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Mount Zircon Trail

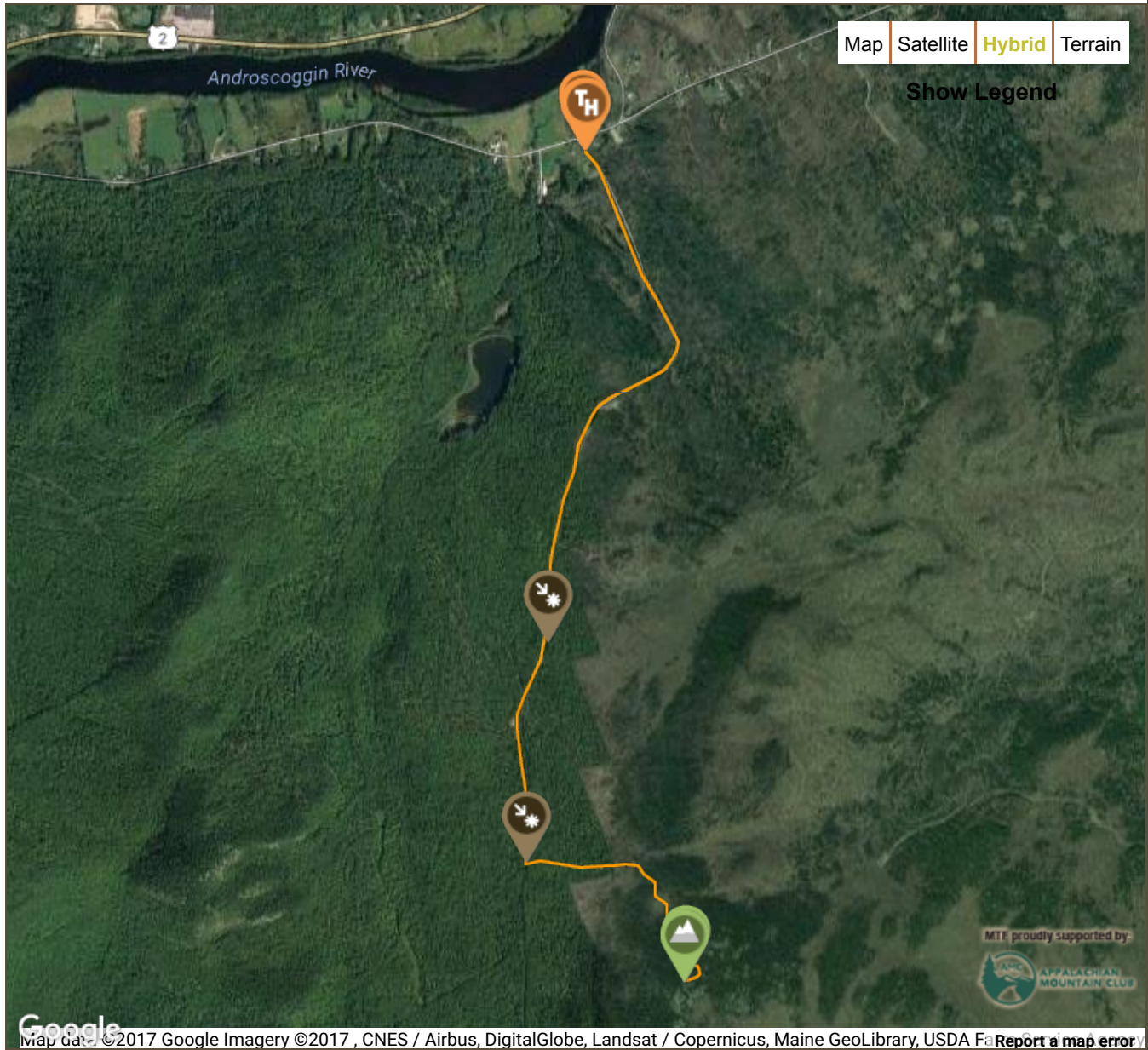


The Mount Zircon Trail ascends gradually along along a dirt road before climbing more steeply on a trail to an open summit that provides excellent views.

Quick Facts

Trail Activity	
Towns	Milton Twp, Peru, Rumford
Difficulty	Advanced
Length	5.4 miles, Round Trip
Surface	Dirt/Forest Floor, Gravel/Crushed Stone, Rock/Ledge
Pets	

Fees



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Trailhead

The trailhead is at a gated gravel road on South Rumford Road. From the west, the trailhead is 6.2 miles from ME Route 232. From the east, the trailhead is 3.2 miles from US Route 2 in Rumford. Turn on to the dirt road and park on the shoulder before the gate. Don't block the road. The trail follows the gravel road beyond the gate.

From the Rumford Information Center parking lot, turn left and proceed to the top of the hill. Turn left on to the South Rumford Road, crossing the river

on the high bridge and proceed 0.9 mile to a fork. Bear right at the fork and continue for 2.2 miles to where Hall Hill Road comes in from the left. The trailhead is approximately 100 yards beyond this point at a gravel road between two houses. It is marked by a pipe gate and a Rumford Water District sign. An alternative parking spot is the pull-out at the former site of the Mount Zircon Spring Water Company 100 yards east along the South Rumford Road.

Description

Pass under the gate and follow the gravel road. The trail ascends gradually, staying on the main gravel road. At approximately 1.5 miles on the left is the former spring house for the once-famous Moontide Spring – take an opportunity to sample the water from the overflow pipe that empties on the right side of the road. Continue for another 0.5 mile to where the trail leaves the gravel road on the left (sign) and continues steeply for another 0.5 mile to a nearly treeless summit.

From the summit, the long views of Rumford and the surrounding foothills make it an obvious place for the fire tower that was once here.

Other Information

Long regarded as one of the Northeast's most unusual natural landmarks because of the cyclic fluctuations in its flow, the Mount Zircon Spring was officially opened to the public in the 1850s by a branch of the same marketing-savvy family who started the Poland Spring resort. Before long, there was a 50-room hotel on the spot, accessed by a county road. Now all that remains is a springhouse, and of course, the spring, whose medicinal properties may help get you up the steep section of trail to the summit. Although the gravel road passes through land owned by the Mount Zircon Water Company (now part of Poland Spring Water company, whose corporate parent is Nestle), the current landowner of the spring and much of the surrounding land is the Rumford Water District. The RWD started 100 years ago by building a large dam to create the Mount Zircon Reservoir, which included the outflow from the famous spring.

The 60-foot steel fire tower on the summit was built in 1922, along with a watchman's camp down near the gravel road. The camp was burned and the tower cut down and left in place in 1975.

There are three history-oriented geocaches on this hike.

Trail Manager

For more information contact:

Rumford Water District
Superintendent
25 Spruce Street
Rumford, ME 04276
Phone: (207) 364-8531

Photos



summit. Use caution there is still a logging operation going on nearer the bottom of the trail.

girlsopo

May 13, 2016, 8:36 pm EDT



Heading there tomorrow 5.14.16, will verify distance and log after if cell service is active!

mainetrailfinder

June 02, 2014, 12:15 pm EDT



We just reviewed the original data and confirmed a round trip distance of 5.4 miles.

egilbe

June 01, 2014, 9:42 pm EDT



The distances on this trail is off. Round trip right around 8 miles. The hike from the gravel road to the summit is a good mile of some fairly steep terrain. Other than that, the walk up the road is fairly easy. The road the gate is on is easy to miss from So. Rumford road. I drove by it twice thinking it was someone's drive way. A house is right at the gate.

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