

## Glade Creek Out-and-Back Trail Notes

**Description:** This has got to be one of the best little day hikes in WV. I say that because the beauty to effort ratio is so high for such a nice hike it's truly unbelievable. All except 0.2 miles is on a railroad grade with a total elevation gain of around 600 feet - pretty easy walking with too many [rapids](#), [mini-falls](#) and neat swimming holes to count. Before you start the hike, check out the primitive campground and [the view from the river access point](#).

### [Google Custom Directions](#)

Just before route 41, Johnstown Rd, crosses the New River turn right onto Glade Creek Road. It does not show up on Google Maps because it is a Forest Road. Follow this gravel road for approximately 6.2 miles. [The trailhead](#) is on the right. The primitive campground and River Access is to the left.

**Trail Notes:** The [trailhead parking area](#) is immediately to the right of the kiosk. You can see the old railroad grade to the left of the photo. Follow it upstream. Some of the initial part of the trail seems to be more prone to damage than the rest but the Forest Service keeps it pretty open. You'll immediately begin to enjoy [the many water works](#) as the creek tumbles towards the New River. In 0.86 miles you'll pass an [exceptional waterfall and swimming hole](#). In another 2.02 miles pass a [bend in the creek](#) where it has severely cut underneath a steep cliff. Soon cross to the other side of the creek on a well constructed [wood and steel bridge](#).

In 1.58 miles reach the [Kate's Fall Trail](#) on the left. Turn here and follow a rocky trail for a short distance to the base of a pleasant waterfall. This is a great lunch spot. The trail is supposed to continue up to the Kate's Plateau Trail but it is extremely steep. If you wish to attempt it turn right onto the Plateau Trail and rejoin the Glade Creek Trail at its southern terminus. Turn right onto it and retrace your steps back to your vehicle. This will add about 2 miles to the hike. Otherwise, do an about face at the first falls and return to your vehicle.