



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Presidential Rail Trail

New Hampshire



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Overview Skirting the northern edge of the White Mountains' Presidential Range, the Presidential Rail Trail offers over 19 miles



Overview

Skirting the northern edge of the White Mountains' Presidential Range, the Presidential Rail Trail offers over 19 miles of stunning views of mountain peaks and their surrounding nature. Some portions of the trail are more rugged and grassy, and trailheads are basic. Those comfortable biking or hiking will enjoy the stunning scenery on the route between the mountainside New Hampshire towns of Whitefield and Gorham. Lucky trail users may spot resident wildlife including moose, black bears, wild turkeys, beavers and otters.

About the Route

The Presidential Rail Trail's western endpoint is at 289

Airport Rd at Pondicherry Nature Reserve (Whitefield). From the Airport Rd endpoint, the trail takes off in a northeastern direction, on gentle terrain, sloping slightly upward. Around Waumbeck Junction, about 1.5 miles into the trail, connections to several hiking trails branch off from the rail-trail, including a connection to boardwalk trail around Cherry Pond. After passing Cherry Pond, the trail curves back southeast before soon resetting its course to continue in a generally due east direction. After trekking 4 miles east from the western endpoint, the trail crosses State Road 115A, and passes a basic trailhead with parking. The trail continues east, running a course just south of SR 11B and the Israel River.

From the SR 115A trailhead, the trail continues for 6.6 miles through a mix of forests and clearings that skirt past stretches of residences. The trail crosses a fork of the Israel River, 1 mile west of the Castle Trailhead, on a bridge whose original trusses were hand-carved from granite blocks by Italian craftsmen hired by the Boston and Maine Railroad. The Castle Trailhead in Bowman, the trail's midpoint, has few amenities other than parking, though it also serves as the start of the Castle Trail, a hiking trail to the summit of Mt. Jefferson.

After continuing for 3 miles east, the trail crosses a historic pony truss bridge over Snyder Brook. The route then passes by a parking lot in Randolph near the Appalachia trailhead (not to be confused with the Appalachian Trail), just a few feet from US 2, and then begins the downhill slope toward Gorham. Bikers will find an especially fun ride in this portion, as the trail smooths out and slopes gently downward, with more stunning views of the mountain range. Several bridges here cross over the Moose River, the first one 2.3 miles after Snyder Brook. After the last Moose River crossing, the trail approaches Gorham for the remaining 1.7 miles, intersecting other trails that are mostly for snowmobile use.

The eastern endpoint of the trail is located in Gorham, at 100 Lancaster Road (Gorham), which is home to the the Gorham Historical Society and Railroad Museum and Moose Brook



Presidential Rail Trail

New Hampshire

States: New Hampshire

Counties: Coos

Length: 19.2miles

Trail end points: 289 Airport Rd at
Pondicherry Nature Reserve (Whitefield) to 100
Lancaster Road (Gorham)

Trail surfaces: Cinder,Crushed
Stone,Dirt,Grass,Gravel,Sand

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Fishing,Horseback
Riding,Mountain

Parking & Trail Access

Presidential Rail Trail runs between 289 Airport Rd. at Pondicherry Nature Reserve (Whitefield) and 100 Lancaster Rd.(Gorham), with parking available at both endpoints.

Parking is also available at:

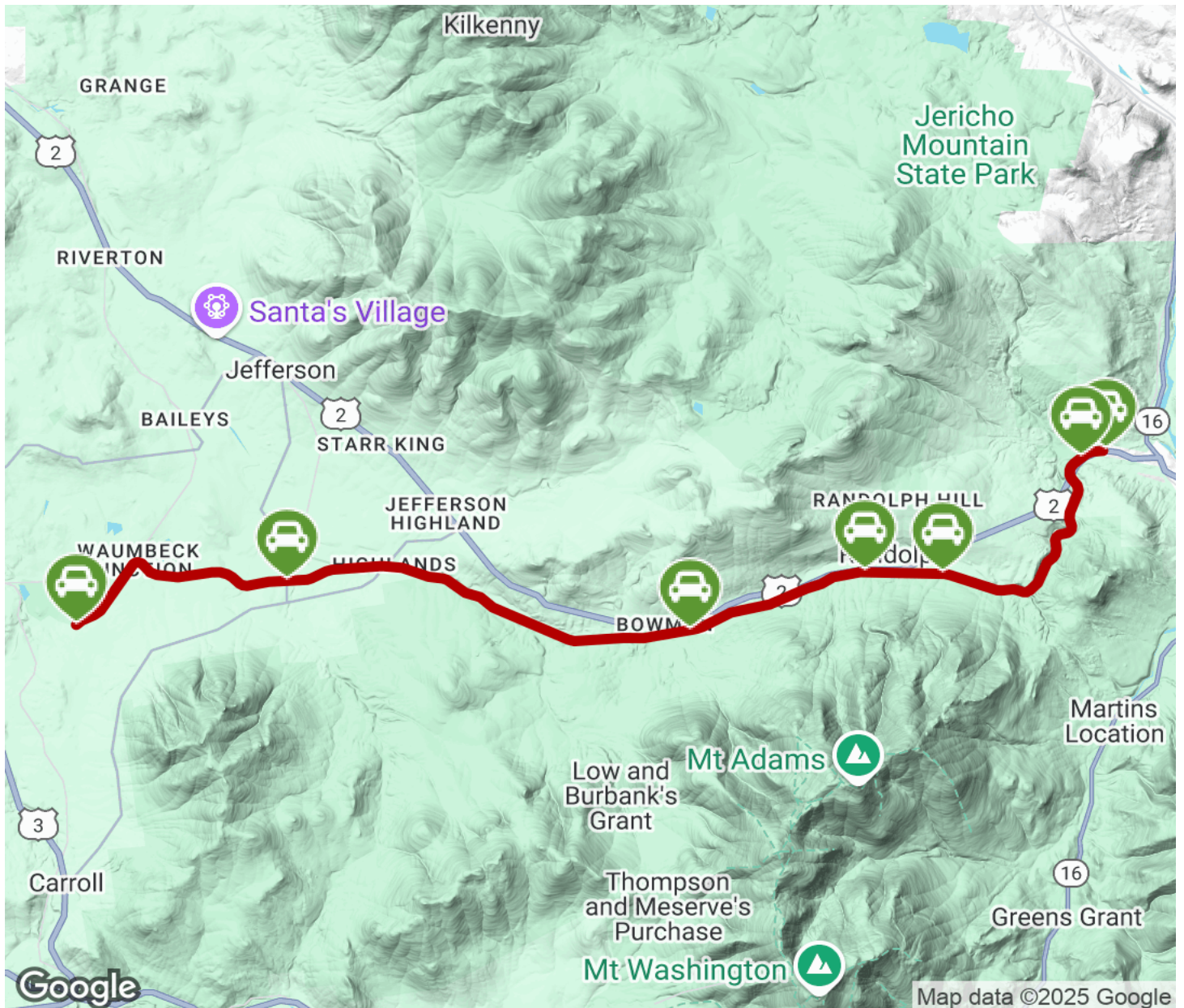
- 790 Meadows Rd. (Jefferson)
- 1095 Presidential Hwy (Randolph)
- 104 Dolly Copp Rd Rdd (Randolph)

These are approximate addresses and there are numerous parking options along this route. See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Presidential Rail Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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