

## 2018 Hike

The 2018 Hike starts with a particularly rigorous 2.5 mile scramble along the rocky North Shore immediately followed by a strenuous climb away from the coast. Sturdy, ankle supporting footwear is highly recommended. While the tide will be out, seeps from the cliffs and the need to ford Roaring Brook present water obstacles. Morning dew or fog may also make the rocks slippery. Exiting the coast at Great Rock Bight Preserve, hikers encounter a series of very steep steps with much higher than normal risers that make for a strenuous climb. People should candidly judge their physical ability to conduct this portion of the hike.

Beyond Great Rock Bight, the hilly terrain of Chilmark presents a few more steep climbs but of much shorter duration. The afternoon segments in West Tisbury and Tisbury contain a few sustained inclines as well as a couple of short climbs.

The segment between Waskosim's Rock Reservation and Polly Hill Arboretum involves traversing 0.4 mile of fields with no path. Depending upon how vigorous vegetation grows before the hike, brushing against vegetation – and possibly ticks – may be hard to avoid. If there has been recent rain, Dr. Fisher Road (afternoon) may have large mud holes that may require bushwhacking to bypass.