

The Appalachian Trail

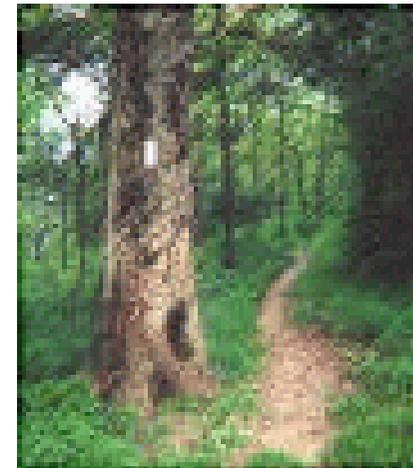
Those who feel that wilderness—the root of the word meaning place where wild beasts dwell—no longer exists in the eastern United States need only glance at a few feet of the Appalachian Trail to realize that this perception is inaccurate. The trail leads hikers along 2157 miles of rugged terrain that passes through or touches fourteen states. It's not an easy stroll; much of the trail's length consists of climbing or descending mountains.

DC-3 Airways has been chartered by a group of hikers to fly the length of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. At each stop we'll drop off some hikers and pick up more. The route will fly from Mount Katahdin, the official start-off point for hikers taking the trail from north to south, and follow the entire length of the trail to Mount Springer in northern Georgia. The trail is a challenging wilderness experience, and one of its wonders is that it's situated near some of the most densely-populated portions of the United States.

As we fly each leg, the crew will overhear the hikers in the cabin as they point out landmarks and discuss a few points of historical significance. Our favorite crew member, Trixie, is along for this charter and adds the flavor of her unique personality.

The charter consists of nine legs for a total of 1214 miles.

Warning: flying this charter may produce longings to strap on a backpack or prepare meals while squatting over a one-burner camp stove in the wilderness. Exercise caution.



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1.

Over Mount Katahdin.

Hikers: We'll take off from Presque Isle, Maine, about 20 miles from the start of the Appalachian Trail. We'll fly over Baxter State Park, which contains Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest peak at 5267 feet. From there we'll fly generally southwest over a ridge of mountains and land in Rangeley, Maine, not far from the New Hampshire border. The trail traverses most of the higher peaks we'll see, and is not for casual, weekend hikers; they must be in tip-top shape. Hikers must be prepared for inclement weather, wilderness camping, bears, and in the lowlands here in Maine, Moose. All of their food, cooking equipment, tent, and sleeping gear are carried on their backs. Trixie helped the hikers find room to stow their packs and equipment; they definitely didn't fit in the overhead compartments. Once that was accomplished, they gratefully collapsed into the seats.

From - To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy - 19	Init. Hdg - 186deg.	Init. Alt - 6500ft	Apt Elev.- 531ft.			
Presque Isle (KPQI) Maine. To Rangeley (8B0) Maine.	To PQ NDB, 278.0. After take off maintain Rwy Hdg. Commence climb to 6,500ft. MSL. Direct to NDB.....				186deg	5.6nm	00+03
	To Fix 01. Turn right to 264deg. Tune Nav1 to PQI VORTAC, 116.40. Set Nav1 OBS to 244deg. Waypoint reached when you intercept PQI R-244 OB.....				264deg	25.6nm	00+11
	To Fix 02. Turn left to 244deg. At PQI DME 99.0 tune Nav1 to YSC VOR, 113.20. Set OBS to 112deg. Tune ADF to RQM NDB, 221.0. When signal received intercept the 243 bearing IB. Waypoint reached when Nav1 OBS needle centers.				244deg	102.1nm	00+40
	To Fix 03. Track RQM NDB 243 bearing IB. Commence a 500fpm descent to 2,200ft MSL. Slow to 120kts. Waypoint is overhead Rangeley airport which is set in an area of lakes. Note time of passing.....				243deg	20.5nm	00+10
	To runway. Turn left to 168deg and fly Hdg for one minute. Make a wide turn to the left to runway Hdg 318deg. Visual approach to runway..... Land Rangeley Rwy 32. Length – 3,196ft. Width – 75ft. Surface – Asphalt.				Rwy 318deg	4.7nm	00+02
Flight No. 519-03-01	Arrival Airport Elev. – 1,824ft MSL.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			159nm	01+06

Into New Hampshire.

Hikers: On this leg we'll take off from Rangeley, Maine, about 30 miles from Quebec, fly over the Mahoosuc Range, and enter New Hampshire. We'll pass over dozens of hikers as they traverse the White Mountain National Forest with Mount Washington, the trail's second-highest peak at 6288 feet, and three other peaks over 4000 feet in height. We'll land in Lebanon, Maine, near the point where the trail crosses into the State of Vermont. Trixie, serving drinks in the cabin, wrinkled her nose as she inadvertently caught a whiff of one of the hikers. Despite their present state of uncleanliness, they were very glad for the opportunity to relax and enjoy the ride in the comfort of the plane's cabin, and were on their best behavior in the presence of the cute stewardess.

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From - To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy - 32	Init. Hdg - 230deg.	Init. Alt – 6,500ft	Apt Elev - 1,824ft.			
Rangeley (8B0) Maine. To Lebanon (KLEB) New Hampshire.	To RQM NDB, 221.0.				230deg	06.3nm	00+03
	To HXK NDB, 281.0.				238deg	28.1nm	00+12
	To LEB VOR, 113.70. When DME reads 31nm commence a 400fpm descent to 1,200ft MSL.....				236deg	70.0nm	00+28
	On station Passage turn right to the 241deg radial OB from LEB VOR. When DME reads 2.4nm turn right to runway heading 255deg. Visual approach to runway.... Land Lebanon Rwy 25. Length – 5,488ft. Width – 100ft. Surface – Asphalt.				255deg	04.4nm	00+03
Flight No. 519-03-02	Arrival Airport Elev. – 603ft MSL.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			109nm	00+45

Across Vermont into Massachusetts.

Hikers: We'll follow the mountains west and after crossing the Connecticut River, we'll enter Vermont. The trail then turns south and we'll fly along the crests of the Calvin Coolidge State Forest and the Green Mountain National Forest. The highest point in the State of Vermont is Killington Peak, 4241 feet, and it will be to the west of where we'll turn south. After crossing into Massachusetts, we'll fly near that state's highest peak, Mount Greylock, 3491 feet. We'll land in the scenic city of Pittsfield. One of the hikers talked Trixie into trying on his backpack.

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When her knees buckled, two hikers helped her remain upright until the pack was removed.

From - To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy - 25	Init. Hdg - 274deg.	Init. Alt – 6,500ft	Apt Elev - 603ft.			
Lebanon (KLEB) New Hampshire. To Pittsfield (KPSF) Massachusetts.	To RUT VOR, 111.00.				274deg	29.3nm	00+13
	To Fix 02. Track to CTR VOR, 115.10. When DME reads 35nm commence a 500fpm descent to 3,000ft MSL. Tune Nav1 to 108.30 and intercept the ILS. Turn right to runway heading 258deg.....				195deg	58.5nm	00+23
	To runway. Visual approach..... Land Pittsfield Rwy 26. Length – 4,993ft. Width – 100ft. Surface – Asphalt.				258deg	16.5nm	00+10
Flight No. 519-03-03	Arrival Airport Elev. – 1,190ft MSL.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			104nm	00+46

Past New York City.

Hikers: On this leg we'll fly over October Mountain and Beartown State Forests in western Massachusetts. We'll pass through the northwestern corner of Connecticut, then into the State of New York where we'll approach and cross the Hudson River, a wide body of water at this point. The military academy at West Point will be a few miles upstream of our crossing point, and the metropolitan area surrounding New York City will be visible to the southeast, down the Hudson. The first portion of the Appalachian Trail was completed in the State of New York in 1923. We'll then fly along the New York-New Jersey Border, after which we'll turn south and skirt the New Jersey-Pennsylvania border and land near the Kittatinny Ridge. Trixie politely refused offers to try on other hiking equipment. Her earlier experience with the heavy pack enhanced

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er appreciation of the DC-3's galley.

From - To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy - 26	Init. Hdg - 209deg.	Init. Alt - 4500ft	Apt Elev - 1,190ft.			
Pittsfield (KPSF) Massachusetts. To Blairstown (1N7) New Jersey.	To GBR NDB, 395.0.				209deg	16.3nm	00+07
	To PWL VOR, 114.30.				213deg	26.3nm	00+11
	To Fix 02. On station passage turn right to the 223deg radial OB from PWL VOR. When established on course tune Nav1 to HUO VOR, 116.10 and set OBS to 294deg. When needle centers turn right to 294deg.....				223deg	31.5nm	00+13
	To HUO VOR, 116.10.				294deg	29.5nm	00+12
	To Fix 03. Track to STW VOR, 109.60. When DME reads 22nm commence a 400fpm descent to 1500ft MSL. When DME reads 3nm turn right to runway heading 253deg.....				219deg	25.1nm	00+10
	Visual approach to runway..... Land Blairstown Rwy 25. Length - 3,097ft. Width - 70ft. Surface - Asphalt.				253deg	07.8nm	00+05
Flight No. 519-03-04	Arrival Airport Elev. - 370ft MSL.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			137nm	00+58

Into Pennsylvania.

Hikers: Today we'll fly west-southwest through some of the lowest-lying land along the Appalachian Trail. We'll pass west of Philadelphia. We'll also pass near Hawk Mountain, from which numerous migrating birds of prey are spotted each spring and fall, then cross the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg before landing in Carlisle. The trail will run along the ridge, part of the Alleghenies, visible to the left of the flight line. We'll cross the trail before landing. One of the hikers showed Trixie an interesting piece of hiking equipment and demonstrated its use, baking biscuits in a cooking pot on the galley's stove. Trixie brought hot, buttered biscuits to the captain and first officer.

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From - To	<u>Flight Description.</u> "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy - 25	Init. Hdg - 267deg.	Init. Alt – 4,500ft	Apt Elev – 370ft.			
Blairstown (1N7) New Jersey. To Carlisle (N94) Pennsylvania.	To LQX NDB, 339.0.				267deg	36.0nm	00+16
	To BZJ NDB, 328.0.				248deg	42.6nm	00+17
	To HAR VOR, 112.50. When DME reads 9nm commence a 400fpm descent to 3000ft MSL.....				262deg	24.9nm	00+10
	To Carlisle airport. On station passage turn left to the 225deg radial OB from HAR VOR. Slow to 120kts. Waypoint reached when DME reads 8.4nm.....				225deg	08.4nm	00+04
	To Fix 02. On station passage turn right to 252deg and fly heading for two minutes.....				252deg	04.0nm	00+02
	To Fix 03. Turn right to 322deg and fly heading for thirty seconds.				322deg	01.3nm	00+00.5
	To Fix 04. Turn right to 032deg and fly heading for thirty seconds.				032deg	01.2nm	00+00.5
To Runway. Turn right to runway heading 102deg for visual approach to runway. Land Carlisle Rwy 10. Length – 4,001ft. Width – 40ft. Surface – Asphalt.				102deg	03.7nm	00+02	
Flight No. 519-03-05	Arrival Airport Elev. – 508ft MSL.			Estimated totals for this flight>>>		122nm	00+52

A Touch of the American Civil War.

Pilgrims: This leg is chocked full of historical sites beginning with Gettysburg [near a cluster of four small airports, among them, WO5], where the Army of Northern Virginia, led by General Robert E. Lee, stopped for shoes during an incursion into Pennsylvania. The Union Army, led by General George Meade caught up with them there, and a three-day battle (July 1-3, 1863), one of the most significant of the war, ensued. We'll also fly near Antietam [a few miles north of MRB VOR], where the battle in which the largest number of American casualties fell in a single day. Next, we'll fly over Harper's Ferry [a few miles SE of MRB VOR where 2 rivers meet-near WV21]. It was here that John Brown died in an attempt to capture arms and lead a revolt against the government. Harper's Ferry is near the northern end of the famed Shenandoah Valley. It was through this valley that Robert E. Lee led his army during raids or incursions into the north. The mountains on the east side of the valley, over which the trail passes, shielded the movement of his troops from the patrols sent out by the Union Army based near, and guarding Washington, DC, less than 50 miles to the east. This lush valley provided food and water for Lee's army and their horses. But wait--there's

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more: the trail also traverses 100 miles of the Shenandoah National Park, located along the mountains leading from LDN VOR to this leg’s destination, the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport near Staunton and Waynesboro, Virginia. Trixie listened intently and occasionally glanced out a window as names that she’d studied in history classes sprang to life through the voices of the hikers in the cabin.

From - To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy - 10	Init. Hdg - 105deg.	Init. Alt – 6,500ft	Apt Elev – 508ft.			
Carlisle (N94) Pennsylvania. To Staunton- Waynesboro (KSHD) Virginia.	To CX NDB, 219.0.				105deg	08.1nm	00+04
	To MRB VOR, 112.10.				228deg	61.4nm	00+25
	To LDN VOR, 114.30.				216deg	35.9nm	00+14
	To LUA NDB, 245.0. Commence a 500fpm descent to 4000ft MSL.				242deg	15.5nm	00+06
	On station passage turn left to the 225deg bearing OB from LUA NDB. Tune Nav1 to 109.50, Rwy 23 ILS/BC. Tune Nav2 to LDN VOR, 114.30. Ignore FSNV’s suggestion of when to commence your descent – <u>you will fly into a hill.</u> Monitor Nav2 DME. When DME reads 37nm commence a 500fpm descent to 1,700ft MSL. Land Staunton –Waynesboro Rwy 23. Length – 6,002ft. Width – 150ft. Surface – Asphalt.				225deg	32.4nm	00+15
Flight No. 519-03-06	Arrival Airport Elev. – 1,200ft MSL.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			153nm	01+04

The Heart of Dixie.

Hikers: Historic sites associated with the American Civil War are located along this leg, too. We’ll take off within 70 miles of Richmond, the Confederacy’s capital, and pass within 20 miles of the Appomatox Court House, where General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, leading to the end of the Confederate States of America and reuniting the USA. We’ll fly through the George Washington and the Jefferson National Forests and along the Blue Ridge Mountains, and a piece of the Blue Ridge Parkway, a scenic drive. We’ll pass over Roanoke, Virginia, and land in Blacksburg, not far from where the trail, now heading west, intersects the Appalachian Mountains.

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	Dep. Rwy - 23	Init. Hdg - 225deg.	Init. Alt – 6500ft	Apt Elev – 1,200ft.			
Staunton-Waynesboro (KSHD) Virginia. To Blacksburg (KBCB) Virginia.	To SH NDB, 375.0.				225deg	05.2nm	00+02
	To MOL VOR, 115.30.				209deg	19.4nm	00+08
	To ODR VOR, 114.90.				237deg	54.0nm	00+21
	To Fix 01. Track to PSK VOR, 116.80. When DME reads 28nm commence a 500fpm descent to 4000ft ASL and slow to 120kts. When DME reads 15.2nm turn right to 304deg.....				255deg	22.6nm	00+09
	To Fix 02. Fly heading for seven minutes then turn right to 034deg.....				304deg	14.0nm	00+07
	To Fix 03. Tune Nav1 to 109.10 and intercept the ILS.....				034deg	01.3nm	00+01
	To runway. Turn right to runway heading 124deg. ILS approach to runway.....				124deg	13.4nm	00+08
Land Blacksburg Rwy 12. Length – 4,546ft. Width – 100ft. Surface – Asphalt.							
Flight No. 519-03-07	Arrival Airport Elev. – 2,129ft MSL.			Estimated totals for this flight>>>		130nm	00+56

The Doorstep of the Great Smokey Mountain.

Hikers: On this trip we'll fly through portions of three states: Virginia, West Virginia, and Tennessee. After takeoff, we'll cross the mountain range over which the trail passes, then turn south and fly with the trail and ridge to the left of the flight line until turning to head to Gatlinburg, Tennessee near the entrance of the Greater Smokey Mountains National Park. This section of the trail contains the highest peak in Virginia, and the third-highest of the Appalachian Trail, Mount Rogers, at 5729 feet, [left of the flight line between BLF VOR and HMV VOR]. Trixie diveder at anecdotes of hikers' encounters with bears in the Smokey Mountains. It must be beautiful down there, she considered, but there's no way!

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From - To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy - 30	Init. Hdg - 284deg.	Init. Alt – 6,500ft	Apt Elev – 2,129ft.			
Blacksburg (KBCB) Virginia. To Sevierville (KGKT) Tennessee.	To BLF VOR, 110.00.				284deg	38.4nm	00+16
	To HVM VOR, 114.60.				225deg	68.8nm	00+27
	To SOT VOR, 108.80. When DME reads 10nm commence a 500fpm descent to 3,000ft MSL.....				233deg	59.2nm	00+23
	On station passage turn right to the 283deg radial OB from SOT VOR. Airport is located at 23nm DME. Straight in visual approach to runway..... Land Sevierville Rwy 28. Length – 5,498ft. Width – 75ft. Surface – Asphalt.				282deg	23.1nm	00+15
Flight No. 519-03-08	Arrival Airport Elev. – 1,013ft MSL.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			190nm	01+15

From the Great Smokey Mountains to Mount Springer.

Hikers: As we leave Sevierville, we'll head west to gain altitude before turning to fly over a portion of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. After we make the turn to the south, Gatlinburg will be visible on the left side of the plane. Be sure to wave to Dolly! At that remark, Trixie, who was just beginning to like these hikers, sighed and returned to the galley. Clingman's Dome, the highest point in the park, and the highest peak of the trail, at 6643 ft. will be to our left as we fly over the mountains. We'll enter Georgia near the point at which we make the final turn toward Jasper. Toward the end of this leg, we'll reach the southern extremity of the Appalachian chain and fly over Mount Springer, 4782 ft., the end of the trail, or its beginning for those heading north. Atlanta, Georgia is 50 miles south of Jasper, our destination. Hope you enjoyed the hike! See you on the trail.

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From - To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy - 28	Init. Hdg - 282deg.	Init. Alt - 6,500ft	Apt Elev - 1,013ft.			
Sevierville (KGKT) Tennessee. To Jasper (KJZP) Georgia.	To Fix 01. Track to VXV VOR, 116.40. When DME reads 8.3nm turn left to 167deg.....				282deg	10.2nm	00+05
	To Fix 02. Track to ODF VOR, 113.40. When DME reads 28nm turn right to 233deg.....				167deg	46.1nm	00+18
	To JZP NDB, 285.0. Tune Nav1 to HRS VOR, 109.80. When DME reads 20nm commence a 500fpm descent to 2000ft MSL. Slow to 120kts.....				233deg	64.4nm	00+25
	To Fix 03. On station passage, turn left to 191deg and fly heading for two minutes.				191deg	04.0nm	00+02
	To Fix 04. Turn left to 121deg and fly heading for thirty seconds.....				121deg	01.3nm	00+00.5
	To Fix 05. Turn left to 051deg and fly heading for thirty seconds.....				051deg	01.4nm	00+00.5
	To runway. Turn left to runway heading 341deg for a visual approach.....				341deg	03.4nm	00+02
Land Jasper Rwy 34. Length - 5,005ft. Width - 75ft. Surface - Asphalt.							
Flight No. 519-03-09	Arrival Airport Elev. - 1532ft MSL.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			130nm	00+52