# White Mountain Guide Online User Guide

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# 1.1 Minimum System Requirements

White Mountain Guide Online has been developed and tested to support the following web browsers: **Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.x, 8.x, 9.x**; and **Mozilla Firefox**. Using the application on unsupported browsers will cause display errors. You must have an active internet connection to access the application. White Mountain Guide Online is compatible with the following operating systems: Windows/PC or Apple/Mac.

- Your web browser must support cookies and these cookies must be enabled to keep track of your login status. If you do not know how to enable cookies, please use this reference from Google: http://www.google.com/cookies.html
- White Mountain Guide Online requires that you enable JavaScript in your browser. If you do not know how to enable JavaScript, please use this reference from Google: http://www.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=23852
- Because the map application and trip reports open in separate windows, you may need to enable popups on your browser. You should be able to do this in your browser's Preferences menu.
- To view and print the custom trip itinerary PDF created by White Mountain Guide Online, Adobe Reader (or other PDF-viewing application) is required. To download the latest version of Adobe Reader, please see: <a href="http://www.adobe.com/products/reader">http://www.adobe.com/products/reader</a>
- To view trails in Google Earth, you must have Google Earth installed on your computer. You can download a copy at <a href="http://earth.google.com">http://earth.google.com</a>
- To download waypoints (using a GPX file) you will need the appropriate software and cable to connect your computer and GPS device. GPX (GPS eXchange Format) is supported by most major GPS device manufacturers.

The application interface has been built to a standard screen resolution of 1024x768. You may wish to adjust your screen resolution accordingly for optimal viewing.

Contact us at <a href="wmgonline@outdoors.org">wmgonline@outdoors.org</a> if you have trouble setting up your account or have additional questions that are not answered by this Help document. A list of frequently asked questions is located at <a href="http://www.outdoors.org/publications/books/wmg/wmgonline-faqs.cfm">http://www.outdoors.org/publications/books/wmg/wmgonline-faqs.cfm</a>

# 1.2 Account Set-up

White Mountain Guide online features a free community area, which offers basic map exploration and search features, and a paid subscription area, which features much of the expert content of the *White Mountain Guide*, 29<sup>th</sup> edition along with advanced search and route building capabilities.

- Go to <a href="http://www.wmgonline.org">http://www.wmgonline.org</a> to begin the registration process.
- You will be prompted with a Log-In screen. To create your account select "Register" from the left-hand list.
- You will be prompted for the type of account you wish to set up, and then will be asked for account information, profile information, and contact information.
- Next you will be prompted to enter payment information if you are creating a paid account.
- At the end of the registration process, you will be sent an e-mail confirmation. You will need to click on the link in this e-mail to complete your registration.

Free vs. Paid

Below is a summary of what to expect as a free community user, or paid subscriber. Free users will find many paid features grayed out.

Featured Area	Feature	Free with community membership	Paid subscribers only
Community Area	Maintain profile	<b>v</b>	~
	My 4000 footer list	<b>~</b>	~
	Post my trip report	<b>~</b>	~
	Post trail conditions	<b>~</b>	~
	Volunteer for this trail	<b>✓</b>	~
	Contact the guidebook editors about this trail	<b>✓</b>	~
Interactive Map	Pan, Zoom by Selection, Zoom To to WMG map extent	<b>✓</b>	~
	Identify details for all non-trail items	•	~
	Identify details for trails: name, maintainer, volunteer status, fee area, warnings, trail conditions, trip reports	<b>~</b>	~
	Identify length, elevation change, "book time" for trail or trail segment		~
	Customize look of map by turning layers/themes on and off		~
	Get waypoint data from any point on map		~
	Annotate map with comments		~
Find	Do simple keyword search and view result list	<b>✓</b>	<b>'</b>
	Click on item in result list and zoom to it on map	<b>✓</b>	<b>'</b>
	View guidebook descriptions about item		~
	Advanced Search		~
	Get Google Maps <sup>™</sup> directions for trailhead or trail		~
	Download waypoints for trailhead or trail		~
	Visualize your trail or feature using Google Earth <sup>™</sup>		~

Suggested Hikes	Promotional routes (featured in AMC Outdoors, routes to huts): map outline only and trail names	V	~
	Suggested Hikes from the White Mountain Guide		<b>✓</b>
	Full Trip Report for Suggested Hikes		<b>✓</b>
	Get Google Maps <sup>™</sup> directions for trailhead or trail		<b>✓</b>
	Download waypoints for trailhead or trail		<b>✓</b>
	Visualize your trail or feature using Google Earth <sup>™</sup>		<b>✓</b>
Custom Routes	Custom Route Builder: select segments with running totals of distance, elevation change, book time, and trail descriptions		<b>✓</b>
	Custom Trip Report: custom map, itinerary, nearby overnight facilities, warnings, safety information		<b>✓</b>
	Save and retrieve custom routes		<b>✓</b>
	Get Google Maps <sup>™</sup> directions for trailhead or trail		<b>✓</b>
	Download waypoints for trailhead or trail		<b>✓</b>
	Visualize your trail or feature using Google Earth <sup>™</sup>		<b>~</b>

# 2.0 Community Side Features

Following are descriptions of community-side features that are free to all once your registration has been completed and accepted. These items should show up on the left-side of your browser window.

- Home: Returns you to the opening page
- **Browse Map:** Takes you to the map application. Paid features will be grayed-out if you are logged-in on a free account.
- **Account Settings:** You can use this feature to modify profile and payment information provided during the registration process. You can also update your 4000-footer list here.
- View Trip Reports: Use this area to post a recent trip report or to view others'.
- **View Trail Conditions:** Use this area to post a report on current trail conditions for a given trail or trails or to view others'.
- **View Safety Warnings:** Safety warnings can be posted by official agencies such as USFS or a maintaining trail club. They cannot be posted by community members.
- Log Out: Logs you out of the application and closes your current session.

#### 2.1 View or Post a Trip Report

When you select **View Trip Reports**, you are given the option of selecting **Post a Trip Report** or **Advanced Search**. A list of recent postings is displayed below these choices:

**Post a Trip Report:** You will be asked to provide information such as a trail or trails used during your trip, dates, and a write a description. You will also be able to upload up to three photos as part of your report.

To upload photos, click the Browse button and navigate to the desired file. Select the file and click Open. You can then enter a caption for the image if you desire.

When complete, click the Review button at the bottom of the screen. If your report requires edits click the Edit button. Click Submit if you do not wish to make further edits, and if your report is ready to be posted.

**Advanced Search:** Provides numerous criteria to search against the existing database of trip reports.

Note: When users view detailed information on a trail in the Details Tab of the map application, they will be able to view trip reports posted for that trail.

#### 2.2 View or Post a Trail Condition Report

When you select **View Trail Conditions**, you are given the option of selecting **Post a Trail Conditions Report** or **Advanced Search**. Below these choices a list of recent postings is displayed.

**Post a Trail Conditions Report:** You first will be asked to choose the trail you would like to report on. Chose the trail and click on the right-pointing arrow to select that trail. Click Submit. Provide information such as the date, and a short description and types of conditions you encountered (blowdowns, blocked drainage, etc.).

When complete, click the Review button at the bottom of the screen. If your report requires edits click the Edit button. Click Submit if you do not wish to make further edits, and if your report is ready to be posted.

**Advanced Search:** Provides numerous criteria to search against the existing database of trail condition reports.

Note: when users view detailed information on a trail on the "details" tab of the map and trip planning area, they will be able to view trail conditions posted for that trail.

# 3.0 Map Side Features

Following are descriptions of map-side features. Paid features will be grayed-out if you log-in via a free account. When you are ready to begin map exploration, search, route planning, etc., select the **Browse Map** link. This will open the map application in its own window. You must leave both windows open for White Mountain Guide Online to function as intended. The Back button on your browser bar cannot be used.

### 3.1 Getting Started

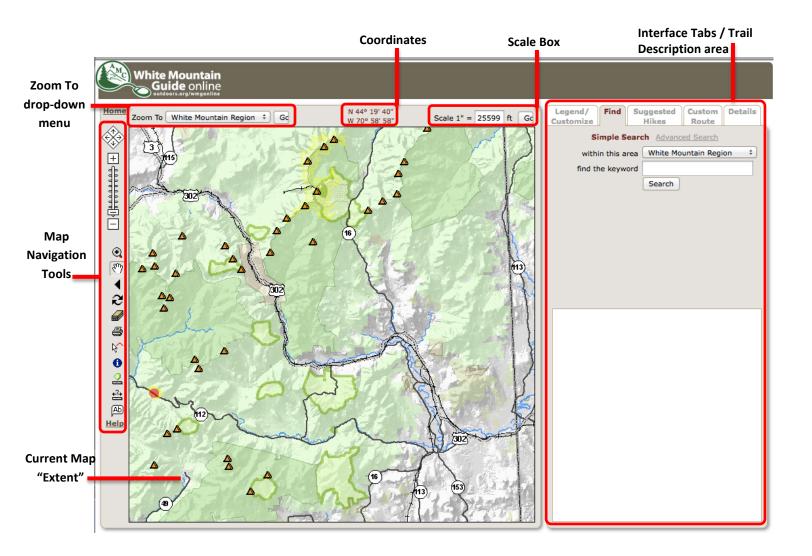
Upon entering the map and trip planning area, you will see a view of the entire WMNF. Along the top of the map are a "Zoom To" drop-down menu, coordinate display, and dynamic scale text box. Initially, you will not be able to see trails, labels, or facility icons because these features are scale-dependent and will show up as you zoom closer. The orange triangles indicate the location of designated 4000-footers and appear at any zoom level for orientation purposes.

Using the "Zoom To" feature allows you to quickly move to a view of a familiar area, known as a pre-defined map extent. These extents are either a recognized recreation area, like Crawford Notch, or correspond to the

chapters and maps of the printed *White Mountain Guide, 28th edition*. As such, some extents will overlap with each other and vary in size an initial detail. Press the Go button once you have selected an extent to zoom to that extent.

The dynamic scale box will display the current scale of the map in view. You can manually set the scale and set the visible map to that scale by clicking the Go button.

Holding the mouse over any part of the map will display GPS waypoint data in a floating box.



## 3.2 Navigating White Mountain Guide Online Maps

White Mountain Guide Online provides a series of tools familiar to anyone who has used other online mapping services. These tools provide custom view and exploration capabilities not available on paper maps; they are found on the left side of the map screen.



**Compass Rose Pan:** Clicking on an arrow will automatically pan the map north, south, east, or west.



**Adjust Zoom Level:** Use this slide bar to select one of nine zoom levels. You can also change the zoom level by clicking on the "+" (above) or the "-" (below) the slide bar.

- **Zoom by Selection Tool:** This tool allows you to zoom to a specific area of the map by dragging the cursor over an area of the map while holding down the mouse button. Releasing the mouse button caused the map to zoom into the area you selected. A single click of this tool will zoom and center the map on the click point.
- **Pan:** Allows you to pan to different areas by dragging your cursor on the map while holding down the mouse button. Please be sure the map has fully refreshed before attempting to pan again.
- **Back to Previous Map View:** Click on this button to return to your last map view. Your browser's Back arrow cannot be used for this functionality.
- **Redraw Map:** Click on this button to completely redraw the current map extent. Changing the visible layers in the Legend Tab requires a map redraw to take effect.
- **Clear Selections:** Click on this button to erase any highlighting currently visible on the map. This tool will not clear highlighting on custom-built routes. See *Custom Route Tab* section to learn how to clear custom route highlighting.
- **Print:** Click on this button to create a printable version of your current map view. You will be prompted to provide a custom title.
- **Custom Route:** This tool allows you to build a custom trip itinerary by selecting trailheads, trails, and features on the map. The route-builder will "fill in" your route by selecting connecting trail segments along the shortest path to the destination or objective. Clicking on this tool will activate the Custom Route Tab panel. For more details on using this feature, see the *Custom Route Tab* section.
- Identify Tool: Click on this tool then click on a feature on the map and descriptive details will appear in the Details Tab on the right.
- **Measure Area:** After clicking on this button, clicking the mouse on the map creates the bounding points of a polygon, in which you can view area by square miles, square kilometers or acres. Double click the mouse button when done to clear the feature.
- Measure Distance: By clicking on this button, and dragging the mouse along a line, you can estimate distance between two points in feet and meters (for distances less than 1 mile) or miles and kilometers (for distances greater than 1 mile). Note that measured distances are flat-plane distances and do not take elevation changes into account.
- Add/Edit/Delete Map Annotation: By clicking this icon, selecting a point on the map with the arrow pointer, and clicking on the mouse, you will be able to add a note to any map. Once an annotation is

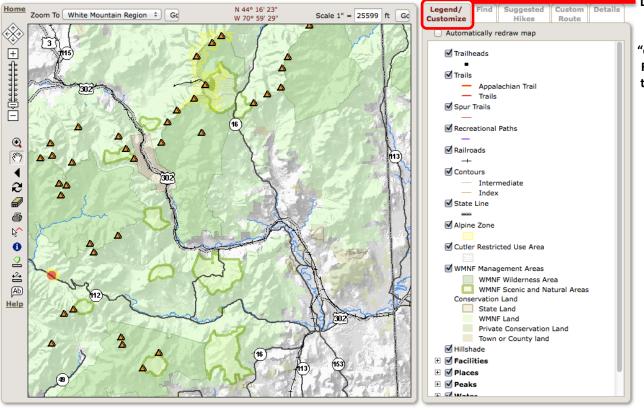
added, it can be clicked again and edited or deleted. Annotations appear on screen as well as on printed maps and custom route itinerary reports.

#### 3.3 Using the Tabs Interface

To the right of the map display is an interface consisting of five tabs. You can use these tabs to customize your map view, search the database, view suggested hikes, build a custom route, and read descriptive details about what you see in the map. Clicking on underlined trail names or featuring in this interface will always bring the Details Tab to the front and show you the statistics and descriptive text (if it exists) of the trail or feature you've selected. The map view will also re-center and highlight the item.

#### Legend Tab

This tab functions as the map key and explains the various symbols used on the maps. Paid users can customize their view of the map by turning on and off individual features, or groups of features such as peaks, roads and land management boundaries. You can either manually update your map view by clicking the Redraw Map button on the left, or dynamically change your view as you select or deselect features by checking the "Automatically redraw map" box.



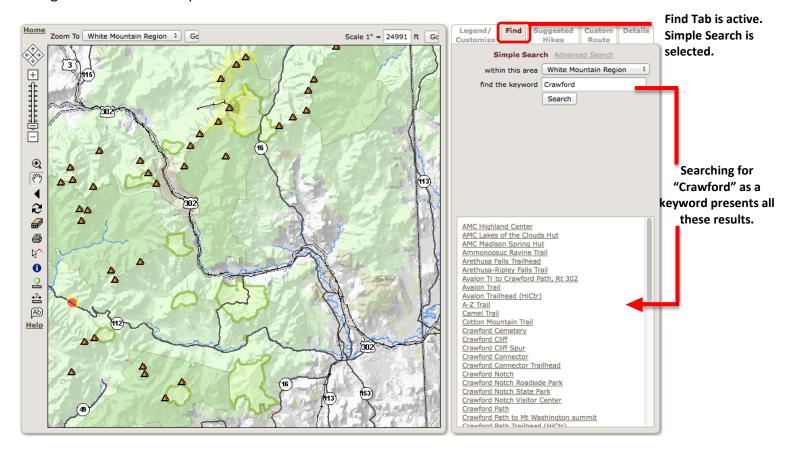
Legend Tab is active.
Use checkboxes to
turn various layers
"on" or "off." Use the
Redraw Map button
to see your changes.

#### Find Tab

This tab allows you to quickly locate any trail, trailhead, and natural or physical feature using a keyword search or an advanced search based on feature attributes like elevation, distance, or maintaining club or agency. The Find Tab presents a result list based on the search criteria; selecting an item from the results list zooms into and highlights the item and presents more information in the Details Tab (see *Details Tab* section for more information on this feature). Search results are shown with *orange* highlight.

#### **Using Simple Search**

Use simple search for quick keyword searches. You can search across the entire White Mountain National Forest by using the default area "White Mountain Region," or narrow you search to a specific geographic area. The extents in the "within this area" drop-down menu mirror those in the Zoom To drop-down along the top of the map. In the keyword field, you can either enter a single keyword, or a phrase in quotation marks like "Crawford Path." In either case, you will be presented with a set of results based on the keyword or phrase being in the title or description of the item.

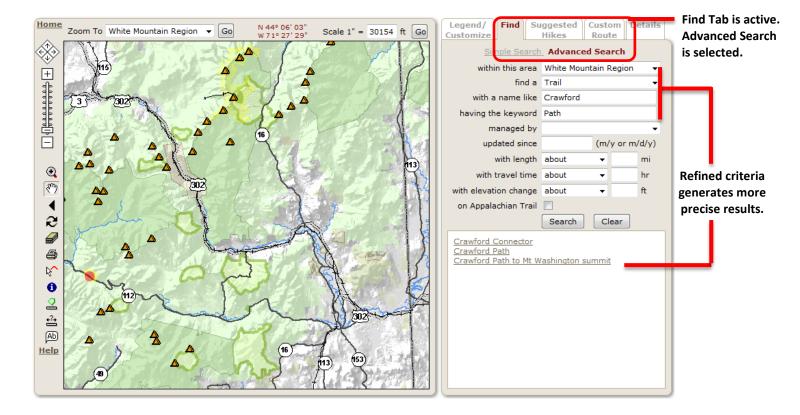


Selecting an item in the results list zooms into and highlights that item, and provides details in the Details Tab. Use the Clear Selections tool to erase highlighted trails on the map.

#### **Using Advanced Search**

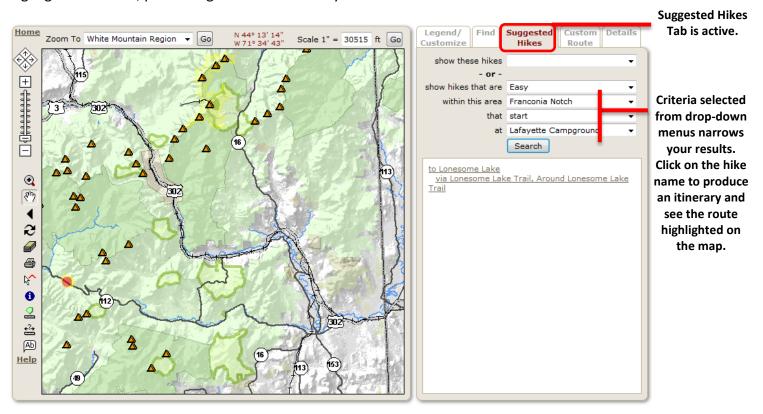
Advanced Search is a more powerful way to find specific types of features by keyword, feature type, and feature attribute. The Advanced Search is only available for paid subscribers. For example, you can find all instances of a certain feature (e.g. all shelters in the Carter/Evans Notch area). You can also select trails that meet specific criteria like mileage when a description was last updated, elevation change, or "book time."

As with Simple Search, selecting any item from the result list zooms into and highlights the item on the map, and provides more information in the Details Tab. Use the Clear button next to the Search button to clear search fields. Use the Clear Selections tool to erase highlighted trails on the map.



# Suggested Hikes Tab

Use the "show these hikes" drop-down menu in this tab to view hikes for kids, hikes to huts, spring flower hikes, and fall foliage hikes that the AMC suggests. Use the other four drop-down menus to choose hikes by a variety of difficulty levels within different regions of the White Mountains. Clicking on a result zooms in and highlights the route, presenting a detailed itinerary in the Details Tab.



#### **Custom Route Tab**

This tab is where you will go to build a custom hike; this service is only available to paid subscribers. Using custom route planning provides an easy way of planning a trip by interacting with the map directly, or using a series of drop-down menus to select a starting point and various objectives or destinations. The custom route builder displays a running summary of the route, as well as a cumulative total for mileage, elevation change and "book time." By selecting and deselecting trail segments, you can conduct a "what if" analysis and plan a trip appropriate to the group's skill level and for the amount of time available. Custom routes are shown with yellow highlight.

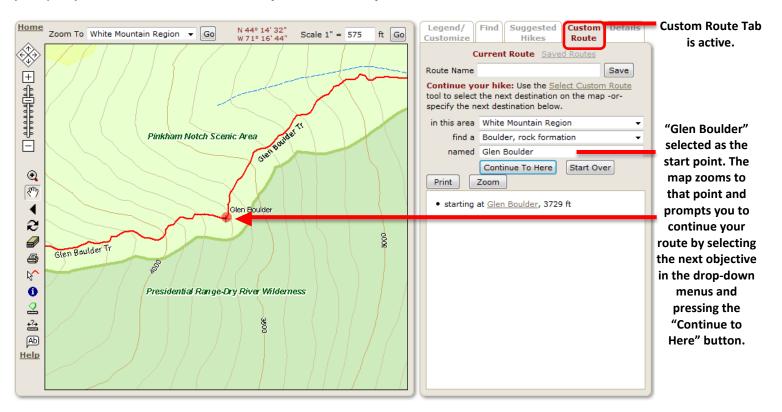
When viewing custom route itineraries, you can click on the "+" symbol to expand and view more details about a trail segment. You can also click on any link within a trail segment and jump to the Details Tab to show information about that item.

At any time you can save your route for future use or retrieve a saved route for viewing and editing. There are no limits to the number of custom routes you can save.

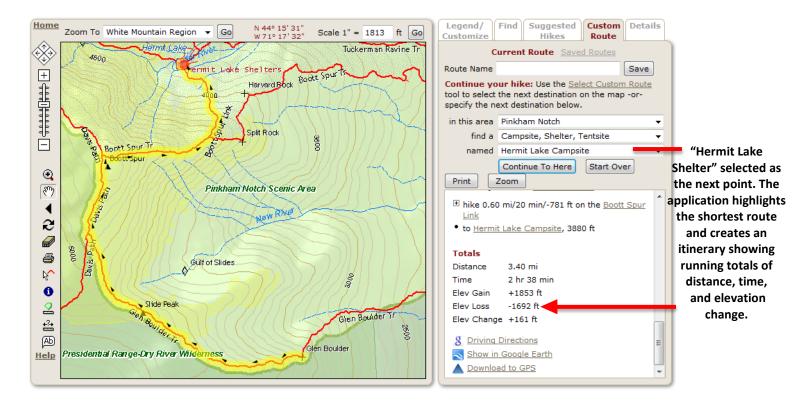
#### Plan a trip using menus

When starting your custom route building, the Custom Route Tab will read "Begin Your Hike." You can use the drop down menus to select a starting point, which could be a trailhead, shelter, hut, or natural feature. Clicking the "Start Here" button zooms into and highlights the starting point and starts building the route.

The text at the top now reads "Continue your hike" and the button text has changed to "Continue To Here" allowing you to select the next objective on your route. The custom route builder will select the **shortest route** between your starting point and next objective, highlight it and provide route details. *Note: The shortest route* is not always the best route and factors of distance, time, and elevation need to be considered in the context of your party's skill level and the amount of time available for the hike.



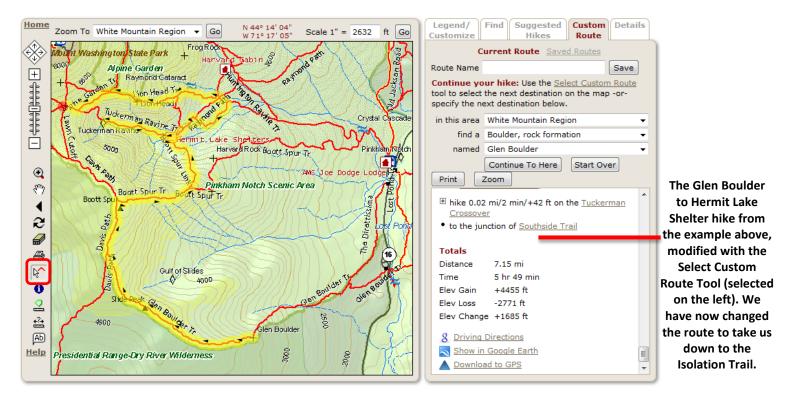
If you would like to modify the route presented to you, remove trail segments by clicking on the "Back to here" link—everything in the route after that point is removed from the route and the map is updated to reflect the removal of that section of the route. You can then proceed to add trail segments to your route as above. Select the Zoom button on the Custom Route Tab to re-scale the map to fit your entire trip itinerary.



#### Plan a trip using Select Custom Route tool

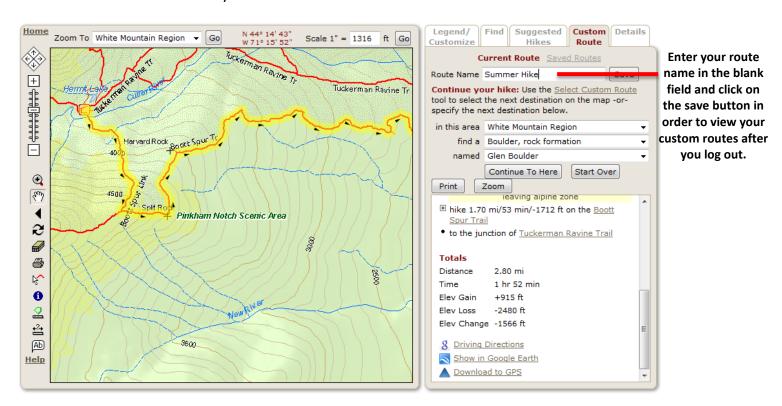
You can also build your own route trail segment by trail segment using the Select Custom Route tool on the toolbar. Similar to the route building process using menus, you can click on a starting point, and then click on additional objectives, letting the custom route builder "fill in" segments as needed. You are also provided a "Select Custom Route tool" shortcut at the top of the tab to switch to the Select Custom Route tool at any time.

If you would like to modify the route presented to you, remove trail segments by clicking on the "Back to here" link—everything in the route after that point is removed from the route and the map is updated to reflect the removal of that section of the route. You can then proceed to add trails to your route as above. To erase your entire custom route, click the Start Over button. Select the Zoom button on the Custom Route Tab to re-scale the map to fit your entire trip itinerary.



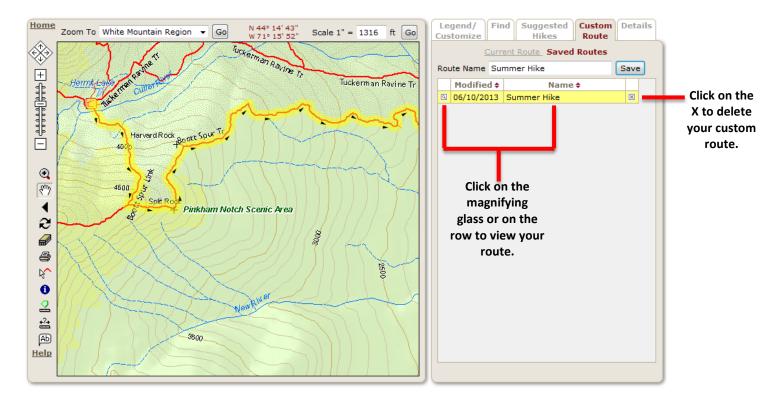
#### Saving a custom route

After you create your custom route, you can save it by entering a name into the Custom Route field; click on Saved Routes to see a list of all your routes.



You can retrieve saved routes by clicking the "Saved Routes" link at the top of the Custom Route tab, and selecting the route you want to retrieve. Select the Show this Route icon or click anywhere on the row to retrieve it. You can delete a route by clicking on the X in the right column. You can also sort your list of saved

routes by modified date and name. When you retrieve a route, it will be displayed in the Current Route version of the Custom Routes tab. You can now edit your saved route by deleting sections using the "Back to Here" link and adding new sections to your route.



#### Print and share your custom trip report

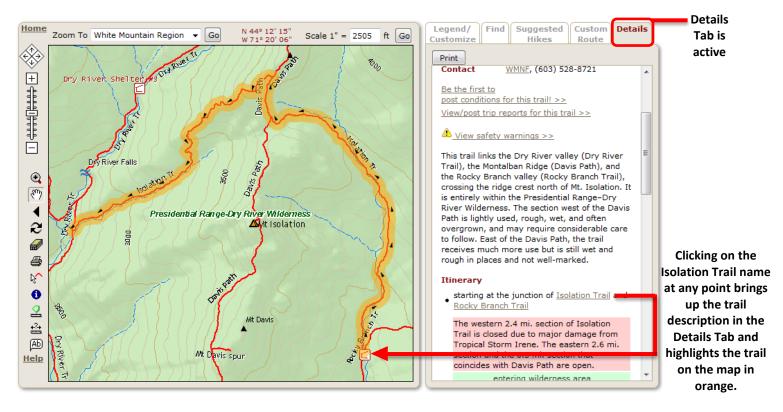
Click on the "Print" button to generate a printable PDF version of your custom route itinerary. A PDF viewer such as Adobe Reader is required for this. You will be asked to provide a title for your report. The report will show a custom map outlining your route, as well as relevant trailhead, trail, mileage, elevation change, and "book time" information. You will also find relevant safety and stewardship information, such as recommended gear, the hikeSafe Hiker Responsibility Code and Leave No Trace principles

#### **Details Tab**

The Details Tab shows all available information for a selected feature or trail. From the Details Tab, you can print out the presented information, or save it as a PDF document and share it with a friend. To clear the highlighting of your selection on the map, use the Clear Selections tool.

The Details Tab presents additional information about any White Mountain trailhead, trail, or physical or natural feature. Paid users are able to view more detailed content and trail descriptions from the *White Mountain Guide, 29*<sup>th</sup> edition. Users are also able to see community-based trip report and trail conditions content, or post their own reports, by clicking on the "View/Post" links.

When viewing trail information in the Details Tab, you can click on the "+" symbol to expand and view additional details about a trail segment. (If there are no additional details about a trip segment, the "+" symbol will not appear.) You can also click on any link within the description and jump to details about that item.



The Details Tab provides an overview description and detailed segment by segment itinerary for trails. It will also note when you are entering or leaving a designated Wilderness area or the alpine zone, where special care should be taken in limiting group size and reducing impacts on fragile vegetation. Paid subscribers will also be able to download waypoints for a trailhead, trail or route; get directions to a trailhead using Google Maps<sup>TM</sup>; or visualize a trail or route using Google Earth<sup>TM</sup>. (Google Earth must be installed on your computer to use this feature.)

#### **Downloading Waypoints**

Selecting the "Download to GPS" link will open up a dialog box, allowing you to save a GPX file to the hard drive of your computer. You can rename the default file name at this point. You will need to have the appropriate software and cable for connecting your GPS device to your computer in order to upload these waypoints to your GPS device.

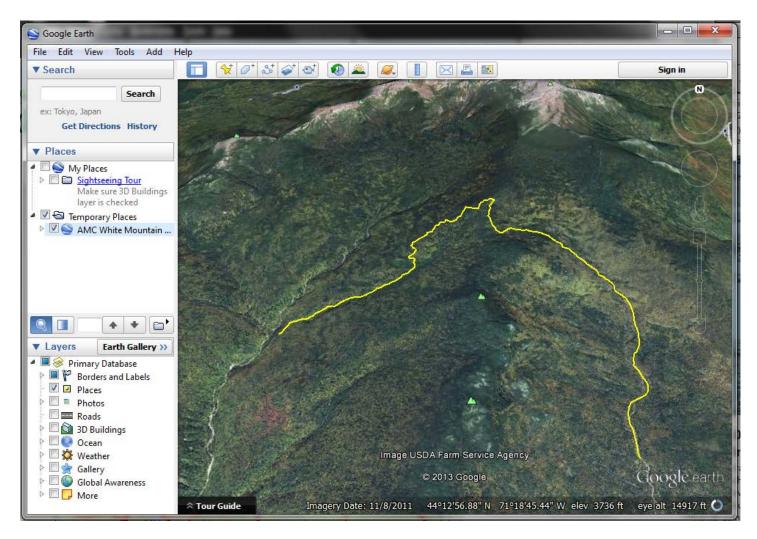
#### **Google Maps Directions**

White Mountain Guide Online provides trailhead driving directions through Google Maps by passing the waypoint and name of the trailhead to Google Maps. If the trailhead is off of the road network known to Google Maps, directions are reliable only to the last point on the known road network. Be sure to refer to the detailed trailhead directions in the Details Tab or on your printed trail or route itinerary report.



#### Google Earth<sup>™</sup>

White Mountain Guide Online has the ability to export its data in .kmz format, which can then be viewed in Google Earth to get a three-dimensional image of a trail or hike. Google Earth has its own set of system requirements and is not supported by White Mountain Guide Online or the AMC. You should carefully assess if your computer can handle this application before you download and launch it.



# 4.0 A Note about Descriptions, Mileage, Elevation Change, and "Book Time" – online vs. printed guidebook

A trail segment is a section of trail that begins and ends with a trailhead, trail junction, or a major feature, such as a popular rock or waterfall, or a tentsite. The print edition of the *White Mountain Guide*,  $29^{th}$  edition provides elevation change and "book time" estimates for some, but not all trail segments in the White Mountains. In order to provide the ability for an online user to explore any trail segment, or build a route using any combination of trail segments, AMC used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software to calculate distance and total elevation change, and to apply a standard formula to generate "book time." As a result, you will find slight differences between information presented in the guidebook and online.

Distances in the print edition were measured using a surveyor wheel. Online distances and elevation change were generated by combining topography data with the trails layer at 10-meter intervals to calculate total distance and elevation change as the trail is traversed.

Most trail descriptions in the print edition are written assuming a single direction of travel, often ascending. (A few of the longer trails include a reverse description.) In order to enable online users to plan ascending and descending routes, we added reverse descriptions, although often less involved than the book's original forward descriptions.

Elevation change in the printed guidebook is only considered to occur if there is a change of +/- 50 feet. Online elevation change includes all changes in elevation from start to finish using exact GIS data. Online elevation change can therefore be greater than what is in the printed guidebook.