

ADK Fire Trail #11 – Blue Mountain

Nearest community: Blue Mountain Lake, NY
A 1,500+ climb over two miles



General description:

We GPS'd this at about 1.7 miles. It is a very popular climb to great views of the area. The summit is at 3,759 feet, much higher than many of the other firetowers in the challenge.

Difficulty:

Strenuous. "Boulders and bedrock" describe this mountain. At times you will have steady climbs through both.

Distance:

Listed at 2 miles, we GPS'd it at about 1.7 miles up, so that's 3.4 miles RT.

Ascent:

You will climb, and descend, more than 1,500 feet in elevation.

County:

Hamilton

What you may see:

On your way up the mountain stop at a small kiosk and pick up a Nature Trail guide. The entries correspond to numbered markers along the trail that will help you learn about the geology, ecology and history of the mountain as you climb. Then, at the top, you will have beautiful views of the waterways and mountains in the area.



How to get there:

From I-87, take Exit 23 (Warrensburg) and follow the signs "To Rte. 9" for about 0.2 miles. Turn right onto Route 9 and follow it 4.2 miles and turn left onto Route 28 south. Follow Route 28 for 44.6 miles. In Blue Mountain Lake turn right onto Route 28N. Follow Route 28N/30 north for about 1.2 miles and turn right into the trailhead parking area for Blue Mountain.

GPS readings:

Trailhead:

N 43° 52.470' W 074° 25.851'

Summit and tower:

N 43° 52.350' W 074° 24.060'



Cautions:

Keep your footing on both “boulder” trails as well as extensive, upward “bedrock” trails. The trip down is only a little less demanding than the trail up.

In the summer months this is a very popular hike. We suggest doing it on a weekday to avoid any parking problems.

Season-Hours-Fees-Parking:

Open year round during daylight hours. There are no fees, but donations are appreciated. There is adequate parking for about 25 vehicles at the trailhead.

Time:

It took us about 2 hours to climb it. A little less than that to come down.

Facilities:

None.

What we found:

We list this one as difficult, but we took our time, as always. Views were great, even on a hazy day. Well worth the climb. It was 18 of 28 for us.

Date completed: 8/2/11