



**MOUNTAIN HIKES**

- ◆ **Blue Mountain** (3759') – One of the most frequently climbed peaks for over a century. The trailhead is on NY30/28N 0.1 miles past the Adirondack Museum on the east side of the road. The trail is marked with red DEC markers. Total distance is 4 miles roundtrip with 1550 ft elevation gain. Excellent views of Blue Mountain Lake and the surrounding area from broad open summit and its firetower. **MODERATE\***
- ◆ **Castle Rock** (2480') – A rock resembling a medieval castle jutting above treeline with wonderful views of Blue Mtn. and Blue Mtn. Lake. There are a number of options for hiking Castle Rock. The main trailhead is at the end of Maple Lodge Road (the road is on the left 0.6 miles north of the NY30/28/28N intersection in Blue Mountain Lake. Trailhead parking is provided near the Minnowbrook Conference Center control station. Follow the Upper Sargent Pond Trail (Red DEC markers). There will be two trail junctions on the left for Castle Rock (Yellow blazed). The first approaches Castle Rock from the south and the second from the north. Depending on the route the total distance is 3, 3.5 or 4 miles roundtrip. Elevation gain is approximately 380 ft from the Upper Sargent Pond Trail. **WATER/LAND OPTION:** There is a blue-marked trail that leads to the lake, making it possible to also combine a hike with kayaking or canoeing. A small clearing and beach along the shore mark its location opposite Long Island. **EASY TO MODERATE\***
- ◆ **Chimney Mountain** (2500') – This is an interesting geological formation featuring a chimney-like peak, which juts above treeline and a cave-like feature at its summit. The trailhead is accessed following NY 30 0.6 miles south of Indian Lake village and turning onto Big Brook Road and following this to the end (there will be signs through a number of intersections). This road ends at Kings Flow (Pond) and a set of Adirondack Mountain Club cabins. There is a nominal parking fee. The trail begins at a DEC kiosk east of the parking lot along a dirt road. From here bear left and follow the blue markings to the summit. Total distance is 2 miles with 760 ft. in elevation gain. **EASY TO MODERATE\***
- ◆ **Goodnow Mountain** (2690') – This mountain offers fine views to the Adirondack High Peaks to the north. It offers open ledges en route to a rocky summit. The well-marked trailhead is accessed via NY 28N 11.6 miles east of Long Lake village on the way to Newcomb.

The trail is blazed with Red markers. Portions of the trail are rocky and moderately steep. Total distance roundtrip is 3.8 miles with 1040 ft. elevation gain. **EASY TO MODERATE\***

- ◆ **Owls Head Mountain** (2782') – This hike offers great views of Long Lake and the surroundings from its open summit and firetower. The trailhead is located off of NY 30 and 1.6 miles down on Endion Road (west of Long Lake village). The parking is along a sharp curve in the road. The trail is well-marked and is a total distance of 6.4 miles roundtrip with 1060 ft. elevation gain. The final third of the hike becomes modestly difficult as it approaches the summit. **MODERATE\***
- ◆ **Snowy Mountain** (3899') – This is the highest peak in the southern Adirondacks and just missed being a 4000-footer. It offers excellent views over Indian Lake and its surrounding wilderness from its rocky open ledge, summit and restored firetower. The trailhead is located on the east side of NY 30 6.9 miles south of Indian Lake. The trailhead is marked with Red DEC markers starting just opposite the well-marked parking area. The trail meanders through the woods for a good portion of the hike until its final steep ascent up to the ledge and summit. Total distance roundtrip is 7.8 miles with 2106 ft. in elevation gain. **MODERATE TO STRENUOUS\***
- ◆ **Sawyer Mountain** (2610') – A nice beginner's hike in the area. The summit is treed; however, there are nice outlooks just beyond the summit to the surrounding peaks. Total distance is 2.2 miles with 630 ft. elevation gain. **EASY\***

## POND HIKES

- ◆ **Wilson Pond** – A beautiful pond walk in the Blue Ridge Wilderness. The trailhead is accessed 2.8 miles west of Blue Mountain Lake along NY 28 opposite Eagle Lake. The trail is marked with Red DEC markers. The total roadtrip distance is 5.8 miles with only modest elevation gain up to a ledge along Wilson Pond (near the lean-to). Along the way Grass and Slim Ponds will be visible. **NOTE:** After significant rains this area may be impossible to access due to flooding of the wetlands that are crossed. **EASY TO MODERATE\***
- ◆ **Tirrell Pond** – This hike utilizes the same trailhead on NY30/28N as Blue Mountain (see above). The trail is marked in yellow blazes. This is a pleasant woods walk, which provides glimpses of Blue and Buck Mtns. along the way. The hike ends at the lean-to and beach with views of the attractive Tirrell Mountain to the east. Total distance is 6.6 miles roundtrip with 470 ft elevation change. **EASY TO MODERATE\***
- ◆ **Rock Pond** – This less-visited large, deep pond is located in the Siamese Pond Wilderness area and may be difficult to reach, but it offers a remote and pristine experience. It is best

accessed via the Cisco Creek Trail. The trailhead is located NE of Speculator on East Road (7.9 miles to an intersection). **NOTE:** All but high clearance vehicles should stop and park off the road here and walk the 0.3 miles to the trailhead. Follow the Cisco Creek Trail for 0.8 miles to the junction for Rock/Long Pond (Red DEC markers). Total distance is 4.4 miles roundtrip with modest elevation gain. **OPTION TO CONTINUE TO LONG POND:** Total distance is 7 miles roundtrip from the Cisco Creek Trailhead. **NOTE:** Access is also possible via the Kunjamun Trail accessed from the north from Big Brook Road (See Chimney Mountain description above); however, this route is significantly longer. **EASY TO MODERATE\***

- ◆ **Rock Lake** – An easy hike to an attractive lake surrounded by mountains. The trailhead is well-marked along NY 30/28 5.1 miles east of Blue Mountain Lake. The trail is blazed in red and is only 1.6 miles roundtrip. **EASY\***
- ◆ **Stephens Pond** – A nice pretty pond with a lean-to surrounded by the Blue Ridge. The trailhead is accessed at Lake Durant State Campsite or at the N-P (Northville-Placid) Trail crossing on the highway (NY 30/28) 2.6 miles southeast of Blue Mountain Lake (parking on both sides of the road...keep in mind that the trail heads south from here). Total distance is 6.6 miles to the lean-to following blue trail markers. This trail presents only modest elevation gains. **NOTE:** It is possible to combine Stephens and Cascade Ponds in a single hike; however, spotting cars will be required. **EASY TO MODERATE\***
- ◆ **Cascade Pond** – A walk out to the beautiful Cascade Pond. En route there Rock Pond will be passed before crossing a ridge and descending into a valley. Roadside parking is available 0.2 miles along Durant Road (accessing Durant Road from the interscetion of NY 30/28/28N east of the villiage). This trail follows Red-marked DEC discs. Total distance roundtrip is 5.6 miles with some short sections of moderately steep accents and decents. **MODERATE\***

## WATERFALLS

- ◆ **Buttermilk Falls** – A series of short and wide cascades on the Raquette River totaling nearly 40 feet. Probably one of the most popular waterfalls in the Adirondacks. There is also an interesting elevation phenomenon, in which the river appear to be elevated above the surrounding bedrock. Nice location for swimming. **DIRECTIONS:** Take NY 28N/30 heading north out of Blue Mountain Lake. In Deerland, take the left onto North Point Road (County Rd 3). Proceed for approximately 2.5 miles to a roadside park.
- ◆ **Death/Secret Falls** – This 50 ft high cascade near the Golden Beach campground on Raquette Lake. Named for Death Brook, the creek it empties into. **DIRECTIONS:** The campground is 9 miles southwest along NY 28S on the shores of Raquette Lake. There is a

day use fee and swimming is available at the campground shores. The falls are in the woods opposite the campground along the Death Brook.

- ◆ **Squaw Brook Falls** – A small roadside falls (falls is on private property) below a bridge on the west side of Indian Lake in the Adirondacks. **DIRECTIONS:** Head east to Indian Lake village and take NY 30S towards Sabael for 3.5 miles.
- ◆ **Austin Falls** – A 40 ft long chute, tumbling across large rock formations, in a narrow section of the Sacandaga River east of Speculator. **DIRECTIONS:** Head east to Indian Lake village and take NY 30S for about 29 miles.
- ◆ **Auger Falls** – A series of drops totaling roughly 100 ft in this narrow gorge on the Sacandaga River in the Adirondacks. The area has a large amount of potholes and an excellent swimming area upstream. **DIRECTIONS:** Head east to Indian Lake village and take NY 30S for about 32 miles. Auger Falls are just beyond Austin Falls along the same stretch of river.

### **HIKE RATING SYSTEM**

**Easy:** Little or no physical challenge involved. This level of hiking includes 2-4 miles, usually covering terrain that moderately rises and falls with hikes on unpaved trails as well as paved or gravel surfaces.

**Easy to Moderate:** Some exertion required. Hiking with an elevation gain of up to 1,000 ft. including 4-6 miles, covering terrain that is rolling.

**Moderate:** Your heart rate will go up now and then. For a reasonably fit person. This level of hiking includes an elevation gain of up to 2,000 ft. with 6-8 miles, including terrain that is rolling with possibly a few steep sections.

**Moderate to Strenuous:** Be prepared for some serious huffing and puffing. You will need a pre-trip workout program. Hiking 8-10 miles on hilly climbs with a few steep sections including an elevation gain of 3,000 ft.

**Strenuous:** Even if you are in good shape, expect to be seriously challenged. A vigorous pre-trip aerobic workout program is mandatory. Hiking includes 10-15 miles on hilly, rugged terrain with several steep sections and an elevation gain of up to 4,000 feet.

**Very Strenuous:** If you haven't done a few strenuous trips, don't even consider this one. You'll need to be in top cardiovascular condition, have endless stamina, and be of robust health. Hiking 15+ miles on steep, rugged terrain with climbs of 4,000 feet or more.

**Important:** Know your ability before heading out, let others know where you will be, wear appropriate clothing and footwear, carry sufficient water/food, and be prepared! Hiking and other outdoor sports can pose inherent dangers and accidents can happen.

The above rating system is only a guide to assist in decision-making about certain activities.