

HUT-BY-HUT GUIDE

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IF YOU ARE A SOCIAL CLIMBER, WHY CAMP ALONE? ABOVE THE TREELINE THERE'S A HUT THAT'S PERFECT FOR YOU.

BY MARTY BASCH



LONESOME LAKE HUT

The shortest trail distance to a hut with a touch of steepness. Outstanding Franconia Ridge views. "The lake is great for swimming and for kids catching bugs and frogs," says AMC spokesman Rob Burbank.



GALEHEAD HUT

The most remote with a spectacular look into the vast Pemigewasset Wilderness. Morning people can easily tag 4,000-footer Mount Galehead before breakfast. Originally built to withstand gale-force winds.



MIZPAH SPRING HUT

Name means "pillar in the wilderness." Fairly quick access to above treeline on Mount Pierce (also called Clinton), the hut also is the only one with an organ. "The gray jays found around Mizpah are inquisitive birds," Burbank says.



MADISON SPRING HUT

Where it all began, in the scenic saddle between Mounts Madison and Adams. Though rebuilt several times, the stone foundation has been preserved while modern touches like a waterless toilet system were added.



GREENLEAF HUT

Cool neighborhood bordering stark alpine zone and vast boreal forest. Turn the classic Franconia Ridge Loop hike into an overnight. Gaze upon Lafayette's grand summit about a mile away from the porch.



ZEALAND FALLS HUT

In spectacular Zealand Valley, reached by a forgiving old logging road with final pitch akin to climbing 20 flights of stairs. Nature has restored the valley following devastating 19th- and 20th-century fires. Outstanding waterfall next door.



LAKES OF THE CLOUDS HUT

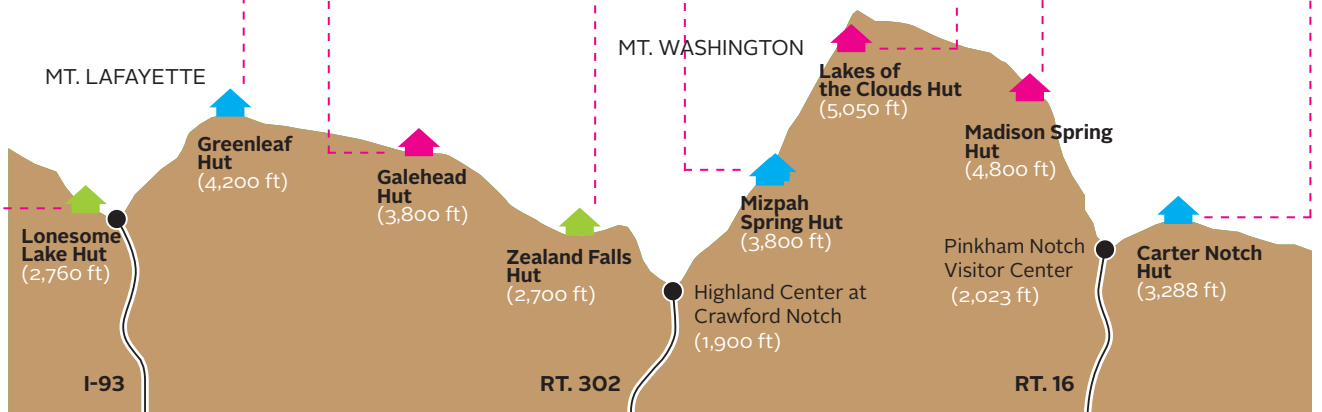
Largest (sleeps 90), highest (5,012 feet) and most popular, it's perched on a spectacular lakeside shoulder of Mount Washington in a col between the rock pile and Mount Madison. Beautiful sunsets and mid-summer flowers.



CARTER NOTCH HUT

The oldest existing hut dating back to the early 1900s, it is also the eastern-most. The stone hut with detached bunkhouses is in an incredible spot below the cliffs of Wildcat Mountain and Carter Dome, with boulder fields and cairns.

DIAGRAM BASED ON ORIGINAL MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB



▲ EASY HIKE
 ▲ MODERATE HIKE
 ▲ DIFFICULT HIKE