

Description: This is a moderate 7.4 mile loop that includes visits to several vistas. Sugarloaf Mountain is an oddity, similar to but smaller than Massanutten Mountain further west. It is a solitary mountain that sits in the middle of farmland between the beginning of the Piedmont Plateau and the Blue Ridge Mountains. The park is privately owned by the Stronghold Corporation but open to the public so please take care of it!

Directions from I-270 in MD:

1. Take Rt 109 (Barnesville-Hyattstown) exit.
2. Travel West on Rt 109.
3. Turn right on Comus Rd.
4. Follow the park road up the East View lot to begin the hike.

Trail Notes: From the parking area take the spur trail to white blazed Mountain Loop Trail. In about 0.5 miles the Mountain Loop Trail will turn left. Continue straight (right) on the blue blazed Northern Peaks Trail. * Soon the white blazed Mountain Loop Trail will leave to the left. Continue straight on the single blue blazed Northern Peaks Tr.

Note: If you want to bag a couple of more vistas and add a short but challenging rock scramble start the hike by turning left at the kiosk onto the orange blazed Sunrise Tr and almost immediately start a steep rocky climb. Near the top the trail flattens out. Turn left on a red blazed and follow it to the summit. After you take in the vista follow the red trail back down, passing the orange blazed Sunrise Tr you came up on to the right, to the blue blazed Northern Peaks Trail and the Charles Lambert Vista. Turn right here and follow the blue blazes out to the white blazed Mountain loop Trail. Turn left here and pick up the remainder of the direction marked with an * above.

In another 1.2 miles descend and cross yellow blazed Saddle Back Trail. Climb back up to the top of the mountain and in about 1.2 miles from the last trail junction arrive at White Rocks, a great lunch spot with a view.

Descend and turn right onto Mt. Ephram Road. In a short distance turn left onto the continuation of blue blazed Northern Peaks Trail. (Yellow blazed Saddle back trail continues along Mt. Ephram Road a bit longer.)

Climb for about 0.9 miles to an intersection with white blazed Mountain Loop Trail. (If you wish to shorten the hike there is a spur trail to the left along the next segment that leads to the park road near the cars.) Turn right here and follow the white blazes to a park road at the base of the mountain (about 0.6 miles from the spur trail).

Turn left onto this road for a few hundred feet and then right on another park road. (The yellow blazed Saddleback trail will share the tread for a while). Turn left onto yet another park road. Soon the white blazes re-enter the woods on a footpath to the left.

Climb about 0.7 miles back to your car crossing the park road along the way.