Boundary Line Trail diverges left, while the Jewell Trail ascends the crest of the low ridge between the Ammonoosuc River and Clay Brook, joining the **Jewell Spur** at 1.0 mi. The spur (sign) can be followed right 0.4 mi to the Base Station. From the junction the main trail descends slightly to Clay Brook, crosses on a footbridge, then climbs northeast by long switchbacks. At 2.0 mi., it passes through a blowdown patch at the edge of the steep wall of Burt Ravine, where there are interesting though limited views. It then swings somewhat to the north side of the ridge and climbs east, staying well below the ridge crest until near the treeline. Reaching treeline at about 3.0 mi., it zigzags at a moderate grade with rough rocky footing up the ridge crest,

**Jewell Trail (continued)**. ... which quickly becomes less prominent and blends into the slope of Mt. Clay. At 3.5 mi., the trail swings to the right, away from what remains of the ridge and angles up the slope at an easy grade to the **Gulfside trail**. For Mt. Washington, follow the **Gulfside** right.” [AMCWWMG pg. 145]

**Gulfside Trail** “The Gulfside continues its moderate ascent, and the **Jewell Trail** from the Cog Railway Base Rd. enters from the right at 4.6 mi. ... The path continues southeast, rising gradually on Mt Washington. About 0.1 mi. above the col, the **Westside Trail** branches right, crossing under the Cog Railway, ... [HFMH: **DO NOT CROSS TRACKS HERE!!**] The Gulfside continues southeast between the Cog Railway on the right and the edge of the gulf on the left. If the path is lost, the railway can be followed to the summit. At the extreme south corner of the gulf, the **Great Gulf Trail** joins the Gulfside from the left... Here the **Gulfside turns sharp right**, crosses the railroad, and continues south to the plateau just west of the summit. Here it passes a junction with **Trinity Heights Connector**, a link in the AT, which branches left and climbs for 0.2 mi. to the true **summit of Mt Washington**.” [AMCWWMG pg. 89]

**Trinity Height Connector** “From the true summit (marked by a large sign), the path runs approximately northwest over the rocks to the Gulfside Trail less than 0.1 mi. to the north of its junction with the Crawford Path.” [AMCWWMG pg. 35]

<sup>i</sup> A "blaze" is a rectangular stroke of paint on a rock or tree. White blazes here indicate the AT (a path that is part of the Appalachian Trail). Blue blazes are used for other trails.

<sup>ii</sup> A "cairn" is a large pile of rocks. These are used above treeline to show the path in addition to the blazes, (since snow would cover blazes in the winter).

[AMCWWMG] Appalachian Mountain Club White Mountain Guide, 28<sup>th</sup> edition, 2007