

To access the Mount Washington Observatory's higher summits forecast, text "weather forecast" to 603-356-2137.

HIKING IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

Winter in the White Mountains is beautiful. Fewer crowds and snow-covered trails can make for an enjoyable traverse on bluebird days. Tempting as it sounds though, remember: winter can be deadly for casual and regular hikers alike.

Unless you have significant experience in the outdoors in the wintertime or have booked with a professional guide service, DO NOT ATTEMPT to hike our higher peaks during this season. Every year, visitors have died or faced serious, life-altering injury due to the complex nature of hiking in the winter, a lack of expertise and planning, and the harrowing, deadly weather regularly found above and below tree line.

DON'T SLIP! STAY EQUIPPED

No matter the terrain, traction is a must during wintry weather! Wear microspikes for your lower elevation excursions (including walking around town).

Snowshoes are a minimum for hiking in the mountains, and **crampons and an ice ax** are nonnegotiable above treeline.



BEST HIKING PRACTICES

- Always file your hiking plan with a friend or family member.
- Study your route ahead of time.
- **DO NOT rely on your cell phone** for communication, navigation, illumination, or rescue. Service can be limited or nonexistent.
- Check the forecast OFTEN.
- Always pack the 10 Essentials.
- To-die-for photos are not worth dying over. Avoid precarious spots.
- Remember: sometimes, rescue isn't an option. **Hike sensibly, always**.



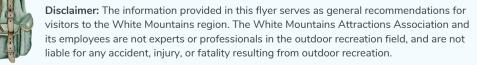
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10 ESSENTIALS HIKING GEAR CHECKLIST



Scan the QR Code for additional winter essentials (including gear for above treeline & for avalanche terrain), and outdoor outfitters in the White Mountains.



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