

Trout Pond Loop

Description: This is an easy 4.0 mile loop with an optional 2 mile out and back to an overlook of Rockcliff Lake. Of special note is the Lake itself, Chimney Rocks (no view here but an astonishing rock formation nestled in a hollow) and the view of the lake should you choose to do the optional side trip. This hike is ideal for beginners or families who might be staying at the Trout Pond Campground.

Directions from WV55 heading west in Wardensville, WV:

1. Turn left onto Trout Run Road
2. In 2 miles pass Trout Run Cutoff Road on the right.
3. In about 3.5 more miles turn tight onto Thorny Bottom Rd.
4. In approximately 6 miles turn left onto Trout Pond Campground driveway.
5. Turn left onto gravel road with "no camping". This is the trailhead for the Fisherman's Tr.

Trail notes: Most trails are signed. All trails except the Nature Trail in the campground have painted blazes on the trees. From the parking area follow the blue blazed Fisherman's trail for about 0.4 miles to Rockcliff Lake. Turn left onto the Lake Trail. (There is no sign at this junction.)

In another 0.4 miles arrive at the dam. The white blazed Lake Trail turns right. You may want to follow this for a bit to check out some interesting rock formations both in the Lake and below the dam. Return to the last trail intersection. Follow the orange blazed Chimney Rocks trail across a clearing and into the woods. The trail will be on a woods road for a bit but will soon switchback down to and cross a stream. Arrive at Chimney Rocks. Turn right to stay on the trail.

In 0.86 miles from leaving the Lake Tr arrive at purple blazed Trout Pond Trail, left and right. Turn right. Pass a water treatment plant on the right and join a gravel service road. Walk through the campground maintenance area and then a wooded area. Just before the service road reaches the campground access road the trail will veer left onto a grassy woods road blocked by 2 piles of gravel. Follow this up into the campground.

Turn left onto the campground loop. Purple blazes will be on a tree or 2 and a post. In 70 yards the Trout Pond Trail turns left onto an old woods road. Follow it for 1 mile to an overlook of the Lake. Return and continue down the campground road.

Turn left onto a nature trail. Cross the campground entrance road. Pass Trout Pond. Come to a fork but bear right following the interpretive signs around the pond. Walk through a picnic area and arrive at a parking lot. Turn right and walk up to another parking lot. Turn left into the lake area and immediately turn left onto white blazed Lake Trail. Follow the boardwalks and footpath back to the junction of blue blazed Fisherman's Trail. Turn left onto this trail and retrace your earlier steps back to the car.

