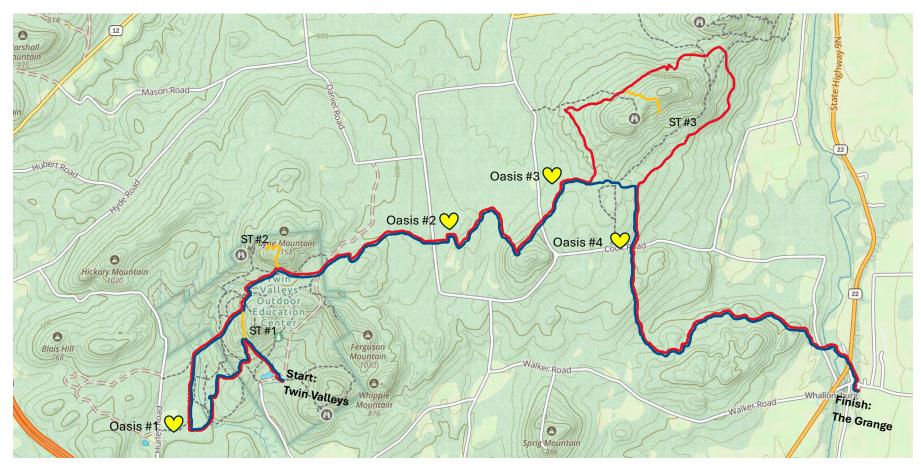
# Grand Hike 2025 Route



Red Route – Full Grand Hike – 14.5 miles Blue Route – Express Route – 10.5 miles **Oasis** #1 – at 1.6 miles **Oasis** #2 – at 4.8 miles **Oasis** #3 – at 6.3 miles **Oasis** #4 – at 11.0 miles

# **Side Trails**

- ST #1: This shortcut route reduces the total distance by 2.3 miles, creating an express route of 8.2 miles.
- ST #2: An additional 1-mile out-and-back hike to the summit of Payne Mountain, offering views of the High Peaks.
- ST #3: An extra 1-mile out-and-back hike to the summit of Wildway Overlook, providing views of Vermont.



# **GRAND HIKE 2025 ROUTE DESCRIPTION**

### **Full 14 Mile Route**

Start of Hike to Oasis #1: Twin Valleys to Oasis #1 at the West Valley Trailhead on Hurley Road

**Distance:** 1.6 miles

**Trails:** Twin Valleys Loop, West Valley, and Bone's Crossing Trails

The hike begins by crossing a meadow, where the trail follows old woods roads that feature gentle ups and downs, along with a scenic stream crossing in a hemlock grove.

Oasis #1 to Oasis #2: Hurley Road to Upper Brookfield Road

**Distance:** 3.2 miles

Trails: Hurley Road, Wayne Dupree, Twin Valleys Loop, Shirley Trails

This segment starts with a half-mile walk along the unpaved Hurley Road. It then transitions onto the Wayne Dupree Trail, which winds alongside a charming stream filled with rapids. The hike returns to the Twin Valleys Loop, and at approximately the three-mile mark, there's an option for a side trip to the top of Payne Mountain. This side trail, which is quite steep in some sections, leads to an open summit offering panoramic views of the High Peaks. After the Payne Mountain junction, the route continues on gentle woods roads through a mature forest, ultimately ending at Sugar Maple Lane on Upper Brookfield Road.

Oasis #2 to Oasis #3: "Between the Brookfields" (Upper and Lower Brookfield Roads)

Distance: 1.5 miles

Trails: Shirley Trail

This newly completed trail along Crooked Brook offers a tranquil experience with minimal elevation gain. The first part follows Crooked Brook before veering towards Cob Hill, where the path contours along the lower slopes of this small mountain, leading

to Lower Brookfield Road.



Oasis #3 to Oasis #4: Lower Brookfield Road to Cook Road

Distance: 4.7 miles

Trails: Shirley, Great Walls of Brookfield, Wildway Overlook, Boquet Mountain Trails

This segment presents the most challenging portion of the Grand Hike, featuring significant elevation gain and some tricky footing on rocky terrain. There's an option to bypass this section and continue on the Shirley Trail, which reduces the distance by 4 miles (see below for the Express Route). The trail then leads to the Great Walls of Brookfield Trail, a recently established path passing through a magnificent forest and crossing impressive stone walls that reflect the area's historical landscape. The trail climbs South Boquet Mountain; although the Grand Hike route does not reach the summit, hikers can take the Wildway Overlook Trail to the top for a breathtaking view of Lake Champlain. This out-and-back route is approximately one mile in length. After the Wildway Overlook junction, the trail becomes more rugged with steep elevations, offering views of the farms below before descending to Cook Road.

Oasis #4 to the Grange: Cook Road to Whallonsburg on Rte. 22

**Distance:** 3.5 miles

Trails: Homestead, Beaver Flow, Eddy, and Cook Road

The Homestead Trail follows an old road that traverses a swampy area, leading into a valley where a picturesque waterfall can be found. From there, the trail continues through primordial forest, showcasing moss-covered ledges beneath a dense hemlock canopy. This section features ups and downs, with some muddy areas along the way. The route eventually emerges onto Cook Road, which leads to a 1/3 mile walk to the Grange.

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### 10-Mile Express Route:

Follow the full route description up to Oasis #3.

Oasis #3 to Oasis #4: Lower Brookfield Road to Cook Road

Distance: 0.7 miles

**Trails:** Shirley and Boquet Mountain Trails

Shortly after Oasis #3, there will be an option to turn left onto The Great Walls of Brookfield Trail or to continue straight on the Shirley Trail. To take the express route, stay on the Shirley Trail, which leads to the Boquet Mountain Trail. Follow the Boquet Mountain Trail to Cook Road. From this point, return to the full version of the hike description.