

Future of hut-to-hut in USA?



**SAM DEMAS,
INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM, 2019**



hut2hut.info

Continuum of options for overnight stays in nature.....

Huts of all kinds, youth & family camps, walking tours, pilgrimage, etc.

Car camping

Backpacking



A broad band ripe for experimentation!

Definitions used by hut2hut.info

- **Hut:**

an *enclosed structure* -- including cabins, yurts, teepees, and platform tents

designed to support long distance human powered travelers

not accessible by car.

- **Hut system:**

a chain of *three or more* huts,

carefully sited a days walk, bike or ski apart

on maintained trails.

Ancient roots, primitive huts....



Shelters and B&B's: not “huts” by my definition



**Governor Clement
Shelter
Long Trail, Vermont**

B & B on Pennine Way, UK

Common elements: shelter from storm, bunks, water, heat source, and waste management.



Where are the huts? – some rough numbers

Note: data not directly comparable as definitions vary

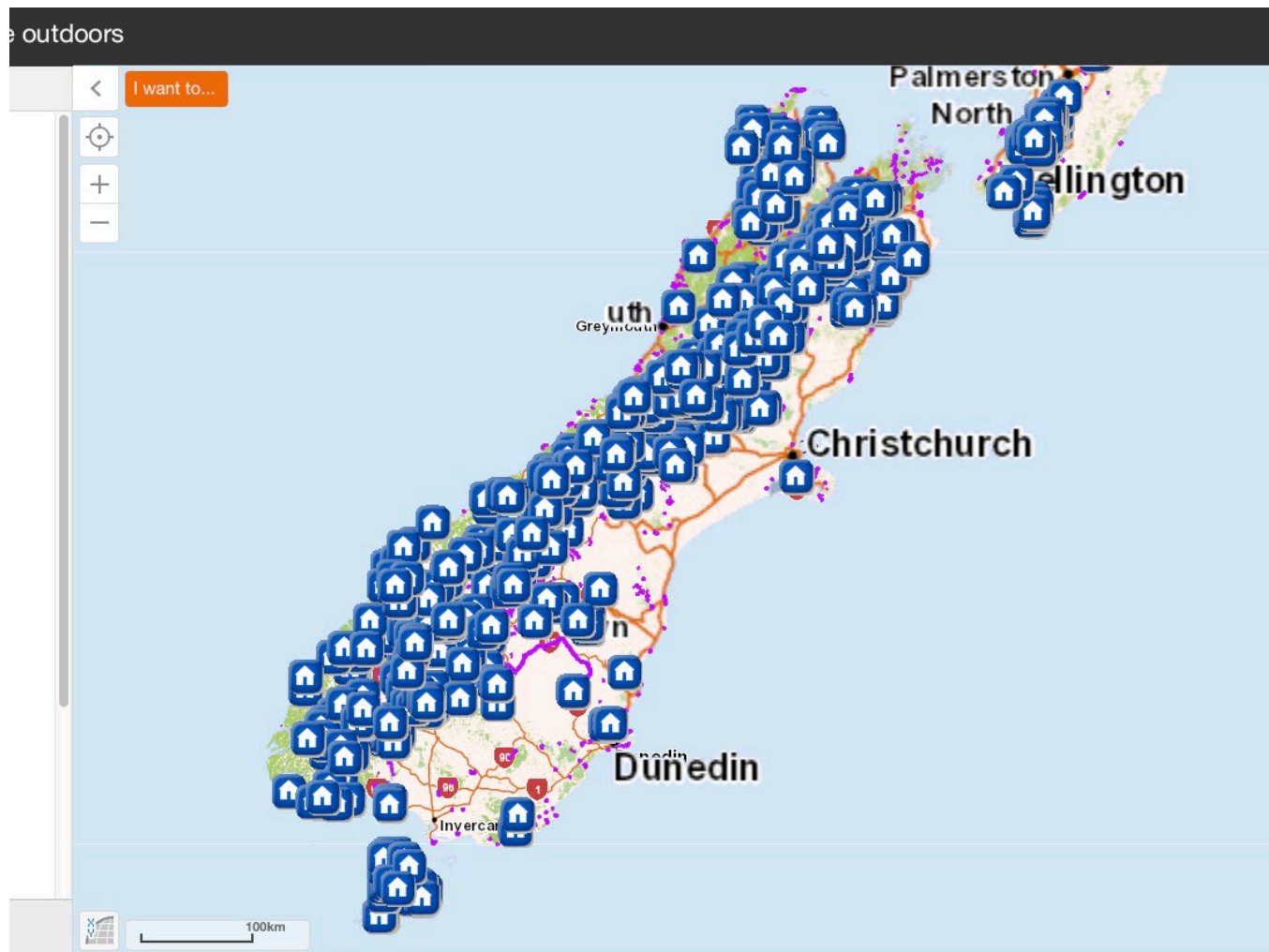
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	# huts	amenities	notes	More info:
<u>Jo's Hüttenliste</u>	28,474	Complete spectrum of huts, shelters, bivouacs, etc.	Database of huts and shelters world-wide	Tourenwelt.info
<u>Harry's Bergliste</u>	52,226	Complete spectrum of huts, shelters, bivouacs, etc.	Database of huts and shelters world-wide	Tourenwelt.info
Switzerland	300	Mostly full service	153 operated by local chapters of Swiss Alpine Club and about as many operated privately	https://www.sac-cas.ch/en/huts-and-tours/sac-route-portal/
Balkan nations of SE Europe	666	Complete spectrum	Mountain huts, shelters and bivouacs in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Hersegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Greece	https://www.mount-ain-huts.net/
Norway	550	Full service, self catering with food pantries, & self- service	Operated by local chapters of Norwegian Trekking Association (DNT)	https://english.dnt.no/routes-and-cabins/
New Zealand	962	Self-service only	Government operated. World's largest hut system.	https://www.hut2hut.info/new-zealand-huts-table-contents/
USA	105	Mostly self-service	Huts in our 18 hut systems, per hut2hut.info definition	https://www.hut2hut.info/hut-to-hut-in-usa/

New Zealand Huts – old and new





New Zealand Huts – South Island

Selection of Swiss Huts

Photos courtesy Marco Volken



Oldest purpose-built mountain hut in world. Grunhorn 1863



Multiple generations of architecture



Swiss hut interior



Mountaineers bivouac

Full Service Hut – Norwegian Trekking Club



hut2hut.info -- sketch map



The oldest hut systems in USA



Carter Notch Hut, Appalachian Mountain Club, 1879, oldest purpose built recreational hut in USA

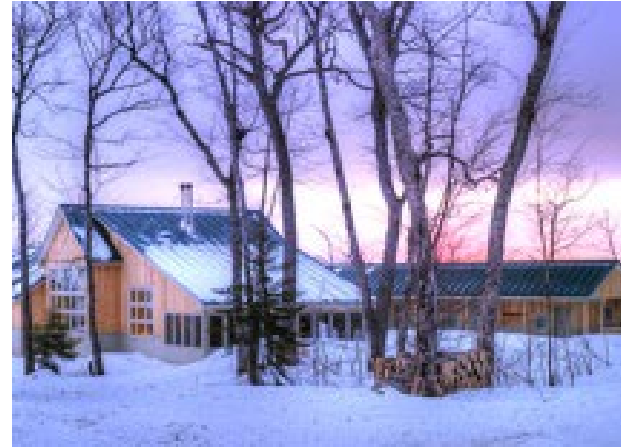


High Sierra Camps, Yosemite National Park, operating since 1916

What do American Huts Look Like?



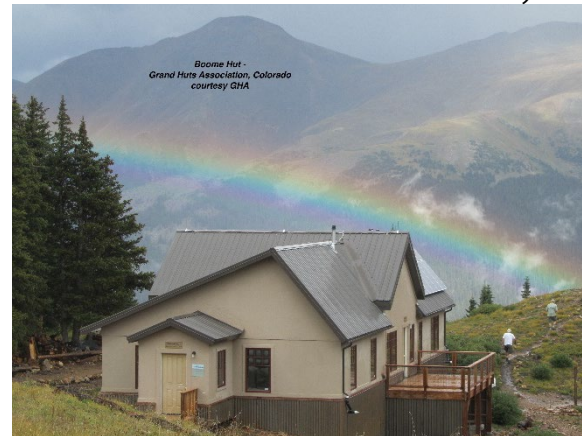
Mint Hut, Bomber Traverse Alaska



Maine Huts and Trails, ME



Tenth Mountain Division Huts, CO



Grand Huts Association, CO

High Hut, Mount Tahoma Trails Association, WA

All volunteer hut system



Adirondacks Hamlets to Huts trial run 2018



Yurts rising on American Prairie Reserve



Skiing and Biking Huts Are Growing



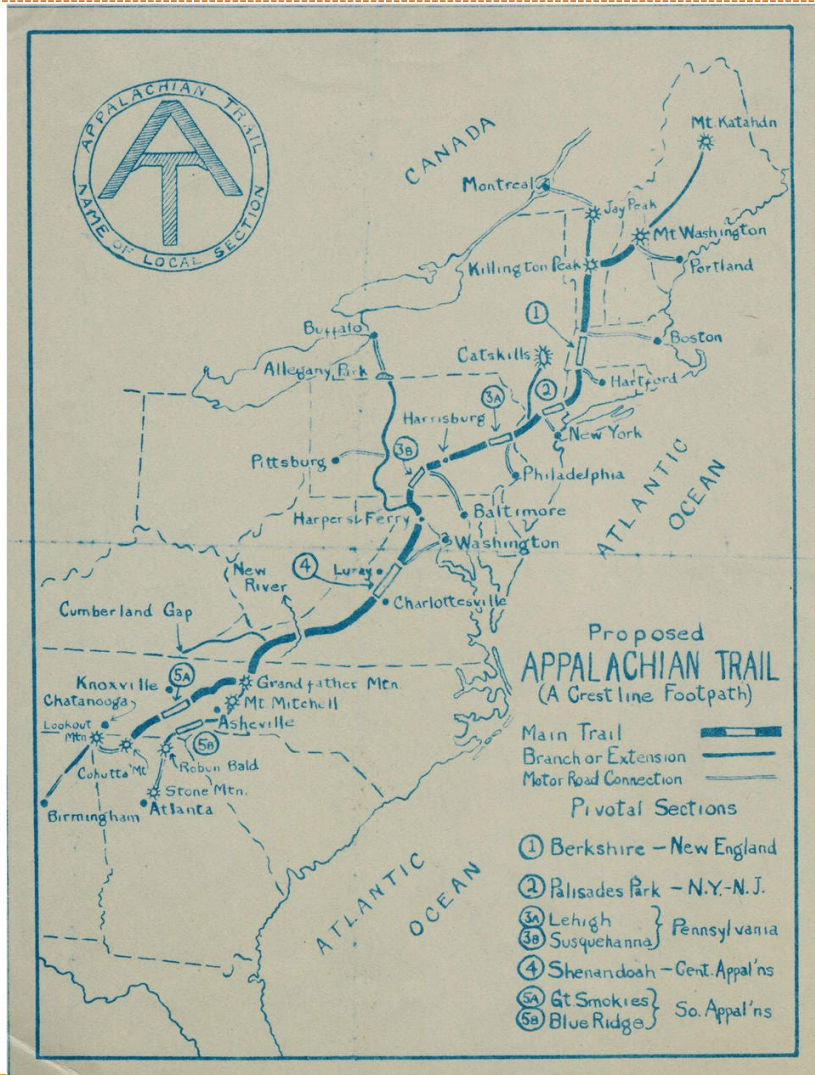
Rendezvous Huts, WA

San Juan Huts, Colorado



Huts for urban dwellers is *not a new idea*: the original vision of Appalachian Trail

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MacKaye's visionary article "*An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning*":

- connected the trail to urban centers;
- and called for shelter camps, community groups, and food and farm camps **to provide urbanites with nature immersion opportunities.**

"[the landscape]...with proper facilities and protection, could be made to serve as the breath of real life for the toilers in the beehive cities along the Atlantic seaboard and elsewhere." --

Benton MacKaye, 1921



Huts are hygge!

Hygge = Coziness → A warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people.

Community, therapy, skill-building & environmental education

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Mealtime, AMC huts, NH



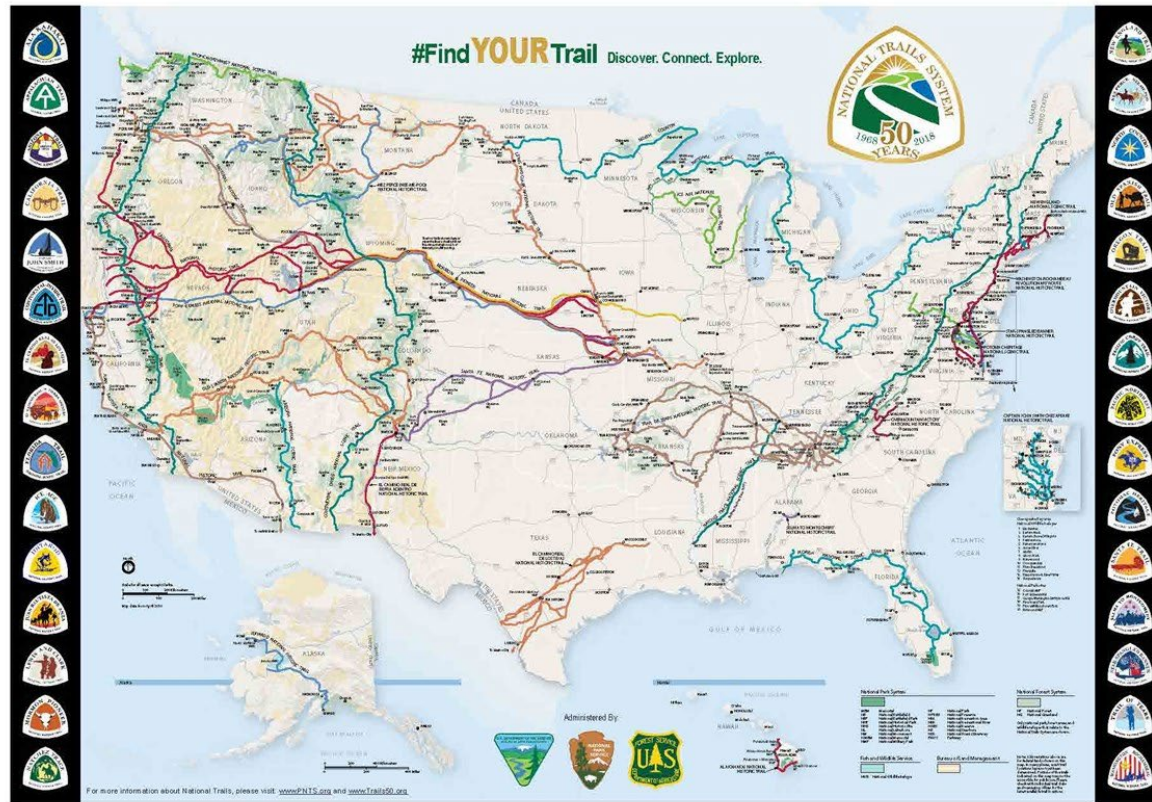
River crossing skills



Environmental Education –
Sign of the Packhorse Hut, NZ



US National Trails System



30+ National Scenic Trails, 1,200 National Recreational Trails
(54,000 miles non-motorized) with 8 huts (NH, White Mountains, AMC)