

## DAY SKI TOUR U: CRAFTSBURY NORDIC SKI CENTER TO LOWELL COUNTRY STORE

- Tour Highlights:**
- Varied terrain and family lodging of Craftsbury Nordic Center
  - Rolling terrain of Northeast Kingdom
  - Classic beauty of pastures and farms
  - Historic Bailey Hazen Military Rd
  - Crossing Lowell Mountains
  - Fun descent into Lowell Village

**Starting Point:** CRAFTSBURY NORDIC SKI CENTER  
(Map 19)

**Finish Point:** LOWELL COUNTRY STORE (Map 20)

**Total Mileage:** 11.9

**Difficulty of Tour:** LONG, INTERMEDIATE TOUR

**Access/Exit Points:**

1. CRAFTSBURY NORDIC SKI CENTER
2. NELSON RD IN ALBANY
3. RT 100 IN LOWELL

**Directions:**

**TO CRAFTSBURY NORDIC SKI CENTER:** Located on a dirt road off Route 14 just north of Craftsbury Common.

**TO LOWELL COUNTRY STORE:** Located in the village of Lowell at the intersection of Routes 100 and 58 (Note that Route 58 west of town is not plowed in winter).

### DISTANCE TO MAJOR LANDMARKS:

Start	Finish	Mileage	Total
CRAFTSBURY CTR	WEST SHORE OF LITTLE HOSMER LAKE	0.9	0.9
LITTLE HOSMER LAKE	SNOWMOBILE TRAIL VAST #14N	0.7	1.6
SNOWMB.TRAIL #14N	RT 14	1.5	3.1
RT 14	BAILEY HAZEN MILITARY RD	0.6	3.7
BAILEY HAZEN RD	NELSON FARM, VAST #58	2.7	6.4
VAST #58	PEON FARM	3.5	9.9
PEON FARM	LOWELL COUNTRY STORE	2.0	11.9

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From the Craftsbury Nordic Ski Center (Map 19), head from the soccer field on groomed trails to Murphy's Field by way of Big Hosmer Lake. Follow the Murphy Field Trail to a large pasture (0.4). Cross the field (0.2) and at the southwest end of the field enter the woods on the Marathon Trail and descend a steep hill to a dirt road (0.1). Cross the road and descend to Little Hosmer Lake. Cross the lake, skiing west towards a red house on the west shore of the lake (0.2). Climb the bank north (right) of the house and follow the trail north to a large field (0.5). At this point you leave the groomed trails. Go right in the field and proceed until you intersect the snowmobile trail VAST #14N. where it enters a plowed road (0.2). Continue north on the other side of the road until it intersects an unplowed road (0.6). Take the road down the hill (plowing resumes at the bottom), cross the bridge over the Black River and then cross Rt 14 (0.9). Enter the field on the south side of a large barn. Circle behind the barn and continue north through fields paralleling Rt 14 to a driveway leading up to a log house and sawmill (0.6). Join the old Bailey-Hazen Military Road here and begin the ascent of the Lowell range. This is the trail you will follow into Lowell.

The trail continues up through a hemlock-lined ravine to a large pasture (0.9). Follow an old roadway, lined with stone walls and maple trees, from the west side of the pasture to the driveway of a dairy farm (0.8) (Map 20). Take the driveway and bear left on a plowed road (0.1). Follow the road to another intersection and bear right (0.1). Continue beside this plowed road to the Nelson Farm (0.8). This point is marked by a Bailey Hazen historic sign. At the farm the plowing ends and the road continues as a snowmobile trail (VAST #58). The trail climbs 650' to open fields and crests at 2120' (2.5). The trail then descends 600' to a paved road at the Peon Farm (1.0). Cross the road and continue descending into the valley via the fields of Peon Farm. As you enter the woods you will cross two small bridges. The snowmobile trail continues from here down to Rt 100, emerging at the Lowell Country Store and a bowling alley (2.0).