



# *Snowshoeing Trail Report*

## **Snow Date 1/14/21**

There is still a thin blanket of snow covering the woods and the snowshoe trails. The trails are packed down and very firm in cold weather. Sturdy hiking boots with micro-spikes are recommended. Boots without spikes may prove difficult in some places. Snowshoes could be used but are not needed.

Please be aware of recent changes to our “Up Hill Travel Policy”, found in the “Plan Your Visit” section of our Website. We are only permitting uphill traffic during non-operating hours, Monday-Thursday (no uphill travel on weekends). The snowshoe trail is still open/available for use at all times, but we ask that snowshoers use that route only to get around the mountain, and to avoid the ski trails with the exception of accessing the snowshoe trails. Access to the snowshoe trails are by the base of the Hurricane chair (Blue Trail) and by the pond on the far side of the Valley area (Green Trail Loop). Also, when open, the overflow parking lot at the end of Craney Pond road has parking and snowshoe (and ski) trail access.

Please be respectful of social distancing if you encounter other people on the trails.

The snowshoe trails now all connect and make a complete 4-mile loop. Starting about half way along the Green Trail loop a new Black Diamond “Expert Only” Trail heads up through the woods to the top of the Valley slopes then again goes into the woods and up to the top of the mountain-skits a field-back into the woods and ends at the top of the Cascade Basin. From there the Blue Trail takes you down around the bottom of the Basin chair and then through the woods and down to the base of Hurricane chair. From there it is just a short hike to the Base Lodge. Or you can start on the Blue Trail at the Hurricane chair and return to the Base Lodge via the Green Trail loop. The Black Diamond Trail has steep and difficult sections and should only be attempted by expert snowshoers with proper equipment.

And, be sure to tell someone where you are going and when you will be back, dress in layers, and bring high energy snacks and plenty of water. Enjoy your time in the woods.

Snowshoes are available for renting and trail maps are available in the Pats Peak “Starting Gate” Rental Shop. Maps are also available:

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/new-hampshire/pats-peak-black-diamond-snowshoe-loop>

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/new-hampshire/pats-peak-green-circle-snowshoe-loop>